

Prison Hope 2017 – Project Ideas

Gideons Badged Testaments

Author: David Spademan, Managing Chaplain, HMP Onley

Background – brief details of the project

The Gideon's have been placing Bibles and New Testaments in prisons for many years. They are used in Chapel Services, Bible Studies, Alpha Courses as well as being given to individuals on request.

In 2015 Iain Mair from Chief Executive of The Gideon's offered to supply New Testaments and Psalms to HMP Onley for Staff in HMP Onley embossed with the prison logo. This initiative was positively supported by Governor Steve Ruddy and members of the Senior Management Team.

In December 2015 Steve West, Chair of the Rugby Branch of The Gideon's along with Mary West, Jo Wheway and Mark Mair attended a full staff briefing at HMP Onley which is just outside of Rugby. Steve presented Bibles with the prison logo to Governor Steve Ruddy and Managing Chaplain David Spademan. Badged Testaments were then made available to staff who wanted to accept the generous gift. Extra copies are available to those who could not be present and for new starters.

The Badged Testaments are for use by prison staff. HMP Onley is the first prison in England and Wales to take advantage of the generosity of The Gideon's in supplying them. They have been well received and some other prisons have also implemented the initiative.

Impact – brief details of the beneficial outcomes

A lot of the focus of work in prisons can be directed towards prisoners and staff can sometime be overlooked. This initiative has been extremely well received by staff who have been generally pleased to receive a copy of the badged Testaments bearing the prison logo.

Members of Staff have expressed that they were encouraged by the donation.

Running the project where you are

Prisons wishing to take advantage of this opportunity should contact Mark Mair at The Gideon's. mark.mair@gideons.org.uk. You can contact David Spademan, Managing Chaplain at HMP Onley if you have specific questions on any aspect of this project

The Governor will need to approve the use of the prison logo.

Photographs – insert up to two photos of the original project



Members of The Gideon's with Governor Steve Ruddy and Managing Chaplain David Spademan



Members of Staff at HMP Onley with their Badged Testaments