

May 2011  
www.prisonfellowship.org.uk

# VOICES



Seeing lives transformed

**PRISON FELLOWSHIP**

## The value of freedom

**Rochelle is a Probation Officer and here she tells us how she became involved with Prison Fellowship and how her voluntary work is a perfect compliment to her day job:**

For reasons unknown to me, I have for many years had a passion for working with offenders. To this end I decided that I would undertake some form of voluntary work within the Criminal Justice System, ideally through a Christian organisation. I found Prison Fellowship on the internet and immediately volunteered. Due to working full-time, I decided to assist with the Angel Tree programme as I could coordinate this from my home in the evenings and weekends.

In February 2008 I qualified as a Probation Officer and I began my placement supervising high-risk offenders who have been or are soon to be released from prison. The work is difficult at times, but I know that I am contributing in some small degree towards the rehabilitation of offenders so that they can live functioning and productive lives in society.

My voluntary work with Angel Tree



is complimentary to my job and it has enabled me to enter a Christian ministry that promotes the love of Jesus to restore and heal broken lives. I have been involved as an Angel Tree Coordinator for HMP Holloway for four years now; and last Christmas HMP Isis came on board as well. The project appears to be expanding year on year and I know

that it makes a tangible difference to the lives of offenders and their children.

I don't often go into the prisons as a Prison Fellowship representative, though I have visited HMP Holloway several times in order to assist with their Sunday services through singing in the choir,

introducing hymns and leading prayers. Each visit is a very humbling experience and reminds me of the value of freedom.

My work is very much behind the scenes for Angel Tree, yet it is a great privilege to serve in this manner and I hope to be involved for many years to come.

## Mother's Day pilot scheme

In March 2011, we expanded the Angel Tree programme by running a pilot scheme that enabled prisoners to send a card and present to their mothers for Mothering Sunday.

We trialled this scheme in three Young Offender Institutions and, based on its success, we are hoping to implement the programme across the country in the future.

Aylesbury, Reading and Rochester were the three areas where this scheme was first put into practice, and an amazing 300 gifts were sent out along with a personal message from the young offenders. The gifts included chocolates, vouchers and potpourri up to the value of £5 and were accompanied by a card containing the Bible verse, "The Lord keep watch between you and me when we are away from each other" (Genesis 31:49). UCB's Word for Today was also included.

The success of this pilot is encouraging and we pray that the scheme will continue to grow and bless more prisoners and their mothers in the future.



If you would like to find out more about the Mother's Day element of Angel Tree, or are interested in getting involved in next year's scheme, please get in touch with Dave Walker:

**(T) 01621 843232**

**(E) [davewalker@prisonfellowship.org.uk](mailto:davewalker@prisonfellowship.org.uk)**



## National Volunteers Week

Volunteers' Week is an annual event which runs between **1st – 7th June** and celebrates the fantastic work that millions of volunteers do across the UK. This year their theme is 'European Year of Volunteering 2011' and Prison Fellowship will be running a campaign alongside this event to encourage more people to get involved in 'strengthening our presence in prisons.'

A range of resources that can be used to promote our work in prisons will be available to all Prison Fellowship volunteers. These will include posters, leaflets and a church resource pack. If you would like to get involved in this year's campaign by raising awareness for Prison

Fellowship in your local area, please order your resources by contacting Sasha Chipperfield:

**(T) 01621 843232**

**(E) [sashachipperfield@prisonfellowship.org.uk](mailto:sashachipperfield@prisonfellowship.org.uk)**

## Save the date

As part of our own 'European Year of Volunteering 2011' campaign, we will also be holding an early evening drinks reception on the **1st June 2011** at the European Commission's Headquarters in London.

This event will be our chance to thank you for all the hard work you do and to celebrate everything that has been achieved so far.

*More details will be sent to Prayer Groups directly.*

## Advance Notice

As of 11th July 2011 the PF National Office is moving to:

**77 Great Peter Street  
Westminster  
London  
SW1P 2EZ**



## Roadshows

From April – June 2011 we will be running Roadshows across the country that will provide the opportunity for us to come together to discuss the implementation of the new PF strategy. Your input is vital to our development, and we would love for all prayer groups to be represented at these events.

If you are able to come to any of the events below please contact Sasha Chipperfield for more details:

**(T) 01621 843232**

**(E) [sashachipperfield@prisonfellowship.org.uk](mailto:sashachipperfield@prisonfellowship.org.uk)**

For venue information please visit: [www.prisonfellowship.org.uk/regional-pages.html](http://www.prisonfellowship.org.uk/regional-pages.html)

*sandwiches and drinks will be provided at each event*

## Event Information:

**Time:** 7.30pm – 9.00pm  
(7.00pm for refreshments)

**London** – 10th May 2011

**Middlesbrough** – 13th May 2011

**Birmingham** – 17th May 2011

**Wakefield** – 18th May 2011

**Nottingham** – 25th May 2011

**Cardiff** – 26th May 2011

**Bristol** – cancelled

**Huntingdon** – 2nd June 2011

**Woking** – 3rd June 2011

**Norwich** – 6th June 2011

## Training

Letter Writing training will be happening in London and the South East. To book your place please contact Nicola Davey:

**(T) 01621 843232 (E) [info@prisonfellowship.org.uk](mailto:info@prisonfellowship.org.uk)**

**Northamptonshire** – 4th May 2011, 7.30pm – 9.30pm (7.00pm for nibbles)  
Blisworth Baptist Church, Northants, NN7 3BU

**Kent** – 14th May 2011, 2.30pm – 4.30pm  
St Andrew's URC, Watling Road, Canterbury, CT1 2UA

## Get Involved

### Unpaid opportunities

**Events Manager:** An exciting opportunity to contribute to shaping PF events such as the National Conference and Volunteer's Week events

**New Media/Website Intern:** Showcase and develop your web design skills by working on the PF website and increasing our presence on social networking sites

*For more information on all of these positions please visit: [www.prisonfellowship.org.uk](http://www.prisonfellowship.org.uk)*