

News from the Office: What a Year!

Peter reminds us that Elijah *"prayed earnestly that it would not rain and for 3 years and 6 months it did not rain. Then he prayed again, and the sky gave rain…"* (1 Peter 5 17f). For three years and six months we have prayed for my time with Daylight and the particular vision that God gave back in 2023. Since then our prayer has been, "LORD, give us the Prisons and use us in such a way that Daylight Prison Chaplains will be remembered as 'the Prison Preachers'".

Right now if there is anywhere in the UK where the veil between heaven and earth is being drawn back it is in our prisons. Hearts are being revived by a deep desire for the Bible; to understand it and apply it to lives that are otherwise on hold waiting for bail, trial, sentencing or release. Many understand that they have no choice but to plead with God for a new life. When they do their joy is made complete, and one will start singing of the 10,000 reasons to worship Him and soon a whole wing is singing along. One then tells another and the invite to chapel on Sunday or to read the Bible together is frequently offered and accepted. Praise God!

This year we have:

… seen our Letter Writing and Written Studies ministries grow hugely; you should see the boxes of post-out fortnightly as the messages are prepared!

…restarted the work in Bristol, grown the work in the North East, and are holding first meetings in South Yorkshire as well as praying for the Isle of Wight.

…sought the LORD's funding for this ministry from additional sources and built new partnerships with churches and other Christian agencies.

… enjoyed prayer weeks and a Workers' Conference, now known as 'Connections', all better supported and blessed.

We have not exhausted the possibilities that God is laying before us, even if some of us are starting to feel a bit exhausted in doing all we can! In January's issue I will share how we plan to go forward next year and beyond to our 25th Anniversary year - June 2029 to June 2030.

Please do get in touch if you want to know more or would like to receive these newsletters monthly. And please keep praying; the last three years and six months have not been a time of drought but still it feels like the greater blessing is coming.

If you would like to support Daylight's work financially, one-off or regular gifts can be made via the 'Donate' tab on our website daylightcpt.org, or call 01245 252735 to make gifts by phone. Cheques made payable to Daylight Christian Prison Trust can be sent to our office address below, and if you would like a Gift Aid or Standing Order Form, please let us know.

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Daylight
CHRISTIAN PRISON TRUST

Daylight Newsletter December 2026

***"No one chooses to go into prison, but it was necessary for my salvation"*. These are the words of Wyatt, a prisoner who recently visited our office while on temporary release.**

One of our Daylight Chaplains first met Wyatt over a decade ago, and over the years that have followed, it has been a joy to support him, seeing him benefit from our Written Studies, as well as working through various correspondence courses. He writes, *"For continuing to remind me that there is still life and hope, even inside my four walls I'm truly thankful."*

For most of the time we have known him, Wyatt has also written to one of our volunteers through our Letter Writing Ministry and has often told us how much this contact means to him, writing, *"I send you thanks and heartfelt gratitude for your friendship that sustains me and the opportunity to resolve, consider and discuss Scripture and theological issues"*.

As he now works towards his release, Wyatt has already researched churches in the area he will be living in, and is keen to go along to these and rebuild his life outside. His visit to our office was a real blessing, and we pray that he will be kept and grow in grace and knowledge of Christ

Give thanks that throughout this year, our Daylight Chaplains have been given many opportunities to speak to individual prisoners; walking with them through difficult times and pointing them to Christ.

It was particularly encouraging to hear from one of our chaplains recently of contact with Amos, a prisoner from a Muslim background who asked for a Bible and has lots of searching questions. Amos has a really sad back story; his father was a drug dealer and took his own life after getting out of his depth in debt, and his mother died as an addict when he was still a child. This then led to him getting involved in drug dealing and substance abuse himself.

Our chaplain was able to leave Amos with some introductory courses and a Bible, and writes, *"I believe God has now begun a work in his heart and will complete it"*. Please pray for Amos and for our chaplain as he continues this contact with him.



December Prayer Points

HMP Birmingham (W. Midlands) – Give thanks for steady numbers at the Bible Study group. The men have recently asked to study Revelation, so please pray for our chaplain as he seeks to provide practical, edifying teaching, and to avoid unhelpful speculation.

HMP Deerbolt (County Durham) – Give thanks for several men who have recently joined the weekly Bible Study group here. The recent studies on the life of Peter have been both an encouragement and a challenge to those attending.

