

Connect

Monday: TBC's Front-line Missionaries - Healthcare

Hello, I'm Lorraine James and my husband Will and I have been worshipping at TBC since 2005. We have two grown up children, William and Sarah. I have been a Radiographer for over thirty years and currently I am working at the Nuffield Hospital in Bristol. My workload varies from day to day; sometimes I am in Theatre, sometimes in X-Ray or in the MRI scanner. As a Practice Educator I work closely with student Radiographers and mentor new staff joining the Department.



As a Christian in a caring profession, I strive to show the love of God to people who are often apprehensive about their medical treatment and it is a privilege to use the skills that God has given me to be a part in their diagnostic pathway.

Prayer Points for those in healthcare:

- Opportunities to show the love of God and be a witness to Christ where we work and serve.
- For encouragement and wisdom for medical staff as they apply their knowledge in often difficult circumstances, having to make complex decisions relating to patient care.
- Strength and endurance for those staff who are exhausted and feeling disillusioned with the challenging workloads they carry each day.

Tuesday: TBC Community Mission

Alpha is a relaxed introduction to the Christian faith, particularly for those with little or no church background. Based around videos, a meal and the opportunity to discuss together without any compulsion or pressure, no question is off limits and most people find they quickly enjoy meeting together.

Discussion explores topics like 'Why did Jesus die?' 'How can I have faith?' 'How does God guide us?' And 'Why and How do I pray?' To see how they affect how we live.

The present course started in January and we've been exploring who the Holy Spirit is, what he does and how we can change our lives.

Prayer points for Alpha:

- Giving thanks for those who are on the course as they explore their walk with Jesus.
- For the next steps for the guests at the end of the course.
- For the next course. Who could you invite to join it (and maybe come yourself!)?

Wednesday: Local/UK Partners

Oasis House is a TBC mission initiative which provides a home for men who have experienced some form of homelessness. The project's aim is to create a community family space where men from all walks of life can find healing and restoration. This is facilitated through personal support plans and one-to-one mentoring. We hold a number of activities throughout the week. On Tuesday mornings we have a house meeting, which sometimes includes communion and prayer and we encourage volunteering in the community in the week.

Oasis has capacity to house 5 men, including Jason Clark the house support manager. His role is to support the guys on a daily basis, and to help create the community vibe in the house. Terry Russell, though not a resident, plays a volunteering role alongside Jason encouraging and supporting the men.

Prayer points for Oasis House:

- For the men in the house to find peace and feel at home.
- For our various meetings and activities to be times of encouragement and healing for the guys.
- Deeper connections which other agencies to support the project.
- For God to send the right mix of people.
- More volunteers with the right gifts to support and grow the project.
- God's wisdom for us as a team as we continue to plan the way forward.

Hi. I'm Carol Connolly of '**The Ark Enterprises**'. 'The Ark' is a Christian creative arts retreat and mission centre in Northeast Bulgaria, near the town of Dobrich. Seventeen years ago, I sold my home in Thornbury to fund the project.

With the support of Thornbury Baptist Church, Mullers and individuals, the building, although not complete, has been used for retreats, refugees, teaching, training, conferences, local Roma, and the elderly. It is soon to be used by 'Agape Bulgaria' as the base for outreach to every town and village in the northeast region.

We support Mira's Outreach to the Roma, the local homeless shelter and we have covered medical expenses for those without funds.

Prayer points for The Ark Enterprises:

- Wisdom, health and strength for myself this year as I help take care of my grandson and elderly mother.
- The funds to complete the Ark.
- Protection of the Ark while I'm away.
- For Mira and Zoyas' work with the Roma.
- For Mira and Venci, coming to share here at the end of April.
- For the homeless shelter in Dobrich.
- For Agape's vision for Bulgaria.

On a Monday lunch time each week we welcome Mums to a Bible study. We share lunch together, study the word, share and pray for one another. This group has welcomed mums from Two by Two, coffee shop, our church family and The Well course. We are a mixture of new Christians, seekers and long in the tooth Christians!! It has been so exciting to journey with these Mums and their little ones and is one of the main discipleship groups for the families ministry.

Praise & prayer for Families Ministry:

- We praise God for the lives of a number of these mums who have become Christians in the last 18 months. For His faithfulness and love as some have overcome addictions and navigated difficult personal circumstances.
- Please pray for the continued growth of each of our mums in their relationship with Jesus and their understanding of Gods word.
- That they too would have opportunity to share the hope they have received with their friends and loved ones.

Saturday: Global Needs

Pray particularly this month for:

- The tension between Russia, Ukraine and NATO.
- The ongoing conflict in Gaza.
- Those living in fear and poverty in Afghanistan.
- A just roll out of Covid vaccines amongst the world's poorer nations.
- People struggling with the cost of living.
- For the health of King Charles and for the health of all those going through this season of ill health.
- For the recent fires in Chile.

Healing & Comfort

Please use the weekly updated list of prayer needs sent out in the weekly notice sheet.

If you are concerned about someone who needs care or support, contact Paul Ferguson -
paul@thornburybaptistchurch.org.uk



Sunday: Renewal

LifeSOURCE: Rooted in God

Our renewal prayer this month is based on Paul's prayer for the Ephesian church.

I fall to my knees and pray to the Father. I pray that from your glorious, unlimited resources you will empower me with inner strength through your Spirit.

I long to know Christ making his home in my heart as I trust in him.

O Father, may I be strengthened in my spirit as my roots grow down into your unending love.

May I have the power to understand, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep your love is. May I experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Father, make me complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from being rooted in you. (Ephesians 3:14-19)

Use this to pray for your own renewal. If you use the original wording in Ephesians you can also use this to pray for TBC's leaders and members.

Is God speaking?

If as you pray through Connect, you sense God speaking to us as a church family, do pass your thoughts to the elders.