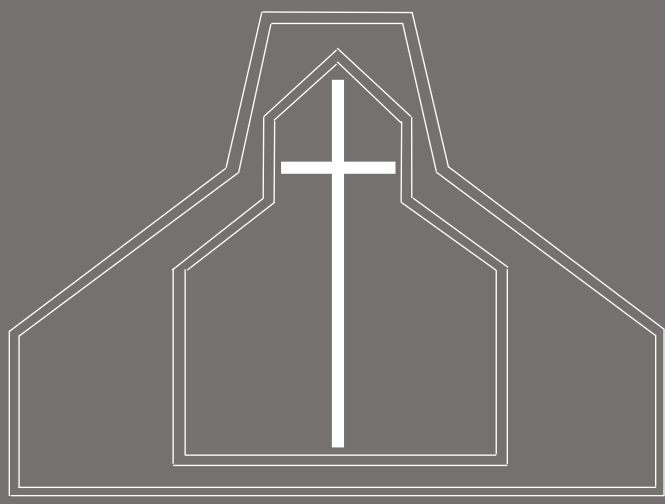


This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.

1 John 5:14



Prayer Diary

July & August

St Columba's
Hillhead
Parish Church

[Fri 1 Aug]

Church/Grounds: Give thanks for those who look after the fabric and grounds of the buildings and for the good order in which they are maintained. Give thanks too for the new heating system that has been successfully installed in the sanctuary.

[Sat 2 Aug]

Mission Aviation Fellowship: MAF is an international Christian organisation whose purpose is to bring help, hope and healing through aviation to people living in isolation and poverty.

Every 5.6 minutes a MAF aircraft takes off or lands somewhere in the world, transporting people who live in remote villages and assisting missions, churches, aid and development agencies and others working to transform the lives of communities that are cut off from the outside world.

Give thanks for this wonderful ministry!

MAF has operated in Liberia since 2015, serving remote communities through aviation. Pray for MAF as it serves local partners including churches, hospitals, missionaries, NGOs, and development and relief agencies who are working to provide access to healthcare, safe drinking water and the Gospel to the isolated people of Liberia.

[Sun 3 Aug]

St Columba's Hillhead. Continue to pray for the upbuilding of the life and fellowship of the congregation. Pray that as God's people within our Church we may work for the Lord together in unity and love and that the mission of the Church will know God's blessing in life and witness. Give thanks for the continued coming together and growth in fellowship of folks from both congregations and for the natural ways in which this happening such as over tea and coffee on a Sunday morning – and in the BBQ we enjoyed in June. Pray that this may continue to strengthen and deepen the love and unity of God's people and that with encouragement to and from each other congregational life will be strong in the Lord.

[Mon 4 Aug]

Kirk Session and Office Bearers: Give thanks for those who serve as elders in the church and for those who have particular areas of responsibility. Pray that they would know God's help as they carry out their different duties. Pray too that over the summer period, when there are fewer scheduled activities in the church, it may be possible for them to enjoy some rest and refreshment.

Tue 1 July/ 5 Aug

Little Fishes/Busy Bees/Noah's Ark: Give thanks for all the young families whom we've been able to serve over this past year both through Little Fishes and Busy Bees. Pray that they may remember the church as being a warm and friendly place. Pray too that they would return after the summer. Give thanks too for the continued ministry of Noah's Ark on Sunday mornings throughout the summer.

Praise God for the £27,000 grant awarded following our application to Church of Scotland 'Seeds for Growth' fund. Pray that we might be able to use this wisely and well for the upbuilding of our ministry and mission to young families and that God might indeed cause seeds of life in Christ to grow and flourish.

Wed 2 July/ 6 Aug

Scripture Union: Scripture Union has been organising holiday events for P5-S6 children for over 80 years. The aim is to give young people a superb holiday experience and provide a simple introduction to the Christian faith. Children and young people of any faith, and none, are welcome at all SU holidays. Pray for all the SU holidays that are taking place across Scotland this summer: for great fun and enjoyment; for new friendships to grow; for safety; and for young

people to explore the significance of Jesus today.

