

# Prayer Diary

## January 2021

“For the LORD is good  
and his love endures  
for ever;

His faithfulness  
continues through all  
generations.”

Psalm 100:5



St Columba's  
Parish Church

## Thursday 7

New Year: As we look to the days ahead in this year that has just begun, let us pray that increasingly we are people who look to God and who trust in his goodness, his love and his faithfulness.

## Friday 8

Out of the Box: Give thanks for the *Out of the Box* Christian performing arts charity. Many of us greatly enjoyed watching 'Dave and the Christmas Rehearsal Reversal' on YouTube. Pray that this and other productions from *Out of the Box* might communicate the Gospel of Jesus Christ to young people in particular.

## Saturday 9

Special Services: Give thanks for the Advent, Christmas and Hogmanay services, for all who contributed to them and for all who worked to put them online or to produce and deliver CDs. Pray for those who accessed church services over this time – here at St Columba's or elsewhere – who would not normally attend church. Pray that what they heard would remain with them and would prompt them to seek to find out more about Jesus.

## Sunday 10

Local Churches: As church services throughout most of Scotland revert to digital delivery, pray for all those who continue to find it very hard not meeting together in person. Pray too that

these online services from local churches might be used by God to lead many in our nation to find lasting hope and peace in Jesus.

## Monday 11

Young Families: Pray for young families known to us who will feel the effect of children not being able to attend nursery and school until 1<sup>st</sup> February or later. Pray for parents as they juggle responsibilities at home and at work and elsewhere too. Pray for all those who seek to support our young people at this time. Give thanks for the work that has been done to enable schools to provide online learning opportunities and pray that this may be helpful in the weeks ahead.

## Tuesday 12

Those who are Unwell: Pray for those who are unwell, remembering in particular those who have recently had surgery or who are awaiting surgery. Pray that they might know God's presence and strength in these days together with the love and support of the church family.

## Wednesday 13

Open Doors: The Christian charity *Open Doors* reports that over 260 million Christians worldwide are persecuted. Today, MPs throughout the UK have been invited to the launch of the Open Doors 2021 World Watch list where they can hear about the 50 countries where it is the

most dangerous to follow Jesus, alongside first-hand accounts from persecuted Christians. Pray for MPs as they watch this presentation by Open Doors that they would be more aware of persecution of Christians worldwide, that they would seek to use their influence where possible to prevent it, but that they would also be inspired by the faithful discipleship of ordinary Christian people throughout the world.

## Thursday 14

The NHS: Continue to give thanks and pray for all those who work in our National Health Service. Many of them are under huge pressure in these days as they care for those with symptoms of coronavirus whilst also seeking to deliver other essential services. Pray that they would get all they need to do their work as safely and as well as possible. Give thanks that we now have more than one effective coronavirus vaccine. Pray for all those in the NHS, in our own local council and elsewhere too who are working hard to vaccinate those in greatest need as speedily as possible.

## Friday 15

Little Fishes: Please continue to pray for the local families that belong to the Little Fishes Toddler Group. Give thanks that we were able to give out more than 25 Christmas bags to families which included

some chocolate, a children's Bible story or activity book and a lovely woolly camel or donkey knitted by folks at St Columba's. Give thanks too for the ongoing opportunity to keep in touch through the Little Fishes Facebook page.

### Saturday 16

Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF): Remember Jo Crotty serving God with MAF in Papua New Guinea as she has just had her first Christmas in the country. Jo is responsible for supporting the education of children of MAF staff in Papua New Guinea and elsewhere. As part of that role, Jo visited Goroka in the Eastern Highlands Province of Papua New Guinea before Christmas where she was able to meet up with MAF staff and children.

### Sunday 17

Sunday Club and Bible Class: It was great to have some of our young people contributing to our services over Christmas and to have a sense of worshipping together as a church family. Give thanks for the well-earned holiday Sunday Club and Bible Class leaders have been able to enjoy over Christmas. Pray for children and leaders alike as Sunday Club and Bible Class have now restarted (as of last week) by zoom and as they continue to meet each Sunday morning.

