

# Connect

## Monday: Fostering

We are Mike and Wendy Britten, live in Rockhampton and have worshipped with TBC since 1990.

We both have experienced lifelong faith which profoundly influences the way we look at life and openness towards helping others. We have travelled widely. Wendy, a trained primary teacher, has lived in Africa and Cyprus with her parents when her father's work (an Archdeacon) took them there; Michael has visited 33 countries in his defence engineering work. Earlier he studied Astronomy and Astrophysics at UCL then Italian at University in Italy.



These experiences of the world have given us a clear understanding of the importance of a living faith in developing respectful human relationships, and an outgoing attitude to helping others. We have 5 children (Tim, Lucy, Caroline, Richard, Sarah) and, over 30 years, have fostered 107 others (many disabled and special needs). The Old Rectory, our home, proved ideal for our long-held ambition to offer a safe, caring environment for children, and others in need:- Pre-release Leyhill prisoner groups, NGM student groups, an ongoing weekly 'Friendship Group' for disabled young adults, and 30 Ukrainian refugee guests, have all been welcomed.

### Prayer Points:

- That children in care would experience safety, stability and unconditional love
- Wisdom and compassion for foster parents and hosts
- Physical, emotional and spiritual protection for children in foster care

## Tuesday: TBC Community Mission

2026 has seen much growth across our children's groups, particularly in creche, where we have welcomed so many new babies! Last year we had to split the groups as they were getting too big to manage and to allow proper teaching to take place, resulting in the groups being well attended and enjoyed by children and teachers alike! However, splitting the groups means that more leaders and helpers are required and this is an ongoing struggle. On several occasions, we have been short staffed, resulting in the same few people having to take on more responsibility to cover for those not able to make it. If this continues to happen, our teams will burn out so we would really appreciate prayer for more leaders to step up.

### **Prayer points for Sunday groups:**

- More leaders for each group so that we can continue to have children's provision each week.
- For relationships to grow between the children as well as with their leaders
- For the teams who put so much love and care into the lessons they prepare and 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. Pray that God will protect them 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 at the Cairns Road Baptist Church in Bristol and also the Bath Music Festival.

### **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 programme 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 grassroots 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 programmes.

## 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 & impact) have got stuck into Bible study and have enjoyed 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 to share faith.
- Pray 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.
- Pray for wisdom for those involved in planning the youth activities as we pray through the changes approaching at the end of this academic year.

## Saturday: Global Needs

### “Help us endure”: hundreds displaced by gang violence in Mexico

Entire communities have been driven from their homes by an outburst of gang violence on Wednesday 6 May in Montaña Baja region, central Mexico. Among them, hundreds of Christians have lost homes and livelihoods – please pray for those affected.

“The reality is far more brutal than what is being reported,” says Pastor Jairo\*, a pastoral leader who supports several churches in the area. He shares that at least 170 believers are sheltering in a nearby community centre, whilst many others have sought refuge in churches.

“In the middle of this crisis,” says Pastor Jairo, “what we need most is prayer support to help us endure.”

\*Names changed for security reasons

Please see the “Latest News’ section of the Open Doors Website ([www.opendoorsuk.org](http://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](mailto:paul@thornburybaptistchurch.org.uk)

## Sunday: Renewal

### Love Review

Our church’s vision is shaped by Jesus’ ‘love commands’. We aim to grow as a family in loving God (Matthew 22:37), loving one another (John 13:34) and loving everyone we meet in God’s world (Matthew 22:39).

Use these questions for reflection and prayer.

Loving God: How has my love for God shaped my decisions and actions in this last month?

Loving one another: Who do I know that is in need in the TBC family? How could I show them God’s love?

Loving God’s world: What challenges do I face in living a life of love on my frontline – wherever I spend time with people who are not Christian?

### 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.