

Lord Have Mercy

Prisons Week at Norwich Cathedral

Prisons Week, 9-16 October, raises awareness and generates prayer. It motivates volunteers to step forward and give their time and gifts, in prisons and in communities. It provides an annual focus and reason for Christians to work together, building capacity and motivation to make a difference for people who are out of sight and often out of mind.

"The service is important for three reasons. First, it is a recognition of the vital role of law in our society. Law is necessary to preserve order and safety and, at the same time, to safeguard individual rights.

"Second, the service is an opportunity for us to gather in our Mother Church to give thanks for and to pray for all those involved in the administration of the law in our local community. These include not only judges, magistrates, lawyers, police officers and probation workers but also a whole range of people involved in statutory and voluntary organisations including those promoting the rehabilitation of offenders.

"Third, the service is an acknowledgment that God is the source of all justice and in serving him we must work for justice for everyone – justice which not only protects us all but which is executed independently and fairly and, where appropriate, with sensitivity and compassion." Everyone is welcome to attend the service which is hosted by the High Sheriff of Norfolk, Major General Sir William Cubitt, in association with the Dean and Chapter.

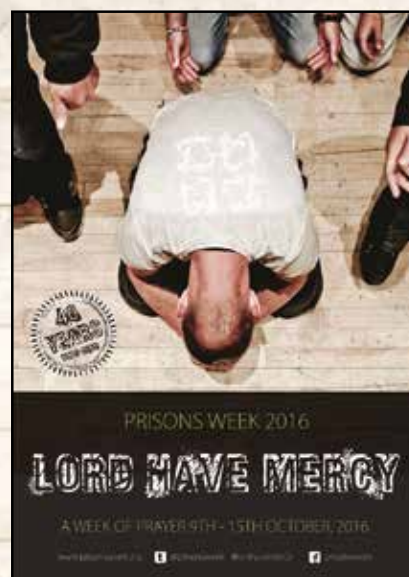
encouragement, listening, and prayer can make to individuals," Brigid continues. "The service will include members of staff from all three prisons in Norfolk and there will be the opportunity to talk with them about their work after the service."

For the first time Norwich Cathedral will be hosting the Diocesan Prison Week Service on Monday 10 October at 5.30pm. "We shall be seeking to focus attention not only on the needs of prisoners, but on all those involved and affected by prison, prisoners families, victims of crime, prison staff, those working in other parts of criminal justice and many volunteers," explains Brigid Everitt, a committed supporter of Prisons Week.

"I worked in East Anglian prisons for 20 years in the Education Departments. I was able to see and experience first-hand the difference support through

Following on from Prisons Week, the civic Criminal Justice Service, hosted annually by Norwich Cathedral, will be held on 16 October at 11.30am. The Justice Service, organised by the High Sherriff of Norfolk, had its beginning in 1166, as a welcome to judges, who were sent into the counties to ensure that justice was being dispensed fairly.

William Armstrong has spent over 40 years in courts and tribunals; as an advocate, a tribunal judge and coroner, and he echoes Brigid's thoughts: "I have always valued and appreciated the Annual Justice Service and found it an inspiring, uplifting and meaningful occasion.



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