



Resources for Prison Week

9th – 16th October 2016



Churches Working Together
in Central London



Front cover: *Doodle Gone Mad*
HM Prison Peterborough

The Criminal Bar Association Platinum Award for Drawing 2015

Prisons Week

For forty years Prisons Week has prepared prayer literature to enable the Christian community to pray for the needs of all those affected by prisons. Please pray each day during Prisons Week, but also ask yourself whether there is one thing that you as an individual, or as a church, can do to help any of those people that you are praying for. For more information and for prayers for Prison Week please visit:

www.prisonsw.org

The Prisons Week Prayer

Lord, you offer freedom to all people.

We pray for those in prison.

Break the bonds of fear and isolation
that exist.

Support with your love prisoners and
their families and friends, prison staff
and all who care.

Heal those who have been wounded
by the actions of others, especially
the victims of crime.

Help us to forgive one another, to act
justly, love mercy and walk humbly
together with Christ in his strength
and in his Spirit, now and every day.

Amen



Whitby Bay, HM Prison Hull
Orpington Methodist Church Bronze Award for Mixed Media 2015



Kaleidoscope Fulfilment, HM Prison Peterborough
Inside Time First Time Entrant Award for Mixed Media 2015

Foreword

This 2016 Churches Together in Westminster initiative for Prisons Week deserves the highest praise and encouragement.

Prisons are challenging spiritual territory. Yet many inmates will be highly receptive to a mission of prayer, bible reading and preaching. When you are behind bars it is easy to recognise that your life has hit rock bottom. Yet no one falls beneath the reach of God's grace.

Delivering the good news of God's grace to prisoners requires spiritual resources. CTiW has in the last two years made an important breakthrough in creating a resources pack designed to help volunteers, prayer givers and preachers from all denominations to reach out to inmates during Prisons Week.

The selection of prayers, meditations, readings and sermons in the 2016 CTiW resources pack crosses all faith boundaries and is attractively

targeted to the prisons audience. The material is also targeted to the pew audience in those engaged churches supporting Prisons Week. A long term objective is to encourage churches to be welcoming to ex-offenders and to encourage them on their journey of rehabilitation.

Cells can be great places in which to meditate, pray and listen to the still small voice of God's call. I discovered this during my own prison journey. So I warmly applaud this initiative, which I know will again be a source of inspiration to many prisoners and to those who reach out to them.

Jonathan Aitken

Author, former MP, former Cabinet Minister, former prisoner and campaigner for prison reform



Churches Together in Westminster Prisons Week

Prisons week has been marked each Autumn since 1975. An increasing number of churches, of many different denominations and traditions, have used this date to focus prayerful attention on everything around the prison system: prison inmates and their families, prison officers and the multi-faith chaplaincy teams, the criminal justice system and victims of crime.

Churches together in Westminster (CTiW) brings together over eighty central London churches from every Christian denomination. In 2014 it launched its Prisons Mission to enable member churches and their congregations learn more about the prison system and to support the multi-faith Chaplaincy Teams, which work, under extreme pressure, in London's huge and overcrowded prisons.

The experience of this modest, but valued, form of Christian ministry has been used to compile this booklet to help churches devise effective forms of worship, activities and discussions. In addition to prayers, meditations, readings and other material, the booklet includes a quiz to draw attention to some of the worrying features of the system and a series of case studies to add a

human face to the subject. Suggestions and outlines for sermons are available on the CTiW website. The prayers and thoughts of Pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer are repeated as these were appreciated last year. He was a theologian and Pastor of the German Lutheran church in central London from 1932-1935. He was an opponent of Hitler and a martyr executed in a concentration camp in 1945.

Another section is drawn from the work of Revd William Noblett, the former Chaplain General and Archdeacon of Prisons and Jonathan Aitken, the ex MP and Cabinet Member who, following conviction, served a custodial sentence in Wandsworth prison. He is now President of Christian Solidarity Worldwide.

Listed is a selection of organisations which work, campaign and provide services around prisons and the criminal justice system – a source of ideas and information to assist in planning church activities and bringing knowledge and understanding about the dire state of affairs to the attention of congregations.

The CtiW Executive Committee is keen to know how member churches have marked Prisons Week this year. Please do send a brief note about how this was addressed in your church, with any suggestions for 2017.

There are presently 85,128 men, women and children remanded or serving custodial sentences in British prisons of whom 81,272 are male and 3,877 female. 877 of the total are under the age of 18.

Half the children in custody have been in care before being sent to prison. 10% of the prison population are black, compared with only 2.8% of the total population. 10% of male and 30% of female prisoners had psychiatric admissions before entering prison. 4,000 are aged 60+ and nearly 10% are ex military personnel.

The UK prison population is the highest in Western Europe at 149 per 100,000. This population has doubled in the last 20 years, but between 2010 and 2015 the incidence of crime recorded by the police fell by 2%.

The Prison Service employs 40,000 staff in 131 prisons, including 11 run by the private sector. The average cost of each prison place is £35,000 pa, rising to £200,000 for some young offenders.

