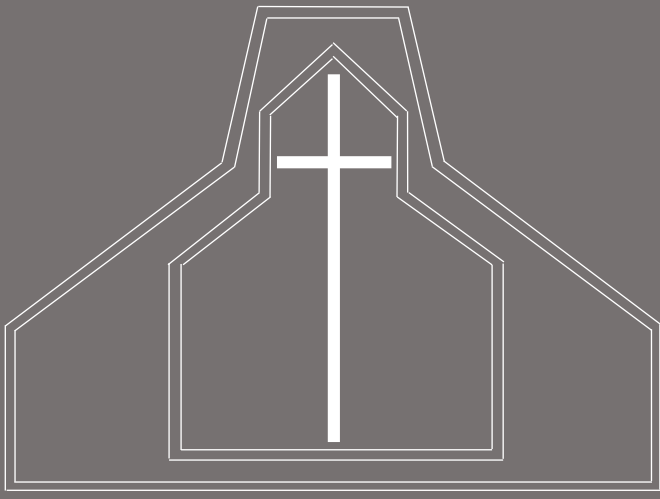


Prayer Diary

September 2024

I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

John: 15:5



St Columba's
Hillhead
Parish Church

Sunday 1

St Columba's Hillhead: Pray for the ongoing life of the congregation and give thanks for the unity and fellowship shared in working together. Pray that we would be a welcoming church, looking out for visitors and newcomers. Pray that as God's people within our Church we may work for the Lord together in unity and love and that the mission of the Church will know God's blessing in life and witness. Pray for the continued coming together and growth in fellowship of folks from the two former congregations of St Columba's and Hillhead. Give thanks for the natural ways in which this is happening, but pray that we would continue to work at it!

Monday 2

Pray for our local schools – for teachers, support staff and pupils as a new school year is now underway. Pray especially for young people we know who have recently started in what is a new school to them, that they would quickly settle in. Give thanks for the opportunity to support some of our local schools through chaplaincy work (Hillhead Primary/ Oxgang Primary/ Kirkintilloch High). Give thanks for the SU groups in our local schools. Pray that these may be welcoming and supportive groups where young people can explore faith and respond

to the significance of Jesus in the world today. Pray for Cassie, our Children and Families Worker, as she helps to lead the SU groups at Oxgang Primary and Kirkintilloch High.

Tuesday 3

5th Kirkintilloch Brownies: the new session for Brownies starts this evening in the Hillhead Halls. Pray for Lynne and the other leaders as they lead the group. Pray that this would be an enjoyable and memorable session for all.

Give thanks for all those in our wider community who give of their time and talents to support young people in various ways.

Wednesday 4

Warm Welcome: Give thanks for all those who have kept Warm Welcome running through the summer. Give thanks for all those whom we have been able to serve and get to know through Warm Welcome. Praise God for the joint ministry with Kirkintilloch Baptist Church in this avenue of service – for Kitchen Cupboard (run through Food Bank), for Children's Ministry and most recently for Christians against Poverty, all run through Warm Welcome. Pray for opportunities for relationships to grow and deepen. Pray for opportunities to explore faith and to share the Good

News about Jesus. Pray for God's leading for the next steps for Warm Welcome.

Thursday 5

The Lodging House Mission (LHM): Pray for the day to day life, work and mission of the LHM in its varied elements of operation as it gives people the opportunity to get their lives back on track by enabling them to develop new skills and feelings of self-worth. Give thanks for the many services it provides - educational opportunities and recreational activities, food, essential facilities such as showers, laundry, telephone and internet access, support staff and counsellors, chaplaincy.

In this season of Harvest, and as we look forward to Harvest Sunday on 6 October, give thanks to God for his goodness to us. Pray that we may in turn be generous to others and remember those who are most vulnerable.

Friday 6

The Boys' Brigade: Give thanks for the resumption of the 1st Kirkintilloch BB meetings today and remember each age group in their activities that the boys and leaders will delight in their attendance. Pray that there will be a renewed energy for the new Session that is now underway and a keenness to work towards the attainment of awards.

