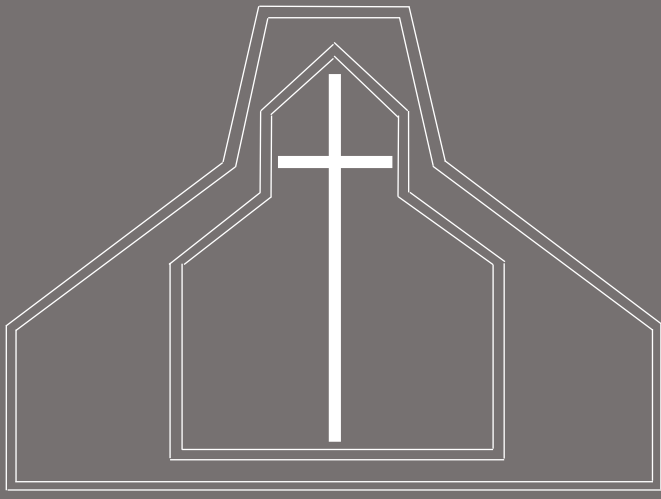


Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4: 6-7



Prayer Diary October 2024

St Columba's
Hillhead
Parish Church

Tuesday 1

The Guild. Give thanks for the life and fellowship of The Guild which seeks to unite men and women in worship, fellowship and service in Jesus Christ. Pray that this year's theme 'Sure Foundations' will be fruitful in the faith and mission of Guild members. Remember Karen Gillan as the visiting speaker today as she speaks on the theme Past, Present and Future. Pray that those who attend may know encouragement in their daily life to honour the Lord and serve Him.

Wednesday 2

Following Jesus Group/ Friendship Club. Give thanks for these invaluable groups which seek to help adults/children and young people with a learning difficulty to come to know Jesus and which meet on Wednesday evenings. Remember all those who come along and pray especially for Pat Muir and her team of helpers as they share friendship and fellowship with those who come along. Pray that they may communicate the Gospel message with simple language and through helpful activities as well as sharing together over refreshments.

Thursday 3

Walk & Talk. Give thanks for those who share together in Walk and Talk on Thursday afternoons. Give thanks for the opportunity to share gentle exercise with the

importance of sharing mutual interest in, and concern for, each other in the sharing of lives.

Remember and give thanks for Trevor Patterson as he plans and leads each walk so that folks may enjoy the opportunity and the beauty of God's Creation.

Friday 4

Little Fishes & Busy Bees. Give thanks that these Groups continue to be well-attended each week. Pray especially for the Busy Bees Group that those on the waiting list will be understanding of having to cap numbers for reasons of available space. Remember the leaders and helpers of both groups as they plan and oversee the life of these groups especially for safety and wisdom in the outworking of the activities. Pray for those who come along, both carers and children, that they will be aware that they are coming into a warm, inviting place where they are valued.

Saturday 5

Scripture Union. Remember Jackie Ringan, Director of Development, who was on sabbatical earlier this year. Pray for renewed energy and fresh vision as she oversees a wide variety of departments including SU Holidays, Volunteers, Young Leader Development, Gap Year, Ministry at the Margins and Prayer and Church Partnerships. Next weekend 11- 14 October SU will be welcoming around 110 senior pupils in S4-S6

to Lendrick Muir for the 'Go Conference'. This weekend helps them to think about living out their faith at school, home and community. Pray for the teaching of Jesus in the Old Testament, the workshops and other sessions that the young people will be encouraged to know more and grow in faith. Remember also the October holiday week when young people will participate in SU holidays at Aviemore and Scoughall. Both holidays will have a mixture of young people who are returning for another year and those completely new to SU Holidays. Pray that all settle well, enjoy the activities and respond well to all they discover about relationship with Jesus during the week.

