

AVONSIDE MISSION AREA

Avonmouth - Lawrence Weston - Sea Mills - Shirehampton - Stoke Bishop

Spring 2025

‘With prayer and thanksgiving make your requests known to God.’

Thank you for taking the time to praise God for all that He is doing across our Mission Area and to pray that He would lead us forwards in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Praise God for:

- Growing and enthusiastic children's ministry at St Edyth's, including good connection with Sea Mills Primary School and a lively toddler group on Wednesdays.
- An increased passion at St Edyth's for praying, through the 'Engine Room' gatherings, prayer triplets and sense of God working in surprising ways.
- The 8 people from St Mary's Stoke Bishop who were confirmed in March.
- The sense of connection and going deeper at the away day held by St Mary's Stoke Bishop.
- The new appointment of Gosia – the Operational Hub manager, working for 3 churches including St Mary's Shirehampton and St Peter's Lawrence Weston.
- The continued flourishing of the welcoming space at St Mary's Shirehampton which feeds 50 people every Friday and provides a gentle pathway to faith.
- The new Youth and Community Lay pastor, Maggie Taylor-Smith, who is going to be working in and from St Peter's with a particular focus on 9–13-year-olds in Lawrence Weston. Prayers for her as she builds relationships with the team, the church and the wider community, and for God's guidance and wisdom.
- Church and council planning permissions for building projects progressing at St Andrew's- the mezzanine floor in the church hall to be built; the Food Bank extension and two flats, probably for refugees – prayers for the development and funding for this project and for Project Manager, Julie Cole, as she steers this.
- The prayer hub wed mornings at St Mary's Shirehampton – enabling deep prayer in the midst of the Mission Area.

Pray for:

- St Edyth's to press into their vision and invitation to all in our neighbourhood to 'Belong, Believe and Become: belonging to the way of Jesus, believing in the truth of Jesus and becoming filled with the life of Jesus.' Wisdom for them about the best ways to reach others with the wonderful message we have to share.
- Those coming to the end of Alpha and the Bereavement Journey and for their continuing journey into faith and healing.
- New youth posts being advertised in Stoke Bishop and Shirehampton – for God to call and equip the right people for these posts.

- The development of the Spear Project at St Andrew's Avonmouth which mentors 16-24 year olds into employment.
- For Rev Melanie Griffiths, who retires from TEN (Transform Europe Network) at the end of March and increases her time at St Peter's as their Associate Minister.
- Rev Simon Potter, Associate Vicar of St Mary's Stoke Bishop and minister across the Mission Area, as he starts treatment for cancer.
- The Tithe Barn in Shirehampton is now on the market - please pray that the right buyer will come forward soon. The release of funds will enable necessary changes to St Mary's heating system and kitchen bringing the church into a greener life!