Approximately 50% of all inmates and 76% of children are reconvicted for new offences within twelve months of discharge from prison.

CTiW Prisons Mission

The UK prison population is huge and three of London's giant Victorian prisons are the biggest in Europe, each holding about 1,600 men in cramped conditions. Education and mental health services are inadequate and many inmates live miserable and angry lives with little hope of an independent, crime free future. Members of the multi-faith Prison Chaplaincy Teams work under intense pressure and have responsibility for not only prisoners, but also their families and about 400 prison officers in each prison.

With such vast and daunting problems, is it remotely possible for a few London churches to do anything which will have any impact or be of value to either the prisons or the churches? The Executive Committee of CTiW decided that it must try.

CTiW launched its Prisons Mission in January 2014. Many lessons have been learned but the objectives have remained unchanged.

- To provide support and assistance identified and needed by the multi-faith Chaplaincy Teams.
- For participants to practise their Christian ministry with a vulnerable

and neglected section of our society.

- For the congregation of the engaged churches to become better informed about prisoners, their families, prison staff, victims of crime and issues concerning the prison system.

The founding churches were St James Piccadilly, St George's Hanover Square and the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Farm Street. St Martin in the Fields is now involved and several other churches, of different denominations, are interested in joining the Prisons Mission. Expansion has been slow and cautious, as quality is essential and the project requires the formal 'engagement' of each church and not merely the recruitment of several volunteers.

The churches put forward a group of potential participants to undertake outreach work at a prison, with appropriate introduction, **training** and support. Each participant works with members of the multi-faith Chaplaincy Team, mentoring inmates before and after discharge, assisting with Bible studies classes, attending and assisting worship in the chapel



The brief case studies interspersed throughout this booklet are the personal observations of volunteers based on their conversations with prisoners.

and other duties which aim to aid the rehabilitation and resettlement of inmates in the outside world. These activities are presently focussed on HM Prisons Wandsworth and Wormwood Scrubs, but will be extended to additional London prisons.

One of the central roles of every participant is to report back to their church's management and congregation about their learning and activities at prison. Having experienced the initially unfamiliar and sometimes hostile environment of prison, they explain this to the committees, via church magazines and to neighbours in the next pew. This enables churches to become better informed about prisons and the whole, often, very remote system.

The aim is to ensure that while nearly 86,000 men, women and children are detained behind high prison walls, they must not be "out of sight and out of mind".

John Plummer, CTiW Prisons Mission
Coordinator

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Prisons Week Worship

Hymns

The Spirit lives to set us free – Damian Lundy

Lord the light of Your love is shining (Shine Jesus, shine) – Graham Kendrick

Longing for light, we wait in darkness – Bernadette Farrell

Amazing grace – John Newton

The light of Christ has come in to the world – Donald Fishell

The Lord is my light – Jaque Berthier, Taize Community

Come to set us free – Bernadette Farrell

Scripture references/readings

Malachi 4:1-3 (or 3:19-20 depending on the translation). The Day of the Lord is coming

Isaiah 55:6-9. God's offer of mercy

Psalms 26 (27). The Lord is my light & my salvation

Psalms 102 (103). The Lord is compassion & love

Romans 8:31-39. Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ

James 1:2-4, 12. Faith and endurance

Matthew 7:7-11. Ask, seek, knock

Luke 18:1-8. Never become discouraged – the parable of the persistent widow

Jeremiah 29:10-14. I will bring you back from exile

Gospel Luke: 7:36-50. Be generous with forgiveness

Epistle: Ephesians 2:1-10. By God's grace are we made alive in Christ

Sermons

A selections of suggestions and outlines for sermons are available on the CTiW website

Prayer

Everyone needs a few words of encouragement. We grow stronger, we see things more clearly, and we achieve more. Justice surely hopes that there will be a sense of healing, a chance to see things differently, and a new future for all those affected by crime and imprisonment. To achieve this we need each other, and in particular we need each other's words of encouragement. This Prisons Week let us pray for all those affected by prison, that we may build a sense of hope in each other that life will in some measure be restored. Restored, accepted, free. No one left behind.

"So speak encouraging words to one another. Build up hope so you'll all be together in this, no one left out, no one left behind."

1 Thessalonians 5 v11

Father of mercy,
the secrets of all hearts are known to you alone.

You know who is just and you forgive the unjust.

Hear our prayers for those in prison,
Give them patience and hope in their sufferings,
and bring them home again soon.

(Roman Missal)

Prayers of Intercession

We pray for those who are in prison. May the light of Christ offer them hope and give them the strength to deal with the situation they are in. May the promise of God's love and mercy encourage them to turn from a way of darkness to a path of light and life.

Lord in your mercy... **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who have been the victims of crime: those who have had their lives changed forever; those who now live in fear because of the actions of others. May their hearts and minds be open to the healing power of God and allow the grace of the Holy Spirit to restore their trust and confidence.

