

Wednesday 27th

On most Wednesdays there is a communion service in the church in the morning led by different members of the congregation. Please pray for those who lead and those who attend. Also the ladies choir meet to practise, please give thanks for their contribution to the life of Tabs.

Thursday 28th

As the war in Afghanistan drags on and more casualties occur, please pray for the families of service men and women killed in action. Remember also those who are injured in combat who need help and support to return to health.

Friday 29th

Please remember those who have little or no social contact. Pray for those who are lonely that God may comfort them, and provide a special friend.

Saturday 30th

Please pray for the session at Bethel House at Hebron Hall in Dinas Powys, led by folk from Tabs.

Sunday 31st

Please pray for Emmanuel Church which meets in the Paget Rooms and at the Kymin.

Contributions for the prayer diary should be sent to john.stansfield5@btinternet.com or left in the pigeonhole in the foyer by 7th of the month.

THOUGHT OF THE MONTH

In the razzmatazz that has just passed and was Christmas there was a danger that the 'little old lady' or the young person with 'attitude' did not really register on our radar. Everyone was concerned about having a good time, visiting the family, getting drunk, and indulging all the 'me' passions. There were a few folk who made an effort to reach out to those who are less fortunate than themselves, but such folk have always been in a minority.

In the season of resolutions which represent an opportunity to take on new or different tasks and interests in our lives perhaps it is time to give thought to what the 'God' passions demand and less of the 'me' passions. When confronted with uncomfortable facts about poverty, hunger, need in the community, lack of missionary vision etc etc, the usual reaction is to say, 'yes ok but not me brother, I'm too busy with my own agenda'.

Please take the opportunity of new resolutions and good intentions to think again about what God has dropped in your lap, which you may have been ignoring for years. Do you need a pair of 'Jesus Glasses' to see the world from God's perspective and change your life accordingly? Please pray about how you could help someone less fortunate than yourself. The first place to ask is one of the leadership team for advice on pressing needs.

John Stansfield

tabernacle : penarth

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

prayer diary : january 2010

"I will not offer to God a sacrifice
that costs me nothing." 1 Chronicles 21:24

This verse from 1 Chronicles is going to be our verse for the year in 2010. It struck me last year as I was walking to Tabs from my old house that I walked past St Augustine's, Albert Road Methodist and Plassey Street Gospel Hall to get to Church. At some time or other I had 'tried out' all of these churches when I was looking for somewhere to worship, but personal preference had led me to Tabs. "How much," I wondered, "Is our worship all about what we want, and not what God wants?" As God leads us into an exciting time in 2010 he may lead us to places which are new, uncomfortable or even costly. To be more effective in mission we sometimes must subvert our own preferences to the will of God. I pray that we will be willing to pay the cost in 2010 that sometimes comes with offering to God worship which is pleasing to him.

Pastor Roger

Friday 1st

Let us all give thanks to God for the joy of the festive season just past, and for the new opportunities this New Year will bring.

Saturday 2nd

The old and frail sometimes live frugal lives and do not enjoy the best of health. Pray for those who are house bound and those who care for them.

Sunday 3rd

On the first Sunday of the New Year let us give thanks for God's grace towards us, praise Him for the salvation He offers each one who will believe in Him and pray for guidance and help in the coming year.

Monday 4th

Please remember the Maintenance Group at work in Tabs; Playgroup meet every morning, please remember the Mums, children and helpers. Also the ladies gather for one of their 'Women's Hour' meetings. Please pray for all these events today

Tuesday 5th

Today there are the Centre Prayers, for all who work in Tabs. Also the JAFFA group meet after school for primary aged children. In the evening the Ladies Evening Fellowship and Men's Christian Club meet. Please pray for all these events today.

Wednesday 6th

Today is the feast of the Epiphany when the Wise Men are reputed to have presented Jesus with his gifts. Let us pray today that we can all recognise the same qualities in Jesus that they discerned. Please pray for the Leadership Council as they meet to consider the work in Tabs.

