

the : tablet

tabernacle : penarth

purpose: to reflect God's love in our church, community and world.



Tabernacle Baptist Church: A sending Church.

Tabernacle has a long and successful history of sending women and men into recognised ministries either as Pastors, Missionaries, Youth Workers or Accredited Preachers. In the last 6 years we have sent Jonathan Bugg, Andrew Langley, Sam Hackett, Jon Birch, John Dickerson, and Angus and Helen Douglas (and their children) into training for full time ministry. Gareth Davidson is currently in the process of candidacy and we have also seen Gareth Shepherd, Anne Morse and Ann Niblett accredited and recognised in their own different ministries. That's quite a story!

However, from time to time it becomes apparent that people who are seeking recognition of their calling are not aware of the stringent and lengthy selection process candidates have to go through, or the requirements on students once they are in training. Broadly speaking the steps that are followed for recognition of a calling to be a pastor are:

- Speak to the senior pastor and spend time praying with him. He will write your reference, so you will be very unlikely to proceed without his support!
- Your name will be passed to the Global Mission Group who will meet with you to pray & discuss your calling several times over an extended period of time.
- In due course your name will come to a church meeting where you will be invited to give an account of your Christian life and your sense of calling. After a 2 month break you will be invited back to a separate church

meeting which decides whether to send your name forward for consideration by the local Association (SWBA).

- You will then be invited to attend a 2 day residential Ministerial Recognition Conference (MRC).
- If recommended by MRC you will be free to apply for & accept a place at a recognised theological college.
- If you successfully complete the training requirements at college your name will be circulated to churches looking for a new minister. Once called to a local pastorate you will begin a 3 year period where your training will continue whilst you are in ministry.
- Upon successful completion of the Newly Accredited Minister's part of your training, your name can finally be added to the Fully Accredited Ministers list!

There are similar processes for calling to mission work overseas or other accredited ministries in the Baptist Union.

Confusion sometimes arises when candidates try to 'go it alone' by applying to colleges, the Union or BMS World Mission, and then later asking for references or recommendations from the church. All candidates for ministry at Tabs are expected to follow the procedure outlined in our policy document entitled "**Called to Serve**". This document is available from the rack at the top of the stairs or from the church office. No candidate may begin this process formally until they have been in membership of the church for a minimum of two years.

Volume 6: Issue .1. April 2014

COMING SOON

Sunday, June 1st

New series: Running with horses

1. "I chose you before you were born!"
Jer 1:1-18

Sunday, June 8th

2. "Where is the Lord?"
Jer 2:1-19

Sunday, June 15th

3. "I am your husband."
Jer 3:1-18

Sunday, June 23rd

4. "Do not trust in deceptive words."
Jer 7:1-20

Sunday, June 29th

5. "It is ruined and completely useless!"
Jer 13:1-11

Sunday Evenings

Sunday, June 1st

Continuing the series "The church as community"

5. Living
Rom 12:1-2

Sunday, June 8th

6. Membership
Rom 12:1-13

Sunday, June 15th

7. Serving
Ex 21:1-6; Rom 12:9-11

Sunday, June 23rd

8. Covenanting
1 Cor 14:36-40

Sunday, June 29th

9. Giving
2 Cor 9:5-11

THE BIG ISSUE

The end of March saw our Annual General Church Meeting being held. We worshipped together, prayed, accepted reports and accounts and elected a deacon. The meeting began with a talk from Pastor Roger based on the story of the miraculous catch of fish from John 21. He explained that he hated going fishing as a boy, and remember being told many times to 'be quiet, and don't scare the fish...

"It is clear from the story of the miraculous catch of fish in John chapter 21 that following the events of Holy Week Peter was lonely, disappointed and confused. In his desperation he returned to the one thing he thought he knew how to do - fishing. However, he had a long and arduous night's work without much success.

One of the things we need to realise is that the fish were there all the time. The miracle of the miraculous catch of fish wasn't that Jesus created the fish out of thin air. People fished in Galilee because it had lots of fish in it. So, there are two possibilities - either they were fishing in the wrong place or else they were scaring the fish off when they put their nets into the water. The fish were there - they just weren't catching any.

In Luke's version of the story of the miraculous catch of fish he tells of the time at the beginning of Jesus' ministry where the fishermen haven't caught anything and Jesus tells them to put their nets down again. Peter replies "Master, we have fished all night and haven't caught anything". However, they obey Jesus and there is the miraculous catch of fish. As a result Jesus tells them that from now on they will catch men.

We are called as Christians to be fishers of men and women and to win people for the Gospel. But the church in the last 100 years

has been spectacularly unsuccessful in catching fish. You could say that we have fished all night and caught nothing.

It's not that we haven't worked hard at it. We have had our evangelistic campaigns and given out our leaflets and done the door knockings and given away free chocolate and done people's gardens and all the other things we do... but we have worked hard all night and not caught a whole lot. I wonder, are we fishing in the right places? Are we scaring the fish away?

There is a big row going on at the moment about whether Britain is a Christian country or not, and part of the argument centres around what you mean by Christian. When questioned, most people say they believe in God and consider themselves Christian, but they don't seem to want anything much to do with church most of the time. They think we are boring and irrelevant; they think we are bigoted and narrow minded; they think we are arrogant and self-centred. Most people are scared off or put off by church and if we are to continue to grow and be effective in mission we need to find ways of changing people's perceptions of what church is about, what we do and what sort of people we are. How can we show people that we are normal, loving people who have good news to tell instead of being seen as narrow minded, superstitious bigots?

And we need to be fishing in different places - the places

where the fish are! Traditionally the church has fished for converts inside the church by holding special events or special services and saying to people, "Come along". We hope that if we put on nice enough events some people will come along and hear the Gospel and get saved. But that is a very small barrel to be fishing in. We need to be going to where the people are. It's time to put our nets down on the other side of the boat.

