



Volunteering with Prison Fellowship

**“A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out.
In faithfulness he will bring forth justice;” Isaiah 42:3**

Welcome Letter



Thank you for your interest in volunteering with Prison Fellowship NI. Our work depends on people like you who feel led to bring hope, compassion, and practical support to those affected by imprisonment. Our volunteers work alongside staff members to demonstrate God's love to prisoners, ex-prisoners & their families.

In this booklet you will find the following information:

- **Mission Statement, Introduction, & Background**
- **Aims & Objectives**
- **Ethos Statement & Equal Opportunities Policy**
- **Basis of Faith**
- **Volunteering Opportunities**
- **Expectations of Volunteers**

Please take some time to read through the enclosed information. If you feel that God would have you serve with us in Prison Fellowship, we'll get you an application form. If you've questions before that, please give me a call—or we can meet to discuss the work of PF.

Once the application form is submitted, and references received, I will meet with you and discuss in more detail how you can be involved.

If, however, you feel that you cannot commit to volunteer with us now but would like to receive our Prayer Focus and Newsletter, please let me know and I will add you to our mailing list.

I Look forward to hearing from you.

God bless.

Volunteer Co-ordinator

Prison Fellowship Northern Ireland

Ethos Statement



The ethos of Prison Fellowship is rooted in our faith in Jesus Christ and in his love which compels us to serve others, putting their needs first. It is the motivation for all our work – it is the reason why we do what we do. It is to work together to extend Jesus’ model of the Kingdom of God on earth by living out a lifestyle of love, truth, justice, mercy and forgiveness according to his teaching. We are inspired by the message, life and example of Jesus through which God’s unconditional love for all people is expressed.

Our ethos or motivation is given life through our relationships. The way we work together and behave with one another, demonstrate and authenticate our ethos. Our faith directs and influences our internal relationships as well as our relationships with those whom we seek to serve.

In this way Prison Fellowship operates on the understanding that our activities are simply an outworking of our faith; that our ‘doing’ derives directly from our ‘being’. There is an essential and indissoluble link between the inner and the outer, the private life and the public face of Prison Fellowship. The link between who we are and what we do cannot be broken.

Equal Opportunities Policy

In the provision of services, and the employment of staff and volunteers to provide these services, Prison Fellowship Northern Ireland will seek to ensure equality of opportunity and treatment of all persons.

All employees and volunteers must be sympathetic with and positively disposed to the objects contained in the Prison Fellowship Northern Ireland Ethos statement and Basis of Faith.

No person or group of persons receiving services will be treated less favourably than any other person or group of persons because of their race, colour, ethnic or national origin, or because of their religion, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, disabilities or appearance.

Basis of Faith



We believe in...

- The one true God who lives eternally in three persons - the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
- The love, grace and sovereignty of God in creating, sustaining, ruling, redeeming and judging the world.
- The divine inspiration and supreme authority of the Old and New Testament Scriptures, which are the written Word of God - fully trustworthy for faith and conduct.
- The dignity of all people, made male and female in God's image to love, be holy and care for creation, yet corrupted by sin, which incurs divine wrath and judgement.
- The incarnation of God's eternal Son, the Lord Jesus Christ — born of the virgin Mary, truly divine and truly human, yet without sin.
- The atoning sacrifice of Christ on the cross: dying in our place, paying the price of sin and defeating evil, so reconciling us with God.
- The bodily resurrection of Christ, the first fruit of our resurrection; his ascension to the Father, and his reign and mediation as the only Saviour of the world.
- The justification of sinners solely by the grace of God through faith in Christ.
- The ministry of God the Holy Spirit, who leads us to repentance, unites us with Christ through new birth, empowers our discipleship and enables our witness.
- The Church, the body of Christ both local and universal, the priesthood of all believers— given life by the Spirit and endowed with the Spirit's gifts to worship God and proclaim the gospel, promoting justice and love.
- The personal and visible return of Jesus Christ to fulfil the purposes of God, who will raise all people to judgement, bring eternal life to the redeemed and eternal condemnation to the lost, and establish a new heaven and new earth.

