

Resources for Prison Week

14th – 21st October 2018



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.prisonswalk.org

On the cover:
Caged Feathers, HM Prison Send,
2018



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

Foreword

Prisons Week sounds a nice title for a slot in the church calendar but is it backed up by any meaningful church action? "Not really" is the honest answer although some prison aware individuals and churches, notably CTiW, try do to their bit.

But alas they are exceptions to the generally lethargic pattern of lukewarm non-involvement by churches in prison ministry.

Having recently become an ordained prison chaplain I hope to encourage more energy to be directed to revitalising prison ministry in areas of present difficulty.

First, there is a growing gap between God's churches and God's prison chaplains which needs to be bridged. When did your church last pray for prisoners, prison officers or prison chaplains in your intercessions? When did your vicar last invite a prison chaplain to preach? Does your church encourage any members of its congregation to volunteer to attend a Sunday service in a prison chapel? Or to help with the mentoring of ex-offenders after their release?

The new lead Bishop in London with responsibility for growing the work of prison and rehabilitation ministry in the capital is Dr Graham Tomlin, Bishop of Kensington. He gave inspirational spiritual leadership in the Grenfell Tower crisis. Let's pray he may do the same as he masters his new brief – the prisons crisis.

This crisis will only begin to ease when communities, charities, churches and concerned citizens start to pull together with prison chaplains in a joined up effort to make offender rehabilitation effective on both sides of the prison

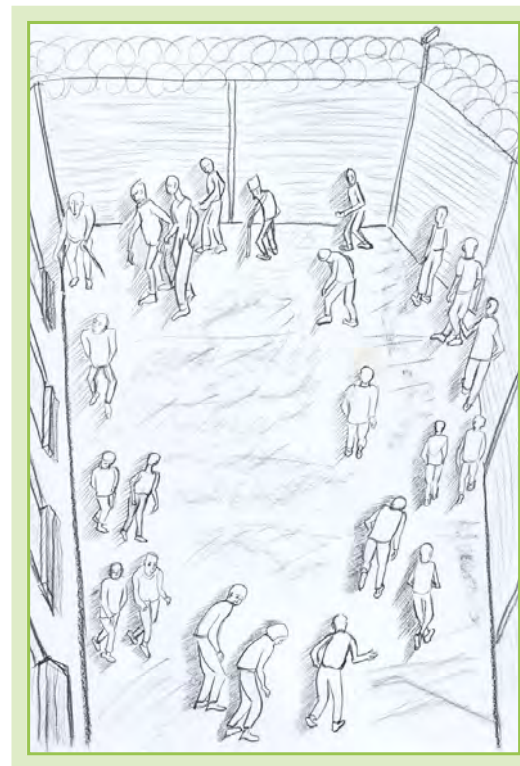
walls. Over worked prison chaplains, frequently well supported by sensitive prison officers, do their best to change hearts, minds and attitudes among their inmates. But if these inmates are not encouraged to take their second chances after they are released, their rehabilitation will fail.

Addressing the issue of how to make a second chance rehabilitation ministry work should be a cause for Christians to embrace with enthusiasm. Jesus was constantly offering his followers the Gospel of Second Chances. Think of the stories of Zacchaeus, the Prodigal Son, Saul of Tarsus, Peter's denials and many others. The theology of rehabilitation is powerful in its message as Bishop Graham will expound during his Prisons Week sermons and wider communications.

CTiW has ploughed a lonely furrow in its commendable past efforts to fulfil its Prisons Mission work since January 2014. But it now looks as though more hands are coming to this plough. Interesting new initiatives for Prison and Rehabilitation Ministry are under discussion. Watch this space in Prisons Week – and pray on!

Rev Jonathan Aitken

Former Government Minister and prisoner, newly appointed Prison Chaplain.



Circling, HM Prison Lowdham Grange
Bronze Award for Drawing 2018

59% of prisoners were regular truants from school. 47% had no qualifications and 68% were unemployed in the four weeks before custody.



Churches Together in Westminster - Prisons Mission & Prisons Week

Fewer than 1% of all children in England are taken into care, but they comprise 40% of those in custody.