### Monday 18

Online Bible Studies: Give thanks for the recent online Bible Study Series, *The God who speaks* that was accessed by Zoom, WhatsApp, and phone. Give thanks for the opportunity it gave to learn and share fellowship together. Pray that many in our church family would be able to access and benefit from the next series of online Bible studies.

### Tuesday 19

The Guild: Give thanks that the Guild has been able to give gifts both to *Scripture Union* and the *Sailors' Society* from their 2019/2020 session. Pray for members of the Guild as they miss the company of others. Pray that we all might be attentive to those who may be feeling lonely in these days and that we might keep in touch as we are able.

### Wednesday 20

World leaders: As a new President of the United States is inaugurated today, pray that the leaders of our own land and other world leaders too would govern with justice, compassion and humility. Pray that they would be mindful that as we read in the Bible, they would have no power unless it was given to them by God, and righteousness alone exalts a nation.

### Thursday 21

Scripture Union Scotland: Today is a day of prayer for Scripture Union Scotland.

For more information see [www.suscotland.org.uk](http://www.suscotland.org.uk). Give thanks for all that Scripture Union has been able to do in 2020 and pray for continuing opportunities in 2021 to help young people explore the Bible and respond to the significance of Jesus. Give thanks for the Scripture Union groups that are now meeting online. Pray that these might be an encouragement and support to young people during lockdown.

### Friday 22

Lodging House Mission: The Lodging House Mission reports that more and more people are becoming homeless due to the current economic downturn. Remember those who are homeless, especially as temperatures drop in January. Pray for staff and volunteers of the Lodging House Mission as they offer help and support in Christ's name to all those in need.

### Saturday 23

Christian Aid: Christian Aid encourages us to pray for climate justice in 2021 with the rescheduled United Nations climate talks due to now be held in November of this year. Many of the world's poorest nations are the most affected by climate change whilst richer nations often cause the most pollution. Pray for Christian Aid's Climate Justice Resilience Fund project in northern Kenya. This 3-year project aims to

enhance the climate resilience and adaptive capacity of communities through empowering women and young people, supporting community-led planning and budgeting, and developing local advocacy and policy.

### Sunday 24

Sunday Services: Pray for the services each Sunday morning here at St Columba's. Remember the Minister and others who prepare for and lead worship week by week. Pray that we would all engage with these services with an attitude of worship. Pray too that we would gladly and willingly obey what we read together in God's Word, the Bible.

### Monday 25

Men's Club: Please continue to remember the members of the Men's Club. Now that we are into another lockdown, pray for those in the Men's Club and church family who live alone or who have specific health needs. Pray that they might know God's presence and strength in these days.

### Tuesday 26

Our Friends and Neighbours: Pray that we might be alert to the needs of our neighbours in these days of lockdown. As many are finding this time hard, pray for opportunities to share the hope that we have in Jesus.

### Wednesday 27

Friendship Club and Following Jesus Group: Please continue to pray for all those in the Friendship Club and the Following Jesus group and their families. Pray for families to receive the support they need during lockdown. Pray especially for those who find it difficult to cope with the changes in routine that have been brought about by this current lockdown.

### Thursday 28

Bible Society: Following the devastating Beirut port explosion in August 2020, the Bible Society in Lebanon launched the campaign *Rebuild based on God's Word* providing Bibles and New Testaments to families working to restore their homes. This is in partnership with churches and relief agencies. Pray for all those who were injured or lost loved ones in the blast and for the continued ministry of the Bible Society in Lebanon.

### Friday 29

The Boys' Brigade: Give thanks for the ongoing zoom meetings every Friday for the 1<sup>st</sup> Kirkintilloch Boys' Brigade. Pray that during this time of lockdown the boys would benefit greatly from the supportive and nurturing environment of the BB.

### Saturday 30

Those who are housebound: Remember those known to us who are

housebound because they are shielding or for other reasons. Pray that they would know God's presence with them. Pray too that they would be able to keep in touch with family and friends and also with our church family.

### Sunday 31

Those who have been bereaved: Remember those known to us who have lost loved ones, that they would know God's comfort and presence in these days. Pray too that our church family here at St Columba's would be an encouragement and a support to those who are bereaved.