

The BEST pastoral care comes from being part of a **SMALL GROUP**  
Pick up a leaflet for more details.

Periodically we run **LIFE SKILL** courses. Details are on our website and welcome desk.

**Pastoral Specialists**  
Include those offering Older persons' care—emergency meals or practical support—mental health navigation. Ministers are also available for crisis care.

**Prayer**  
We have a prayer team for urgent and ongoing needs. Prayer ministry is also available Sundays after service and other times if requested.

**Sunday Ministry**  
Being a regular part of our worshipping community is a vital part of pastoral care. It connects us to each other through shared teaching and worship, prayer ministry as well as social interaction over a cup of coffee or tea. We offer online services for those occasions when you are unable to be with us in person.

## CHAT TO US...

About anything in this leaflet.



### Astrid Vaswani

Astrid is our Community and Pastoral Minister

m: 07952 904052

e: [astrid@thornhillbc.org.uk](mailto:astrid@thornhillbc.org.uk)

### Paul Vaswani

Paul is our Ministry Team Leader and Youth Minister

m: 07866 108163

e: [paul@thornhillbc.org.uk](mailto:paul@thornhillbc.org.uk)



## CONTACT US

Thornhill Baptist Church  
Thornhill Park Road, SO18 5TR  
(02380) 464121

[www.thornhillbc.org.uk](http://www.thornhillbc.org.uk)  
[office@thornhillbc.org.uk](mailto:office@thornhillbc.org.uk)



# PASTORAL CARE at Thornhill Baptist Church

We want everyone to feel welcome, accepted, valued, loved and supported at TBC.

Our pastoral goal is transformation. This is best done when we share our lives with others. So, we encourage you to join in with our pastoral care provision which is carried out through our Small Groups.

  
THORNHILL  
Baptist Church

## PURPOSE OF PASTORAL CARE

The purpose of pastoral care is to create a sense of community togetherness which transforms lives and promotes spiritual, emotional, physical and practical wellbeing and growth. Pastoral care welcomes, listens to, dignifies, prays for, helps, encourages, builds relationship with and cares for one another as we grow together in Christlikeness. It is a whole church responsibility.

## PASTORAL ROLE OF THE SMALL

In our Small Groups

- We encourage mutual care because we everyone has something to give as well as a need to receive.
- We welcome people as they are because we are all on a journey and not at the same point along the way.
- We offer safe spaces for people to be real even if it's messy because we understand we can't always immediately 'fix' things
- We value the gift of listening to each other because we recognise in today's world it can be hard to be heard.
- We encourage humility, apology, repentance and forgiveness because these are in keeping with the values, principles and truth which are in the Bible.
- We encourage healthy boundaries in our pastoral care because unhealthy dependence stunts our growth.
- We draw on the support of those who are more experienced and so we limit what we can offer and signpost where we feel support is beyond what we can give.

## SAFE AND SOUND CULTURE

We will approach keeping our church family safe and sound with a determination to protect people from harm, especially when they are particularly vulnerable and with a realistic view of what even apparently 'good' people are capable of.

Pastoral relationships at all levels will usually run parallel with friendship. Crisis situations and other seasons of vulnerability can lead to power imbalances and it is crucial that we apply appropriate pastoral boundaries.

Sometimes a pastoral record will be kept of a visit. Usually this will be when

- The meeting is only taking place because you are both in the same small group.
- It is clear that the meeting includes a "visitor" and a "visited person"
- The meeting is happening in response to some difficult circumstance in the life of one of the people involved?

No visit details are recorded other than time, date, where the visit took place and who was visited and by whom. A visit is recorded by using a pastoral visit form. Paper copies are in the main Office and an electronic form is found on the Hub which is part of our website homepage. Either the person visiting or the person being visited can record the encounter.



## NEXT STEPS

### TALK TO US

Speak with Astrid, who oversees our pastoral ministry. She will be very happy to talk through anything in this leaflet with you.

### ASK AROUND

Chat to your friends. Ask about how things work in their small group.. Might you be able to join theirs? Chat to small group leaders too.

### PASTORAL CARE ONLY

Can't commit to attending a group but still want pastoral care? Speak to Astrid to find out how you can still join in.