Operating under the auspices of Churches Together in Westminster (CTiW), one of the Prisons Mission's primary purposes is 'for the congregations of engaged churches to become better informed about prisoners, their families, prison staff, victims of crime, and issues concerning the prison system'. Our Prisons Mission volunteers are central to achieving this, undertaking regular work in prisons and reporting their activities to their own churches.

We also work towards better informed congregations by supporting CTiW member churches in central London (and beyond) to mark Prisons Week each year. This fourth annual booklet of resource material is intended to help both ordained and lay people, of all denominations, to devise interesting and effective services and activities, consistent with their diverse cultures and traditions.

Resources for Prisons Week

The subjects of crime and punishment, victims and offenders, are sensitive and attract strong opinions. Not all churches and congregations are ready or willing to be in the vanguard of prison reform or be fully versed in penal policy and practice.

Against this background, volunteers from churches of different denominations, have collected a range of prayers, hymns, reflections, and readings; and compiled a new quiz about the prison system. Last year, several churches reprinted the quiz in their orders of service and used it to facilitate discussion groups. Included is a list of organisations working in prisons and with prisoners and concerned with education, worship, support services, rehabilitation,

resettlement, research, campaigns and information – all useful for planning Prisons Week services and events.

The crisis in prisons

The prison population in Britain is huge, hitting 94,680 in 2017 and forecast to climb to 100,000 by 2020. There are more men, women and children in British prisons than any other Western European nation.

The British prisons crisis has reached a grave scale. Overcrowding in Victorian as well as modern establishments causes severe hardship and creates environments often unsuitable for the care, education and rehabilitation of offenders. Too many people are remanded in custody while awaiting trial or sentence. Many of these have mental health issues, which need specialist treatment. Levels of re-offending remain high, with 49% of adult males being re-convicted within twelve months of release. For those serving sentences of less than one year, this rises to 66%.

Many outstanding staff serve as Prison Officers of all grades, within both public and private sector run prisons. They provide sensitive and caring support for inmates, most of whom are needy, some difficult and some also dangerous. But there are not enough well-trained frontline staff, and they are responsible for too many prisoners. Consequently, prisoners are ill prepared for independent, crime-free lives upon release.

Prison Mission activities

Against the scale of this crisis, the work of our Prisons Mission can seem negligible. But we

persist. The 94,680 men, women and children behind bars in British prisons are out of sight, but must not be out of mind.

We work to support multi-faith Chaplaincy Teams in two London prisons - HMPs Wormwood Scrubs and Wandsworth, each with 1,500 men and youths, and with HMP and Young Offenders Institution (YOI) Bronzefield with 550 girls and women, now the largest female prison in Europe. We also work with the Chaplaincy Team at Heathrow Immigration Removal Centre (IRC), where 500+ men and 20+ women are detained, subject to immigration controls and liable to deportation or removal. IRCs are prisons in all but name and the people detained within them are in custody indefinitely, without charge, trial, conviction or sentence. Nationally, nearly 35% of the people so detained are eventually released and allowed to remain in the U.K. either permanently or temporarily.

Activities include supporting chapel services and Bible studies classes, counselling prisoners preparing for discharge, working with Storybook Dads, supporting prisoner's families in Visitor Centres and mentoring inmates thought to be 'at risk'. The group also undertakes counselling for recently discharged sex-offenders (under the management of Circles UK), promotes Prisoners' Penfriends, and ran a series of art shows and penal reform lectures at London churches this summer.

Prison Mission volunteers are needed

Volunteers are drawn only from those churches which agree to support the venture. They undertake a variety of functions, which match

their time, skills and experience and find these both challenging and rewarding. They receive suitable training and ongoing support in order to work both safely and effectively.

Prisons Mission volunteers invested energy and experience into helping many London churches mark Prisons Week last year. Please do be in contact about this years' activities, or after the event to tell us what you did, so that lessons are learned for 2019 and beyond.

