

THANKSGIVING THROUGH SERVICE

Autumn 2026

Freedom

Prisoners often look forward to a time without the restrictions of custody, often viewed through the lens of what they have lost.

Yet for others, the loss of personal freedom can bring freedom from addiction. Some come to realise that their lives were so out of control that prison may have saved them from more serious consequences.

Sadly, many refer to prison as the 'revolving door'. A short period of freedom can be followed by a return to custody due to homelessness, drugs or alcohol, old friends, or simply becoming institutionalised.

Our staff and volunteers do amazing work walking alongside those we serve, but we cannot set people completely free. A few days of abstinence can be a great achievement, but lasting freedom can be difficult to sustain in our own strength.

That is why I love the words of John 8:36: "If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." The freedom Jesus offers is not temporary, but complete, lasting and eternal.

Prison Fellowship seeks to show men and women that true freedom is not simply found when we walk out through the prison gates to 'the free world'. It can only be found through a transformed heart, leading to a transformed life.

This journey is not without its challenges, disappointments and failings. But we do not walk it alone. With the help of God's Holy Spirit, there is always hope.

Join us in bringing this message of freedom to those in prison, those who have been released, and their families.

Robin Scott

CEO Prison Fellowship Northern Ireland



Christianity Explored

We are delighted that a seven-week Christianity Explored course has launched for women from our 'Instilling Hope' aftercare support group and some new guests. Using Mark's Gospel, the course explores big life questions and helps the women discover who Jesus is, why He came and what that means for our lives.

I and my team of volunteers would love you to be part of it through prayer. We will keep you updated through Prayer Focus, and thank you for your continued support

Lynne

Prison Fellowship Library

Have you ever read a book that has impacted your life? Would you want a man or woman released from prison to read that book too?



Out of prayer and a love for books, we have opened a small library at the PF Centre, with over 140 books available for our guests at No. 39.

Christian bookshops and authors have generously donated many of them. If you would like to donate a copy of your favourite book, please get in contact with Ali. We have one shelf free and a lot of men and women with a desire to read!

Hope at Christmas

Christmas can be an especially difficult time for families affected by imprisonment. Through *Christmas Hope*, Prison Fellowship provides toys and hampers, bringing practical support and reminding families that they have not been forgotten.

Preparations are already underway, and we need people to stand with us. Whether through giving, volunteering to deliver toys and hampers, or praying for the families we serve, you can help us share hope this Christmas. Visit pfni.org for more details.



Hydebank Football Volunteers

The young men at Hydebank College are as big football fans as the volunteers who came to play them over the summer. During half-time, one of the men shared his own life story and how God had saved and blessed him.



David Burke



Matthew Fitch



Will Martin

David Burke: I was greatly encouraged by how well the lads listened to and engaged with the short talk each week, and pray that it will sink into their hearts.

Will Martin: I really enjoyed getting to volunteer with Prison Fellowship. Getting to go in and play five-a-side for an hour and just have a chance to hear the stories from some of the guys and share a bit of hope with them in return was a real blessing!



Iain Neill



Keith Dorman



Andrew Hume

Iain Neill: Volunteering with the prison ministry football was a real privilege. It was a great chance to encourage the lads and show something of the love and hope of Jesus. I hope they came away knowing they are valued and that their future can be different.

Matthew Fitch: Having come from a family with a long history with PFNI, this was the first time I've personally been involved with their outreach. Playing football with the guys provided a great opportunity for me to share about my faith and story with them.

Keith Dorman: The football ministry was brilliant. After feeling a little apprehensive (mostly about my fitness!), it became a real highlight of my week. The guys seemed to love it and it was great to get to know them a little bit more each time we played. Would highly recommend!

Andrew Hume: I wanted to share my love of playing the beautiful game, show them that a 42-year-old can still outdo the young ones, and, most importantly, demonstrating that as believers we care deeply about each of them because Christ first loved us. I pray these guys cry out to Jesus and give their hearts to Him to be forever changed.



