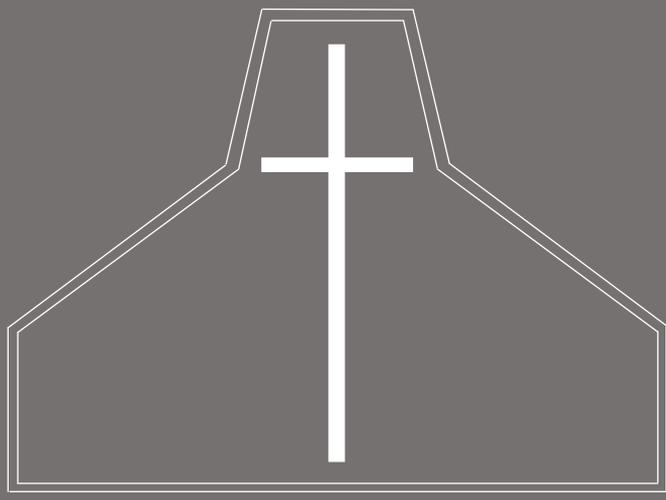


Be joyful always; pray continually: give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5:16



Prayer Diary October 2021

St Columba's
Parish Church

Friday 1

Little Fishes: Give thanks for the encouragement of strengthening relationships with children and carers as numbers steadily increase. Pray for the leaders and carers as they engage with the children and carers that the time spent on Friday mornings will be enjoyable and fruitful. Pray for a safe environment for everyone and a spirit of joy in undertaking responsibilities for everyone's wellbeing.

Saturday 2

Missionary Aviation Fellowship: Give thanks that after a gap of more than 20 years an airstrip in Papua New Guinea (PNG) has finally reopened after a group of men attempted to storm an aircraft so that they could attack a passenger they believed to be their enemy. After much working together as a community with MAF, the Yalum airstrip has reopened. Pray

- 1) That the people will know that they have not been forgotten and can embrace this opportunity to become more connected with the outside world
- 2) For a strengthening of relationships in the Yalum community and for trust to be rebuilt
- 3) That the airstrip can be lengthened to allow for greater loads and increased possibilities for service.

Continue also to pray for Jo Crotty in PNG, giving thanks for her smooth move to Ukarumpa International School. Give thanks too that Jo is now fully vaccinated. Pray for her settling into life at Ukarumpa; relationships with her class; safety for the pilots as they fly each day; planning the Kids Programme Ketchup for the MAF 3-Day Conference starting Mon 4th October.

Sunday 3

Church Services: Pray for the Word of God as it is proclaimed today that it will be sharper than a two-edged sword as it is heard and pray that it will be heard with thoughtfulness and fruitfulness in people's hearts. Pray for Philip as he prepares to preach God's Word and give thanks for his ministry that the Lord will be pleased to bless the preaching in His Name and use him mightily to His glory.

Monday 4

Men's Group: Give thanks that the Men's Group is resuming this evening after many months of not being able to hold meetings due to Pandemic Restrictions. Give thanks for renewed friendships and the opportunity to share activities and enjoyment together and pray for ongoing enrichment in the fellowship of meeting together.

Tuesday 5

The Guild: Remember the members of the Guild as they meet together in pursuing the Guild Theme for this year - Lights and Bushels - and give thanks for re-established regular meetings again and the reconnections made with each other. Pray that their fellowship may be in awareness of 'Whose we are and Whom we serve' and pray for the office bearers especially as they seek to provide leadership. Pray for the wider work of the Guild nationally and for the resourcing of the Guild projects which bring hope and resources to the vulnerable both near and far.

Wednesday 6

Wednesday Morning Fellowship: Give thanks for the resumption of this Fellowship and the renewed face-to-face gathering together again. Give thanks for the delight in meeting to worship God together and for the encouragement of the fellowship for each other. Pray that God will be praised and glorified in the worship and proclaiming of His Word and His People strengthened by sharing together.

Thursday 7

Bethany Christian Trust: Pray for the work of The Welcome Centre and remember the staff who strive to ensure that every guest is treated justly, loved tenderly and accompanied as a child of God. Pray for those who prepare the food and for those who serve it and do so in a spirit of love and tenderness. Pray that through encountering God's unconditional love in action their guests may feel affirmed as being of value and worth and be open to BCT's supporting of them in whatever way they need to overcome the challenges and difficulties they face. Remember David McAdam in his important work of meeting with the vulnerable and homeless.

