



Before I entered the ordained ministry I was a solicitor for twenty six years in the North East of England. The last ten years were at Gateshead Council where I was the Legal Lead on the landmark construction projects of The Gateshead Millennium Bridge, The Baltic Art Gallery and The Sage Gateshead (the Regional Music Centre). I was also Project Co-ordinator for building five new schools and an Energy from Waste Plant.

I have often reflected since how the Church of God is all of those things

- ✓ A bridge....to help people journey to and with God
- ✓ A gallery.....where Christians display the likeness of Christ
- ✓ A music centre where we lift our voices in worship and in praise
- ✓ A school..... a place of lifelong learning
- ✓ An energy plant.....where Jesus takes our broken, flawed lives and gives them new purpose.

The Community Chaplaincy is all of those things, too.

Over the last few weeks it has been good to work alongside Community Chaplaincy colleagues first in Christian Aid Week (with The Big Brekkie and National Vegetarian Week) and then as we sought to minister to The City Centre in the aftermath of the 22 May bombing. We have been able to share the love of Jesus and show practical compassion. It was wonderful to host the Response Pastors at Central Hall who were deployed from Street Pastors' Head Office the day after the bombing. They came from all over the country to work alongside us in the City Centre. The sense in the

City moved from defiance to sadness to anger to questioning over the week but one thing is clear - #WeStandTogether and that will need to continue. We also used our Chapel to stand in solidarity with London and observed the national 1 minute's silence on 6/6/17.



As the apostle Paul writes in the first chapter of Philippians- "I thank God for our partnership in the Gospel". It is great to be in partnership with the Community Chaplaincy and please be assured of my ongoing prayers and support.

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Please make cheques payable to: **GM Prison Prayer**

and state if you would like to **Gift Aid it**

**Check out our Facebook Page or www.gmccsupport.org
for more photos and info**

**HMP MANCHESTER; HMP FOREST BANK; HMP BUCKLEY HALL;
HMP & YOI STYAL; HMP YOI THORN CROSS &
GREATER MANCHESTER COMMUNITY CHAPLAINCY
PRISON PRAYER LETTER JULY 2017**

Rev. Ian Rutherford, City Centre Minister, Methodist Central Hall

I am really pleased to have been asked to introduce myself to the members, friends and supporters of the Greater Manchester Community Chaplaincy in this edition of the Prayer Letter. I arrived with my wife and family at the end of February this year to take up a new role at Methodist Central Hall on 1 March as City Centre Minister. As a family we are all very excited that I have been called to be here at this time.

There are three parts to my role:-

I have pastoral charge of the exciting, lively and growing bilingual congregation that meets at Central Hall every Sunday at noon.



I support, together with my two colleagues (Deacon Ruth and Rev. Al), all those who work in, use and visit Central Buildings and Nexus Art Café during the week.

I engage with the civic, business and voluntary sectors on behalf of The Methodist Church and with ecumenical colleagues.

In each of these parts to my role I am anxious to work in partnership, build a team spirit and see Kingdom work initiated, established, developed and extended.

It has been brilliant to meet those who work and volunteer for the Community Chaplaincy and to hear how the organisation is continuing to develop as it seeks to meet needs. I really enjoy the excellent food prepared in the kitchen and it has been good to meet clients in the café. I count it a duty and a joy to support the Tuesday Bible Study and the Thursday Prayer Group in prayer.

It has taken me back to the prison ministry I undertook myself in my 20s when I would hold evangelistic events with a band, services and bible studies in Frankland, Durham and Acklington, Wakefield and Wetherby and Dartmoor and Channings Wood and then more recently in seeking to help those who had been in prison as the Minister of four churches in Doncaster.

JULY 2017

1. Please pray today for the authorities and health care staff especially those supporting the victims and families of all involved in the Manchester disaster.
2. **A** who has many times prayed for God's help is now on the road to recovery after many years of substance misuse. Pray for God to continue to strengthen him.
3. **C** and **A** have both lost their dads while in prison. Please pray for the precious comfort of the Holy Spirit into their lives and hearts.
4. **A**'s mum died very suddenly just as he came into custody. Please pray for peace and wisdom for Chaplaincy as they endeavour to support him.
5. **C** was hoping to be released and may now be facing deportation. Please pray for fresh hope for him.
6. **P** will be released at the end of the month and has inherited some money that could really help him to make a fresh start. Pray that he will have the help and support he needs to use it wisely.
7. **A** needs prayer for healing as he will be released at the end of the month after 2 years and has some health issues that are causing him to worry about coping on the outside.
8. **J** is having counselling for childhood abuse and is keen to move to a prison where he can get more help. Please pray that this will happen soon for him.
9. **L** was transferred from Manchester prison last month to a prison with a lot of support for people with mental health issues. Pray that the help he needs will be available to him.
10. **J** self-harms frequently and needs to find better ways of coping with stress. Pray for this abuse to stop and God's peace to flood his life.
11. **D** is feeling very stressed as he does not believe he is on the right medication. Please pray this issue will be addressed and his confidence in the medical staff will return.
12. **P**'s Grandmother (and main carer) has died. He used to self-harm a lot but has found better ways of coping with stress over the years. Please pray this will continue even at this very sad time.
13. **J** is exploring faith. Please pray that as he searches he will do this with all of his heart and find the Lord to be his strength and song.
14. **T** lost his Mother 12months ago and has never got over it. Please pray for peace and comfort to come into his life.
15. **J** who has been living in the community for several years needs urgent accommodation. Please pray this will happen soon for him.

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16. **D** is waiting for a decision to allow him to work in GB so he can sort his life out. Please pray this will happen soon for him.
17. **B** wants to attend Chapel whilst in prison but is struggling to face certain issues in his life. Pray for him to be enabled to do this.
18. **D** is now a mentor on one of Prison Chaplaincy's courses and has grown much in his faith journey. Praise God and pray for stability for him.
19. **S** is a regular at the Sunday services in prison but suffers with a knee problem. Please pray for his healing.
20. **S** is a great encourager and is maturing into a fine Christian. Please pray for his faith to deepen while in prison and the fruits of the spirit to develop.
21. **M** is about to become a prison chaplaincy orderly and has shown great interest in the Christian Faith. Please pray that the chaplains will see a full commitment of his life to God before release.
22. **K** who we knew a few years ago has started to attend Bible Groups again. Previously he showed a desire to know God. Please pray he will make a firm commitment this time.
23. **H** has just spent 8 weeks in prison and is now released. The last time he served a sentence was 10 years ago. He had a drug problem previously and needs prayer for support so he doesn't continue to reoffend. Also he is still grieving after losing his mum.
24. **M** has served a very long sentence and has recently been given an additional one. Please pray that his faith in God will sustain him.
25. **N** needs prayer to be able to find suitable support/rehab when he gets out of prison to help him stay out of trouble
26. **J** is a persistent re-offender and struggles with addictions. Please pray that he will be given the help he needs to break his habit prior to and after release.
27. **A** has been re-called to prison but hopes to get out soon. His Christian faith has grown greatly in the past year. Please give God thanks for this and pray his faith will be sustained.
28. **G** has recently started work helping others as he presses on with his recovery. Please pray for God's hand to be on him at this time in his life.
29. **S** needs prayer as he anxiously awaits a decision on his immigration appeal having had lots of support at his hearing.
30. **D** is working hard to overcome his addiction and keep himself busy with worthwhile activities. Pray he will succeed and have a fresh start.
31. **D** who has a heart to serve the Lord and others needs prayer for his health to improve considerably.