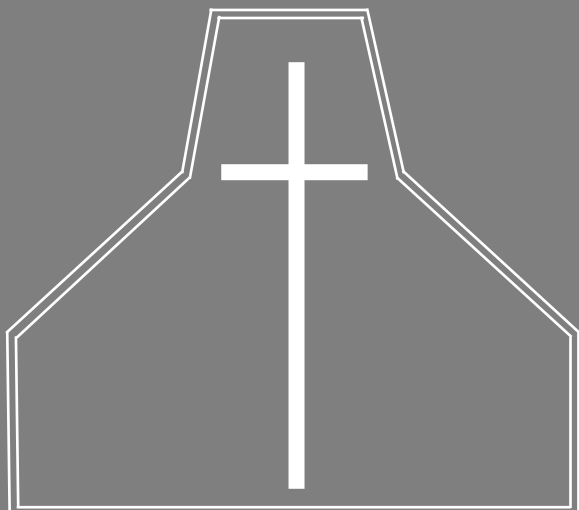


“But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.”

1 Peter 2:9-10



Prayer Diary

July 2020

St Columba's
Parish Church

Wednesday 1

Please continue to remember those in the Friendship Club and the Following Jesus group. Give thanks that many seem to be enjoying keeping busy even with the disruption to usual routines. Help them to keep trusting God during this time of different routines and now with the added change of the summer holidays. Pray for families and carers as they support them.

Thursday 2

Lodging House Mission: Please pray for the whole Lodging House Mission Family; for the vulnerable client group, for the staff team who remain on furlough or who are shielding, and for the dedicated volunteers and many partner agency staff. In the light of recent events at the Park Inn on Friday 26th June, the Lodging House Mission ask for prayer for the emergency services, the individuals relocated from Park Inn and agencies working to offer support, those who sustained injuries in the attack, and their families and friends.

Friday 3

The Boys' Brigade: Please pray for all the young people who are missing contact with their friends and the opportunity to participate in the activities they would normally be able to enjoy at this time of year. As lockdown eases, pray they might take advantage of the greater freedom while staying safe and protecting others. The BB would usually not meet in July, but give thanks for the boys being keen for the weekly online session to continue

for the time being and for the staff who continue to work hard and attend faithfully to make this happen.

Saturday 4

Scripture Union: Give thanks that some of SU's online groups are working out much better than ever anticipated. Give thanks for 74 young leaders who took part in 'Discipleship at Home' at the end of June. Nearly 100 children have signed up so far to take part, with their families, in 'Scotland's Biggest Holiday Club'. Lots of summer SU Holidays are also running content online. Please pray that many young people will hear the Good News in these groups and grow in their understanding of following Jesus.

Sunday 5

Give thanks for the continuing opportunity here at St Columba's and in churches elsewhere to hold services online and declare the praises of God who has called us out of darkness into His wonderful light. Give thanks for all who have been able to connect with these services. Pray especially for those who have accessed church services during lockdown who have not been at church for a while or perhaps ever. Pray that they might know God's blessing in their lives including the blessing of belonging to a local church.

Monday 6

Pray for headteachers and management teams of our local schools as they plan for return to school for children in August. Pray for them as they adapt to a

changing situation, and for class teachers and other staff as they prepare for a new term with many new challenges.

Tuesday 7

Remember all those who have missed coming to the Tuesday Morning Service in recent months. Pray that they might know God's presence and the love, support and prayers of those they would normally worship with during the week.

Wednesday 8

Give thanks for the five groups who have met online and the friendships that have grown over recent weeks during the Community Bible Project here at St Columba's as we have read through Luke and Acts with the booklet, 'The Story'. Give thanks too that others have been able to read through the booklet on their own. Pray that God would help each one to put into practice the things they have learnt.

Thursday 9

Give thanks for the work of the Scottish Bible Society, including their current 'Bags of Discovery' project. Aware that this summer churches are not going to be able to host holiday clubs in the way they have done before, the Scottish Bible Society has put together "home delivery" holiday club resources for churches to take to children and parents in the church and wider local communities. Pray that these would be enjoyed and appreciated by all who receive them and they God would work through them.

Friday 10

Give thanks for the opportunity to deliver some end of term bags to the 'Little Fishes' families to let them know we are thinking of them. Please continue to pray for the local families that come to the Little Fishes Toddler Group and for opportunities to continue to support and encourage them.

Saturday 11

Whilst we give thanks for the considerably reduced rates of coronavirus right now in Scotland, pray for those in some other parts of the world such as in South America where rates are much higher. Pray for those who work so hard in difficult conditions in hospitals and elsewhere. Please also remember the ministry of local churches too as they offer hope in hard times.

Sunday 12

Give thanks for Sunday Club and Bible Class who have continued to meet on Sundays at 1030 via Zoom. We would normally be running Summer Sunday Club throughout the summer holidays but the term time programme is extending into the summer this year. Give thanks that the Bible Class forms the sixth online group in the church taking part in the Community Bible Experience. Give thanks that the 'Dear Theo' alternative to 'The Story' has been very well received.

