

## Prayer Focus - July 2025

### Volunteers and General

**Pray for our AGM in September as we update supporters on the work that has taken place in the past year. Pray that many hearts would be encouraged as they listen to faithful stories of lives being impacted.**

Pray for staff and volunteers taking rest over the summer. Pray for their families that they would enjoy time together and feel renewed for the next season of ministry.

Praise God for our bible college placement students this year. Both Ricky and Deborah have been a great asset to the ministry of PF.

### Prisons - Female

**Please pray for a lady R. who hasn't been in custody before. Pray that she would settle into life in prison and that she would be able to get the help and support she needs.**

Please pray for W. who has been coming along to *Lifesplan*. Pray that she would feel encouraged and grow in her understanding of what it means to trust in Jesus.

Please pray for C. who is concerned for her family on the outside. Pray that we would be able to help both her inside and the family on the outside and that she would know God's peace in her life.

### Family Support

**Pray for the 'Prayer Group' and 'Support Group' which are meeting in Ballymena during July.**

Pray for M. as he adapts to life upon release from prison and especially that he will build up a good support network. Thank God for the support of his mum and son and pray for them also.

Pray for those families affected by crime, for whom the summer holidays can be a difficult time.

### Aftercare - Female

**Pray for N. who was recently released from prison. She has suffered massive trauma. Simply pray that she would feel strong enough to rebuild her life and gain a new community of support.**

Pray for R. who continues on her post rehab journey. May she believe in herself, stay strong and remember what she has learnt from His word over the years.

We hope to have an *Instilling Hope* trip in July (to simply enjoy the outdoors and some treats). Pray that the women would come along and have fun!

### Aftercare - Male

**Give thanks for K. who has secured full-time employment. Pray as he journeys in faith in this welcome step.**

Please pray for S. who has been released but is facing fresh charges and struggles with addiction.

Praise God for the Wednesday *Lifesplan* group, for the men who attend and the faithfulness of the volunteers and workers.

### Prisons - Male

**Please pray for G. who has been asking a lot of questions about God and wants to have a genuine relationship with Him but doesn't know how. Pray for God to open his eyes and heart to have an encounter with Jesus.**

Pray for C. who continues to self harm. Pray that he will see our God is a God of second chances and that if he genuinely asks God into his life, God will answer.

Please pray for D. who is serving a considerable sentence in prison and finds himself struggling with his addictions and has difficulties with his mum and dad.

## OFFERING HOPE & A NEW BEGINNING

### Thank you PW!

On behalf of everyone at PFNI, we want to **thank the Presbyterian Women (PW)** for their generous support over the past year. We've truly seen God's faithfulness at work through your kindness.

As the *Official Presbyterian Women's Special Home Missions Project 2024/2025*, our staff had the joy of visiting many PW groups and church services—moments that encouraged us deeply. Everyone gave us a warm welcome and generous hospitality, and it meant so much.

PW's support, giving, and faithful prayer, have made a lasting impact. The women we walk alongside are deeply moved by the simple truth that someone cares. One highlight was a beautiful Christmas dinner themed *The Gift That Keeps Giving*. The women enjoyed a three-course meal, a carol service, and received meaningful gifts.

We were delighted to have Pauline and Ellen join us, and more recently, Ellen and Linda came to our Easter gathering. Each woman received a Bible verse and shared what it meant to them—powerful moments of transformation.

We're excited to launch a new *Instilling Hope* group in Belfast and invite PW and all of our supporters to continue this journey with us.

With heartfelt thanks,  
**Lynne**



Watch video: [youtu.be/ch1YEwKQcRM](https://youtu.be/ch1YEwKQcRM)

## Open Arms

The 15th June celebrated *Father's Day* to recognise dads and father figures for their roles in families and societies. In 1972, President Nixon signed the day into law and it spread across the world. Now, Dad gets breakfast in bed, an 'I love you' card, and a big hug on that Sunday morning.

But not all dads get to enjoy Father's Day.

People assume that being locked in a cell is the punishment for a crime. That pales in comparison to the true sentence for those with families. Regardless of the offence, many men cannot cope on the 'inside' being apart from their children.

However, some fathers get to see their families during a monthly or weekly visit. Others are able to speak on the phone before lock-up. Initiatives like 'Tales for Tots' allow fathers to record bedtime stories. When the metal gate finally opens they see their children sprinting towards them, arms opened wide, ready to reunite with their dads.

The story of the *Prodigal Son* comes to mind, but in reverse. The youngest son leaves his father to live a wayward life. Only when he faces starvation does he return to his dad to beg for a job. Luke 15:20 says: *But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.*

But not all dads get to enjoy those blessings.

Please remember those fathers who cannot be reunited with their families. Pray for their heartache. Pray that God will give them peace and that they may know that their heavenly Father still loves them with open arms.