Sunday 6

Harvest Service. Give thanks to God for His goodness to us in providing the food we eat and for the ready availability we have to access such provision of our food. In giving thanks for what we have, we remember those less fortunate than ourselves and to respond to their need as we are able. Many across the world face acute hunger because of conflicts, global climate change, economic aftershocks of Covid19, and food and energy price inflation (World Food Programme 2024). Pray for Relief Agencies such as Tearfund and Christian Aid who seek to meet

significant needs in poverty worldwide that they may have the resources to respond to such need. Pray for the Lodging House Mission who also respond more locally to the needs of the vulnerable members of our society in similar ways. Pray that the Harvest gifts we bring today may be a fruitful blessing to the important ongoing life and work of The Lodging House Mission. Pray earnestly that the LHM will receive many gifts of support for their ministry to the vulnerable.

Monday 7

Men's Group. Give thanks for the Men's Group as a new session begins this evening. Give thanks also for those who have the opportunity to meet together for social activities and friendship in enjoyment and recreation. Remember Jim Kennedy as new Chairman and new Secretary Ian Gibb as they coordinate the week to week activity. Pray that there will be a regular good attendance and those who come will know the warm welcome and friendship offered as a helpful support through the longer darker nights of autumn and winter.

Tuesday 8

Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF). South Sudan has 64 different people groups - the cause, at times, of incredible tension and misunderstanding with resentments between the various groups going back

for generations. Many of the people affected by this have experienced trauma, grief and loss. Most have experienced abandonment and the loss of their home. Others have lost livelihoods, loved ones and the opportunities for education. To combat the effects of this, trained facilitators from the Healing Hearts and Transforming Nations programme are flown in by MAF to lead workshops that enable people to learn about trauma, acknowledge pain, and experience healing through Jesus. Pray: 1) for MAF staff who, trained in reconciliation ministry, hope to hold Healing Hearts and Transforming Nations workshops in more than ten communities this year.

2) for those who attend these courses. May there be healing within and between the communities- especially now, as the world's newest nation awaits its first elections.

3) that the Church of South Sudan will not only grow spiritually but will bring hope and healing and healing to war-torn communities.

Wednesday 9

Midweek Fellowship. Give thanks for the opportunity to worship God and share fellowship together, in a slightly less formal manner than Sunday worship. Give thanks especially for this time of worship and fellowship for those who may not be able to attend

Church on Sundays. Pray that God might continue to bless the ministry of the Midweek Service and give thanks for the love and encouragement which those who attend find together with each other as they worship God.

Thursday 10

National and Local Government. Bring before the Lord all those in positions of authority across the United Kingdom across the political spectrum. Remember especially our Prime Minister and First Minister of Scotland and the members of their Government, that they may seek to exercise integrity and wisdom in their life and work. Pray that policy-makers will be thoughtful and discerning as they make decisions and draft new policy. Especially pray for Christians in political life. Pray that they will be able to live out their faith in their life and work and influence political decisions for good. Pray that the Lord may give strength to them especially when times are difficult and pressure is on them because of their faith.

Friday 11

The Boys' Brigade. Give thanks for the life and service of the 1st Kirkintilloch BB Company and the weekly meetings of the individual sections. Pray that in each age-group the boys and leaders will delight in their attendance and activities. Pray that there

will be a renewed energy for the current new session underway and an excitement and keenness in working towards the attainment of the awards. Especially pray that what is learned in the life of the BB might equip and prepare the boys for adult life. Give thanks for the leaders and their commitment and pray for them in their preparation and communication for the boys' encouragement and interest.

Saturday 12

Bethany Christian Trust. Give thanks for the Rapid Re-accommodation Welcome Centre which provides emergency accommodation and support to anyone who would otherwise be rough sleeping in Edinburgh from October to May. Pray that the Welcome Centre will be a place full of hope, love and light and that each person who crosses the threshold of the Welcome Centre will experience Jesus in the interactions with staff and volunteers. Give thanks that a welcome can be given to those who have nowhere else to go to a safe and warm space.

