



## Weekly Prayer Focus: 15<sup>th</sup> January 2023

### Socketts Heath Baptist Church

Socketts Heath Baptist Church is a multi-ethnic congregation meeting in the northern suburbs of Grays in Essex.

Minister Rev Oliver McMullen and his family moved to the area in September and have been made to feel very welcome very quickly. In this season, the church is seeking ways of regathering people, and strengthening community relationships at all levels.

The church is beginning the year with a week of prayer as it focuses on growing community during 2023, sensing that the Lord is inviting them to pause, take stock and focus on what the church's next steps should be. One expression of supporting this is that a monthly evening worship service will now be taking place.

Rev McMullen says: 'We know that God is guiding our steps and we are looking forward to developing the positive patterns that will help us move along the paths he is preparing.'

Sunday morning worship includes sessions for children and young people, and there is a youth group meeting on alternate Saturdays. Midweek activities include toddlers group, ladies fellowship and coffee morning, which all form part of our warm welcome, and the church is also seeking ways to explore other ways of serving the community without over-stretching their resources. A lunch club called 'Love Lunch' is nearly ready to go.

A very successful Christingle service attracted people of all ages and a pop-up nativity (pictured) also proved popular, so already people are sensing interest from those outside the regular congregation.

Prayer focus:

- the continuing growth of relationships across the fellowship and for the new minister as he and the family continue to settle in.
- The Lord's equipping and resourcing us as the church seeks to reach out to their community with the good news of Jesus.
- God to stir up His future vision in the coming months from within the fellowship.