Monday 13

Please continue to remember the members of the Men's Club. Some live alone and others have specific health needs. Give thanks for the increased opportunities for meeting others

that the gradual easing of restrictions has enabled for some.

Tuesday 14

Remember all those who live and work in Care Homes, Nursing Homes and Sheltered Housing. Remember in particular all the residents and staff at Lammermoor Gardens. Pray for all (and some are members or attenders here at St Columba's) who miss the monthly service organised by St Columba's and Hillhead churches on the second Tuesday afternoon of the month.

Wednesday 15

As Scotland's tourism sector is due to re-open from today (at the time of writing), pray for all those we know who are hoping to take some holiday over the coming weeks. Pray that they might be refreshed after the many weeks of lockdown.

Thursday 16

Pray for churches, including our own fellowship at St Columba's, who are making plans for resuming physical services in due course. Give thanks and pray for wisdom for all those who work nationally and locally to that end.

Friday 17

Malawi Rice: Covid-19 has had a huge effect on everyone but especially so on the rice farmers and food producers in Malawi who have used donations to purchase PPE equipment so they can continue working safely to support the much needed local economy and also supply the local hospital. Many schools and communities in the rural area do

not even have running water making basic safety measures much more difficult than it is for us. Please remember these people in your prayers and ask God to be with them and guide them through this terrible time.

Saturday 18

Mission Aviation Fellowship: Jo Crotty, serving God with Mission Aviation Fellowship, is currently in Australia but looking forward to being back in Papua New Guinea as soon as possible. Mission Aviation Fellowship pilots first carried Bibles into remote communities in Papua New Guinea nearly 70 years ago. This work continues today, and it is so exciting to see local people eager to get their hands on God's word for themselves – both audio and written versions.

Sunday 19

Pray for Moodiesburn Parish Church as Rev Mark McKeown preaches online as sole nominee today. Pray for Mark and Ruth and the children as they seek God's leading for the future. Pray for God's blessing on the next chapter at Moodiesburn, a neighbouring parish to our own, for the church to grow and for the community around to hear the Good News about Jesus.

Monday 20

Pray for those known to us who are unwell. Pray that they might know God's presence and strength in these days together with the love and support of the church family. Pray too that they might be able to access the healthcare they need.

Tuesday 21

Give thanks for how the members of the Guild have continued to keep in regular touch with one another over these past months. Give thanks for the strong friendships that the Guild has fostered that have been so helpful during this time. Continue to remember especially those members who live alone.

Wednesday 22

Remember Christian Aid, working amongst over 850,000 Rohingya refugees living in cramped camps in Cox's Bazar district in Bangladesh, making them very vulnerable to coronavirus. Give thanks for how Christian Aid is working together with partners, informing people about risks, offering hygiene and hand washing sessions, ensuring that health facilities in camps have triage and isolation spaces for suspected cases, and providing training to health personnel and key frontline aid workers.

Thursday 23

Remember those known to us who have recently lost loved ones. Pray that they might find hope and comfort in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ and that we might be a help and support to them.

Friday 24

Pray for our neighbours that we may well have got to know better during the last months. Pray that we might have opportunities to share our faith with them and

perhaps invite them to a church service online or when the church building reopens on Sundays.

Saturday 25

'The people walking darkness have seen a great light' Isaiah 9:2. Give thanks to God for sending his Son, Jesus Christ so that we might no longer live in darkness but instead live in his wonderful light!

Sunday 26

Pray as we take part in the church service each week that we would do so with an attitude of worship to God, an eagerness to come before Him in prayer, and a willingness to hear his Word and put it into practice.

Monday 27

Give thanks for those who work in our local GP practices, in Kirkintilloch Health Centre, in other local health care provision and in our wider National Health Service. Pray for staff who have worked so hard in recent months, that there would be some relief in the intensity of their workload and the opportunity of a break over the summer.

Tuesday 28

Pray that we might grow in our own personal relationship with God and be faithful in reading his Word and coming before him in prayer each day.

Wednesday 29

Open Doors, the Christian Organisation that works to raise awareness of global persecution, writes that in many countries discrimination in aid distribution during coronavirus is another method of persecution. Pray for God's protection for Christian families in India and elsewhere who are being denied essential food and aid. Pray for those who work alongside Open Doors that they would be able to reach those most in need. Pray too for a change of heart amongst those who persecute Indian Christians.

Thursday 30

Pray for the UK and Scottish Governments, that they might govern wisely as they make decisions that affect us all. Pray too for local councils including East Dunbartonshire with the many challenges they face with the current situation.

Friday 31

At the time of writing, those who have been shielding for over four months in Scotland are set to have significant restrictions to their ways of life relaxed after today. Pray for these people, some in our own congregation, as they adjust to this new freedom and decide how best to use it in the weeks and months ahead.

Do join us if you can at our weekly online prayer meeting via Microsoft Teams. For details of how to connect, please contact Philip on Pwright@churchofscotland.org.uk