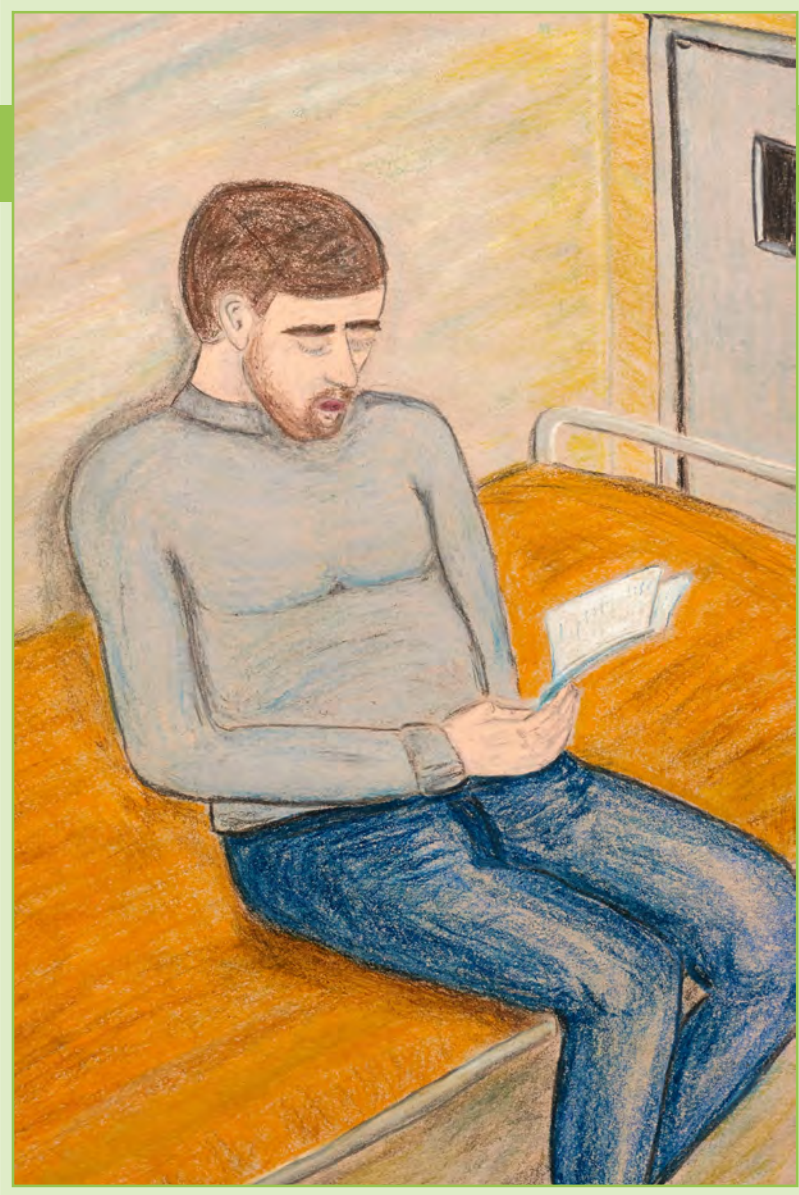
John Plummer

CTiW Prisons Mission Coordinator
johnplummer.audax@gmail.com

We aim to provide a period of safety and stability for women who have sometimes been abused and neglected since infancy and lived chaotic lives. In this way we might help them on the path to a better future.
(Prison Chaplain)

+

Prisons Week Worship



The Last Word, HM Prison Wealstun,
Commended Award for Pastel,
2018

The most important thing faith communities have to contribute in this area is something we don't have criminological evidence on, but which could underpin so much of what is well evidenced, and that is an approach to each and every person that presses on in very real and tangible ways to announce, that we are all, in fact, equal souls, all day long. Anon.

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
Come to set us free – Bernadette Farrell
And can it be – Charles Wesley
God is working his purpose out – A.C. Ainger
Hail to the Lord's anointed – James Montgomery
Hark the glad sound – Philip Doddridge
Jesus shall reign – Isaac Watts
Just as I am – Charlotte Elliott
O for a thousand tongues to sing – Charles Wesley
Songs of praise the angels sing – James Montgomery
Wait for the Lord – Jacques Berthier, Taizé Community
Jesus remember me – as above
The Lord is my light – as above

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*
Psalm 26 (27) *The Lord is my light & my salvation*
Psalm 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. *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*
Luke 7:36-50 *Be generous with forgiveness*
Ephesians 2:1-10 *By God's grace are we made alive in Christ*
Ephesians 4:1-6 *Live a life worthy of the calling you have received*

I came into prison angry and pissed off with everything and everyone. I still am most of the time, but I enjoy the chapel. It's usually peaceful and often gives me something new to think about in my cell.

