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SACRO, National Office

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www.sacro.org.uk

Victim Support Scotland

15/23 Hardwell Close, Edinburgh EH8 9RX
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www.victimssupportsco.org.uk

Scottish Prison Service HQ

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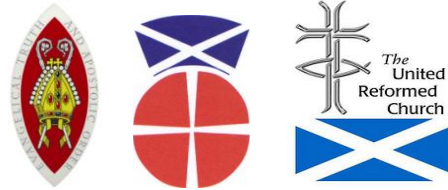
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Monthly leaflets downloadable from
www.scotland.anglican.org/index.php/church_in_society_committee/

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FAITH in ACTION

April



Prisons

Many prisoners spend long sentences and do not receive visits from family or friends. Often, families have deliberately cut themselves off from the offender. It is hard for prisoners who do not receive visits to see others going off to the Visits Hall.

You may wish to try the following:

- Pray for those in prison
- Visit a prisoner. There are several volunteer visiting schemes. If you are interested in visiting prisoners contact one of the organisations or the Chaplaincy at your local prison.
- Welcome ex-offenders. Many prisoners experience isolation and discrimination on release. Is your Congregation welcoming to ex-offenders? Can you offer support? Families of prisoners experience difficulties too. They serve the sentence as well, often experiencing hardship and hostility in their local community. Are there families of offenders living in your parish? Can you offer them support?
- Make contact with your local Victim Support Group. Crime occurs anywhere and everywhere. There are many victims of crime, sometimes vulnerable people, the elderly, those living alone. It is certain that people in your area have been victims. What can you do to support them? Help the elderly and those living alone to minimise the likelihood of crime by ensuring their homes are as secure as possible. Keep an eye on them.
- Keep up-to-date with the Scottish Parliament and Criminal Justice. Does the Scottish Government get it right? Prison is not the answer for many offenders whose sentences are too short to do any good. They are sent to prison for relatively minor offences. The Courts do have alternatives available but seem reluctant to use them.

PRAYERS

For the Victims of Crime

Lord, your Son was a victim.

We pray for the victims of crime;

For those whose lives are changed for ever.

For those who live in fear.

For those who have lost their faith and trust
in their fellow human beings.

Restore them by your grace and move them
to forgiveness;

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN

For Prisoners and Their Families

Lord, you know that prison life is hard, and
that many find it difficult to cope.

We pray for vulnerable prisoners.

For those beginning long sentences.

For those preparing for release.

For those seeking to change their lives.

We pray for the families of prisoners who
often suffer discrimination and hardship.

Strengthen them and help them with your
love;

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN

For Chaplains

Lord, your Son is found in prison, and many
seek to know him there.

Bless your Priests, Ministers and Members of
Religious Orders who work as Chaplains in
our prisons.

Strengthen them in their faith, and grant them
wisdom, understanding and compassion, as
they seek to minister to men and women in
prison and to make known your love, grace
and forgiveness.

We ask this through Jesus Christ,
your Son, our Lord.

AMEN

For Prison Staff

Lord, we pray for those who make our laws and
for those who enforce them.

We pray for prison governors and prison staff,
who work often in difficult and dangerous
conditions.

Grant that they may work with understanding and
fairness, without becoming hardened, cynical
or judgemental; through Jesus Christ our
Lord.

AMEN