

As we read this edition of **Connect** some of our post-election thoughts will be focused on the future. With that in mind here are some thoughts from Tom Wright which describe our partnership in God's future vision:

Every act of love, gratitude and kindness; every work of art or music inspired by the love of God and delight in the beauty of his creation; every minute spent teaching a child to read or to walk; every act of care and nurture, of comfort and support, for one's fellow human beings, and for that matter one's fellow non-human creatures; and of course every prayer, all Spirit-led teaching, every deed which spreads the gospel, builds up the church, embraces and embodies holiness rather than corruption, and makes the name of Jesus honoured in the world - all of this will find its way, through the resurrecting power of God, into the new creation which God will one day make. That is the logic of the mission of God. God's recreation of his wonderful world, which has begun with the resurrection of Jesus and continues mysteriously as God's people live in the risen Christ and in the power of the Spirit, means that what we do in Christ and by the Spirit in the present is not wasted.

World Events

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

- Those involved in negotiating Britain's departure from the EU.
- A swift and peaceful resolution to the Qatar-Gulf crisis.
- The people of Gaza entering their eleventh year under siege.
- Cessation of fighting in the Democratic Republic of Congo where over 3,300 people have been killed since October
- Christians in Indonesia after Ahok, the Christian Governor of Jakarta was sentenced to two years in jail on 9 May for blasphemy against Islam.

Salvation

Use the disciples prayer from Acts 4, to pray for courage to be a witness on your frontline:

"And now, Lord, take notice of the threats they have made (*you may like to pray about things that are obstacles to your own witness here*), and allow me, your servant, to speak your message with all boldness. 30 Reach out your hand to heal, and grant that wonders and miracles may be performed through the name of your holy Servant Jesus."

July 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 retail.



My name is Stephen Nicholls and I worked for many years in the electrical industry. I was eventually forced to leave, but I know God was really in the situation, as this enabled me to spend time supporting my step-mum and my Dad, who is now in the final stages of Alzheimer's. At just the right time, I had the opportunity to return to work in a completely different field, working at Tesco in Thornbury – God's timing was and is impeccable! I thoroughly enjoy my job at Tesco – I work as part of the counter service team, serving customers with meat and fresh fish or on the Delicatessen with cheese and savouries. The main aim of every Tesco employee is "to serve customers a little better every day". I don't get much chance to discuss my faith with customers, but I do try and make customers smile or laugh – I hope that if a customer is having a bad day, I can cheer them up a little and that they leave the store feeling a little brighter. I have been so blessed in so many ways over the last few years and I try to adopt the Tesco aim in that as a Christian, I should try to serve God a little better every day.

- Pray for Steve as he represents Christ through his work to the people of the town and wider community.
- Pray for all of those in the TBC family for whom retail is their 'frontline'.

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following the way of Jesus
loving God, one another
and the world

Community Mission

Community week is 8 – 11th August and it is an opportunity to invite children and young people from all the schools in Thornbury and the out lying villages to come and take part in a range of activities, culminating in a family BBQ and fun evening.

The events taking place over the week are:

- Fun Factory for Primary age
- Kidz Roadshow for Junior age children,
- Youth events for secondary age young people and the
- BBQ for the families of those who have taken part during the week
- Coffee shop open while Fun Factory is running.

Please pray for:

- A fun-filled week with lots of opportunities to show and share God's love
- Lots of children and their families to come and join us in the activities
- Opportunities to chat and get to know the families
- Safety for all involved
- Good weather, especially for the Kidz Roadshow as it is outside and the BBQ evening.
- Lots of lovely helpers (can you be involved....?)

Local Mission Partners

The Gospel Community Choir meets at the church on Tuesday evenings.

Our aim is to give anyone who loves to sing, a place to come and enjoy doing just that! None of us are great singers, most don't read music or have any experience in singing, we just love to sing and have fun doing it together! We join with three other community choirs in Bristol to sing at a whole variety of events around the Bristol area, which, this year, includes the Thornbury Carnival!

Our members come from many different backgrounds, some churched, some not and when we all get together to sing there can be more than 100 of us, which is an amazing experience!

Please pray for:

- A continuation of the lovely sense of community that has grown amongst the choir
- A real sense of God amongst us as we sing and spend time together
- Wisdom as we move forward with plans for the choir
- We love to welcome new members and if you would like to know more about the choir, please see Heather Staley or email gospelgen@googlemail.com

Mission Partners

Please pray for the team going to SzekelyUdvarhely, Romania on Mission on 18-25 August:

- For Mike, Helen Sydenham , Ed Walsh, Clarri Millard, Chris Fuller and Mollie Palmer, that they would know the presence of God with them as they share each day.
- That the Children and Youth who come to the Kids Club and Youth Club will encounter God
- That the Church in SzekelyUdvarhely would see long lasting fruit from the week.

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.



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

Children & Young People

- Give thanks for all those who work with our children and young people both in TBC and on their frontline in school, pray for a summer of rest.
- Pray for those going to Soul Survivor at the end of July and for those going on other summer festivals, including New Wine and Scripture Union camps, that they will encounter God.

Personal Renewal

Come to me and I will give you rest—all of you who work so hard beneath a heavy yoke. Wear my yoke—for it fits perfectly—and let me teach you; for I am gentle and humble, and you shall find rest for your souls; for I give you only light burdens.”
(Matthew 11:28 Living Bible)

Meditate on this passage and turn your thoughts into prayer:

- Do I feel that I am living or working under a heavy yoke?
- Where and why did I pick it up?
- What about it doesn't fit me?
- Do I trust Jesus that his demands of me (his yoke) really are easy and light?
- What do I need to do to 'come to Jesus' right now?
- As I come to Jesus, what do I want to say to him?