

PRAYER FOR PARLIAMENT

Notes of Prayer Meeting Wednesday 20th January 2016

Fiona Bruce spoke enthusiastically about the Westminster Hall debate on Out-of-school Activities held that morning – about 20 **MPs** were present and some very good points raised. Great concern was expressed and the reality of the need but that proposals were disproportionate. Only 10 or so groups known to be radicalising people, so why burden all groups with massive bureaucracy and danger of deterring volunteers?

Some are sure the proposals contravene human rights laws and they certainly go against Conservative manifesto. Many hope the proposals will simply be ditched once and for all!

In any case, a group that seeks to undermine British society is not likely to register as required even at risk of the proposed sanctions!

Fiona has a painful knee problem – MRIS last Saturday, result in 2 weeks – do please pray for her!

Jeffrey Donaldson spoke of increasing concern regarding the prospect of EU membership. Likely the coming referendum will be June 23rd (to allow 6 weeks after local and regional elections). Much depends on the **Prime Minister** getting a 'good' deal in Brussels.

We must pray for God's will to be done – for those in authority to have clarity of thought and no confusion.

He apologised for recent uncertainty about time and place of the prayer meetings. It is getting increasingly difficult to get a room.

Jim Shannon was not able to be with us because of other commitments, but had attended the Westminster Hall debate noted above.

News shared:

Three-parent babies – work on the science continues, giving more time for the legal matter to be investigated (It is thought that this concept contravenes European law): still looking into medical risks and implications for any child born this way.

Protection for vulnerable women. After about 4 years of intensive work, Baroness Cox's Bill has been passed to the **House of Commons**, with clear support in the **House of Lords**. The Bill seeks protection of vulnerable women; many Muslim women only know Shari'a law so do not know if it goes against British law. Now the need is to find an able person to take the Bill on in the **House of Commons**. We were reminded that in 1989 each **MP** was given a copy of a word from the Lord commanding UK to come out of the EU.

Family Courts in news recently – children taken from adoptive parents because of their Christian lifestyles.

Scriptures shared: Psalm 11:3. Psalm 34:15 & James 5:16^b – being 'right with God' so important! Be careful not to give our enemy a foothold – even avoiding criticism. Prepare now for higher level of intercession and prayer!

The prayers: we prayed with Fiona Bruce before she left, and also with Jeffrey Donaldson.

Many Christian **MPs** and Peers were named in a prayer of thanksgiving for their work and witness. Raise up intercessors in the land!

For unity among Christian **MPs**.

For God's mercy on this nation.

To heed the voice of the Lord.

Against the spirit of fear and compromise.

For boldness and sound judgment.

Please pray for the future development of Prayer for Parliament and the Nation.

Pat Brandon is standing down as Facilitator after the July meeting so we're seeking a successor.

It is hoped the March meeting will be a Service of Praise and Thanksgiving in St Mary Undercroft.

Statement of Purpose; Since all authority comes from God (Rom 13.1), Parliamentarians carry spiritual as well as temporal authority whether they are conscious of the fact or not. This authority does not necessarily mean they automatically know how to pray since no one knows how to pray as they ought (Rom 8.26). If however, with one accord in Christ, those who have this God-given authority come together in the Spirit with anointed intercessors who have networks of prayer support across the Nation, prayer for Parliament and the whole Nation would have greater spiritual and practical accomplishment (Acts 1:14).

Dear prayer warrior for the nation!

I attach my report on the recent meeting of Prayer for Parliament and the Nation, with huge thanks as ever to June, our faithful scribe. It looks shorter than some, but it was a full meeting, I promise you! As ever, there are a few things to fill out here.

It has been sensed that we are to expect a higher level in our intercessions, and so it is increasingly important that we are 'right with God' - to avoid offering our enemy any foothold. Sometimes even being quick to criticise can create an opportunity for us to slip into sin or into a sinful attitude - or a less than perfect one (if the other phrases sound too strong!). So we were encouraged to be quick to sort out any such slips with the Lord, keeping a short account, so we can be ready in an instant to pray effectively.

Regarding the EU Referendum we need to rally prayer now. Already alarmist claims are being made about the implications of staying in AND of coming out! Nobody really knows, but we should not try to work things out on a political or economic basis but simply on what the Lord wants us to do! To many of us it seems clear that He has been saying for a long time "Come out of her my people!"

The situation regarding the Three-parent baby legislation is still unsettled. It is believed that the legislation as passed is illegal in terms of European law, and this is being investigated. There are concerns on the medical side too, which are being investigated, and this allows more time for the legal matter to be looked into - but please pray for clarity and wisdom for those involved.

Fiona Bruce MP is chair of an all-party group to promote religious education. This has already been gaining support - please pray for the work of the group, and of Fiona herself.

Two prophecies passed on through reputable sources are of interest. One warns of coming judgment on the European Union because of its rejection of God and urges Britain to come out of her so as to avoid being caught up in that; fervent prayers of repentance and intercession before the Referendum are sought, especially in light of the increasing waves of deception we are already seeing. God wants to have mercy on Britain and restore His hand of protection so He can again use us to bring light to many lost in the darkness which is steadily increasing. Zephaniah 2:1-2 is relevant in this.

The other is similar and more detailed, again involving repentance for disobedience regarding fulfilling our calling as the Church, returning to our Lord wholeheartedly so that He can restore this nation to her former glory in His purposes.

Finally, I mention at the end of the report that after the July meeting I will be standing down as Facilitator of the monthly meetings, asking for prayer for the search for a successor. Progress is already underway but we don't want to simply do what seems like a good idea! We need to know the Lord's clear leading in this! The successor must be able to commit to attending virtually every single meeting, be able to send out notifications and reports associated with the meetings, and be able to gain the trust of 'our' MPs and those who attend the meetings and join us in prayer.

As this change approaches I will contact everyone on the distribution list to ask for your permission to give your email or postal address to that person so that reports can then continue to be sent out. Please when the time comes, make your wishes clear - I will not hand over contact details without specific permission! And may I please ask you to be as supportive to my successor as you have been to me - some of you for just over 13 years!

The Lord bless you and keep you - and keep on praying!

Love as ever,
Pat