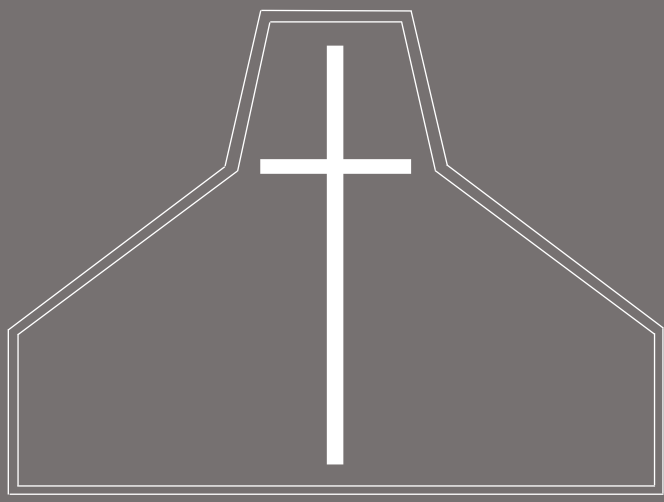


“How lovely is your dwelling-place, Lord Almighty!

My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the Lord;

my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.”

Psalm 84:1-2



Prayer Diary October 2020

St Columba's
Parish Church

Sunday 4

Online Services: Give thanks for the continuing opportunity here at St Columba's and in churches elsewhere to hold services online. Pray that this may be a blessing to many who are unable to attend a physical service. Pray for those who are connecting to church services online that have not been in the habit of doing so recently or perhaps ever before. Pray that they might know God's blessing in their lives including the blessing of belonging to a local church.

Monday 5

Schools: Pray for teachers and other staff at our local schools as they teach and look after our children and young people with various restrictions in place due to coronavirus. Pray that they may have an opportunity for some rest and refreshment during the upcoming October Week holiday. Pray too for senior secondary school pupils, some in our own church, who have extra assessments during this school year.

Tuesday 6

Scripture Union: At the moment SU Scotland are planning to run 6-day camps at Lendrick Muir during the October holidays provided there are no further restrictions. Give thanks that these are nearly fully and pray for much fun, safety and that the Bible will be shared creatively. Over the weekend of 9-12

October the Go Conference for S4-S6 pupils takes place online. Rona Thomson from St Columba's is taking part in this. Please pray that many of these young people will be challenged to share their love for Jesus with their friends and that even online friendships will be made with those in their small group.

Wednesday 7

The Bible Society: Now as much as ever, the world needs the message of hope found in God's Word. Pray for the people of Lebanon affected by pandemic and the massive explosion in Beirut. The Bible Society have launched a campaign called Rebuild based on God's Word, partnering with churches and relief agencies to provide Bibles and offer help to those who have lost so much.

Thursday 8

The Leprosy Mission: Give thanks that we have been able to send £350 to The Leprosy Mission from St Columba's Church. Please pray for Anandaban Hospital, a Leprosy Mission hospital in Nepal, that is currently affected by a trade blockade restricting transport of essential supplies from India. There has been a shortage of fuel and rocketing prices of everyday commodities such as rice, lentils, vegetables and cooking oil as a result of the soaring cost of transport. Pray that this situation might be resolved.

Friday 9

Little Fishes: Please continue to pray for the local families that belong to the Little Fishes Toddler Group. Pray for the Little Fishes Team here at St Columba's as they seek to continue to support and encourage these families.

Saturday 10

Government: Pray for all those in national and local government who have the responsibility of leading us in these days. Pray that they might act with wisdom and compassion in the many difficult decisions they have to make.

Sunday 11

Lodging House Mission: As we celebrate Harvest at this time of year, give thanks to God for the way he blesses so many of us with food on our tables and a roof over our heads. Remember the work of the Lodging House Mission as they offer support in a number of ways to their vulnerable client group. The Lodging House Mission Team ask us to pray for wisdom and compassion from those in positions of authority as they consider amending the temporary housing support for the homeless.

Monday 12

Men's Club: Please continue to remember the members of the Men's Club. Some live alone and others have specific health needs. Give thanks for the regular phone calls that have been set up to help members

keep in touch with each other.