Friday 8

The Boys' Brigade: Continue to give thanks for and remember the leaders and boys as they meet together in all Sections. Pray for enjoyment as they meet and work towards achieving and attaining their awards and that the boys will want to keep coming to do this. Pray that the leaders will be encouraged as they prepare week by week and that the boys will see them as good role models.

Saturday 9

Scripture Union: SU Scotland has around 300 young people involved in SU Holidays over the October school holidays next week. This is a much larger programme than normal. Give thanks that spaces were booked within 48 hours of booking opening and pray that young people will enjoy being back together again at camp and that many will respond to the gospel. Please pray for safety from COVID at all events. Remember the SU Scotland Leadership Team and Board as they have faced many challenges and especially Jackie Ringan from among us. Give thanks for new forms of SU ministry that have emerged and pray for wisdom at discerning God's leading in future strategy.

Sunday 10

Sunday Club and Bible Class: Remember the young folks as they meet regularly to learn more about following Jesus and pray that they may grow in the grace, knowledge and love of the Lord. Today is Harvest Thanksgiving and pray that we as a Congregation may express our thanks for the gifts of Creation and not take them for granted. Pray that our gifts may be used to bring hope and comfort to those less fortunate than ourselves.

Monday 11

Bible Society, Dominican Republic: In the Dominican Republic the Bible is one of the assigned textbooks in schools. Because of this, pupils want to have their own Bible, but for many this is not possible due to the poverty. Within the school environment young people can often lose their values or develop bad attitudes or behaviour. Many can end up in trouble. The Bible Society believes that these children and teenagers will have the opportunity of a better future if they can read the life-changing Word of God for themselves. Pray that God will touch both students and teachers alike and that His Word will find its home in their hearts.

Tuesday 12

The Lodging House Mission: Continue to uphold the important work of the LHM in supporting those who are socially vulnerable. Especially pray at this time for a good response in Harvest gift donations to provide valuable supplies for fulfilling the work of the LHM. Pray for all the staff as they engage in relationships with the socially vulnerable that they may be equipped with love, strength and grace to carry out this work in Jesus' Name.

Wednesday 13

Lammermoor Gardens:
Give thanks for the monthly service which was re-established last month and for the encouraging start. Pray for the next Service today at 2pm and remember Philip as he conducts it that it may be a delight for everyone to meet together to worship the Lord. Pray for strong friendships among those who share together.

Thursday 14

The Suffering Church:
Remember the work of Open Doors, Christian Solidarity Worldwide and The Barnabas Fund in their important work to support 340 million persecuted Christians across the world. 4761 Christians were murdered for their faith last year. Give thanks for 283,000 Christians in Asia receiving Covid-19 food and aid from supporters. Remember those in Syria & Iraq, praying especially for leaders that they will be strengthened and equipped for their vital role. Pray for their protection and especially for their rest and healing as they are likely to become burnt out by events around them.

Friday 15

Live Streaming: Continue to be thankful for the financial grant from the Scottish Government's 'Adapt & Thrive' Programme and for the installation of the

equipment into our building. Remember those involved in the installation work and pray that it may go smoothly and be a great asset to the Church's life and worship as the Church seeks to reach out to those who log in online.

Saturday 16

The Vaccination Programme: Continue to give thanks for those who have worked tirelessly to create vaccines and to facilitate their extensive rollout. Pray for an optimal take-up for community well-being and especially for those whose health is vulnerable. Pray for those expecting to receive a further booster and flu jab for greater immunity for the winter months. Pray for hard-pressed healthcare staff who are endeavouring to meet wide-ranging demands as well as greater availability of the vaccines to less well-developed countries around the world.

Sunday 17

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 people's 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 respond to difficult issues resulting from Covid and the consequent work of Presbyteries in working with local congregations.

Monday 18

Local Schools: Pray for teachers and pupils as they return today after their Half-Term holiday that they may be refreshed for the forthcoming period to Christmas. Pray especially for the opportunity to recommence chaplaincy work in schools when appropriate. Remember also the community in Waterside as building work has begun on the new Additional Needs School there as a new facility within the locality and where change is sometimes difficult to see happening.

Tuesday 19

Small Group Bible Studies:
The Groups will be looking at Paul's 1st Letter to the Corinthians during these weeks. Pray that these studies will be relevant, informative and challenging to our Christian life and witness as a church today. Pray that the Lord will open His Word in a fresh understanding and for a spirit of openness and unity.

Wednesday 20

Midweek Service: Give thanks for the recently re-established Midweek Service and for those who delight to attend to worship the Lord and share fellowship with each other. Give thanks also for the mutual love and encouragement which is given and received through the fellowship.

