

Prayers of Intercession

Lord God, we look to you for your leading in all that we do. Give us discernment and direction we pray.

Life is full of decisions to be made, large and small. One large decision we make in life is that of our marriage partner. Just as you led Abraham's servant your way resulting in Rebekah and Isaac coming together, we pray for all couples contemplating marriage plans.

Lord, we pray for all on the cusp of this decision. And ask that you lead them your way.

Lord God, we pray for those who have decided to walk a dark path, and those who have been coerced onto such a path. We think of those lost in a world of drugs, those lost and held in the grip of human trafficking, and those caught up in a never-ending cycle of violence. Light up your path, Lord God. Open their eyes to see, their minds to know and understand.

Lord, touch the lives of the lost, that they may be drawn to go your way and commit their lives to you.

Lord God, we pray for your church today. We lift to you all those in roles of ministry. May they look and act on your word for your people, and look not to their own ideas, the demands of the world or society's trends. May your word be paramount as all seek to discern your leading.

Lord, lead your church the way you want it to go. Guide us your way, Lord.

Lord God, after yet another Prime Minister resignation we pray for much-needed stability for our country. This country needs your direction, Lord. May you reign in power over this land. Put the right people in government and have Christian values central in all decisions.

Lord, we pray for all whose actions affect our daily life. May you shine your light and lead them and this country your way.

Lord God, we pray for the world, for all caught up in conflict. We pray for your hand on peace talks, Lord. We pray for the war in Ukraine and the end to hostilities worldwide. Strengthen the innocent caught up amid the rubble of broken lives and provide nourishment for body and soul.

Lord God, we pray for the devastation wrought by the twin earthquakes in Venezuela. We pray for the rescue teams. Lord, rebuild the shattered lives of those devastated by war, famine or earthquakes.

Lord, we pray for all people crying out for help. Speak peace, grant sustenance and restore your world. May the light of your love shine brightly in our world as you lead us your way. 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 5 July 2026

Weekly Notices and Prayers (v1.0)

Bible reading for the week

Matthew 11: 28-30

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

If you have any items that you would like to be added, or suggestions for inclusion, please advise [Mike Sims](mailto:Mike.Sims@rochfordmethodist.org.uk).



HEARING LOOP INSTALLED
Switch hearing aid to T-coil

Sunday 5 July 2026

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Services and Meetings this week

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

- 4.00pm – Youth Church Day - Highlands Methodist Church The 3 Gen Team are hosting a wonderful afternoon for all the young people in our circuit aged 8-18 yrs. We would really love it if your **church members** would come to be the congregation for the worship which will have been prepared by the young people. Let's see how they would like church!

Monday – 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. We are continuing our study of Philippians.

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. There is a suggested donation of £2 per family.

Forward Notices

Next Sunday – 9.30am – Our service will be led by Paul Saunders.

11 July – 6.00 to 8.00pm - Christianity Explored – Pastor Mike will be leading the next session of this course. The church will be providing pizza for those who attend. Please come to support this event, particularly if you can bring a friend who is not in the church, but wants to find out more about Jesus.

12 to 26 July – Gift Fortnight – As advised by our Treasurer last week, we will be holding our annual gift fortnight to refurbish the Benson Room and specifically to buy new comfortable chairs to replace the low ones that we currently have. This would make the space much more versatile and inviting to use, for example, with the various Christianity courses that we are now running.

15 July – 8.00pm – House Group – We will be meeting at the home of Carole and Bruce. Please ask a Steward if you need further information/address. All are very welcome to attend this meeting: there are no members, just friends from church gathering together and learning more about God.

18 July – 4.00 to 6.00pm - Summer Party. Pastor Mike is planning this and will be very grateful for volunteers to assist on the day. To book a place, please speak with Pastor Mike, or use this [link](#).

