



webod

making a difference



prayer guide

28th August –
26th November 2011

prayer makes a difference



“There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under heaven.....He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men;” Eccles.3. 1,11

Autumn will soon be with us, the changing colours of our trees, the leaves cascading to the ground, leaving bare branches and that sense of nature “dying” and laying dormant until Spring. There is much work to be done in the garden of “pruning”, “cutting back” and “tidying up” and some of these words are being echoed by our politicians as they seek to redress the imbalance in the economy.

Do we truly desire eternity with God? Do we know what it means? Real life, wrapped in the love of the Father, abundant life, given freely to be taken freely. Our Father God planted seeds in our hearts that we may grow into what he has designed us to be, a hope that will be fulfilled. Sometimes God’s “pruning”, “cutting back” and “tidying up” are needed in our lives, then look at how He transforms us. We become what He wants us to be.

Let us enjoy the colours, the changing seasons, and the knowledge that our wonderful God has never given up on us and his world!

August 28th – September 3rd

Gas Green, Cheltenham

Christine Ritter

Having given thanks to God for his calling Christine to be our minister after a 6 year pastoral vacancy, we are now faced with an extreme financial dilemma. Minor building repairs we committed to in 2010 have turned into a major renovation, using up our reserve fund.

Please pray for God's provision to continue Christine's ministry beyond 2012. Appeal letters have been sent to hundreds of local churches and businesses. Please pray that financial assistance will materialise over the next few months. Pray for Christine, in her first church after training, and the pressures that this situation places on her.

Chipping Sodbury

Pastoral vacancy

We give thanks to God for

- the Ministry of Revd Carl Stokes for the past 3½ years. Carl left at the end of April to take up God's call to become an Army Chaplain.
- the continuing work of our Young Families and Youth Worker, Sue Pearce
- the number of people who are part of mid week Care Groups
- the variety of gifts, skills and abilities God has given to us
- the joint Churches Street Pastor scheme which started on Good Friday

We would like prayer for

- our Leadership during the Pastoral vacancy
- guidance in our search for a new Minister
- our building plans to refurbish and improve our premises
- our friendship evangelism

Paulton

Barrie Clarke

We have much to thank God for at Paulton. We started monthly "Messy Church" sessions a few months ago. These have been successful, but prayers would be welcome for the attendance of more families.

There are two new outreach activities commencing in the Autumn, namely an Alpha course and a "Playpals" weekly activity for parents and children under 4 years of age. Prayers for these would be appreciated.

There has been a steady increase in our congregation, for which we thank our Lord. We have, this year, been able to provide a toilet for the disabled and to refurbish our kitchen. We are looking forward to the future with faith and enthusiasm in our work for the Lord.

September 4th – 10th

Coleford, Glos.

Peter Wade

We are half way through our 5 year vision of 50% growth both numerically and spiritually. We thank God for answered prayer by increasing membership and bringing people of all ages to us, also for an increase in the spiritual life of our church.

We ask for prayers as we reach out into the community for:

Alpha starting in September.

Prayer ministry training starting in September.

The church anniversary event for our children and their friends on 20th November, we ask that many will join us this year.

A leader to take on 'Tiggys', our Mother & Toddler Group, for September, so it can continue.

Direction as we plan to reach out to our neighbours in the street hoping to make new friendships

The Stowe, Wichelstowe

Ali Boulton

We have invited Sarah King to join us as an intern from September. Please pray that she will quickly settle in, and that The Stowe will provide her with opportunities to serve which use her strengths, as well as helping her grow. The new primary school opens at the beginning of September. Please pray that the teachers and children will settle in quickly. Pray for Ali as Chair of Governors.

As we celebrate 2 years of The Stowe we want to continue to be open to how God is leading us. We want to stay flexible as we respond to the needs of the community whilst accepting that we cannot do everything. We thank God for our first church camping weekend this summer.

We are looking forward to a number of new Stowe babies in the autumn and winter – a great way to grow a church!

We are hoping to run a course in the Autumn to help people develop their emotional strengths. A great way to bless the community by empowering those who may feel disempowered!

Please pray for Ali as she spearheads the work of The Stowe, for stamina, for wisdom, for spiritual insight, and for a continuing sense of humour. Also for our whole team that we may know how best to support and help Ali, and that we may all continue to grow personally and as a church family.