Lord in your mercy... **hear our prayer.**



Albert, 53, spoke of learning to milk a cow as a child; he pulled hard on the teats but his mother said he should leave some milk for the calves. He smiled hugely at this wonderful memory. With an equally huge smile, he then told of a time he had gone fishing and had used a basket to catch the fish, which had been cooked and eaten. His wife was shot dead in their home country; his children do not want to see him. In his cell last week he tried to hang himself.

We pray for those who work in prisons. May the light of Christ guide all that they do, may they show compassion and understanding to all whom they encounter and be granted the grace and strength to continue their vital work.

Lord in your mercy... **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the families of those in prison and the families of those who are the victims of crime. May the reconciling power of God's love bring healing and wholeness to their lives. May the wider community offer support and acceptance to counter feelings of isolation and loneliness.

Lord in your mercy... **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who wish to change the direction of their life and those who struggle to break free from the grip of addiction. May they be open to the saving grace of God's love and recognise that the path of light offers hope and renewal.

Lord in your mercy... **hear our prayer.**

Prayers for our communities

Those who can make a difference, join together. Link your arms you people, link your hearts; stand in the light and find strength. Often it is hard to believe that we can make a difference, but as drips of water wear away stones, as waves change coastlines, as seeds become grain and fruits, so we have God's grace and strength when we join hearts, minds and hands, and work together, standing in His light and doing His will to build community. We are designed to live and grow together in order to flourish, to tend and restore to wholeness those who are the victims of others, and to welcome back those who have been outcast and punished and need support to build new lives.

Loving God, you call us into fellowship with you and with one another. Shine your light into our lives and our communities, fill us with your love and send your Holy Spirit so that we may be tireless in working to build up our communities into places of safety and creativity. By ourselves we may be weak, but in your light and with the Spirit's power we can have faith and hope that the future can be different, lives transformed and your will be done. Hear our prayer for the sake of Jesus our Lord.

Amen.



Richard wrote a story about a rich cat, with accompanying drawings, for his two year old son. He is 35 and said he “didn’t know he had it in him”. It was the first story he had written in his life and he seemed delighted with his achievement. He said he had enjoyed writing it.

Prayers for families

Those who are hurting, lift your heads, stand in the light and find healing. It is hard to be the parent, friend or partner of someone convicted of serious wrongdoing, caught up in darkness and pain that are not of your making, to be held responsible for the actions of others, over whose misdeeds you have no control. How might we have failed them? How can we help them to grow and to make amends? It is hard too, to walk alongside loved ones who have been the victims of others, those who are in desperate need of healing and wholeness. Confronted in so many different ways by the pain of evil and the desire for light and healing, we need God’s grace and strength to make the first move, to lift our heads and see the light, the hope for the future.

O God, your hands are strong to save us and swift to bless. Bring wholeness and healing to the families of all victims or perpetrators of crime. Give to them the gifts of grace and strength that they might stand in your light and row towards a better future; support their loved ones and show the fruits of repentance in changed lives, lived for your glory and the good of others. Lord, in your name we pray.

Amen.

Prayers for those who work in the criminal justice system

Those carrying heavy burdens of responsibility, lay them down awhile, stand in the light and find rest and peace. Those of us who daily have difficult and life-changing decisions and judgements to make can be overwhelmed by the weight they carry and by the anxiety of making mistakes. Take courage from the example of Jesus who trusted in God to hold Him still, through arrest and injustice, to death and Resurrection. Stand firm in the knowledge that He brings light out of darkness and He will lead us into that Light.

Loving God, whose will for your people is to bring justice and mercy to all the earth, be present with all who work in the criminal justice system. Enlighten their understanding and inform their judgements. Give to them the grace of discernment, that they may seek your will in all things and work always for the common good. Keep them firm in their commitment to exercise authority and responsibility impartially, in the knowledge that all power comes from you and that you will provide the strength needed for the journey onwards. Shine



Gordon wears a cross and a rosary, believes in an after-life and in something, but not in God. He says that he is worthless, but wants above all to develop his social skills. He loves to mother his sister and his young son. Released, he was returned to prison because he hit his step-father after his step-father had hit his mother. He hasn't seen his father since he was a baby, and he doesn't want to now because he doubts he could restrain his anger.

your light into all the difficult situations that they face and the judgements that they make, that justice and mercy might truly reign in all the earth. In Jesus' name.

Amen.

Prayers for victims of prisoners

Those living with loss, in pain and fear, take a deep breath, look up and out, stand in the light and find courage. Do not be afraid. Jesus said, "I am with you always to the end of time". Seek healing for the past, invite Him into your present and future, and take hold of his promise to accompany you on your journey into survival.

Lord Jesus, you gathered around you friends and disciples and empowered them with the Holy Spirit to face ridicule and disbelief, danger and death, yet still to persevere. We pray for the victims of crime, for all who have suffered loss, pain or injustice. Fill them with that same Spirit to confront the challenges in their lives, to witness to your healing power with strength and confidence. Build up their trust in you so that they can manage their fears and, relying on your grace and strength, continue their journey onward into the Light. In your name.

Amen.