Sunday 13

St Columba's Hillhead. Pray that as we gather together today in worship that the Lord will be truly honoured and delighted with the praise of the Congregation. Pray that we may focus fully on Him and be challenged in our life and service for Him,

as we dedicate ourselves afresh to serving the Lord. Remember those who cannot be present in person for one reason or another, for those who connect online, that they may sense that they are in fellowship with the Lord's people. Pray for the ongoing up-building of the congregation of St Columba's Hillhead in faith and worship, fellowship and service. Give thanks for the willingness to make this happen and pray that we would continue to further this.

Monday 14

Those who are Unwell, in Hospital or in Care. Remember all those who are unwell, awaiting or undergoing investigation/diagnosis/surgery/treatment. Pray that they may know peace and strength from the Lord at this time. Give thanks for those who are recovering from surgery/treatment and pray that they will know increasing strength and wholeness in the forthcoming days. Pray for those who need ongoing medical intervention or prolonged treatment. Pray for patience and endurance and a continued reliance on the Lord. Remember those with painful or debilitating conditions and their family/friends who support and care for them. May they know God's grace day by day.

Tuesday 15

The Bereaved. Remember those who have lost loved

ones, especially those in recent/not so recent days and personally known to us. Remember those who have suffered through sudden trauma or chronic illness. Such loss is devastating for anyone who lost a loved one close to them and grieving can be painful and difficult. Pray that the Lord in His compassion will be close to them especially through dark and difficult days and that those surrounding them may be a quiet and sensitive support.

Wednesday 16

Warm Welcome. Give thanks for and continue to remember the value of Warm Welcome in the community. Praise God for the opportunity of meeting in a warm environment for all ages and for the conversations shared over tea and coffee. Pray for opportunities for to discuss the difference that faith in Jesus makes to our lives. Remember the importance of the Kitchen Cupboard operated by foodbank staff and volunteers. Give thanks for this valuable resource, for the groceries and other items for folks who may need them. Pray that this will be adequately stocked. Pray for extra volunteers who might be willing to help serve tea and coffee even on an occasional basis on a Wednesday afternoon.

Thursday 17

Scottish Parliament, Assisted Dying Bill. Pray for the Scottish Parliament as the new bill aimed at

legalising assisted dying in Scotland continues its passage through the Parliament and plans are made for a similar Bill to be placed before the Westminster Parliament. Pray for all MSPs/MPs as they further consider/ debate all the issues raised by this Bill- primarily the long-held stance of sanctity of life, and the proposed desire to change the law to access safe and assisted dying to end life with the consequences that will have. Pray for everyone who has an interest in this issue with personal views on this matter. Previous attempts to change the law to enable assisted dying have failed. Pray especially for all those Christians who have submitted contributions to the debate that our heritage based on Christian values will be heard and acknowledged. Remember Christian healthcare staff as they seek to honour the Lord in their desire to uphold the sanctity of life and also those working in palliative care as they deliver end-of-life care everyday with compassion and kindness to those facing death and their loved ones.

Friday 18

Children & Family Worker. Continue to give thanks for Cassie's presence with us and her involvement in the regular programme of services and events. Pray for Cassie as she builds relationships with young families and prepares for

forthcoming events/ Christmas planning. Pray for Cassie as she becomes more involved in congregational life and activity, especially with children, and also SU groups at schools. Pray that Cassie will be a great ambassador for the Lord in her work and witness.

Saturday 19

Bible Society, Scotland. Almost 3 in 10 children do not know that the story of Jesus' birth is from the Bible. It's sad that increasing numbers of children in the U.K. are growing up unaware of the Bible. "Bibles for Bairns" gives Scottish children the opportunity to listen to Bible stories from the start of their lives. It gives families the chance to bond through reading the Bible together and to develop a foundation for faith in Jesus. Once a child has been signed up for the programme, they receive the gift of a Share a Story Bible on their first birthday. As the child celebrates further birthdays, they will receive birthday cards and fun resources to encourage the whole family to keep engaging with their Bible. And finally, when they turn five, they will be given a children's Bible. Please pray for the staff and volunteers of the Scottish Bible Society as they reach out to families across Scotland. Pray that the toddlers Bibles given as birthday gifts will become central to children's early years.