Sermons

A selection of suggestions and outlines for sermons are available on the CTIW website.

Prayer

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. "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.**

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.

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.

Over half (57%) of people entering prison were assessed as having literacy levels expected of an 11 year old - three times higher than the general adult population.

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.

There is one particular officer who can tell just by talking to me how my mood is. He notices if I am down, if I don't eat, if I don't socialise. I rarely see my offender supervisor but if each officer adopted one side of one landing, got to know his or her prisoners and kept casual watch, warning signs could quickly and easily be detected. *

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 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.

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.

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

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

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

Further prayers...

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

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

I long for a proper conversation. I go to bed at 8pm and I cry. I cry for myself. I cry for wasted lives. I cry for relief.*

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.

Reverend Neil Campbell, Chaplain at HMP Dumfries

Father, we pray for those who work in government who invest in and shape our prisons. May you give them wisdom to balance the need for justice for all with a vision of rehabilitation. We pray for victims of crime and the very significant and lasting damage that can result from an incident.

We pray for those that commit crime and face sentences, that they might reform their ways and benefit from good interventions. We pray for prison communities that they might be places of

profound rehabilitation.

We pray that the best will be done for all who are touched by our justice system. May you place reforming visionaries at every level of the system. Bring changes deep within the fabric of our society, that attitudes may change and that we might become a rehabilitative nation. For your glory. Amen.

**Jonathan Green
Development Coordinator, The
Welcome Directory**

Loving Heavenly Father, we pray that for those who have begun to discover a life where faith is helping them to make sense of the pains, tragedies and confusion surrounding their lives. We pray that those living in prison will recognise your grace transforming them, that those working in prison will know your provision sustaining them, and that those affected by crime beyond the walls will know your comfort healing them ... until the day of Christ Jesus.

Amen

**Revd Bob Wilson
Free Churches Faith Advisor to HMPPS,
Chair of Prisons Week, Member of
Prison Hope Council of Reference**

Risen Lord Jesus, Light of the world,
In my days of seeming darkness, may your light become my beacon of hope.
In my days of bewilderment and confusion, may your word become my rock of certainty.
In my days when I grasp that glimmer of change, may your presence be my comfort and assurance.

In these moments of putting the past behind me, may I learn to know more of your grace as shown to others.

In these moments of prayer, draw near to me, strengthen me and place your everlasting arms around all those I love.

Lord Jesus, in your name I make my prayer.
Amen.

**Major David Emery Prison Ministry
Officer The Salvation Army**

A prayer for drug users in prison and those in recovery

Lord, we ask that you help us to help those in prison who have been so cruelly shackled by addiction.

Help us to remember them,
Help us to see them.

Lord we pray that you help those in authority help those in such desperate need of an escape from their misery.
Help them to care for them,
Help them to restore them.

Lord we ask you to protect those in recovery and to recover those who have faltered in their efforts.