And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

Luke 11:9



## The Royal Garden Party

On the 7th May, I was given the fantastic opportunity to attend the royal garden party at Buckingham Palace on behalf of Prison Fellowship, specifically *Sycamore Tree*. It was a privilege to be nominated to attend by the Northern Ireland Prison Service.

I was able to bring a guest so I was delighted to be able to ask my mum, particularly as she had previously volunteered on *Sycamore Tree* courses in Magilligan.

On the morning of the event, we were waiting with other guests at the front of Buckingham Palace, when they opened the gates and ushered us in. A surreal moment for sure! We were treated to afternoon tea in the garden before the national anthem sounded and the King, Queen and other members of their family joined the event.

With 8,000 guests, we did not unfortunately meet any of the Royal Family, however, it was a wonderful day which we were privileged to be invited to and we were privileged to be invited to and represent the work of Prison Fellowship Northern Ireland.



Interested in praying for the work of PFNI?  
Visit [pfni.org/pray](https://pfni.org/pray)

## Buns, Burgers and Blessings

On Tuesday 3rd June, volunteers, friends, and staff of Prison Fellowship Northern Ireland gathered at Muckamore Presbyterian Church for what has become a highlight in the calendar: our annual Volunteer and Friends' BBQ.

I arrived just in time to see the first burgers come off the grill—and judging by the laughter and long queue, I wasn't the only one ready for a good meal and some even better company.

There's something special about the aroma of barbecued food and familiar voices catching up after a busy year. The tables were overflowing with sizzling sausages and skewered chicken, and afterwards, homemade desserts generously brought along by volunteers and their families. From traybakes to trifles, it felt like a celebration in every sense.

But this wasn't just a social gathering. It was a heartfelt thank you—to the people who give their time, energy, and prayers to walk alongside those affected by imprisonment. As stories were shared and updates given, you could feel the gratitude in the room. Volunteers who visit women and men in prison, pray in small groups, help with transport, support families, cook meals, write cards—all were recognised, all were valued.

A moment that really stuck with me was hearing how two new prayer groups are starting up. In the middle of all the

busyness, people are still making time to pray. And that's something we want to see more of. If you're reading this and wondering how to get involved—**start with prayer**. Maybe even gather a few others and begin a group. Prayer has always been the backbone of this work.

God has been faithful this past year. Through every visit, every conversation, every silent prayer, His love has been at work. And we know He's not finished yet.

So thank you to everyone who came: the PFNI staff for organising and delivering the event, to Muckamore Presbyterian for their kindness in hosting us, and to our volunteers and friends—thank you for caring. And if you brought one of those homemade pavlovas... thank you double!



## Life Skills with Christians Against Poverty

"Life Skills" is the newest of the community group courses that Christians Against Poverty (CAP) has available, 'to inspire and equip churches across the UK to help people out of debt and poverty and see them become followers of Jesus.'

For 8 weeks from the end of February 2025, our *Life Skills* team, normally based at Lowe Presbyterian Finaghy, ran the course in PF headquarters. It was such a positive experience to meet Neil and seven others on a weekly basis. As we worked our way through the *Life Skills* course looking at four big areas: money, organisation, health, wellbeing, and relationships. From the feedback, the course was effective in

helping the guys using the services of PF to better manage their money and three of them dipped into a more in-depth money management course and completed budgets.

The sessions were varied, interactive and if the attendance was anything to go by, enjoyable for us all. Perhaps the most encouraging thing for our team was appreciation of "the way your group came in and accepted us, it's not always the case believe me, but you were all so helpful and non-judgemental towards us"

I know that many of you prayed for us during the course; thanks, our team appreciated it. We counted our time at PF a privilege as together we built each other up in our most Holy Faith, and everyone qualified for a certificate and an Easter Egg!

**Nan Hill**  
CAP Life Skills Manager Lowe Church



Considering becoming a volunteer?  
Visit [pfni.org/volunteer](https://pfni.org/volunteer)



## Thank you, Stuart

It has been such a joy and a pleasure sharing the CAP Life Skills journey with all you guys at PFNI. As well as the life skills which you have hopefully acquired and developed. We too have learned so much from you about loyalty, perseverance, dedication and faith.

Thank you for all your hospitality. We will always remember you with love and gratitude for everything you have shared with us, blessed us in so many ways.

**Nan, Terry, Ray, June and Gladys**



## THANK YOU

I attended the CAP course and found it to be very helpful with lots of tips for saving money. The CAP team who held the course were incredible. Very helpful, cheerful, chatty and non judgemental. K

## THANK YOU

It was great to be part of the CAP Life Skills Course. It was more than just a class. We were put at ease from the start which meant we were able to share ideas and stories of our lives. The advice had variety, there were some fun activities and I want to try making ice cream from bananas. You will have to take the course to find out how. Things have been so hard lately, I am very grateful that there are people out there who can help. S