

# Prayer for Parliament

Notes of Prayer Meeting Tuesday 12 th April 2016

**Jeffrey Donaldson** was with us for the first half of the meeting, having an appointment after that.

\*He asked us first to remember our brothers and sisters in Lahore, saying that we take our freedom for granted as in some countries any demonstration of Christian faith can be dangerous.

\*The theme of this year's National Prayer Breakfast (June 14 th ) centres on persecution in the Middle East. We are facing increasing secularism in UK, with the 'anything goes' attitude. Christians are often simply ridiculed. We must get the message of Christian values across to UK society.

\*Norway started the move towards same-sex marriage – already pushing for legalisation of polygamy. He recalled that those who pushed for Civil Partnerships promised they would not seek to introduce marriage, but they did; how much further will they try to 'progress'?

\*May 5th regional elections, including in Northern Ireland, the only part of UK holding firm in regard to same-sex marriage and abortion (so far), but pressure is mounting with High Court cases and such. In a recent example the courts are being maligned for upholding the law! Arlene Foster, leader of JD's party (DUP) is facing much opposition in such things.

\*State Opening of Parliament in May. The Panama papers are being used to undermine Parliament and the institutions of State are being continually bombarded. The PM needs much prayer!

\*There is much confusion around the coming EU Referendum; we need to pray!

\*JD's role as Trade Envoy to Egypt is developing well though as yet most related work is based in UK. This is a very strategic role. JD is to go to Egypt in May/June. Opportunity to talk to Egyptian Government about protecting Christians there. Also has contact with Israel's Likud Party about security and such. A relationship between Egypt and Israel seems to be developing? JD senses an opportunity to come alongside both nations. Commented that Putin is clever and outsmarting the West, with the USA completely out of step. [We prayed for JD before he left to go to a meeting with the Government Chief Whip].

**Jim Shannon and Fiona Bruce** were unable to be with us. Fiona Bruce is responsible for the National Prayer Breakfast this year. Pray for her that the Lord will enable her to meet all the demands being placed upon her.

**News shared** – pray on regarding Three-Parent Babies; no licence granted as yet; research going on, and certain points are coming to light.

\*Heard of Messianic believer falsely accused of anti-Islam actions – to appeal in court soon [lost the appeal and has to pay considerable costs – pray for her].

\*Concern was expressed about proposal to erect the surviving gates of Temple of Baal (blown up in Syria by ISIS) in Trafalgar Square. [Trafalgar Square, like the Trafalgar of old, is a battle place for supremacy: the empty plinth represents an empty altar in UK – the altar of God's sovereignty; it may also be seen as representing an emptiness in the hearts of the people who are seeking; may we, the Church, rise and declare to the people around us that Almighty God is supreme!]

**Bill Nelson** was introduced as the incoming Facilitator of the monthly meetings when Pat steps down; he has been attending the meetings for over 4 years (and the Tuesday evening prayer walks around the Palace of Westminster), and he will develop his thoughts about the meetings over the next months and become more involved in them.

**Words and Scriptures shared** – Daniel 9:8-11. We heard a call to the Church, that our light must shine brighter than ever before (deepening darkness will make it seem brighter, but the brightness of the light will reveal the darkness around us for what it is, ultimately dispelling the darkness). The world is looking for a saviour or a man to rescue us; but we, the Church, are God's voice in all this!

**The prayers** – for JD, that the Lord will raise up many more intercessors who will stand and not fall, rising up like an army; that the UK, historically a Christian nation, will regain its stand as such!

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).