

PERSONAL & CHURCH RENEWAL

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

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles.

All the believers were together and had everything in common.

They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need.

Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Acts 2:42-47 NIV

Use this inspiring account of the very first Christian church to shape your prayers this month. What does it say to you about your own need for renewal? And what about our life together as TBC?

SALVATION

Praying for those we long to see come to faith

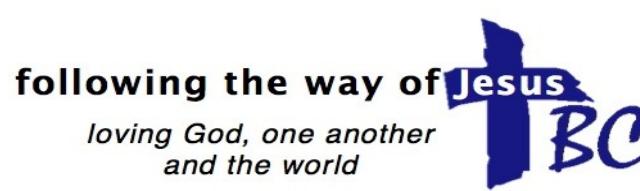
Please use the enclosed 'Share Good News' leaflet this month.

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 Defraine, Ray Goudie, Rosemary Howell, Ruth Hulse, Joan Jones, Natalia Kent's mum Tanya, Marie Merrick, June Short, Mike Spiller, Len Steele, Lisa Sumner's mum Joan, Dave Tate, young Conan, little Charlie, Tom Pelham and his young family, and others who are suffering with ill health.

Pray for . . . all those known to us who have recently been bereaved.



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TBC - PRAYING FOR EVANGELISM THIS PENTECOST

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses... (Acts 1:8)

Pentecost Sunday is on May 15th. This year we want to use the week leading up to Pentecost for concentrated prayer for evangelism. We want to pray for ourselves, that we have boldness to spot and take the opportunities that God sends us on our 'frontlines', and we want to pray for those God has put on our hearts to come to faith.

Included in this edition of Connect there is a prayer guide focusing on evangelism. Use the guide personally throughout the week, and also perhaps join with others to pray in your small group and/or fellowship band.

There will be a gathering at the church on Wednesday May 11th, with those that wish to go to prayer-walk the town, and others staying to pray in the building. DO COME! The week ends with a TBC Praise and Prayer meeting on Sunday 15th (6.30pm). Do come along and join with others to pray for the harvest, that we long to see here in Thornbury and on all of our frontlines.

FRONTLINE MISSION

This month: Finance

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

I work as the Chief Financial Officer for Shaw Trust, a national charity whose aim is to help disabled and disadvantaged people into employment, training and independent living. Some of you may remember that it operated a shop in the St Mary's Centre many years ago.

Today Shaw Trust has an annual income of £130 million and works with 50,000 clients each year, helping 10,000 secure employment. They provide valuable advice to the most vulnerable, run a number of schools, work with prisoners, have 50 shops, operate social businesses and support international projects.

Please pray:

- That the Trust can grow and extend the services it offers to more clients
- That the government will treat everyone with dignity and respect and not introduce legislation that impacts those most in need
- That commissioners will look to Shaw Trust and other charities to provide services and not be purely price driven



David Phipps

connect

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CHILDREN & YOUTH

Helping to grow a faith that lasts

- * Pray for all who have begun “exam season” that they will know the peace of God with them
- * Pray for those who are preparing to Mission in Transylvania, or with CRÉD and other organisations and those planning Gap years, that God will prepare them and extend them beyond their wildest dreams
- * Give thanks for the spirituality of the very young and what they teach us day by day in our family life

NATIONAL & GLOBAL ISSUES

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

Please pray:

- For our government, members of parliament and all those involved in resolving disputes in our national affairs.
- For those many areas of the world suffering instability, racial tension, violence and poverty; for all those leaving their homes to find peace and a better life

WORLD MISSION

This Month: Calikids

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

Calikids is a child sponsorship scheme supporting many children and families living in poverty in the city of Cali in Columbia.

As well as child sponsorship, programmes include an orphanage, a community church and educational and social support.

Started by TBC member Gloria Hammond whose son lives in Columbia, it brings hope to many individuals.

Please pray for:

- The many children who have started a new school year.
- The safety of the sponsored children and their families living in dangerous areas
- God's mercy for the children trying to survive on the streets of Cali.

TBC MISSION

This month: Lunch Club

Soaking our many outreach activities in prayer

TBC has run a luncheon club for senior citizens for several years which has proved to be very successful and rewarding for both the clients and the staff. It has proved so successful that we now have a waiting list. The staff are all volunteers who enjoy it wholeheartedly. They also come from all denominations and not just TBC. After the meal we like to offer some entertainment be it interesting talks on all subjects, charities, music (soloists, choirs (children and adult), groups, instrumentalists and sing songs). One of the best received groups recently was called “Gods Granddads” who were a group of granddads who sung country songs and spoke of Christ in their lives. It was their first time with us but I feel sure it will not be their last. We try to emphasise Gods love in all that we do.

Please pray for:

- Jesus to speak to those who are not interested or do not know Him as their saviour.
- Everyone who comes to sense the presence of God in the church and through the volunteers.
- More volunteers to come and help on either a regular or occasional basis.
- Safety of the customers at Lunch Club and their drivers as they travel to and from the church.

LOCAL & UK MISSION

This month: Thornbury Parenting Together

Soaking our many outreach activities in prayer

Thornbury Parenting Together is the umbrella name for work developing among the churches of Thornbury to support parents in the vital and challenging job of bringing up their children. This has been in response to the near removal of such support from the local authority because of the need to reduce expenditure. We have just launched Parent Buddies, which is a one-to-one mentoring service by trained volunteers for parents who want someone to talk with about parenting issues. We plan in the future to run parenting courses.

Please pray for:

- those who have been trained as Parent Buddies as they begin to meet with parents
- God's love to be evident as practical support is offered
- parents who ask for help and for schools, health visitors etc who refer parents
- future plans for support for parents