

## Prayers of Intercession

We think of the saints who have served and shared the faith of God over generations.

So we remember Pope Francis, who died just a few days ago. We give thanks to you, our God, for his gentleness and humility. We give thanks to you for his calm and wisdom in leading millions of worshippers across the world. We give thanks to you for the ways he worked with other churches to bring Christian unity, and we give thanks to you for his voice speaking out for peace, kindness and love in our world.

Following his example, and knowing the joy of the risen Christ in our hearts, we pray that you will show us how we can follow the example of Pope Francis and other Christian leaders in our daily lives.

**May we be your witnesses,  
May we unlock your love.**

We think of our country and our community, for those in desperation and those in need.

So we remember those who are facing homelessness, poverty and despair. We pray to you, our God, for those who seem on the margins, those who have been forgotten, and those who have not had the chances in life that we enjoy. We pray for those who have given way to addiction, or those who have developed lives of crime. We pray for those who are worried about cuts in benefits or losing their jobs. We pray to you that even those at the end of all hope will find hope in you.

Following the example of Jesus, we pray that you will show each one of us what we can do to help those who seem beyond help, and how we as a church community carrying the name of the risen Christ can make a difference.

**May we be your witnesses,  
May we unlock your love.**

We think of the world and all the countries in it, and we pray for financial calm and for peace.

We remember the difficulties the world is facing as it looks to the future, with money in the hands of the few, financial crises, and worries about savings and investments. We pray to you, our God, for wisdom to be given to those who make the big decisions in our world, that they would fully understand the global consequences of their actions. We pray to you for those continuing conflicts in Sudan, the Middle East and Ukraine, and the attempts to bring calm. We pray to you for all those innocent people caught up in horror and violence, that they would be comforted by the knowledge that Jesus suffered, and you heal.

Following the life of peace that Jesus led, we pray that we would be people of wisdom and peace in our homes, schools, colleges, churches and workplaces, thinking through our decisions and working for the good of all people.

**May we be your witnesses,  
May we unlock your love.**

We think of those known to us who are in need right now, and we bring our own needs to God.

So we remember those in our families and our church family who are sick, lost, or lonely at this time. We pray to you, our God, for your love and comfort to surround them as a good parent protects their children. We pray that they would know the power of your Spirit in bringing healing, and the warmth of your love in bringing comfort. We pray to you that you would help with the decisions that people have to make, the hardships they face, and the mourning they endure.

We remember ourselves, as we reflect on the Easter story and look back a week to the joyous resurrection of Jesus. Now, as we read of how the disciples and others met Jesus afresh and believed in him, we pray to you that we would meet Jesus in a new way. May we all be filled with the Holy Spirit to live and serve others.

**May we be your witnesses,  
May we unlock your love.**

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77 North Street, Rochford, Essex SS4 1AD

[Rev Agnes Sam](#)

01702 817365

[Pastor Mike Webb](#)

07714 916263

[www.rochfordmethodist.org.uk](http://www.rochfordmethodist.org.uk)

Church WiFi password is displayed in the building

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/groups/rochfordmethodist](https://www.facebook.com/groups/rochfordmethodist)

**Sunday 27 April 2025**

## Weekly Notices and Prayers (v1.0)

Bible reading for the week

John 20: 19-20

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

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 27 April 2025

Second Sunday of Easter

### Services and Meetings this week

**Sunday – 9.30am** – Our service will be led by Rev Agnes Sam and Holy Communion will be celebrated during this service.

**Monday – 2.00 to 3.30pm** - [Cake and Kindness](#). Pop in for a free cup of tea/coffee and a piece of homemade cake. It is open to all!

– **4.00 to 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. This will be the final Lent study session, led by Rev Ruth Cartwright. The theme is "Nourished by music from the heart" and the readings are Psalm 118: 1-2,19-29 and Luke 19:28-40.

**Wednesday – 8.00pm** – [Church Council Meeting](#) – this will be at the Church building. All church members are entitled to attend and vote as we are all entitled to be members of the Church Council, due to the size of our membership.

**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.

### Forward Notices

**Next Sunday – 9.30am** – Our service will be led by Jane Fulford.

**10 May – 4.30 to 6.30pm** - [VE Day Celebration Party](#) – Let Pastor Mike know if you can help/attend. Setting up is from 3.00pm.