HMP Five Wells (Northamptonshire) – Give thanks that one-to-one visits to prisoners open up profitable opportunities for our chaplain both to come alongside them and to speak truth in love to their often messed up worlds, littered with fractured relationships. Please pray for love and wisdom to bring appropriate Scriptures to bear into their situations.

Please pray for two men who attended the weekly Faith Circle and have recently moved out. It is encouraging to see that the remaining men are keen to recruit others to come along.

Give thanks too for a profitable visit to a nearby church recently. Members from the church have already visited the prison to help with the Alpha Course, and we are now exploring the possibility of a Prayer & Support Group for Five Wells and other prisons in the region. Please pray for the Lord to go before us and prepare His people's hearts to pray.

HMP Hollesley Bay (Suffolk) – A solid believer, W, has been discharged, and another good attender at our Bible Study has been given outside employment which will result in intermittent attendance, understandably, but the Lord sends others along! Indeed, D had been here three or four months before another prisoner convinced him to come to the weekly Bible Study and he's very engaged. Please also continue to pray for N, a Jew, who is becoming very familiar with the New Testament. We long for more than mere familiarity!

J – Please pray for J, a prisoner who has spent over twenty years on an IPP (indeterminate) sentence and has faced constant 'knock backs' at every parole hearing. He is now confident that a hearing in early December should result in release. He is a strong Christian and has been a real blessing to other prisoners, most recently work amongst the vulnerable. Please pray that he will get granted a straight release.

HMP Kirklevington Grange (N. Yorkshire) – Give thanks for continued opportunities to run two services in this open prison each month, and for two prisoners who are keen to share their faith and bring others along. The prison is due to increase its' population by over 50% with building work currently underway, so please pray that this will lead to more men coming along in future.

HMP Leeds (W. Yorkshire) - Give thanks that numbers attending the two Bible Study groups have increased. The men join in well with the discussions that arise during the sessions and there are opportunities to talk to a number of them during refreshment times. One man, Colin,

Continued...

asked for prayer, as he is determined to turn his life around when he is released. Please pray that he will come to understand that for this to happen, he needs Christ as his Saviour.

Give thanks too that a member of our team was able to provide support at the recent Remembrance Service. There was opportunity to speak to a number of men before the service began, but please pray in particular for Jason, who was due to be released to a hostel the next day. He has been to a number of the Bible Study sessions and wishes to join a church outside. Please pray he will be kept on the right path.

HMP New Hall (W. Yorkshire) – Please pray that opportunities to offer support to this prison may be increased.

North Yorkshire – Please pray for two recently retired pastors as they consider becoming Daylight Chaplaincy volunteers at prisons in the region.

HMP Oakwood (W. Midlands) – Give thanks for the opportunity our chaplain had to lead the Remembrance Service last month. Several of the men present were veterans and took part, sharing something of their time in the forces. Please pray for the continued opportunities to lead services here each month.

Give thanks too for the weekly Bible Study group. The men are engaged and learning, and are always so grateful. Like the men at HMP Birmingham, this group have also recently asked to study Revelation.

HMP Sudbury (Derbyshire) – Give thanks for continued opportunities to run monthly services in this open prison. Please pray that our chaplain will be helped as he seeks to clearly present the gospel and for more volunteers to get involved with the ministry here.

HMP Wakefield (W. Yorkshire) – Praise God for the sixteen men who attended the latest Prayer & Reflection Session. Please pray that they will return and that others may come along too.

Please pray that one member of the team, whose clearance came through recently, will be invited to join the next Induction Session, so she can then provide support for some of the Christmas Services and activities.

HMP Warren Hill (Suffolk) – A little while ago, we asked you to pray for L who had been a passionate disciple, but for a week or two seemed to disappear from our groups. Prayer was indeed answered, and he is once again in the regular meetings and going on well spiritually. These "blips" can happen in prison life for a variety of reasons, but please do remember the pressures prisoners face, from within and outside prison too.

Please also pray for C who is going to be leaving prison this month. He has been a fantastic encouragement during the past year or so and our chaplain is sure he is a believer. Please pray that he might connect with a good church where Scripture is taught and Christ is proclaimed.

HMP Wayland (Norfolk) – Give thanks for D, who recently requested to be enrolled into the Daylight Letter Writing Ministry. He is busy doing correspondence courses, so please pray that this will give him a solid Christian foundation and answer some of his many questions.

HMP Wealstun (W. Yorkshire) – Please pray for wisdom for the two members of the group who go into this prison, especially as they begin to undertake new activities.

*Where a prison name is underlined, it indicates that a Daylight chaplain is active there.

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