

Here at GMCC, we want to *'stand firm in our generosity'* this Christmas and throughout the year. We offer our time, our love, our food, our prayers and our support to the 200+ men and women who come to seek help from us as a charity each year. At Christmas time, we can be really busy and we want to do all we can to help all those who come to ask for help. We have also strengthened our links with prisons across Greater Manchester over the last year and we want to continue to build on those relationships too in 2019. We want our generosity to lead people to the saving grace and love of Jesus.

We are so grateful for you standing with us in prayer - your support is vital to all we do. We face some significant challenges with our ongoing funding as we enter the new year and value your prayers for our ongoing provision as a charity as we continue to help, support and stand with those who have been in prison to truly help them create a fresh start. We want them to know the love of Jesus through our ongoing work and ministry here in Greater Manchester Community Chaplaincy.

As well as our clients, I would also ask that you keep our team of staff and volunteers in your prayers so they know the grace, mercy and generosity of the Holy Spirit as they minister to those in need here in our city this Christmas.



Thank you once again for standing with us in prayer.

Gavin White, Chair, GMCC

Contact us at: GMCC Methodist Central Buildings Oldham Street M1 1JQ

Telephone: 0161 236 2462 Email: chaplaingmcc@aol.co.uk

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 information**

**HMP MANCHESTER; HMP FOREST BANK; HMP BUCKLEY HALL;
HMP & YOI STYAL; HMP YOI THORN CROSS &
GREATER MANCHESTER COMMUNITY CHAPLAINCY
PRISON PRAYER LETTER DECEMBER 2018**

"Generous people plan to do what is generous, and they stand firm in their generosity." - Isaiah 32:8 (New Living Translation)



Plans are starting to come together for Christmas as the dark nights draw in and the temperatures dip. Christmas can be a wonderful time for some people, but also a challenging and vulnerable time for others. The disparity between the two can often feel vast for those who are alone, vulnerable or in need at this time of year.

The Christmas story is one of great love shown by God to the world as his son, Jesus Christ, is born into this world. It's a message of hope, and of transformation that all can receive if they put their trust in the saviour, whose generous and unconditional offer of love is available to all.

Each stage of the Christmas story and journey is marked by love and it is marked by generosity. The inn keeper who offers his stable and hospitality to Mary & Joseph, free of charge. The wise men who come bearing gifts from the east. The shepherds who leave the hills to come and worship at the manger where Jesus lay. Generosity can be seen in many and varied ways, but each act of this loving generosity directs us and leads us to Jesus, the saviour born in a stable, who has come to save the world.



DECEMBER 2018

1. Please pray for the chaplaincy teams as they prepare events for Christmas, for creativity and wisdom that they might reach more prisoners with the gospel and see real transformation as a result
2. R is very low, he has cancer but does not know how serious it is; pray that he may feel God's comforting presence at this time
3. B is planning to get married in prison in the near future; pray for him and his fiancée at this time
4. I has asked for prayers in regard to his job situation; pray that this may be positively resolved
5. K has recently become a Christian and is on a detox programme with the aim of becoming drug free after experience of abuse, addiction and exploitation. Pray for her as she struggles to cope with traumatic memories and for the prison staff as they do their best to support her and ask that she may experience true freedom in Christ
6. Pray for R, who has a lot of issues but who struggles to open up to people, that he may start to trust and might experience healing
7. S is very frightened and feeling under threat in jail; pray that he may find peace
8. Give thanks that D has said that he invited Jesus to be his Saviour in October, and pray for his continued growth in faith and understanding
9. K will be released from prison later in the month, and has asked for support from GMCC; pray for her and for the staff at GMCC as they seek to build links with her at this time
10. Pray for B, whose best friend was murdered last month
11. M is due to be released when his accommodation has been identified; pray for him as he prepares for this, and as he begins life outside
12. S and R want to know more about the Christian faith; pray for them in their journeys and for chaplaincy staff as they respond to their questions
13. R is going through issues concerning his relationship with his partner. Pray that they will both be equipped to make sensible decisions
14. D became a Christian a year ago at Styal, and has recently been transferred to another prison. Pray that she will continue to grow in her faith there, and for her children and other family relationships as visits are now more difficult
15. Pray for A, that he might find inner peace and the strength to stop drinking

DECEMBER 2018

16. J is waiting to hear from his parole board and is getting very frustrated; pray that he may manage his feelings at this time
17. B is in HMP Manchester, but wants to be moved further south to be closer to his family. Pray for him and his family, that there may be a positive resolution to this
18. H and C both want to know more about the bible, but are not permitted to attend bible studies for security reasons; pray that their interest will continue and that ways to support them in this safely will be found
19. Pray for Gadri, the new Managing Chaplain at Forest Bank as the team there continue to work with an understaffed team
20. M wants to work with the Message Enterprise Centre on a day release basis but has suffered a lot of discouraging setbacks; pray for a breakthrough that she will be able to work with MEC and will be refreshed and encouraged
21. J has been released and lost his job and his accommodation as a result of his sentence; pray for him, and for all people who are homeless at this time
22. B is very immature and keeps getting into debt and running into problems on the wings; pray for his growth in maturity and for those who are working with him and supporting him
23. Pray for M, who knows he has a problem with anger and wants help to address it
24. Pray for G, who is struggling with financial problems at this time, that he will find and engage with support
25. Pray for all prisoners and prison staff who cannot be at home today, and for their families
26. Give thanks for the support of the governor at Buckley Hall for the work of the chaplaincy team there, and pray for him in his work
27. Pray for P, as he begins counselling which he knows will be tough
28. Pray for T, as he struggles with the prospect of homelessness at the end of his sentence
29. Pray for protection over the Visiting Teams at Buckley Hall
30. Give thanks for R's step of committing his life to Christ, and pray for him in his journey of faith
31. Pray that the turning of the year might be taken as an opportunity for prisoners and former prisoners to make a new start in their lives