



TOGETHER4BRISTOL (T4B) PRAYER UPDATE: SPRING 2023

Here are a few examples of the **Christian community working together** across the Bristol region in the last few months to help transform the Bristol region, with **Praise** for what has happened recently and **Prayer and Action** for the rest of 2023!

Please pass these on to your contacts, to encourage them and for prayer!

PRAISE POINTS

We thank God for:

1. The launch of the [100 Friends Appeal](#) to fund the Together4Bristol website and social media. T4B's monthly newsletter is sent to over 1,700, with over 900 on [Facebook](#) and over 500 on [Twitter](#). The first donations have been received, but much more is needed!
2. The [Bristol Churches Shelter](#), for the 150 volunteers from across churches, who have made this winter's shelter such a success. The shelter ran from November 2022 and closed at the end of March 2023. It provided shelter and support for many guests with positive move-on into sustainable housing for a good number. To find out about next winter's shelter, contact Amanda Munday: amanda.munday@inhope.uk
3. The [Politics and Social Action](#) sphere, called [Christian Action Bristol \(CAB\)](#), led by Andy Street and a group of others, and its work to highlight social action engagement opportunities on [YouTube](#), through the [CAB website](#). Pray for continued and greater engagement from Christians and churches to help tackle critical needs in the city.
4. Continued engagement with the Mayor, Marvin Rees, and the council by the Christian community. For example, CAB, with the [Good Faith Partnership](#), Bristol City Council and [Love Bristol](#) (in Poland), leading the Bristol churches' response to the Ukrainian refugee crisis. 15 'Welcome Hubs' have been set up by churches (with 97% rated as good or very good), helping integrate 320 Ukrainian families (596 people - mostly women and children).
5. 30 Christian Workplace Groups, facilitated by Mal Shaw of [Transform Work UK](#), and for the first meeting of a new national Christians in Finance and Insurance sector group led by Brad McLaughlin who leads the Christian Group at Aviva Bristol. Pray for these groups to adapt to the post-lockdown ways of working, remote and hybrid, that they can grow in influence in their organisations.
6. CAB and the [Good Faith Partnership](#) (with Bristol City Council), setting up Warm Welcome spaces in over 30 churches across the city to support those people struggling with the impact of the cost-of-living crisis, who cannot afford both eating and heating.
7. Prayer gatherings for the [Business](#), [Education](#), [Health](#), [Family](#) and [Sport](#) spheres.
8. The [Love Family](#) sphere, with Sarah Abell and Stu Dendy ([Home for Good](#)), who responded to the council's request for emergency fostering, with CAB's help, so that 30 Christian couples are now fostering (see [this film](#)). Pray for more to respond now.
9. The [Keyboard Trust](#), which has spent the past three years educating, resourcing, and debating on the Church and Racial Justice and other topics. Significant progress has been made in networking with faith leaders, individuals, and organizations across the city. Please pray for its future. Due to funding constraints, the keyboard networker position

will end in April 2023, though the work will continue through T4B.. Pray for Carmen Carrol, who says:” Thank you for walking with me, encouraging me, and participating in our activities during this time”.

PRAYER and ACTION POINTS

We pray for:

1. A gathering at Pentecost, called [Empowered to Witness](#) on Friday 26 May, 7pm to 9pm, at Bristol Cathedral. You are warmly welcomed to come along!
2. [The Noise 2023](#) (May Bank Holiday, 29th April to 1st May), which will show God's love in practical ways, with over 600 volunteers. See a [video](#) from last year's Noise for more details. Also for [Noise 365](#) which takes this vision into every day of the year.
3. The [Bristol Churches City Fund](#), seeking to support those impacted by food poverty / insecurity. £40,000 has been set aside for distribution, with a recent relaunch. Pray for record numbers of people needing help because of the cost of living crisis, with over 30,000 foodbank parcels sent out by the three Trussell Trust foodbanks in Bristol last year. Unfortunately, food donations have decreased. Click [here](#) to see how you can help.
4. The [Education](#) sphere and [Bristol Schools Connection](#), which works with more than 30 churches across the city, encouraging and equipping them to connect with their local schools. For CAB and the Council, helping churches connect with [Transforming Lives for Good](#) (TLG) to provide mentors in 20 schools, with eight in place so far. May the lives of many primary pupils be touched.
5. The prayer breakfast for church leaders with the Mayor, at 6.45 for 7am on Thursday, May 11th at Bristol Cathedral (tbc). Contact Paul Hazelden or Derick Mulubwa (see below)
6. [Homes not Houses](#) which has become [Hope into Action: Bristol](#), run by [inHope](#). This helps churches provide move-on housing for those affected by homelessness, with 3 tenants who are befriended by the partner churches. Pray for referrals and for those who want to set up further houses across the city. For more information contact Cathy Knowles at homesnohouseteam@hopeintoaction.org.uk
7. The [Health](#) sphere's weekly Zooms for encouraging creativity, for healing and for the growing Healing Centre Project. For [Bristol Healing Rooms'](#) sessions in person and on Zoom. To find out details contact: bristolhealingrooms@gmail.com
8. The [Arts](#) sphere, with a community of 325 creatives. With Rev Erica Bebb retiring later this year, it is entering a new season led by a core team of 8. Please see their [Kingdom Creatives](#) website and [map](#) of current missional collaborative projects, including it's gathering with [Christians in Media](#), on 20th May, called “[Theology: the Art of Storytelling](#)” ,
9. T4B's pioneering work, as it links with [Gather Movement](#), which connects about 150 “unity for mission movements” across the UK, to help other towns and cities explore how the Christian community across Bristol is engaging across the spheres, of life.

Please email us if you no longer wish to receive these prayer bulletins.

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