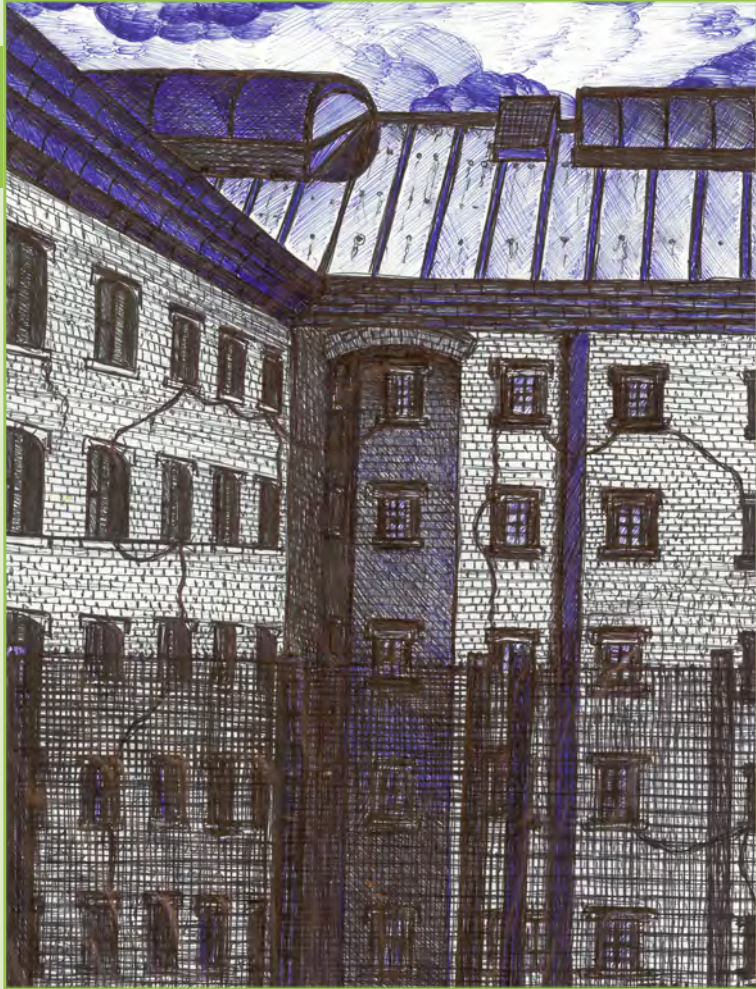
Grant them the serenity to accept the things they cannot change,
Courage to change the things they can
And the wisdom to know the difference.

Black, Asian and minority ethnic men are more likely to be placed in high security prisons than white men who have committed similar types of offences.

I recently supported a 21 year old care leaver who does not have family to fall back on, he had rent arrears and by going into prison he was told he had made himself 'intentionally homeless'. We talked through his options which included sleeping rough. He was hopeful he could find a friend and sofa surf. After three nights of riding buses he was exhausted, the elation of being free from prison soon turned into despair as he drew on all the resources he had to survive. A month later he turns up in a different city, he's been arrested for burgling a watch worth 25K.



Prayers by Bonhoeffer



Lines, HM Prison Wymott,
2018

Pastor of the German Lutheran Church in London from 1932 to 1935, Dietrich Bonhoeffer was an opponent of Hitler and executed in a Nazi concentration camp in 1945

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

Morning Prayer

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.



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.

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.

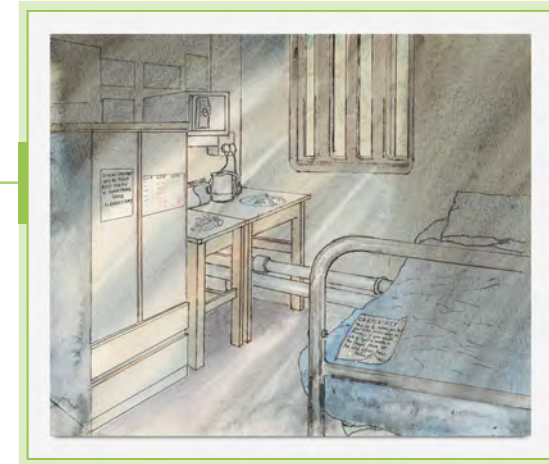
We pray for those
involved in the media,
for their responsibility
in reporting news;

that they may do so
having regard for the value
of each person.

On Prison Visitors

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.

*Lord, make us instruments of your peace.
Where there is hatred, give us your love.
Where there is injury, pardon.
Where there is doubt, faith.
Where there is despair, hope.
Where there is sadness, joy.
Where there is darkness, light.
For in giving we receive,
in pardoning we are pardoned,
and in dying we are born into eternal life.*



Bad News, Exeter Probation,
Clara Alman Platinum Award for Watercolour & Gouache,
2018



Back Inside, Exeter Probation,
Pierce Brunt Highly Commended Award for Watercolour & Gouache,
2018



A prison quiz

“Thank you so much for your visit...thank you for coming to pray with us today...merci beaucoup.” These words echo through my mind and heart as I reflect on the experience of visiting the Immigration Removal Centre at Heathrow. This gratitude sustains me as I grumble about the long trip out to Heathrow and security checks. I stop short: I have a choice - some don't.

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.

1. In 2017 65,000 people in England and Wales were sent to prison to serve a sentence. Of these, what percentage were sentenced to serve six months or less?

