



ROCHDALE EVANGELICAL CHURCH



Prayer Letter 13 – August 2022

Peter replied, "Repent and be baptised, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off – for all whom the Lord our God will call." (Acts 2:38-39 NIV84)

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

In Acts 2, Peter tells his listeners (and us) that the gospel message requires a response of repentance and faith and is for both young and old.

We long for more people in Rochdale to respond to the message of Jesus and we want to engage more families with the gospel.

As you'll see, we've been planning with that in mind!

Outreach

We've had a quiet summer with various people being away at different points, but we have been planning to better reach our area.

We are moving our Sunday service to what we think might be a better time (11am) and we are deliberately setting aside the second Sunday of each month as a family outreach service. We're leafletting this week. This is our family service leaflet:



Give thanks for:

- Bright new publicity that we've been able to produce
- A motivated membership who are keen to leaflet and invite.

Please pray for:

- Publicity to reach people who will come
- Good opportunities to invite people
- A good number to be reached with our family outreach services
- New people to be welcomed to our other services
- All our services, especially the family services, to be effective at sharing the gospel, welcoming and safe
- Plans for serving and witnessing to our community over what will probably be a difficult winter given the cost-of-living crisis.

Discipleship

We're going to be looking at Acts together in most of our Sunday meetings starting in September. In our family outreach services we're covering a gospel outline called the *Best News*.

So that everyone can feel connected to church throughout the week, we're focusing on Growth Group and moving it to a Wednesday evening. We're continuing Book Group @

Growth Group once a month looking at *Respectable Sins* by Jerry Bridges and then looking at Joshua the rest of the time.

We've also had a bargain bookstall at church the last few weeks with lots of £1 books from 10 of those. It's been really encouraging to talk to people about what they've been reading.

Give thanks for:

- Desire to study the Bible and pray all together
- The enthusiasm for the books.

Please pray for:

- Clear, faithful and gospel-centred preaching
- Real growth in imitating Jesus (1 Thes. 1:6) as we study the Bible and pray together in Growth Group
- A deepening corporate prayer life, especially that we would make time to pray together at Growth Group.

Forming the Church

We have completed the first stage of our paperwork for forming a CIO, but we have quite a lot still to do in terms of things like a constitution and church rules.

There is also ongoing work in terms of safeguarding, GDPR, finances and so on.

We are continuing with our members meetings and hoping to add one or two members in the next month.

Give thanks for:

- Completion of the first stage of the CIO application
- Potential new members

Please pray for:

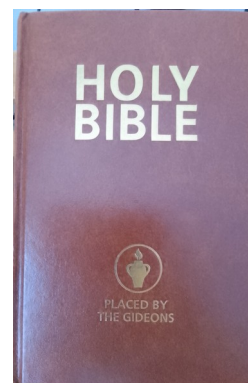
- The small number of members on whom the load for the church falls, especially as we have had some illness recently
- Good progress with the CIO application and wisdom in decisions to be made
- More faithful Christians to join and serve as members in the church.

Support

We continue to be encouraged by the various kinds of support we have received. We recently received a grant, which is a real encouragement as, like most people at the moment, we expect our costs to rise somewhat this winter!

It's been wonderful to see people use the church Bibles. They're old Gideon Bibles which have been passed onto us for free.

Before summer we enjoyed a joint service at Oldham Bethel Church and have really appreciated a number of preachers from there coming to us.



Give thanks for:

- The recent grant and the Bibles
- The network of supporters we are continually developing
- The support of a local church

Please pray for:

- Wisdom with the finances over the coming period
- Ongoing prayer support – especially for our spiritual and numerical growth

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.