Prayers for prisoners

Those laid low, rise up, stand in the light and find your feet. It is so hard to get up when we feel we have dropped off not just God's radar, but everyone else's as well. It is hard to have faith when so many things seem to have gone wrong, when we are stuck in shame and paralysed by fear of the future. This is not all that there is; the light of God's presence shines in the darkest place and is not and cannot be overcome.

Loving Lord you always come to meet us wherever we are. Give to all those serving sentences in our prisons the strength to lift first their eyes and then their hearts to recognise your light. Raise them up to stand in your presence and serve you, set them free from the power of darkness, make them ready to start again and learn to walk in your Light. In Jesus' name.

Amen.



John has MUM and DAD tattooed on each forearm. He had MUM put on when he was 15 when she died of cancer after having both breasts removed. He has never seen his father.

Prayers for those who work in prisons

Those who are busy and weighed down with responsibility, stop, stand in the light and find strength and rest. For all who work in prisons, and care for those who are imprisoned, it is very easy to get sucked down into the suffering and needs of others, to be so committed to ensuring that others have the tools they need to change and turn their lives around that they forget their own needs. In times of stress and pressure, of financial constraint and shortage of resources, prison staff want to make a difference but need to remember to take care of themselves, of one another and to offer support and affirmation.

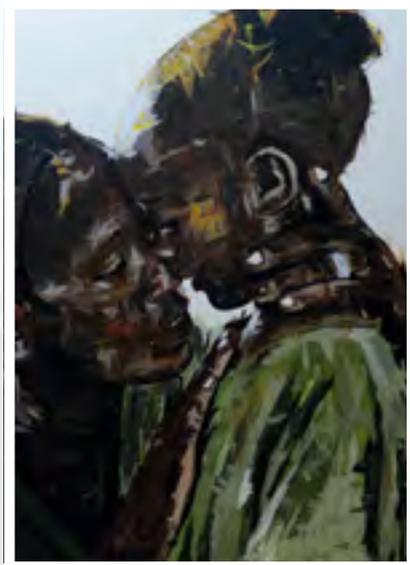
Lord, you said 'come to me all who labour and are heavy laden', you said 'cast your burdens on me and I will give you rest'. Give to all who work in prisons and carry the needs and burdens of others, the grace, strength and courage to continue, and the rest they need for renewal and recreation. In Jesus' name.

Amen.

Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus, help us to have the courage to stand in your light, the light that shatters darkness. Open our ears when we do not hear you, deepen our thinking when we do not respond to you, focus our vision when we get distracted from you, open our eyes when we do not see you. In our desire to grow in responding to the needs of those affected by prisons, grant us fruitfulness. In our desire to live as forgiven and forgiving people, grant us patience. May your Kingdom grow as Justice, righteousness and peace spread, and may others enjoy the harvest of our obedience to you. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen



Love and Life, HM Prison Grendon
Sir Hugh Casson Gold Award for Portraits 2015



Pencils in Milk Carton, HM Prison & Young Offenders' Institution Parc, Wales
The Lamb Building Chambers Commended Award for Mixed Media 2015



Eric, 50, comes into prison regularly after an offence when drunk. With the mind of a child, he is almost totally illiterate. In class he uses cut-out letters to form 'on', 'in' etc. When I gave him an infant's book with pictures, "Anne and Jane go to London", he said a few sentences after me and was clearly delighted when he got some words right. With coloured pencils, he loves to colour in a child's colouring book. Several prisoners on his wing 'look out' for him, and make sure he is not bullied.

Prisoners' Sunday Prayer

Good and Gracious God, you offer the promise of new life:

We pray for those who feel imprisoned by fear and grief as a result of the actions of others

Help them and heal them, we pray

We pray for those who are imprisoned in gaol and cell as a result of their own actions

Help them and heal them, we pray

We pray for those who can find no other life than in the never ending imprisonment of crime

Help them and heal them, we pray

In your Son You show the way to new life

We pray for all who offer consolation and courage to the victims of crime

Support and encourage them, we pray

We pray for all who offer friendship and example to prisoners and their families

Support and encourage them, we pray

We pray for all who struggle to offer a better way to those trapped in cycles of violence

Support and encourage them, we pray

Sometimes when nobody is looking, there are tears in the night.

It hurts to be here, in spite of all the bravado.

Memories come of family, and of shame too, of what led to this in the first place.

There are tears in prison, and threats, temptations and despair.

Gracious God, we pray for prisoners, their families and their victims.

We ask guidance for the governors and warders, probation officers and chaplains.

We pray for policy makers, judges and magistrates. We remember those in prison today, in the love of Christ.

We ask you to remember them too.

Brian Haymes, Baptist



A Tunisian man of 60 told me how wonderful it had been when I had told the class the life story of Oscar Wilde; it had taken him back 50 years to the times in his childhood when someone would tell a story to a group of children.

No prison cell is so isolated that it can keep the Lord out. He is there with you. He cries with you, works with you, hopes with you. His paternal and maternal love is everywhere.

Pope Francis

We pray for men and women leaving prison, returning to families that have grown used to their absence and into communities where they can, too easily, be drawn back into the crime network.