Give thanks for the recent LeadUP event where 34 trainee leaders enrolled to deepen their faith and develop leadership skills for upcoming SU holidays. Pray for each of these young people as they serve God at summer SU Holidays, holiday clubs and missions, and after the summer in local churches and Christian Union groups.

Thurs 3 July/ 7 Aug

The Midweek Service: Give thanks for the fellowship, teaching and prayer there has been during the Midweek Service this session. Pray for those who will miss meeting together to worship on Wednesday mornings over the school summer holidays. Pray too that over the holiday period, some might consider joining the worship of the Midweek Service when it recommences on Wed 20 August.

Fri 4 July/ 8 Aug

MPs and MSPs: Pray for our MPs and MSPs and those who serve in other devolved governments throughout the UK to act with wisdom, integrity and compassion as they enact legislation and they serve their constituents. Pray that they might be mindful not only of their responsibility to represent those who elected them, but also of the accountability to God. Pray for Christian MPs and

MSPs as they seek to be salt and light in sometimes very challenging circumstances.

Sat 5 July/ 9 Aug

Jo Crotty: Continue to pray for Jo in her work with Wycliffe Bible Translators in Papua New Guinea. Jo recently had emergency gall bladder surgery in Australia. Having now arrived back in PNG, Jo writes:

"I had my gall bladder surgery on 13th June, 3 days after seeing the surgeon for a consult- which was totally God's provision as if we had waited longer it would most likely have been open surgery not keyhole, bringing many more complications. Yesterday I flew to PNG and am now back in my house here. My wounds seem to have held up OK and I have an appointment with my Dr here to check everything on Monday morning. God provided help for the travels regarding my luggage as one of my brothers drove me to the airport in Melbourne and helped lift things there, friends helped me in Cairns and then there was a couple from here in Ukarumpa who were travelling on the same flights as me back here and they looked after me the whole way."

Give thanks with Jo for God's provision, love and care, and for answered prayer.

Pray for Jo as she recovers from surgery, as she settles back into life in PNG, and as she prepares for the start of school on 24th July.

Sun 6 July/ 10 Aug

The Suffering Church: In countries all over the world, Christians face a stark choice: remain hidden, or be attacked, abused or even killed.

In some places, Christians must hide both their identities and their faith. Sometimes, they will be targeted or even killed by the state because of their faith. Other times, the threat comes from family and community, and may include both attacks and intense pressure. If their secret faith is discovered by the wrong person, they could lose their livelihood, their home, their family or even their life.

While their stories and backgrounds are different, most of these secret Christians share the same reality: they are following Jesus alone or with a very small group of people. But the reality is they are not alone: they belong to a global body of Christ. Give thanks for the work of Open Doors, Barnabas Aid and Christian Solidarity Worldwide who support secret believers, including by showing them they have a global family and by encouraging them through local ministry.

Mon 7 July/ 11 Aug

Children & Families'

Worker: Give thanks that God in his grace has led us to have Cassie as our Children and Families Worker. Give thanks for the way Cassie has been able to support existing work with Children and Families as well as developing new opportunities for ministry and mission with Children and Families. Pray that Cassie might have an opportunity for rest and relaxation over the summer. Give continued thanks for the sacrificial giving for this project. Give thanks too that the recent Seeds for Growth funding will help fund Cassie's employment until at least the end of 2026.

Tue 8 July/ 12 Aug

The Bereaved: Remember those who have lost loved ones, especially those in recent/not so recent days and personally known to us. Remember those who have suffered through sudden trauma or chronic illness. 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.

