



# ROCHDALE EVANGELICAL CHURCH



## Prayer Letter 10 – February 2022

*For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.' (Lk. 19:10 NIVUK)*

### News Update!

Apologies for the length between prayer letters. It has been a very busy time for us both as a family and as a church.

### Outreach

We had an encouraging start to the Christmas period with over 40 people coming to an all-age outreach we did called "The Adventure of Christmas." However, like everyone else, the re-implementation of restrictions slowed things down for us around Christmas itself.

Since Christmas various people have showed interest in coming along. Some have come through leaflets delivered in the local area. Other have come through personal links with people in the church.

Our church Bible verse for the year is Luke 19:10, which reminds us that the very reason Jesus came was to seek and save the lost and we pray that he will continue that work through us in Rochdale.



### Discipleship

We have been studying Luke together in both our Sunday meetings and our Growth Group with the aim of grounding us again in the good news of Jesus our Saviour King. We have even had our first visiting speaker (Jim Campbell from Oldham Bethel Church)

Our Growth Groups are back on Zoom due to COVID restrictions and then space restrictions. Hopefully, we might be able to restart in-person some time around Easter.

As there are a number of people who are free during the day at the church, we have also started a regular Friday morning Zoom meeting. We follow a four week pattern:

1. Book Group (we're reading *I Am A Church Member* by Thom Rainer)
2. Prayer Meeting
3. Evangelism Training (using some of the *Passion for Life* material)
4. Prayer Meeting

### Forming the Church

We have now formed a membership and begun to have members' meetings as we move towards formally forming our church plant as a church with a CIO (a kind of charity). The FIEC support us in doing this with their linked solicitors.

## COVID-19

As a family, like many others in the last couple of months, COVID-19 finally caught up with us. We have had a couple of periods of self-isolation since Christmas with two of us testing positive at different times, although thankfully without serious symptoms.

This has been mirrored in the church with a good number of people testing positive since Christmas, which has put some strain on us keeping going (we've had a couple of Zoom-only Sundays). Small churches struggle when only a few people are missing!

Hopefully we're moving to a more normal setup now!

## Prayer Requests

Give thanks for:

- The encouragement of our "Adventure of Christmas Event"
- A number of people being interested in coming to REC
- A committed new membership
- Encouraging deepening in our walk with Jesus as we study Luke
- Faithful efforts to tell people about Jesus and encourage people to come to the church

Please pray for:

- Our outreach including:
  - our personal evangelism
  - the leaflets about the church being delivered in the area
  - possible opportunities around Easter
- Our members:
  - as we plan for the future formation of the church

- as we take different responsibilities and share the burdens
- that we would be united in the gospel, faithful to the word and committed to prayer
- Our meetings:
  - that we would grow in our love for Jesus and our understanding of the gospel as we study Luke
  - that we would grow in our love for one another as we meet together
  - that we would be welcoming to new people
  - that we would be accessible to unbelievers and believers alike
- Practical needs including:
  - our finances as we continue to need outside help from e.g. grants, supporting churches and individuals
  - our venue, for which we are grateful but which has not been perfect over the winter months (cold, noisy when it rains and not entirely watertight!)
  - managing as a small church group, especially in the current circumstances

Thank you as always for all your prayer and support. Do feel free to visit us any time or contact me for any further information.

