

Lastly (in terms of what I have time to share here—there is so much more I could say!) being at GMCC has underlined for me the importance and value of prayer for all forms of ministry. It is through the weekly prayer together at our BRP group here at Methodist Central Hall that we invite God into our work in a systematic way, and through the prayers of all of you day in and day out that our clients and men and women currently in prison are lifted up. The work is demanding, and the needs are great, but we know that we worship God who is active in the world and who calls us to join with him in completing what he has already started in the lives of those we seek to serve.



So on that note, I would like to thank you for all your prayers and support and encourage you to keep up this vital ministry which I know will be as important to my successor as it has been for me and all my predecessors. Thank you again.

Abigail Ogier
Chaplain

PS if you know of anyone who might be being called to be our next chaplain, please encourage them to look at our Facebook page or website for more details about the post and how to apply, or to telephone our manager Debbie on 0161 236 2462 for an informal discussion.

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

Telephone: 0161 236 2462 Email: chaplain@gmcconline.org

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

HMP MANCHESTER; HMP FOREST BANK; HMP BUCKLEY HALL;
HMP & YOI STYAL; HMP YOI THORN CROSS & HMP HINDLEY

GREATER MANCHESTER COMMUNITY CHAPLAINCY

PRISON PRAYER LETTER JUNE 2019

It is now 14 months since I joined GMCC, and this month I will be moving on to a new role, as a chaplain in a residential care home for older people. Although this is an area of work that I have felt called to for some time, and I am excited about this next stage of my ministry, it brings mixed feelings and I will be really sad to leave behind clients, colleagues and friends at GMCC. Working here has been a great blessing, and this month I'd like to share some of what I've learnt.

Firstly, being at GMCC has reinforced my belief in the amazing grace of God, and the importance of telling people about it. We work with people who have committed all kinds of offences here, some of them are truly dreadful to think about. But my experience has been that no-one could be harder on our clients than they are on themselves. Many think that they are utterly unloveable, and therefore that God can't possibly love them. Being assured that they are absolutely loved by God, even as they are today, is (as it is for all of us) paradoxically the start of being able to change and grow into a different, more positive way of living their life.

Secondly, while at GMCC I have had the opportunity to be part of the Prison Fellowship's work in delivering the "Sycamore Tree" group in prisons. This has been a fascinating reminder of the relevance of scripture in the modern world, and a revelation of how this can be used not just with other people of faith, but with those that don't believe in God. This course takes the story of Zaccheus from Luke's gospel (chapter 19) as a case study



to explain and explore restorative justice. I have seen for myself how this can touch the lives of men and women in prison, regardless of their stance on Christianity, and in some cases can be the start of a deeper journey into faith.

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- 1 C was released last month, and was anxious not to return; pray that he will retain his determination and make the changes he needs to achieve a life free of crime.
- 2 During this Volunteers week, pray for God's blessing on all volunteers working in our prisons.
- 3 Pray for I, who wishes to be baptised, that he will continue to grow in love and knowledge of God.
- 4 Pray for A, who is severely ill with mental health problems and is hurting himself, that he will find peace and healing.
- 5 As GMCC give thanks for the contribution of their volunteers, pray for them all and for their volunteer co-ordinator as he leads them.
- 6 S is very bitter about the outcome of a Family Court hearing regarding his daughter; pray that he will come to terms with this.
- 7 Pray for all staff and residents at Forest Bank where there is a lot of change taking place at this time.
- 8 Pray for J, who feels trapped in the system and hopeless about the future; that he will find hope.
- 9 Pray for the person whom God is calling to be the next chaplain of GMCC, that they will hear and respond.
- 10 Pray for all families of prisoners.
- 11 A new Sycamore Tree group starts in Styal today, pray for the facilitators and volunteers, and for the women who will participate.
- 12 Pray for those involved in the recruitment and selection of a new chaplain at GMCC, that they will have wisdom and skills of discernment.
- 13 S has transferred to HMP Manchester after problems in another prison; pray that he will be able to make the most of the opportunity of a new start.
- 14 Pray for C, who is making many positive changes in her life, but is still battling with alcohol and mental health issues, for healing and wholeness.
- 15 Pray for P and J whose mother died in April, that they will be comforted.

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- 16 Pray for K who is on remand as she approaches her trial, that she will overcome her anxieties and be able to face the consequences of past actions.
- 17 Pray for all victims of crime, that they will find peace of mind.
- 18 Mr Q is a resident at Forest Bank, and spends his time sitting alone behind the door, and asks chaplains for prayer, that God who knows his needs will provide.
- 19 Pray for P who is dealing with a lot and is frightened of future possibilities; that he will overcome his tendency to return to drug use at times of pressure.
- 20 D is hoping to become a category D prisoner and move away from HMP Manchester; pray for him at this time.
- 21 Pray for K, as he prepares for release after a long sentence.
- 22 Pray for B, who has been having issues on his wing and is feeling trapped, that he will find inner freedom.
- 23 L is waiting for a decision about parole release; pray that he will keep his life on track and do as well outside as he has in prison.
- 24 N has attended chapel regularly but not made any outward commitment to God; pray that he will come to faith.
- 25 Pray for M and C who are both facing deportation and are very anxious about this prospect.
- 26 Give thanks for the opportunity to restart Sycamore Tree at Forest Bank, and pray for the facilitators, volunteers and participants as the course starts today.
- 27 A has been released; pray that he will keep on the right road.
- 28 J has returned to chapel and is keen to grow in faith; pray for him on this journey and for those who minister to him.
- 29 Pray for acceptance, peace and healing for J who is very angry at the circumstances that have put him in prison, and feels angry towards God at this time.
- 30 Pray for B who was confirmed last year but has drifted from faith, that he will hear God's call and return to Him.