

TOGETHER4BRISTOL (T4B) PRAYER UPDATE: NEW YEAR 2023

GOD BLESS YOU FOR 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 2023!

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

PRAISE POINTS

We thank God for:

1. All the ways the Christian community has worked together for mission during 2022, with lots of stories told [in the Reports](#) at T4B's AGM. For Eric Aidoo's work as Chair of T4B and for Fatima Sibanda who has taken over. For Derick Mulubwa and Chris Dobson, as vice-chairs. Also pray for carols during Advent, with over 50 churches' services listed [here](#).

2. 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](#) and social media (with a [Facebook](#) page, [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#)). Pray for continued and greater engagement from Christians and churches to help tackle and meet critical needs in the city.

3. Continued engagement with the Mayor, Marvin Rees, and the council by the Christian community, led by Andy Street . For more details, see Good Faith Partnership's [Bristol Churches Recovery Renewal Report](#), commissioned by CAB.

4. 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. The [Noise 2022](#) (May Bank Holiday), which showed God's love in practical ways. Over 700 volunteers from 45 churches and groups took part in 60 practical community projects in 19 neighbourhoods of Bristol. See a [video](#) for more details. Also for [Noise 365](#) which takes this vision into every day of the year and the Noise 2023, from 29th April to 1st May.

6. The launch of [Spear Bristol](#) (linked to the Business and Workplace sphere) in January 2022 and the support so far of 43 young people aged 16 – 24, empowering them back into work or education. See [here](#) or contact Isabel.thompson@spearbristol.co.uk . For 30 Christian Workplace Groups, facilitated by Mal Shaw of [Transform Work UK](#),

7. CAB and the [Good Faith Partnership](#) (with Bristol City Council), setting up Warm Welcome spaces in 27 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.

8. Prayer gatherings for the [Business](#), [Education](#), [Health](#), [Family](#) and [Sport](#) spheres. For the [Arts](#) sphere's activities (led by Rev Erica Bebb), with a flourishing community of 325 creatives, a new [Kingdom Creatives](#) (KiC) website and several other projects.

9. The [Love Family](#) sphere, with Sarah Abell being joined as co-facilitator by 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](#)).

PRAYER and ACTION POINTS

We pray for:

1. The [Bristol Churches Shelter](#), with thanks for the 150 volunteers, from over 30 different churches, involved last year. It opened November 2022 and runs through to March 2023, providing shelter and support for people with lower level needs, so they can concentrate on finding move on housing and work. To find out about this winter's shelter, contact Amanda Munday: amanda.munday@inhope.uk
 2. The [Bristol Churches City Fund](#), seeking to support those impacted by food poverty / insecurity. £40,000 has been set aside for distribution, with a relaunch in the New Year. Pray for 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.
 3. The launch of the 100 Friends Appeal in the new year, to fund the T4B website and social media. T4B's monthly enewsletter is sent to over 1,700, with about 900 members of the [Facebook](#) group and over 500 followers on [Twitter](#)
 4. The Keyboard Trust networker, Carmen Carrol, who connects with over 40 black-led churches and who brings education, resources, and training around the Church and Racial Justice. There has been significant progress in networking with faith leaders and organizations. Pray for renewed funding, for this work to continue. Pray for the separate "Racism and the Church" [website](#) and [Facebook group](#), which has 200 members.
 5. The [Education](#) sphere and [Bristol Schools Connection](#), working with CAB and the Council, to help churches connect with [Transforming Lives for Good](#) (TLG) to provide mentors in 20 schools, with eight in place so far, and for the [The Shining Like Stars](#) film, produced with KiC. May the lives of many primary pupils be touched.
 6. The prayer breakfast for church leaders with the Mayor, at 6.45 for 7am on Thursday, January 12th at Bristol Cathedral. Contact Ian Taylor (see below).
 7. The [Bristol Housing Festival](#) team's growing partnerships with the Christian community to steward land and assets with renewed purpose for the good of the city.
 8. [Homes *not* Houses](#), launched by inHope to help churches on the journey to providing move-on housing for those affected by homelessness. They run [Hope into Action: Bristol](#) who now have two houses. Pray for referrals into these homes. For more information contact homesnothousesteam@gmail.com and/or bristol-inhope@hopeintoaction.org.uk
 9. 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
 10. T4B's pioneering work, as it links with the **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.**
- Roger Allen, Spheres or Whole of Life Facilitator, T4B (spheres@together4bristol.org.uk)
Derick Mulubwa, Prayer Facilitator, T4B (prayer@together4bristol.org.uk)
Ian Taylor, Enabler, Churches Together in Greater / T4B (enabler@together4bristol.org.uk)