- (a) 30%
- (b) 40%
- (c) 50%

2. Prison has a poor record for reducing reoffending - nearly half of adults (48%) are re-convicted within one year of release. But for those serving sentences of less than 12 months this:

- (a) reduces to 44%
- (b) increases to 64%
- (c) stays the same

3. The number of women in prison has more than doubled since 1993. What percentage of women serving custodial sentences have committed non-violent offences?

- (a) 53%
- (b) 73%
- (c) 83%

4. What percentage of women in prison have symptoms indicative of psychosis?

- (a) 5%
- (b) 15%
- (c) 25%

5. What percentage of women in prison have attempted suicide?

- (a) 25%
- (b) 50%
- (c) 75%

6. In the last decade the number of children (aged 10-17) in custody has

- (a) increased by 71%
- (b) fallen by 71%
- (c) stayed at the same level

7. In 99.91% of cases the use of Release on Temporary Licence (ROTL) has been completed successfully and seen a reduced rate of re-offending. In the light of this, has the use of ROTL in the last four years

- (a) doubled
- (b) stayed the same
- (c) reduced by a third

8. How many people were released in 2017?

- (a) 12,395
- (b) 52,395
- (c) 72,395

9. Nearly what percentage of prisoners released are re-convicted within one year?

- (a) 50%
- (b) 60% or
- (c) 65%

10. In the year to March 2018 there were how many deaths in prison?

- (a) 220
- (b) 270
- (c) 299

11. In the year to March 2018 the number of individuals self-harming increased by

- (a) 2%
- (b) 5%
- (c) 8%

12. Results from random drug testing in the year to March 2018 were positive in how many cases?

- (a) 1 in 5
- (b) 1 in 10
- (c) 1 in 20

13. How many attacks were there on prison staff in the year to March 2018?

- (a) 7,000
- (b) 9,000
- (c) 11,000

14. The number of attacks on prison staff has increased by what percentage in the year to March 2018?

- (a) 20%
- (b) 25%
- (c) 30%

15. By what percentage has the prison population in England and Wales increased in the last 30 years?

- (a) 50%
- (b) 75%
- (c) 100%

16. In most prisons inmates are only able to spend 30 minutes outside every day and this can be used to telephone home, shower or take fresh air. In the allotted time, can they

- (a) do all three activities
- (b) choose two
- (c) choose only one

17. Self-inflicted deaths are how many more times likely in prison than in the general population?

- (a) 5
- (b) 3
- (c) 2

18. Out of NHS England's total prison healthcare expenditure, how much is spent on substance misuse services?

- (a) 7%
- (b) 20%
- (c) 27%

19. How many children each year are estimated to be separated from their mothers as a result of imprisonment?

- (a) 1,240
- (b) 7,240
- (c) 17,240

Answers

1c 2b 3c 4c 5b 6b 7c 8c 9a 10c 11c 12a 13b 14b 15b 16c 17a 18b 19c

The content of this quiz is taken from Bromley Briefings Prison Factfile (2017/2018), Prison Reform Trust



Women in Prison

In November 2017 there were 4,048 women in prison in England and Wales – around 85% had committed non-violent offences. Most women in prison serve very short sentences, with 70% serving six months or less.

