

# Prayer for Parliament

The Rt. Hon SIR JEFFREY DONALDSON, MP

HOUSE OF COMMONS, LONDON SW1A 0AA

Notes of Prayer Meeting held on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2017

Lady Carol Baker and Rev June Freudenberg led the meeting in the absence of Bill Nelson who was not well. Sir Jeffrey Donaldson, Jim Shannon and Fiona Bruce attended the meeting at various times. (61 attended and 6 apologies received although it was noted that, sadly, Jilly Lyon Taylor's husband had passed away recently.) Prayer points are marked with \* Lady Carol opened the meeting with a welcome to all and a message from Bill Nelson that though he was unable to be present he too, was praying; he is resting as advised so that his recovery will be speedier. Regular MP attenders at PfP meetings, Jim Shannon and Fiona Bruce, had also been in hospital and were recovering well. Carol also welcomed Claire Newman from Christians in Parliament.

## Christians in Parliament

Claire gave an overview of the work of Christians in Parliament. This is an All-Party Parliamentary Group which exists to support and encourage all members and staff in their work in the Houses of Parliament. This is done through weekly Bible study and prayer groups, weekly chapel services in the Chapel of St Mary Undercroft and through one-to-one support of members and staff. Guest speaker events and discussion groups examining the truth and relevance of the Christian faith to personal political life are arranged. They also host the annual National Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast which takes place in Westminster Hall. The announcement of an Election a few hours before this day's meeting had raised questions about arrangements for this year's Breakfast. The Election is to take place on 8 June and the Breakfast is currently scheduled for 20 June. This raises practical difficulties.

\*Claire asked for prayer that the correct decisions would be made regarding keeping the same date, changing it to a later date or a possibly unspecified alternative.

## Parliamentary News and comments.

**Terror attack** and the tragic loss of 5 lives had brought about an awareness of the need for greater security at Westminster. It was also noted that some of those who are responsible for launching terror attacks are the victims of false teaching and deluded idealism; while some are just evil.

This attack and also the murder of Jo Cox MP emphasized the need for prayers for safety for all MP's. Information on the strategy PrayerGuard can be found on [http://prayerfocus.today/Groups/181197/A\\_PrayerGuard.aspx](http://prayerfocus.today/Groups/181197/A_PrayerGuard.aspx). We were encouraged to take this strategy and apply it to our MP's. It could also be used for others in leadership.

**Jim Shannon, MP** - in light of the Election has asked that we pray for the Government to reflect the views of the people. In Northern Ireland, talks begin next week for a democratic Parliament. The attack on Coptic Christians in Egypt has caused much distress and the need to express prayerful solidarity was emphasized.

With the announcement of an Election, it was anticipated that Parliament would be prorogued later this week. The Conservative commitment for a 5 year term has to be overturned for the Election to take place. This is going to have a big affect on MP's elected to their first term.

\*Also noted to pray against the Media taking an unduly negative stance.

**Sir Jeffrey Donaldson, MP** joined the meeting at this point.

- Both MPs expressed their concern and need for prayer for the N. Ireland Election and the democratic process to form a new N.I. Government. Sinn Fein are making demands that are unacceptable. Pray for the right decision for NI - with a new Election, more people are likely to vote. DUP seeks to show their Bible based values be recognized.
- Pray for the Prime Minister, for God to lead and guide throughout the Election process and with all Brexit issues.
- Pray for N. Ireland and Scotland to firmly register their preference for the Union. There was a consensus of opinion that God does not want a 'disunited' country.

**Fiona Bruce** expressed her concern in particular for MPs who were in their first term at Parliament.

- Pray for Pro-life issues; for the restoration of fatherhood; marriage to take its rightful place in the life of the nation.

Re the coming Election:

- Pray that all MPs be sustained and strengthened and that the peace of God resides with them as they approach the Election. Some may be without a job as a result of the Election.
- Pray for David Burrowes who has had a difficult time with some intense opposition.
- Pray that Christian MPs who are elected will become more involved with PfP; pray for an increase in the impact that PfP has.

There were times of prayer throughout the meeting for the various matters under discussion. For the coming Election a prayer strategy is outlined on [http://prayerfocus.today/Groups/181270/Coming\\_Election.aspx](http://prayerfocus.today/Groups/181270/Coming_Election.aspx) and is available for all who wish to use it.

**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).