

General Election

On June 8th Britain will go to the polls to vote for a new parliament. As citizen's of God's kingdom we have a particular responsibility to seek the welfare of the UK - the host country in which we live.

Here's what the Bible says:

"Seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper." Jeremiah 29:7

As we take time to weigh up which way to cast our votes in the coming weeks, let this verse be a guide.

Which policies would lead to:

Peace? Biblically this word means not just the absence of hostility, but also the presence of well-being, wholeness, and justice - especially for those in society who are most vulnerable.

Prosperity? The Bible reminds us that nations prosper when they adhere to God's values:
"Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people" (Proverbs 14:34)

World Events

Use the news as a source of prayer pointers. Pray for:

- Peace and restraint in the world's trouble spots, especially Syria, North Korea and Iraq.
- The Presidential elections in Iran and France in May.
- Migrants across the world, many of whom are facing increasing hostility.
- The oppression of opponents of President Erdogan in Turkey.
- The millions facing famine in Yemen.
- Peace following the recent unrest and deaths in Venezuela.

Salvation

Please pray for:

- A sovereign move of God's Spirit, drawing people to Jesus as Saviour and Lord.
- Specific individuals on your frontline.
- Wisdom for a group in the church considering how to reach out to those moving into Thornbury's new estates.
- Those attending Coffee Shop and our community outreach events.
- Members of the church football team who are coming to TBC at the start of May.

May 2017



Frontline Mission

As a church we recognise that God is interested in our whole lives. Each month we feature and pray for a different 'frontline' - the places where TBC members spend their Monday- Saturday lives. This month we feature those who work in the world of finance.



Mark Stuart

My name is Mark Stuart. I currently work at Elim Housing in Rugeley. We deliver homes to meet the wide range of housing needs that exists in our community and work with those in our homes to help them build their lives and develop independence.

Being involved in finance gives me the opportunity to connect with all parts of my organisation. My faith shapes how I work with those I connect with. Every day I go to work looking to help our housing and support staff by making the money available that they need.

Over my time in finance I have often sensed God speaking to me through circumstances. This can be through the timing of money coming in; providing answers to an issue I am facing through others or things working out better than expected in one area which helps offset an overspend in another.

Please pray that those who work in finance would be given the wisdom they need to be good stewards of the money for which they have oversight.

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following the way of



loving God, one another
and the world

Community Mission

The TBC Lunch Club aims to provide a caring and loving atmosphere for the young at heart, but elderly folk who live in and around Thornbury. It's a place in which they can make new friends, and have a good meal with a drink to follow. During the last half hour they are entertained by choirs and a mixture of music, or a speaker. For some, this is the only day in the week they can come out and enjoy company.

Please pray:

- That it's somewhere they can relax and feel the Lord's peace.
- That we as a team can help and listen whenever it's possible.
- For good health and strength for the staff team.
- That the Lord will bring in the right helpers at the right time, when needed.



All of our mission partners are listed under the 'mission' tab on our church website, so do search there for more information. Many also have their own websites, and you will find those links in their listing on the church website.

Local Mission Partners

The aim of Thornbury Parenting Together is to support parents who live or have connection with Thornbury and the surrounding areas in all aspects of parenting, backed by Thornbury Churches Together. We started with Parent Buddies, which provides one-to-one support, and now are also running Care for the Family's Parentalk.

Please pray for:

- All parents in the area, who have a very difficult and demanding role.
- The parents who have asked for a Parent Buddy – that their confidence as parents will increase as they receive support, and for the Buddies that they will have wisdom as they encourage the parents.
- Parentalk – the Primary Years, which is over half way through, that those who have attended any of the sessions will be encouraged in their parenting as they try out new ideas they have gleaned from the video and the discussions.
- Parentalk – the Teenage Years, which has just started, that the group will quickly become a support to one another. There are many parents of teenagers who are seeking our support as they navigate this phase of family life.

Mission Partners

Calikids reaches out to the many children in Colombia who are at serious risk. Cali is a little bigger than Bristol but 4-5 times greater in population. Thousands of children are on the streets alone in Cali.

Please pray for:

- Little English Church which is in Hormiguero and thriving in a very difficult village by the River Cauca. It is dangerous, rife with drugs etc. This is run by a couple from Y.W.A.M. Wilson and Daniela, who have two children of their own. Pray for strength and wisdom and their protection.
- Pray for the little Christian school which takes 60+ children from 4 years old and up. Pray for constant provision and protection. They are praying for a van to take the children to and from school. They are also in need of two full time teachers. The River Cauca which runs right along the bottom of the village is about to overflow. When it overflows the water (not clean) runs right through their little houses. Please pray that the water subsides.
- Pray for the Pastor of the 'Peace & freedom' Orphanage, Fredy Botero. Another eight children have been added to their number. The majority of these children have come from the streets. A mother begged the Pastor to take her son as she was so poor she was unable to feed him properly. There are now just under 30 children staying here.

Children & Young People

- Give thanks that about 150 Children and Young people connect with God through groups at TBC each week and pray that they will grow a faith that lasts.
- Give thanks for the positive week-ends enjoyed by Basement Café, Attic Café and SNG over the past couple of months and the strengthening of relationships.
- Pray for those taking exams, that they would know God's presence with them as they revise and in the exam room.

Use the weekly notice sheet and e-news to pray for **healing needs** in the church.

Personal Renewal

Spirit filled souls are ablaze for God.

*They love with a love that glows.
They serve with a faith that kindles.*

They serve with a devotion that consumes.

They hate sin with a fierceness that burns.

They rejoice with a joy that radiates.

Love is perfected in the fire of God.

(Samuel Chadwick)

Reflect on this quotation and pray to be a "Spirit-filled soul, ablaze for God".

Pray for yourself and all at TBC.