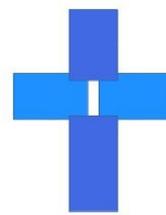


ROCHDALE EVANGELICAL CHURCH



Prayer Letter 14 – November 2022

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. (Isaiah 7:14 NIV84)

I'm sorry this prayer letter is later than intended, we've had lots going on, including me going to Blackpool for my first FIEC leaders conference!

We're already in the Advent and Christmas seasons and we'll be thinking about some of the Old Testament prophecies of the Christmas stories like the verse above in our meetings. We hope that we'll be amazed at the coming of Immanuel, God with us, again this year and I hope this prayer letter shares a little of what's been happening and what we're planning at REC.

Thank you as always for your partnership in helping us share the good news of Immanuel.

Outreach

We've been encouraged by some new people joining us and quite a number of visitors who were passing through Rochdale. More disappointing was an outreach coffee morning where only members of the church attended!

Please give thanks for:

- People who have visited and joined us recently
- The desire amongst the membership to reach out

Please pray for:

- Ongoing commitment to evangelism and discipleship
- Personal evangelism and invitation

- Opportunities to speak about Jesus and invite people to church around Christmas.
 - We have a special Christmas-Themed Family Service on 11th December
 - We have a Christmas Carol Service with festive refreshments on 18th December



Discipleship

As well as our Sunday messages looking at the book of Acts, we've been working through some of Joshua and our Book Group book *Respectable Sins* in Growth Group, which has been challenging. Over December, we'll be

reading *The Coming King* which is an Advent book with daily readings from the J.C. Ryle.

Please give thanks for:

- The challenge of the Spirit-empowered church of Acts
- Encouraging and challenging engagement with the Bible in Growth Group
- Encouraging church socials which have been fun and helped us to get to know each other.

Please pray:

- We would be encouraged and challenged as we read J.C. Ryle together
- That the Old Testament prophecies of the Christmas stories would help us to rejoice in Jesus this Christmas
- For the Spirit to transform us to greater faithfulness as we study the word of God together.

Forming the Church

We are working away at the legal documents for our church, so that we hope we will soon be recognised as a charity.

We also looking at alternative venues for the church, which may be necessary in the near future.

Please give thanks for:

- The financial and legal support we have from the FIEC and their solicitors
- Progress made in preparing our constitution and handbook.

Please pray for:

- Wisdom as we finalise our legal documents (which define how we will work as a church and charity)

- Provision of people for the various roles required as a church and charity
- All the extra things we need to get in place when we are an independent church (e.g. finances, safeguarding etc.)
- Provision of the right place for us to meet in the future.



Thank you as always for your prayers and your partnership. Please do contact me (details at the bottom of the page) if you want to know any more about the church.

We hope you have a very happy Christmas and New Year!