

Connect

Monday: Frontline - Retail, Sales, Administration

Hi, we're Spike and Cassidy, and we've been attending TBC since January of this year. We've lived in Thornbury for nearly twenty years, but have always kept ourselves to ourselves - a nice way to say we've been loners. Coming to the church has given us a real sense of belonging to a community, both local and global, and of fellowship within the church.



My frontlines, for now, are my many interactions with customers and friends, and even through social media, simply by being a better example, and being keen to profess belief and faith at every opportunity. I am also writing a book, charting my voyage from atheism, through scientific reasoning to God, and from there to faith, in layman's terms. I hope to reach more people this way. Being more of a people person, with a passion to serve, Cassidy's frontlines, as well as in her daily interactions, are now moving into service within the church, where she is stewarding, and hopefully will soon be helping out with youth groups. She is also looking to work in the care sector, working with adults with special needs and/or seniors, extending her frontlines into the community.

Prayer points:

- Open the hearts and minds of unbelievers, and those of other faiths, that all may find their way to the foot of the cross. Give courage to Christians, not only in the everyday expression of their faith, but especially for those around the world where their faith brings oppression. Give strength to all those suffering with addictions, poor mental or physical health, or in stressful and troubled lives.

Tuesday: TBC Community Mission

In the **prison ministry** each time we visit one of our team members leads with a chosen subject, so there is plenty to discuss. One prisoner never says anything, but the others are very involved. Prayer support is needed for the Holy Spirit to make the subject come alive and have a response.

Numbers go up and down as regulars are released, now a prayer request is for more prisoners to attend our meetings.

Generally some prison governors see little value in the chaplaincy, but the Number 1 Governor at Leyhill is very supportive so his heads of departments must follow his lead.

It is an open prison where everyone mixes and they have to find their own way around. In a closed prison all are tightly controlled and some criminals are separated because of certain crimes.

Recently a few Church of England prisoners have requested baptism. Last year a prisoner composed and wrote the words for a new hymn played openly for the first time at the Christmas concert, he is now writing a new hymn for this year's service where the main speaker will be a very senior chaplain.

Wednesday: Local/UK Partners

Beloved is a charity that offers practical, emotional and spiritual support for women working in the indoor sex industry in Bristol. We run regular outreach into the massage parlours in the city as well as offering a 1:1 casework service. We are supported by volunteers from local churches who work alongside a small staff team. We also work closely with local organisations supporting vulnerable and trafficked women.

Prayer points for Beloved:

- Mums (and their children) who struggle with school meetings and motherhood in general
- One of the women we work with has significantly deteriorated in physical and mental health to the point where she is not moving from the sofa. She is refusing help from professionals but is happy to see us to chat and pray together.
- Women who are struggling with debts.
- As we start to prepare for Encounter at the beginning of July and for the upcoming workshops and parlour visits.

Thursday: World Mission

Chris Stephens, our longest serving church member, told us of a fire that burned down a church in Kitwe, Zambia, that she and her late husband, Mel, have been involved with over many years. In fact the school that is connected with the church is named after Melhas completely destroyed the main church building in Kitwe, Zambia.

This church wasn't just bricks and mortar; it was a lifeline. A place of worship, of community, of healing and hope. And now it's gone. Burnt to the ground.

A big thank you from WayMaker for the generous donations given from TBC towards the rebuilding of Dayspring church. Funds have been sent for the purchase of a marquee so that the church community can continue to worship together. Thank you again for supporting our brothers and sisters in Kitwe. May you know God's blessing as you bless others.

Friday: Youth @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 running some sessions during the holidays for the families who are not going away, we give thanks for the volunteers who have stepped in.

Prayer points 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.
- Continue to pray for Gaza, Ukraine and the many other places of conflict around the world. We pray particularly as Gaza, Ukraine and Iran 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

Midcourse Correction

For many of us the Summer offers some time to step aside from normal responsibilities. As we do so we have the opportunity to reflect on how our year has been, and how we would like to move on. Pray these words from Psalm 139 and reflect on the following questions.

23 Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts.
24 See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

As I think back over this year, what highlights stand out? What has made me feel alive? Give God thanks for these experiences of joy.

As I think back over the year, what has caused me to feel anxious or overwhelmed? Ask for God's help with these struggles.

As I look forward, what would I like to establish in my life and what would I like to leave in the past. Ask for God's wisdom as you form these intentions.