

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

GREATER MANCHESTER COMMUNITY CHAPLAINCY

PRISON PRAYER LETTER MAY 2022

As always God is lifted high at GMCC. Recently I have had a number of clients speak on the freedom they experience here and well as calling GMCC a place of peace. There are so many stories that could be shared and testimonies but these are not my stories to tell. All I can say is that God's ways continue to be higher than the ways of the world. His faithfulness constantly shines through and I am so grateful that I am here to witness His hands at work as my job.

While there is much to testify about there is also much to pray about. The pandemic did hit us but we are still in a position to stay open which we as a charity can only give thanks for. However our clients face so many hardships. Many are not financially stable and with the cost of living rising constantly we are aware of many difficulties that may arise, we know many people under constant threat of homelessness and so many already suffer with ill mental and physical health. Your prayers have served and blessed us so well over the years and I know they will continue to do so.

Thank you readers.

Blessings,

Anna

Praise points:

One of the regular prisoners has raised hundreds of pounds for the Ukraine families

We are now at level 1, things almost back to normal

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

An update from our Chaplain

In two short months it will be three years since I joined Greater Manchester Community Chaplaincy; and what a three years it has been. My last update was over two years ago! Through lockdowns, changing laws and being witness to so many harrowing experiences I can truly say this has not been what I expected it to be.

My previous experience working with ex-offenders and youth had prepared me to expect the emotional burden the role would require. The blessing of faith allows me to be optimistic even in the most dire of circumstances often turning to prayer as a first and last resort.

The nature of my job has not changed much, there is still admin, and there are still regular meetings that need organising and scheduling and the clientele remain many years older than me with newer clients and colleagues still taken aback by my age upon first meeting. The trepidation is soon put to rest when I share my passion and faith in what I do. While the nature of my job has not changed, the world has. The emphasis on having a healthy mind is a breath of fresh air to those who have suffered the stigma of ill mental health. This focus has added to my workload in the best way. We have new groups that focus on using the Bible to address some aspects of mental health as well as the space for peer support. We don't have all the answers but for our clients, knowing that there is a non-judgmental space to speak about their feelings is healing.



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- 1 M who is growing in his faith, pray for continued growth and understanding
- 2 Barry Woodward coming in May that many will be saved, pray that many will hear his words and be moved
- 3 Pray for a woman who's coping mechanism of verbally and physically lashing out when she feels threatened is not helping her, but lacks the skills to respond differently, pray that she would receive the gift of self control.
- 4 Please pray for the growing amount of frustration our men feel when they see life on the outside returning to normal but they are still under a lot of restrictions here.
- 5 L who has read a book called "tough talk" and is really searching for God, pray for clarity in his search
- 6 Pray for the Drug and Alcohol team AA and NA group, that they would be successful in supporting women who wish to stop their substance abuse.
- 7 M who is out next month and has very little support, pray for divine intervention and the right people to come alongside him
- 8 P and L recently released, pray that they will find good churches who will help them in their walk with Christ
- 9 Pray for wisdom for lots of new staff in prison often quite young and inexperienced
- 10 A whose brother has died, pray for comfort in his time of mourning
- 11 R who is struggling with finances and addiction, pray for intervention from the right people
- 12 S who feels he is under threat on the wing, pray for protection and peace
- 13 We are grateful for the extraordinary work of our healthcare team. We pray for those working to support our women physically and mentally and give thanks for their skills and prompt action.
- 14 S and L whose behaviour is very challenging, pray for wisdom and compassion for those addressing this behaviour and open hearts from S and L
- 15 New groups starting with amazing volunteers, pray for enthusiasm and discernment for all involved
- 16 P who struggles with alcohol dependency, pray for the right intervention

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- 17 L who did not get his parole and is very disappointed, pray for peace and new vision as he adjusts his expectations
- 18 K whose son wanted to meet him for the first time and then decided against it, pray for support in this difficult situation
- 19 Pray for women who are suffering from trauma through domestic and childhood abuse, for God's healing presence and power to work miracles of transformation and restoration.
- 20 A and C whose mum has died suddenly, pray for comfort and support in their grief
- 21 S who is suffering with MS but keeps smiling, pray for this mindset to continue as he works through this illness
- 22 S and K whose dad has died pray for comfort and support in their grief
- 23 Pray for a woman who said that as a child she'd had a very strong faith. This had disappeared through the years that she prayed for her parents' violent marriage to be healed. This subsequent violent relationships she had entered into had left her feeling that God was not real or he hated her. We pray that God would reveal himself in love to all those who feel rejected by him
- 24 P who struggles with angry outbursts and anxiety, pray for healing and restoration
- 25 D who is finding life hard following the death of his parents, pray for support and hope for the future
- 26 S who is struggling with haunting memories from the past, pray for peace and healing
- 27 G who is receiving treatment for cancer pray for healing through this process
- 28 Pray for attendance at Buckley Hall Christian services to increase
- 29 J who has recently returned to GMCC, pray for engagement and that he gets the support he needs
- 30 P who is struggling with his mental health, pray for the correct intervention and support
- 31 D who is struggling to settle into his accommodation and is returning to addiction, pray for divine intervention