

Connect

Monday: Education

Hi, my name is Michelle, I'm married to Nick and we've been part of the TBC family for many years. We have two grown up daughters who have left home to start their walk into adulthood. I love playing games, quizzes, escape rooms, crafting, open water swimming, kayaking and archery. Swimming and archery I would say are also key frontlines but the main is work.



I'm a Special Needs Teaching Assistant at a secondary school nearby. I love my job! It has its challenges but is rewarding. I work with specific named children primarily with Autism and ADHD supporting them and their class teacher in class. However, I also enjoy getting to know other students in the class and like to help them where possible. Opportunities to share my faith with the children is difficult: however, I show God's love through patience and kindness. I'm part of a small friendly team and I absolutely love my colleagues.

Pray for:

- Pray for the powers that be to equip schools better so that we have enough resources to deliver the curriculum and not be constantly stretched.
- Please pray for all school-based staff to feel valued
- Finally, pray for an inclusive system that inspires lifelong learning and that every child reaches their potential.

Tuesday: TBC Community Mission

As we look forward to the coming season of Advent, it would be great to pray for the following events:

- Advent Sunday services.
- The donkey Nativity service on 15th.
- Our Christmas Eve carol service which is attended by many who only come to church on this one occasion each year.
- The many family, children's and youth events happening in the lead up to Christmas.

Prayer points:

- That God will be in our planning and will be at the centre of all that we do.
- That the good news of God's love for us, as seen in the birth of His Son, will be evident to those we come into contact with both inside and outside the church.
- For comfort and peace for those who find Christmas and New Year difficult
- For a sense of family, community and care as we join together to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Wednesday: Local/UK Partners

Foodbank: it has been an amazing time of blessing from our community, over past weeks, where churches, schools, other organisations and individuals supported us with over 2 tonnes of Harvest Donations!

Now we turn to preparations for Christmas. We will as usual be providing an extra parcel of Christmas goodies for individuals and families who come to us during December.

It has been good to share our time at Turnberries with New Start Debt Advice. We often support their clients with food parcels.

Our drivers continue to deliver parcels to those who have no transport or are unable to come to Foodbank, due to illness. We do, however, retain contact with these clients to ensure they receive what they need.

We continue to signpost all clients to other organisations, in the hope that this will help them get out of the crises they are in.

It is always such a blessing to hear how situations have improved for our clients.

Prayer points for Foodbank:

- Thanks for continued financial, food & essential donations which have increased.
- Thanks for our faithful volunteers.
- God's wisdom for decisions which we need to make and His love and hope to be shared with those who are in such difficult circumstances.

SAT-7 is a Christian media ministry, broadcasting on satellite television, digital TV on-demand and social media in Arabic, Farsi and Turkish to millions of people in the Middle East & North Africa.

Prayer points for SAT-7:

- Lasting peace for Lebanon, the Holy Land, Gaza and Sudan and the Lord's wisdom for leaders and negotiators.
- Comfort and provision for the millions of people displaced by the conflicts.
- For protection for SAT-7's staff and TV studio in Beirut, broadcasting faith filled television programmes for families and children despite the rocket attacks in Hezbollah territory nearby.
- Viewers of SAT-7 in Iran as many non-Christian viewers watch the Christmas programmes. May God also protect and strengthen the growing numbers of secret churches despite persecution.
- SAT-7's new education programme, Sun of Hope, presented by a schoolteacher in the Afghan - Dari dialect. Pray the children, especially girls, not in school in Afghanistan learn from the programme and discover God's love.
- Wisdom for SAT-7 production and viewer support teams as they make God's love visible in the Middle East.

As we are drawing to the end of the Autumn term for Basement (YR 7-9) and Attic youth club (YR 10-13) it is great to reflect on all that has happened this term. There is a great sense of relationship & friendship building amongst the young people and team, which is reflected in how open they are in conversations and a willingness to take part in activities. Attic has also become a great space to meet up with school friends who they no longer see in their sixth form, college & apprenticeship settings. In November we held a 'Light Party' for those in year 6-9, the evening was a lot of fun, and created a great opportunity to share the LIGHT in the darkness. The thing we are most excited about is the growing sense of faith discussion. There have been moments in these in which young people have expressed curiosity about God and interest in knowing more about the faith of the leaders or other young people in the room!!

Prayer points for Youth:

- Thank God for all He is doing amongst the young people, for the curiosity being stirred and the openness to listen. For discernment for the leaders and a great awareness of God's Spirit leading in this.
- For those who attend the clubs, for those with difficult family situations, mental health struggles and school avoidance.
- For all those who came to the light party, pray that the gospel message they heard would become the seed of something that grows within them!

Saturday: Global Needs

Pray particularly this month for:

- For the flooding and storms in the UK and all those who have been displaced or affected.
- 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).

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

Advent Prayer

In the season of Advent we recall the first coming of Jesus in Bethlehem, and long for his second coming to renew the world. Here is a prayer for Advent. Use each stanza as a springboard for your own prayers.

Come Lord Jesus!
Bring healing to this world,
And peace to its peoples.

Come Lord Jesus!
Let justice cover this earth,
And the poor be lifted up.

Come Lord Jesus!
Bring your salvation to all who long for you,
And may your mercy triumph over
judgment.

Come Lord Jesus!
The Lord is coming
Let us prepare ourselves, and share this
Good News!
Amen.

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.