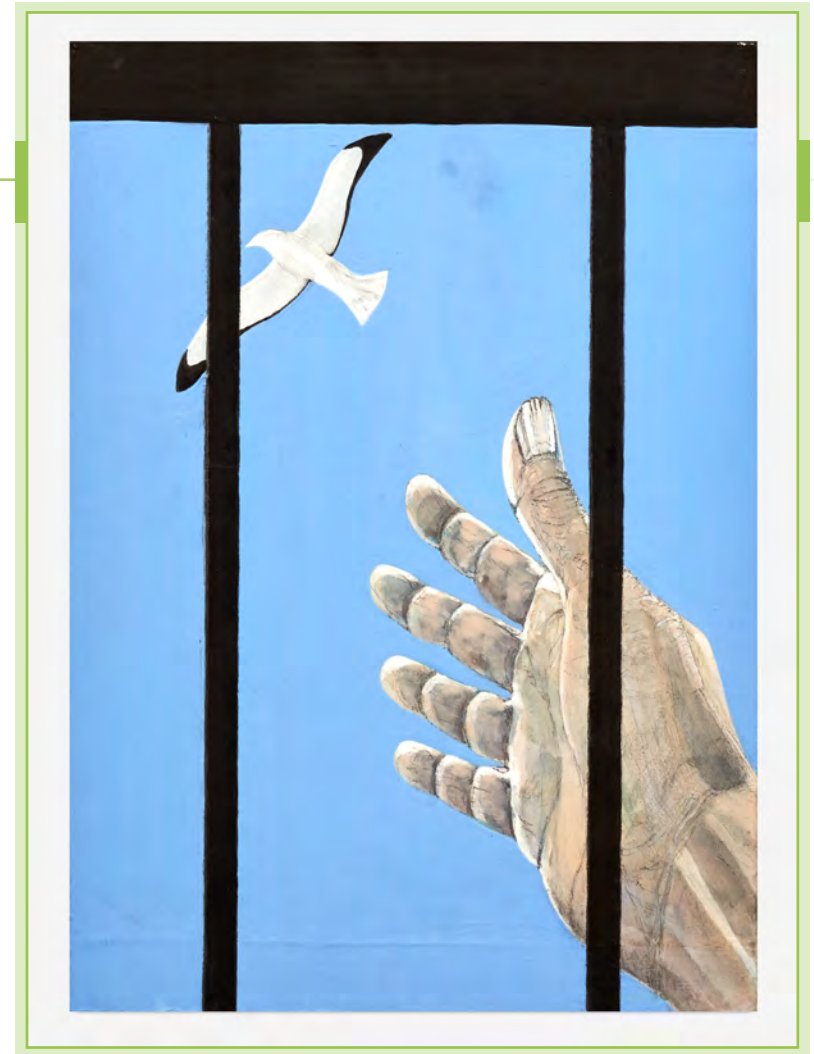
Women in prison are often themselves victims of crime and have experienced emotional, physical or sexual abuse. Women in Prison puts this figure as high as 79%. The HM Chief inspector of Prisons reported that at HMP & YOI Bronzefield, 58% of women had been abused and 34% were experiencing abuse at the time of offending. 48% are thought to have committed crime to support someone else. About a quarter of women in prison show symptoms indicative of psychosis and 46% have attempted suicide in the past. Many turn to drugs or alcohol as a way of coping with abuse.

Although women in prison are generally more responsive to education, training and work than male inmates, on release only 9% go into employment, compared with 26% for men. 48% are reconvicted within twelve months of release. Levels of reoffending are much higher for women who serve custodial sentences than for sentences served in the local community. Homelessness is a serious issue, with the Independent Monitoring Board of HMP Bronzefield reporting 50-60% of women leaving prison to 'No Fixed Abode'. Sometimes a cheap plastic tent, a sleeping bag and a Discharge Grant of £46.00 is all that is available.

The UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women (2014) called on the U.K. government to "develop gender specific sentencing alternatives" noting that "most

women in prison do not present a threat to society and the consequences of their incarceration include enormous personal, economic and social costs". One significant step in the right direction has been taken with the 'Becoming Trauma Informed Strategy' adopted by HMP Bronzefield in collaboration with One Small Thing and NHS Central & North West Trust - training male and female prison officers to approach and respond fairly and sensitively to vulnerable and traumatised women in their care.

It is estimated that each year 17,240 children are separated from mothers in prisons



Blue Sky Thinking, HM Prison Altcourse,
Felix Silver Award for Painting,
2018



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

CARING FOR EX-OFFENDERS

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

CENTRE FOR CRIME AND JUSTICE STUDIES

Independent charity providing information and research on the criminal justice system
crimeandjustice.org.uk

CENTRE FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE STUDIES

Inter-disciplinary criminal justice research and publications, University of Leeds
law.leeds.ac.uk/research/criminal-justice-studies

CHANGING TUNES

Reducing reoffending through music
changingtunes.org.uk

CHURCHES IN COMMUNITIES

Promoting cooperation between churches and ministries
cicinternational.org

CIRCLES UK

Builds safer communities through local volunteers working with sex offenders to minimise alienation, support reintegration and so prevent sexual reoffending
circles-uk-volunteering.org

CLEAN SHEET

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

COMMUNITY CHAPLAINCY ASSOCIATION.