Mission Statement



Prison Fellowship is a Christian organisation which provides spiritual, emotional and practical support to prisoners, former prisoners and their families.

Introduction

Prison Fellowship Northern Ireland believes wholly in the power of God to transform lives. The Christian message proclaims the truth that none of us is beyond help – with faith there is hope and a new beginning.

The Prison Fellowship Logo, the bruised reed of Isaiah 42:3, is to remind us that our ministry is to those who have been bruised, marred, hurt or broken: to prisoners, released prisoners, and their families.

The message of hope is that Jesus Christ, in whose name we conduct this ministry, is the One who came to “open the eyes that are blind, to free the captives from prison and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness” Isaiah 61:1.

Background

Established in 1981, Prison Fellowship Northern Ireland is a Christian organisation serving the community in Northern Ireland.

It is affiliated to Prison Fellowship International, a worldwide organisation working with prisoners, released prisoners and their families.

Prison Fellowship is constituted as a company limited by guarantee and accepted as a charity by Inland Revenue. Its affairs are administered by a board of professionals and lay people.

The work is carried out by a Chief Executive and a small staff team supported by volunteers.

Aims & Objectives



- To share the Christian faith with men and woman in prison irrespective of their religious or political backgrounds.
- To show Christian love and friendship to all prisoners, both during their detention and after release.
- To support and provide practical care for prisoners' families throughout the separation.
- To exhort and assist local churches to minister to prisoners, released prisoners and their families.
- To inform, support, challenge and encourage adults and young people who are, or have been, in lawful custody, by means of educational and other programmes, individual counselling, group activities, practical help and other measures.
- To challenge and encourage those who are, or have been, in lawful custody to reflect on their past attitudes and actions and on the individuals and groups who may have been victims of their crimes, the aim being to help bring about a change in thinking and lifestyle.
- To help maintain and strengthen the links between those who are, or have been, in lawful custody and their spouses, partners, parents, children, siblings and other family members and to help and support those family members where desirable and possible, through practical help, advice and other measures.
- To support and encourage Prison Governors, Chaplains and Officers, and other staff, in their efforts to maintain and develop regimes which will assist towards the rehabilitation of offenders and the protection of society.
- To assist the process of assimilating back into society those who are or have been in lawful custody.
- To promote greater recognition of the effects of crime on those who have been its victims, whether directly or indirectly, and on society.

Volunteering Opportunities



There are 6 main areas of ministry within Prison Fellowship.

PRISONERS

- Visiting one to one Weekly meetings
- Bible Studies
- Special Events Sycamore Tree (Restorative Justice Programme)
- Letter Writing

EX-PRISONERS

- Visiting (Befriending, and advice)
- Practical support in areas of work, accommodation etc
- Introduction to a local Church
- Weekly Bible Study

FAMILIES

- Visiting (befriending and advice)
- Practical Assistance Transport to prison for visits
- Introduction to a local church
- Family support group

PRAYER MINISTRY

- Daily individual prayer (using our Prayer Focus)
- Intercessory prayer (when specific needs arise)
- Monthly prayer groups

OFFICE ADMINISTRATION

- At our centre: 39 University Street, Belfast BY7 1FY

CHRISTMAS HOPE APPEAL

- Supplying groceries & toys for hampers
- Wrapping toys
- Delivering hampers to families of prisoners

Please note we do not always have opportunities for volunteers in each of the areas above.

Before volunteering, we ask that people are willing to:

- Agree with the Prison Fellowship Basis of Faith & Ethos Statement.
 - Attend a local Church.
- Attend a local Prison Fellowship prayer group. As prayer is at the core of all we do in Prison Fellowship, we feel it's important that volunteers are in a prayer group to pray for the work & also for them to be prayed for personally as they serve. We continue to seek to establish new prayer groups if there isn't one in your locale.
- Commit to volunteering with PFNI consistently for a minimum period of at least a year.
 - Attend training days where possible.
 - Feedback regularly to PF staff.

**Prison Fellowship depends on volunteers to carry out this work.
Will you serve with us and help restore hope where it's needed
most?**