

Listen!

Connect is full of resources to help us pray together as a church over a month, covering the eight major prayer concerns that we have at TBC (see the blue headings). But as we spend time with God, whether alone or with others, let's also be *listening* to God speaking into these areas.

Does God, then, really tell us things when we pray? Yes. We shall probably not hear voices, nor feel sudden strong impressions of a message coming through; but as we analyse and verbalise our needs before God's throne, and tell him what we want and why we want it, and think our way through passages of God's written Word bearing on the matter in hand, we shall find many certainties crystallising in our hearts as to God's view of us and our prayer, and his will for us and others".
(J.I. Packer - Growing in Christ)

Let's listen as we pray; let's not miss the gentle ideas 'crystallising in our hearts', and if they seem relevant to the people we are praying for, let's feel confident to pass them on!

World Events

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

- The people of Fiji, and other low-lying countries who are in "a fight for survival" as climate change brings "almost constant" deadly cyclones.
- Peace in Israel, where this month, Israelis will celebrate the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the modern Jewish state. Pray for Jewish people to receive Jesus, their Messiah.
- Christian families in the northern Syrian town of Afrin who went into hiding on 18th March, as Turkish forces and Syrian rebels seized the town.

Personal Renewal

Then Moses said, "I pray You, show me Your glory!"

(Exodus 33:18)

The glory of God is the reality of his active presence: the weight of his excellence before our eyes. What a prayer! Show me your glory.

- Pray that you may have a fresh revelation of God's glory.
- Pray for any you know who are spiritually tired, that they may have a revelation of God's glory.
- Pray for Thornbury Baptist Church to have a fresh revelation of God's glory.

April 2018



Frontline Mission - Working in IT

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 Information Technology.

Several people at TBC work in IT. In case you were wondering, Information Technology is the use of computers to store, retrieve, transmit and manipulate data, or information, often in the context of a business or other enterprise. Like all jobs it has its own pressures. The work can be deadline-driven with other people setting deadlines that are not always realistic; you can be 'on-call' to sort out clients' problems and work unsociable hours; you may be isolated, working alone or as part of a team scattered around the country - or the world; the continual development of technology means that you need to continually update your knowledge and skills.



Please pray that our IT workers will:

- find ways to see the significance of their work for God's kingdom.
- be able to balance their work with personal and family time.
- find ways to set a Jesus-like example in the way they do their work.
- model patience and kindness when deadlines loom, customers are unreasonable and the pressure is on.

web: www.thornburybaptistchurch.org.uk
email: office@thornburybaptistchurch.org.uk
tel: 01454 419118

following the way of Jesus

loving God, one another
and the world



Community Mission

Two by Two by Two meets on Mondays and Wednesdays at 9.45am until 11.15am. It is a group for parents or carers and young children that provides a loving and safe environment in which adults can get to know each other and can have fun with their young children.

Please pray for the parents and carers.

- That they will experience something of God's love during their time with Two by Two.
- Pray for those struggling with their roles as parents.
- Pray for those who parent alone and those whose relations with their partner are difficult.

Please pray for the helpers.

- Give thanks for them and their commitment.
- Pray for more helpers to spread the load.
- Pray for sensitivity to those parents who need extra support.
- Pray for opportunities to share the good news of Jesus.
- Pray for wisdom to cope with the pressures on us as we seek to serve our growing community.

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

Local/UK Mission Partners

Nik & Tif went from Thornbury to Uni in Hull and stayed there to do outreach work in the estates of North Bransholme. They have formed a charity, called 'Bridges Hull' and work with young people and families living on North Bransholme and in the wider area.

Please pray:

- Give thanks for Romany, a 14 month old baby with Downs Syndrome, whose mother, Dorothy, had been told would not survive heart surgery. Nik, Tif and others really prayed, and the next day Romany improved! Staff at Leeds Hospital call her the 'miracle baby'. Please keep praying for Romany and Dorothy.
- Pray for the children involved with Social Services and going through court. Pray especially for 'G', whose abusive father is trying to gain access to her. Pray that the courts see through him and refuse access when the case comes to court on 10th May.
- Give thanks for a baptism on Easter Day of a Mum who has come to faith having started attending the Bridges Centre.
- Pray for Nik and Tif who feel really tired and over-stretched. Pray for others to come alongside them. Pray for Bethany who has been very unwell recently.
- Pray for the children and young people who Nik & Tif know, who are suffering neglect at home.

Mission Partners

SIFT is a Christian charity seeking to bring hope to the poor of Nicaragua, Central America, through projects in health, education, and housing. Find more at <http://www.seed-trust.com>.

Please pray for:

- Valeria Lopez and her team at Casa Rahab centre, who help those who have been, or are at risk of being, involved in the sex trade to rebuild their lives and regain their self-esteem by providing them with a safe, Christian environment.
- Pray for an increase in funding for the Casa Rahab to enable the support of salaries for the centre's psychologist, Gabriela (below left) and sewing teacher, Natalia (below right).



- Dr Sandra and her team of seven nurses who work very hard to ensure that everyone who comes to one of the SIFT clinics on the island of Ometepe gets the best care possible. Their hard work and commitment has earned them the respect and trust of the communities they serve.

Children & Youth

Please pray for:

- Those who have started revision for exams, for peace amid the pressure.
- Those who struggle with mental health issues, that they would be able to access the support they need.
- Those who find it hard to stand up for Jesus at school, that they would be strong and courageous.

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.

Talking of Jesus

Here's a prayer left (anonymously) during the Prayer Week;

Dear Father, All good news should be shared with others. May we be an integral part of your love for others; loving those we seek to engage with and using all the power of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. We may not always feel effective, but you look upon our heart to see our longing for those who are missing out on all your Glory. Move our hearts, and open our mouths Lord. Amen