



ROCHDALE EVANGELICAL CHURCH



Prayer Letter 12 – June 2022

If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. (James 1:5 NIVUK)

Thank you for your prayers and support over the last couple of months – they are much appreciated.

As we keep trying to serve God and move forward with the church plant in Rochdale, we become more and more aware of our need for divine wisdom. James 1:5 gives us great encouragement, reminding we can ask and receive that wisdom from our incredibly generous God.

Progress has been steady as we've continued to reach out, develop disciples and work on the formation of an independent church. Hopefully the below sections will give you some food for prayer and thanksgiving.

Outreach

We've been encouraged as we've looked at some of the Passion for Life evangelism training videos together on Friday mornings.

As well as ongoing personal evangelism, we're planning a monthly all-age outreach service for both personal and local contacts. These will start in September.

Give thanks for:

- the group who have been engaged in the evangelism training
- personal contacts and evangelism that has been happening

Please pray for:

- opportunities to get to know unbelievers and invite them to church or read the Bible with them
- the all-age services to be effective in sharing the gospel with unbelievers



Discipleship

In our services we've been preaching on Psalm 119 and in the all-age slot doing an overview of the Bible. This has helped us to both love the Bible and know the storyline of the Bible. Over the summer we will be having "preacher's choice" sermons as we have a number of visiting speakers.

We've been finishing the book of Luke in Growth Group both so we can know Jesus better and to give us a gospel that we can look at with unbelieving friends.

In book group, we're reading *Respectable Sins* by Jerry Bridges together to encourage us in our holiness.

Both Growth Group and Book Group will be having a break over the summer holidays.

Give thanks for:

- more people sharing in the preaching
- encouragement to know Jesus and his word over the last few months

Please pray for:

- growth in our faith
- people to continue with the word over the summer
- the visiting preachers



Forming the Church

We have been having regular members' meetings putting together our initial paperwork to apply for a CIO (charitable status). Alongside that we have been planning how best to organise ourselves in line with the teaching of the Bible.

Give thanks for:

- being able to meet as a core membership to plan
- the support of the FIEC in our formation

Please pray for:

- efficiency, wisdom and faithfulness in both the formal paperwork and our understanding of how the church should work

- some more people to join us who would help share the load and support the work

Support

We have various church links that help in our support. Oldham Bethel Church continue to help us in many practical ways and we're looking forward to a joint service at the end of July. We have been encouraged by receiving more financial support from St Helen's, Bishopsgate. Grace Church Didcot, a plant a little older than us, have also initiated a new partnership with us, which is exciting.

We're also really grateful to have been offered a set of 30 Bibles for the church for free from a church that has recently closed.

A grant we applied for has also been given to us for later in the year, which will really help.

God through his people always seems to provide so generously for us. We're a very small church plant and in no way self-sufficient. We rely on these links as well as the kindness of many individuals for all kinds of support, whether financial, prayer or practical.

Give thanks for:

- the different partnerships that are allowing us to keep going
- the Bibles which will hopefully allow us to keep the word central during our meetings

Please pray for:

- developing links with people and churches
- ongoing support to help develop the plant to make disciples in Rochdale.

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.