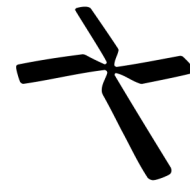


December



- ▶ Pray for families and young people who find Christmas and New Year difficult—who feel isolated, anxious or burdened at what should be a happy time. Pray that these families and young people will find a way to see Christmas as an opportunity to know that while circumstances be difficult and painful, God's love is still evident.
- ▶ Pray that Romsey Mill's annual 'Twelve Days of Christmas' fundraising appeal moves people to support our work financially.
- ▶ Christmas parties for the Young Parents Programme and the Children's Centre are a hectic and joyful occasion—pray that amidst the busy-ness, that families find a moment's peace to hear the Christmas message.
- ▶ Pray for the appointment of a new fundraiser to join the Romsey Mill team and pray for Charity Green who is moving on to a new job at the University of Cambridge's Faculty of Education.
- ▶ Pray that we have enough volunteers to help in the Romsey Mill shop in the busy Christmas period, and that we continue to receive lots of great donations. Pray that Mill Road Winter Fair is a safe, fun and inclusive event that everyone can enjoy.
- ▶ An Aspire parent was involved in an accident that has caused life-changing injuries—pray for her and her family as they come to terms with what this will mean for them. Pray for charity shop volunteers who have suffered ill health or injury recently.
- ▶ Pray for the 12 young mothers who are attending the 'Shine' self-esteem course this term—that they will realise that they have value and worth and see a purpose for their future.

January



- ▶ Pray that the start of a new year revitalises the staff team at Romsey Mill, renewing their purpose and strengthening their commitment. Pray that the young people and families we work with feel excited about the year ahead.
- ▶ Ask God to help Romsey Mill's Leadership & Management Team, and our Trustees, as they navigate a steady path through a testing economic environment.
- ▶ Pray for the recruitment of reliable and committed volunteers would help us to increase our Playgroup's intake and further develop the richness of the children's and parents' experiences. Pray that new children arriving in January settle in quickly.
- ▶ Pray for a well-attended and joyful Thanksgiving Service for Romsey Mill on 21 January 2016.
- ▶ Pray for new work with primary schools, that we have good relationships with head teachers and teachers and can work with them to make a difference early on in the lives of vulnerable young people.
- ▶ Pray for a strong start to the year for our new youth work venue at the Meadows Community centre in north Cambridge.
- ▶ Pray for young parents living in rural areas who can feel even more isolated in winter months.
- ▶ Pray for young people with autism who have such high anxiety that they are not currently able to access education. Pray for appropriate provision to be found for them soon.

February



- ▶ Pray for Playgroup staff and parents as they work together on ideas for fun and creative activities for the children and fundraising events.
- ▶ Ask for God's help to help us find tutors to support maths and other courses for young parents and other young people.
- ▶ Pray that as the City and County Council reviews budgets that affect Children's Centre, Young Parents and Youth Development programmes, that any cuts that are made are not so deep that they affect our ability to meet the needs of the most vulnerable.
- ▶ Pray for a smooth transition for young parents as they move from antenatal to postnatal courses, and learn to be the best parents they can be.
- ▶ Valentine's Day can be difficult for teenagers and for single parents—help them to feel a bigger, deeper love from the community at Romsey Mill and from God.
- ▶ Admin, Operations and Finance staff are busy at the end of the financial year—pray that they have the strength and energy to get through this challenging time.
- ▶ Ask God to help us find more volunteers to help run crèches, so we can offer courses and learning opportunities to parents through the Children's Centres. Pray for volunteers to help us run Aspire groups so we can reach more young people with autistic spectrum conditions—particularly in Cambourne, where we need at least four additional people on Wednesday afternoons to help us run our groups.

Praise God for...

- ▶ This time in the year when we celebrate God's love for the world and his gift of life as Jesus came to dwell with us.
- ▶ We are thankful that we have a number of students working with us, as well as a youth work apprentice. Please pray that they continue to grow into their roles and learn about family and youth work.
- ▶ Give thanks that the children in Playgroup have all settled in well and we are seeing signs of good progress, especially in their personal and social development and their communication and language. Successful transitions children have made from the Children's Centre to Playgroup, and from Playgroup to other nurseries and Early Years settings.
- ▶ For Aspire team members having positive conversations with parents of children with autism. One parent said "You have made me smile again."
- ▶ Give thanks for the appointment of Youth Development Worker Harminder Rana as she joins the Team.
- ▶ Continued funding from Youth Music to support our work using music to engage hard-to-reach young people.
- ▶ The four young mothers who have successfully settled into full-time courses at Cambridge Regional College. Give thanks for the busier than normal antenatal course for Young Parents in the run up to Christmas.
- ▶ For new volunteers in the Aspire programme who are settling into their roles well and enjoying making a difference in the lives of children and teenagers with autism who often face isolation and loneliness.

Praise God for...

- ▶ The way the Romsey Mill staff team can come together in shared purpose—to laugh, to work, to pray and to support each other. We feel God's love and care every day and feel blessed to be here.
- ▶ For the funding and successful appointment of Beth Hicks as one-to-one Playgroup support assistant for a child with additional needs. The child's mother is excited by the progress he has already made.
- ▶ For a renewed contract with the County Council's Disabled Children's Early Help team for the Aspire programme, securing funding for a further period.
- ▶ Eden Baptist Church that is giving us a space to hold a weekly group for young fathers. This is a perfect central location and we hope it will make attending this group easy.
- ▶ The number of children in Playgroup receiving Early Years funding has increased, as has the number of children with English as an additional language.
- ▶ The donation that made the resourcing and development of 'Babies and Buddies' possible, offering an improved learning experience for young parents and their children.
- ▶ For ten new children and young people with autism who have started at our Aspire youth clubs this term and have settled in well. One parent said about her child after her first youth club session "she had a fab time and can't wait for this Thursday."

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Dec– Feb 2016

ROMSEY MILL



Prayer Diary



But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people."

The Bible, Luke 2:10