Wed 9 July/ 13 Aug

Those with Mental Health Issues: Remember those

whose mental health is ailing at the moment. Pray that the Lord would draw close to the broken-hearted. Remember especially those known personally to us who may be struggling. Ask the Lord to give us the right words to say to a person who is suffering and pray for opportunities to have healing conversations. Pray for an increase in understanding and empathy for mental health issues in society and within the Church. Pray that those suffering will find respite and a path to full healing. Remember those supporting them that they may be filled with patience, love, healing and hope.

Thurs 10 July/ 14 Aug

Friendship Club and Following Jesus Group: Give thanks for two much enjoyed canal trips in June – for Following Jesus group and for the Friendship Club. Give thanks for those in the Seagull Trust who once again made this possible. Pray for the leaders of both groups, that they might be refreshed over the summer break and have renewed energy and enthusiasm for the session ahead. Pray for families with members who have learning difficulties. Pray that the LORD might meet their needs. Pray that as a church we might continue to learn more about how we can support and befriend people with learning difficulties.

On this day on August, pupils are due to restart schools in East Dunbartonshire after the summer break. Pray for young people in our church family and known to us, that they might know the Lord's help and support in this new school year. Pray too for teachers and support staff as they begin a new school year. Pray for our local schools and especially those in which we have a chaplaincy/SU presence. Pray that we might be able to continue to be a help a help and encouragement to them.

Fri 11 July/ 15 Aug

Those who are Unwell, in Hospital or in Care: Remember all those who are unwell, awaiting investigation, diagnosis, surgery/ treatment and for those recovering from surgery. Pray that they may receive their required care as promptly as possible and pray for recovery, healing and strength to endure however God provides. Especially remember those suffering from chronic/ terminal illness and pain as people seek to live with the constant reminder of suffering. Remember their families and carers who also share in the pain and suffering. Continue to remember and give thanks for all Healthcare staff, especially our local GPs and staff, those who work in palliative care amid continuing great pressures to respond to increasing

demands upon them for their help and care. Pray for those in long term care, all NHS and Social Care staff as they seek to provide compassionate care especially in a time of increasing demands.

Sat 12 July/ 16 Aug

The Boys' Brigade: Give thanks for the session that has now ended for BB: 15 boys from the Anchor section joined the Battalion end of session annual trip to Heads of Ayr Farm Park for a day of sunshine, laughter and fun; for the Junior section, this year has been marked by remarkable progress in badge work, with every member successfully completing their badges— a testament to the dedication and enthusiasm shown by both the boys and their leaders; and the Company and Senior Section remembered the 80th Anniversary of VE Day, looking at some of the characters involved, considering the relief and jubilation that would have been experienced in 1945, but remembering that the war in the far east was not over until the atomic bombs were dropped on Japan. Pray that boys and leaders alike might enjoy a restful and refreshing summer. Pray that all the boys have heard from week to week about Christian faith and discipleship might remain with them. Pray that the activities and the teaching of The 1st Kirkintilloch Boys'

Brigade might help equip and prepare the boys for adult life.

Sun 13 July/ 17 Aug

St Columba's Hillhead Church: Give thanks for all those who are leading our Sunday morning worship in July: John Nicolson (Church of Scotland Reader), Jackie Ringan (Scripture Union Director and one of our elders here at St Columba's Hillhead), Rev David McAdam (Bethany Christian Trust), and Tom Nelson (Retired Minister). Pray that they themselves might be blessed as they worship with us and that their ministry might in turn be a blessing to us. Pray too for Philip and Gill and the manse family on holiday.

Mon 14 July/ 18 Aug

Summer Noah's Ark: Give thanks for those that are willing and able to lead Noah's Ark over the summer weeks. Pray for children and young people in our church family. Pray that they might feel part of the church family as they are. Pray that they might grow to know and love the Lord Jesus for themselves. Pray for young people known to us with the many choices and pressures they face in today's world. Pray that they might make good choices and that they might seek to follow Jesus in the decisions they make from day to day.

