

## Prayers of Intercession

Lord, when the world seems in disarray, and nobody really seems to know what is going on, help us to trust that you are ultimately in control. We pray for all the innocent people caught up in the conflicts. We pray for the leaders of the nations that they may be people of humility, integrity and peace.

Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus, you saw everyone. You noticed what was going on. You understood people so you knew immediately how to serve them. Forgive us for the times when we walk by on the other side, when we don't appreciate what is really going on, when we fail to respond appropriately when people need our help. As we pray for different people today, help us to see them as you see them and thus make our prayers more effective.

Lord, help us to see others as you see them.

**Help us to love them like you do.**

We pray for those in our church fellowship and local community who are hurting today. We pray for those who are sick, especially.... We pray for the relief of suffering. We pray for those who are sad, remembering... Lord, wrap your loving arms around them and bring comfort in their sorrow. We pray for those who are confused, lonely, anxious or unloved, especially.... Lord, reveal yourself to them and help them know your closeness.

Lord, show us how we can support those we have prayed for, as well as those we have not. Open our eyes to see the need in our local community and teach us to be the answer to our prayers. We thank you for those who serve in the foodbanks, the places of welcome, the warm spaces, the community centres. Lord, help us to touch others with your love this week.

Lord, help us to see others as you see them.

**Help us to love them like you do.**

Lord, we pray for all those who live with a disability. We pray that they will not receive discrimination in their schools, workplaces, local amenities. Help our church to be an inclusive community, welcoming everyone as you welcomed them. We pray for schools that are struggling to meet the needs of young people with extra challenges. Help us always to see the person you have created and not the people society wants us to see. We thank you for all those who support those who need special care, praying especially for carers and those who work in the care professions, and all medical staff. Give them times of rest and peace in the busyness of their lives.

Lord, help us to see others as you see them.

**Help us to love them like you do.**

In the UK we are celebrating Mothering Sunday today, so we thank God for our mothers and/or all those who have been like mothers to us. We pause to remember a special moment or something kind they have done for us and we praise God. Help us always to remember to be grateful for the love and care that others give to us. Show us one way that we can demonstrate our love for them this week. We thank you that you put us in families to share our lives together.

Lord, help us to see others as you see them.

**Help us to love them like you do.**

Lord, we also remember those whose family life is not happy; those who are not able to live with their natural families; those who live in abusive households; those who live with sadness or pain; those where a family member is in prison. Be especially close to these people today, Lord. May they know your love in their painful times. Help all those who are in danger to find a safe way out. Help us to be alert to any who need our specific support.

Lord, help us to see others as you see them.

**Help us to love them like you do.**

Lord, we pray for your world. We think of something beautiful that we have seen this week and rejoice. We also remember something in your world that is broken and needs your healing touch: countries at war, especially in the Middle East and Ukraine; places of drought or flood; places of strife and unrest; land covered in the rubbish that we throw away so carelessly; chimneys polluting the sky; forests being cut down. Lord, forgive us for spoiling your beautiful creation. We pray for all those in governments and organisations who are trying to find ways to keep your planet green and breathing for future generations. Give them wisdom and courage, we pray.

Lord, help us to see others as you see them.

**Help us to love them like you do.**

And Lord, we thank you for signs of new life that we see around us... Help us to rejoice in your goodness day by day... we pause to thank you for even the smallest of blessings you gave us this week. Help us to take that new life and goodness into every situation we go.

**Amen**

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# Rochford Methodist Church

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Church WiFi password is displayed in the building

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/groups/rochfordmethodist](https://www.facebook.com/groups/rochfordmethodist)

## Sunday 15 March 2026

## Weekly Notices and Prayers (v1.0)

Bible reading for the week

1 Samuel 16: 7

The LORD does not look at the things people look at.  
People look at the outward appearance, but  
the LORD looks at the heart."

If you have any items that you would like to be added, or suggestions for inclusion,  
please advise [Mike Sims](#).



HEARING LOOP INSTALLED

Switch hearing aid to T-coil

Sunday 15 March 2026

Fourth Sunday in Lent / Mothering Sunday

### Services and Meetings this week

**Sunday – 10.00am** – Our Mothering Sunday service will be led by Rev Agnes and will be an All Age worship service. As usual for this service, refreshments will be available from 09:30.

**Monday – 4.00 – 5.00pm** – **Monday Club**. Ages 4-12. Crafts, Lego, snacks, games, and it's free! A responsible adult will need to stay at all times.