**17 May – 7.00 to 9.30pm** – [Games Night](#) – This is run by Pastor Mike and is held in the church hall. All are welcome to attend.

**18 May – 7.30pm** - [Testimony Service](#) of Revd Agnes Sam & Revd Heather Simmons at [Rayleigh Methodist Church](#).

**29 May – Cooking Club**. This event has proven to be really popular with our young families. This will be run 11am – 1pm and Pastor Mike is looking for volunteers to assist, if you are free.

**29 June – Rev Agnes Ordination**. Tickets are [available](#) for the Ordinations of Rev Agnes & Rev Heather at St Chads Church, Shrewsbury.

The Circuit is hoping to organise a transport to Shrewsbury but this can't be booked until numbers are confirmed. So many thanks if you have already let us know your transport/attendance arrangements but could you please let the [Circuit office](#) know:

- A) whether you are attending the ordinations
- B) whether you require transport or not.

### Other Information

**Church income** was £299.50, which comprises collections, Standing Orders paid directly into the Church account, plus other donations received over the last week.

**Community Outreach Pastor update** – Hi all, it was lovely to see so many families at our Easter service. Many are not used to church and find it a bit strange, which is why the third Sunday is done in a very different way. This may mean that some of the parts of a service do not happen in the way that you are used to. When I started work at the church, the hope and prayer was that people would turn left at the front door, not just right. Praise God that this is now starting to happen. Let's continue to help encourage the green shoots to grow!

We had great fun at the last games night, the next one is booked Sat 17th May 7.00 - 9.30.

I have been successful in getting a grant from Rochford Parish Council to hold a VE day Lego Club children's party. We have already booked 38 tickets for it. If you were able to lend a hand on Sat May 10th, setting up from 3.00 with the event running from 4.30 - 6.30, please do let me know.

Lego club is back on this week and I will be leading an assembly at Holt Farm infants on Wednesday. Thanks. Mike Webb

**Easter celebration led by JAM** – Very well done to Pastor Mike, Joan, Rachael and Angie for leading the Easter morning worship! It was wonderful to see 18 young people and a total of over 50 in the service - I lost count at around 53! Pastor Mike gave out an Easter egg to every child/young person who attended. As we have agreed, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday service will be completely different to make it as accessible as possible for all people to engage, especially those with limited, or no church background. Thank you for your understanding that this service did not have all of the standard elements that you might expect. We really appreciate the work that the team put in to prepare and lead the service, including the music group, who were excellent. It was also lovely to see Holly playing the keyboard for one of the songs. The next one is planned for 18 May, so be prepared for something completely different!

**Great Ormond Street Hospital Charity Fund Raiser** – George Harris has walked 1 mile each day in March in order to raise money for Great Ormond Street Hospital. This is a brilliant effort and we heartily congratulate George for this! If anyone would like to donate, please would they see Robert or Kathy. Thank you.

**Connexion magazine** – A new edition is now available in the rack by the heater in the main worship area. These quarterly magazines give news about Methodists across the country and are very interesting and informative.

Please take home to read and return, so that others can do the same.

**Collect** – Faithful God, the strength of all who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

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

### [Other Forward Notices](#)

**10 May – 2.00pm** - VE day celebration at [UMC Great Wakering](#). Tea, anecdotes, sing-a-long etc.

**17 May – 10.00am – 1.00pm** – Church Anniversary Exhibition 'Gift of Colour'. [Chalkwell Park Methodist Church](#). An exhibition of crafts with light refreshments – free entry.

**17 May – 7.30pm – Quiz Night** - [Thorpe Bay Methodist Church](#). Tickets £5.00 each. Bring your own soft drinks (no alcohol please) and nibbles. Make up your own team of 6 – 8 or come along and join with some others

**7 June – 5.00pm** - Wesley Theatre Groups presents, "When The Lights Go On Again". Afternoon Tea & Entertainment to mark the 80th anniversaries of VE Day & VJ Day. Tickets: £10, booking essential. Box office 07813 553080. [Wesley Methodist Church](#).

**21 June – 10.00 to 2.00pm** - Circuit Quiet Day – "In the Stillness" - Hadleigh Methodist Church. [Hadleigh Methodist Church](#).

### [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.

