

PRAYER FOR PARLIAMENT

Notes of Prayer Meeting held on Tuesday 21 February 2017

Bill Nelson opened the meeting and welcomed those present (47 attended plus 25 apologies had been noted).

Sir Jeffrey Donaldson and Jim Shannon attended the meeting at various times.

Parliamentary News and comments:

Prayer and Services in the Crypt chapel, St.Mary Undercroft - Renovation work is to be carried out, so restrictions on use are now in place, mainly for "pass holders". Suggestion is for future services to be held in St Margaret's, the Parish Church for Parliament, just across the road from Parliament. This option would give us the opportunity for more people to attend. MPs to check for use of both, for the next service potentially in May.

Operations for MPs - both Fiona Bruce and Jim Shannon in the next few weeks.

Iraq, Syria and Iran - Our Last Stand film shown last night in Parliament on what is happening in Iraq and Iran. Brings home the fact that young Iranian girls are sold for £5 per month. Questions to be raised over two Archbishops being held in Syria and their situation.

Freedom of religious beliefs - MPs speaking on these issues and how can we support each other in these circumstances. During the last few weeks there have been debates on civil society supported by Christian Aid. Note that Sir Jeffrey is an envoy to Egypt.

MPs and Staff - Large number of Christians in both Houses and staff. Prayer can change things and move mountains; we should not under estimate the power of prayer. Jim Shannon works hard in highlighting the persecution of Christians.

Northern Ireland - The social liberalism attitude is threatening Biblical principles used by the DUP, especially concerning abortion and same sex marriage. The number of seats is being reduced to 90, they need to have 30 seats and above to continue to have veto rights, currently DUP have 38 seats. Election is on Thursday 2nd March. Confusion reigns, with even Christian ministers of the gospel saying "it's time for change". It was agreed by all present to set time aside on the 1st March to pray for these elections in NI. Letter to NI from David Hathaway was greatly appreciated.

Baptist Missions - The missionary arm of the Association of Baptist Churches in Ireland celebrates its 90th Anniversary in May. It operates in Ireland, France, Peru and Spain.

David Hathaway - Wants our support with meeting the Archbishop of Canterbury who has to make some difficult decisions. The 500th Anniversary of the Reformation is being celebrated in Europe, but not in the UK. Reformation though came before Martin Luther, when the Bible was first translated; Luther brought it to a climax. Critical factor is in bringing the church back to the Word of God. We need another reformation!

David Hews - Explained the background and activities of the Tuesday Prayer team, that takes place every Tuesday afternoon from about 4.00pm onwards. The group currently meet in the Central Lobby for prayer walking and talking to the staff and police. After this they go to meet with some others from 6.00pm at the Methodist Central Hall for a time of prayer and worship, normally led by Carol Baker, finishing at 7.30pm.

Other MP Prayer Requests - Homeless Reduction Bill, Transgenderism, Sex Education and unity around Brexit.

Spoken Prayers

Open prayer time took place at various times concerning most of the above items.

We need to pray for others who use the Crypt. This Prayer for Parliament group makes a difference in Parliament; standing in the gap.

Thanks for MPs.

Prayed for PM for wisdom and her hard work (two cards signed by all to be delivered to her today).

Northern Ireland - Pray especially for believers not to be misled - pray that they will see what is happening.

Pray for The Reverend Rose Hudson-Wilkin, Chaplain to the Speaker of the House of Commons.

Pray for Sir Jeffrey's family especially during this election time (Eleanor and daughters, Claire and Laura). He also asked for prayer before going to see the Parliamentary Whip this afternoon. Many prayers for protection and guidance.

Prayers for the House of Lords and forgive any political manoeuvring over Brexit; bring the truth of the scriptures back.

Scriptures Shared: Daniel 12 v 3, Joshua 1 (Be strong the Lord your God is with you), Psalm 1 v 7, Numbers 26 v 24 to 27, Psalm 91.

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).