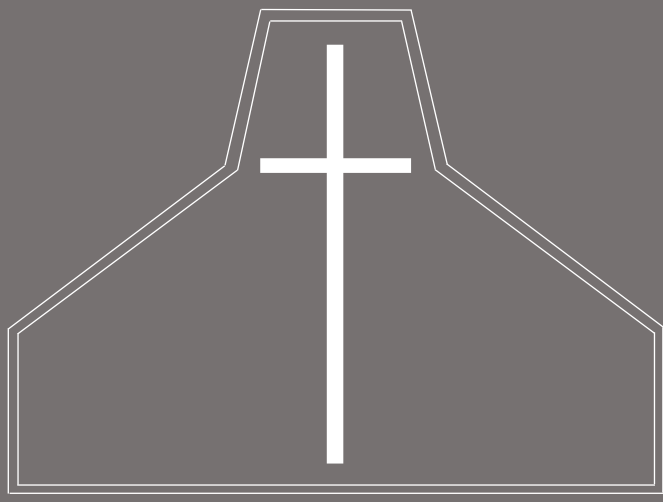


For the eyes of the Lord are
on the righteous and His ears
are attentive to their
prayers.

1 Peter 3:12



Prayer Diary

September 2021

St Columba's
Parish Church

Wednesday 1

Following Jesus Group & Friendship Club: Continue to give thanks for the opportunity to meet up at long last before the summer break after such a long time of not being able to do so. Give thanks that the Following Jesus Group starts this evening for the new session and the Friendship Club next Wednesday. Remember these groups in prayer that they will know the Lord's blessing upon them and that they are loved, supported and cared for along with their carers within the Church. Pray that they may grow in knowledge of the Lord.

Thursday 2

The Suffering Church: Continue to pray for the work of Open Doors as it supports Christians facing extreme persecution. Give thanks that thousands of vulnerable Christians in Indonesia are receiving much-needed food during the current pandemic in response to practical support and prayers given by fellow Christians. Pray for North Koreans who are finding it harder than ever to escape the country and its oppressions with the tightened pandemic restrictions. Especially remember Christians in Afghanistan as the political climate is very volatile with the Taliban seeking to impose their authority and Sharia law on the country. Pray for the country and its future in these very difficult days.

Friday 3

The Boys' Brigade: Remember the leaders and boys as they embarked upon a new Session this evening, that there will be a greater opportunity to fulfil the programme of activities this year. Pray for the leaders as they seek to be role models for the boys and give thanks for their example and commitment and desire to encourage the boys to follow Jesus and in Christian living.

Saturday 4

Lodging House Mission: Give thanks for the significant work of the LHM in supporting those who are vulnerable and homeless. Especially pray for the Support Staff and Counsellors who work hard to develop trusted relations to help identify the individual needs and wants of the men and women who seek their help and advice. Pray that service-users may find self-worth and meaning in educational opportunities, addiction-recovery focussed groups and recreational activities as well as continuing practical resources.

Sunday 5

Church Services: Pray for the Word of God as it is proclaimed today that it will be sharper than a two-edged sword 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 6

Men's Club: Remember those who regularly met in shared fellowship on Monday evenings. Give thanks that it may be possible to re-establish regular meetings again with the proposed intention to resume at the beginning of October and enjoy the social interaction of being together in the usual enjoyment of activities and fun.

Tuesday 7

Tuesday Morning Fellowship: Remember those who regularly met together each Tuesday morning and who have missed these Meetings over the last months. Pray that they may continue to know the Lord's presence with them and His blessing in their lives and the encouragement of the Lord's people with them. Pray too that it may soon be possible to resume the midweek service.

Wednesday 8

Bethany Christian Trust: Give thanks for Rev. David McAdam and fellow staff members in their significant work with the vulnerable and homeless for Bethany Christian Trust. Pray that their vision may be fulfilled that working together may bring about an end to homelessness in Scotland. Pray for high-quality support services and provision of accommodation for those in need and for much-needed support from partners and supporters to meet demands placed upon them. Pray that they may keep in step with God's purposes and that they may know God's favour and grace in furthering the work.

Thursday 9

Bible Society, Turkey: Give thanks that as the Turkish Church grows the number of pastors and biblical scholars increase and the Bible Society of Turkey receives many requests for a new Bible translation to be a real guide and deepen biblical knowledge. Pray for the translation team of the Bible Society in Turkey as they begin the huge task of a new Bible revision. Pray for their patience and commitment to this project and for the new translation to have an impact on people's lives in Turkey.

Friday 10

Little Fishes: Pray for Little Fishes as it has recommenced a new session. Give thanks for the wider opportunity to meet together as COVID restrictions have been eased. Remember the leaders as they foster relationships with the children and their carers and pray for a happy and safe environment for meeting together.

Saturday 11

The Leprosy Mission, Scotland (TLMS): Give thanks that over the past 25 years 15 million people have been cured of leprosy. Pray that the 5 million people still affected by the ongoing impact of leprosy may be supported and for the TLMS work in partnership with The Leprosy Mission Global Fellowship and others to raise resources to enable people affected by leprosy to achieve justice and eradicate leprosy with its stigmatisation and discrimination.

Sunday 12

Bible Class and Sunday Club: Give thanks that these groups are now meeting and sharing together on Sundays to learn with each other about following Jesus. Give thanks for the leaders in their example as role models in commitment and faith and for their encouragement of the young people to grow in their faith and knowledge of God and His Word. Give thanks for Scott Inglis' service to Sunday Club and Bible Class over 9 years and pray God's blessing on him as his Probationary Teaching year is now underway. Pray too for Rona Thomson as she begins her Modern Apprenticeship at the Glencoe Outdoor Centre.

