



# ROCHDALE EVANGELICAL CHURCH



## Prayer Letter 18 – November 2023

*The women said to Naomi: "Praise be to the LORD, who this day has not left you without a guardian-redeemer. May he become famous throughout Israel!" (Ruth 4:14 NIV)*

We've just started a short pre-Christmas series in the book of Ruth. It's a story that teaches us about the kindness and providence of God, as he redeems a family, and points us to our King and Redeemer Jesus (see Ruth 4:16-22 and Matthew 1:1-17 to see how we'll be segueing into the Christmas story).

Recent stories in the media have reminded us that Rochdale is a dark place. Our cenotaph is currently being guarded by the police following vandalism and the BBC have been screening a series called The Detectives: Taking down an OCG, which is based in Rochdale, near where we meet.

Those stories actually remind us why we're here. The people of Rochdale need to hear of Jesus the king and redeemer. They need the light that only the Light of the world can bring to this dark place.

So we're grateful for you partnering with us in prayer for the work here, which feels more urgent than ever.

### Outreach

We've been out delivering our new church invitation leaflet around the area. We plan to deliver more, as well as Christmas invitations and the the evangelistic *Life* magazine.

We will be having a Christmas Cracker family outreach on December 10<sup>th</sup>, as well as a Family Carol Service on December 24<sup>th</sup>.

We also have new banners which we put up outside our venue on Sundays.

Please give thanks for:

- A visible and comfortable location
- Some visitors to our services over the last few months

Please pray for:

- Our publicity to be effective
- Visitors over the Christmas period to hear and believe the gospel



### Church Family

The last 12-18 months have felt hard as a church family. We have fewer people than we had this time last year (and we weren't big then!) and many of our committed members

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have suffered serious health issues. We need your prayers!

We continue to study the word and pray together on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings. In particular, we've been trying to think more about prayer and spend time in prayer.

Please give thanks for:

- The commitment of our members, often in hard times for them
- The deepening of our prayer life together as a church

Please pray for:

- Those members suffering with illness and grief at the moment
- The Lord to bless us with the encouragement of more workers for the harvest field in Rochdale

## Church Formation

We are now almost completely independent from Oldham Bethel Church. The last step has been to become financially independent, including employing and paying our pastor, Stephen (which should start in December).

We now have our own bank account. This means that if you give to us then please change your standing order details to our account as soon as possible (either you will have the bank details because we've contacted you or please use the contact details below so we can give you the information).

We're in the process of sorting out Gift Aid and giving via Stewardship and we'll let you know when we can do both of those.

Please give thanks for:

- All the progress we've made in becoming independent, especially in the last 12 months
- The support we've had from Oldham Bethel Church (especially as it's taken us a year longer to set everything up than expected!)

Please pray for:

- The remaining work on employment, payroll, Gift Aid and Stewardship giving
- The church to endure now so much work has been done to set it up
- That we would manage our finances well

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).

