

Written prayers

Prayer of blessing for our prisons

This prayer was originally written in October 2012, as part of a visual prayer resource for UK prisons available at www.thesanctuarycentre.org/whereworldandworshipmeet-prayer

This focus on blessing our prison service was initially inspired by headlines about [David Cameron saying our prisons must work](#) on 22.10.12, but reflects our wider concern for prisoners, ex-offenders, and those who work so hard to help with rehabilitation.

God of perfect redemption, you laid aside majesty, status and honour to walk, live, love and die among us. And to restore us – broken and sinful though we are – to the people our perfect Father designed us to be.

Today we come to you and lift all your precious children who are in prison. We choose to stand beside those who have knowingly done wrong – whether repentant or unrepentant – as well as those unjustly held, and those trapped by patterns of behaviour rooted in abuse and rejection. For we too have done wrong and choose to put down our stones.

As we have been forgiven, we choose to forgive. As we have received unmerited grace, we choose to offer mercy and welcome as well as justice's consequences.

We bless our prisoners to find true transformation while they are in our system – that they might leave it having experienced redemption, rehabilitation and reconciliation.

Lord Jesus, move in prison wings all over our nation today, that we may see captives set free from the destructive cycles that bind them.

We bless all who work in our prisons – particularly Christians – to demonstrate your love and fairness which bring beauty for ashes, joy from mourning and sets hearts free from the spirit of despair.

We bless all who make decisions about individual institutions and our national system – give them vision, strategy, wisdom, resources and above all love.

And we ask for ourselves Lord that you would remind us of who we visit and who we welcome when we enter prisons and welcome those who have been released.

Amen.