Jesus was criticised in his ministry for hanging out with sinners. Where are the sinners to be found today? The bookies? Pubs? Night Clubs? On the street at closing time? In tattoo parlours? In rehabilitation centres? Amongst our own families and friends?

Where are the places Christians have traditionally avoided like the plague? Well, it's the bookies, Pubs, Night Clubs, the streets at closing time, Tattoo parlours & rehabilitation centres. We've even done a pretty good job at avoiding witnessing to our own immediate families and friends!

We are called to be fishers of men and women and builders of the church. If we expect to catch anything then we better fish in Jesus' way and in the places where Jesus says put your nets down... and I suspect it's not going to be either in the way we have done it or the places we have done it for years. It is a real challenge, but it is exciting as well!"

Pastor Roger

How would you like a garden like this?

You wouldn't... I thought not!



During the next few months Tabs are planning to arrange a team of willing helpers to go out in the community and offer a free garden service to folk who are no longer able to tend their own gardens. We are not looking for expert landscape gardeners, just willing helpers. With enough volunteers we should be able to plan a rota of no more than a couple of hours of your time spent on a Saturday morning or perhaps mid-week.

If you are able to help or require further details please contact Dave Meadows on (home) 01446 739362 or (mobile) 07979 189908

VERY IMPORTANT

If you have moved house recently, even if you have moved into temporary accommodation, we would appreciate if you would let the church office know as soon as possible.



The Tablet

Got something you want the church to know? Why not publish it in the Tablet?

All submissions to Jayne Neadley please in the week following a church meeting



Election of Deacons 2014

Some people who were at the AGM a week ago were left confused by the process of electing deacons. 6 candidates stood for 2 vacant posts, but only one deacon was eventually elected and one post was left vacant. The reasons are explained in our constitution which says:

15.12.2 The number of candidates, being not more than the number of vacancies, receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared to be elected provided that each candidate so declared shall have received votes from at least 50% of those members voting.

In other words, because there were two vacancies, the two people receiving the highest number of votes would be elected... provided that they also had also received a vote from at least half the people present and voting.

The reason we require a 50% share of the vote is so that the candidates who are elected can be confident that they have the support of the majority of the church meeting. If we did not have this requirement it is possible that someone could be elected but be in a position where a majority of the church were opposed to them serving as a deacon. This would be an impossible situation for a trustee and a deacon to serve under.

Dave Meadows received the highest number of votes and was also voted for by more than half of the people present, so he was duly declared to have been elected.

John Stansfield received the second highest number of votes, but didn't quite cross the 50% threshold and so was not elected on this occasion. The other 4 candidates neither received a high enough percentage of the vote or the highest number of votes, and so were clearly not elected.

The elders met on the Wednesday following the election and have decided to leave the vacant post empty for the time being. The one thing that was clear from the pattern of voting on Monday was that no-one currently had a mandate to serve on leadership in the vacant post. Most candidates received a very small number of votes.

A small number of people have questioned whether we ought to change the constitution in order to bring about different results in elections. The elders do not support this proposal, and will not be bringing any suggested amendments to a church meeting at this time. We are content that the current system fits well with our Baptist heritage and principles and that the mind of Christ was discerned clearly by the church meeting last week.

FESTIVAL OF PRAYER 2014

All are WELCOME to any of the sessions - All events take place in the main sanctuary unless otherwise stated.
Sign up sheet for prayer sessions (along the lines of 24/7 in previous years) is in the lounge area.

Sunday 11th May	10.30 am Morning Service Launch of Festival of prayer	12.30 pm – 6.00 pm Church open for personal prayer and intercession - please sign up for a session.	6.00 pm Evening service. 8.00 pm – 10.00 pm Café Connect	
Monday 12th May	9.30 am to 10.00 am each day Morning Prayer led by Pastor Roger	10.00 am – 2.00 pm Church open for personal prayer and intercession - please sign up for a session.	2.00 pm - 4p m Women's Hour in the Sanctuary – All are welcome	4.00 pm – 9.00 pm Church open for personal prayer and intercession - please sign up for a session.
Tuesday 13th May		10.00 am – 4 pm Church open for personal prayer and intercession - please sign up for a session. 10.30 am Prayer Walk of area surrounding Tabs - All are welcome. Meet Barbara Stuart Torrie at church.		7.00 pm Light Supper interspersed by Mission focused prayers, videos and live presentation by Judy Cook (BMS). Add to the occasion by wearing a National costume.
Wednesday 14th May		9.30 am Communion Service/Morning prayer led by Pastor Roger Church remains open following the service for personal prayer and intercession - please sign up for a session.		8.00 pm - 9.00 pm Communal prayer focusing our thoughts on the reality of homelessness - led by Claire.
Thursday 15th May		<u>Day of Prayer and Fasting</u> for all who wish to participate. 10.00 am - 5.00 pm Church open - for personal prayer and intercession - please sign up for a session.		7.00 pm – Taize Style service of prayer and worship led by Pastor Jonathan. Ministry of healing will be offered at this service. Light refreshments afterwards.
Friday 16th May		9.00 am – 6.00 pm Church open for personal prayer and intercession - please sign up for a session.		6.00 pm – 9.00 pm Youth Groups Prayer Time
Saturday 17th May	9.00 am - 1.00 pm Church open for personal prayer and intercession - please sign up for a session. 10.30 am - 12.30 pm Hope for Justice event on Cliff Top led by Clare Hollinshead. 10.00 am – 12.30 pm Street Evangelism - Meet Mission team at the church.			12.30 – 1.00 pm Closing service led by Pastor Roger