

Prayers of Intercession

God of Unity and Diversity

At this time of year when we think especially of those close to us, we pray for those who are a long way from the country of their birth and from those they love.

Joining with the UN on International Migrants Day, we remember those denied dignity and safety and those who are exploited and abused. We pray for fairer, clearer and more inclusive migration systems. Come Lord Jesus. Be with those who make journeys and those who make policies.

Bring hope, peace, courage and comfort to all.

We pray for our divided world, that the music of tolerance would ring out more loudly than the bullets of hatred.

We pray especially for the victims of the Bondi Beach shooting: for the injured, the grieving and for the whole community impacted so terribly.

We pray for all those who are victims of violence and especially young people who have lost their lives to gun and knife crimes.

We pray for juveniles convicted of violent crimes, for mentors to guide them and for role models to inspire them.

Come Lord Jesus. Be with those who are traumatised and those who are afraid.

Bring hope, peace, courage and comfort to all.

We pray for our NHS: For all those struggling to care for the volume of patients entrusted to them; for those hospitalised with flu and life-threatening illnesses; and for all those afraid that their treatment will be impacted or their appointments cancelled by the Resident Doctors' strike.

We pray for those who will be working over Christmas, and those on call.

Come Lord Jesus. Be with those who are overwhelmed by responsibilities and those who are vulnerable.

Bring hope, peace, courage and comfort to all.

We pray for King Charles and all those whose journey through illness is very public and for those who face their journey alone.

We pray for those who know this will be their last Christmas; those who fear that it might be; and those who are celebrating their first Christmas with someone they love.

Come Lord Jesus. Be with those who are joyful and those who are sad.

Bring hope, peace, courage and comfort to all.

We pray for those expecting a child this Christmas time; for those whose children have died; for those who have suffered miscarriages; and for those for whom parenthood hasn't been possible.

We pray for our churches as they both sing out the joy of Christmas and sit quietly with those whose hearts are heavy and whose lives are broken.

Come Lord Jesus. Be with those who are celebrating and those who are mourning.

Bring hope, peace, courage and comfort to all.

And on this shortest day of the year we pray for one another and for the light of Christ to shine brightly in our hearts. We pray for our families, our friends, and our communities. May these last days before Christmas bring opportunities to heal broken relationships; reflect on our journey of faith amidst the tyranny of undone tasks; and give and receive God's precious gift of love.

In Jesus' name,

Amen

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Rochford Methodist Church



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Church WiFi password is displayed in the building

Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/rochfordmethodist

Sunday 21 December 2025

Weekly Notices and Prayers (v1.0)

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](#).



HEARING LOOP INSTALLED

Switch hearing aid to T-coil

Sunday 21 December 2025

Advent 4 / Carol Service

Services and Meetings this week

Saturday – 3.30 – 5.30pm – Christingle Party – We will be holding a service, followed by a party for the children, at the church. All are very welcome to attend. If you are not sure what a Christingle is, you can find further information [here](#).

Sunday – 9.30am – Please note that there will be **no morning service this week**.

– **4.00pm – Carol Service** – This service will be a local arrangement led by the Worship Leaders. All are welcome to join us for our service of traditional Christmas carols and readings. There will be festive nibbles and other refreshments following this service that everyone is welcome to stay for.

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

Christmas Day – 10.30am – Christmas morning worship - Please join us for a very informal and joyful Christmas morning service which will be led by Rev Agnes. This service is quite short and should finish soon after 11am. You are welcome to bring along a Christmas present to show during the service! Our friends from Hockley Methodist Church will be joining us for this service.

There will be no weekly notices issued next week. The mid-week meetings will start to recommence from the following week.

Forward Notices

Next Sunday – 9.30am – No Service at Rochford next week. In the Preaching Plan John Phillips is listed as leading this service, but he has been advised that we are not meeting that week.

4 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](#).

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

Other Information

Church income was £185.50, which comprises collections, Standing Orders paid directly into the Church account, plus other donations received over the last week.

A message from our minister - Dear friends, As we gather at Christmas, we remember that God's greatest gift was not wrapped in paper or placed beneath a tree but born in a manger. In Jesus, we are gifted with light in our darkness, peace in our struggles, joy in our waiting, and love that never ends.

This year, the Methodist Church invites us to reflect not only on the gifts we receive, but on how we ourselves can be a gift to others. To be "gifted" is not just to hold blessings, but to become a blessing. Whether through a listening ear, a shared meal, or standing alongside someone in need, each of us can embody Christ's love in practical, everyday ways.

As we celebrate, let us remember those who feel alone or weary. The Christchild reminds us that every person is precious, every life is gifted, and every act of kindness can shine God's love.

As we journey into the new year, may we continue to ask: How can my life be a gift to others? In that question lies the heart of discipleship, and the joy of Christmas lived out all year round.

A blessed Christmas to you all, and peace for the year ahead.

With every blessing, Rev'd Agnes Sam

Community Outreach Pastor update – This week we had our last Lego club of the year, where we made Christmas ornaments and gave each of the children a Christmas gift. Lego nativity scenes were also built. We look forward to Lego club starting back on the 12th of January.

I attended a thankyou tea at Holt Farm Infants School for those that help out in the school this week. It was lovely to hear from parents that the children enjoy my assemblies, one child even said that God / Jesus was now his second favourite person - behind his mum! Thanks, Mike Webb

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.

Ron Castle's Funeral – For those who would like to attend, Ron's funeral is on Monday, 11am at [Pitsea Crematorium](#), South Chapel. The wake will be held at [Ballards Gore Golf Club](#). The family has requested that no black is worn.

Our Elderly Friends - Please remember – Shirley, Sylvia, Pat, Gwen and Maureen.

Other Events

18 January – 3.00pm - Accreditation service of Anne Briant. [United Methodist Church, Great Woking](#). Bright coloured clothes are encouraged.

Christmas Greetings

Heather and Mike wish everyone at church a very happy and healthy Christmas, and blessings for the New Year.

Pastor Mike wishes everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Thank you for all the support and help you have given me this year; it's very much appreciated.

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.