Pray that the activities and teaching of the 1st Kirkintilloch BB might help, equip and prepare the boys for adult life. Give thanks for the leaders and their commitment and pray for them in their preparation and delivery of materials for the boys' encouragement and interest.

Saturday 7

Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF): Give thanks for the work of MAF that enables practical help, physical healing and spiritual hope to be delivered to some of the world's most remote and inaccessible communities. In Pakase, Shompole - a pastoralist community near the Tanzania border - over 350 families saw their homes, livelihoods and community buildings washed away by a swollen river.

Pray for MAF as it partners with World Relief International, a Non - Governmental Organisation, to supply water purification tablets, jerry cans to store clean drinking water, mosquito nets, and feminine hygiene products to the afflicted.

Sunday 8

St Columba's Hillhead: pray that as we gather together as a church today, we would do so with heartfelt worship of God. Pray that whatever our circumstances we would find our hope and contentment in Him. Pray

that as we celebrate communion together, there would be a great awareness that we are united in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Pray for the time of fellowship over a church lunch, that as many as possible might stay behind for that. On this communion Sunday, pray for all those who cannot worship with us in person. Pray that they might sense the fellowship of the Lord's people, especially as some connect with the service by livestream.

Monday 9

Scripture Union (SU): Give thanks for all the Scripture Union holidays that have been organised for young people this summer. Give thanks for the great fun and enjoyment that so many will have had - as well as the opportunity to explore what Christians believe. Pray for young people, of any faith or none, who have been on an SU holiday this summer - that this might turn out to be of great significance in their personal and spiritual development.

Tuesday 10

Tearfund: Tearfund has issued a guide to help us as we pray for Israel and Gaza and the wider region. The following is taken from it:

Pray for peace

Pray 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.

Pray for humanitarian workers - for protection for those who are working to provide humanitarian assistance and medical supplies.

Pray for the 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 Israel and those in the wider region wouldn't lose hope that peace is possible. 'With God, all things are possible' (Matthew 19:26).

Wednesday 11

Midweek Fellowship: Give thanks for the resumption of the Midweek Fellowship after the summer break. Give thanks for the opportunity to worship God and share fellowship together, especially 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.

Thursday 12

Walk and Talk: Give thanks for the Walk and Talk Group as a regular opportunity for friendship, company and gentle exercise. Pray that it might be a blessing to all those who come. Give thanks for Trevor Patterson who takes the time to test out each new route on his bike to make sure it is suitable. Pray for enjoyment in each other's company and an opportunity to deepen friendships.

Friday 13

Little Fishes & Busy Bees: Give thanks for the new sessions of Little Fishes and Busy Bees that have now begun after the summer break. Give thanks that both groups continue to be well-attended. Pray for the Busy Bees group, currently with a waiting list, that folks would be understanding of having to cap the numbers for reasons of available space. Give thanks for the leaders of both groups as they

prepare and tidy up each week and as they get to know the youngsters and those who bring them. Pray for a warm, inviting atmosphere where folks can feel the love of Jesus.

Saturday 14

National and Local Government: Lift up all those in positions of authority across the United Kingdom across the political spectrum. Uphold our Prime Minister and First Minister of Scotland and their members of Government that they may 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 lift up Christians in Government. Pray that they will be able to live out their faith in their work and influence Government for good. Ask the Lord to give strength when times are difficult and pressure is upon them because of their faith.

Sunday 15

Noah's Ark/Sunday Club: Continue to give thanks and pray for the Noah's Ark Group. Give thanks that Noah's Ark/Summer Sunday Club has been able to run throughout the summer. Pray for all the Noah's Ark families, that they might feel welcome amongst us. Give thanks for our young people who

attend Sunday Club. Pray that they may grow to know more about Jesus and get to know Him as Saviour and Lord. Small. Remember the leaders, that God might help them in all they do and to share the Good News about Jesus in age and stage appropriate way.

Monday 16

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 17

The Guild: Pray for the start of the new session of the Guild today. Pray for Gilbert as Convener as he leads the Meetings and give thanks for the Committee members who support him

and for the syllabus which has been compiled for the forthcoming session. Remember all those who come along to the Meetings that they may be encouraged and share together in worship, fellowship and service which the Guild upholds as its model for life and witness.