We pray for prisoners who have committed sexual offences and who find integration into any employment or voluntary work almost impossible and who often lead lonely lives and find little or no support in rebuilding their lives

We pray for churches that they may be communities of welcome for ex-offenders who need help with rehabilitation, and may find the gift of hope that comes from Christ.

We do not pray from a position of strength.

We pray for the prisoner knowing that human divisions are false, that this is not the innocent praying

for the guilty
or the right praying for the wrong
but people praying for people,
the hurt remembering the hurt,
the failure reaching out in love
to the failure in a single community
reaching out in grace.

Revd Neil Campbell, Chaplain at HMP
Dumfries

Thoughts and prayers by Bonhoeffer

Pastor of the German church in
Central London 1932-1935 and
opponent of Hitler

Evening Prayer for Fellow-Prisoners

O Lord my God, thank you
for bringing this day to a close;
Thank you for giving me rest
in body and soul.
Your hand has been over me
and has guarded and preserved me.
Forgive my lack of faith
and any wrong that I have done
today,
and help me to forgive all who have
wronged me.
Let me sleep in peace under your
protection,
and keep me from all temptations of
darkness.
Into your hands I commend my
loved ones
and all who dwell in this house;
I commend to you my body and soul.
O God, your holy name be praised.

Amen

Prayer in Time of Distress
O Lord God,
great distress has come upon me;
and I do not know what to do.
O God, be gracious to me and help
me.
Give me strength to bear what you
send,
and do not let fear rule over me;
Take a father's care of those I love,
My wife and children.
O merciful God,
forgive me all the sins that I have
committed
against you and against my fellow
men.
I trust in your grace
and commit my life wholly into
your hands.
Do with me according to your will
and as is best for me.
Whether I live or die, I am with you,
and you, my God, are with me.
Lord, I wait for your salvation
and for your kingdom.
Amen



James, 30, one of only two prisoners on the Extreme Danger to Staff list, was assigned to me. A 'three man unlock' (i.e. three officers have to be present when he is let out of his cell), he was like a gentle child when we settled down to work, and excited and delighted when he had learned the three times table. When he understood taking away for the first time in his life, he seemed beside himself with happiness.

The Past

*O happiness beloved, and pain
beloved in heaviness,
you went from me.*

*What shall I call you? Anguish, life,
blessedness,*

part of myself, my heart – [my] past?

The door was slammed;

*I hear your steps depart and slowly
die away.*

*What now remains for me – torment,
delight, desire?*

*This only do I know: that with you, all
has gone.*

*Close to you I waken in the dead of
night,*

and start with fear –

*are you lost to me once more? Is it
always vainly that I seek you,*

you my past?

I stretch my hands out,

And I pray –

And a new thing now I hear:

*"The past will come to you once more,
and be your life's most living part,
through thanks and repentance.*

*Feel in the past God's forgiveness and
goodness,*

*pray him to keep you today and
tomorrow."*

Reflections by William Noblett

Former Chaplain General &
Archdeacon of HM Prisons

On Admission to Prison

Crucified God,
you know what it is to be mocked,
to be stripped and vulnerable.
Be with those who enter prison for
the first time today.
Be present in their vulnerability and
in those who have care of them.
In this vulnerability may they know
their worth in your eyes.
In their anxiety and uncertainty may
they know that your Son has shared
their experience and transformed it.

On Separation

God of love,
the pain of separation often
overwhelms and is destructive.
We hold in your presence all who
are separated in mind or body
from those whom they love, and
especially the 'innocent victims' of
imprisonment, the families, friends
and relatives of prisoners.
We acknowledge before you the
importance of relationships, with
one another, and with you.
Enable us to pursue them, for their

good, and in response to your
pursuit of us.

Sentenced Inmates

God, whose face is that of love, be
with those who have recently been
sentenced.
In their uncertainty and in their
despair, be present.
Enable their release from darkness,
and through reconciliation and
hope, enable them to seek new life
and restoration in you.
We pray for those involved in the
media, for their responsibility in
reporting news; that they may do so
having regard for the value of each
person.

On Betrayal

Lord Jesus Christ,
in your betrayal you knew pain.
In our betrayal of others we ignore
the pain we cause.
Help us attend to your story,
that through it we may
connect it with our own,
that through it we may begin
the process of healing
that leads to reconciliation.



Benedict, big and muscled, is in for assault. His wife's partner opened the door to him with weed in one hand and Benedict's baby on his other arm. Benedict told him to put down the baby when he was smoking weed, and after he did not, he hit him. He wants to go on an anger management course.

On Vulnerability

Loving God,
we come to you
just as we are,
vulnerable and afraid.
We reach out to you
In trust and faith,
praying that in you
we will find peace,
acceptance and encouragement,
through Jesus the Lord.

Lord, in your Son
we see the cost of being vulnerable
to the expectations of others,
of being open to their pain and
vulnerability.
As we encounter those whose lives
are broken,
help us confront our brokenness
to commend it to your
healing and transforming power.

On Prison Visitors (1)

God, who in Christ
called others to ministry,
we give you thanks
for the life, witness,
and ministry of all who volunteer.
We give thanks that they
commit themselves

to love, which transforms,
to forgiveness, which heals,
to respect, which encourages,
to hope, which is grounded in you.

