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## Justice and Peace News & Prayer

### October 2020

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### 1 We Give Thanks For:

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- Sudan's Transitional Government's agreement to separate church from state, ending 30 years of Islamic rule and allowing freedom of religion and belief.  
*Read more at <https://news.barnabasfund.org/Sudan-agrees-to-separate-religion-and-state--ending-30-years-of-Islamic-rule/>*
  - The formal launch of the local CAP (Christians Against Poverty) Debt Centre in the Falmouth/Penryn area  
*Read more at <https://www.budockchurch.org/christians-against-poverty/>*
  - The discovery of "globally significant" reserves of lithium in Cornwall, which has the potential to create hundreds of jobs and begin a new chapter for mining in the county.  
*Read more at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-cornwall-54188071>*
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## 2 New Wood Carvings in Tregonigie Woodland, Falmouth

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A number of Lawson's cypress trees in Tregonigie Woodland had been starting to blow over in the winter gales and potentially become a public hazard. Something needed to be done. Then, with support from Cornwall Council's *Making Space for Nature* programme, rather than simply felling the trees, they were cut at around 8 metres high, with a view to carving them into a feature.

Then lockdown hit.

But, following the easing of restrictions and successful fund-raising by the Friends of Tregonigie Woodland, local wood sculptor Felix Packer was able to start work in August, and images of birds, mammals, fish and leaves started to emerge. With many more people walking in the woods since lockdown, they now have an attractive art installation to enjoy, as well as the natural beauty of the woodland. As the weeks go by, more images are emerging from the cypress trunks. Why not take a walk in the woods and check them out?



*Euan McPhee*

See more at

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/WoodlandFriends/permalink/3266188843476752>

## 3 Homeless Sunday 11 October

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### **A definition of Homelessness:**

A homeless person can be described as someone who does not have a permanent residence. It is where an individual may live on the streets, sleep in a car, stay in a shelter or anywhere that is classed as a non-permanent address. But first of all, we need to see the homeless as our sisters and brothers, who are in a difficult situation and need our attention, time and help. Globally, homelessness is growing and therefore we have a responsibility, both physically and spiritually to those categorised in this area. This article seeks to outline the causes of homelessness and how we can support by offering a prayer for the homeless, poor and hungry.

### **Our Responsibility for the Homeless**

We have a responsibility to provide both physical and spiritual support to those in need. Also we have a duty to feed the hungry and to bless the poor. We also have a responsibility to provide shelter for those who are homeless. We have a duty to clothe those in need and to visit the sick. “For I was hungry, and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in. I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me” (*Matthew 25:35-36*).

Also, we must offer a prayer for the homeless, poor and hungry. A prayer of hope and compassion for those in need. When we show mercy to those who are homeless, poor and hungry we lend unto the Lord. When we demonstrate compassion and love through giving, it is seen as a deposit in the sight of God who grants our larger measures through His grace and divine blessings. *Proverbs 19:17* states “*He who has pity on the poor lends to the Lord, And He will pay back what he has given*”.

Read more at [www.prayray.com/prayer-for-homeless](http://www.prayray.com/prayer-for-homeless)  
<http://housingjustice.org.uk/homeless-sunday-2020>

## **Prayer for the Homeless, Poor and Hungry**

*Heavenly Father we thank you because Your Word says that because You love us, You gave your only begotten Son to die for us. So, we thank you that Your love extends to every ethnic group, all genders, race, colour and socio-economic classifications. Right now, we offer this prayer for the homeless, poor and hungry. We pray that you will bless all men, women and children who may be without shelter across the globe. Also we pray for divine covering and blessing upon the homeless, poor and hungry who have no one to take them in. We pray that Your Holy Spirit will flood them with warmth, security, protection and strength in Jesus Name. And we declare Psalm 46, that you shall be their “refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble”. We pray that they shall not fear even though the mountains may feel as though they are shaking; the Lord of Hosts shall be with them, because the God of Jacob is their refuge. We commit this prayer to You, in Jesus Name. Amen!*



**St Petros's Society** are working to end street homelessness in Cornwall by providing accommodation, support, advice, training and resettlement services to single homeless people.

