

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

GREATER MANCHESTER COMMUNITY CHAPLAINCY

PRISON PRAYER LETTER JANUARY 2023

Next, I was completely overwhelmed by how Johann's placement developed and worked out. Not only that James found a quick and satisfying solution for every detail of Johann's placement, his answers were reliably fast even when he was off duty, so we were able to decide between GMCC and the one alternative that presented itself right then. And, to top it all off, while I (girl of a German village with only the school bus as mode of transportation) had started googling my fingers off searching a safe, affordable room in a secure Manchester area with public transportation nearby as well as means by which my 16-year-old would be able to feed himself for the two weeks, James casually asked where Johann planned to stay. And everything was set in motion again by the best solution ever: safely at Barbara's home, being fed and cared for, accompanied by Eva through the bus ride and being welcomed into your GMCC-community!

Those were exactly the little things I needed to counteract my feeling of being lost. It was as if the lord was daily showing me his love, and most amazing is that it happened through complete strangers. And I haven't lost my everyday-joy about God's caring - PRACTICAL- ways since then!

Sincerely,

Daniela

Praise points:

13 Completed the Sycamore Tree Course (restorative justice) Pray that the truth of God's Word will

Remembrance service Margaret Smith represented Buckley Hall with deputy governor and officers Rochdale cenotaph

For Pam McGrath who has served for 14 fruitful years as a chaplaincy volunteer and retired in December May she continue to bear much fruit.

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

Telephone: 0161 236 2462 Email: [chaplain@gmcconline.org](mailto: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](http://www.gmccsupport.org)**

#### A note from one of our supporters

About three years ago I got in contact with GMCC, and I have been hooked emotionally ever since.

I live with my husband in a little village in Germany, and we have got three sons. The oldest one, Johann, was required by his school to do some kind of social work for two weeks, optionally abroad (due to the cancelled exchange programmes). Enthusiastically, I took to searching the net for a selection of the most fitting opportunities to present to my son so he then could choose the best. As you can probably guess: I found exactly ... none.

The procedure became very time-consuming and increasingly frustrating. And even if I managed to get hold of an actual person at a soup kitchen or gardening project, they did not want the hassle involved. Consequently, when James Cleary first contacted me as a result of registering at a Manchester volunteer service website, I had learned to be rather pessimistic about the outcome. But I felt compelled to stay the course because I really believed in the project.

What I was not so sure about anymore was what to expect in the way of God's assistance in these matters. I am speaking of life's little things, getting in your face and disheartening you gradually, to the point where disappointment and bitterness easily take root and dim the light you theoretically believe in. Perhaps you also know of situations where a series of tiny frustrations amount to something much bigger than their sum and your courage is being worn thin?

This is how I felt by then: loved by the lord – ABSTRACTLY. In this state it did nothing to help me with my daily life.



## JANUARY 2023

- 1 Pray for those who are in prison and missing their families today, pray for renewed hope in this new year
- 2 Pray for GMCC as we enter the new year, pray for new vision and that the work we do grows.
- 3 All the men who have completed the Alpha course this year, pray that the effects will be lasting and that their faith will develop
- 4 A who is feeling unsafe in the jail, pray for peace and protection
- 5 A who struggles with the winter days, pray for many moments of joy
- 6 For the 13 guys who completed the Sycamore Tree course at Buckle Hall, pray that the truth of God's Word will stay with them.
- 7 A, K, D and R who are very complex men and are causing a lot of issues for the prison, and themselves at the moment, pray for peace and the right intervention
- 8 E who is desperate for a transfer to another jail pray for understanding and favour as he makes these requests
- 9 We have multiple vacancies across Styal prison and pray that the right people would be found for each role. We give thanks for those who have recently started and pray blessing on them.
- 10 L and S who believe in God but are struggling to maintain their faith in jail, pray for the right support and discipleship
- 11 C whose dad has died, pray for comfort and support in the mourning
- 12 Pray for R who has been ill recently, pray for continued wisdom and the ability to make healthy choices
- 13 For S who is seeking further education, pray for the right courses and help on his journey
- 14 Christianity Explored and Sycamore Tree courses in January at Buckley Hall, pray that they will lead to good conversations and growing faith
- 15 For B who struggles with outbursts of anger, pray for peace and understanding for him and those around him

## JANUARY 2023

- 16 B who went to his dad's funeral last month, pray for continued support as he processes his loss
- 17 N who has just returned from hospital and is still having issues with his mental health, pray for the right intervention
- 18 E who is awaiting life changing news, pray for continued support and a good outcome
- 19 Chaplaincy Volunteers at Buckley Hall, pray that the support from the governor continues
- 20 We pray for wisdom, insight and encouragement for all our governors, staff, officers and volunteers at HMP Manchester
- 21 P whose mum has an operation in December, pray that he is able to communicate with her and for a quick recovery
- 22 L who struggles with day to day life, pray for the right support to guide him through
- 23 Several of our prison visitors have recently retired, leaving us with 28 women who have requested a prison visitor but we have been unable to find support. Please pray that we can find the right people
- 24 For the 11 guys who completed Living with Loss course D, L, B in particular, pray that the course content helps them as they go on
- 25 R who has had some devastating news recently, pray that he seeks support and that the right support is provided
- 26 Several of the women currently resident on our Care and Separation Unit (what you might know as the segregation unit) are difficult to place elsewhere, pray that solutions would be found that would keep everybody safe
- 27 For all Christians who minister in prisons to be "*Wise as serpents and harmless as doves*"
- 28 GMCC volunteers who have returned this year, pray for a year filled with favour and blessings
- 29 D and R who are being released this month, pray for provision and support
- 30 All the men serving the IPP sentence who are waiting to hear the Government's decision on the way forward, pray for wisdom and favour
- 31 For GMCC groups, pray that they continue to grow and be safe spaces for our clients.