



Prayer Letter 17 – July 2023

He said to them: "You are well aware that it is against our law for a Jew to associate with or visit a Gentile. But God has shown me that I should not call anyone impure or unclean. (Acts 10:28 NIV)

We've been challenged looking at Acts on Sunday mornings to see the way the good news about Jesus crosses borders and that, as Peter learns, we "should not call anyone impure or unclean." We know the gospel is for everyone in Rochdale!

Our big news is that we are now a CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation), which means we legally exist and that we need to take responsibility for ourselves! We have all our own policies and so on now and are working towards having our own bank account and managing our own finances (if you give to us by standing order we'll let you know when to change the account it goes to!).

We really appreciate your prayers and the other support many of you offer. I hope it's an encouragement to hear our progress.



Outreach

We've been encouraged to have quite a few people come and check the church out over the

last few months and would of course love for people to join us permanently.

Recently, we delivered an evangelistic magazine around the area of our new venue and hope to continue doing that, as well as some other evangelism in the area.

We continue to encourage members to witness to those around them in the daily lives.

Please give thanks for:

- Visitors to church
- The evangelistic magazine we've been able to deliver
- Members engaged in personal evangelism.

Please pray for:

- Fruit from our efforts, e.g. gospel conversations, new people coming to church and of course people trusting Jesus
- Opportunities for more personal evangelism
- Wisdom to plan the right evangelistic efforts for our area.

Church Family

We have continued meeting on Sundays looking at Acts and then having the family service once a month. We had our summer picnic together after church a couple of weeks ago.

On Wednesdays we've finished studying the book of Joshua and started looking at a set of studies on prayer together. We're having a break over summer, but while we do we're reading *The Way of the Righteous in the Muck of Life* by Dale Ralph Davis on Psalms 1-12.

We continue to have a number of members who are dealing with illness and grief.

Please give thanks for:

- Encouragement and challenge from the Bible over the past couple of months
- Settling quickly in our new venue, which has been excellent
- Closer fellowship as we share life together and start a church together!

Please pray for:

- the church to keep going over summer – we have a couple of Sundays we can't meet
- Comfort and health for those grieving or sick
- Continued hunger for the word, prayer and fellowship, so that we can be a healthy church family.

Church Formation

Our CIO came through quite quickly when we finally got everything together to apply. There's lots of work to do setting things up now and lots of jobs for people to gradually take on.

We're so grateful for the support of Oldham Bethel Church for the last few years which has meant we haven't had to think too much about this stuff. But now we do!

Please give thanks for:

- a straightforward process with the Charity Commission

- various organisations that support churches with template policies etc. so that we can reasonably straightforwardly set up the church
- the hard work already done to be a 'proper' church and the commitment of people in the church to serve

Please pray for:

- Setting the finances up – getting a bank account, transferring giving etc. which is the next big hurdle
- Good management of the various policies and procedures – we want to be well run to glorify God and be a good witness
- Wisdom to set things up to support our purpose to share the good news of Jesus with people in Rochdale and make disciples.

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 (note the new email address).

