

## PERSONAL & CHURCH RENEWAL

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

New Year is a great time for taking stock. Before rushing back into the routines that you lived by in 2016, find time to reflect on these Scriptures and related questions:

**“Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.” Jn. 7:37,38**

- What are you *really* ‘thirsty’ for in 2017?
  - What flows out of my life into those around me?  
*“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.” Jn 13:34*
  - Who have you found it hard to love in 2016? What would it mean, in 2017, to love them as Jesus has loved you?
- “And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus...” Colossians 3:17**
- Think of three things that you spend a lot of your time doing? What will it mean to do them ‘in the name of the Lord Jesus’ in 2017?

Turn your reflection into prayer.  
How might life look different in 2017?

## SALVATION

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

**Gospel Gardening Prayer:**

- for the opportunity to sow some Gospel seeds this year
- for God to *water* those seeds and make them *grow*
- for the privilege of being there at the *harvest* as your friends, family or colleagues come to faith

**Pray** for those who attended our Advent services or Christmas events. Pray that God would continue to work in their lives in 2017.

**Pray** for family members you met over Christmas who need to know Jesus personally.

**Pray** for the Alpha course starting in January (24<sup>th</sup>). Ask Jesus to show you if there is anyone you could bring.

**Pray** for specific ‘frontline friends’ to come to faith, and for the courage to share your faith with them in 2017.

**Pray** that 2017 becomes a year of spiritual harvest in TBC

## HEALING

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

**Pray for . . .** Sarah Britten, Jean Cannon, Noel Defraigne, Rosemary Howell, Ruth Hulse, Joan Jones’ niece Carol, Natalia Kent, Marie Merrick, Len Steele, young Conan, and others who are suffering with ill health.

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

following the way of Jesus

loving God, one another  
and the world



www.thornburybaptistchurch.co.uk

## MORE OF YOU, LORD

January is normally the time to look back at the year gone by and look forward to the year to come, normally I am not normal. Normally my response to any new year stuff is a bigger *bah humbug* than any Scrooge can manage. Why look at the past, it's done and dusted, gone. Why look to the future with an insane optimism that everything will be different because there is a new digit at the end of the year?

**Well this year, just for once, I will be normal. As we look back over the past 12 months at TBC we have so much to be thankful to God for: new people joining the family here, people being baptised, a thriving and growing Children and Youth Work, a fantastic Alpha, exploring Leadership on the Growing Leaders course, a Coffee Shop that is bursting at the seams, a wonderful Debt Advice service ... the list goes on and would be too big for this editorial. The year has also had its share of sadness but even in that it has been a blessing to see community at work as we share those times together and grow stronger.**

Sometimes it is only as we look back and reflect that we can truly see when, where and how God has been close to us. So this month, and especially at the start of the new year as we gather for our Prayer Week, 3-7 January, take time to reflect over the past 12 months of your life with God and give thanks that he has been with you every step of the way. Looking forward, well that's simple, let's long for and expect more of God at work in every possible and impossibly conceivable way.

**Let's say a simple prayer: "More of you Lord". As it says in Ephesians 4:20-21 "Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever, Amen ".** Mike

## FRONTLINE MISSION

### ***This month: Healthcare & Care Roles***

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

My name is Carol Fahy. When I joined a doctors' surgery as a receptionist in 2008 a colleague told me we were like swans floating calmly along on the water but underneath paddling like crazy. She was not wrong and I found the role a great challenge.

Now I am a healthcare assistant and have had to learn new skills. At first I was very nervous but having given my life to Jesus in 2011 I found that praying really helped overcome this and I became more and more aware that God was listening. I have always felt very supported by surgery staff in my role (which includes taking blood, wound care, blood pressure monitoring, supporting patients to quit smoking, and giving flu vaccinations), but most of all it is God who gives me strength. Taking exams has been my worst nightmare but I've tried to stay focused on God's word: ***"Trust in the Lord completely and don't depend on your own knowledge. With every step think about what the Lord wants and he will help you go the right way"*** Proverbs 3:5-6 Easy-to-Read Version.

My patients come from all age groups, walks of life and have many different needs. It's a privilege talking to someone who may be very ill, recently bereaved, struggling with addiction or depression.

**I would value your prayers for**

- Time
- Boldness to share my faith
- To be a channel through which the Holy Spirit can bring healing, love and peace in the name of Jesus Christ to the patients that I meet.

connect

January  
2017



## CHILDREN & YOUTH

*Helping to grow a faith that lasts*

*Please pray for*

- The strength to stand up for Jesus in school.
- Peace for those taking exams.
- Teachers in our schools as they start a new term



## NATIONAL & GLOBAL ISSUES

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

*It is easy to be overwhelmed by the many issues and situations in our world, which cause us to be fearful, angry or just frustrated. Sometimes it is difficult to know what and how to pray, so many are the needs: terrorist atrocities, war, hunger, refugees, industrial unrest, political changes, spending cuts, climate change, racism and persecution. Each day the news media bring us new pieces to challenge us. So at the beginning of a New Year let us focus on those things which are particularly on our hearts, bringing them to God in prayer.*

## WORLD MISSION *This Month: EPI*

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

TBC has had a friendship with EPI (Eglise Protestante Internationale) since some of our members Paul and Emiline Loader moved to the Toulouse area and joined the church. This is how the church describes itself: "we are Christians from different nations worshipping God in a French – speaking context with a heart desire to be a house of prayer for all nations. Since Jesus Christ has transformed our lives, we joyfully declare His praises to the city of Lehuevin and the greater Toulouse area."

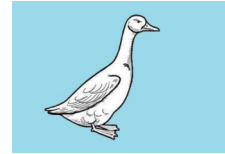
Prayer:

- For the on-going mission and ministry of the church
- For Brad and Tina the pastors of the EPI
- Relationships with the local community
- For the church as it runs Alpha course for time to time
- That the church would continue to grow



## TBC MISSION *This month: GOOSE Club*

*Soaking our many outreach activities in prayer*



The GOOSE club is committed to working in partnership with parents and carers and Gillingstool primary school, to provide safe, stimulating, educational and enjoyable child-care for all children who attend.

We aim to help parents to balance work commitments and family life by providing convenient affordable and high quality childcare before and after school during school term time, at the Thornbury Baptist church centre.

We also welcome Christ The King pupils in our Breakfast club.

*Please pray for all the children and their families.*

*Please pray for staffing , that the right staff will be appointed as needs arise.*

*Please pray that through our actions we will show Gods love.*

## LOCAL & UK MISSION *This month: NSDA*

*Soaking our many outreach activities in prayer*

**New Start Debt Advice (NSDA) is a community initiative maintained by Thornbury Churches Together (TCT). NSDA provides free, confidential, advice in Thornbury.**

It is affiliated to Community Money Advice (CMA), a Christian charity, which provides a framework of policies, standards and procedures regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority under which NSDA works. CMA also provides training and support to NSDA.

**Clients drawn from the local community receive a service that takes account of individual needs. Many clients are referred to NSDA through links with another TCT initiative, the Foodbank.**

NSDA has ten trained advisers and one being trained. These volunteers give freely of their time and expertise.

Please pray for:

- ◆ Insight and sensitivity for advisers to issues identified
- ◆ Confidence for clients to openly share their issues
- ◆ CMA staff facing health issues and financial issues regarding funding
- ◆ More clients being freed from debt
- ◆ Advisers to continue demonstrating Jesus' love for clients through practical support.

