



Tony Flanders
Trinity Grace Church
5-9 Bridge Street
Ramsbottom
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BL0 9AB

21st October 2024

Re: Assisted Dying Bill

Dear Mr Frith,

I am writing on behalf of the members of Trinity Grace Church, Ramsbottom on a matter of deep concern.

We have been disturbed by the recent introduction to Parliament of a private member's bill to allow "assisted dying" in our nation. Sadly, even the title seeks to minimise the implications of such a bill, which in essence facilitates the suicide, or killing, of vulnerable people in certain circumstances.

Human life has been created by God. He has made humanity special, being far above the animals in terms of having a soul, as well as many other valuable capabilities, the greatest of which is to know God. Every human being is accountable to God for their actions, and will face him one day. As such human life is to be greatly valued, and used for the honour of God.

According to the Bible, there are certain circumstances where God allows government authorities to take life (see Romans 13:1-7). Examples of this may include defence of the nation or other nations in warfare, and just punishment for crimes such as murder. However, God does not delegate the authority of taking the life of the vulnerable in society for any reason. He is the author of life, and he alone has the right to take it away. As human beings, we must never take that authority to ourselves, which belongs to God alone.

The "assisted dying" bill puts into the hands of people – who are flawed, affected by emotion, sinful and weak – to decide whether someone's life should be taken. Such a decision can only be made rightly by God, and when it is put into the hands of human beings, it is a recipe for disaster. For just as we have seen with abortion, over the years it will lead to many more vulnerable lives being taken than is initially intended (this has already happened in countries such as Holland and Canada). Each one of these will then have to stand before God to answer for their lives. Who can rightly determine when a person is ready for that? Who is in a position to take such responsibility?

We would urge you to vote against the adoption of this bill, for these and many other reasons. Please be assured of our prayers for you and all in government as you bear your great responsibilities.

Yours Sincerely,

Tony Flanders (Minister of Trinity Grace Church, Ramsbottom)