

Hope: the trust that things can and will change for the better. The GMCC café is a place of hope, where individual visitors can pick up on the wider ethos: change is not just possible but likely to be on its way towards them. This is where the Christian roots of this project become very clear. For Christianity is a faith centred on hope, the hope that arises from recognising and responding to God's life-changing love for us. That hope comes from Jesus' amazing ability to weave good out of disaster – illnesses healed, lives changed, a man risen from the dead. At this springtime of the year, we tell each other both the Good Friday stories of horror and nightmare, and the Easter stories of renewal and a turn to the future. We stop to gaze at the cross, place of Jesus' death, and we find ourselves awe-struck by the wonder and glory of the empty tomb, where life began all over again.

So, you might say, the café is a place of resurrection from hopelessness to hope, from death to life – one such place among many, in one corner of this city among so many others. As we see the signs of spring all around us, we can look out too for signs of new life and new growth in one another and especially those whose lives continue to be a struggle – and we can give thanks for the work of GMCC as a place where new life is fostered through loving concern for each other as children of God.

**Caroline Wickens Superintendent Manchester Methodist Circuit**

### News

We have recently advertised and interviewed applicants for the post of chaplain/client support worker here at the centre, we hope to be able to share some good news regarding this in our next prayer letter, please continue to pray for us.

Café Central is now open from 9am until 2pm Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays

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

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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](http://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 APRIL 2024**

It's always a pleasure to come into Central Hall when the café is open and to pick up the buzz and busyness that make the space come alive. Some clients have been coming for years, for company, warmth and a good meal, and it's lovely to stop and chat with the familiar faces. Other folk are there for the first time, experiencing the welcome and the sense that this is a space where you can be happy or down in the dumps or anything in between – you'll always be safe to be yourself among supportive friends.



**This is the original stained glass window from HMP Manchester, which was donated to us when the prison chapel was refurbished. You can visit us and see this in Café Central**

To my mind, this makes the café a place of hope, where people find the strength to move beyond whatever the past has thrown at them. For some, this includes time in prison, but trauma comes in many shapes and sizes, and it's good to create a space where folk can grow the self-confidence and the skills to move on from whatever they have faced. From my own experience in ministry, I recall someone

who grew up in care, not given the opportunity to use her initiative or learn through working alongside others. As an adult, she found herself part of a group where she was asked to help with making the hot drinks – and she blossomed to the point where she started making biscuits for the group as well. That trust from others made so much difference to her confidence and self-esteem.



## APRIL 2024

- 1 Jesus Christ is risen, this Easter Monday pray for new crime free lives for all offenders released from prison this month.
- 2 Pray for P, who has returned to GMCC for support, that we are able to offer him the help and support he needs and provide a place of safety for him.
- 3 Pray for GMCC as we search for a new chaplain at the centre
- 4 Lord keep a watch over our volunteer M who suffered a fall recently, pray for a speedy recovery.
- 5 We lift up before you Lord all the Muslim prisoners, members of staff and Imams as they go through this period of Ramadan under the difficult circumstances which are presented by the prisons regimes.
- 6 We lift up before you J who has important decisions to make about their future– that they would come to the right decision.
- 7 Pray that P settles in well as he has been moved to a different prison and that more work becomes available to keep him busy.
- 8 Thank you Lord for K who has been supporting clients and volunteers at GMCC and taking on more responsibility whilst doing the chaplain role.
- 9 J has been in pain for some time and is awaiting an operation, Lord we pray that our overstretched NHS can schedule the operation soon.
- 10 Pray for A who is under a lot of pressure at the moment, pray for peace and calm.
- 11 Thank you God for all the volunteers here at GMCC and for all the time that they gift to us to help our clients.
- 12 Lifting up before you Lord, all those who have come into prison with no faith or spiritual life, especially those who are searching for meaning.
- 13 Lord we thank you for the trustees here at GMCC and across the wider charity sector, who give up their free time.
- 14 Pray for acceptance and understanding as we all navigate our own way of life, beliefs and values. We are all made in the image of God.
- 15 Pray for N who has just received a worrying diagnosis, pray that he receives the necessary treatment.

## APRIL 2024

- 16 Today we take a quiet moment to reflect and give thanks for our friends and family whilst we remember all those in prison who cannot see theirs.
- 17 Pray for S that he finds serenity and peace of mind
- 18 Pray for M who is struggling with poor health, ask for comfort and healing.
- 19 Guide S Lord that he continues to respect and get along with his peers.
- 20 Thank you Lord for your intervention in L's situation – please would you continue, Lord, to provide all the help which he needs.
- 21 Pray for the homelessness action network meeting taking place at Central Hall today.
- 22 Pray for changes in the system to ensure that offenders being released from prison are not out on the street due to lack of accommodation.
- 23 Pray for GMCC Client M who needs help with finances as he has had his benefits sanctioned, pray that he will find the right advice and support.
- 24 Pray for A as she goes through a job change, that she finds the right position which is suited for her in every way.
- 25 I. gives thanks for the resolution of the tricky situation which was prayed for last month.
- 26 Pray for the discharge hub at HMP Manchester taking place today, that many men turn up and take advantage of the advice.
- 27 Lifting up before you, Lord, all those inmates who are challenged in their spirits by the grief of loved ones dying without saying, “goodbye”.
- 28 We lift up before you Lord, the plans for building renovation at Central Hall– please enable us to find a good space to work whilst these renovations take place.
- 29 Pray for chaplains involved in mediation within the prison walls between victims and perpetrators, that all can find peace and move forward.
- 30 Lifting up J before you Lord as he copes with the death of his mother, sooner than expected.