

Prayer for Parliament

The Rt. Hon SIR JEFFREY DONALDSON, MP
HOUSE OF COMMONS, LONDON SW1A 0AA

Notes of Prayer Meeting held on Tuesday, 9th January 2018

The meeting was led by Rev June Freudenberg who explained that Bill Nelson had another flare up of the condition that has been troubling him. His message of greeting and encouragement was relayed to the group. In spite of the difficulties experienced, we thanked God that Bill Nelson, the Facilitator, Lady Carol Baker and Rev June Freudenberg as deputy leaders, had formed a team and operated as a unit. This same team spirit was evident in the group bringing a greater sense of unity.

The meeting was attended by 48 people with 6 apologies.

Opening Comments: The purpose of the PFP meeting is to take time to pray and also to gather information for prayer. When praying, it is strategically advantageous to have a specific target for prayer. The illustration was given of a gun that has a scatter shot effect, thus causing irritation but does not have a major effect. Guns that target a specific object have a greater and more lasting effect. Therefore, targeted prayer will be more effective and durable. Our purpose is to prevent Satan, as God's enemy, from effecting his plans. Prayerfully, we need to target his plans with God's purposes.

The example of the Notting Hill Gate Carnival was called to mind. At one time, this carnival had a reputation for danger, riot, and other negative expectations. Many of those who lived in the area constantly dreaded the event. A specific group decided to pray into this carnival and take it back from the enemy's influence. Their prayers over a period of about 10 months brought about a major effect. In one year, a carnival that had an unsavoury reputation was hardly even mentioned in the news items of that particular weekend except to say that it had been a happy carnival with very little problem. Targetted and consistent prayer made the difference.

When praying for 'All men, for kings and all who are in authority' according to 1 Timothy 2:1 the phrase 'First of all' emphasises the importance of praying for authorities.

Time of Prayer:

For the Lord to take His place in Westminster. In line with various with various prayer strategies relating to praying for the Carnival, in a time of united prayer, everyone asked the Lord to take His place in Cabinet meetings, the House of Lords, and the House of Commons on our behalf and to influence matters according to God's divine wisdom and purposes. Psalm 139:7 People sometimes regard themselves as unimportant and scarcely effective. Everyone's prayer when combined is like forming a strong and effective rope prepared for a specific purpose.

David Hathaway concluded this time of prayer with a prayer mentioning the momentous days ahead in 2018; that God's will be done; that we came to seek God's face and that His presence be known in this House - the Palace of Westminster.

The security breaches of the previous year and the heartbreaking consequences were recalled. Prayer was made for the Security Staff and the Security of the Nation. 2 Chron 7:13 outlines the devastating effect when God has been ignored/forgotten/rebelled against. It is a scene of devastation. The Healing of the Land is described in 2Chron 7:14. Those who are called by His Name are to humble themselves etc for the HEALING OF THE LAND. This is a land that needs healing. This scripture shows us what we need to do.

Brexit repercussions. There are different voices expressing many thoughts. Prayed that there would be a unity in purpose, even within the various thoughts being expressed.

Sir Jeffrey Donaldson:

This is an important year. An email from Pennsylvania regarding William Penn brought to mind that Penn was British by birth and this reminds us of the Christian heritage of the USA and UK. We (both nations) have drifted from our origins/heritage. USA and UK are being called out. We need to remember our past. Our God is working out His plans and purposes within the world. We are not alone but stand with others. Rom 6:5

Theos lecture. Sir Jeffrey mentioned this again and reminded people that it is well worth listening to. Tim Farron, a past Liberal/Democrat Party leader, speaks out that Liberalism now limits those with faith based views and their communities. See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ItvCI9enIdw>

The continuing increasing anti-Semitism is a battle that others are now beginning to talk about.

The lack of a **N.Ireland Parliament** is leaving a political vacuum which is not healthy. There are various possibilities to meet this situation, but it is God's answer that is needed and for which we pray.

The Pro-life stand on marriage is popular and many voters support the DUP because of this.

David Hathaway

David was asked to contribute regarding some of his recent ministry opportunities. He commented on the lack of morality in UK which has been noted by other countries. Even the Russian Government is concerned about the lack of morality in the Western World! He has opportunities to discuss these matters from a Christian perspective with people in authority in some other countries. David also expressed his concern about the Brexit procedures that they should be effective for UK.

Fiona Bruce

Prayer for **the Family Manifesto** has been effective and needs to be ongoing. The policies are being taken seriously and could have a very positive effect on many people. Among other aspects, family breakdown is having a huge effect on the youth of today. Prisoners' families are deeply affected by family breakdown. Some of the causes may be obvious, but they can, in turn, be positively redirected.. Pray that the machinery of Government will be put in place to take the Family Manifesto forward.

It was announced that **Damian Hinds MP has been promoted to Secretary for Education** and we need to pray that the Lord will guide and direct him.

Euthanasia lobby is working below the radar. It is so important to be ready for these opposition forces. It was a miracle that the previous vote last year in Parliament was unsuccessful

British Pregnancy Association - promoting the '**decriminalization**' of abortion. Pro Life views more closely represent Christ's priorities

Isaiah 43:10 says 'Ye are my witnesses'. We need to pray that godly MP's are enabled and supported to be His witnesses 'and my servant whom I have chosen.' 1 Thessalonians 5:24 'The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it.'

Jim Shannon

There was an Adjournment Debate entitled 'Put Christ back into Christmas' during which Jim declared that Jesus came into the world to save sinners. This was a noteworthy event in Westminster.

Reports come from various countries of brutal action against Christians. There is a widespread prejudice against Christians that is becoming more blatant.

Political Correctness is increasing and this is a real chill factor for Christians in UK. Freedom of Religion and Belief is not just to be accepted in other countries but also in the UK as well.

The meeting concluded.