Thursday 7th

Please pray today for the Fellowship and small groups that meet around the town. Think of those who recently were doing the Alpha course, pray for their continued growth in faith.

Friday 8th

Again the Maintenance Group will be busy around the church, Toddlers meets today, as do Xtreme (years 3-6, Primary school) and Beyond Xtreme (years 7-9, Secondary school) children. Please pray for all these activities in Tabs today.

Saturday 9th

In their last prayer letter Geraint and Fiona Michael give thanks for 'Y Groesfan' (the meeting point). This is a Christian venture based in the community in St David's in Pembrokeshire. Please pray for Geraint and Fiona as they serve God.

Sunday 10th

Please pray for the Wales Assembly Government, the First Minister, AMs and all who exercise power in Wales.

Monday 11th

Judy Cook works with BMS and for some years looked after a handicapped Thai child. This young person has now been adopted, so please pray for Judy and her young friend in their new family arrangements.

Tuesday 12th

In the November edition of International Nepal Fellowship prayer notes there was an emphasis on recruitment of qualified people to serve overseas. It said: 'Please pray for Nepalis and expats as they experience the challenges of working together in a cross-cultural environment'. Please pray for those who God calls to heed His voice.

Wednesday 13th

Many people took part in 'The Wave' in London in December concerning climate change and the conference of world leaders in Copenhagen. Please pray for the implementation of this agreement which has worldwide implications.

Thursday 14th

Today please pray for the staff employed for different reasons by Tabs. Roger Grafton, Pete Everitt, Gemma Humphreys and at Home Access Claire Grafton and Jan Booker.

Friday 15th

In any organisation where lots of people gather there are two options, order or chaos. Administration is the key to effective ministry inside or outside the church. Let us pray for and give thanks for all those people who organise and man the rotas operated in Tabs. The coffee rota, flowers, welcome and security, preaching, sound desk and those who ask, plead, nag, motivate or otherwise to fill holes in rotas.

Saturday 16th

Saturdays are for many people the day that is dedicated to sport, either supporting the team, playing sport or standing on the touchline in the rain. Please pray for anyone you know who plays sport, and remember those who use sport to witness as players, chaplains or supporters.

Sunday 17th

In Tabs 'The Prayer Ministry Team' offer prayer for people at the end of services and other times as required. Please pray for their spiritual upkeep and 'fit for purpose' faith while helping others.

Monday 18th

Think today of homeless and destitute people. Give thanks for the work of Home Access and pray for the staff as they try to help needy people as part of Tabernacle's ministry to the community.

Tuesday 19th

When people get married it can be a while before adjusting to life as a couple is done, so please pray for those who were recently married in Tabs: Jon and Emma Birch, David and Elaine Boaler and anyone else you may know.

Wednesday 20th

Christine Haggitt has been at college in Glasgow since September last after spending many years in Nepal as a missionary. Please remember Christine as she studies for the next stage of service, remember all her financial, fellowship and spiritual needs.

Thursday 21st

If you know someone who is sick, please pray for them, as well as others who are unwell. There is a suitable list in the weekly newsletter each Sunday.

Friday 22nd

Peace in the world can only come when people are willing to talk and compromise. While hearts are full of hate and bitterness peace is only something on the 'wish list'. Examples abound of conflicts which have been long where neither side could win militarily, South Africa and Northern Ireland being examples. Please pray for peace in Afghanistan and for hearts to be opened as only God is able to bring peace.

Saturday 23rd

Fairtrade campaigns seek to offer education to consumers, fair prices offered for goods to producers and an end to poverty. Please pray for each effort to reduce poverty.

Sunday 24th

Today please bring your own needs before God. Pray for family and friends, and that one person who does not 'do God'.

Monday 25th

Please pray for students and their development in a largely secular world. Think of some of the young people who have gone from Tabs in recent years. Remember to pray for the work of Christian Unions as they evangelise on college campuses.

Tuesday 26th

Please pray for those who are bereaved, those for whom the festive season may not have been so festive and those for whom the long dark nights and short days in January can be a trial.