On Prison Visitors (2)

God of compassion,
you call us to
the difficult and joyful
task of friendship.

We give you thanks
for the gift of being
able to listen to other people,
and to you.

We pray for the work
of all Prison Visitors
as they seek to befriend,
to share, and to express
their care for prisoners.

Enable them,
in word and action
to express their belief
in the value of each person;
to affirm the dignity
and individuality
of those they serve,
and to be gracious
in generous listening.

Reflections by Jonathan Aitken

Help me to pray...

Restore me to Liberty

O God, early in the morning I cry to you.

Help me to pray,
and to concentrate my thoughts on you:

I cannot do this alone.

In me there is darkness,
But with you there is light;

I am lonely;

but with you there is help;

I am restless,

but with you there is peace.

In me there is bitterness,

But with you there is patience;

I do not understand your ways,

But you know the way for me....

Restore me to liberty,

And enable me so to live now
that I may answer before you and
before me.

Lord, whatever this day may bring,
your name be praised.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

A Prayer for Self-control

O God,

Control my tongue.

Keep me from saying things that
make trouble

and from involving myself in
arguments

that only make bad situations
worse.

Shut the door of my mind

against all envious and jealous
thoughts;

shut it against all bitter and
resentful thoughts

shut it against all ugly and unclean
thoughts.

Help me to live today in purity, in
humility, and in love.

Through Jesus Christ my Lord.

Amen.

William Barclay



Jeremiah, 84, who had never in his life had so much as a parking ticket, is in for murder and attempted murder. Drunk, woken up at night by a noise, he lashed out with a walking stick and killed a relative who had been staying. He asked for a large print King James Bible. He quoted Isaiah 53: "despised and rejected and acquainted with grief". When presented with a pair of cheap bought glasses which were perfect for him, he said, "I'll have a good read this weekend".

A Prayer for All Prisoners

O Lord our heavenly Father, put love into our hearts for all who are in prison. Help us to remember them with prayers of compassion. Help them to know you in prayers of contrition. Look after their loved ones, especially their little ones. Show them your mercy; teach them your patience; grant them your peace. Through him who told us not to judge others and in whose sight no sinner can be justified yet all can be forgiven, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Jonathan Aitken



A prison quiz

This quiz is devised as an aid for use with discussion groups and for those who want to understand a little more about life behind prison walls. The questions and answers and facts and figures have been compiled by volunteers who work in prisons.

1) What is the nearest prison to your home?

2) How many prisons are there in the UK? (March 2015)

- (a) 37
- (b) 67
- (c) 117
- (d) 157

3) How many people are in prison in the UK? (March 2015)

- (a) 44,000
- (b) 84,000
- (c) 114,000

4) How many women are in prison in the UK? (March 2015)

- (a) 400
- (b) 4,000
- (c) 10,000
- (d) 17,000

5) What percentage of prisoners in the UK is on remand? (2015) People remanded in custody are innocent until proven guilty.

- (a) 4%
- (b) 14%
- (c) 24%
- (d) 34%

6) On average, for how many weeks are remand prisoners held in custody? (2015) Remand prisoners who are acquitted receive no compensation.

- (a) 1
- (b) 3
- (c) 9
- (d) 14

7) What does it cost to maintain a prisoner for a year?

- (a) £6,000
- (b) £16,000
- (c) £36,000
- (d) £56,000

8) How many children had a parent in prison in 2015?

- (a) 200,000
- (b) 300,000
- (c) 400,000
- (d) 500,000

9) How long is the average prison sentence, in months?

- (a) 15
- (b) 20
- (c) 25
- (d) 35



10) How many people are serving a whole life sentence? i.e. they will never be released.

- (a) 12
- (b) 32
- (c) 42
- (d) 52

11) What is the minimum age at which a person can be prosecuted in a criminal trial?

- (a) 8
- (b) 10
- (c) 12
- (d) 16

12) If a mother is in prison, what percentage of children is cared for by their father during her absence?

- (a) 9%
- (b) 19%
- (c) 29%
- (d) 49%

13) What percentage of prisoners are foreign nationals?

- (a) 2%
- (b) 12%
- (c) 17%
- (d) 27%

Over half of foreign national prisoners are from ten countries: Ireland, Jamaica, India, Pakistan, Nigeria, Somalia, Poland, Romania, Lithuania, Albania

14) What percentage of prisoners is black?

- (a) 5%
- (b) 10%
- (c) 20%
- (d) 25 %

15) What percentage of prisoners is Asian?

- (a) 6%
- (b) 16%
- (c) 19%
- (d) 23%

47% of prisoners report having no qualifications, compared with 15% of the general population.

One in five prisoners reports needing help with reading, writing or numeracy.

42% of prisoners have been expelled or permanently excluded from school.



16) How many prisoners are Muslims?

- (a) 3,000
- (b) 6,000
- (c) 12,000
- (d) 18,000

17) What percentage of prisoners are aged over 50?

