

The Priority of Prayer

We are grateful to all our supporters who express their care and commitment to our cause through prayer.

We believe that your faithfulness in prayer is vital to the effectiveness of the work of Romsey Mill's team.

Our intention in preparing this prayer diary is that it will give you a general impression of what is going on at Romsey Mill, as well as providing information on some specific upcoming matters.

We know that some of our prayer partners like to know about particular issues that they can pray for. Others like to hold the image and sense of a person or situation in the presence of God as if to let the one seep into the other. The bringing together of these two realities, the presence of God and a particular person or situation, in our minds and hearts is very much how many people find intercessory prayer 'works'.

Prayer is difficult. Only a renewed belief that prayer is powerful and effective, that our prayers are heard, will cause us to push through the fears and difficulties. Prayer causes us to face our own lack of control; it challenges our desire to be seen to be doing something; it drives us to seek God's wisdom rather than lean on our own understanding; in short, it confronts us with our total dependency on our loving, heavenly Father and our need to submit to His ways.

Thank you for your commitment to stand, sit or kneel with us in prayer. It is such an encouragement to know that we have friends who are:

'joyful in hope, patient in affliction and faithful in prayer'

The Bible, Romans 12:12

October



- ▶ Ask God to help Romsey Mill's Leadership & Management Team, and our Trustees, as they shape Romsey Mill's strategic direction.
- ▶ Pray for the appointment of an Assistant Youth Worker for Shelford & Stapleford Youth Initiative to work alongside Ollie Leonard.
- ▶ Pray for the new business and social enterprise opportunities that are being explored as ways to work in partnership with communities and raise funds for Romsey Mill.
- ▶ Pray for the Children's Centre's new parenting course for the autumn term—that the group learn new skills, gain confidence and form new friendships.
- ▶ New Aspire girls group (age 12-15) starting in Arbury Baptist Church—bringing the number of Aspire girls groups up to three. Pray for new group members and those who are moving groups as they get older.
- ▶ Pray that activities and groups recruit new young people, particularly in areas where we are growing our presence.
- ▶ We are due an OFSTED inspection of our Playgroup—pray that this goes well and that the inspector is able to see all the hard work and commitment that goes into working with such a diverse group of parents and pre-schoolers.
- ▶ 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.

November



- ▶ Pray that Bonfire Night is safe and that no people or animals are scared or hurt.
- ▶ Pray that preparations for the annual Twelve Days of Christmas fundraising appeal go smoothly and that people are able and willing to set aside money for donations at an expensive time of year.
- ▶ Pray that local businesses, individuals, churches and community groups continue to see the value and impact of Romsey Mill's work, and support us financially.
- ▶ Pray for children who have chronic conditions or illnesses and who attend Playgroup and Children's Centre activities despite the physical and emotional challenges they and their parents face.
- ▶ Pray for the older Aspire young people who volunteer with younger groups, who have to juggle their college commitments with their volunteering. Pray they find a good balance for both.
- ▶ Pray that we have enough volunteers to help in the Romsey Mill shop in the build up to the busy Christmas period, and that we continue to receive lots of great donations.
- ▶ Pray for Avril Timson who works so hard at Romsey Mill and also for one of our partner churches, St Philip's, and who gives so much to young people.

Praise God for...

- ▶ The volunteers who help us with administrative tasks and who are utterly dependable for helping with mail-outs and other duties. For the wonderful volunteers who came in from local businesses over the summer to upgrade and redecorate in both Playgroup settings.
- ▶ The opportunity to expand our youth development work in the north of the city, by being offered a space at the Meadows Community Centre. This fantastic venue will allow us to work with the young people of Arbury, Kings Hedges and Chesterton in new and exciting ways.
- ▶ Summer clubs, day trips, residentials and activities were all well attended, positive and successful. Praise God for the energy and enthusiasm of the youth and family workers who go the extra mile to make these occasions so special for everyone.
- ▶ The music event 'Rapademic' held at the Junction in July was a positive way for young people to showcase their musical talent to an audience and feel genuine appreciation and acknowledgment for their creativity.
- ▶ The Celebration Evening hosted by Marshall Aerospace & Defence Group in July enabled the achievements of young people to be noticed and applauded by their parents, teachers and peers.
- ▶ Charlotte and Greg Walton who got married in July and invited friends and family to donate to Romsey Mill as part of their wedding list. For John Marshall who completed the London to Cambridge cycle ride despite dreadful weather, raising funds for Romsey Mill.

Praise God for...

- ▶ The laughter, team spirit and support that the Romsey Mill Staff Team give each other—despite many challenges, we always find time to come together, pray and have a cup of tea. We feel God's love and care at work here every day.
- ▶ A successful summer term in Playgroup—running two settings at the same time for the first time, and the way parents, children, volunteers and staff handled this change. The Early Years Foundation Stage Adviser completed the annual 'Keeping in Touch' visit and gave useful and positive feedback, pre-OFSTED.
- ▶ Our neighbours on Hemingford Road, who have shown considerable understanding over occasional noise and disruption.
- ▶ A great residential trip to the Norfolk coast for our young mums.
- ▶ Ollie Leonard who has joined the Romsey Mill team and settled in so well, for his energy and ability to form new links in Sawston, Stapleford and Shelford. Neil Thompson, who has joined the Fundraising & Communications team and is making a big contribution to our work.
- ▶ The six people who took part in the gruelling Spartan Sprint Race—overcoming obstacles and working as a team to raise funds for Romsey Mill.
- ▶ A young woman with complex mental health needs who attended an Aspire group but was unsure about her future direction – with support and encouragement, she has now decided to attend college and is excited about her plans.

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ROMSEY MILL



Prayer Diary



Come to me, all you who are weary and
burdened, and I will give you rest.

The Bible, Matthew 11:28