

My point is why do we think it is not appropriate to speak of our difficulties, failures, lack of progress and struggle with unbelief? Just like we all experience times of blessing we all know times like this also. Like the song says “We are weak but Jesus he is strong”. If you are a genuine believer who is trusting in Jesus he is why you will make it not because of you. Let’s come as we are and ask him to make us what he wants us to be.

With this in mind we must also be honest with those we try to help. The knowledge that we all struggle at times should help them to see there is hope for them also. To pretend that the way of faith is just one victory after another may impress but isn’t true and is unlikely to bring lasting results.

### Praise points

Recently we were able to purchase a television for a client recently released from prison into a shared hostel, this was greatly appreciated as it will provide some entertainment and improve his mental health.

We have recently welcomed back a volunteer after a short spell in prison, this was in answer to our prayers in last months prayer letter.

We were also able to provide a toiletries pack to a client who was struggling financially after being released from prison.

Another client was given a travel pass so that he could attend an interview for a job, without this pass he had no means of getting to the interview.

So thank you for all your prayers and please continue to pray with us and thank God when he answers those prayers.

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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 2025**

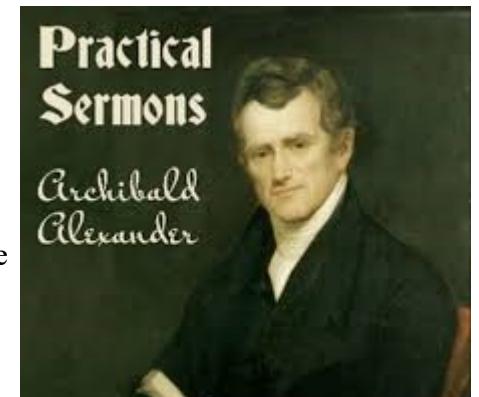
This month I want to share some words sent to me by our long time volunteer Arthur, I think these words are very apt to the work we do here at GMCC and the clients and public who attend our centre. What he says is true- “we are small and vulnerable” and we “would benefit from some help” Help in all senses of the word, be that volunteering, coming to the café to buy some food and drink, praying for us, attending our groups and services, liking us on social media, spreading the word about the work we do or donations of any kind.

### Let’s be honest

Archibald Alexander (and I thought Arthur was an old fashioned name) wrote in 1884 “It is amazing how little you hear of the spiritual conflict in the account which many professors give of their experience”. By “professors” he did not mean the highest rank of a university academic but someone who claims true faith. He was saying that in his experience it was unusual to hear anyone giving a testimony or sharing some thoughts in church to talk about their struggles and difficulties rather than their times of blessing and victory. It has not changed but also applies to something that would be unknown in his day. I have not done it recently but look at the way churches describe themselves to those seeking somewhere to worship.

“A vibrant growing community,”

“A lively and caring group of believers,” “We are passionate people” comments like these you will not struggle to find along with lots of positive adjectives such as “generous,” “friendly,” “warm” and even “audacious.” Let me know if you find one that says “We are a small and vulnerable church that would benefit from some help.”



## April 2025

- 1 Pray that HMP Elmley's recruitment drive is fruitful
- 2 Pray for all the families of prisoners throughout the UK.
- 3 Pray for all the Muslim inmates within the prison system during the season of Ramadam.
- 4 M has only been 1 out of the 3 weeks of the course, we want you to guide him Lord to attend regularly
- 5 HMP Elmley need an Anglican chaplain and Free Church chaplain, pray that God sends the right candidate.
- 6 Pray for J who as a result of Alpha is thinking about Jesus in a more biblical way.
- 7 Pray for S who says very little, that he will be thinking deeply and come to faith.
- 8 B has recently been to chapel and enjoyed the experience so pray this will continue.
- 9 Pray that God provides pastorally minded chaplains who are prepared to travel to the Island of Sheppey and be committed to the work of pastoring prisoners.
- 10 Pray for P, a client we have been writing to for some time. That he is released today and that he finds us and engages with us.
- 11 Please pray for P. who will not be able to attend the funeral of his brother ....may everything go successfully for him to join via the link.
- 12 We ask for your prayers for the situation with the Sycamore Course that has been stopped within Buckley Hall Prison
- 13 D has now attended Alpha twice so pray he will grow in his knowledge of Christ.
- 14 We ask you Lord for the full recovery and health from staff across the Prison Teams
- 15 Join us in prayer for the key individuals in the CCA member cohort

## April 2025

- 16 Please pray for the full recovery of staff who have been unwell in Chaplaincy at Buckley Hall
- 17 Keep up the spirit and faith of AF who had his parole declined
- 18 Pray for all new inmates who are adjusting to life within the prion.
- 19 Pray for The small team at HMP Elmley who need continued resilience to cope with the short-fall in staff.
- 20 Thank you Lord for the services, commemorations and celebrations as we experience Lent and Easter
- 21 We put into your hands , Lord, those close to J. who may have been affected by his sudden death.
- 22 We lift up before you, Lord, all Staff in our prisons – keep them strong and morally sound against the temptations which come their way.
- 23 We ask for you Lord to watch over and pray For BC, SL and JP that will be released soon
- 24 Into your hands, Dear Father, we place those Staff and inmates who find themselves involved in tragic situations.
- 25 Pray and give thanks for all the staff within prison chaplaincies trying to provide pastoral support.
- 26 We pray for C. and his concerns for the Welfare of one of his friends on the-out.
- 27 Pray for all recently released prisoners who are struggling to find suitable accommodation and support outside.
- 28 Thank you, Lord, for the success of last month's Discharge Hub at HMP Manchester, Strangeways; and the fact that so many men due for release attended – taking advantage of the help and advice which we were able to offer them.
- 29 We give thanks for those who are working in Catering, in the Kitchen and the Bakery as they provide food for a huge number of persons with a vast array of dietary needs.
- 30 I ask for prayers for L. and his fiancé as they anticipate their coming marriage.