

# Connect

## Monday: Students

Hi! My name is Eleanor and I'm in year 12 at The Castle School. This is an exciting year as it was the opening of the new sixth form block on the lower school site, after years of building work.

When I started secondary school, I was fully prepared for my faith to present many difficulties, but I feel blessed to be part of a year group who are very

accepting and not afraid to ask questions! However, there are still things at school I find challenging as a Christian. Many social norms do not align with my beliefs or values and even in lessons, Christianity is often taught from a traditional or historically-based viewpoint, which can contradict my lived reality. I try to see these moments as opportunities to show Jesus' love, even when it feels uncomfortable.



### Prayer points:

That both students and teachers would settle into the new way of working with sixth form on the lower school site at Castle.

All students who are struggling with mental health as pressure on exams continues to rise across the country.

For Christians in schools all over the world to feel confident speaking about their faith and educating others on what it means to be Christian in a modern context.

## Tuesday: TBC Community Mission

**Alpha** is a relaxed introduction to the Christian faith, particularly for those with little or no church background.

Based around videos, a meal and the opportunity to discuss together without any compulsion or pressure, no question is off limits, and most people find they quickly enjoy meeting together.

### **Discussion explores topics like:**

- 'Why did Jesus die?'
- 'How can I have faith?' 'How does God guide us?'
- And 'Why and How do I pray?' To see how they affect how we live.

We will be looking to start an Alpha course in October, so if you've never been or have someone you'd like to bring, we'd love to have you.

### **Prayer points for Alpha:**

- For those who may be considering joining the Alpha course.
- Whether there is anyone you would like to invite to Alpha.
- For those leading, hosting & catering for the course.

## Wednesday: Local/UK Partners

The Willow Tree Pregnancy Crisis Centre offers impartial and confidential support to women and men in South Gloucestershire and Bristol facing unplanned pregnancy and after all types of pregnancy loss. We have a volunteer team of fifteen and support clients face-to-face, via Zoom or Teams and on the phone. All our services are free.

We aim to reflect the values of Christ by showing love and compassion, by

- respecting clients and taking our lead from them. We seek to express our Christian
- faith by serving others in this way.

### **Please give thanks for:**

- our committed volunteer team

### **Prayer points for Willow Tree:**

- the clients being supported by our volunteers and those on our waiting list as they wait for a first appointment
- the finances we need to continue to provide our services
- vision and wisdom as we think strategically about the growth and development of the services we offer

## Thursday: World Mission Partners

We at Elam cannot believe the New Millennium Persian Bible turned ten years old last week!

Ten years ago, we had the joy of launching this modern, accurate, and beautiful translation of God's Word for the Persian church. As I look back on how the Lord has been at work strengthening the Iranian church since this Bible was published, my heart is overflowing with thankfulness.

### We are thankful for:

- all the sacrifices that were made to bring this Bible translation to fruition, not least that of eminent translator and martyr Tateos Michaelian, after whom the translation project was posthumously named.
- your prayers and partnership that made this Bible translation possible, and have enabled us to print more than half a million copies so far!

### Prayer points for Elam:

- For protection and peace for those who take risks to get this precious but banned book into the hands of more Iranians.
- For more people across the Iran region who are hungry for God's Word to receive their copy soon.
- For Iranian believers to be increasingly deeply rooted in the Bible, and for all our training and discipleship courses and tools to help make this a reality.

## Friday: Children @TBC

It has been wonderful welcoming our TBC kids back after a lovely summer break. We have kicked off this term learning about Old Testament characters such as Noah and Moses. We also have the privilege of Katie and Jason Fry popping in from time to time to lead some worship with the kids which everyone enjoys! It is a joy to see the children engaging more in worship week by week.

### Prayer points for the children:

- As we draw closer to the end of the building work, we are hoping to have a creche space soon. However, we are really short on helpers. Please pray that we can bless families by providing a safe and loving space for their children while they engage with the service.
- Pray for our children, that they will know God's presence in their lives as they all face their own challenges throughout the week.

## Saturday: Global Needs

### Pray particularly this month for:

- For the United States as Hurricane Helene affects them
- For the conflict in the Middle East as it escalates, that calm hearts and minds will step in and stop the conflict
- Continue to pray for Gaza, Ukraine and the many other places of conflict around the world.
- For the millions of African Christians displaced due to violence.

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](http://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

### LifeSOURCE – Rooted in the Holy Spirit\*

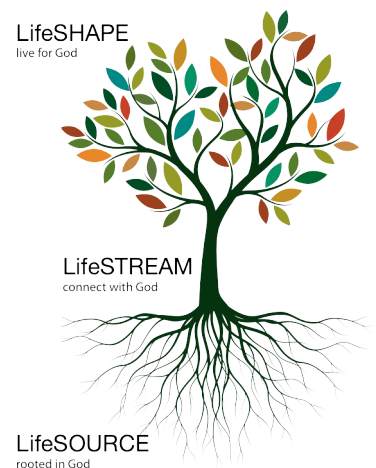
Anyone who believes in me may come and drink! For the Scriptures declare, 'Rivers of living water will flow from his heart.'" (When he said "living water," he was speaking of the Spirit...) John 7:38,39

Read Galatians 5:22-23:

- In what ways does the life of the Spirit, as defined in Galatians, 'flow from my heart'?
- How thirsty am I for a fuller flow of his fruit to those around me?
- Pray for a fresh experience of the Holy Spirit empowering you to live like Jesus on your frontlines.

\*(Find all of our LifeWORKS discipleship

resources on our website: [https://www.thornburybaptistchurch.org.uk/?page\\_id=15255](https://www.thornburybaptistchurch.org.uk/?page_id=15255))



### 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.