Thursday 21

The Bible Society, Scotland: Here in Scotland the Scottish Bible Society's mission is to put the Bible into people's hands and hearts. This is done by working with the Church in Scotland to improve Biblical knowledge and understanding through meaningful engagement with the Bible. This in turn contributes to the growth of people's relationship with God. To this end they are producing innovative and contemporary Bible resources in print and also in new formats such as audio and film, reaching younger generations. Please pray for the Bible Society's Ministry Team as they create new resources and publications to see lives transformed through the Bible.

Friday 22

The Bereaved: Remember those who have lost loved ones, especially those in recent days and personally known to us. Pray for parents who have lost a little child through miscarriage or stillbirth or in infant years. Remember those who have suffered through sudden trauma. 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.

Saturday 23

The Leprosy Mission: Pray for The Leprosy Mission Scotland. Its role in the global fellowship as a Supporting Country is to uphold its partners around the world financially, practically and prayerfully to enable them to deliver the care and support that it is needed. Pray for an increase in responses from volunteers, churches and other groups from across the country to stand in the G.A.P. (Giving, Acting, Praying) like Nehemiah did in Ch.4 v13 to protect and uphold the people - today those who are vulnerable and affected by leprosy, often with little, if any, other support or protection in many countries.

Sunday 24

The Church in Scotland: Pray for the Church in Scotland today that it will hold fast to its Scriptural authority and honour the Lord in worship and practice. Pray for the renewing power of the Holy Spirit to refresh and revitalise the life of the Church in these days, especially after being under Covid restrictions. Pray for God's Word as it is preached today that it will take root and bear fruit in peoples' hearts and lives to bring people closer to God and change lives. Pray also for the availability of Christian Aid envelopes today in St Columba's that they will be warmly received and generously filled as a loving response to further Christian Aid's work to support people in many different situations of need around the world.

Monday 25

Those who are Unwell or in Hospital: Remember those who are unwell, awaiting investigation, diagnosis, surgery/treatment especially in the current demand upon the Health Service. Pray that they may receive their required care as promptly as possible. Remember and give thanks for all Healthcare staff amid great pressures on them to respond to increasing demands upon them for their help and care.

Tuesday 26

Those with Mental Health Issues: The Pandemic has been difficult for many in loss of social support and encouragement. Pray for those who are suffering mental health issues and those who seek to provide caring support. Remember their families who experience pain watching loved ones suffer and often feel helpless and isolated too. Pray for those in the NHS and those in the wider Caring Agencies who are under great pressure from increased demand for their services through increased waiting times. Pray especially for those known to us who are experiencing difficult times in these days.

Wednesday 27

Following Jesus and Friendship Groups: Give thanks that both Groups are back on a regular basis and those who are part of these Groups are having the opportunity to meet and share together. Pray that God will be very close to them and for a spirit of fun and fellowship as they learn about God's continuing love for them. Pray especially for the carers that they may enjoy an opportunity to meet and share together in mutual support and encouragement.

Thursday 28

Scottish Parliament: Pray for the Scottish Parliament in its governance of the

nation's wellbeing and especially as a new bill aimed at legalising assisted dying in Scotland is brought before the Parliament. Pray for MSPs as they prepare to consider 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. Previous attempts to change the law to enable assisted dying have failed. Pray especially for all those Christians who are submitting 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 are deliver end-of-life care everyday with compassion and kindness to those facing death and their loved ones.

Friday 29

The Housebound: Remember and pray for the housebound. Pray that they may not feel isolated but have people to call and others to call upon them intermittently to ease their isolation especially after so many months of lockdown. Pray that they may know the peace of Christ in their hearts and that they are not alone.

Saturday 30

The Bible Society: Prayers in the Pandemic. We are asked to pray together with those who have written prayers for the Pandemic. *Lord God, we ask for your blessing on all who have been brought low by this Pandemic. Give strength and skill to all medical and research staff in their efforts to overcome this Virus. We pray for those individuals facing challenges. We thank you that so many people have received Bibles through the work of the Bible Society during the past year. Bless them as they read your Word. Speak words of comfort and peace to them in these difficult times and may they know your love and care in a real way.*

Sunday 31

Church Services/COP26: Pray for Church services today as God's People meet to worship that the Lord may be praised and glorified especially as the COP26 Global Warming Summit gets underway in Glasgow. Pray that the Lord's Voice may be clearly heard in the stewardship of His Creation. Pray for those charged with safety and security as well as good order as the Summit progresses. Pray that our Public Services will be able to cope with the influx of many visitors to Glasgow.