September 11th – 17th

Shirehampton, Bristol

Chris Grant

We held our very first messy church event on 25th June and it was a brilliant success. We had at least 42 children with approximately 30 adults attending, so we wish to give praise to God for how it went, we were overwhelmed, but give God thanks for his wonderful goodness and his awesomeness. We are now planning our next one which will be on the weekend of the Big Welcome 24th/25 September so would value your prayers for this.

Westbury, West End

Pastoral Vacancy

Please pray for the church as we look to God for guidance regarding the future of the Pastorate here. We are much in prayer and actively engaging in the process of seeking a new Minister for West End.

At the same time we are working to reach out to the local community.

We are involved with Westbury Churches Together in a project known as "Crosspoint", the aim of which is to set up a drop-in centre in the town. We would appreciate prayers for this venture.

Cirencester

Matt Frost, Bob Morris

Lots to pray for and give thanks for at CBC.

Thanks:

- 4 baptisms in June
- A good number of new church members and attenders.
- Appointment of new youth and children's worker for September.
- Increasing passion in our corporate worship.
- Two new adult house groups have launched plus one new youth house group.
- Deepening relationships and greater hospitality within the church.
- 15 couples who did the Marriage Course who all experienced changes in their relationships.

Prayer:

- Overcrowding on Sunday morning services. We are considering moving services to a Secondary School.
- God's help in pastoring all the new people and the existing members.
- Guidance and resources to minister to older members and older people outside the church.
- Growth in our experience and faith in the activity of the Holy Spirit in our church life and witness.
- Growing confidence in our relationships with the local communities, and boldness in evangelism.

September 18th – 24th

Bristol Baptist College

The College will welcome all the new students during September. Many of them will have moved home over the summer and will be settling into new homes and new patterns of work. Please pray for them as they adjust to a new routine and changed circumstances.

At the same time, this year's leaving students will be going into the settlement process hoping to find a church by next September. They would all appreciate prayer as they seek God's guidance and obey his call to new ministries.

The College is working with some new and radical approaches to ministerial formation for some of its students. These are bring great opportunities. Please pray for the current Urban Mission students and pray for more to join the college in the course of the year.

Please remember all the staff as they seek to teach, encourage and lead the students as they prepare for future mission and ministry.

The College will begin the process of appointing a successor to Dr Ernest Lucas who has served so well for many years. Please ask for wisdom in the management of the process and for the right outcome.

Finally, the College Council will meet towards the end of November to discuss the college strategy. The landscape of higher education is in flux so please pray for wisdom and a willingness to engage with all the issues.

City Road, Bristol

Pastoral Vacancy

- Thank you for praying for us over the last few months.
- Join with us as we continue to praise Father through some uncertain times ahead. From September we are without a Pastor, and several key leaders. We need to discern The Father's plans for our way ahead. Please pray with us that He would draw to us, people with expertise in the following areas:
 - Pastoral Leadership - Sunday School Leader
 - Worship Team - Treasurer
 - Future Development of our building programme.
- Join with us as we give thanks for the recent wedding of two of our congregation and the Return to Membership of one more lady.
- We pray that God would continue to bless you in every area of your ministry. Thank you.

September 25th – 1st October

Westbury on Trym Senior minister: Pastoral vacancy. Associate ministers: Sheila Cooper (seconded to Lawrence Weston) Eveline Johnstone (from 2nd October)

On 2nd October we are celebrating the ordination and induction of Eveline Johnstone as a Regionally Recognised Minister and Associate Minister of our church. Please pray for Eveline on this special day and for her future ministry with us.

Over the past few months the fellowship has been engaged in a Listening Process, wonderfully led by our moderator Sian Murray-Williams, to discern God's will for the future of the church. This has fed into the church profile, which was submitted in September. Please pray that God will give us wisdom and patience as we begin the search for a new senior minister.

Milton, Weston-s-Mare

**John Smith, Andy Pearce
and Shaggy Abdon Shortley**

Praise for :-

- The developing work amongst our young people now that our Youth Worker Andy Pearce is working full-time.
- Successful introduction of a new pattern of evening services with different focuses – prayer, youth, creative engagement and communion.
- Ongoing development of our corporate identity 'becoming a community for the community'
- People showing up at services with no previous church involvement.

Pray for:-

- Enthusiastic participation in a planned church weekend away in 2012
- Our active involvement with a new town wide Foodbank to start operating in September.
- The integration of several Eastern European families and individuals who are worshipping with us regularly

October 2nd – 8th

9th October - Lay Ministries Sunday

It is a response to prayer that we have 45 churches taking part this year.

