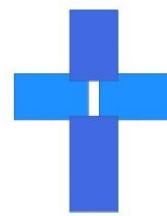


ROCHDALE EVANGELICAL CHURCH



Prayer Letter 15 – February 2023

But I, with a song of thanksgiving, will sacrifice to you. What I have vowed I will make good. Salvation comes from the LORD." (Jonah 2:9 NIV84)

We're about to start a new Sunday morning series in the book of Jonah. As a book it reminds us to be thankful that the plan of God is to offer the mercy of salvation across borders we might not expect. We have to be thankful, because without that mercy, salvation would never have been ours!

The book is also a challenge to us. Will we be like Jonah, preferring not to share God's mercy and salvation, or like Jesus forsaking his comfort to bring God's mercy and salvation?

At REC, we know we serve in a place with much evil and many troubles. But we pray that God would use us to share the mercy of his salvation with the town, just as it was shared with us. We're grateful for you praying with us.



I've finally managed to take some photos of the Scout Hut and some of the people in the church to include (which is ironic as we're about to leave the Scout Hut – more below).

Our Big News

I thought I'd better put this at the start as it will explain some of our other prayer points. From March we are moving out of the Scout Hut to a new community cafe in the local park, which is attached to the local library.

It will cost us roughly the same to rent and is a better venue in terms of facilities and location. We were very grateful to be able to rent anywhere in the middle of the pandemic, but we really hope the new venue will allow us to be more welcoming to people coming in.

Please give thanks for:

- the Scout Hut which has given us somewhere to meet for the last couple of years and was available in a lockdown
- the opportunity to meet somewhere that is warmer, dryer and has better facilities
- the potential outreach opportunities provided by the new location and venue.

Please pray for:

- a good relationship with the group that runs the cafe
- making the most of the advantages of the building especially in welcoming people
- a smooth transition so that everyone can find us, including new people

- good advertising online and in the community of the move.



Outreach

We had a few visitors in the run up to Christmas and we've continued to deliver leaflets around the area, but feel we would like to do more.

Please give thanks for:

- All the people who have been to meetings in the Scout Hut. Not everyone stayed with us, but we feel it has given us a chance to gradually grow
- New outreach opportunities in a more visible and better set up venue.

Please pray for:

- People to feel more able to invite people now the venue is better and for visitors to feel more comfortable and welcome
- Leaflets that will be delivered in the local area to tell people about the church and the location – that people would be interested to come
- Delivery of an evangelistic magazine (the *Life* magazine from 10ofthose.com) in the run up to Easter
- Plans to do door-knocking evangelism as the weather improves before Easter

Church Family

Up to Christmas we felt we were growing and moving forward well in becoming an independent church. Sadly, since Christmas some of our members have been seriously ill and some people who were attending have stopped.

Please give thanks for:

- The faithfulness of our members who keep coming and serving
- The progress we have made in becoming independent.

Please pray for:

- More Christians to join us. We feel we could do with more faithful people to help
- Those who are ill, some seriously, in the church
- Our Sunday services as we look at Jonah together, that they would help us grow and be accessible to visitors
- Our Growth Group which meets every Wednesday still looking at Joshua and once a month at the book *Respectable Sins*
- Our individual and communal prayer that we would be a prayerful church
- Our formation as we seek to complete the process of becoming a CIO (charity) and independent from Oldham Bethel Church.

We're always grateful for your partnership with us. Thank you for praying, visiting, giving and encouraging us and do use the details at the bottom of this sheet to find out more and be in contact.