

Prayer Diary – May 2019

God said, "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground." Exodus 3:5

1 Wednesday

There are two *Sycamore Tree* courses starting today at HMP Swaleside and HMP Bullingdon. For each new course beginning we pray for courage, focus and real transformation.

2 Thursday

There are *Sycamore Tree* courses starting today at HMP Send, HMP Risley, HMP High Down and HMP Coldingley.

3 Friday

Pray for the recruitment process for two roles in the Support Team – the Support Care Administrator to replace Caroline, and a new Trusts and Legacies Officer. May God bring the right people to join the team.

Saturday

Today is the *Kintsugi Hope* 'Honesty Over Silence' conference. Pray for the new strategic partnership PF is exploring with *Kintsugi Hope*, and that their message would reach all who need to hear it.

5 Sunday

Today is the start of Ramadan. We pray for respect and friendship to be central in our relationships with Muslims in chaplaincy and prison, recognising our shared intention to support prisoners to change.

6 Monday

There is a *Sycamore Tree* course ending today at HMP Thameside. For all learners finishing a course this month, we pray that the lessons learnt will give them strength and vision for their life ahead.

7 Tuesday

There is a *Sycamore Tree* course starting today at HMP Onley.

8 Wednesday

There are two *Sycamore Tree* courses starting today at HMP Northumberland and HMP Kirkham, and two ending at HMP Winchester and HMP Wayland.

9 Thursday

There is a *Sycamore Tree* course starting at HMP Swansea today, and one ending at HMP Hindley.

Our CEO, Peter Holloway, is visiting the PF Swansea group today and will visit the prison tomorrow. Pray for the work of the chaplaincy and PF volunteers bringing Christ's love there.

10 Friday

We thank God for the work of the Justice Committee in parliament to raise the issue of prison reform there. May God give our leaders wisdom and determination to ensure our criminal justice system enables as many people as possible to turn their lives around and reintegrate into society.

11 Saturday

There is a training day in London for volunteers to become Sycamore Tree Group Facilitators today. Pray that they might be inspired by what they learn, and that the training would give them confidence and clarity in their new role.

12 Sunday

Peter Holloway is preaching at Grangetown Baptist in Cardiff today. We thank God for the many churches that support the work of PF, and pray that God might continue to invite more churches into this Kingdom work.

13 Monday

There are two *Sycamore Tree* courses starting today at HMP Garth and HMP Altcourse.

14 Tuesday

Peter Holloway is visiting HMP Send today. We pray for all women in prison today, for the particular challenges of abuse that many of them have faced, and that they might know God's love and healing in their lives and relationships.

There is a *Sycamore Tree* course starting at HMP Woodhill today, and another one finishing at HMP Rochester.

15 Wednesday

On this *International Day of Families*, we remember those families that are separated today by prison walls. Heavenly Father, may You bring comfort, perseverance and hope to all who miss their loved ones today.

There is a *Sycamore Tree* course finishing at HMP Wymott today.

16 Thursday

Pray for all community members - pastors, colleagues, politicians — who have been invited to a *Sycamore Tree* session 6 this month, that it might give them a deeper understanding of life in prison and the power of restorative justice to change lives.

17 Friday

Pray for the children in the Secure Training Centre Medway who joined the *Letter Link* scheme a few months ago, that they might have courage and inspiration to write and that God would enable them to connect in their letters with their volunteer letter writer.

18 Saturday

There is a *Letter Link* training in Manchester today. Thank God for the "hidden" ministry of our letter writers, who faithfully encourage and support men and women in prison through their words and friendship.

19 Sunday

Pray for our brothers and sisters in prison who are meeting to worship together today. We pray God will build them up in love, understanding and hope, and that we might be blessed by our unity with them.

20 Monday

Pray for prison chaplains today, that they might know God's peace as they move about the prison and do their work.

21 Tuesday

Pray for good working relationships in prisons, between staff, chaplains and volunteers. May the God of Peace guide them as they seek to work in unity and with a common purpose.

22 Wednesday

Today, as Peter Holloway meets with their CEO, we thank God for the generosity of CWR, who donate many of the books we used in the *Angel Tree* programme this past Christmas.

May those books still be bringing joy and truth to the children that received them.

There is a *Sycamore Tree* course finishing at HMP Whitemoor today.

23 Thursday

There is a *Sycamore Tree* course starting at HMP Berwyn today.

24 Friday

Pray for our local group leaders, that they would be strengthened and supported, and that our groups would grow in unity and impact.

25 Saturday

Pray that we might be known as a welcoming and inclusive fellowship, and particularly that new members would quickly find their place and role in the groups.

26 Sunday

In this Easter season, we pray that churches would respond to God's call to share this resurrection life with those still in darkness.

27 Monday

We pray for a wise and reasoned response to the serious youth crime we are witnessing, particularly in our cities. May that response be based on facts rather than fear, and may churches lead the way in reaching out to our troubled young people.

28 Tuesday

Pray today for our media, that the way prisons are portrayed, and the narratives spoken about prisoners may be based in truth, justice and constructive dialogue, rather than fearmongering.

29 Wednesday

There is a *Sycamore Tree* course finishing at HMP Hollesley Bay today.

30 Thursday

There are two *Sycamore Tree* courses finishing today at HMP Isis and HMP Ford.

31 Friday

We pray for men and women imprisoned under IPP sentences, that they would find the support they need and receive an end to uncertainty around their sentence length.

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." 1 Thessalonians 5:16-17