Tue 15 July/ 19 Aug

Warm Welcome: Give thanks for all those who help and for all those whom we have been able to serve and get to know through Warm Welcome. Praise God for the joint ministry with Kirkintilloch Baptist Church in this avenue of service. Pray for the summer period when activity may be less but people's needs still require to be met. Pray that people may continue to find support and help where and when it is needed. Pray that God would lead and guide us as we seek for this ministry to grow and to develop in a way that honours Him.

Wed 16 July/ 20 Aug

Middle East: Pray for peace in the Middle East and for all who are working to promote peace. Pray for families who have lost loved ones, whose homes have been destroyed, who await news of hostages, and who are fearful for the future. Pray that what is impossible for us might be possible with God. Pray that in that part of the world where Jesus the Prince of Peace once walked, that peace might reign.

Thurs 17 July/ 21 Aug

Ukraine: Continue to remember all those affected by the war in Ukraine. Remember especially refugees in neighbouring European countries. Pray for those

families with members that are separated from each other; for those who have lost loved ones and where homes and communities have been devastated. Pray that God in His mercy may bring an end to the suffering and loss of life. Pray for peace and security for Ukraine and pray for world leaders that they may exercise wisdom and discretion and a willingness to see a resolution to the conflict. Give thanks for churches in Ukraine that amidst the hardships and challenges they face, continue to hold out the hope there is in Jesus and be able to offer practical help where it is needed. Pray for Yurii and Sandra, pharmacists working in Ukraine, who visited the Wednesday morning service recently. Pray that God might keep them safe and make them a blessing to all those whom they serve by supplying medicines and sharing the gospel.

Fri 18 July/ 22 Aug

Iranian Bible Society. In 1990, the Islamic government of Iran confiscated and closed the Tehran office of the Bible Society.

For the next 25 years the publication and distribution of Persian scriptures and the completion of the translation of the Old Testament was administered through the Asia Regional Office of the United Bible Societies. The

completed translation of the Persian Bible was dedicated at a special ceremony in Istanbul, Turkey, in 2007.

A new Iranian Bible Society in Diaspora was formed in 2015 with an international board of Iranian Christians. Give thanks for the Bible Society's continued commitment to translate, revise, print, and publish the Bible.

Pray for Iranian Christians both in Iran and outside of Iran. Pray that at this time of global upheaval, many Iranians might have opportunity to read God's Word for themselves and find hope and comfort there.

Sat 19 July/23 Aug

Christian Aid: Christian Aid (CA). Give thanks for the 80th anniversary of the establishment of Christian Aid and for the significant work which has been undertaken and fulfilled by Christian Aid during this time to help to eradicate poverty and fight injustice around the world and latterly help communities affected by climate change. Give thanks for the opportunity we have had at St Columba's Hillhead to support the work of Christian Aid.

Continue to pray for Aurelia and her family and community in Guatemala whom we were hearing about during Christian Aid Week earlier this year. Pray for Aurelia – and those in

her community – as they battle against poverty and climate change. Thank God for the work of the local group KongCoop who work in partnership with Christian Aid. Thank God for the dignity with which that work is done. Give thanks for the tools, the seed, and the skills that Christian Aid in partnership with Kong Coop has been able to provide for Aurelia and for her family, and for the way they have been able to support others in her community.

Sun 20 July/ 24 Aug

Bethany Christian Trust: Give thanks for David McAdam from Bethany Christian Trust leading worship at St Columba's Hillhead on 20 July, and for the opportunity to hear more of the work of Bethany Christian Trust. Give thanks for the work of Bethany Christian Trust which continues to work to end homelessness, as it has done for the last 40 years. Loneliness, poor mental health, employment issues, family breakdown and problems with drugs and alcohol are just a few of the reasons that people become homeless in Scotland. Bethany Christian Trust's Homelessness Prevention teams exist to address these issues and help increase people's resilience to the causes of homelessness before it occurs. Pray that God might use these teams to bring light and hope into people's lives when they are facing

darkness and despair. Pray for staff members, as they seek to put Christian love into action and to demonstrate the transforming power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Mon 21 July/ 25 Aug

