

Prayers of Intercession

Lord, as we wait for your promises to be fulfilled, help us to keep trusting your faithfulness.

Heavenly Father, as we look at the state of our world we sometimes start to wonder. When we focus our attention on incredible suffering in Africa; the devastation of so much of the Middle East; the continued war in Ukraine and the fragile attempts for a ceasefire, we often fail to understand. We are tempted to ask: Are you still in control?

Lord, we do not have the answers. Yet you have invited us to pray. And so we come, offering our faltering prayers to you - believing, even if only a little bit at times, that you are listening and you will act. We bring the many, many needs of the world to you now - those we see in the news and those seen only by you. You see the pain and you see the suffering and yet we know, and we trust, that you are Lord.

Lord, as we wait for your promises to be fulfilled, help us to keep trusting your faithfulness.

Lord of the universe, thank you for all the beauty in our world. We think of the new growth blooming at the start of spring. We are amazed by the incredible night sky, the stars, the planets: everything we can see and everything that is beyond our comprehension. All of it crafted by your hands. All of it upheld by you. Lord, as we look at the stars, help us to remember your promise to Abram and your promises to us. Abram never saw the full fruit of the promises and yet he carried on following your word. We may not understand, we may be confused but help us, whenever we see the night sky, to remember that you are a faithful God.

Lord, as we wait for your promises to be fulfilled, help us to keep trusting your faithfulness.

Lord, sometimes our problems and troubles seem insurmountable. We can't see a way through. We can't understand why. We think of those we know who are in pain; awaiting a diagnosis; struggling with anxiety and depression; facing a long, hard road to recovery; and those who are mourning the loss of a loved one; a job; an opportunity; those who live on the edge of society.

Lord, we don't know why and sometimes we're afraid to ask in case you think we are losing our faith. But we know that when times are tough we need you more than ever. We need to cling tightly to you just as you hold us firmly and safely in your arms. Help us to trust that, even if the now is really, really hard, the not yet will be good because you are a good God. Lord, we believe. Help our unbelief.

Lord, as we wait for your promises to be fulfilled, help us to keep trusting your faithfulness.

Father, we pray for our community. We think of those places that seem dark or dangerous. We pray for the places that we would rather not go through. And we think of the places that give us pleasure. We pray for those who work in our community and we pause to think of our neighbours, those we meet on the bus, in our office, our classroom, in the park as we walk the dog. Lord, you are Lord of all these people and places whether we recognise it or not. You have a plan for our community. Help us to listen for the part you want us to play in bringing that plan to fruition. Give us the courage, as a church and as individual people of God, to tell others of your amazing faithfulness and love. Draw people to your light, we pray and fill our streets with your praise.

Amen.

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Church WiFi password is displayed in the building

Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/rochfordmethodist

Sunday 16 March 2025

Weekly Notices and Prayers (v1.0)

Bible reading for the week

Psalm 27:1

The Lord is my light and my salvation - whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life - of whom shall I be afraid?

If you have any items that you would like to be added, or suggestions for inclusion, please advise [Mike Sims](#).



This Church has an inductive loop. Anyone attending Sunday services who has an appropriate hearing aid should switch to Channel T.

Sunday 16 March 2025

2nd Sunday in Lent

Services and Meetings this week

Sunday – 9.30am – Our service will be led by Rev Agnes Sam. As this will be the 3rd Sunday, this will be an All Age worship service.

– **10.30am** – We will be holding our Annual Church Meeting following the morning service. This is a key meeting for the church and you are encouraged to attend to hear and contribute to the plans for our fellowship going forward. Please bring along the Church report booklet that was issued earlier this week!

Monday – 2 to 3.30pm – There will be **no Cake and Kindness meeting this week** as many of the usual attendees will be going to the funeral of one of the members, Eileen, who sadly passed away.

– **4.00 – 5.00pm** – **Monday Club**. Ages 4-12. Runs every Monday in term time. Crafts, Lego, snacks, games, and it's free! A responsible adult will need to stay at all times.

– **7.00 to 7.15pm** – **Rochford Prayer** via [Zoom](#). Meeting ID 768 0376 1257
Passcode: 8yTeDH.

Tuesday – 7.30pm – **Bible Study**. You are welcome to join us on [Zoom](#). Meeting ID: 948 2779 0660. Passcode: 425539. We will be completing our Lent study together on Psalm 27 and Luke 13:31-35. There are resources on the Methodist Church website. This year's theme is "[Soul Food](#)".

Thursday - 7.30pm - **Table Tennis**. Please let [Colin and Margaret](#) know if you're planning to come as there are occasions when they do not meet, so it's worth checking first.

Friday – 9.30 to 11.30am – **Happy Cup Breakfast Club**. Runs every Friday in term time and is for parents/carers with children aged 0 to 5 years. £2 per family.

Saturday – 7.00 to 9.30pm – **Games Club**. Pastor Mike will be running another of his popular games evenings. If you like playing board games, please come along!

Forward Notices

Next Sunday – 9.30am – Our service will be a local arrangement led by the Worship Leaders.

Action for Children Lent fundraising 'Count your Blessings'. Let's all count our blessings by taking part in this event. Please collect a Count Your Blessings leaflet from me and return with your donation no later than 27th April 2025. If you pay tax please consider Gift Aid and complete the declaration on the leaflet, and put it in an envelope with your donation. Thank you. Val

Other Information

Church income was £264.95, which comprises the collection and Standing Orders paid directly into the Church account, plus other donations received over the last week.

Community Outreach Pastor update – Games club will be running at the church on Saturday 22nd March, 7.00 - 9.30. If you like playing board games, please do join us!

I led an assembly at Rochford Primary School this time looking at creation and caring for our world. The kids enjoyed answering questions and learning about our world. Next week I will be looking at Easter in Holt Farm Infants school.

Thanks to those who helped out at Lego club, we were really busy this week and enjoyed making pancakes! If you are able to help us out on any Mondays, please do get in touch. Thanks. Mike Webb

Collect – Christ, the Son of the living God, who for a season laid aside the divine glory and learned obedience through suffering: teach us in all our afflictions to raise our eyes to the place of your mercy and to find in you our peace and deliverance. We make our prayer in your name. Amen.

Our Elderly Friends - Please remember – Shirley Beadle, Sylvia Brigs, Pat Rubidge, Gwen Smith and Maureen Whalley.

Other Forward Notices

20 March – 2 to 4pm – Traditional Afternoon Tea at [United Methodist Church](#), Great Wakering. £7.50 per person. To ensure a place, please contact the church office on 07752859296, or [email](#), or ring Anita on 07375 402677.

Donations

If you would like to donate to the work of Rochford Methodist Church, you can do so from [here](#). If you want to buy something new, please remember to do so through [Easyfundraising](#).

To create a **Standing Order** for Rochford Methodist Church you will need the following details: A/c Name Rochford Methodist Church; A/c No 90766712; Sort Code 20 79 73. If you are a taxpayer, please could you contact Bruce Glendenning so that a simple form can be easily filled in. We can then reclaim tax back on the donations.

You can also donate to the Church by [PayPal Giving Fund](#)

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If you no longer wish to receive these Notices, please let [Mike Sims](#) know, and your name will be removed from the mailing list.

