

Connect

Monday: Frontline - Educators

My name is Jon; my family and I have been members of the TBC community for several years. As a primary school teacher, my frontline is in the school community, where I strive to bring God's light to the children, their families and my colleagues in an ever more secular system.



You will likely have heard in the media of the high levels of stress and dissatisfaction that are rife in the sector; staff turnover is a huge issue and the morale of the workforce is at a very low level. What a difference it would make if all educators knew the love and purpose of serving Christ and of helping shape children in His image. I am inspired and driven by the words of Romans 12:7 on how we serve God with the gifts He has provided.

Equally, many families we serve face ever-increasing challenges and schools are left with filling gaps in the basic care of children: hygiene, food, social skills, mental health and shelter. These are the people who need the Lord's hand in their lives the most.

Prayer points:

- Provision for our local families who struggle to meet the needs of their children.
- Open the hearts and minds of school staff to God.
- Perseverance and inspiration for school leaders.

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 **Foodbank** come to the end of our time at Turnberries we are so thankful for the support we have received whilst being there. We welcomed four new volunteers which has been a great help, having to change our opening day from Friday to Thursday.

We gave out 70 Christmas parcels to clients. Each person had a gift either purchased with financial donations or donated by our generous community.

We also have a new driver so that we can deliver to clients who are unable to come to Foodbank. We are thankful for our current drivers and for those who pick up donations or do our shopping for fresh items.

Tesco donations during our collection in December were amazing; 3 tonnes was donated plus financial donations of £170.

Prayer points for Foodbank:

- Praising God for clients who share about improved circumstances.
- For all who faithfully support us.
- For our lovely volunteers.
- God's wisdom in all things.
- Safe transfer bank to TBC in the coming months.
- God's love and hope to be shared with those who are in such difficult circumstances.

Thursday: World Mission Partners

The Bridge Trust are very grateful for the continued support provided by TBC. Currently, money from TBC helps support health care workers who work in the slums of Delhi in India. As well as working in India, Bridge also works in Zambia and supports schools, orphans, employment and skills training, sanitation and water projects as well as providing direct support for church leaders across both countries.

Prayer points for Bridge Trust:

- The health workers in Delhi and their work with vulnerable people in the slums.
- Church leaders in India who live with the threat of persecution.
- The workers and volunteers of The Bridge Trust Ltd as they plan their work across India and Zambia.
- For the power situation in Zambia as we try get solar panels installed to alleviate the issues.
- For the school that we are building in Zambia.

Friday: Families @TBC

Family Café welcomes families with preschool children three times a week during term time for play, refreshments and an opportunity to catch up or make new friends in a relaxed environment.

We are seeing many new families coming along as more move into the neighbourhood.

Please pray for Family Café:

- For the 'chatterminglers' – the team that chat to folk during Café! That we may have wisdom to know when to listen, and when to speak, when to comfort or when to celebrate with these families.
- For some of the families that are facing difficulties at the moment, financial, relationships, poor physical or mental health. We've seen wonderful answers to prayers and we ask Lord for more!
- For the kitchen teams – that their continued welcoming and serving ministry communicates God's love to those who come along.
- Pray for us all as team as we pray and discern what the next steps may be for each of those that come to Café in terms of sharing the love of Jesus with them.

Saturday: Global Needs

Pray particularly this month:

- For the current tensions internationally as policies are set and deals are made.
- For elections, both here and globally.
- 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).

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

Sunday: Renewal

Running on Empty?

When our spiritual life feels a bit dry it can be tempting to think we need to withdraw to get things back on track. Perhaps we stay away from church, withdraw from helping on a ministry team, or generally lie-low as a Christian on our frontline.

The desire to back-off is understandable - and sometimes the right choice - but Jesus' words point in a different direction. 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' (Acts 20:35) Don't withdraw to seek the blessing, but rather, serve and receive the blessing. Psychologists say that helping others can benefit our own mental health and well-being. They are tapping into some ancient Jesus-wisdom: There is a blessing in giving!

So, if you are feeling a bit flat and dried up, who could you bless? What could you give (time, money, gift, practical help) to others? Pray about that this month and put God to the test. Is renewal really found in the blessing of giving?

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.