Please pray for all the Lay Preachers, Ministers and Retired Ministers who will be travelling around the Association to lead worship on this occasion.

Please also pray for the churches, that they will feel a real sense of belonging and are truly encouraged by the message brought to them.

Please pray for Jean Collier, who until 2010 had organised this event for the Association and the BDBA before that, but who, due to health problems is unable to carry on.

Longhope

Barry Cocker

We give thanks for a recent baptismal service when two people were baptised, one being a man of 91 years of age! There is to be another baptism in October, and we pray for more folk, who at present stand on the side-lines, to become fully committed. We continue to have monthly "Food for Thought" meals, which draw people in, and the Exploring Christianity course is still running. In addition, in September we are to start "Food for Life", a course of interactive Bible study material to encourage growth in the faith. We also ask prayer for the monthly article containing an evangelistic challenge that we place in the Village magazine.

Salem

Andy Grice

We give thanks to God for His faithfulness as we celebrate our 175th Anniversary; for His provision as we have seen the projected deficit in our budget fall dramatically; and for His healing power, and answer to prayer seen in a number of critical health situations. We continue to trust God for resources and guidance, in making the most of a number of Gospel opportunities presented to us, both as Church "gathered" and as Church "scattered" in the 21st Century Cheltenham context in which we live, work, study and play. We would value you joining with us in praying for these matters and specifically for our Anniversary celebrations on the weekend of 8-9th of October; for God's guidance as we set a God honouring budget for 2012; for our Duggie Dug Dug Praise Party on the 15th October; and for our Fireworks party to which all connected with the Church are invited on the 4th November. With Thanks In Him, your friends at Salem

October 9th – 15th

St.Mary's Newent LEP

S Mason, D Hargreaves

We are a Baptist/ Church of England and Methodist Local Ecumenical Partnership in three shared churches in Newent, Gorsley and Clifford's Mesne. Our Baptist Minister Revd Jeanette Turner will be retiring at the end of September and her farewell service will be on October 15th at 3pm and all are welcome.

We thank God for her vibrancy, inspiration, sermons and her perseverance in struggling with ill health.

1. Please pray that due to her being able to slow down she will enjoy her retirement and subsequently also enjoy better health.

Due to Jeanette leaving there will be scope in the future for Accredited Part - Time Ministry, to include possibly Youth Ministry and Worship Leading.

2. We thank God for the increase in interest shown in our local churches and also the local community in their willingness to want to participate in our forthcoming Christian Musical called 'King of the Rolling Mountain'.

Please pray for God's blessing upon it so that we will be ready to perform it in November and that it will be a wonderful outreach to our local and surrounding communities.

Victoria Park

Brendan Bassett

We are thrilled to announce that Helen Paynter will be coming to work with us as part time associate minister from June 2012. This appointment represents a significant new and exciting chapter in the life of our church. Please pray for Helen, Steve, and the girls as they journey through this transition.

After 8 years of chairing and leading 'Operation Nehemiah', Brendan (our minister) has stepped right back from the project. The church has appointed a working group of 6 capable people to take things forward. They are currently engaged in fresh talks with various housing associations as we doggedly continue to seek a long term enhancement of our buildings and site

October 16th – 22nd

Stapleton

Pastoral Vacancy

We are in a period of change as we are sorry to say goodbye to our Minister in Training, Christine who has completed her training at Bristol Baptist College and is now exploring where God is leading her for the future. We are hoping to confirm the calling of our new minister in the near future.

We praise the Lord for the steady growth among young families and also for the transfer of members from Eastville Baptist Church.

Please pray for us as we adapt to the many changes, that we will find people who are called to fulfil the many roles that are vacant (especially musicians) and seek to reach our community for God in the future.

Amberley Road, Patchway, Bristol

Andy Thomas

We'd like to begin by praising God for the way he has blessed our church over the last year. Our numbers are increasing quite dramatically, with over 20 plus people having made a regular commitment to us over the past few months; this includes people of all ages.

Over the past couple of years we have been seeking God's guidance on whether we set up a network with two other local churches: Little Stoke BC and Stoke Gifford BC. After much, prayer, reflection and advice, all 3 memberships agreed unanimously that we would become 'one' church with 'three buildings'. In September we begin by relaunching and replanting Stoke Gifford as a traditional style church. In the coming months we will also be planting a young adult/student church, as well as continuing our family church. The different expressions of Sunday worship will come together, as a family, once a month to worship and praise our wonderful God.

