



Daylight Newsletter December 2021

As we look back over the last year, we give thanks to God for the many opportunities that have been provided, and for both prisoners and prison staff who have been reached with the Gospel.

Chaplaincy work has continued to enable us to reach many individual prisoners, with opportunities to speak to and pray with them and to give out various items of literature. Chaplains have also been able to come alongside those who have lost loved ones, with a number prisoners expressing appreciation for this support.

In the months since services and Bible studies have resumed in some prisons, we have been pleased to see new prisoners attending who are keen to learn more about the Bible. While ongoing restrictions have meant that we have had smaller groups of prisoners than previously, this has caused them to feel more able to share personal prayer requests or ask questions, and has enabled us to have more meaningful one-to-one conversations with them and the officers who are present.

Written messages have also continued to be sent into prisons each week, and we give thanks that as well as being given to prisoners we already knew from services and other activities, they have also reached many who would not normally come along to these. The responses from both chaplains and prisoners have been encouraging, with one prisoner writing, “It is such a blessing that I receive this encouragement and support”.

Our Letter Writing ministry has also continued, with volunteers answering questions prisoners have about spiritual things. It has been good to hear how much prisoners value this contact and to see them learning more from God’s Word.

December Prayer Points

Church Visits – Give thanks for encouraging church visits during November, with new people hearing about Daylight who are keen to support the work prayerfully.

Christmas – Please pray that as prisoners receive written material and attend services over the Advent and Christmas period, many will think seriously about spiritual things and come to truly understand the importance of Christ's birth.

HMP Deerbolt (County Durham) – Give thanks for continued opportunities to run Sunday services and Bible studies here, with all wings now able to mix together once again. We also have the opportunity to speak at both the Carol Service and the Christmas Day Service, so please pray that the Lord will speak to the young men who come along.

Pray too for the interviews for the post of Managing Chaplain as they take place during the month.

Greg – Please pray for Greg who recently lost his grandmother and uncle within a few days of each other, that contact with one of our chaplains will be helpful to him.

Moses – Please continue to pray for Moses who is due to be released this month. He has shown an interest in attending a local church so please pray that he will go along and that the Lord will continue to work in his heart and life.

Prisoners – Please pray for all those who feel lost in the system, particularly those serving IPP (Indeterminate for Public Protection) sentences with no release date to work towards, and those on recall, which sometimes seems to just go on and on.

Prison Staff – As restrictions are lifting and wings are beginning to mix more freely once again, a number of prisons are seeing increasing violence as old scores amongst prisoners are settled. Some prisons report concerns about staff morale as a result of this and high staff turnover. Please pray particularly for prison officers, many of whom have joined the prison service during the pandemic when prisons were locked down and are only now experiencing the challenges of all the prisoners on a wing being free to move around.

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Rob – Please pray for Rob, a lifer who has been attending Bible studies recently and is asking some really searching questions. Please pray that something of what he hears in these sessions will be used to speak to him.

Solent Prayer & Support Group – Give thanks that a few of the group are able to attend a Carol Service at HMP Ford. Please pray that this will provide good opportunities for conversations with individual prisoners, and for further opportunities to run services there in the New Year.

HMP Swansea (South Wales) – Give thanks for continued opportunities to carry out chaplaincy work here. Please pray that it might be possible to start a Christianity Explored course in the New Year.

HMP Wayland (Norfolk) – Please pray for the chaplaincy team here, who have been short staffed for much of the year due to illnesses.

Pray too for J, a prisoner who recently lost both his mother and daughter and is feeling very lost without them. He was brought up Roman Catholic but is keen to learn more about the Christian faith. Please pray that contact we have with him through chaplaincy work and letter writing will be used to speak to him.

West Yorkshire Prayer & Support Group – Please pray for one of the nearby prisons where a significant number of prisoners and staff have tested positive for Coronavirus, meaning that the resuming of services has been postponed until the New Year. The prison has also seen a death in custody so please pray for all those affected by this.

Give thanks that some of the team are able to continue to visit another of the prisons each week and for the opportunity to join the Managing Chaplain for Christmas lunch at a local restaurant. Please pray that another newly appointed chaplain at the prison will be able to start work in the very near future.

Pray too for each of the chaplaincy teams, that they may be strengthened and supported in their preparations for Christmas activities.

Written Messages – Please continue to pray for the preparation of the weekly written messages, that we will be given wisdom in choosing the right topics and writing these. Give thanks for volunteers that have helped with this over the last year.



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