

Connect

Monday: Frontline - Business Owners

We are David & Rachael, we moved to Falfield in 2017. Rachael worked for the Ministry of Justice for 33 years and then worked for Bristol Diocese until joining David in his businesses in 2021. David has had 2 businesses for over 40 years: Omnisew - an industrial sewing and steaming business; and a small property portfolio.



Omnisew produces specialised, precision machines for use mainly in the bridal industry, supplying machines all over the world. Although since Covid and Brexit, business has been largely confined to the UK.

Our main front line are the large Bridal Exhibitions in Harrogate, from which the majority of our orders are generated. But the Bridal industry has been hit hard as weddings decline and internet shopping increases.

Our properties business consists of 2 shops and 3 flats in central Bristol.

God has blessed us in both businesses with a regular flow of orders and a constant flow of good tenants.

With business slowing down we have taken the opportunity to start our phased retirement plan and now take 1 day off a week to look after our grandson Elijah.

Prayer Points:

- For all small business owners and the difficulties they face.
- For those planning retirement and the adjustments that need to be considered.

Tuesday: TBC Community Mission

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 ran some great sessions during the holidays, thanks to our great volunteers, but we also took time to rest and recover with our own families too. Looking forward to another amazing term!

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.

Wednesday: Local/UK Partners

The situation in **Ukraine** is becoming increasingly difficult. The use of drones and precision strikes has led to greater casualties among soldiers. As the number of wounded and dead rises, fewer men are willing to go to the front. Many hide in their homes, fearing forced conscription, while the overall strain on the army continues to grow.

Beyond the front lines, the economic situation is deteriorating. Russia is producing more long-range drones and missiles, overwhelming Ukraine's air defence systems. Factories are being destroyed, jobs are disappearing, and power stations are often targeted, leaving cities without electricity and water for long periods. Prices for essentials rise sharply, while wages fall. Pensioners are especially vulnerable, surviving on as little as £60 a month while facing living costs similar to the UK. Many can no longer afford the food they need. At the same time, the constant sirens and night-time alarms are causing widespread psychological trauma. Yet, in these hardships, many people are turning to the church, seeking hope, healing, and strength.

Prayer Needs:

- For a swift end to the war.
- For Ukraine's economy to recover and stabilise.
- For pensioners and the poorest, that their standard of living may improve.

Thursday: World Mission

TBC, through TEN, support Rock of Ages, a ministry led by Mircea & Ronela Cristian. Rock of Ages works in prisons across Romania, through a Bible Study programme, meetings, handing out Bibles and coming alongside prisoners. Many prisoners have experienced the transforming power of the Holy Spirit in their lives and have gone on to make a real difference in the lives of others.

Prayer points:

- For all the people who hear the Gospel to be saved.
- For financial support to be able to provide for ongoing projects.
- For financial support for Timothy Cristian (Mircea & Ronela's son) as he joins the ministry.
- For support to be able to help families in need in winter: wood, heating, food, warm clothes.
- The conference of prison chaplains and volunteers who serve with Rock of Ages. Helen Harrison will be supporting them through training.

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:

- 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, as well as those who have lost their lives.
- 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

My Father in heaven,

I want the Spirit's power within:
Spirit of peace, and of a healthy mind,
Spirit of power, to conquer inbred sin,
Spirit of love, for you and all
humankind,
Spirit of health, that pain and death
defies,
Most vigorous when the body dies.

O that the Comforter would come!
Not visit a while and then depart,
But fix in me his constant home,
And take possession of my heart,
And fix in me his loved abode,
The temple of indwelling God!

Come, Holy Ghost, my heart inspire!

(Charles Wesley – adapted)