

I endorse Christian Against Poverty's calls to increase Energy Bill Support, to pause benefit deductions for debt repayments, to speed up the uprating of social security, to ban energy companies forcibly switching customers to pre-payment meters and to impose a moratorium on court action to collect energy debts.

I would point to the breadth of support across civil society endorsing the Hirsch report, speaking from a range of experiences. Our strong collective voice says that what has been done by Government so far is simply not enough for everyone to have #EnoughToLive.

So, what should our response be?

We need to note that the initial Greater Manchester response has confirmed a portfolio lead (Amanda Chadderton, Leader of Oldham Council), an online hub "helpinghand", emergency food cards and a reforming of the humanitarian assistance group

The GM Action Networks on Food Security and Homelessness are addressing cost of living response in their forthcoming meetings.

I believe each church needs to consider doing three things:

(i) raise awareness of income maximisation possibilities - Pension Credits, Healthy Start vouchers, Emergency Food Cards

(ii) consider direct cash support in emergency cases

(iii) open your building once per week for a community meal and incidental warm space and work with ecumenical and inter-faith colleagues to ensure coverage throughout the week in your Council Ward.

Please pray for everyone working at Central Hall to bring support at this time and especially Greater Manchester Community Chaplaincy.

My message to you comes from Galatians chapter 6 verse 9 "Let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up."

Rev. Ian Rutherford

Methodist Central Halls

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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

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

GREATER MANCHESTER COMMUNITY CHAPLAINCY

PRISON PRAYER LETTER NOVEMBER 2022

I am writing this prayer letter as our country is in the midst of multiple crises – Covid, Cost-of-Living and Climate. We must always keep our hope in God and work with compassion with those who are suffering and campaign for change.

Here at Central Hall, Greater Manchester Community Chaplaincy together with Befrienders and Reboot are doing all we can to help and it is great to see other partners such as Lifeshare, WAST, Migrant Support and CARISMA also on site giving support to many hundreds of people.

I have recently been involved in the national #EnoughTo Live campaign to government as a church leader and have hosted a Big Conversation on Poverty at the launch of Challenge Poverty Week to mobilise action here in Greater Manchester.

I am one of the signatories of the Hirsch Report on the response to the Cost-of-Living Crisis which was commissioned by former Prime Minister Gordon Brown and which has been signed by 56 faith and charity leaders and metro mayors.

I work alongside Mayor Andy Burnham as Chair of the Greater Manchester Food Security Action Network and I am City Centre Minister at Central Hall Manchester.

The severe economic pressure on households and the increased need for emergency provision is already being seen within all our communities. We are committed to doing all we can to help in terms of food, advice on income maximization, wellbeing support and opening warm spaces, but the Government must do so much more to bridge the significant gap disclosed in the Hirsch report. They need to act now!

The announcement from OFGEM has confirmed what we have suspected for weeks. The energy price cap was set to rise to levels that would be catastrophic this winter if the Government did not step in. The new Prime Minister did respond immediately to this by freezing the energy price cap but not to current levels and she did not increase the windfall tax on the excessive profits of oil and gas companies.



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- 1 The navigating trauma course has started at GMCC, pray for healing and growth from the course
- 2 Pray for all of those struggling through this cost of living crisis, pray for support and community as the country faces this
- 3 D whose mum has died, pray for comfort and support as he grieves.
- 4 L who has hurt his arm and is unable to carry out his usual activities which is causing frustration, pray for healing and safety.
- 5 W, R and K who are IPP prisoners and have been in prison for a long time, pray for renewed hope and a good outlook
- 6 F who had a health scare, pray for continued healing and protection
- 7 J who has been waiting for a hospital bed for a long time, pray for hope for the future and renewed strength
- 8 S who is working through trauma, pray for continued healing and support
- 9 M who is out in November and wants to make a fresh start away from here, pray for the right people to become a part of his life
- 10 R who struggles with day to day interactions, pray for peace and compassion over his life
- 11 C who has suffered many losses over the past few years and has just come up for air, pray for comfort and peace as she processes
- 12 A who is getting older, pray for continued health and provision
- 13 Thank God that up to 16 men are on the Alpha course, pray for a fruitful course that impacts all at HMP Manchester
- 14 M who is currently homeless, pray for the right intervention and healing from addiction
- 15 All GMCC volunteers who continue to work extremely hard for us here at GMCC

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- 16 D who is suffering from kidney and liver failure, pray for comfort and hope as he faces this situation
- 17 A whose dad has died, pray for the right support in place as he grieves
- 18 L who struggles interacting with people, pray for confidence as he navigates
- 19 A, M and S who are struggling with mental health problems, pray for the right support and intervention
- 20 A who is worried about his father, pray for more connection as they communicate and overall wellbeing
- 21 Pray for staff at HMP Manchester as they continue to support those inside
- 22 Bible studies at HMP Forrest Bank, pray that they continue to grow and affect change on the wings
- 23 P and E who are being very disruptive and challenging, pray for the right intervention to get to the source of their behaviour
- 24 A who suffers with anxiety, pray for healing and peace as he seeks help on this journey
- 25 M who is feeling very anxious on the wing, pray for the right people around to support him during his stay
- 26 E who is struggling financially, pray for continued provision and God's faithfulness
- 27 P who was released in September after 5 years in prison, pray for the right support as he navigates through life
- 28 Chaplains at HMP Styal as they continue to serve those in their care, pray
- 29 D who has been made homeless, pray for the right support and people in place to help
- 30 R and D who are out in January and who are trying to get things sorted for their release, pray for favour and provision