North West Volunteers BBQ

The volunteers made their way to the annual barbeque on 28th August, drawn by the smell of delicious burgers, chicken skewers and sausages, all cooked by our talented team of PF staff. The weather was wonderful and everyone joined together in praise of what God has done in Magilligan and the North West region while enjoying great banter and a generous slice of pavlova!



No judgement, just the hope of the gospel

My first time being in prison, and I'm not ashamed to say, I was terrified and felt very alone. After a few weeks, Alistair introduced himself to me on my wing. He told me he was a volunteer with PF and wanted to share the gospel of Christ and pray with me.

I was already a believer, but had fallen from grace. I couldn't believe that Alistair and others would give up their time to tell prisoners about forgiveness and a new start. Later I met Paul, who was so eager to spend time with prisoners. No judgement, just the hope of the gospel.

I enrolled on the Sycamore Tree course led by Claire. The impact crime has on a victim is the part I found most difficult, but also the most beneficial. After a short sentence, I was released from custody to start a new beginning.

Filled with fear of the future, I contacted PF in Belfast. I was introduced to Neil who spends a lot of time helping prisoners on the outside, encouraging men to build a new structure in life, but also encouraging us to give back to society in a practical way.

Meeting weekly with other ex-prisoners for Bible study with tea, buns, and lunch has been such a blessing for me, and my family are so thankful for the support I receive. PF supports and encourages people at their lowest point in life and gently helps them with a new beginning. I love PF.

T.

Prisons - Female

Please pray for a lady B. who is going through a difficult time. Pray she would receive the right support in custody and that she would know God's presence.

Please pray for M. who is nervous about an upcoming court appearance. Ask God that she would know His strength.

Remember M. who had come to faith before going into custody. Pray that as she spends time in God's word, she would be encouraged and strengthened. Give thanks for her church family who are supporting her.

Family Support

Pray for R, that she and her son will settle into a good routine now that he is home. Pray for peace.

Pray for H. as she prepares for the release of her husband and that they will have good support.

Many families make a weekly journey to the prison and also have Zoom calls. Pray that good relationships will be sustained and built upon despite the distance and challenges.

Aftercare - Female

Give thanks that A. now has contact with her siblings. She has worked hard for this and it has encouraged her so much. Pray she will stay strong.

Give thanks for volunteers who serve with PF. They give so much. Pray they will each feel valued and encouraged.

D. is using her gifts and experience to write a devotional book. This is amazing! Pray for her as she writes that she will be strengthened and encouraged and that many lives will be touched for His glory through the book.

Aftercare - Male

Please pray and give thanks for all those who support us financially. The Lord's work in aftercare to men released from prison is never ceasing. We trust Him for provision each day to help those most in need. Thank you for partnering with us on this journey.

W. is in debt and has little or no income. Please pray for safety from those who would seek to intimidate and pressure him. We need a miracle in this man's finances and his life going forwards.

Thank you for praying for S. He got the keys and has moved into his new flat. Please pray he will take this opportunity to get back with God and seek His face in everything he does. Continue to pray for G. and all those homeless released prisoners trying to find a home.

Prisons - Male

Pray for the Sycamore Tree courses running Sep/Oct. Pray for each of the men and women who will attend the four courses across the three prison sites.

Pray for the New Life Foundation Group recently set up by prisoners, supported by staff and Prison Fellowship at HMP Maghaberry. The group is currently experiencing difficulties between themselves resulting in its suspension for the foreseeable future. We ask the Lord to gel the group together once again for the betterment of all concerned.

Please pray for the NI Prison Service in its entirety. It's no secret that numbers throughout the three prison sites are at an all-time high which in itself presents numerous challenges. We ask that the Lord may keep all staff safe from harm and that they be able to cope with the ongoing pressures of work and home life balance.

Volunteers and General

As we start the new season's work, we give thanks for the members of our prayer groups who meet every month to pray for the ministry. Give thanks for their commitment.

Work has already commenced on Christmas Hope and we value your prayers for all the preparations that need to be put in place to ensure this project runs well. We will need volunteers who are willing to deliver hampers and toys.

As we look forward to the winter season, please pray for new openings to share about the ministry of Prison Fellowship across the country. We depend on the faithful practical and prayerful support of churches and fellowships.

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Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. - **Colossians 4:2**