

# FIRST SUNDAY

5pm-7pm on the first Sunday of the month at Rayleigh Elim, 23 Castle Road, Rayleigh SS6 7QD  
Free Live Music • Free Coffee • Free Tea • Free Food • Free Cake & Biscuits • Free thought of the day  
Everybody welcome: Bring your friends. Bring your family. Bring yourself! For catering purposes please tell us if you are coming! Email: [firstsunday@estuaryelim.church](mailto:firstsunday@estuaryelim.church) or tell Andy, Dean, Paul or Simon.

## 8pm-9pm Monday 19 February 2018 at Southend Elim UNITED HOUR OF PRAYER

An opportunity for all members, regulars and visitors from across our group of churches to meet together and to pray together.

**PRAYER FUEL!** Pray for our churches. Pray for the people who make up our churches. Pray we will grow in unity and diversity. Pray our churches would be known as people who love God, love one another and love the community. Pray each of us would do good & be good news to those around us. Ask the Holy Spirit to empower you afresh for mission, pray for opportunities, open doors and God's provision as you step out in faith and share the love of God and the truth of Jesus as Lord and Saviour.

**ARE YOU A TAX PAYER?** Did you know by joining the Gift Aid Scheme, at zero extra cost to you, you can increase your tithe and offerings to the Church by 25%? If you donate via Gift Aid for every £1 you give, the tax man will give us an extra 25p - *But only if you fill in a Gift Aid form!* Ask Brian James, John Spurling or Julie O'Connor for a form.

**CAN WE PRAY FOR YOU?** If you have a prayer request we would be happy to pray for you. Speak to **Andrea James** or email [aj@ashingdonelim.co.uk](mailto:aj@ashingdonelim.co.uk) and your request will be prayed for by the people who participate in the Estuary Elim Prayer Chain.

### YOUR MINISTRY TEAM

David Redbond (Senior Pastor)	01702 548438	<a href="mailto:dave@ashingdonelim.co.uk">dave@ashingdonelim.co.uk</a>
Andy Knight (Rayleigh)	07747 330068	<a href="mailto:andy@rayleighelim.co.uk">andy@rayleighelim.co.uk</a>
Dean Courtier	07886 924099	<a href="mailto:dean@estuaryelim.co.uk">dean@estuaryelim.co.uk</a>
Keith Maynard (Chaplaincy)	01702 544922	<a href="mailto:keith@ashingdonelim.co.uk">keith@ashingdonelim.co.uk</a>
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Tony Tween	01245 600138	<a href="mailto:tony@ashingdonelim.co.uk">tony@ashingdonelim.co.uk</a>

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# Sunday 2 Sunday

@ Ashingdon, Rayleigh & Southend Elim

## WHAT GOD THINKS ABOUT YOU

Many times in my life, I've come back to the promise in Jeremiah 29:11, *'I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'*

It's a verse many of us love, because it is a promise that God is good and wants to be good toward us. It's easy to believe that God has a good plan for your life when things are working out well, but it's a little tougher when the path is difficult.

I've gone through times when it seemed as if God's plans were not prospering me; in fact, it felt like they were hurting me. I became confused because I couldn't see any divine "plan" for my life, much less that it was good. In fact, there were times when I thought God was against me. What is He trying to do? I thought. Make me tough? Make me stronger? How were His plans bringing me hope? I don't think I'm alone in this.

The God of the harvest is also the God of the desert. Could it be possible that God has a plan to increase my understanding of His love? Could God have allowed difficult circumstances so I could understand who He really is?

Again and again, I keep hearing Jeremiah 29:11 echo in my heart and head. The word translated as plans is the Hebrew word *machashabah* (מַחְשָׁבָה); a more literal translation is "thoughts." God knows the thoughts He has toward me and His thoughts toward me are good. His thoughts toward me are the real constant, despite whatever circumstances I am going through.

God knows everything about each one of us (Psalm 139:1), and we are made in His image (Genesis 1:27). We don't have to fear what God thinks about us because He always, always looks at us with love. You are really, truly, deeply loved by God. Whatever you are going through, knowing that God's thoughts toward you are always good will help you hope and endure.

