

# the : tablet

## tabernacle : penarth

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



Volume 3: Issue .2. April 2011

## tabernacle gift day 2011

We are all aware that these are difficult and uncertain financial times around the world. The economic situation IS going to impact the church over the next year or two, and we need to be prayerful and generous as we face these challenging times. So, the most obvious thing that the church can do in this situation is give away as much as we can!

The world would tell us that we should store up our resources and protect ourselves as much as possible from the growing financial storm. But Kingdom principles are different. They tell us to open our hands as wide as possible and give as much as we can. This will demonstrate two things. First of all it will show our faith is not in human resources, our own finances or our own prudent management and stewarding. Instead our faith is in the God who owns all the cattle on a thousand hills and who is more than able to meet all our needs. Secondly, we will demonstrate the generosity and grace of the kingdom not just with our words, but with our deeds as well. Generosity will probably speak more of our faith at this time than any words could. This year there are three overseas projects that we plan to

support. They are all projects that we have longstanding links with, and we know the people involved:

1. Two years ago Tim and Jackie Latham visited us from Uganda and told us about the work of the Hopeland project there. Last year, 4 young women from Tabs travelled to Hopeland to experience the work first hand.

2. Pastor Nimil from Sri Lanka also visited us a few years back, and lived amongst us whilst he studied to improve his English. We have maintained contact with him ever since and he continues to do an incredible work on the island. Our gift will support him with further training.

3. Bible translation is key to any missionary work overseas, and Cedric and Helen Longville continue to keep this important area of ministry on our agenda for prayer and giving.

May I urge you to start praying NOW about your gift to these important works? What will you give? These three projects all involve people we know working for the same Lord that we do, but in a different part of the Lord's vineyard many miles away. Please, let me urge you to be generous once again for this year's gift day.

**Roger Grafton**

### COMING SOON

#### Sunday Mornings

**Sunday, April 17th**

Palm Sunday

"I thirst"

John 19:28-30

**Easter Day - April 24th**

"It is finished"

John 19:28-37

**Sunday, May 1st**

Annual Memorial Service

**Sunday, May 8th**

Family Time Team

**Sunday, May 15th**

New Series: I hear the sound of the abundance of rain

1. An abundance of blessing—what is God's blessing?

1 Kings 18:36-46

Sunday, May 22nd

2. An abundance of repentance

Ezra 9:1-15

**Sunday Evenings**

**Sunday, April 17th**

**Series: The Roman Road**

14. Future glory

Romans 8:18-27

**Easter Day - April 24th**

"Stop doubting and believe"

John 20:19-31

**Sunday, May 1st**

15. More than conquerors

Romans 8:28-39

**Sunday, May 8th**

16. God's choice

Romans 9:1-29

**Sunday, May 22nd**

17. Israel's unbelief

Romans 9:30-10:21

**Sunday, May 29th**

18. The remnant of Israel

Romans 11:1-10

# 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 ministry matters...

When some people look at Baptist Churches from outside they think that we must be a very democratic organisation. Ministers are called to serve in a church following a vote at the church meeting, elders and deacons are elected and the church meeting has the final say on all matters relating to church life. In fact, nothing could be further from the truth. We do not meet to find out what the majority view of the members is but rather to discern the “mind of Christ” with regard to our covenanted life together as a church. This is especially true when we come together to test and discern a person’s sense of vocation to the ministry. With this in mind the last church meeting had the serious responsibility and the great joy of discussing together, praying about and coming to a decision about sending two of our members forward to the Association with our recommendation that they be accepted for training for ministry. Additionally the church meeting also discussed Claire Grafton’s role in the church and how the church could assist her to fulfil her ministry alongside Roger.

Sam Hackett has been coming to Tabernacle since he was just a few days old. His mother and father have been members for many years and the church has seen Sam grow, come to faith, be baptised and offer himself for Christian ministry. Over the last two meetings Sam has explained his growing sense of calling to full-time pastoral ministry and outlined

the spiritual journey he has been on. As part of that journey, for the last year Sam has been working at the church as an intern. During this time he has undertaken many of the day-to-day tasks associated with running Tabs and also helped with leading and planning worship, preaching, leading at communion, running children’s and youth groups and pastoral and hospital visiting. Over the last 12 months he has experienced some of the joys and difficulties of ministry and felt his sense of calling deepen.

