



# PRISONS WEEK 2008 RESOURCES

## EXAMPLES OF PRISONS WEEK ACTIVITIES

### Exhibitions

- Prisons Week is a good focus for prison related exhibitions in a variety of locations such as Churches, Cathedrals, Libraries, Visitor Centres, and Community Centres.
- Some exhibitions have focused on the work of a particular prison with photographs, descriptive text, products, and artwork including poetry, paintings and mosaics.
- Some exhibitions have focused on the theme of the week, so last year's theme was portrayed showing the work of prisons, the life of prisoners, victim support, the Courts, Families and community groups assisting those being released from prison.
- These exhibitions have also provided a recruitment opportunity for the various criminal justice agencies including prison staff. It has also provided publicity to recruit volunteers to work in the community and in prisons such as Independent Monitoring Boards, Learning and Skills Departments, Chaplaincy and Victim Support.
- The arrangements for such events can be shared between Chaplains, Learning and Skills, the Volunteer Coordinator and other Prison Staff.
- These exhibitions can be a major target in the Prisons Team Plan for the Community and Voluntary Sector.

### Seminars

- The subject of prison, its purpose, its effect and its cost are constantly in the news and most communities are affected in one way or another.
- Prisons Week provides a focus for the Churches to contribute creatively to the debate, and an opportunity for the reality to be portrayed rather than allowing the occasional press report, usually on a negative theme, to control the public thinking.
- A number of Seminars have been held each year in Church Halls, Prisons, and other places with positive outcomes especially in developing community awareness.
- If you consider arranging a seminar a lot of forward planning is needed to ensure appropriate speakers and also that positive action will follow and not just talk.

### Special Services

- Churches, Cathedrals and Prisons have arranged Special Services during Prisons Week. This has happened especially on Prisons Sunday where it has been the focus of the principal Sunday Service with representatives of the various Justice Agencies, both local and national, contributing to the Worship. This has been done through Readings, Sermons, Intercessions etc. and included prisoners and prison staff.

### Events inside Prison

- The level of which this can happen obviously depends on the type of prison and its security requirements. However for many people prisons are closed institutions and Prisons Week provides a focus for creative events in prisons so that the reality of prison life can be shared with the wider community.

### Churches Criminal Justice Forum

- Prisons Week can provide a focus for the creation of a Criminal Justice Forum that can enable the Churches to develop their contribution to issues surrounding the Criminal Justice Agencies and thereby make an improved contribution to the development of safer communities.
- There is a national Churches Criminal Justice Forum and more details can be found on their web site at [www.ccjf.org](http://www.ccjf.org)

**Prisons week 16<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> Nov 2008**

**[www.prisonsw.org](http://www.prisonsw.org)**

**Encouraging prayer for, and raising awareness of, the needs of prisoners and their families, victims of offenders, prisons staff and all those who care.**