

Prisons Week Engagement

Prisons Week 2022

What is Prisons Week?

Prisons Week is a multi-agency, multi-denomination gathering of organisations that prepares annual prayer literature to enable the Christian community, through individuals and churches, to pray for the needs of all those affected by prisons (<https://prisonsweek.org/>). This includes prisoners and their families, victims of crime and their communities, those working in the criminal justice system and the many people who are involved in caring for those affected by crime on the inside and outside of our prisons. For the first time in 2022 The Church in Wales has partnered with Prisons Week and will be representing Welsh churches and Welsh prisons within the gathering of organisations.

Aims

Prisons Week aims to raise awareness and generate prayer, particularly focused on Prisons Week itself which starts on Prisons Sunday, the second Sunday in October. Through prayer literature focused on a different theme each year it provides an annual focus and reason for Christians to work together, building capacity and motivation to make a difference for people who are out of sight and often out of mind.

Specifically, The Church in Wales and Diocese of Llandaff seeks to

1. publicly unite in prayer in the public space throughout Prisons Week, opening the collective hearts of Christians and non-Christians alike to prisons, prisoners and those affected by crime
2. catalyse a conversation about prisons and criminal justice
3. transform attitudes towards prisoners, their families, and victims of crime
4. celebrate the work of prison chaplains and those working in prisons and the probation service
5. ensure the conversation around prisons, and Prisons Week itself, reflects and represents the needs of Wales, that a distinctly Welsh flavour is recognised in the materials, and significantly that the Welsh language is championed in the prayers and materials produced

By connecting prayer in the public space, criminal justice, Prisons Week and out outreach work, each diocese can ensure a practical and material change in attitudes with congregations and communities towards prisoners, and a positive engagement with prayer materials from Prisons Week which are relevant to our context in Wales.

2022 Theme

The theme for 2022 is focused on thankfulness, and particularly thankfulness after a period of hopelessness. It is centred on Luke 17.11-19:

As Jesus made his way to Jerusalem, he went along the border between Samaria and Galilee. He was going into a village when he was met by ten men suffering from a dreaded skin disease. They stood at a distance and shouted, "Jesus! Master! Take pity on us!" Jesus saw them and said to them, "Go and let the priests examine you." On the way they were made clean. When one of them saw that he was healed, he came back, praising God in a loud voice. He threw himself to the ground at Jesus' feet and thanked him. The man was a Samaritan. Jesus said, "There were ten men who were healed; where are the other nine? Why is this foreigner the only one who came back to give thanks to God?" And Jesus said to him, "Get up and go; your faith has made you well."

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This is framed through 7 prayers for each day of Prisons Week – Hostility, Suffering, Compassion, Healing, Gratitude, Sent and Hope. There is also a separate Prisons Week Prayer.

Engagement

To achieve aims 1, 2 and 3 of the project, we will do the following:

1. Daily Videos - Provide short videos of each daily prayer to go live on each day of Prisons Week, along with a very short introduction to that day and it's connectedness to the theme
2. Bishop June Video – Provide a longer video with Bishop June introducing Prisons Week and why it and the work done in prisons matters
3. News Article – Provide a news article on both the diocesan and provincial websites outlining Prisons Week, why it matters and how to get involved. This would include Bishop June's interview and interviews with Prison Chaplains

To achieve aim 5 of the project, we have:

4. For the first time in Prisons Week's history provided translation support to deliver a fully translated and designed leaflet identical in quality to the annual English leaflet. Our ambition in 2023 is, for the first time ever, to facilitate a print run to enable churches and prisons across Wales to be able to offer a physical Welsh leaflet alongside the English version.