

# Connect

## Monday: Frontline - Organ Donor Community

I'm Sharon, I've been married to Steve for 37 years and we have been part of TBC for over 20 years now.

This year, we celebrated the 20th anniversary of a successful kidney transplant from me to Steve.

The diagnosis that eventually led to the operation only came about because God brought us to Thornbury through my job. He was truly in the entire process, from that initial diagnosis through to the timing of the operation so that Steve completely avoided the need to dialyse, by just two days!

We regularly attend and take part in the British Transplant Games, held annually at different locations around the UK, this year in Oxford.

It's an amazing and moving experience where each competitor has their own story of the new life they have because a family was prepared to allow the loss of a loved one to bless others. The donor families attend the event and always get the biggest cheer on the opening parade!



### Prayer points:

- Families affected by the need for organ donation, particularly where it relates to babies and children
- All the amazing NHS staff involved in the donation process
- A continuing increase in numbers on the organ donation register

## Tuesday: TBC Community Mission

**The Children's Ministry** has faced a lot of disruptions and change over the past year due to the building work, but it has been wonderful to see the team pull together and work so hard towards making the children feel safe and loved regardless of the changing program and venues. Now we face more (good!) changes! It is so fantastic to have a new room for the Seedlings group to meet in (along with accessible toilet!) as well as the beautiful new creche which has been filling up fast! We are seeing more and more new faces as the term progresses, and it is an incredible opportunity for us as a church family to welcome God's children and share his love with them.

### **Prayer points for the Children's Work:**

- As we grow, we find ourselves in need of more helpers in the primary aged groups. Please pray that God will stir the hearts of those gifted in this area to join the team.
- For the teams who put so much love and care into the lessons they prepare.
- Pray that God will provide the time they need to plan each week.
- We regularly have children coming along from broken homes or foster care families. Please pray that God will protect these children and that we will be able to share his love with them in a way that makes sense to them.

## Wednesday: Local/UK Partners

**The Community Gospel Choir** who meet at the church fortnightly on a Tuesday are part of a larger network of 5 Gospel choirs who meet in various venues across Bristol. We welcome absolutely anyone who likes to sing and encourage everyone to have fun whilst singing praise to our God! It is open to both those with faith and those who do not yet have a faith and we enjoy the very informal, friendly and inclusive ethos of the choir. We perform in a wide variety of venues, the most recent being here at TBC at the end of May where we had a fun afternoon of songs and cake with a great audience!

### **Prayer points for the Gospel Choir:**

- A continued sense of love and community amongst all our choir members
- That all members, both those with a faith and those who don't yet have a faith, will know a real sense of God amongst us as we learn and perform
- If you are interested in joining the choir please speak to, or email, Heather Staley, [heather@thornburybaptistchurch.co.uk](mailto:heather@thornburybaptistchurch.co.uk) - ALL WELCOME!

## Thursday: World Mission Partners

I'm **Helen Harrison** and my primary missional frontline is the '360Life' training program that I've developed. The training, which is biblically underpinned, educates participants about the brain, trauma and mental health and equips them to have a more trauma-informed approach in their organisational projects.

I deliver the training primarily to grass-roots organisations in the Global South, most of whom are Christian based. Sadly, there is a massive lack of knowledge or support services for people struggling with mental health issues in these countries, and 360Life helps fill that hole, although in most cases the organisations have no resources to fund my trips.

The organisations support refugees, prisoners, people living in poverty (urban and rural) amongst others. Recipients include church leaders, outreach workers, youth leaders, counsellors, and prison chaplains.

### Prayers points for Helen Harrison:

- Financial and physical resources for me to take the training to those who are crying out for it.
- Cultural and contextual sensitivity as I deliver the training to very different audiences and trauma-related settings.
- For participants of the training as they seek to embed it in their programs.

## Friday: Youth @TBC

The current TBC youth provision sees us connect with many local young people within our community during the week.

On a Sunday we run discipleship groups in the morning and evening for our younger (YR 6-10) and older (YR10-13) youth. Over the past year the Sunday morning group (Wonder) has seen a growth in friendships and faith in God as we have explored the word of God and youth-specific topics together and in the evenings the older youth (waves) have got stuck into some tricky topics, Bible studies & spent time worshipping together as a youth band!

### Prayer points for the Youth Ministry:

- Thank God for all he has been doing within Attic and Basement, pray for increased opportunities and openness to hear about God.
- That the discipleship groups would continue to be spaces for faith to grow and that God's word would build a solid foundation in their lives. Thank God for the musical gifts the young people bring to the youth band, pray that their time of worship together would see them encountering God in a fresh way!
- Pray for the teams and everyone taking on maternity cover whilst Charlotte is on maternity leave.

## Saturday: Global Needs

### Pray particularly this month:

- For the current tensions internationally as policies are set and deals are made.
- Continue to pray for Gaza, Ukraine and the many other places of conflict around the world. We pray particularly as Gaza and Ukraine become the focus of peace talks.
- For the millions of African Christians displaced due to violence.
- For the Christians in Bangladesh being targeted as they emerge from hiding following last year's political and social unrest.

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](http://opendoorsuk.org)).

### Healing and 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](mailto:paul@thornburybaptistchurch.org.uk)

## Sunday: Renewal

### Pentecost

Sunday June 8th marks the Christian celebration of Pentecost when we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit. Here is a prayer for use throughout June, as we pray for more of the Spirit's work in the world, our lives and church.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Come, Spirit of Creation,  
may I treasure all that you have made.

Come, Spirit of Justice,  
break my heart for what breaks yours.

Come, Spirit of Fire,  
rekindle a passion for holiness in me.

Come, Spirit of Truth,  
set my feet on the way of Jesus.

Come, Spirit of Power,  
make my timid heart bold.

Come, Spirit of Revelation,  
open my heart to the depths of God's love.

Come, Spirit of the Church,  
renew TBC in every part.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill us.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Come.

### 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.