

Connect

Monday: Building The Future

The building work began in earnest on the 7th of May and we are thrilled to be 5 weeks in, as well as being extremely thankful for the generosity of the congregation, both with time and money.

There will be challenges as we try to operate as close as we can to normality as possible throughout the building work.

While most activities and services are proceeding on site with some adjustments, some things have moved to different locations to ensure continued efficiency, like Lunch Club moving to the Catholic church, Foodbank moving to Turnberries and Early Church moving to the URC. We appreciate the willingness that everyone has demonstrated to get involved and help out as we enter this season of change.



Prayer Points

- For a safe and efficient building process.
- For our groups meeting off site, that they can represent the church and show people the light of Christ through our works.
- For our church on completion, that we use our new facilities to grow and bring more people to Jesus.
- For our neighbours as they deal with any inconvenience caused by the building work.

Tuesday: TBC Community Mission

Family Café is continuing through the building project with a few tweaks. We are using a booking system to keep numbers manageable and adjusting the coffee shop layout.

Prayer points for Family Café:

- We thank God for the relationships, trust & opportunities He has given us with so many families in our community. Please pray that these relationships will grow and present further opportunities to share the love God has for them & has demonstrated through Jesus.
- For families to adapt to having a temporary booking system in order to manage numbers in a reduced space.
- We thank God for our café team and pray for them as they adapt and continue to love, support and serve our families in a season of change.
- This year we are particularly keen to develop opportunities to share the Gospel through events that occur within the regular rhythm of life in Thornbury, please pray that God would guide & provide for this.
- Praise God for the recent baptism of one of our family café Mums. Her testimony of how God has completely changed and saved her life has been so wonderful to be part of and it all started at family café!

Wednesday: Local/UK Partners

My name is **Myrtle Lawrence**, I work with **Bristol Healing Rooms**, and the growing and wider linked community, of Church Without Walls. We serve Bristol, and the surrounding areas, in the area of healing, in all its forms. Jesus led, Holy Spirit directed, doing what Jesus taught us to do.

Prayers for protection and cover would be great, as we go into areas of darkness, and minister to people in very 'dark places'.

We've recently instigated 'twice daily' prayer sessions over zoom, and hope to start weekly bible studies, we also have a bi-monthly mentoring group for team.

Prayer points for Bristol Healing Rooms:

- Many of our team are travelling to other countries to minister from BHRs, in this season. Prayers for wisdom for what invites to accept, for protection and finance.
- Prayers for recent new Christians, people recently healed and delivered from extreme issues, street outreach and healing, and local Church communities that we connect with.
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- People recently healed and delivered from extreme issues.
- Street outreach and healing.
- Local Church communities that we connect with.

I would like to share with you what IDAK has achieved in the past one year of official operation. It is amazing at the milestones covered against all the odds as we have pushed boundaries and granted various clienteles hopes and dreams which were at the verge of collapse. Through IDAK we work with an incredible range of needy children, young people and families to grant them a platform for comeback through in-depth resilience building. Their situations and needs can be vastly different but the message of justice, hope and change remains our anchor. We have not been afraid to pick up challenges but rather keen at building capacities because “An investment in knowledge pays the best interest” (Benjamin Franklin).

Prayer points for IDAK:

- Praise God for the provision of resources to IDAK that has enabled all this work to take place.
- Anny's tumour not requiring any further treatment and pray that she will continue to grow strong and healthy.
- Pray for families who have lost homes, livelihoods and loved ones due to the floods.
- Pray for the bursary students as they progress through secondary school, that they will remain healthy and able to study well.

This term, **the children in the Sunday groups** have been learning more about the fruits of the spirit. Each week we have been seeing more and more new families walk through the doors and our children's groups are growing rapidly. We give thanks to God that he is raising up the next generation of worshippers!

We are thankful to have such a thriving children's ministry and praise God for providing us with what we need to go ahead with the building work, to allow us more space to meet and gather safely and comfortably.

Prayer points for the Children's Work:

- For the children to adapt to the changes that the building work brings, like a different creche setup and merged groups downstairs.
- Thanks for those who have stepped up to help with the other two groups on a Sunday morning.
- For more volunteers to help across the children, youth and family ministries. Without adequate numbers of volunteers, we cannot safely provide the service we currently do.
- For all of the new children and their families who are joining us, that they would feel welcomed and accepted as they join our church family.

Saturday: Global Needs

Pray particularly this month for:

- The recent flooding in Kenya.
- For the recent volcanic eruptions in Indonesia and the Philippines which displaced so many.
- For the elections taking place around the world, that they would be free and fair and give the best results.
- the devastating attack in Nigeria, with eight people killed and 160 mostly Christian people kidnapped after Islamic militants targeted Kuchi village in Niger State.
- Continue to pray for Gaza, Ukraine and the many other places of conflict around the world.

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 & 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

Ordinary Time

In the Christian calendar the period between Pentecost and Advent is called 'Ordinary Time'. It is a title that can sound rather flat after the highs of Pentecost and the anticipation of Christ's coming again in Advent. In reality, however, that is where we live all of life: in the many 'ordinary days', between the gift of the Spirit and the coming of Jesus.

Ordinary time – time at work, with family and friends, with hobbies and on holidays – is precisely where we are called to work out the Spirit-filled life until Jesus returns. Christianity is not just for the high days and festivals, but the innumerable ordinary days too. The words of this old hymn make an excellent prayer for Ordinary Time:

Take my life and let it be
consecrated, Lord, to thee.
Take my moments and my days;
let them flow in endless praise,
let them flow in endless praise.

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.