

Connect

Monday: Frontline - Technicians

My name is Daniel. I'm married to Uchechi, and we have a son, David, who's turning 2 in April. I work as a Maintenance Technician. We moved to the UK from Nigeria in September 2022 and settled in Thornbury.

Growing up in a Christian home, I was introduced to Christ at a young age and

have been actively involved in church ministry. Before moving to the UK, I served as a youth leader, worship director, and participated in evangelism outreach programs. Since arriving in the UK, I've served through the worship team at Thornbury Baptist Church.

Living a Christ-like life has opened doors for me to share my faith with colleagues and demonstrate God's love. I'm grateful for the warm welcome from the TBC family.



Prayer points:

- A colleague going through a tough time, that they may come to know Christ.
- Courage for Christians in my frontline to share their faith.
- Freedom for those struggling with addictions.

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?'

We had such a brilliant time on the most recent course and are so grateful to God for the team and the guests that came, for the food and hospitality. But most of all to God for the questions the guests brought to our discussions and the answers and 'Holy Spirit nudges' that God gave to us as a group.

Prayer points for Alpha:

- Thanks for those who completed the course last month and for those who became Christians during the course.
- For growth in their relationship and love of Jesus and to find supportive friends to journey alongside them.
- For those that came to the course but are still exploring, that they would continue to see and hear of God's love for them and choose to become disciples of Jesus.
- For the next course in March and who you could invite to join.

Wednesday: Local/UK Partners

Oasis House is a TBC mission initiative which provides a home for men who have experienced some form of homelessness. The project's aim is to create a community family space where men from all walks of life can find healing and restoration. This is facilitated through personal support plans and one-to-one mentoring. We hold a number of activities throughout the week. On Tuesday mornings we have a house meeting, which sometimes includes communion and prayer and we encourage volunteering in the community in the week.

Oasis has capacity to house five men, including Jason Clark the house support manager. His role is to support the guys on a daily basis, and to help create the community vibe in the house. Tim Buff also volunteers his time to help with overseeing the house.

Prayer points for Oasis:

- For our three phrase program which is up and running in equipping guys to make positive changes in their lives.
- For the Oasis team, the Holy Spirit's guidance as we move into 2025.
- For the right volunteers to come forward.
- For men to find faith in Jesus.
- Prayer that our link with Leyhill Prison will be a source of referrals.

I'm **Carol Connolly** of **'The Ark Enterprises'**. I have been in Bulgaria since 2007 to build 'The Ark,' a creative arts retreat and mission centre. Here we facilitate mission groups, conferences, and a local women's forum for study and retreat. Along with supporting the local community we support missions to the Roma and a local homeless shelter. We have in the past taken refugees from Syria and Ukraine, had teams to run summer programmes for the most poor and marginalised Roma children and hope to continue in the future, plus start a church.

The building is usable but not yet complete and we are still looking for others to come alongside and help run the programmes.

I am currently in Thornbury on Sabbatical helping care for my mother and grandson. Due to return at the end of May.

Prayer points for the Ark

- Please pray for my mother when I return to Bulgaria.
- For funds to complete the building work.
- Someone to manage the building when I am not there.
- Others to catch the vision and join me.
- Wisdom and strength moving forward.

Family Café welcomes families with pre school children three times a week during term time for play, refreshments and an opportunity to catch up or make new friends in a relaxed environment.

We are thrilled to be able to enjoy the new kitchen and toilets as well as the larger space now available to us in the main worship area. After a quieter season for café during the building works families are now steadily returning as well as new families coming along in the last few weeks.

Please pray:

- For the 'chatterminglers' – the team that chat to folk during Café! That we may have wisdom to know when to listen, and when to speak, when to comfort or when to celebrate with these families.
- For some of the families that are facing difficulties at the moment, financial, relationships, poor physical or mental health. We have seen some wonderful answers to prayers and we ask Lord for more!
- For the kitchen teams – that their continued welcoming and serving ministry communicates God's love to those who come along. That they would also know joy in the kitchen as they serve together!
- Pray for us all as team as we pray and discern what the next steps may be for each of those that come to Café in terms of sharing the love of Jesus with them.

Saturday: Global Needs

Pray particularly this month:

- For the natural disasters and storms affecting the world.
- For the persecuted Christians being driven out of Bangladesh.
- Continue to pray for Gaza, Ukraine and the many other places of conflict around the world. We pray particularly as Gaza and Ukraine become the focus of peace talks.
- 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 and 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

You were taught not to live the way you used to. You must get rid of your old way of life... You were taught to be made new in your thinking. You were taught to start living a new life. (Ephesians 4:22-24 NIRV)

Take time this month to reflect on these verses.

Are there any elements of an 'old life' that need to be turned away from (v22)?

Are there any unhelpful thought patterns, that need to be rejected (v23)?

How is the goal of 'living a new life' going (v24)?

Pray through these questions and be sensitive to any nudges from the Holy Spirit.

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.