

Water has been present from the beginning of the world when God's Spirit hovered over the waters as it says in the biblical book of Genesis, sacred to Christians and Jews. In those early biblical times water was seen as signifying the awesome power and might of the almighty. But in times of grief the assurance of one who leads me beside quiet waters, and refreshes my soul speaks as powerfully of God's presence as thunderous torrents.

Water is compelling. It draws us in – whether for a toddler stomping in a puddle, blackbirds jostling in a birdbath, pensioners eyeing up a paddling pool.

So, in all the ways you experience water today – whether cleansing or cleaning, fishing or flushing, be happy, be blessed.

But don't forget your broolly!

Deacon Pru

Praise Points

We give thanks for the wonderful work of the Mothers Union who have faithfully supported all our prisoners for many years and have been particularly kind to those on the mother and baby unit

It's been a season of celebration, we celebrated the hard work of our uniformed colleagues at an event over the weekend and held a very successful recognition event for prisoners who have made progress and contributed to life at Styal.

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 JULY 2022

GMCC Prayer Letter July 2022

Since moving north in 2018 I've had to get used to the amount of rainfall in this part of the country; Manchester's reputation is by no means a myth! The one piece of fashion advice I was given here when considering the purchase of a new winter coat was, "you'll need one with a hood!"

So, I was a little bemused recently to hear an ancient Egyptian proverb which says, Happy is the one who has seen the most water!

It's unlikely those living in places where storms Dudley, Eunice and Franklin hit earlier this year would share this sentiment but in Egypt, home of the largest desert and where lives and livelihoods depend on just one river, the Nile, we can perhaps understand the joy felt by one who knows from experience the scarcity of the life-giving liquid.

Water – which we all need to live – is essential for both physical and mental health. We're meant to drink at least eight glasses a day to maintain clear skin. A favourite Saturday treat of mine after doing a parkrun is to enjoy a hot soapy bath, sometimes listening to the rain pelting against the window. (The thought of this "reward" gets me round the course!)



JULY 2022

- 1 S, a GMCC volunteer, who recently lost her husband and is facing health challenges of her own, pray for strength and peace as she carries on
- 2 L who has just been transferred to a hospital, pray he gets the help he needs.
- 3 S, our longest serving volunteer who celebrates his birthday today, pray for blessings and favour on his life
- 4 R whose mum is very poorly and R is struggling to cope with this, pray for his mother and for the right support in place for R
- 5 R who is waiting for permanent accommodation, pray for favour in the process
- 6 K who is waiting for a transfer to a hospital and is very much in need of help, pray for swift action and wisdom from those responsible for his care
- 7 A who has hurt his wrist and is waiting for intervention, pray for a quick recovery
- 8 We have a SORI course running at Styal, this is an intensive Victim Awareness Course and we pray it effects real change in our prisoners' lives
- 9 Please pray for residents of our Mother & Baby Unit, for all our pregnant women in custody, and those supporting them. Pray that they all have their needs met
- 10 GMCC volunteers who continue to faithfully serve, pray that they will be at peace and for the presence of God in their lives
- 11 M who has not been behaving well and wants to turn over a new leaf, pray for this desire to be long lasting and for the right support
- 12 M, a faithful volunteer who is having some health challenges, pray for healing and relief from pain
- 13 A who is struggling with addiction, pray for the strength to stay clean
- 14 D who wants to be a Christian and has started to attend chapel, pray that his desire for God increases
- 15 We are still recruiting for several open positions at Styal, pray for the right people to join our team.
- 16 R who has been engaging with services more regularly, pray this continues

JULY 2022

- 17 A, a faithful GMCC volunteer, pray that he is blessed in all he does
- 18 L who is due to be sentenced soon and is likely to receive a very long sentence, pray for clarity and peace as he faces his future
- 19 The Alpha course in Styal, please pray that the materials arrive and that the right people sign up to be part of the course, and that women would get to know the love of Jesus.
- 20 New staff in Styal Prison, that they quickly feel confident and a part of the team.
- 21 S who has been isolating recently, pray for intervention and the right people to reach out to him
- 22 The 12 men who have been attending the Alpha course for the last few weeks. This is the first one we have ever held in HMP Manchester. Thank God for the 8 volunteers who have come in to lead the course each week.
- 23 A young woman, M, has been constantly in and out of prison. Usually managing no more than a fortnight between recalls. She has now stayed out for a month which feels like a triumph. Pray that she makes a success of her life on the outside and manages to stay away from drugs & trouble.
- 24 P who has a lot of mental health issues, pray for the right intervention and support
- 25 D who is suffering with ill mental health and addiction, pray he finds the right people to help
- 26 K whose mum has died and who has been told he cannot attend her funeral, pray for the space and time to mourn
- 27 The staff at HMP Buckley Hall, pray for protection and wisdom in all they do
- 28 B, a former volunteer who is having some health issues, pray for healing and support
- 29 A who is released soon and is anxious to move to a prison nearer to his home before then, pray for favour
- 30 Three members of my Sunday Worship congregation are hoping to be released over the next few weeks but are currently homeless. Please pray for A, I and R to find safe places to live and to be surrounded with the right support
- 31 GMCC staff as they take breaks over the summer months, pray for a restful and refreshing time