Sam shared more of his story and answered some questions before leaving the meeting to allow us to pray for him and discuss him freely. Whilst noting his youth and recent ill health the meeting felt an overwhelming sense of God’s call on his life and in a secret ballot felt able to commend him for the next stage of testing his calling. Sam will now be interviewed and tested by the Association’s Ministerial Recognition Committee (MRC) and by the South Wales Baptist College. If they both also commend him for ministry then he will train at the university and the college for three years before the final test of his calling which is whether a church invites him to become their minister or not. Please continue to pray for Sam in the weeks, months and years ahead.

Andrew Langley was also before the meeting to discuss his sense of vocation. He has a very different

story to tell and has only been a member at Tabs for two years. He told us of his upbringing, conversion and sense of calling. His story stretches from Devon to Hawaii and then to us in South Wales! Andrew has already been in theological training for three years but should he be recommended by MRC he would still need to complete two years training as a ministerial candidate. His plan is to undertake post-graduate studies at the Baptist College in Oxford. Again, after discussion and prayer, the church was delighted to commend Andrew onto the MRC for the next stage of the process.

The final discussion of the evening concerned Claire Grafton. Claire is wanting to offer more time to work in the church, especially developing women’s ministry and family support ministries and Roger was keen that the church should recognise that Claire has a ministry and calling in her own right and not merely as the pastor’s wife! Many women can struggle to be taken seriously in ministry and when some people hear the label ‘pastor’s wife’ they make a snap decision about your calling and gifting that can be unhelpful. The church meeting was delighted to recognise Claire’s calling to minister at Tabs and affirmed her ministry. In formal recognition of this the elders will lay hands on Claire and set her aside for ministry at the communion service on Palm Sunday morning.

# Fun day 2011...

## ...BGT 2012

At the recent Cytûn Council meeting it became clear that some Penarth churches were not in a position to be able to wholeheartedly support the Big God Tent in 2011. Some of the churches didn't want to be involved at all whilst others hadn't yet discussed it in their own churches and weren't ready to commit themselves financially or in terms of people. Other churches said they wanted to be involved but did not have money available at this time to help carry the cost. Others were very keen, and disappointed at the response from others.

After some lengthy discussion Pastor Roger told the Cytûn Council that he did not feel that there was enough time left in 2011 to prepare the Big God Tent in view of the level of support of the Penarth churches. Roger felt especially aware that Tabernacle could be in the position of going ahead and paying deposits for equipment and tent hire in advance for an event which then did not take place. As a result of the discussions it was decided that, regrettably, BGT would not be happening this year.

However, in 2012 we wanted to make a major effort to tie-up with the Olympic year. The churches agreed that this sounded like a good idea and several churches committed themselves on the spot to supporting the project for 2012. A few churches even gave a financial contribution immediately so that we could start putting deposits on tents and equipment for 2012. When Tabernacle last discussed this at our church meeting there was some reserve about doing the Big God Tent in 2011 anyway, but lots of enthusiasm for doing it in 2012, so the mood of the two meetings seem to tie-up well.

As a result 2011 will involve the Fun Day on the cliff top followed by a Songs of Praise in the open-air with our main effort now looking towards a week long event in 2012. Once again this fun day will be part of the Penarth Holiday Festival and will take place on the last Sunday of the festival (17th July). On that Sunday evening we would anticipate cancelling our service in the church centre at Tabs to allow full participation in the cliff top fun day.

In 2012 in addition to holding evening evangelistic services of differing flavours reflecting the church traditions, we would anticipate holding the children's holiday club under canvas in the tent and holding a series of afternoon meetings for older folk. Having the tent for a week will open many, many more opportunities and with it being 18 months away we now have plenty of time to get the best speakers available.

Please start praying now for June 2012 when the Big God Tent will be happening again!



## Election of deacons

The AGM will take place at the next church meeting on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> May. Elections will be held for two new deacons.

Angus Douglas is standing down as he prepares to go to the Baptist Missionary College in Birmingham in September and Tim Hollinshead has come to the end of his first three year term of office and has decided not to stand again. Carol Humphreys has been discussing the possibility of changing responsibility to be Chypboard deacon which means we would initially be looking for deacons with responsibility for Small Groups and Evangelism. However, we are always keen to find the people God is calling to serve on leadership first, and allocate areas of responsibility afterwards, so depending on who stands and is elected, there is always the possibility of a major reshuffle!

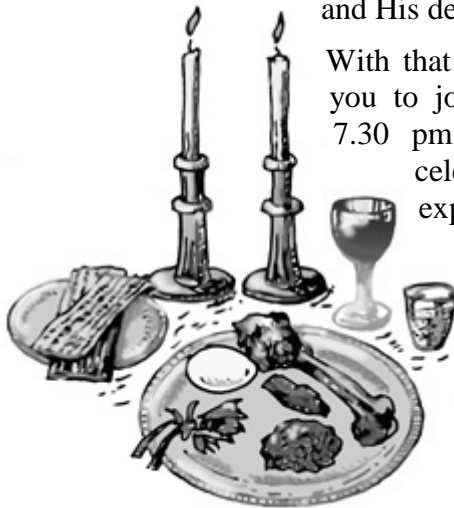
Roger is also keen to appoint a new elder in the next year. John and Gwyneth will come to the end of their terms at the same time in 2 years, and it would be good to be thinking now about who might succeed them. If we were to appoint an elder in the next year, and another in the year following we would have a good 'staggered rotation' which would allow for a better level of continuity amongst the elders than if we are appointing several elders all at the same time.

Please pray seriously about these servant roles in the church. Talk in your small groups about it, speak with potential candidates to ascertain their willingness, and let the current elders know if you have a suitable person in mind.

## Maundy Thursday Passover Celebration

For many years Tabernacle has joined with other Baptist churches in the area on Maundy Thursday for a joint celebration. However, for this one year only we will be doing something different.

For the last few years the Grafton family has celebrated a family Passover meal on Maundy Thursday and invited a few members of the church along. This year they would like to invite a much larger number of people to join them as they re-tell the story of the Passover and break bread and drink wine in remembrance of Jesus' last supper and His death and resurrection.



With that in mind they would like to invite you to join them on Maundy Thursday at 7.30 pm at Tabernacle for a meal and celebration of communion. We will explore the Jewish roots of our faith and re-tell the story of God's plan for deliverance for His people. We hope that you are able to join us.

For catering reasons admission is strictly by ticket only and a small charge of £2.00 per person will be made to cover the cost of the food. The meal will comprise of roast lamb, couscous, salads and bread., along with the traditional elements of marror (bitter herbs), matzos (unleavened bread) and charoset (mixed fruit paste)

For those who wish to meet with the other Baptist Churches in the normal way the service will be at 7.30 pm at Stanwell Road Baptist Church.



## Baptisms

Baptismal services have been planned for both the morning and evening of Easter Day, 24th April. If you are considering believer's baptism and would like to talk to someone about it, please speak to Pastor Roger or Pete Everitt. After Easter, the next service of believer's baptism will take place in May.

### 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.



## Easter Services at a Glance

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|------------|--|
| April 17th | Palm Sunday Communion with distribution of palm crosses  |
| April 21st | Maundy Thursday Meal for members at 7.30 pm (ticket required)  |
|            | Alternately, the joint cluster service will take place at 7.30 pm at Stanwell Road Baptist Church              |
| April 22nd | Good Friday service 11.30 am   |
| April 23rd | Easter Saturday 8.00 pm Service of Light (Please note change of time)  |
| April 24th | 'Son Rise' Service - Cliff top at 5.45 am<br>Easter Sunday Service 10.30 am<br>and 6.00 pm—Services of Baptism |
| May 1st    | Annual Memorial and Thanksgiving Service<br>10.30 am   |

