

LOVING SERVICE OF THE WORLD

Criminal Justice



Diocese of
Leicester
Shaped by God

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Prisons week

Prisons Week was formed to pray for and raise awareness of the needs of prisoners and their families, victims of offenders, prison staff and all those who care. The [Prisons Week website](#) provides prayer pointers and other food for thought.

Of the **three prisons in our Diocese**, HMP Leicester is a Category B local prison serving the courts in Leicester and Loughborough. It houses around 350 men from the age of 21, mainly on remand or recall. Once men are sentenced they tend to move to a longer-term establishment. HMP Gartree houses around 700 adult men, many on long or indeterminate sentences.

HMP/YOI Fosse Way is a newly built privately run prison on the site of the former HMYOI Glen Parva. When fully open it will house around 1930 men.

Chaplaincies provide not only specific faith-based provision for all the main faiths but also pastoral care. Every incoming prisoner should be seen by a Chaplain, regardless of faith or not, and from these conversations further action may follow. All Chaplaincy teams are multi-faith.

Volunteering within our local prisons

The Official Prison Visitors Scheme trains and equips individuals who then visit prisoners who would not otherwise receive any visitors. These are often foreign national prisoner with no family in the UK. OPVs come into the visits hall with other visitors. Their contribution is greatly appreciated.

The Prison Fellowship provide the Sycamore Tree course which is a restorative justice initiative and run the Angel Tree scheme in which volunteers provide Christmas presents for the children of those in custody.

Individuals from various faith communities also volunteer in prisons, providing pastoral support, study, music and other activities.

If you are interested in volunteering do contact your local prison chaplaincy team.

Other sources of information

- [Prison Reform Trust](#): Informs and influences public debate on prison conditions and the treatment of prisoners. Good source of information on a wide range of issues, research documents and links.
- [Criminal Justice Alliance](#): Coalition of 70 organisations committed to improving the criminal justice system.

- [Howard League for Penal Reform](#): Very full website with plenty of background information.
- [Justice](#): An all-party law reform and human rights organisation.

Restorative Justice

- [Government Action Plan](#)
- [Restorative Justice Council](#)

For victims of crime

- [Victim support](#): Also supports witnesses and has a helpline.

Working with offenders and their families

- [National Association of Prison Visitors](#): Recruits and trains volunteers to visit prisoners who have no other visitors.
- [PACT](#): Supports prisoners and their families in making a fresh start. Strong Roman Catholic social gospel roots.
- [Community Chaplaincy Association](#): Community Chaplaincies assist ex-offenders through the prison gate and back into society. At the moment there is no scheme operating in Leicestershire.
- [Clinks](#): National organisation supporting voluntary organisations working with prisoners and their families.
- [NACRO](#): Crime reduction charity working with offenders in jail on issues such as substance misuse, housing, employability. Has a helpline.
- [Prison Fellowship](#): Prayer cells, volunteers working in prison, Angel Tree project providing Christmas gifts to prisoners' children and other activities. Informative website. They welcome volunteers to help in their work.
- [Caring for Prison Leavers](#): Christian organisation with headquarters at Holy Trinity, Brompton but works through churches in other areas also, to support individuals coming out of prison to resettle and join a church community.
- [Unlock Charity](#): founded by former prisoners to help people with convictions. Provides information and support for both ex-prisoners and organisations. Has a help line.