

ROCHDALE EVANGELICAL CHURCH



Prayer Letter 16 – May 2023

But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD." (Joshua 24:15 NIV84)

We've been studying Joshua in our Growth Group and are just getting to the end. One of the challenges of the book is to act in faith on God's promises, which is why Joshua ends with a challenge to serve the Lord and not the gods of their past or the gods of the people in the land. Joshua commits himself and his family to serving the Lord.

We want REC to be a place where we trust God and his promises and we step out in faith. We also want to commit as individuals and families to serving the Lord.

We really appreciate your prayers and the other support many of you offer.

Our New Venue

We've really appreciated our new venue. It's nice to meet somewhere warm, bright, well-equipped and very visible in the community.

We've had people come and see what we're doing and it's a much more welcoming environment.



Please give thanks for:

- A smooth transition between venues
- The evangelistic opportunities the new venue provides

Please pray for:

- Wisdom to make the best use of the venue on Sundays – especially to welcome people
- Visitors to find it a welcoming context
- Wisdom to create signage etc. so people know we are there and what we're doing!

Our Family Service

One of things we've been doing for a little while now is a monthly family service, looking at a gospel theme each time in a way that is accessible to everyone – including some crafts which you can see in the photos!

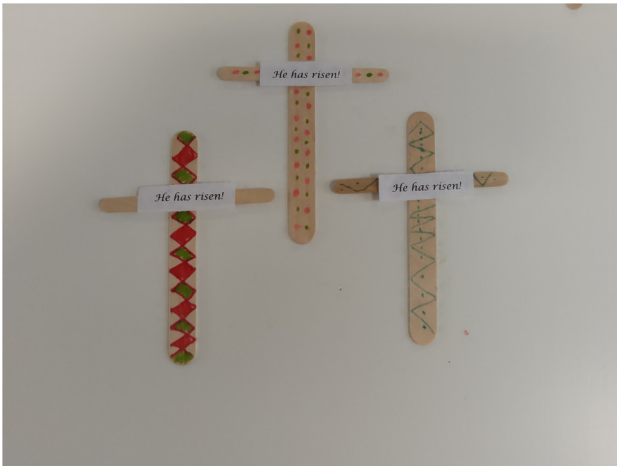


Please give thanks for:

- the children who come to church and the extra children who join us for family services
- some new people who have recently come

Please pray for:

- more families to join us
- more families from the local community to hear about what we're doing and join us
- the family service to be an effective way of proclaiming the gospel



Church Family

We continue to grow together as we meet to hear God's word and pray together whether on a Sunday or at Growth Group on a Wednesday.

Sunday mornings have been Jonah and Acts. Wednesday evening have been mostly Joshua (we're moving on to looking at prayer next) with a monthly book group – we've just finished *Respectable Sins* and are considering what to do next.

We had the sadness of our first funeral just before Easter, but are so grateful for the good news of the gospel in that context.

We've made good progress with our formation (our Church Constitution and Handbook are OK

with the solicitors). We are currently working through appropriate policies and processes for when we are independent.

Please give thanks for:

- Encouragement from the Scriptures both on Sundays and at Growth Group
- More time for prayer together on Wednesdays
- Progress in becoming an independent church

Please pray for:

- More Christians to join us. We feel we could do with more faithful people to help
- Those who are grieving
- Our Sunday services as we look at Acts together and for plans for over the Summer
- Our Growth Group finishing Joshua and looking at prayer
- Our formation as we seek to get everything in place to be independent – please pray especially that Stephen would have the time for the work on that
- For the right people to take on the right roles within the church (e.g. secretary, treasurer, safeguarding lead, health and safety – all the fun things!)

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.