We believe that for anyone facing homelessness, for whatever reason, there should be the care and support they need to help them.

Read more at

<https://stpetros.org.uk/>

Let us pray for the work of St Petros's Society.



# PRISONS WEEK A WEEK OF PRAYER

The prison population in England and Wales currently stands at 81,536. Children with a parent in prison stands at 95,228. Prisoners are 'out of sight and out of mind' except to the family and friends of prisoners.

**Prisoners Sunday** (11 October) is a National Day of Prayer and Action, for prisoners and their dependants. Marked by the Catholic Church and other Christian denominations, it is a day to direct our thoughts and prayers for prisoners, their families and children. Read more at <https://prisonsweek.org/>.

***"I was in prison and you came to see me" (Matthew 25: 36)***

### **The Prisons Week Prayer**

*Lord, you offer freedom to all people.*

*We pray for those in prison:*

*Break the bonds of fear and isolation that exist.*

*Support with your love, prisoners and their families and friends, prison staff and all who care;*

*Heal those who have been wounded by the actions of others, especially the victims of crime;*

*Help us to forgive one another, to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly together*

*With Christ in his strength and in his Spirit, now and every day. Amen*

### **PACT (Prison Advice and Care Trust)**

We pray too for the work of PACT, a Catholic charity providing support for prisoners, their families and children. They provide family visitor centres, children's play centres inside prison, visitor halls and 'first night in custody support'. We pray for those in prison ministry, as they endeavour to be a presence of Jesus, of hope, and mercy. Read more about PACT at <https://www.prisonadvice.org.uk/>.



### **Praying with Prisoners**

*Spirit of Grace and Truth*

*We ask for your constant presence through the days, weeks, months and years of imprisonment*

*For your steady refusal to be shut out by cell walls, steel doors, of reluctant and stubborn hearts*

*Break through the fear and isolation, shatter all pretence and deceit*

*Guide our thoughts and actions setting before us the example of Jesus, the prisoner*

*Bring us face to face with the unlimited and sacrificial love of God for all his children*

*So that we can know we are not alone*

A recent **Government White Paper** (16/9/20), *A Smarter Approach to Sentencing*, plans to ensure that:

- Punishment is suitable for the crime committed
- Work is done to tackle the many complex causes of crime
- Opportunity is provided for support to reform those who truly want to turn their back on crime

Read more at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/a-smarter-approach-to-sentencing>



### Lifelines

Lifelines was established almost 30 years ago and has been supporting men and women on Death Rows in the USA. Some prisoners have been on death row for 30 years!!! There is slowly, an increase in those seeking to abolish the death penalty. Most prisoners on death row have lost contact with all family and friends. For more information, please visit: [www.LifeLines-uk.org.uk](http://www.LifeLines-uk.org.uk)

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***Justice & Peace News and Prayer*** is compiled by Mary Bradley on behalf of the Justice & Peace Action Group, Falmouth & Penryn Churches Together. Any comments or items for inclusion may be sent to [mary@corisande.plus.com](mailto:mary@corisande.plus.com).



## 5 Supporting Persecuted Christians

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*“We believe in the power of prayer to bring about change” (Christian Solidarity Worldwide).*

There has been no lockdown on persecution.



Our focus this month is on **Burma/Myanmar**.

For decades the Burmese government has prioritised military spending over health spending, leaving little to deal with the Corona virus. There is a long history of attacks on religious minorities; many are [Kachin](#) or [Chin](#) Christians and [Rohingya](#) Muslims have been forced to leave their homes and have lost everything. The government restricts the aid they receive.

- *Let us pray for these minorities, for protection, provision and courage.*
- *Let us support the international and NGO agencies trying to help them.*
- *We pray for an end to violence and military attacks and for a just and equal society.*

Read more at:

Open Doors: <https://www.opendoorsuk.org/persecution/world-watch-list/myanmar/>

CSW: <https://www.csw.org.uk/realchangeburma>

Barnabas Fund: <https://barnabasfund.org/countries/Myanmar-Burma/>

Aid to the Church in Need: <https://acnuk.org/search/?q=myanmar>