Pastor Dean



<b>SUNDAY 21 JANUARY</b>	10.30am	Memorial Hall	Morning Service – Dave Redbond
	10.30am	Rayleigh Elim	Morning Service – Andy Knight
	10.30am	Southend Elim	Morning Service – Dean Courtier
	11.00am	Ashingdon Elim	Ekids (4-11) – Samantha Murphy / Jean Guiver
	11.00am	Memorial Hall	Impact! Bible Class (12-16) – Simon Law
	11.00am	Rayleigh Elim	Junior Church – Diane Spurling
	6.30pm	Ashingdon Elim	Encouragement Night – Paul Aldridge
<b>MONDAY 22 JANUARY</b>	10.00am	Meet & Mix	Maureen's Meanderers – Maureen Redbond
	1.30pm	Rayleigh Elim	Games Club – Diane Spurling / Wally King
	7.00pm	Rayleigh Elim	Prayer Meeting – John Spurling
	8.00pm	Meet & Mix	Men's Night Out – Dave Redbond
<b>TUESDAY 23 JANUARY</b>	7.30pm	Meet & Mix	Dave & Maureen's Meet & Mix Group
<b>WEDNESDAY 24 JANUARY</b>	1.30pm	Ashingdon Elim	Afternoon Bible Study – Anne O'Brien
	7.00pm	Rayleigh Elim	Art & Craft Club – Anne O'Brien
<b>THURSDAY 25 JANUARY</b>	7.30pm	Meet & Mix	Exploring Bible Themes – Keith & Daphne's
<b>FRIDAY 26 JANUARY</b>	7.30pm	Ashingdon Elim	4 Real Youth – Alison Iley
<b>SATURDAY 27 JANUARY</b>	10.00am	Ashingdon Elim	Estuary Men's Breakfast – Dave Redbond
<b>SUNDAY 28 JANUARY</b>	10.30am	Memorial Hall	Morning Service – Dean Courtier
	10.30am	Rayleigh Elim	Morning Service – Dave Redbond
	10.30am	Southend Elim	Morning Service – Paul Aldridge
	11.00am	Ashingdon Elim	Ekids (4-11) – Maddy Amey / Marilene Vobeto
	11.00am	Memorial Hall	Impact! Bible Class (12-16) – Simon Law
	11.00am	Rayleigh Elim	Junior Church – Andy / Gleisi Knight
	6.30pm	Ashingdon Elim	Guest Speaker Night – Rev Phil Hannam
<b>MONDAY 29 JANUARY</b>	10.00am	Meet & Mix	Maureen's Meanderers – Maureen Redbond
	1.30pm	Rayleigh Elim	Games Club – Diane Spurling / Wally King
	7.00pm	Rayleigh Elim	Prayer Meeting – John Spurling
<b>TUESDAY 30 JANUARY</b>	7.30pm	Meet & Mix	Dave & Maureen's Meet & Mix Group
	7.30pm	Rayleigh Elim	20:20 Bible Study – Dean Courtier
<b>WEDNESDAY 31 JANUARY</b>	1.30pm	Ashingdon Elim	Afternoon Bible Study – Anne O'Brien
	7.00pm	Rayleigh Elim	Art & Craft Club – Anne O'Brien

Do you know how to make a cup of tea or coffee? **Will you join the Tea & Coffee Team?**  
Do you know how to smile and say "Hello"? **Will you join the Welcome Team?**

<b>THURSDAY 1 FEBRUARY</b>	2.00pm	Ashingdon Elim	TIME OUT till 4pm – Maddy Amey
	7.30pm	Meet & Mix	Exploring Bible Themes – Keith & Daphne's
<b>FRIDAY 2 FEBRUARY</b>	7.30pm	Ashingdon Elim	4 Real Youth – Alison Iley
<b>SUNDAY 4 FEBRUARY</b>	10.30am	Memorial Hall	Morning Service – Dave Redbond
	10.30am	Rayleigh Elim	Morning Service – Simon Law
	10.30am	Southend Elim	Morning Service – Tony Tween
	11.00am	Ashingdon Elim	Ekids (4-11) – Samantha Murphy / Andrea James
	11.00am	Memorial Hall	Impact! Bible Class (12-16) – Dean Courtier
	11.00am	Rayleigh Elim	Junior Church – Diane Spurling
	5.00pm	Rayleigh Elim	First Sunday
	6.30pm	Ashingdon Elim	Communion Night – Keith Maynard
<b>MONDAY 5 FEBRUARY</b>	10.00am	Meet & Mix	Maureen's Meanderers – Maureen Redbond
	1.30pm	Rayleigh Elim	Games Club – Diane Spurling / Wally King
	7.00pm	Rayleigh Elim	Prayer Meeting – John Spurling
	8.00pm	Rayleigh Elim	Rayleigh Local Leadership Team Meeting
<b>TUESDAY 6 FEBRUARY</b>	7.30pm	Meet & Mix	Dave & Maureen's Meet & Mix Group
	7.30pm	Ashingdon Elim	Prayer Warriors – Hanna Courtier
<b>WEDNESDAY 7 FEBRUARY</b>	12.00pm	Memorial Hall	Lunch Bunch – Kevin Holmes
	1.30pm	Ashingdon Elim	Afternoon Bible Study – Anne O'Brien
	7.00pm	Rayleigh Elim	Art & Craft Club – Anne O'Brien
	8.00pm	Ashingdon Elim	Music Team Practice – Simon Law
<b>THURSDAY 8 FEBRUARY</b>	7.30pm	Meet & Mix	Exploring Bible Themes – Keith & Daphne's
<b>FRIDAY 9 FEBRUARY</b>	10.30am	Rayleigh Elim	Coffee & Lite Bites
	7.30pm	Ashingdon Elim	4 Real Youth – Alison Iley
<b>SATURDAY 10 FEBRUARY</b>	10.00am	Rayleigh Elim	Ekids Saturday Club (Age 4-11) – Samantha Murphy
<b>SUNDAY 11 FEBRUARY</b>	10.30am	Memorial Hall	Morning Service – Dean Courtier
	10.30am	Rayleigh Elim	Morning Service – Tony Tween
	10.30am	Southend Elim	Morning Service – Paul Aldridge
	11.00am	Ashingdon Elim	Ekids (4-11) – Samantha Murphy / Jean Guiver
	11.00am	Memorial Hall	Impact! Bible Class (12-16) – Simon Law
	11.00am	Rayleigh Elim	Junior Church – Diane Spurling
	3.00pm	St. Lukes Place	Afternoon Service – Keith Maynard
	6.30pm	Ashingdon Elim	Encounter Night – Dave Redbond

Most of our sermons are recorded & available online at [www.estuaryelim.church/podcast.htm](http://www.estuaryelim.church/podcast.htm)