1 August – 10:30am to 12:30pm – Church Vision Day. As we come to the end of Pastor Mike's 3-year contract, we would like to gather together as a church to share ideas of how God will be guiding us for the next stage of our faith journey with Him. Rev Agnes will be leading this meeting and we will close with a packed lunch together.

9 August – Local Arrangement – Songs of Praise – This is advanced notice that our LA service in August will be a return of our sharing of favourite hymns/songs/bible passages or poems. We want this to be as interactive as possible with many people sharing a brief reason for their choice. Please have a think now as I will be seeking out volunteers to participate in this act of worship.

Other Information

Church income was £211.00, 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 a lovely time at Lego club this week, making Lego cars and Judy came and made some home-made pizza with us which was yummy. Next week will be the last Lego club of term, we will be back in September!

I am leading three assemblies next week; please pray they go well. I am planning on leading a debate on the existence of God with the older children and also looking at footballers praying. This needs to be done with care, so as to be a strong

Christian message but not overtly evangelistic.

If you haven't booked tickets for the summer party, please do so. Thanks to those who have said they will help out.

The [Bar'n'Bus](#) away day was very encouraging, despite the heat we had a great time together.

Our first Christianity Explored night went well, we continue with part 2 on the 11th July. Please do keep praying for us. Thanks, Mike Webb

Rev Agnes Cover for Maternity Leave – Please be assured that our church will receive appropriate pastoral cover whilst Rev Agnes is on maternity leave (planned for 12 months from September). We have been liaising with Rev Pete, Circuit Superintendent, and he has advised us that they are working hard to finalise this and hopefully things will be agreed and there will be news soon.

Caring for our environment - The Methodist Church's plan is to reach net carbon-zero by 2030. Many of our churches have signed up to A Rocha for achieving Eco Awards and we are working to meet the requirements to achieve the Silver Award. It is an online survey that encourages churches to review what they are doing for the environment locally, nationally and globally, centred around 5 keys areas: Worship and Teaching; Buildings; Land; Community and Global Engagement; Lifestyle. Click [here](#) to find out more about the A Rocha UK Eco Church programme. You can view more information on the Circuit website "[Eco Circuit](#)".

Shirley's Funeral Arrangements - Shirley's funeral is on 16 July at 11.30am at the [City of London Cemetery](#). Rev Zena Smith will be taking this. There will be a memorial service of thanksgiving on 23 July at 11am at [Thundersley M C \(The Burrell Centre\)](#) with Rev Pete Moorhouse officiating.

Rev Bryan Tolhurst - We recently heard the sad news that Rev Bryan Tolhurst passed away aged 75. Many people around the Circuit will remember that Bryan was the Superintendent from 2010 to 2015. He served many churches (including ours) during his time here and will be remembered for his compassion and kindness. He is survived by his wife Credwyn and their two sons. We keep the whole family in our prayers during this time.

Collect – Servant Lord, grant us both the opportunity and the will to serve you day by day. May all that we do and how we bear each other's burdens be our offering of love and service to the glory of your name. Amen.

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

[Other Forward Notices](#)

11 July - 2.00 to 4.00pm – Beetle Drive – [UMC Great Wakering](#). Email office@umcsouthend.org.uk to book a team table.

12 July - 4.00pm – Circuit Service - [Benfleet Methodist Church](#). Join us for an evening of worship, poetry and story as we hear about Anna Turner's work in the Middle East.

25 July – 11.00am to 3.00pm – [Westerley Open Day](#) – BBQ at 12.00pm. Card stalls, cake stalls, teas/coffees/cold drinks, raffle (plus much more)!

12 September – 7.00pm – Folk concert - "'[OUR ATLANTIC ROOTS](#)' fuse together poetic lyrics and cinematic instrumentation, creatively presenting a blend of the cultures they are individually from, by merging genres characterized by their country and folk roots". [Highlands Methodist Church](#). Tickets: £5.00 per head, available from: [We Got Tickets](#). Profits will go to the charity [Aspirations in Southend](#).

[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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