

Connect

Monday: TBC's Front-line Missionaries - Volunteers

Hi, we are Pete and Gill Jolley, retired local government officer and radiographer respectively.

We moved to Thornbury from East Kent in January 2020. It was big move for us, having been 36 years in our previous church. We knew TBC was the place for us, but Covid started and we didn't know many at church, our small group became



our lifeline and is really good. We volunteered as stewards straight away as an opportunity to meet people as they came in to learn some names.

We have always volunteered sometimes together, but mainly separately. Now in TBC we do both; including 2 by 2, lunch club, foodbank and mission focus group. There are many wonderful volunteers at TBC and working together means we get to know each other too.

We love to meet people, other volunteers and the those who come to the various groups we help. It is an opportunity to bring God's love and care to them and feel part of what God is doing in Thornbury.

Prayer Points

- More volunteers for TBC (see weekly notices for current opportunities) and Thornbury in general.
- Opportunities to bring God's love and care for one another and the people we serve, talking about Jesus when possible.
- Health and strength, especially as we get older!

Tuesday: TBC Community Mission

Basement is the name of our youth club every Friday evening from 7:30-9pm for 11-14 year olds (school years 7-9). It is lots of fun and high energy! They bring the energy, we provide the space for them to be themselves, play games, do crafts and spend time with each other.

The group is predominantly made up of young people that don't come along to church and so we really want them to feel at home with us, to see that we genuinely care for them and more importantly that God cares for them too.

From September Jason Clark has taken over leading the group and Alex Lorgov has also become a regular helper. Having two multi-talented men on the team has really benefited the 'lads' that come along to the group. They get great coaching in Table Tennis, Pool and playing the guitar too! Some of our older TBC young people also support the group which is a real blessing as they too are great role models!

Prayer points for Basement and Youth Clubs:

- More volunteers. We need leaders who can show these young people love and attention. We have had to cancel some sessions as we've not had enough staff. 😊
- Protection for the young people, in particular for their mental health as they face many influences and pressures.
- Strengthening relationships and increased opportunities to share the Gospel with them.

Wednesday: Local/UK Partners

Nik and Tiff Strode got married in 1997 and until 2019 lived incarnationally, serving and blessing local young people and their families living on the North Bransholme estate. Bransholme is one of Hull's most isolated estates with extreme poverty and high unemployment. Nik worked as the church youth worker in central Bransholme but felt called to support North Bransholme's young people. In 2007 we set up 'Bridges Hull' youth work charity to bridge the gaps in the lives of the young people in terms of faith, education, aspirations, life skills and social skills. Currently we offer weekly youth clubs, one to one support and trips and/or special events during each school holiday.

Bethany our daughter becomes 20 this summer.

We've fostered local teenagers since 1999, Alfie aged 20 lives with us when not studying.

Prayer points for Bridges Hull:

- Young people's struggles - emotionally, relationally, spiritually, academically
- We're exploring a 5 year Council contract starting 2025.
- Tiff's dad, aged 91 lives with us with dementia.
- Beth studying English Literature - Lincoln, year 2.
- Alfie studying Professional Policing - Sunderland, year 1.

Project Possible works with Christian churches and organisations across the world, supporting children's homes, hospitals and clinics, schools, exploited women and much more. They also fund small groups of people who wish to set up their own businesses.

In the DRC Project Possible's partners have opened a 2nd centre in Kinshasa, providing women with a pathway out of sexual exploitation. Two alumni from the original centre are stepping into the role of trainers, passing on their tailoring skills and sharing their testimonies.

Prayer points for Project Possible:

- That the women will be able to unlock their God-given potential.
- A group of young men who are completing the rehabilitation programme run by Project Possible's partner Change Makers South Africa. They have worked hard to overcome drug addiction and violence and are looking to find employment and reintegration into society.
- That the new staff member starting shortly in the Project Possible office will settle in quickly.
- That the team will find ways to engage with new audiences and bring on board new supporters.

The current TBC youth provision sees us connect within many local young people within our community. It's a great space to get to know them and support them as they navigate life as a teenager. Looking ahead at the summer term we're hoping to support the young people during their GCSEs with a potential 'drop in' space after school! Our Sunday discipleship groups continue to be a beautiful space for reflections, hearing God's voice and growing together. More recently it has been amazing to take our young people to some local youth worship events and to meet with other Christian young people in the south west!

Prayer points for the Youth Ministry:

- Pray for those young people we connect with that are heading into their GCSE exams, pray they would know God's presence and peace. Pray that they would find great confidence in who God says they are and his immeasurable love for them.
- Thank God for all he has been doing within relationships and conversations in Attic and Basement, pray for increased opportunities and openness to hear about God.
- Pray that the discipleship groups would continue to be spaces for faith to grow. Thank God for the youth band that is forming, and the amazing time of worship they have together.

Saturday: Global Needs

Pray particularly this month for:

- The tension between Russia, Ukraine and NATO.
- The ongoing conflict in Gaza.
- People struggling with the cost of living.
- The YWAM accident in Tanzania
- Christians in Burkina Faso where at least 15 believers were killed when suspected Islamic militants opened fire on a church service on Sunday (25 February). Pray for those who are grieving and those living in fear as a result of the attack.

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

"Lent is a call to renew a commitment grown dull, perhaps, by a life marked more by routine than reflection. Lent requires me, as a Christian, to stop for a while, to reflect again on what is going on within me. I am challenged again to decide whether I, myself, do truly believe that Jesus is the Christ – and if I believe, whether I will live accordingly..."

(John Chittister)

Make space during March to pray the following words from Psalm 139. Listen to what is going on in your mind as you pray. How about using the prayer regularly and keeping a 'Lent Diary' to help you reflect on what God might be saying to you, and to record your responses?

Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts.

Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life. (Psalm 139:23,24 NLT)

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.