Sunday 20

Sunday Club. Give thanks for the regular attendance by those young people who come to Church on Sundays and seek to know more about Jesus and get to know Him as Saviour and Lord. Pray for the young people where it can be difficult to be different as someone who comes to Church with few peers. Remember the leaders in their commitment of service that they would know wisdom and honour the Lord in their preparation, leadership and encouragement of the young people. Remember Noah's Ark as it meets today and pray that the families who are coming along may feel welcomed and may have a deepening interest and desire to come along. Pray also for discernment in knowing ways of supporting young families in coming to church.

Monday 21

Christians Against Poverty. Pray for the work of Christians against Poverty operating locally, including at Warm Welcome. Give thanks for those who serve to help those in need. Times of financial hardship place great pressures on many people and many feel totally helpless for lack of sufficient money to meet necessities especially as the colder months of autumn and winter are upon us with less financial support for heating. Pray

that folks may receive support when it is needed and remember CAP volunteers as they engage with people to alleviate their financial circumstances. Give thanks for the opportunity to be involved at the Warm Welcome in Hillhead that this may be a beneficial presence for assistance where needed.

Tuesday 22

5th Kirkintilloch Brownies. Give thanks for the local Brownie Pack which meets on Tuesday evenings in Hillhead Building and remember Lynne Semple as Brownie Leader in her encouragement of the young folks. Pray that the young ones will grow in wisdom as they learn about life and develop life skills for maturity. Pray that they will know and care for one another and honour the Brownie Guide Code in practice. Pray that they will know the love and support of the Church fellowship.

Wednesday 23

Luwero Community Ministries. Remember Gabriel Kijjambu and the work/ministry of Luwero Community Ministries in Uganda. Give thanks that the acquisition of the new 220 acre site is progressing well, and for the 48 acres of land which already have been cleared by hand and which have been made ready for planting crops. Pray for the developments at the new site, which within the foreseeable future

include a borehole and construction of a farmhouse for the farm-manager and a toilet block for workers. Uphold the new church which has opened as a church-plant on the site of the new farm that the new farm will bear spiritual fruit before bearing physical fruit. Pray for the School and its students that they may achieve their potential and be a positive hope for the future in Uganda. Especially pray for Gabriel and his wife, Deborah, and 4 daughters, especially Peggy who has had spells of illness over the last wee while.

Thursday 24

Ukraine. Pray that God in His mercy would bring an end to this war. Pray that violence and oppression may soon give way to peace and justice. Pray for strength for ordinary Ukrainians who are tired and worn down by months of war. Pray for all those who bear the scars of war, whether physical or emotional. Pray for all those who are refugees in foreign lands. Give thanks that even in the darkness, many are finding hope in the light and the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Friday 25

Those with Mental Health Issues. Remember those whose mental health is struggling at the moment. Pray that the Lord would draw close to those who are despairing. Especially remember those known to us who may be struggling.

Pray that the Lord will give us the right words to say to someone who is suffering and pray for opportunities for healing conversations. Pray for an increase in understanding and empathy for mental health issues in society and within the Church. Pray that those suffering will find comfort and respite and a path to full healing. Remember also those supporting them that they may know patience, love, hope and healing.

Saturday 26

The Suffering Church. In Yemen "a wave of people have come to Christ since 2014 when the war began," says Saleh. "Because of extremists, people are horrified by what is being done in the name of religion". Pray that the Holy Spirit will lead believers to those searching for truth. The dangers and isolation of being a Christian can leave believers struggling for hope, causing some to doubt their faith. Pray that the Lord will reassure them of His love and provide them with fellowship. Yemen is riddled by armed conflict, economic turmoil and a catastrophic humanitarian crisis. Pray for peace, provision and protection.

