

# Coming soon

*These are some of the upcoming events in Thornbury Baptist Church:  
please pray for them and those that come.*

## SUNDAY EVENINGS @ 6.30pm

### FEBRUARY

7th: Worship Space with Communion (Myrtle Lawrence)

14th: In the Stillness: Rest in His Presence

21st : Praise and Prayer

28th: Digging Deeper (Helen Paynter)

### MARCH

6th: Worship Space with Communion (Tabernacle of David)

13th: In the Stillness: Praying his Presence

20th : Praise and Prayer

27th: Easter Day Healing Service

### EVENTS

#### FEBRUARY

Monday 8th@ 2.30pm: Inside Out

Wednesday 10th@ 8.00pm Family Forum

Saturday 13th @ 8.00am: Men's Breakfast

Saturday 27th @ 10.00am Dads & Kids Morning

#### MARCH

Saturday 12th @ 8am Men's Breakfast

Monday 14th@ 2.30pm Inside Out

Friday 18th@ 7.30pm Jonathan Veira Concert

Saturday 19th@ 7.30pm Gospel Choir Concert

Friday 25th@ 10.15am from Christ the King Catholic Church: Walk of Witness

Friday 25th@ 6.00pm Good Friday Service

[www.thornburybaptistchurch.co.uk](http://www.thornburybaptistchurch.co.uk) 01454 419118

Loving God, one another and the world

# CONNECT

## News and Prayer for February 2016

### ...where the river flows

One of the most compelling images in the Bible must surely be Ezekiel's vision of a river flowing from God's throne into his creation (Ezekiel 47). It speaks of God's desire to bless, especially the most arid and hopeless corners of his earth. It speaks of his endless resources. It speaks of his desire to escape the routines of religion and engage with his creation. It speaks of God's purpose to bring LIFE in all its fullness to everything and everyone.

I love the words, "where the river flows, everything will live" (47:9)!

Jesus said that if we are thirsty for that river of transforming life we should come to him, drink him in, and then we will overflow with his life into the lives of others! (John 7:37,38).

At the start of this new year let's recommit ourselves to pray to be filled to overflowing with the Jesus-life: and wherever we go – schools, businesses, shops, coffee shops - may God use us to bring LIFE!

*David Lawrence*

### Frontline Mission

#### This month: Creative/Design

*Each month we pray for an individual and for all those who share the same area of life and work. Their Frontline!*

*This month we are praying for those who are involved in creativity and design.*

**Creativity comes in all areas of life - not always recognised as it should be. Both thinking and making are creative.**

Janet Clarke has different roles – maths tutor, felt-maker and artist. To her, the creative element is



visible in all three aspects. She delights in helping to impart a sense of confidence in others. Whether she is teaching someone maths or leading a felt-making workshop, it is all about sharing and enjoying the subject, helping participants to realise their inner creativity. She also led art sessions for the Lighting Up organisation, which supports people living with dementia. Through this she has seen how art can reach inside the soul. Janet sees God's creative power in it all - orderliness and beauty too - even the beauty of maths!

#### For prayer:

- Thanksgiving for God's gift of patience
- That creativity is valued as central to life and education, not just an aside
- That people work together creatively, to bring them closer to each other and to God
- That there will be opportunities to share faith

## Renewal

### *Reaching out to God for a deeper awareness of his life in us*

One ancient stream of Christian spirituality talks of our lives consisting of 'consolation', that is, things and experiences that make us feel nearer to God, and those that cause 'desolation', that is, those that drain our spirits and make God seem more distant. As you pray this month, consider what in your life would come under each of those two headings. Lay the lists before God. Thank God for everything that brings 'consolation'. Reflect deeply on anything in your life that makes God seem distant, or makes your spirit feel 'flat'. What steps might you take to minimize 'desolation' and maximise 'consolation'?

## Salvation

### *Praying for those we long to see come to faith*

Pray for all of those attending the new Alpha course on Thursday evenings. Pray for Paul, Rhean and the the leaders.

Pray for people who came to our guest services before Christmas, some of whom are now coming on Sundays.

Pray for the many contacts that we have formed through Coffee Shop and Lunch Club.

Pray for people on your own 'frontline'. Ask God how you can share the love of Jesus with them in word or deed.