Those with Addictions. Pray for those who struggle with an addiction which can take many different forms. Pray that they would find in Jesus the strength to overcome their desires to feed their addiction and know freedom and peace. Especially remember family and friends who often bear a great burden for their loved one's struggle and can be emotionally and physically exhausted in seeking to show love and support. Especially remember those who have lost loved ones due to an addiction and are sorely grieving. Give thanks for the different groups including Alcoholics Anonymous that we are able to host at our Hillhead Halls.

Tue 22 July/ 26 Aug

Prison Fellowship Scotland (PFS). Give thanks for the long-standing working partnership with the Scottish Prison Service. Volunteers wishing to work with Prison Chaplaincy are re-directed to PFS due to the quality of their volunteer processes and training. Give thanks also for the persistent demand for PFS's work in restorative justice, specifically in their 6week

'Sycamore Tree' course which helps offenders look at the consequences of their crimes as this is developed through an increasing number of Scottish prisons. Pray especially for children affected by imprisonment and give thanks for the sponsorship of some children affected by imprisonment to attend an SU adventure holiday. Pray for PFS as it seeks to further develop its work within prisons.

Wed 23 July/ 27 Aug

Westminster and Scottish Parliaments: Assisted Dying Bills. Bills aimed at legalising assisted dying have continued passage through the Parliaments in Westminster and Holyrood. Pray for all MPs and MSPs and for the House of Lords as they further consider/debate 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. Pray that long-held views on the sanctity of life shared by many people including Christians may yet be upheld and that despite the progress made to date, these bills would not become law. Remember Christian healthcare staff 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.

Thurs 24 July/ 28 Aug

The Lodging House Mission (LHM): Pray for the day to day life, work and mission of the LHM in its different elements of operation as it gives people the opportunity to get their lives back on track by enabling them to develop new skills and feelings of self-worth. Give thanks for the variety of services it provides - educational opportunities and recreational activities, food, essential facilities such as showers, laundry, telephone and internet access, support staff and counsellors, chaplaincy. Pray for continued financial support and funding to maintain these services and remember the manager and staff as they engage with the most vulnerable members of society.

Fri 25 July/ 29 Aug

Men's Group and Guild: Remember all those in the Guild and Men's Group who miss the regular friendship and fellowship of these groups. Pray that they might have rest and refreshment over the holiday period. Pray too that they may enjoy the company of others. Pray that others might come to join and benefit from the Men's Group and Guild when the new sessions begin in the autumn.

Sat 26 July/ 30 Aug

Walk and Talk: Give thanks for the Walk and Talk Group as it aims to continue through the summer. Pray that the friendship, company and gentle exercise might be a blessing to all those who come. Pray that the conversations might be meaningful and helpful, and be used to build one another up. Give thanks for Trevor Patterson who takes the time to test out each new route on his bike to make sure it is suitable.

Sun 27 July/ 30 Aug

The Church and Ministry. Remember the work and ministry of God's servants today wherever 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 peoples' 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 engage with Scotland in a new and Biblical way and the consequent work of Presbyteries in working with local congregations in challenging times, especially remembering The Presbytery of Glasgow.

Mon 28 July/ 31 Aug

AV & IT Team: Give thanks for all in the AV and IT team at the church and for all that they do to support the worship and witness of the church. Give thanks for the live-streaming capability we have at St Columba's Hillhead, for those who record the services each week, and for all those who access them that could not easily get to church otherwise. Pray for those who cannot get to church for various reasons, that many might be blessed through the livestreamed services and feel better connected to the fellowship as a result.

Tue 29 July

Church/Grounds: Give thanks for those who look after the fabric and grounds of the buildings and for the good order in which they are maintained. Give thanks too for the new heating system that has been successfully installed in the sanctuary.

Wed 30 July

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