Monday 13

Scripture Union: Pray amidst the huge spiritual poverty in Scotland and disbelief in Jesus. Intercede for this current generation of children and young people, remembering those especially known to us for whom we have a prayerful concern. Pray for Christian pupils at school especially those whom we know close to our own hearts. Pray that they may turn to God when worried or upset, work hard, make good choices and show Jesus' love to others. Pray for Christian parents to seek God with them.

Tuesday 14

Lammermoor Gardens: Continue to remember and pray for the residents and staff in Lammermoor Gardens especially since our contact has been limited through the last months of restrictions. Give thanks that the monthly service is due to restart this afternoon enabling personal engagement with staff and residents.

Wednesday 15

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. Such loss is devastating 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.

Thursday 16

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 in the wider Caring Agencies who are under great pressure from increased demand for their services.

Friday 17

Scottish Parliament, Assisted Dying Bill: Pray for the Scottish Parliament as a new session starts 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 deliver end-of-life care everyday with compassion and kindness to those facing death and their loved ones.

Saturday 18

Those 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.

Sunday 19

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 20

The Vaccination Programme: Give thanks that the Vaccination Programme is steadily progressing towards full vaccination through all age groups and for all who have made this possible in such a short timescale which has been a remarkable achievement. Also give thanks for the greater easing of restrictions which this has permitted and for increased social gathering not least of all in the Church. Pray that the access to vaccine will be widespread in Africa and other less-developed countries around the world. Give thanks for agencies such as Tearfund who are helping to prepare communities for the rollout of a vaccine, including church leaders to share information about COVID vaccines.

Tuesday 21

The Guild: Give thanks for the members of the Guild who have their opening meeting of the new Session today and for their theme of the new Session, 'Lights and Bushels'. Remember the introductory speaker, Keith Saunders, for the evening who will speak on the Guild Theme as the pathway for the Guild's wide influence in being Christ's followers today and to be 'salt and light' to the world through projects to bring hope and healing. Pray for the Guild Office Bearers in leadership and members that they may grow together in grace and faith through worship, fellowship and service.

Wednesday 22

Schools/Higher Education: Remember our young people currently at School that they may have a stable year without interruption to their education after two years of Pandemic disruption. Pray that they may be able to concentrate more fully on their work and skills development and remember teachers who seek to guide and encourage after the unsettling Pandemic interruptions with their consequent effects on pupils and their learning. Also remember students in Higher Education, especially those who have just left home for the first time to go to University elsewhere, and returning students who had a very different experience last year during Covid Lockdowns. Pray for stability for them in this current year and to enjoy a greater social interaction this forthcoming year.

Thursday 23

Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF): Pray for the ongoing work of MAF in its mission to bring help, hope and healing through aviation to isolated communities. Remember Jo Crotty in her work in Papua New Guinea as Education Coordinator for Asia Pacific. Give thanks for the response of MAF in sending out medics, batches of Sinovac vaccine and coronavirus tests to contain the outbreak of COVID in Indonesia which has overtaken India as Asia's 'COVID hotspot'. Pray particularly for the people of Kalimantan and other locations in the Indonesian part of Borneo where there has been a big surge in cases and where reportedly health services and resources have been overwhelmed.

Friday 24

School Chaplaincy: Give thanks for the opportunity and privilege for Philip and colleagues from partner churches who are welcomed into our local primary schools and Kirkintilloch High School. Pray for renewed opportunities to offer school chaplaincy support following months of absence due to the pandemic. Pray for grace and winsomeness in connecting with staff and pupils and wisdom in communicating the Christian message in relationships. Pray for thoughtfulness and fruitfulness in response to questions raised and a desire to know more about Jesus.

Saturday 25

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.

Sunday 26

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 people's hearts and lives to bring people closer to God and change lives.

Monday 27

Christian Aid: Please pray for Christian Aid's urgent work in Haiti following the recent earthquake there which has claimed more than 1400 lives, injured almost 7,000 people and destroyed 83,000 homes. Families are seeking safety wherever they can with nothing but the clothes on their backs. Entire communities have been made homeless. Pray that resources may be made available through Christian Aid to urgently help those very much in need, especially remembering the most vulnerable people - women and girls, older people and people with disabilities.

Tuesday 28

Tearfund: Remember the work of Tearfund and their involvement in different countries to bring an end to extreme poverty and injustice. Pray especially for their urgent involvement in current crises in different countries. Pray especially for the crisis in Afghanistan where the urgent aim is to help save lives. Pray that their urgent appeal for resources will receive a mighty response. Storm hampers are being distributed in Haiti following the recent earthquake. Give thanks for the training of young people as first-responders as a result of lessons learned from the 2010 earthquake. Pray for help to reach those in need especially in remote places where roads have been blocked. Ask God to bring comfort, peace and hope in this uncertain time.

Wednesday 29

The Housebound: Remember and pray for the housebound who are unable to leave their homes for one reason or another. 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 that the peace of Christ in their hearts to know that they are not alone.

Thursday 30

Church Halls and Maintenance: Continue to give thanks and pray for all those who helping with ongoing maintenance and other jobs around the church and halls/buildings, including work that is preparatory to installing live streaming equipment in the sanctuary. We remember with gratitude all those who help in any way to ensure our buildings and grounds are kept in such good order as they are.