## Healing

### *Seeking God's healing and wholeness for those with health problems*

Pray for . . . Sarah Britten, Jean Cannon, Edna Clarke, Alison Collett, Joan Colwill, Noel Defraigne, Josh Denny, Ray Goudie, Rosemary Howell, Ruth Hulse, Joan Jones, Natalia Kent's mum Tanya, Marie Merrick, June Short, Vic & Jill Soffe, Mike Spiller, Len Steele, Lisa Sumner's mum Joan, young Conan, little Charlie, Tom Pelham and his young family, and others who are suffering with ill health. Pray also for Melanie Graham and Rachel Stracey and their families and others in the fellowship and community who have recently been bereaved.

## Children & Youth

### *Helping to grow a faith that lasts*

Pray:

- \* For the Open the Book teams as they go into local schools. May their presentations be spirit-breathed and impact the children
- \* For Attic café who recently completed Youth Alpha and who are looking forward to a weekend away in March. May God transform lives.
- \* For those preparing to start University this year, that there will be peace amongst the pressure and an understanding of God's guidance.

## National & Global Issues

### *Crying out to God for the deep needs of our nation and our world*

Pray:

- \* For those attempting to negotiate peace in Syria, as talks resume later this month
- \* For victims of terrorism and war; for migrants and refugees; for families divided by conflict and all those working to help them
- \* For the USA presidential election as it gets under way this year
- \* For all those working in the NHS under the pressures of high demand and change

## This month's TBC Mission Project : GOOSE

### *Soaking our many outreach activities in prayer*

**GOOSE is an out of school club run here at TBC in the lower lounge five mornings and afternoons each week. It is an Ofsted registered club: all the staff are Christians and in the main, members of the church here. We serve Gillingstool School and welcome Christ the King pupils in Breakfast club. We have been open since October 2012 and have grown significantly since the early years.**

Pray:

- \* That GOOSE is able to continue to staff with the right people
- \* For all the families who are connected to GOOSE past and present that they will have other links in the church community.
- \* For the continual safety of the children whilst on the church premises.

## This month's Local & UK Mission Partner : Nik & Tiff Strode

### *Soaking our many outreach activities in prayer*

**Nik and Tiff Strode, and their daughter Bethany, live and work on the Bransholme estate, one of the most deprived areas of Hull, where they serve the community in a number of ways. They are part of the leadership of Bodmin Road church, and are heading up the conversion of a disused pub, the Pennine Rambler, to be a multi-purpose community centre. They run youth club sessions for various ages, have a drop-in centre during the day for community members, oversee safeguarding issues, liaise with local services, coordinate the volunteer helpers, and provide a wide range of support to the many who have so much need in the area. They are also running Sunday afternoon 'church services' at the Pennine Rambler attended by residents of the local estate, many of whom have never been to church before. STOP PRESS! Huge anonymous donation just received will enable renovations to proceed: praise and thanks to God for this answer to prayer.**

Pray:

- For growth in the Sunday services, for spiritual growth and eyes & ears opened
- for Bethany as she settles in to year 7 in secondary school, and all the extra organisation required to be in the right lesson at the right time with the right equipment
- for extra workers to come alongside Nik and Tiff to join them in their work
- for Nik and Tiff - to find a healthy balance between work, church and family life.

## This month's World Mission Partner: Ark Enterprises

### *Touching the world through praying for our wider mission links and for the persecuted Church*

**Carol Connolly moved from Thornbury to a village near Dobrich, Eastern Bulgaria in 2007, not far from Varna and the Black Sea. Carol belongs to a church in Dobrich. She works in her village with the most vulnerable and marginalised groups, especially Roma families and also in a Roma ghetto in Varna. The Roma often face discrimination. The children are vulnerable to prostitution and trafficking. "The Ark " is a new building constructed in Carol's grounds, and is used for children's work and groups to stay. Funding is still needed for completion of work on The Ark. Carol's architect disappeared and did not obtain the appropriate certificates needed for planning permission.**

Pray:

- \* For good health, strength, wisdom and rest for Carol
- \* For the work with needy families and in the Varna Roma ghetto
- \* For weekly youth groups and Saturday children's group meeting at The Ark
- \* For funding and building certificates for The Ark