

Prayer Diary – August 2020



“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

Romans 15:13

1	Saturday Yesterday, Prison Fellowship launched <i>Prayer Line</i> in prisons across England and Wales – a unique service for those in prison to leave a prayer request as a voicemail, which will then be prayed for by PF volunteers that day and in the month to follow. Praise God for the many doors that opened to make this possible.	4	Tuesday <i>Prayer Line:</i> J has asked that we pray for the peace of mind for all those who are suffering at this difficult time and those family relationships that people have severed can be rebuilt stronger. Pray that everybody appreciates that through difficulty our faith can be tested but through that testing of our faith the perseverance that it yields will hold us in good stead for the future. Amen.
2	Sunday We thank God for the new <i>Prayer Line</i> service, and pray for all those who will use it this month, that they will find reassurance and comfort from the knowledge that they are being prayed for.	5	Wednesday We pray for those people in prison who are finally able to receive a visit in person from their loved ones. May those times be filled with joy, despite the restrictions, and may that joy sustain them in the weeks to come.
3	Monday <i>Prayer Line:</i> C requested prayer for his son K, and for his situation as he has been recalled to prison. C has asked that when he is assessed to be released that it would be granted.	6	Thursday Pray for children who will be visiting their parent in prison for the first time in many months this month. May God surround them with His peace and love,

	may they quickly reconnect with their parent, and may they feel supported through whatever emotions arise during the visit.
7	Friday We pray for the ministries of Bishop James and Bishop Rachel, who have oversight of prisons. God of justice, will you empower them to speak your truth to those in power, and enable the voice and experience of those inside to be heard as policy decisions are made.
8	Saturday As prisons begin to reopen, there are conversations happening about the future of “association” – the time of day when prisoners are allowed out of their cell to socialise with others. Pray that those conversations would be driven by a focus on what is best for the wellbeing and rehabilitation of those inside.
9	Sunday We pray for prison Chaplains, who are currently considering how and when they may be able to restart services and small groups for those in prison. May God give them wisdom and new energy for this next phase.
10	Monday Thank God for those volunteers who faithfully write to their

	pen-pal in prison every month through PF’s <i>Letter Link</i> programme. Praise God that those friendships have sustained and encouraged so many through lockdown, both those inside and those at home.
11	Tuesday Pray for the Prison Fellowship staff team, who are mostly still working from home. Pray that despite the physical distance, there would be unity and good communication. Pray for good physical and mental health for the team.
12	Wednesday Today is <i>International Youth Day</i> . We pray for the children and young adults in Young Offenders Institutes and Secure Training Centres, that they might be surrounded by people who believe in them and see their potential. May they know their great worth.
13	Thursday Our Angel Tree Coordinators are gathering online again today to make further plans for how to run <i>Angel Tree</i> this Christmas. Pray that challenges would be overcome in innovative ways, and that those involved would not feel anxious, but trust the programme into God’s loving hands.

<p>14 Friday</p>	<p>The criminal courts in the UK are currently experiencing an increased backlog of cases due to covid-19. Pray for the political commitment and additional resources to quickly reduce this backlog, and ensure that justice can be done in every case.</p>
<p>15 Saturday</p>	<p>Thank God for our local Group Leaders, who have been continuing the lead their groups and maintain a connection with the local prison Chaplaincy despite the restrictions of the past months. May they know God’s sustaining love and grace at this time.</p>
<p>16 Sunday</p>	<p>We pray for those inside whose mental health is negatively impacted by the lockdown. May they know God’s peace and hope, and find the support they need to heal and thrive.</p>
<p>17 Monday</p>	<p>Thank God for the increased technology being used in prisons to allow “virtual visits”. Pray that the commitment to these innovative channels might not diminish as in-person visits resume, and that they might particularly strengthen the relationship of parents inside with their children at home.</p>

<p>18 Tuesday</p>	<p>The Lammy Review of 2017 highlighted the racial inequalities in the Criminal Justice System, and offered concrete recommendations. Pray that there will be continued political will to implement those changes and ensure justice for every person.</p>
<p>19 Wednesday</p>	<p>Pray for all those involved both at PF and in prison in considering how to safely restart <i>Sycamore Tree</i> courses in prison, that it might happen at the right time and in the right way.</p>
<p>20 Thursday</p>	<p>Thank God for the volunteers who have been training during lockdown to become <i>Sycamore Tree</i> Tutors and Group Facilitators. Pray that as courses begin to be rescheduled for the autumn in smaller groups, that our volunteers would feel ready and excited to begin.</p>
<p>21 Friday</p>	<p>Pray for those who are being released from prison with no accommodation available. God who is our refuge, we pray for places to open up for every homeless person leaving prison.</p>
<p>22 Saturday</p>	<p>We remember those women in prison who are pregnant. Pray</p>

	that where possible, other provisions and community sentences might allow those women to leave prison. And pray for the safety of both mother and child.
23 Sunday	Prison Fellowship are hosting the Sunday morning service that is broadcast on National Prison Radio today. Pray that those who tune in will be encouraged and challenged by what they hear.
24 Monday	There is an online Area Leaders meeting today. Pray for discernment, vision and inspiration as they work to support the volunteers and programmes.
25 Tuesday	Many women in prison have been victims of crime more serious than those they've been convicted of. Pray for a holistic justice response that allows for the healing and restoration of every woman.
26 Wednesday	Pray for those Chaplains who are taking annual leave this month, that they might be refreshed and restored after a busy and often stressful few months supporting prisoners in lockdown.

27 Thursday	Pray for prison Governors and leadership as they work to open up the lockdown regime that those in prison have been living within. Pray for the vision and innovation to make rehabilitation possible.
28 Friday	We praise God again for this first month of <i>Prayer Line</i> , for the privilege of being able to pray for the immediate needs of those in prison.
29 Saturday	Pray that <i>Prayer Line</i> would be well promoted in prison, and that many men and women would chose to use the service and request prayer.
30 Sunday	As churches across the country begin to meet in person again, we pray that they would continue to remember their brothers and sisters inside, in prayer and support.
31 Monday	We pray for children with a parent in prison who will be about to go back to school. They are not routinely recorded or offered any support. Pray for teachers who will be sensitive to their additional needs.