We would value your prayers for the following;

- Wisdom and discernment, particularly for Andy and the leadership team;
- That the love of God be shown throughout our communities;
- That we will get the right personnel and volunteers, who will come and join the team, and share our vision;
- That we will be known as churches where 'no one stands alone';
- That God will continue to bless us, as we continue to grow.

October 23rd – 29th

Cairns Road, Bristol

Dave Winfield

‘Change seems to be part of the new DNA at Cairns Road. This year has seen us joined by Dave Winfield, as well as a new leadership team, and more recently a new youth worker, Fiona Macdonald. As a church we are excited by all that we see happening around and within us.

Please join with us to thank God for the journey He is leading us on, and also pray with us that we will have wisdom for the journey. Please pray also that we will always keep aligned with what God is doing, and be ready to follow him together.’

Westbury, West End

Pastoral Vacancy

Please pray for the church as we look to God for guidance regarding the future of the Pastorate here. We are much in prayer and actively engaging in the process of seeking a new Minister for West End.

At the same time we are working to reach out to the local community.

We are involved with Westbury Churches Together in a project known as "Crosspoint", the aim of which is to set up a drop-in centre in the town. We would appreciate prayers for this venture.

Stonehouse, Glos.

Simon Shepherd

- Thank God for the new people coming along and for the new members who have joined over the last few months
- Thank God for the strength of the association and the links with the cluster which are most encouraging and supportive
- Thank God for the strong sense of unity and growing vision within the congregation
- Pray that God would continue to lead and direct, and increase our vision for, and impact upon, the town
- Pray for our young peoples work in partnership with Psalms (specifically for helpers as the work grows), and for growing relationships with the young people
- Pray that people would come to know Christ and be added to the church

October 30th – 5th November

Hesters Way

James Ingram

We praise God for small encouragements:-

- For two mums and their children attending regularly at Sunday morning worship.
- For two teenage boys who have been coming along on Sunday mornings for just over two years.
- For four people attending our first Alpha course.
- For Boys' Brigade lads who bring their parents and families with them to family services.
- For 'Open the Book' taken into two local schools every Thursday during term time.
- For the local school children who come to entertain the Old folk at the lunch club every other month.

Please pray that the love and grace of God will break through into the hearts and lives of the people and children that we are touching through the above activities and contacts. Please pray that God will be gracious to us and send us one or two more able bodied workers, who will help us to meet the many needs and opportunities that the estate of Hesters Way provides.

Beckington,

Michael White

Praise:

- For continued growth in numbers (mainly older people from surrounding towns and villages) at the Sunday Service, and at the twice monthly Bible Study in Frome led by our Minister.
- For the continuing quiet spiritual growth in the congregation.

Pray:

- For more people to make the commitment to become Church Members
- For a young couple recently married in the church and the hope of a Baptismal Service later
- For those who have health problems or who have recently been bereaved
- For strength to share our faith and be the "Body of Christ" in the Community.

November 6th – 12th

Southwick

Pastoral Vacancy

We would like to thank God for his continued protection and guidance as we enter our fifth year without a minister. We are still in partnership with other churches progressing through the pilot of Partnership in Missional Church, a joint initiative between WEBA and the C of E, and are finding that God is blessing the new things that we are embracing as a result.

We are excited that towards the end of July we shared in the Baptism of one of our young people - the first Baptism for several years. We also praise God for entrusting to us two families both with family members who were not believers when they joined us, but who now have started on their walk with the Lord.

Prayers for the future would be appreciated for the continued journey through PMC, as we try to embrace the change in culture needed for our church to move from doing Mission to becoming Missional in all that we do. Also for the Lord's continued guidance as we look again at the question of the ongoing leadership of the church - should we remain Elder led, or should we be looking for paid leadership - what is God's timing in this. We want very much to walk in the way the Lord has prepared and to step into the future plans He has for us. Please pray for the Elders and Deacons; for wisdom, discernment, courage and faith.

Bethesda

Rees James

Thanks -

For the positive spirit within our Church family and the growing desire we have to reach out to our community.

For the opportunities for mission, such as Cafe Church and the Bikers' Group.

For new people of all ages joining us - including lots of babies!