Wednesday 18

Nursing & 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 become more dependent on others. Pray that we all, in our weakness, may trust in God's strength.

Thursday 19

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 in despair. 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 be filled with patience, love, hope and healing.

Friday 20

AV & IT Team: Give thanks for all in the AV and IT team at the church and for all that they do to support the worship and witness of the church. Give thanks for the live-streaming capability we have at St Columba's, for those who record the services each week, and for all those who access them and cannot easily get to church otherwise. Pray for those who cannot get to church for various reasons that many might be blessed through the livestreamed services and feel better connected to the fellowship as a result.

Saturday 21

Ukraine: One month ago, on 21 August, Ukraine marked 33 years of independence. Ukraine's independence has been opposed by Russia in its invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 and before that the annexation of Crimea in early 2014.

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 of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Sunday 22

The Church and Ministry. Remember the work and ministry of God's servants today wherever 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 times, 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.

Pray too this morning for Rachel and Chris MacLeod,

and big brother Jack, as baby Tom is baptised at St Columba's Hillhead.

Monday 23

Prison Fellowship Scotland (PFS): Give thanks for the long-standing working partnership with the Scottish Prison Service. Volunteers wishing to work with Prison Chaplaincy are re-directed to PFS due to the quality of their volunteer processes and training. Give thanks also for the persistent demand for PFS's work in restorative justice, specifically in their 6week 'Sycamore Tree' course which helps offenders look at the consequences of their crimes as this is developed through an increasing number of Scottish prisons. Pray for PFS as it seeks to further develop its work within prisons. Remember Rev. Gary Caldwell in his work as Prison Chaplain at Greenock Prison as he serves staff and those imprisoned there.

Tuesday 24

The Bereaved: Remember those who have lost loved ones, especially those personally known to us. May they know God's presence with them to encourage and support them.

Pray for those who have experience trauma. Pray that they might know hope and healing from the Lord,

as they trust in Him as their Rock and Redeemer.

Wednesday 25

Friendship Club & Following Jesus Group: Give thanks that both of these Groups have now restarted after the summer break. Give thanks for the leaders who help each week with activities and Bible teaching. Pray for families with members who have learning difficulties. Pray that the Lord will enable their needs to be met. May God guide us as a Church that we might continue to learn more about how we can support and befriend people with learning difficulties. Pray that all who come together may know the Lord's peace and blessing as they share together on Wednesday evenings.

Thursday 26

Jo Crotty: Jo recently spent a week in Australia and saw her brother who is increasingly debilitated with Motor Neurone Disease. Pray for Jo's brother and his family – and for Jo as she is now back in Papua New Guinea – that they would know God's goodness and grace from day to day.

Friday 27

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.

Saturday 28

Christian Aid: Give thanks that we and other churches can support of Christian Aid worldwide. Give thanks for the work of Christian Aid in helping communities to fight injustice, responding to humanitarian emergencies, campaigning for change, and helping people receive the services they need.

Recently, as noted in the church magazine, Christian

Aid has been able to provide humanitarian support such as food, water and shelter, to people in Gaza. Pray that as this aid helps to alleviate suffering it may also speak of the love of Jesus, even in the hardest of times.

Sunday 29

Leprosy Mission: Give thanks for the visit of Chris Stratta from the newly formed 'Leprosy Mission Great Britain' who is visiting St Columba's Hillhead this morning. Pray for the newly formed group, that folks would work well together and for the benefit of those with Leprosy worldwide. Thank God for the opportunity we have had at St Columba's Hillhead to support the work of the Leprosy Mission for many years and for all that God has done through the Leprosy Mission over that time.

Pray for the 'Songs of Praise' service this evening at the Hillhead Halls. Pray that there might be an atmosphere of worship as we come together to sing to God and listen to His Word.

Monday 30

Men's Group: As the new session starts today, remember all those who have been looking forward to the resumption of the Group. Give thanks for the opportunity provided for friendship, activities, fun

and the company of others which is much appreciated through the autumn and winter months. Pray that others might come to join and benefit from the opportunities which the Men's Group provides. Pray for James Kennedy as Convener and Ian Gibb as Secretary as they organise the Programme with the support of others.