- (a) 7%
- (b) 14%
- (c) 18%
- (d) 26%

18) Drugs: in the four weeks before custody what percentage of prisoners reported using drugs?

- (a) 14%
- (b) 41%
- (c) 64%
- (d) 82%

19) In the last three years what percentage of employers employed someone with a criminal record?

- (a) 6%
- (b) 12%
- (c) 24%
- (d) 42%

20) How much is a prisoner given when released?

- (a) £26
- (b) £46
- (c) £86
- (d) £126

21) What is the daily food budget per prisoner?

- (a) £2
- (b) £4
- (c) £6
- (e) £10

22) Of the 117 prisons in the UK how many are overcrowded?

- (a) 20
- (b) 50
- (c) 70
- (d) 85

Answers:

2c 3b 4b 5b 6c 7c 8a 9a 10d 11b 12a 13b

14b 15a 16c 17b 18c 19b 20b 21a 22c

25% of women and 15% of men in prison reported symptoms indicative of psychosis. The rate among the general public is about 4%.

Suicide rates are significantly higher in custody than amongst the general population. In 2014, the rate of self inflicted deaths amongst the prison population was 100 per 100,000 people. Amongst the general population it was 11.9 per 100,000 people.

CTiW Executive Committee

Ray Crocker (Secretary) - St James' Church, Piccadilly

Social justice issues are high on the agenda at our church. My contribution to the CTiW Prisons Mission is to act as a trained befriender to offenders just before and after release. By being involved in this I have gradually become acutely aware of society's responsibilities in the rehabilitation process.

Revd Ruth Gouldbourne (Chair) - Bloomsbury Baptist Church

We regularly use Jesus' summary of his call in Luke 4:18-19 as a call to worship. This includes proclaiming release to the captives. One of the ways we want to make this part of our service is in remembering and praying for those who are imprisoned.

Revd Roderick Leece - St George's Church, Hanover Square.

Revd Philip Majcher – Crown Court Church of Scotland

David Mannarino (Treasurer) - St John's Wood Church

Major Graham Mizon - Salvation Army, Regent Hall

Having served as a Prison Chaplain, I can testify to the worth of our Prisons Mission. Inmates often value the involvement of those who serve "outside the system" and their vulnerability often makes them open to the Gospel. Prison Officers appreciate the chaplaincy support as this community also has many needs.

Isobel Owen - Hinde Street Methodist Church

John Plummer (Prisons Mission Coordinator)) - St George's Church, Hanover Square

Fr Dominic Robinson SJ - Jesuit Church of the Immaculate Conception, Farm Street

Revd Canon Jane Sinclair – Westminster Abbey

Rosa Postance - Administration and Communications

Organisations working, campaigning and providing services around prisons and the criminal justice system

WAY4WARD

Providing interventions to reduce violence and offending behaviour and divert adults and young people from entering the criminal justice system

office@way4ward.org

07870 180 241

PRISON REFORM TRUST

Authoritative source of information about prisons and penal policy as well as campaigning to improve prison standards and results

info@prisonreformtrust.org.uk

0207 251 5070

CHANGING TUNES

Reducing reoffending through music

info@changingtunes.org.uk

0844 414 6083

HOWARD LEAGUE FOR PENAL REFORM

Campaigns to reduce crime and prison population, as well as extensive data collection and legal services

info@howardleague.org

0207 249 7373

COMMUNITY CHAPLAINCY ASSOCIATION

Works alongside prisoners, ex-prisoners and their families mentoring within prisons and through the gate

mattwall@communitychaplaincy.org.uk

07960 369 582

CARE FOR EX-OFFENDERS

Connects a person coming out of prison with a local church community to assist resettlement

info@caringforexoffenders.org

0207 052 0332

WELCOME DIRECTORY

To help faith communities become places where people who leave prison can find acceptance

info@freechurches.org.uk

0203 651 8334

KOESTLER TRUST

Supports and promotes arts in prisons and runs the art award scheme for offenders and the annual art show in the South Bank

info@koestlertrust.org.uk

0208 740 0333

PRISON FELLOWSHIP

Working alongside prisoners to support them in transforming their lives

info@prisonfellowship.org.uk

0207 779 2500

- Sycamore Tree – a victim awareness programme which teaches the principles of Restorative Justice
- Angel Tree – supporting prisoners in their family relationships
- Letter Link – writing letters to prison inmates

CENTRE FOR CRIME AND JUSTICE STUDIES

An independent charity providing information and research on the criminal justice system
info@criminaljustice.org.uk

0207 840 6110

CENTRE FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE STUDIES.

Inter-disciplinary criminal justice research and publications, University of Leeds
l.e.ellison@leeds.acc.uk

FINDING RHYTHMS

Takes music workshops into prisons and uses music to empower prisoners to take responsibilities

emily@finding-rhythms.co.uk

WORKING CHANCE

Recruitment agency which specialises in training and assisting ex-offenders into employment

info@workingchance.org

0207 276 1532

CHURCHES IN COMMUNITIES

Promoting cooperation between churches and ministries

trevor@cicinternational.org

COMMUNITY CHAPLAINCY ASSOCIATION.