Prayer requested for -

Direction as we consider future use of our building and other resources, such as our Manse.

The effective creation of disciples who can share their faith and the continued development of new leaders, especially younger ones.

Winford

Godfrey Mawditt

We have sought guidance regarding outreach in our local villages. Members have for some time provided lunches on a regular basis for residents and friends.

We give thanks that finance was provided and we were able to install a new modern kitchen on the premises. With these enhanced facilities we are now able to provide an even better time of food and fellowship for those attending, as we welcome them into our Chapel.

We would also ask for your prayers for our Pastor, Godfrey and of course his wife, Rosemary, as he continues to receive treatment for his illness.

November 13th – 19th

Brunswick, Gloucester

Colin Pavitt

We give thanks for:

1 – **Summer Mission**. 40 Brazilians and Germans came to Gloucester for a week, working along side our church in mission outreach. Activities included: Street work, Holiday club, youth activities and Music. A group from Brunswick then travelled with the Brazilians and Germans to Berlin.

2 – The increasing numbers attending our **Friday Youth Club**. Our continuing prayer is that some of these young people, who have no church background, would discover how wonderful it is to know Jesus.

3 – Building of a block of **flats** next to the church has been completed.

4 – For the **diversity** of our congregation, over 20 nationalities, which also brings its challenges.

Christ Church L.E.P. Nailsworth

Sian Collins

Please pray for the ongoing success of the outreach to the young people of Nailsworth through the work of P.S.A.L.M.S. PSALMS people use sport as a basis for spreading the good news of Jesus Christ by working in the primary school and 'after school clubs' as well on the local play ground.

Conected with PSALMS is the PULSAR club held also in the school which is 'Sunday School on a Thursday' and is continuing to grow.

Pill

Pastoral

Vacancy

We give thanks for the guidance and support we have received during the difficult times we have endured this year. We are hopeful that by the time you will be reading this our manse will be fully restored after the burst pipes that caused extensive flooding during the severe winter. We have been blessed by many who have been eager to lead worship during this time without a minister. Some have come from within our fellowship and others from neighbouring churches but all giving encouragement when we needed it most.

Please pray for the continued success of Cafe Church, for time and energy for those involved in the planning and that we will be able to reach the wider community with the gospel. Please pray for our weekly ladies meeting and our toddler group as we seek to serve and reach out to others in our village. Above all please pray for the future ministry. We are excited about the possibilities that are opening up and we ask that you will pray for wisdom and guidance for our leadership team as we try to discern God's will and purpose for us in this place .

November 20th – 26th

Calne

Sam King

Dallas Willard, in his book 'The Spirit of the Disciplines' writes, 'Most problems in contemporary churches can be explained by the fact that members have not yet decided to follow Christ.' If that is the case what would the church look like if it were made up of radical followers of Christ?

At Calne Baptist Church over the last year we have been through the WEBA Fit4Purpose programme where we have explored what it might mean to be a more effective follower of Christ. Our 'Way Forward' sets out a number of ways that we might become better followers of Christ. Join us as we pray that we might take seriously the Great Commandment, to love God and love our neighbour, and the Great Commission, to make disciples.

Charlton Kings, Glos.

Sue Woodley

We give thanks to God for all the new families that have come into our fellowship. Please pray that God will continue to increase us and help us reap a harvest for the kingdom. Please pray also for our vision to improve our premises and develop our coffee shop.

Rodbourne Cheney

Paul Rhodes

The main praise and prayer points for RCBC are:

- We can now cater for all ages of youth and children on a Sunday morning but are waiting for God to increase our numbers and direct us on how to proceed now that two of our helpers have stepped down to concentrate on other areas of ministry;
- We have regular contact with 3 schools (2 primary and 1 secondary);
- 'Hymns & T', a monthly outreach - mainly to the elderly - has made an encouraging start. It is led by Sue Stapleton and her team;
- The Healing Rooms, who use our premises, have experienced some encouragement, including some instant healings.

**As an act of fellowship in the West of England Baptist Association we
invite you to pray for the churches and their
Leaders listed each week. We hope you will be able to pray for each
church every day of the week.**

Additional Notes:

**Please feel free to photocopy this leaflet for a wider use among your
leadership and members.**

Please consider transcribing the weekly prayer information in your Sunday
news sheet or bulletin.

This Prayer Guide can also be downloaded from the Association website:
www.webassoc.org.uk