

Prayers of Intercession

Lord, as we come to you today, our minds are full of questions. Just like Nicodemus, we want to know how and why. Thank you that you are a God who listens, a God who invites us to ask, a God who wants us to relate to you. So, here we are with our questions... some of which we name in our hearts right now.

Lord, we have so many questions

Help us to listen for your answers

Lord, today our first questions must be: **Why?** We come with heavy hearts asking why there are wars in Ukraine and Gaza and so many parts of Africa. We want to know why the leaders of so many nations want to wield power instead of bowing down to you. We ask why we have allowed ourselves to spoil your world with pollution and mismanagement of resources so that many millions starve while others have more than enough. Lord, these are heartfelt questions that we can't answer. But you are the God who sees. You are the God who will one day bring justice. You are the Lord to whom one day every knee will bow. In the meantime, Lord, show us how to be peacemakers. Show us how to work for justice. Help us to be the answer to our prayers.

Lord, we have so many questions

Help us to listen for your answers

Lord, we pray for our local community as we ask: **What?** Help us to see **what** you are doing and to follow you. We ask: What are you doing in our schools? We pray for pupils and teachers, for all who love you who are trying to show their friends and colleagues who you are. Thank you for a new openness to spirituality and for all those schools that have prayer spaces, allowing young people to connect with you.

We pray for local businesses and shops, our health facilities and community centres. We ask you to show us what we can do, as individuals or as a congregation, to serve those who work around us each day.

Lord, we have so many questions

Help us to listen for your answers

Lord, as we think of our neighbourhood, we ask: **Who?** Who needs to know the touch of your love this week? We think particularly of those we know who are in pain, especially... we pray for those we know who are sick....

Lord, wrap your loving arms around those who are sad today, we pray... give peace to those who are fearful or troubled or awaiting test results or a diagnosis...

Help those who struggle in any way, maybe at school, or because they are not as young as they once were.

And Lord, we also rejoice with those who are happy today: because of a birth, or good news, an exam passed, a successful interview, a birthday. Even if we are not feeling happy, give us the grace to rejoice with those who are.

Lord, we have so many questions

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Finally, Lord, we think about: **Where?** Where are you sending us this week? We picture the places that we expect to be going to: work, school, surgery, shops, friends' houses. Go before us, Lord, and prepare the way so that our words will be your words and our actions your actions. And Lord, some of us may be going to places we don't expect this week. Give us the courage to go to places that may be scary or unusual or new. Help us to know that you are with us every step of every day.

Lord, we have so many questions

Help us to listen for your answers

Lord, so often we bombard you with questions and demand answers. Help us this week to be quicker to listen than to speak. Help us to trust you in the storms and the calm. Help us to watch what you do and follow with courage and joy. And give us the grace to see when we can be the answers to our prayers.

Thank you for being the God who listens to our prayers.

Amen

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Church WiFi password is displayed in the building

Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/rochfordmethodist

Sunday 1 March 2026

Weekly Notices and Prayers (v2.0)

Bible reading for the week

John 3: 16-17

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

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 1 March 2026

Second Sunday in Lent

Services and Meetings this week

Saturday – 6.00 – 8.00pm – Pizza, Faith and Questions – Part 3 – [Christianity Explored](#)

– If you would like to help on the evening, please let [Pastor Mike Webb](#) know.

Sunday – 9.30am – Our service will be led by Sue Hockett. Sue is a Local Preacher.

Monday – 4.00 – 5.00pm – [Monday Club](#). Ages 4-12. 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 continue our Lent Bible studies and the resources are [available](#).

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 Rev Agnes and Holy Communion will be celebrated during this service.

11 March 8.00pm – House Group. We will be meeting at the home of Judy Garner. If you would like to attend, please speak to a Steward for further details.

22 March – 10.30am – We will be holding our **Annual Church Meeting** following the morning service. All are welcome to attend this meeting to learn more about the life/activities of our church during the past year. Every member and friend of the church brings a unique perspective. Your presence ensures that our decisions truly reflect the heart of our congregation.

Other Information

Church income was £314.40, which comprises collections, Standing Orders paid directly into the Church account, plus other donations received over the last week.

Community Outreach Pastor update – We had fun at Lego club this week, welcoming families back and making sand pictures.

This Saturday is the final part of our Hope Explored course, if you want to come along then just let me know. Pizza will be served at 6.00. I have had requests to hold a more general Q and A pizza night again and will look to run this again soon. Please do pray for us as we run this course.

I led an assembly at Holt Farm Infants this week and will be leading two at Rochford Primary school next week. Thanks, Mike Webb

Holy Communion - Methodist Church Policy states that all may participate in Holy Communion (or Sacrament, as it is sometimes called), if they so wish. Our practice is that you remain in your seats and the bread and (non-alcoholic) wine will be brought to you. We will then eat and drink together. Rev Agnes will give full details during this service. If you remain with your head down, the Communion stewards will understand that you do not wish to receive, and will simply pass on.

Methodists believe that Holy Communion is itself a 'means of grace' which may well draw you on to make further commitment to Christ. Children also may receive Communion. If you or your child(ren) have not been baptised, and you do receive Communion, your minister will suggest that you consider being baptised. (The Methodist Church has produced a small colourful book, [All This for You](#), about what baptism means in the Methodist Church, to help adults and parents of children think about what baptism means.)

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, Sylvia, Pat, Gwen and Maureen.

Proposed redevelopment of Coombes Farm - This is another major housing proposal in our small town and a group is encouraging all of us to resist this going ahead. They would like us to write to Rochford District Council and Rochford Parish Council with our individual concerns. Val has a bit more detail from the protest group. As far as our church premises are concerned we may be affected by the increase in traffic causing vibrations to the building, like many local properties we do not have nice deep

foundations! If you are interested in finding out more the plans are available at the Library and comments must be in by 20th March.2026. Further details are [here](#).

Other Events

7 March – 8.30am - Circuit Prayer Meeting via [Zoom](#). Meeting ID: 993 4284 3111
Passcode: 979807. Hoping to see you then. All are welcome. Blessings. Colin Turner

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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