Works alongside prisoners, ex-prisoners and their families mentoring within prisons and through the gate
communitychaplaincy.org.uk

FINDING RHYTHMS

Takes music workshops into prisons and uses music to empower prisoners
finding-rhythms.co.uk

FINE CELL WORK

Charity which makes beautiful products in British prisons, teaches high quality skills, instills self discipline, fosters hope and encourages independent, crime free lives
finecellwork.co.uk

HOWARD LEAGUE FOR PENAL REFORM

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

INSIDE TIME

Monthly newspaper, written for and largely by prisoners, providing an inside view of the prison system
insidetime.org

LANGLEY HOUSE TRUST

Provides resettlement services for ex-offenders
langleyhousetrust.org

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
koestlertrust.org.uk

ONE SMALL THING

Working with staff in women's prisons and in the community developing and fostering positive outcomes with an approach called trauma-informed practice
onesmallthing.org.uk

PRISON ADVICE AND CARE TRUST (PACT)

Provides support to prisoners, people with convictions and their families. Removes barriers and increases awareness in public services
prisonadvice.org.uk

PRISONERS EDUCATION TRUST (PET)

Working across England and Wales to support people in prison to study distance learning courses
prisonerseducation.org.uk

PRISON FELLOWSHIP

Works through its volunteers to support prisoners
prisonfellowship.org.uk

PRISON HOPE

Partnership of prison chaplains and organisations involved with prisoners, former prisoners and their families, providing a weekly prayer for use in churches of all denominations
prisonhope.org.uk

PRISONERS' PENFRIENDS

Making it possible for volunteers to write safely to prisoners, giving friendship, hope and a reminder of the world outside
prisonerspenfriends.org

PRISON REFORM TRUST

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

SPURGEONS

Christian charity working with children and families in and near to prisons
spurgeons.org

SYCAMORE TREE

Victim awareness programme that teaches the principles of Restorative Justice
sycamoretree.org.uk

WAY4WARD

Providing interventions to reduce violence and offending behaviour and divert adults and young people from entering the criminal justice system
way4ward.org

WELCOME DIRECTORY

To help faith communities become places where people who leave prison can find acceptance
welcomedirectory.org.uk

WOMEN IN PRISON

Helping women to avoid the criminal justice system and campaigning for radical changes to deliver support and justice for women
womeninprison.org.uk

WORKING CHANCE

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



Churches together in Westminster (CTiW)



Churches Working Together in Central London

An ecumenical organisation of some eighty churches in central London, of all denominations, affiliated to Churches Together in England.

We promote activities which bring together clergy and congregations to explore ecumenism, enjoy fellowship and learn about other Christians nearby. The Executive Committee meets regularly. Areas of interest include Ecumenical Gatherings; Prisons Mission; Homeless People; Refugees; London Citizens. The AGM reports to members.

If your church would like to be connected with others, of different denominations, CTiW can facilitate this. "In Christ there is no East or West, in Him no South or North, but one great fellowship of love throughout the whole wide world" (John Oxenham 1908).

Email: ctiw.net@gmail.com

The last thing she said to me was that she didn't want two lives to be wasted and that she wanted me to make sure that my life turned out with something good and not to waste it, you know, partly in memory of her son who died that night. And it was like taking a deep breath for the first time, you know, like when I breathed in, like I felt some new life in my lungs.
(Young man serving a 15 year tariff)

The brief case histories and quotations interspersed throughout this booklet have been gathered by Prison Mission volunteers. Those marked * are taken from the Independent Advisory Panel on Deaths in Custody. Keep Safe Report. 2017. Facts and figures are taken from Bromley Briefings Prison Factfile (2017/2018), Prison Reform Trust.

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

This leaflet was produced by John Plummer with volunteers from churches engaged with CTiW Prisons Mission with the kind permission of the authors and publishers.

Designed by Megan Harley



Churches Working Together in Central London

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London W1S 1FX

31% of women and 24% of men in prisons were taken into care as children. 53% of women and 27% of men experienced abuse as children.

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

