



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

February 2019

Dear Constituent,

Thank you for contacting me about parliamentary prayers.

Ministers do not, by convention, sign any Early Day Motions, as doing so is likely to breach the Ministerial Code's rules on collective responsibility. However, in both Houses of Parliament, sittings begin with prayers that follow the Christian faith. There is currently no multi-faith element to parliamentary prayers. However, it is important to note that attendance is voluntary and there is absolutely no need for a Member of Parliament to attend prayers if they do not wish to do so.

I know many of my colleagues appreciate the opportunity for reflection before making important decisions on behalf of their constituents. Parliamentary prayers do not come at the expense of religious freedom in the UK. The Government is committed to promoting freedom of religion in the UK and across the world through the Prime Minister's Special Envoy for Freedom of Religion or Belief.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chris'.

**CHRIS HEATON-HARRIS MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR DAVENTRY**