

Sunday 4th May

10:30am All Age Service

Matt Hutchings

When darkness reigned #7
Luke 24:36-53

6:00pm Prayer Meeting

Sunday 11th May

10:30am Morning Service

Matt Hutchings

Ruth: from ruin to redemption #1
Ruth 1

6:00pm Passion for Life joint prayer meeting at Grove Hill

Sunday 18th May

10:30am Morning Service

Matt Hutchings

Ruth: from ruin to redemption #2
Ruth 2

6:00pm Prayer Meeting

Sunday 25th May

10:30am Morning Service
with Communion

Martin Hull

Ruth: from ruin to redemption #3
Ruth 3

6:00pm Prayer Meeting

Prayer Points

Our Church Family

- Please pray for Martin and for Matt as they preach and for our church family as we work through the book of Ruth. Pray that Martin and Matt will be diligent and faithful in their service and that the Lord will work in and through them and that we all might be struck by God's covenant kindness and might rejoice afresh in our guardian-redeemer, Jesus.
- Give thanks for the visitors who joined us at our Easter services and events—both for old friends, visitors from other churches and unbelievers who live locally. Pray that visitors will return and that those who don't yet know Christ will hear the gospel and put their trust in him.
- Pray for our elders, members and treasurer as we prepare for our Annual Church Meeting on 22nd May. Pray that this will be a joyful, God-honouring and fruitful time together as we look back on how the Lord has blessed and provided for us over the last year and as we look ahead.
- Pray for our elders as they meet and serve the Lord. Pray for the many others who serve to make church life happen (e.g. our musicians, our Sunday School team, those who set up, prepare refreshments and make Sunday services happen, those who serve in our midweek ministries). Give thanks for the privilege of serving Christ together, and pray for strengthening, equipping and refreshment from the Lord.
- Pray that the Lord would grow us spiritually as through his word we get to know him better and in all areas of our lives submit to and obey him. Pray that the Lord would grow us in number. Pray that he would bring Christians new to the area to us, or those who've disengaged from their current churches. Particularly pray for new converts and for baptisms.
- Pray that our Sunday services would be welcoming spaces in which the Lord is held up high and worshipped, and in which people of every age, stage and background feel welcome and able to come and meet with him. Pray for wisdom as to what to keep the same and what to change to make our services honour Christ as best we can.
- Pray for our mission partners. Pray for the Baldwins in Georgia as they learn the language and look for and use opportunities to witness and disciple. Pray for the Neales in Spain as they prepare for their summer sabbatical and as they prayerfully seek a couple who could take on leading the church when they retire. Pray for the Balls here in east London as they serve in their many current ministries and explore new opportunities.
- Give thanks for new mission opportunities the Lord has given us the privilege of exploring. Pray for wisdom and discernment for the elders as we have conversations with different individuals and groups. Pray that the Lord would lead us to the right opportunities for us to support in this season. Pray that all the works we're considering might flourish.
- Pray for those in our church family and community who are struggling in this season. Pray that they might know God's great kindness to them.

Our Community

- Pray for those in our local community who practice other religions, and for local groups (e.g. the Woodford Muslim Cultural Centre on Snakes Lane East, Woodford Forest United Synagogue on Churchfields). Pray that they would see that Jesus is the true God and that our faith is based on events in history not ideas, dreams, philosophies or cultural traditions.
- Pray for those who consider themselves spiritual but do not follow Christ. Pray that they might see that He alone is the way, the truth and the life. Pray for God's healing if they've been hurt by religious groups in the past.
- Pray for those who consider themselves atheists. Pray that they might realise the Christian foundations upon which our society and likely their own moral codes are based. Pray that the Lord might miraculously open blind eyes and soften hard hearts.

Our Nation

- Pray for local elections as they take place across the country. Pray that candidates will speak truly and fairly of their plans and hopes, and that those who are elected will govern in line with God's will.
- Pray for our government as they deal with the impact of tariffs imposed by the US and as they continue to seek peace in Ukraine.
- Pray for the many Christians working at every level in politics. Pray that they might be salt and light in their workplaces and have a significant impact on the communities they represent and upon our nation.

Our World *(provided by Open Doors)*

Nigeria—Give thanks that the ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States) have ordered Nigeria to repeal or amend blasphemy laws, ruling them excessive and disproportionate and a violation of international human rights. Pray for Kano state, where officials have signalled that they will not be deterred by this ruling. Pray that ECOWAS' ruling will be carried out, and that Christians will be protected from vigilante violence.

Bangladesh—As Christians have begun to emerge from hiding following last year's political and social unrest (including last August's ousting of the Prime Minister) there has been a resurgence in targeted attacks upon believers. Pray for an end to these attacks, for the Lord's protection of believers (particularly those in the worst affected areas in the west and north), and that they might be guarded by God's peace that transcends understanding. Pray against efforts to change the secular constitution.

Sudan—15th April 2025 marked two years since civil war broke out in Sudan. Life is extremely difficult for everyone. Christians are additionally vulnerable as neither of the warring parties welcomes them (many church buildings have been damaged and believers abducted and/or killed) and communities discriminate against them (denying them supplies). Pray that leaders will negotiate fair solutions and that peace will return to the land. Pray for believers suffering—that God will comfort and provide for them.

Regular Activities & Meetings

Monday	Community Coffee	11:00am	<i>Prospect Hall</i>
	<i>Community Coffee <u>will</u> meet on Bank Holiday Monday 5th May</i>		
	<i>Coffee Plus 12th May</i>		
	<i>No session on Monday 26th May</i>		
Tuesday	Good News Club	3:30pm	<i>Ray Lodge Estate</i>
	<i>No session on Tuesday 27th May</i>		
Wednesday	Morning home group	11am	<i>Paul & Brenda's house</i>
	<i>Coffee at Cowan Lodge (3rd Wednesday of the month, 11am)</i>		
	Evening home group	7:45pm	<i>Matt & Charlotte's house</i>
	<i>No session on Wednesday 28th May</i>		
Thursday	Toddler group	9:30am	<i>Prospect Hall</i>
	<i>No session on Thursday 29th May</i>		

Dates for the diary

- **Joint Passion for Life prayer meeting**—Sunday 11th May, 6pm, Grove Hill Evangelical Church
- **Annual Church Meeting**—Thursday 22nd May, 8pm, Prospect Hall lounge
- **Baldwins (mission partners) visit**—Sunday 22nd June, followed by church picnic at Ray Park



NB. Matt will be taking leave later this month (during the school half-term holidays, Monday 26th—Saturday 31st May). Please contact Martin or one of the other elders if you need anything.