Connect

Monday: Parents

Hi there, I'm Grace Badger. My wonderful husband Ed and I live in Thornbury with our two little girls; Bonnie, who is 19 months old, and Rosanna who is 3 months old. I am a teacher at Redmaids' High Junior School. However, my current front line is being a full-time mother (which, frankly, makes teaching seem like a doddle!).

On both my maternity leaves, I have felt incredibly blessed by the family provision at TBC. From Two-By-Two, Ladies Bible Study and Family Café, I have built connections with fellow mothers, endeavouring to seek God's guidance in how I can be a loving presence to others (amidst the chaos of looking after little people!). The saying 'the days are long but the years are short' comes to mind, motherhood can be brutal, and finding people to journey alongside with can be the difference between surviving and thriving.

Prayer Points:

- For the amazing teams and individuals at church who run the family provision, that they would be spirit-led in their interactions and would know how valued they are.
- For the mothers of our community, that they would feel God's love through the community here at TBC, without fear of rejection or judgement.
- For the children in our church community and beyond, that they would have a childhood filled with joy and laughter, where they can grow and flourish.

Tuesday: TBC Community Mission

Two by Two continues to flourish and serve parents and carers of children in and around the Thornbury area.

As well as our famous 'Song Bag', we read stories, including one from the Bible, sharing God's love for them all, and teaching them that they are all special in God's eyes.

We are really encouraged that some of our families come along to events in church, like Mum's Bible Study, and the Easter and Christmas events for families. Huge thanks to Hev for providing these opportunities!!

Prayer points for Two By Two:

- Pray for another helper to join our wonderful Wednesday team, in particular, although our marvellous Monday team would appreciate another helper, too!
- Pray for our cohort of children leaving to go to school in September, that they will enjoy reading the 'Wow!!' book with their adults, and that they will settle into school well.
- Give thanks for our current teams, and pray for continuing enthusiasm and opportunities to share God's love.

Wednesday: Local/UK Partners

Foodbank have now settled back in our home here at TBC and pleased to have the use of the new facilities. Numbers fed over the past year have decreased slightly. We always hope that is a reflection of the additional help they receive from other signposted organisations we are in partnership with.

We were able to give out 41 Christmas parcels to clients due the amazing support we receive both materially and financially. They included a gift either purchased with financial donations or donated by our generous community.

We continue to have a sufficient number of faithful volunteers who cover the various roles; weighing and dating donations, packing parcels, speaking to clients, stock control and other roles needed to support those in need Harvest donations and Tesco donations in December amounted to an amazing 3 tonnes.

Prayer/Praise:

- Praising God for clients whose lives are being changed and other organisations who partner with us.
- For all who faithfully support us, materially, financially and especially by praying for us.
- For our faithful volunteers.
- God’s wisdom in all decisions we make and His love and hope to be shared with those in such difficult circumstances.

Thursday: World Mission Partners

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 TEN:

- For all the people who hear the Gospel to be saved.
- For financial support to be able to provide for ongoing projects.
- Pray for Timi Cristian as he prepares to take over leading Rock of Ages
- For support to be able to help families in need in winter: wood, heating, food, warm clothes.
- For their palliative care hospice, Emanuel Hospice, as it provides care to patients with terminal cancer through medical, psychosocial and spiritual care packages.
- For James Vaughton, CEO as he visits partners in Montenegro and teaches at the Illyria Bible School in Kosovo in early May.
- For preparation for staff members Lucy and Ken and a team visiting multiple partners in three countries as part of a worship and intercession trip.

Friday: Families @TBC

On a Monday lunch time each week we welcome Mums to a Bible study. We share lunch together, study the word, share and pray for one another. This group has welcomed mums from Two by Two, coffee shop and our church family. We are a mixture of new Christians, seekers and long in the tooth Christians!! It has been so exciting to journey with these Mums and their little ones and is one of the main discipleship groups for the families ministry.

Praise & prayer for Families Ministry:

- We praise God for the lives of a number of these mums who have become Christians in the last 18 months. For His faithfulness and love as some have overcome addictions and navigated difficult personal circumstances.
- Please pray for the continued growth of each of our mums in their relationship with Jesus and their understanding of Gods word.
- That they too would have opportunity to share the hope they have received with their friends and loved ones.

Saturday: Global Needs

Urgent: pray for Indian Christians under pressure to reconvert

Christians in India are asking you to urgently pray over the next few days as some tribal believers are under tremendous pressure to go back to their previous faith. If they don't do so at a 'Ghar Wapsi' (an event meaning 'homecoming', where converts return to their former beliefs) on 30 April, they are being threatened with significant consequences.

The threats are being made by a prominent organisation that represents tribal communities in Chhattisgarh state, one of India's states with the most restrictive anti-conversion laws. These laws make it very difficult to leave your previous faith if you follow Jesus.

At this uncertain and seemingly paralysing time for our brothers and sisters, they urgently need our prayers to stand firm in their faith.

Please see the "Latest News' section of the Open Doors Website (www.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

On May 24th we celebrate Pentecost. Here are some Bible verses to reflect on and turn into prayer in this Pentecostal month.

On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them."
(John 7:37, 38)

How thirsty am I for a deeper experience of God in my life?

Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives. (Galatians 5:25)

How do I sense the Spirit leading me in this season of life?

A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other. (1 Corinthians 12:7)

How has God gifted me and how am I using my gift to help others?

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.