

Connect

Monday: Administration

It's been an interesting time in the office recently, juggling all of the standard duties of the job along with all of the strange little side quests that come along with the building work. One thing I can say is that working in the church office is never boring. It's certainly varied!

It is heartening to see how the work of the church finds a way to continue through all of the change we're experiencing currently. While I don't have as many visitors as usual, it's still nice to engage with people and help where I can. The building work does mean that I have more encounters with people from outside the church, like the builders and the neighbours, and it's another chance to show the qualities of Jesus through the way we interact with them.



Prayer Points

- For moments of peace to complete financial tasks, which require a more intensive focus.
- For the staff as they work around all of the changes.
- As I work on systems to streamline processes and make the work of the church as effortlessly productive as possible.
- For our teams working on different sites, that they would have smooth and productive meetings as we head towards the summer break.

Tuesday: TBC Community Mission

We are truly blessed by the lovely families who come to **Two by Two**.

Friendships are made and we have been able to share with several mums who are very open to talking about Jesus and the church.

The building work, and particularly the funding of it, has been an amazing way in to share about the grace of God!

We continue to have full groups and waiting lists, and are very grateful that the building work hasn't impacted too much on us.

Prayer points for Two by Two:

- The children leaving to start school in September, that they will settle into their classes well, and that seeds sown through weekly Bible stories, and their leavers' book about Jesus, will take root in their lives.
- The parents and grandparents who are also leaving, that they will be open to reading 'Why Jesus?', which we are giving them this year, and that we can continue to build relationships with them.
- All our families over the summer holidays.
- The brilliant teams who give so much every term, that they and their families would all know God's rich blessings of peace, protection and provision.

Wednesday: Local/UK Partners

As most of you are aware we moved to Turnberrie's at the end of May. With the help of many volunteers, it was a smooth operation and we have settled in to our new temporary premises.

We continue to support those in food and fuel poverty with more than food due to the generous community who regularly make financial donations, as well as referring them to New Start Debt Advice and Severn Wye Energy Advice. We are also receiving donations from Daggs Allotment as they let us have some of their excess produce.

We have regular visits from other organisations who can support our clients including Skills Connect who can help them find work. We also refer clients to the Citizens Advice person employed by North Bristol South Glos Foodbank. Kate helps with budgeting; look at grants available; ensure they receive all eligible benefits.

Prayer/praise points for Foodbank:

- Thanks for the provision of Turnberrie's, for their welcome and support and the smooth transfer from TBC.
- God's wisdom for decisions which we need to make.
- God's love and hope to be shared with those who are in such difficult circumstances which will help get them through these times.

Thursday: World Mission Partners

One hundred people attended the Messianic Passover at our home church in London, with a good number of Jewish guests, including a sister of mine, attending for the very first time. Jewish friends felt at home at a traditional Passover yet challenged to hear about Jesus, the ultimate Passover Lamb. The meal was prepared by an Iranian brother in Christ (and his team). Mohammed fled Iran and found Christ in England. The Jewish guests were moved that the Passover meal was prepared by a former Muslim whose new found love for God had pushed him to choose a new name... Moses. Moses expressed his hope that one day Messianic Passovers could take place in Iran. A couple of Israeli neighbours attended with their Christian friends and thoroughly enjoyed the evening. On the other hand a Jewish friend of ours grumbled at the mention of Jesus but subsequently wrote to Deborah saying that she had never had such good food at a Passover Seder!

Prayer points for Stephen Pacht:

- For God to intervene in the lives of the Jewish guests invited to celebrate Pentecost at our home on June 11.
- As we continue weekly readings through the Gospel, pray that Rabbi A. opens his heart to the Lord.
- For the miracle of a peaceful solution in Israel/Gaza.

Friday: Children @TBC

What an exciting term we have had in the children's department! As the building work started, the Seedlings and Roots & Branches teams decided to combine forces and share the lower lounge space. Despite much anxiety around this, it has all gone swimmingly! The children are loving the new way of doing things and are sharing with each other how their own sessions work, for example how they pray each week. We are mixing a range of activities, some with the older and younger children together and some split apart to make use of the new opportunities we have with the shared area. We thank God for the chance to work in a different way! It is working fantastically.

Prayer points for the children:

- Families as the summer holidays approach.
- The continued success of the combined groups.
- An opportunity to open up a new space for the creche in the near future.
- Thanks that we have been able to continue the children's ministry despite the building work and for the flexibility of the children, families and helpers!

Saturday: Global Needs

Pray particularly this month for:

- For the elections taking place around the world, that they would be free and fair and give the best results.
- For the persecuted Christians in North Korea.
- For the victims of the attacks on the churches and synagogue in Derbent.
- Continue to pray for Gaza, Ukraine and the many other places of conflict around the world.
- For our new Prime Minister and his cabinet as they move forward with governing the country.

Find more up-to-date prayer items for Christians suffering for their faith in the 'Latest News' section of the Open Doors website (opendoorsuk.org).

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

The Government will rest on his shoulders (Isaiah 9:6).

We look forward to the day when God's renewed creation will be fully governed by King Jesus. In the meantime, his followers, the Church - you and me(!) - are called to live as loyal citizens of his kingdom in the here-and-now.

Jesus asked his first followers a question that must have made them think hard about how much of their lives was really yielded to him: "So why do you keep calling me 'Lord, Lord!' when you don't do what I say?", he asked (Luke 6:46).

As a new government starts work in the UK, prayerfully reflect on how Jesus' government is working out in your own life.

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: 24,25

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.