Provides support and opportunities for discharged prisoners

mattwall@communitychaplaincy.org.uk

07960 369582

LANGLEY HOUSE TRUST

Provides resettlement services for ex-offenders

info@langleyhousetrust.org

03330 035 025

CLEAN SHEET

From prison to employment. A 3 step pathway. Empowering local churches

partners@cleansheet.org.uk

0300 123 3045

SPURGEONS

Christian charity working with children and families in and near to prisons

info@spurgeons.org

019933 412412

CHOICES ISLINGTON

Free counselling service with befriending and support

info@choicesislington.org

0207 700 4457

Koestler Trust
arts by offenders ■■■■

Images generously supplied by the Koestler Trust. The Koestler Trust is the UK's leading prison arts charity. We play a vital part in the rehabilitative journey offered to prisoners and ex-prisoners to transform their lives through participation in the arts.

For more information visit www.koestlertrust.org.uk or tweet [@koestlertrust](https://twitter.com/koestlertrust)

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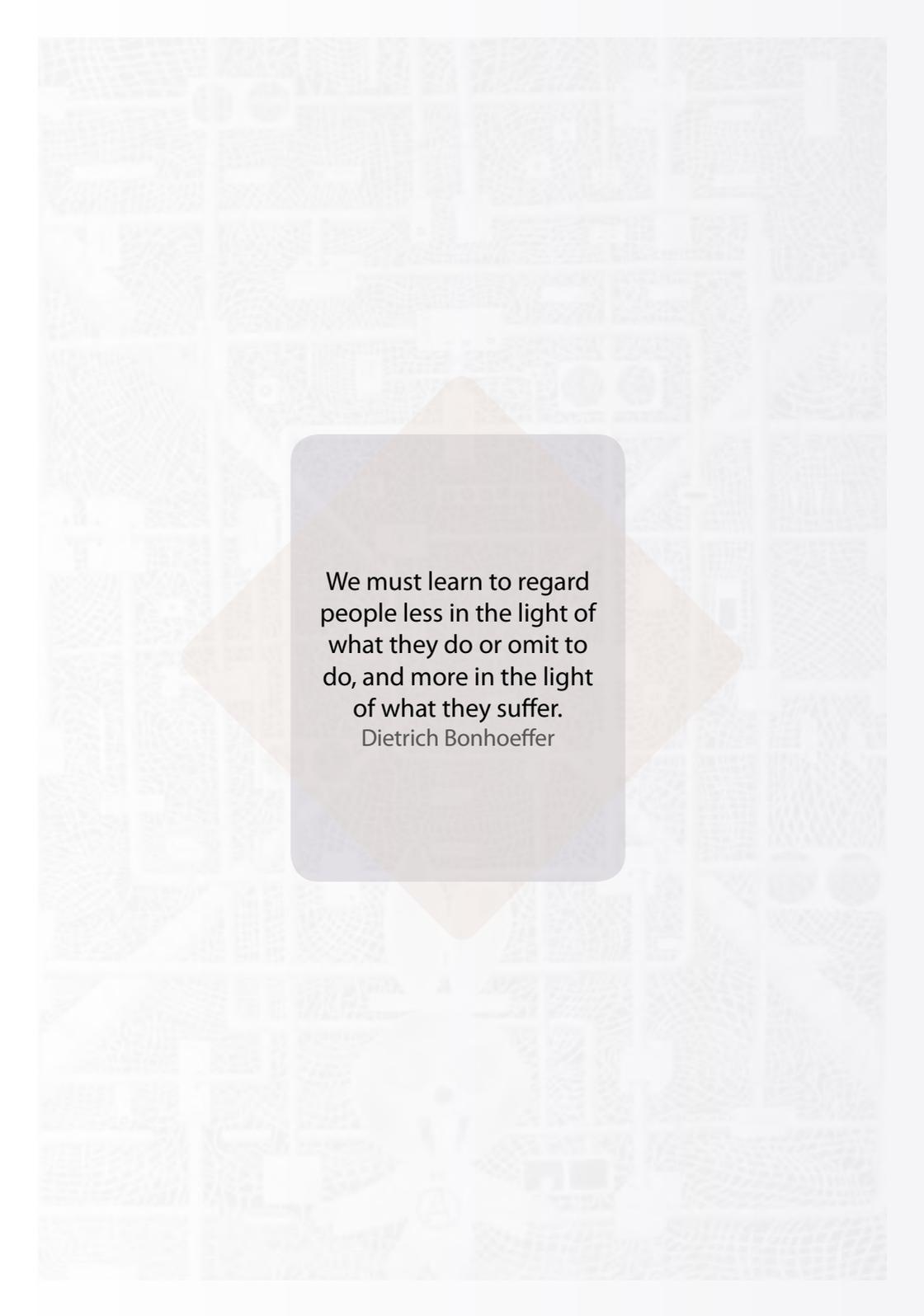


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We must learn to regard
people less in the light of
what they do or omit to
do, and more in the light
of what they suffer.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer