

the : tablet

tabernacle : penarth

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



Volume 4: Issue 4 July 2012



With only a week to go until the Penarth Town Summer Festival and the Big God Tent on the Cliff top, here is your chance to see the most up to date programme. If you still want to volunteer your gifts and service, please speak to Gemma

Humphreys or Dave Meadows. You can also visit the dedicated BGT website at www.bgtpenarth.co.uk. Most importantly of all, please PRAY. Do join us for the Call to Prayer - The Stand on Monday 2nd July, and pray every day this coming week for the whole event, for those taking part, and for all the arrangements still to be made.

Friday 6th July

- 19.30 – 21.00 Launch Event: "Do you look good naked?"
 22.00 – 23.00 Star Trek 1: "What can the Universe tell us about the God debate?"

Saturday 7th July

- 8.30 – 9.30 Toast in the Tent (Breakfast with Puppets! Families with young children welcome - hosted by All Saints.
 10.00 – 12.00 Reach for the Stars (Reception age to year 6) Children's event for younger children.
 12.30 – 14.00 Food4Thought (Lunch with Andrew Davies from Rhiwbina Church)
 14.30 – 17.00 Reach for the Stars (Year 7 – 11)
 18.00 – 19.30 Beer & Hymns
 20.00 – 21.30 Sanctuary Gig - Contemporary music, video, drama, contemplative worship and loud praise combine in a contemporary event from the emergent church
 22.00 – 23.00 Star Trek 2: "What can the Universe tell us about the God debate?"

Sunday 8th July

- 10.30 – 12.00 Cliff Top Celebration (All Age Service)
 12.30 – 17.00 Who do you think we are? (Inside)
 12.30 – 17.00 Fun Day (Outside)
 18.00 – 19.00 Songs of Praise led by the Salvation Army Band
 19.30 – 20.30 Worship All Together inter church worship with special guest Rob Parsons

COMING SOON

Fri 6th to Sun 8th July
The BIG GOD TENT
on the Cliff Top

Sunday Mornings

Sunday, July 15th

4. Tongues
 1 Cor 14:13-26

Sunday, July 22nd

5. Love, love, love
 1 Cor 13:1-13

Sunday, July 29th

Holiday Club Celebration

August 5th

New Series: Old Testament Covenants

1. God's covenant with Noah
 Gen 8:20-9:17

Sunday, August 12th

2. God's covenant with Abraham
 Gen 17:1-8

Sunday Evenings

Sunday, July 15th

9. Warnings to the rich
 James 5:1-6

Sunday, July 22nd

10. Patience in suffering
 James 5:7-12

Sunday, July 29th

11. The prayer of faith
 James 5:13-19

August 5th

New Series: Four sermons on the Holy Spirit

1. Born of the Spirit
 John 3:1-12

Sunday, August 12th

2. Walking by the Spirit
 Gal 5:16-26

THE BIG ISSUE

Each issue of *The Tablet* will look at one issue that has been discussed at a recent Church Meeting and explain some of the background. Our hope is that you will use this as a guide for prayer, but also that you might be encouraged to attend future Church Meetings. The matters we deal with are sometimes mundane, sometimes

routine, but sometimes of incredible importance to our Christian life together. This issue we reflect on the **organisation of Tabernacle...**

Right across the U.K. churches and denominations are striving to come to grips with what it means to be a “Missional Church.” In many places attendance continues to decline, and here in Penarth we can expect to see the sad sight of some churches closing or merging in the near future. It has become clear that the Church needs to focus less on maintaining current structures and ways of doing things and seek innovative ways to share the Gospel with our neighbours.

A maintenance focussed church asks the question, “what do our members want?” whereas a missional church is always asking, “how do we share the Good News with others and what can we do to make our church more attractive to outsiders?” The answers to these two questions are often in conflict as we struggle with the challenge of serving the needs of others as opposed to our own needs, and come to terms with the subsequent changes to our buildings, worship services and styles and ways of doing things.

Thankfully, Tabs has been wrestling with these issues for at least 2 decades and finds itself in a place from which we are well placed to face the challenges of the future. However, we need to make sure that we keep on thinking about the shape of our church as the world around us continues to change. As part of this process of becoming a more missional church the leadership has been discussing how it organises itself, and this was the main topic of

discussion at the most recent church meeting.

For some time the leadership council has been organised around a model where individual deacons have responsibility for a specific area of church life, and in theory they should gather a sub-group of people around them to help them to fulfil this responsibility. Whilst this has the advantage of meaning that one person is the driving force behind that area of ministry and is able to easily co-ordinate activities, it also has a number of weaknesses.

For example, if a deacon is busy in their work life or family life, are ill or simply not particularly efficient or enthusiastic, then that whole area of the church's life can suffer badly. On more than one occasion recently a deacon has left their position part way through a year and because the other deacons have been focussing on their own responsibilities we have seen important jobs neglected. Also, working on your own in an important area of ministry can be isolating and lonely, especially if a sub-group is not functioning properly. Another feature of our current leadership structure is that the elders have not had clearly defined areas of responsibility.

Leadership and Church Meeting discussed this and asked the question, ‘how can we organise our leadership into a more efficient structure that is missional in focus?’ As a result of these conversations three ‘teams’ or ‘hub’ have been set up, each with a team of deacons overseen by an elder. The primary hub is the “Mission Hub” which will look at how we relate to those outside the church both locally and

globally. This will incorporate the old responsibilities of global mission and evangelism and include considering candidates for all forms of ministry and service, and the communications of the church through the website, magazine, press releases and other publications.

The second hub is ‘Ministry’ and this will look after those areas of internal church life which disciples and teaches members and equips, encourages, enthuses and releases them to work towards our primary task of mission. This will include responsibilities for small groups, pastoral care, teachings, corporate worship and children and youth work.

The third hub is perhaps the least glamorous of the three, but in many ways will carry out some of the most important functions. It is called the “Support Hub” and will provide the wherewithal for the other two hubs to function properly. This hub will ensure the good order of the property, equipment and fabric of the church, oversee finances and legal matters and look after the day-to-day running of the centre.

Serving all three hubs will be the central staffing team of pastors, admin staff and church secretary helping them to carry out their ministries and responsibilities.

It will probably take a little while for this new structure to bed down, and we would ask for your prayers and your patience whilst we undergo these fundamental changes to the way we organise ourselves as a church. Details of who will serve in each hub can be found on the welcome board in the foyer and the church website.

Future focus for BUGB & SWBA

Last year it became apparent to BUGB that they were facing a significant financial shortfall in 2012 and 2013, and this provided the impetus for setting up what is called "The Futures process" to examine the work the Union and Associations. The Revd Ernie Whalley, currently vice president of the Baptist Union of Great Britain, has called for the prayerful support of the denomination to help Council discern God's voice. He said, 'Throughout the BU Council we want to keep open to the leading of the Spirit, to hear God's voice amongst the many voices, to discern the next steps on the road as we seek to follow more closely the living Christ and share his compelling love with the world. We ask the wider Baptist community to hold our gathering in their prayers too.'

A number of alterations to current arrangements have been advocated, guided by a central vision that the Union exists 'to grow healthy churches in relationship for mission'. They include the closure of departments at the National Resource in Didcot, the reorganisation of the associations,

and the creation of three core teams that would resource the entire Baptist community. These are: Ministry, Church and Society (to provide a national voice for Baptists), and Shared Services (financial and legal expertise).



BUGB general secretary the Revd Jonathan Edwards said that while this has been a difficult process, brought on not least by the wider difficult economic climate, it has given the Union an opportunity to look afresh at how it goes about its work. 'In recent months we have consistently sought to ensure that we are driven by our mission vision,' Mr Edwards said. 'Our vision is to grow healthy churches that work together in mission. I believe that mission is part of the DNA of Baptists and every week I have the delight of seeing local

churches that are living that out. 'Tough decisions will need to be made and I have no doubt that we will ensure that they are shaped by our commitment to be missionary disciples.'

Here in Wales these deliberations have led to discussions between the Baptist Union of Wales (BUW) and the South Wales Baptist Association (SWBA) about greater co-operation and unity. In May this led to an invitation from BUW to SWBA churches to join the BUW. Following that invitation the Revd Marc Owen (who is Church Life Secretary for BUW) met with Pastor Roger to seek the support of Tabernacle for the process of forging these closer links in the future. Please pray about the future of the South Wales Baptist Association, its membership of BUGB and the future relationship with BUW. Also pray about Tabernacle's role in these different organisations.

More information about the futures process can be found online at:

www.baptist.org.uk/about-baptists/bugb-futures

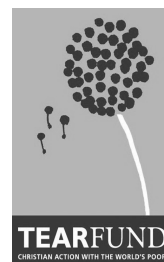
It was with great sadness that we said goodbye to both Cambell Morgans and Jackie Rogers who both passed away peacefully in hospital during the last month.

Cambell died from a heart condition in Llandough hospital following a brief illness. Please remember Cambell's wife, Margaret, his daughter, Dianna and the rest of their family in your prayers

Jackie died at Velindre hospital after her long and courageous battle with cancer. We continue to pray for Mike Rogers, and for Jackie and Mike's children: Stephen, Paul, Phillip and Kathryn. Mike has asked us to express his thanks for all your love and support in recent months.

HOPE^{for} justice

As part of our harvest celebrations on the 7th October this year, we shall be hosting an 'Auction of talents' to raise funds and awareness for Tearfund and Hope for Justice, two charities supporting exploited and vulnerable people both here in the UK and further afield. We wish to exploit your talents and giftings and are asking that you consider what you could offer in the auction for others to bid on in order to purchase. You can offer anything from practical skills such as cleaning, babysitting, car valeting, gardening, to more adventurous offers such as cooking for a dinner party, sewing a lifesize mural of Roger to go above the fireplace, offering lessons in your specialist hobby or even offering an evening of bagpipe playing in someone's home. We shall be providing auction cards for offers towards the end of the summer and will have a period of bidding which will close at midday on Sunday the 7th October. We would then love you to share a harvest lunch of soup with us to close the event. All bids will be split between the two charities but for donations for the lunch you will be able to choose which charity you want to give to. For further information please see Cathie Jackson or Clare Hollinshead.



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.



Do you enjoy singing?

If so, this may be what you've been looking for!

Penarth Community Choir

We meet on Monday evenings at Stanwell Road Baptist Church, 7.30—9.30 pm

For more information please contact
Clare Gardner on 07866 807214



Important Dates For Your Diary

July

- 1st BGT Prayer Meeting
- 4th Leadership Meeting
- 6th Start of Big God Tent
- 16th BBC Recording from 6.30 pm
- 22nd Thomas Turton's Baptism
- 23rd Start of Summer Holiday Club
- 28th Wedding of Hannah & Simon
- 29th Holiday Club Celebration
- 29th New Wine Starts

August

- 4th New Wine finishes
- 7th Soul Survivor Starts
- 12th Soul Survivor ends
- 27th August Bank Holiday

September

- 5th Leadership Meeting
- 8th Jonathan's Ordination and Induction Service
- 14th Wedding of Charis & Pete
- 19th Alpha Supper at Tabs
- 19th Cytûn Council meets
- 23rd Back to Church Sunday
- 24th Church Meeting

October

- 3rd Leadership Meeting
- 6th Worship Conference at Tabs
- 7th Harvest Sunday incl. Harvest lunch and auction of talents
- 14th Women's Hour Anniversary
- 15th Women's Hour Rally
- 20th Refined II Women's Day
- 28th Clocks go back
- 28th Bible Sunday

November

- 7th Leadership Meeting
- 11th Remembrance Sunday
- 24th Church Social/Meal
- 25th Church Anniversary with special guest Paul Goodliffe
- 26th Church Meeting

December

- 2nd Advent Sunday
- 5th Leadership Meeting
- 23rd Carol Service
- 24th Crib Service and Midnight Communion Service
- 25th Christmas Day

Women's Day Conference

Saturday
20th October
2012

Online
Booking now
open via the
Church
website



tabernacle:penarth

WORSHIP CONFERENCE 'GOING DEEPER'

6TH OCTOBER 2012
10:00AM - 4:00PM

SPEAKERS INCLUDE
NEIL BENNETTS
AND OTHERS
TICKETS £10.00
TABERNACLE CHURCH • PENARTH
WWW.TABSPENARTH.ORG.UK/DEEPER