

**Our prayers this week focus on prison chaplains across the diocese, coinciding with 'Prisons Week'.**

<https://www.prisonsworld.org/> As 'People of Hope,' we remain mindful of the implications of Covid-19, locally & globally; we remember those impacted by natural disasters; those in Ukraine suffering grievously, for all who take decisions around the world, and for the people and leaders of Russia.

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October: Psalm 19:1 The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands.**

Lord, you offer freedom to all people.

We pray for those in prison.

Break the bonds of fear and isolation that exist.

Support with your love prisoners and their families and friends, prison staff and all who care.

Heal those who have been wounded by the activities of others, especially the victims of crime.

Help us to forgive one another. to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly together with Christ in His strength and in His Spirit, now and every day. Amen.

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup>: Psalm 130:1 Out of the depths I cry to You, O Lord.**

Heavenly Father, thank you for those who work in the prison service. May they be motivated by a desire to help others live well. We pray for any who are discouraged. Help them to look up and cry out to you, for you are both holy and full of mercy and hear our prayers. May they know your unfailing love for them and for the prisoners they serve. Please give them fresh hope and encouragement at work today.

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup>: Psalm 130:5 I wait for the Lord ... and in His Word I put my trust.**

We pray for all those affected by prison – the prisoner, the family or victims. Be near them when they are angry, sad or cry for help. May they be assured of your trust and love for them. Lord, you know us and you are near us wherever we are and whatever we do. Even though we stray so often from your presence may we know the comfort of your loving arms around us.

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup>: Psalm 46:10 Be still and know that I am God.**

Dear Lord, we lift up to you all of those caught up within the prison system. We ask that as the confusion, mess, violence and addiction is all around we can know that our refuge is in you. We know that we can find rest in you, we know that we can be still and know that you are God. We pray for peace in the heart of each of those behind locked doors and we pray that they would know you close.

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup>: Elizabeth Fry, Prison Reformer, 1845**

Pray for the chaplains across our diocese, as they minister in prisons and young offender institutions; asking God's blessing as they seek to support and witness to prisoners, their families and visitors, volunteers and staff: Samuel at HMP Swinfen Hall, Nigel at HMP Featherstone, Taiwo at HMP Oakwood, David at HMP/YOI Brinsford, Christine & Mark at HMP/YOI Stoke Heath, Vanda, Jeff & David at Werrington YOI, Roger, Sarah & Elaine at HMP Drake Hall, Ned at HMP Stafford, Roger at HMP Dovegate.

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup>: Psalm 86:13 For great is Your love towards me; You have delivered me from the depths of the grave.**

Lord God, we thank you for grace and mercy. Thank you that in receiving your forgiveness, we are able to forgive those who have hurt us, and turn that pain into purpose. We pray for those who find themselves in prison, that they will also come to know your goodness and be glad to receive your love, so that their lives too, can be transformed and renewed.

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup>: Prayer submitted by chaplains at HMYOI Werrington**

Pray for our young people arriving in prison, some as young as 15, for those who are confused, frightened and isolated from family and friends:

Gracious and loving God, thank you for the privilege of caring for all these souls in Werrington.

Thank you for the glimpses of glory and hope in unexpected places.

Thank you for the trust placed in us by our colleagues, the families of the children, and the trust You place in us to do Your will in this place.

Help us to seek out the good, to encourage those who are struggling, to guide those who are lost.

Help us to stay close to You and remember this ministry can only be done in Your name.

In the name of our Lord, Friend and Companion, Jesus Christ. Amen.

**Diocesan 24-hour Day of Prayer, 25th/ 26th October, click here for further details and to sign up to lead a session.**

**To get these prayer points delivered to your mobile automatically via the free PrayerMate app on iOS & Android click here**

**For prayer resources for the worldwide church see the Anglican Cycle of prayer: [anglicancommunion.org/resources/prayer.aspx](http://anglicancommunion.org/resources/prayer.aspx)**