

Prayers of Intercession

Heavenly Father, we pray today that we may know in our lives the quality of peace that Mary knew as she accepted God's will. May we also rest serene in the knowledge that God has a plan for us and is guiding our lives.

Our souls rejoice in you, O Lord, and we seek your peace in our hearts.

Father, may your house be a haven of peace for those who struggle at this season; for those who slip in at quiet times when the carols are silent, because they long for the blessing of peace without the jollity; for those who lack the energy to rejoice because of bereavement or illness, but who desperately seek peace to still their souls and renew their strength.

Our souls rejoice in you, O Lord, and we seek your peace in our hearts.

Lord of all, we pray that all members of our community will feel included and involved in the events of this season; may the peace of the Christ-child enfold our neighbourhood and our town/village/city. And we pray for peace in a world where so many wars and conflicts continue; may the warmongers fail, and the peacemakers prevail.

Our souls rejoice in you, O Lord, and we seek your peace in our hearts.

Heavenly Father, we pray for peace among people who may not get along with the company they are obliged to keep at Christmas. We pray for the peacekeepers, those who work hard to maintain the façade of family peace when it may be lacking. Father, please heal all divisions and let true peace be known among families and friends gathered round the table. As we ponder these thoughts, we pray for all who will be alone this Christmas, in a society in which extended families are fewer, and relationship breakdowns more numerous. May they know that you are with them and find peace in the knowledge of your presence.

Our souls rejoice in you, O Lord, and we seek your peace in our hearts.

Finally, Lord, we rejoice with Mary in the unfolding of your will for her, and for the world, in the birth of Jesus Christ. May we all know the peace of that moment when your love became flesh on earth, for every year we can replay the miracle in our hearts and minds. Come to us again in this season of hustle and bustle; revisit us with the true meaning of Christmas, so that we may know your peace, the peace that surpasses all understanding.

Our souls rejoice in you, O Lord, and we seek your peace in our hearts.

Amen

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Rochford Methodist Church

77 North Street, Rochford, Essex SS4 1AD

[Rev Agnes Sam](#)

01702 817365

[Pastor Mike Webb](#)

07714 916263

www.rochfordmethodist.org.uk

Church WiFi password is displayed in the building

Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/rochfordmethodist

Sunday 22 December 2024

Weekly Notices and Prayers (v1.1)

Bible reading for the week

Matthew 1:23

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel (which means 'God with us')

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 22 December 2024

Advent 4 / Carol Service

Services and Meetings this week

Sunday – 9.30am – No Morning Service this week.

– **4.30pm – Carol Service.** This service will be a local arrangement and will be led by the Worship Leaders. We have a number of people taking part in this service. Following on, there will be festive refreshments in the hall.

Christmas Day - 10.00am - Our **Christmas morning service** will be run by our Worship Leaders. It will be approximately 30 minutes with a mix of carols, bible readings and prayers, plus a “show and tell” for the favourite Christmas present you have received!

All other meetings will resume in the New Year.

Please note that there will be **No weekly Notices** issued next week. These will resume for Sunday 5 January.

Forward Notices

Next Sunday – 9.30am – No Service at Rochford this week.

There is a Local Arrangement Café style of worship at [Hockley Methodist Church](#) at 11:15am, and also a Local Arrangement at [UMC Wakering](#) at 10:30am.

5 January – 9.30am – Our service will be led by Revd Agnes. This will be our annual **Covenant Service**, and Communion will be celebrated during this service. For those who are unfamiliar with this service, there is information available [here](#).

5 January – 9.30am – [JAM - Church 4 Children Club](#).

18 January – 7.00 – 9.00pm – House Group Party. Judy has very kindly agreed to host our party this year. Current House group attendees, and those who are interested in coming to future meetings, will be very welcome. Please ask Judy, or a Steward for more information.

Morning All Age worship services (third Sunday of each month). Further details will follow in the New Year, but please note that we will change the All Age worship morning services. The Leadership team have agreed that these services will be a different style of worship to be more accessible for people of all ages and with little or

no church experience. Please attend as usual and join us in warmly welcoming everyone. Let us encourage one another to experience our Christian faith differently.

Other Information

Church income was £221.35, which comprises the collection, Standing Orders paid directly into the Church account, plus other donations received over the last week.

Community Outreach Pastor update – We had our last Monday club of term this week, thanks to all who have helped out this term. We built Lego snowmen and made some lovely Angel decorations. We will return on Monday Jan 13th. I have been asked to join the Community Supermarket Steering Group and will update as this work develops. I also attended the Bar n Bus Christmas celebration last week. May I take this opportunity to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Thanks, [Mike Webb](#).

Marian Webb – We are sorry to advise that Marian sadly passed away last Wednesday evening. She hadn't been in the best of health for a number of years and she was taken into Southend hospital a couple of weeks ago, but went downhill and passed away peacefully.

We will be hoping her funeral service can be conducted at the Rochford Methodist Church - at this stage we are looking at late January. Marian's son, Mike.

Collect - God our redeemer, you chose the Virgin Mary, to be the mother of our Lord and Saviour. Fill us with your grace that in all things we may embrace your holy will and with her rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever. Amen.

Collect for Christmas Day - Almighty God, you have given us your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin. Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord, 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 Brigs, Pat Rubidge, Gwen Smith and Maureen Whalley.

[A Message from Rev'd Agnes](#)

Dear Friends, We are reminded of the boundless love and grace that came into the world through the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. This sacred time invites us to reflect on the profound impact of His love and the hope it brings to our lives.

In this season of giving and gratitude, let us open our hearts to the true meaning of Christmas. May we cherish the moments with our loved ones, extend a hand of compassion to those in need, and find peace in the presence of God's everlasting love.

Let us remember the humble beginnings in Bethlehem and the light that shone so brightly on that holy night. As a community of faith, we are called to be that light in the world—spreading kindness, joy, and hope to everyone we encounter.

May the peace of Christ reign in your hearts throughout this blessed season and always.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a New Year filled with God's abundant blessings!
With Love and Grace, Rev'd Agnes Sam

[Christmas Greetings](#)

Mike and Heather would like to wish everyone a very happy and healthy Christmas, and every blessing for the New Year.

Dave and Val would like to wish a Happy and peaceful Christmas to all of you who read these notices.

Carole and Bruce wish everybody a wonderful Christmastime and a prosperous and happy New Year.

Pastor Mike wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

[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.