**– 7.00 to 7.15pm** – **No Rochford Prayer meeting this week** as there is a Circuit meeting that will clash, due to that being a face-to-face event.

**Tuesday – 7.30pm** – **Bible Study**. You are welcome to join us on [Zoom](#). Meeting ID: 948 2779 0660. Passcode: 425539. We will continue our Lent Bible studies and the resources are [available](#).

**Thursday - 7.30pm** - **Table Tennis**. Please let [Colin and Margaret](#) know if you're planning to come as there are occasions when they do not meet, so it's worth checking first.

**Friday – 9.30 to 11.30am** – **Happy Cup Breakfast Club**. Runs every Friday in term time and is for parents/carers with children aged 0 to 5 years. £2 per family.

### Forward Notices

**Next Sunday – 9.30am** – Our service will be led by Rev Agnes and be followed by our **Annual Church meeting**. All are welcome to attend this meeting to learn more about the life/activities of our church during the past year. Every member and friend of the church brings a unique perspective. Your presence ensures that our decisions truly reflect the heart of our congregation.

**Saturday 4 April - 10.00 - 12.00noon** - [Easter Trail & Macmillan Coffee Morning](#). Complete the Easter trail around Rochford to claim an Easter egg prize!

### Other Information

**Church income** was £298.00, which comprises collections, Standing Orders paid directly into the Church account, plus other donations received over the last week.

**Community Outreach Pastor update** – I read an interesting article in the Times this week, and this is taken from it – I tell you what I do believe in, though, and that's the theory of "the God-shaped hole". A famous quote, often attributed to GK Chesterton (though this is much disputed), is: "When men choose not to believe in God, they then believe in anything." As an educated Times reader, you will be familiar with the meaning: there is a God-shaped hole in our self and if you don't fill it with God, you will fill it with money, "wellness", social justice, astrology, luxury brands and so on. You will all probably laugh at me now, but that is something I do think is true. From the Times March 12th. Let's pray that people find God when they look to fill the God shaped hole in their lives.

This week I led an assembly at Holt Farm Infants school looking at friendship. Next week I will be leading two Easter assemblies at Rochford primary school.

Thanks for those who helped out at Lego Club this week, we had fun making Mother's Day cards and gifts. Next week we will be making model birds.

I will also be attending the District Health and Wellbeing Board this week. A number of funding requests are going to council this week, including additional funding for the Revive community supermarket and the work of Bar n Bus in this area. Please pray that they are all agreed. Thanks, Mike Webb

**Collect** – Lord God, whose blessed Son our Saviour gave his back to those who struck him and did not hide his face from shame: give us grace to endure the sufferings of this present time with sure confidence in the glory that shall be revealed; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Collect for Mothering Sunday** - God of compassion, whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary, shared the life of a home in Nazareth, and drew the whole human family to himself: strengthen us in our daily living that in joy and in sorrow we may know the power of your presence to bring together and to heal; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**Our Elderly Friends** - Please remember – Shirley, Sylvia, Pat, Gwen and Maureen.

### Other Events

**28 March – 10.00am to 1.00pm** – **Making worship truly inclusive for all**. Rayleigh Methodist Church are holding a session, led by Hannah Ashton, who is a member of Shoeburyness & Thorpe Bay Baptist Church and a professional specialist working in the NHS.

**2 April – 6.30pm - Maundy Thursday Meal and Tenebrae Service.** Menu: Egg Salad & Matzos, Lamb (or white fish), New potatoes & peas, Apple & sultana crumble with ice cream, Grape Juice. Please sign up via [BMCShelagh@outlook.com](mailto:BMCShelagh@outlook.com) or 07593 677636

**5 April – 6.30pm – Circuit Easter “PRAYER & PRAISE” Celebration.** Belfairs Methodist Church. Led by the ‘Worship Band’ and others from the circuit. Come and share with us in the joy of Christ’s Resurrection. We look forward to seeing you there.

### [Donations](#)

If you would like to donate to the work of Rochford Methodist Church, you can do so from [here](#). If you want to buy something new, please remember to do so through [Easyfundraising](#).

To create a **Standing Order** for Rochford Methodist Church you will need the following details: A/c Name Rochford Methodist Church; A/c No 90766712; Sort Code 20 79 73. If you are a taxpayer, please could you contact Bruce Glendenning so that a simple form can be easily filled in. We can then reclaim tax back on the donations.

You can also donate to the Church by [PayPal Giving Fund](#)

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