Tuesday 13

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

Wednesday 14

Friendship Club and Following Jesus Group: Please continue to pray for all those in the Friendship Club and the Following Jesus group. Help them to keep trusting God amidst all the changes that coronavirus has necessitated. Give thanks that it has been possible to keep in touch with many of the families of folks in both groups.

Thursday 15

Malawi 90kg Rice Challenge: Give thanks that St Columba's has now completed the 90kg Malawi Rice Challenge. Pray that the proceeds from the sale of rice here and elsewhere may help farming families in Malawi to afford to send their children to secondary school. Pray that this project may help us to be mindful of the effect of the

purchasing choices we make on people elsewhere in the world.

Friday 16

The Boys' Brigade: The Boys' Brigade has just celebrated the 137th anniversary of its founding in Glasgow with the object of "The advancement of Christ's kingdom among Boys and the promotion of habits of Obedience, Reverence, Discipline, Self-respect and all that tends towards a true Christian manliness." Today there are around 750,000 BB members in 60 countries. Give thanks for the zoom meetings arranged every Friday here at the 1st Kirkintilloch. Pray for wisdom for BB Officers nationally and locally as they seek to know how best to meet the needs of young people in these unusual days.

Saturday 17

Mission Aviation Fellowship: Jo Crotty, who is serving God with Mission Aviation Fellowship, continues to wait in Australia for permission to return to Papua New Guinea. Please pray that this might be possible before too much longer and for patience in the meantime. Jo, who has a role supporting families in MAF with home-schooling, writes that there are 5 families with 6 secondary aged children this year and this will increase to 10 children next year.

Sunday 18

Sunday Services: We hope today to resume Sunday morning services in the church building here at St Columba's. Give thanks for all who have worked so hard to make this possible. Pray too that although things will be different there would be an atmosphere of worship in all these services.

Monday 19

Those who are unwell: Pray for those known to us who are unwell. Pray that they might know God's presence and strength in these days together the love and support of the church family.

Tuesday 20

The Guild: 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 21

Christian Aid: Remember Christian Aid's Autumn Appeal where vulnerable communities are joining forces with their neighbours to overcome crisis together. Pray for farming communities in Nicaragua whose coffee farms are threatened by climate change. Give thanks that with support from Christian

Aid, they are coming together to share tools and knowledge.

Thursday 22

Those who have been bereaved: 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 23

Our neighbours: Pray for neighbours and other folks that we 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 – either online or in the church building when it reopens on Sundays.

Saturday 24

The NHS: 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 as they continue to provide services amidst all the challenges posed by coronavirus.

Sunday 25

Give thanks for Sunday Club and Bible Class who continue to meet online every Sunday via Zoom. Give thanks for the continued sense of fellowship within the Bible Class despite not meeting in person and for the

opportunity to have games nights online. Pray that the current teaching model on Zoom may sustain the interest of the children and young people until they meet in person.

Monday 26

Special Envoy on Freedom of Religion or Belief: We read on the Open Doors website: “Rehman Chishti MP has recently resigned as the Prime Minister’s Special Envoy on Freedom of Religion or Belief. In this role, Rehman Chishti MP has been a tireless advocate on this vital issue for the last 12 months and has implemented 17 of the 22 recommendations from the 2019 Bishop of Truro review on the persecution of Christians. Pray that in the light of his sudden resignation, the UK Government will replace him as soon as possible with a member of parliament who will continue his work with equal dedication and enthusiasm.”

Tuesday 27

Our own walk with God: 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 28

Operation Christmas Child: Give thanks for the mission of Operation Christmas Child to show God's love in a tangible way to children in need around the world, and

together with the local church worldwide, to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. Give thanks for the opportunity we at St Columba’s have to pack shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child and pray that these might be a blessing to many children.

Thursday 29

University students: Pray for students who are completing their courses with a lot of their learning being done virtually. Remember those who are unexpectedly having to adjust to staying at home this year. Remember too those who are in halls of residence in Glasgow and elsewhere who have found themselves having to self-isolate. Pray that they would get the support they need.

Friday 30

Those who are housebound: Pray for those who are housebound or finding it harder to leave their homes due to ongoing health needs. Pray that we would be alert to their needs and help where we are able.

Saturday 31

Foodbank: Remember all those who help with the East Dunbartonshire Foodbank in Kirkintilloch as they continue to provide emergency food and support to people in crisis. Pray that people in our own community who are hungry might get the food they need.