Sunday 27

The Church and Ministry. Remember the work and ministry of God's servants today as they proclaim the Word of God that they may know God's Hand upon them as they serve the

Lord. Pray for the Holy Spirit's boldness in preaching and for God's Word to bear much fruit in peoples' lives. Pray that His ministers may be mindful and watchful as faithful leaders of Christ's Church and that God may protect them in their living out of the Gospel in daily life. Pray also for the Church of Scotland as it seeks to engage with Scotland in a new and Biblical way and the consequent work of Presbyteries - in working with local congregations in challenging time, especially remembering The Presbytery of Glasgow. Pray for the ongoing life and witness of St Columba's Hillhead in working together to promote discipleship and mission in our local area.

Monday 28

Tearfund. Tearfund has issued a guide to help us as we pray for Israel and Gaza and the wider region, especially in an increasing volatile situation. Pray for peace- for an immediate ceasefire, an end to the violence, and the release of all hostages. Pray for world leaders with influence in the region to make wise decisions that lead to lasting peace. Pray that God's peace would fill the hearts and minds of everyone who is suffering as a result of this conflict. Pray for safety- pray for all civilians that God would protect them from harm, particularly the most vulnerable, including

children, older people and people with disabilities. Remember humanitarian workers- for protection for those who are working to provide humanitarian assistance and medical supplies. Pray for safe distribution of food, water, sanitary items, medical supplies and fuel. Pray for people forced to flee their homes- pray for safe places to stay and that they will be able to return home. Pray for hope- pray for those who are terrified, mourning and suffering. Ask God to save them from despair- for the trauma and violence they've experienced not to overshadow hope. Pray that people in Gaza and Lebanon and Israel and those in the wider region would not lose hope that peace is possible. "With God all things are possible" (Matt. 19: 26)

Tuesday 29

Jo Crotty, Papua New Guinea. Give thanks for:

1. Safety on the trip to Kudjip, the Nazarene Hospital, and successful surgery for Jo's friend
2. A wonderful time at the Enga New Testament Bible dedication
3. Jo's recovery from illness (which prevented her from going to Alotau).
4. Her recent visit to Australia to see her family and especially remember her brother (and family) there who suffers from Motor Neurone Disease. Please pray for:

1. Continued good health- as Jo is quite tired from recent events and she has a busy latter half of the year
2. Planning for Scripture Use Activities in this part of the year

3. Teaching Primary 1 (Reception/Prep) schoolchildren for Term 1 (which was an unexpected but pleasant change to her programme).

Wednesday 30

The Leprosy Mission (TLM). Give thanks for the recent visit of Chris Stratta from The Leprosy Mission GB to St Columba's Hillhead and for the message he brought in highlighting the work of TLM to help leprosy sufferers and to ease the stigma of leprosy which they encounter. For many people affected by leprosy, not being able to talk to others is the hardest part of the disease. Pastor Lok in Nepal experienced this shunning of leprosy sufferers- when he first showed symptoms, Lok was banished to a cowshed. If people saw him in the village, they would turn their backs on him. When he left the village to find help at a local hospital, nobody came to say goodbye to him. Give thanks for the treatment Lok (and many others) received for their need, and for the friends he could rely on at Anandaban Hospital where he helps other patients there to overcome similar struggles. Give thanks for the work TLM does to make this possible.

Thursday 31

Nursing and Care
Homes/Sheltered Housing.
Remember those known to
us who stay in nursing or
care homes. Remember
those known to us who stay
in sheltered housing,
including at nearby
Lammermoor Gardens.
Give thanks for staff and
others who support and
care. Pray for those with
age or infirmity who
become more dependent
on others. Pray that we all,
in our weakness, may trust
in God's strength.