

A presentation was given by Dr. Alexander Beaumont, Senior Lecturer in Criminology and Sociology, and he specialises in criminal justice, identity and desistance theory, alongside psychoanalytic theory and continental philosophy at The University of Law, Manchester. He attended the event with his parents. Dr. Beaumont is currently undertaking a research paper detailing how Community Chaplaincies, like GMCC, work and their importance to the Communities they serve, with particular reference to how they help offenders and ex-offenders. His research had already attracted the attention of the BBC, and he will be appearing on BBC Radio next week to discuss it further.

He noted that the intention of the research paper is to advise and detail to the national government how important it is that these kinds of institutions get the funding they both need and deserve. He advised that he got his interest in Community Chaplaincies after his Mother had decided to enter prisons and support prisoners in helping turning their lives around. His presentation was enlightening, uplifting and appreciated by all.

The service concluded with Arthur Whillans giving thanks for GMCC, its staff, trustees, volunteers and the work it does. Arthur did give all those present interesting history about GMCC, and that it was the second Community Chaplaincy to be founded after the first one in Swansea. He told everyone how he and his wife, Marlene, helped to found and establish GMCC. This was met with very warm applause as a vote of thanks and recognition for all of their hard work, without which we would not have had today's celebration, together with all the success stories that were told today. Arthur concluded the service offering prayers of thanks for all that GMCC has achieved. He also offered prayers for GMCC's continued success and future growth.

Aled Brewerton
GMCC Trustee

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Please make cheques payable to: **GM Prison Prayer**

and state if you would like to **Gift Aid** it

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HMP & YOI STYAL; HMP YOI THORN CROSS & HMP HINDLEY**

GREATER MANCHESTER COMMUNITY CHAPLAINCY

Prison Prayer letter - March 2026

In this edition we would like to share feedback and pictures from our 20 year anniversary event.

A 20th anniversary celebration for GMCC was held at Methodist Central Hall in the Collier Room. It was scheduled to begin at 11:00 am, but began at 11:15 am, due to a larger number of attendees than had been expected. The presentation and event were brilliantly organised by our Chaplain, Reggie van Dinter and his wife. Approximately just over 40 people were in attendance.



The service began at 11:15 am with a welcome from Reggie van Dinter, delivered in an absolutely salient fashion. He welcomed everyone present and welcomed them to GMCC. He gave a brilliant background of how long GMCC has been in existence, when and how it started. He drew attention to some persons associated with GMCC who were present, and then moved into the service

programme. The first part of the service programme was to continue the welcome and offer opening prayers. This duty was assigned to Aled Brewerton, who represented GMCC Trustees. Aled gave a short presentation on his background, how he came to GMCC and his role.

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- 1 Pray for 3 chaplains in Styal prison to get better as they are off sick.
- 2 Pray for all the female prisoners in Styal prison that they may connect back into their communities and find the help they need.
- 3 Pray for K, one of our clients who hasn't been well for weeks.
- 4 Pray for A, who continues to swing between extremes of behaviour.
- 5 Pray for P, who is hoping that promises made about a job and a stable environment will come to fruition.
- 6 Pray for the souls of A and J who have recently died. May they enter eternal peace.
- 7 We keep in prayer all members of staff at HMP Manchester, who work in such challenging conditions. Help them to remain steadfast and determination to serve with professionalism and care.
- 8 We pray for all who work or attend classes to build a better future for themselves as they strive to make amends for previous failings.
- 9 Hear our prayer for P, who is sincerely seeking to better understand his Faith and to allow it to provide a secure foundation for his future.
- 10 Pray for Y, who takes such keen interest in the matters of his Faith and the practice of his peers.
- 11 pray for M. that he will be able to settle in to this different jail, after being attacked at his previous one.
- 12 Pray for B, whose movement to a jail nearer his mother has been thwarted by her death before his arrival.
- 13 Dear Lord, strengthen the resolve of the prison Chaplaincy Teams, as they endeavour to enable prisoners to attend/watch funerals of their loved ones.
- 14 Please send your comfort, Father, to those families who have recently lost someone who died in prison.
- 15 Pray for A, one of our clients who recently lost his dad. Pray for comfort and strength as he navigates this.
- 16 Pray for our client P who has a few life-changing appointments coming up.

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He gave thanks to both Marlene and Arthur Whillans, who had played a vital role in bringing him to GMCC and allowing him to become a Trustee. He noted that he was entering his 10th year as a Trustee and his 13th at GMCC. Aled made special reference to many of the services offered by GMCC, and that they are there for everyone.

Aled then offered up opening prayers, giving thanks for GMCC, its work, its many successes, the friendships made, and that GMCC continues its excellent work into the future. These prayers were perfectly observed and received by all. On completion of the welcome and opening prayers, Reggie's wife led us in worship with several hymns, which were well received and sung by all. Special thanks must be given to her for her exceptional musical accompaniment and singing.



Reggie then provided a more detailed presentation of GMCC. He accurately showed and explained what our vision is, the mission that we are undertaking, and what our values are. He made special mention of all the staff, the Trustees and the Volunteers. He introduced those of us who were there, which was very warmly received. Reggie also gave all of us his reasons for wanting to work at GMCC and noted his happiness and delight at being appointed to the role. He concluded this part by allowing Paul Parsons, a current volunteer, to tell his story about how he came to know about GMCC and how GMCC is helping him turn his life around and to overcome challenges. Paul presented this excellently, and it was well appreciated by all. Paul gave thanks for what GMCC has done for him and how much better he is feeling after receiving said help. He said that without GMCC he would be homeless.