

Friday 29th

Give thanks today for those who give generously to support the work at Tabs. Perhaps today would be a good day to think about what you give now and what you could give if you tithed your income.

Saturday 30th

Giving thanks is a valid way to pray as much as asking God's blessing on others. Please give thanks today for something in your own life which you can attribute to the mercy or generosity of God.

Sunday 31st (Halloween)

Today is Halloween (All Hallows (Souls) Eve). Please pray for protection for people and alternative services offered instead of the occult offerings.

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

This time of year provokes messages about harvest, thoughts of Christmas etc. Sometimes it is good to look at subjects outside of their seasonal niche in order to be a bit more objective. Sometimes Bible reading notes dwell on the crucifixion at this time of year, or the ministry to the sick or other welfare concerns. Dwelling on the principles of prayer is a good thing to do any time for a follower of Jesus. One thing to say is that Christians do not have a prerogative on prayer. Many other faiths also advocate that their followers pray, e.g. in Islam five times a day facing Mecca.

For Christians the main contrast between the prayers of other faiths and praying to Jesus should be the belief which goes with it and the attitude of the penitent. Humility should be the hallmark of any Christian who comes before God. Praying in the will of God should be a major component as well as seeking the face of God in meditation. For this exercise meditation means reading and praying over the Bible, not chanting a mantra or seeking enlightenment by contemplation of 'nothing'. Jesus tells his followers to 'ask and it will be given to you', and again 'you do not receive because you do not ask'. On the other hand coming to God with a shopping list is no way to be praying. Setting the concerns of others before oneself is a sure formula, because by the time you have prayed for everything in the world & etc there is little time left usually for one's own selfish desires.

Prayer can be individual or corporate (together), learning about God from other Christians is a good thing to do. Stick-ability is another good characteristic to encourage, God tells His followers to be persistent in prayer. Taking the concerns of the heart to God can expose oneself to the risk of God answering in a way which does not always suit. Before getting into serious prayer it is always a good idea to count the cost first. God always is fair, but sometimes that is not what the penitent wants to hear... tricky sometimes.

John Stansfield

tabernacle : penarth

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

prayer diary : october 2010

Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. 1 Peter 3:15

Over the next few weeks there will be ample opportunity to invite a friend or family member to church for some special event. From the restarting of Family Services (on the theme of Knights in shining armour!) to the Women's Hour Anniversary, Church Anniversary and Carol Service there will be the chance to introduce someone you know to Tabs. The Bible urges us to all make the most of every opening to share with everyone the reason we have for hope in Jesus. Let me challenge you to do just that this month!

Pastor Roger

Friday 1st

This paper often brings the concerns of young people, one such being their school Christian Unions. Please remember young people seeking to live a biblical lifestyle at school in the middle of a hostile environment, Stanwell, St Cyres, and other local secondary schools.

Saturday 2nd

Please remember the Tabs football team, which may not be in the Premier but is still vital outreach to a particular set of people. Also it is just fun for those who participate.

Sunday 3rd

Please pray for those doing the services in Tabs today, the preacher, worship leader, stewards, musicians, Sunday school teachers, washers up, servers, sound crew, cleaner, & etc. Give thanks that everyone does their bit for the glory of God and so you can enjoy worship today.

Monday 4th

The Erskines work with Worldwide Evangelisation Crusade (WEC) in Gambia in medical work. Debbie spent time in Tabs when they lived in Britain. Please remember Debbie and Jamie and their children in Gambia.

Tuesday 5th

Please pray today for the children and helpers that do the Jaffa Club, for young children.

Wednesday 6th

The weekly communion service will take place today, please remember all those who take part.

Thursday 7th

Please pray for those who are housebound and find getting out and coping difficult. Think of the team of pastoral assistants who do visits, administer communion and generally make those who are housebound feel special, not just a forgotten minority.

Friday 8th

Please pray for the ministry of Xtreme and Beyond Xtreme who meet to cater for the needs of young teenagers. Please in particular uphold the needs of the leaders in what can be a very stressful environment.

Saturday 9th

Please pray today for that difficult relation that always has a go at you, the one who mocks your faith and tries to make you feel inadequate. Ask God to be gracious to that person, and in the process grow in your faith in God.

Sunday 10th

Remember the women of Tabs as they celebrate their Anniversary today and share with ladies of other churches in the town in the Rally tomorrow.

Monday 11th

The workaday world can sometimes become so busy that God gets squeezed out. Please pray for those who work, who provide services, work in factories, be professionals, serve in shops etc. Commit people you know to God today.

Tuesday 12th

Ask God to show you about taking time for a 'quiet time' each day. Some people do not spend time with God each day, but they should because Jesus tells us to pray to Him each day for all our needs.

Wednesday 13th

Pray for those who are in crisis today. This may not be you, but there is someone, somewhere being persecuted, attacked, victimized, beaten or made to suffer in some way for their faith. Please uphold that brother or sister before God today.

Thursday 14th

Please pray today for those who serve in the Armed Forces around the world. Pray for an end to the war in Afghanistan and peace to be established. Ask God to bless those who seek an end to bloodshed and fighting.

Friday 15th

Today please pray for the peace process in the Middle East. Ask God to soften the hearts of those who wage war from hate filled hearts on whatever side. Also ask God to bless the diplomatic efforts to find a peaceful end to the conflict in Palestine.

Saturday 16th

The ministry among women has always been an important part of the work of the local church. Please pray for any ladies you know who benefit or contribute to that ministry today.

Sunday 17th

Please think about your contribution to the worship today. Did you come to praise and give thanks to God for a good week, a gift, a pleasure, or with a heavy heart about a death, a failed friendship or whatever? Take all those burdens to God in prayer during the services in Tabs today.

Monday 18th

Please pray for the children, Mums, leaders and helpers who have a part in the Playgroup. Ask God to give them a happy play and rewarding time spent together each weekday morning.

Tuesday 19th

Today please pray for the full and part time staff employed by Tabs: Roger Grafton, Pete Everitt, Sara Redwood, Sam Hackett, Gemma Humphreys and Jayne Neadley as well as Claire Grafton and Jan Booker at Home Access.

Wednesday 20th

Please consider whether you could contribute to a disaster fund. One such fund is run by BMS which provides grants in disaster zones, usually administered via local partner organisations. During good times such funds need to be filled up to meet emergencies when they arise. Please ask God whether this should be part of your regular giving.

Thursday 21st

Today please pray for the small groups meeting around the district. Ask God to bless the meetings and give thanks for hosts and leaders.

Friday 22nd

In days of yore, (that means a long time ago), it was the custom to eat fish on Fridays. Today you can eat fish any day you want, so let us give thanks to God for the good things He gives us, specifically today for food on the table.

Saturday 23rd

Please remember someone who is lonely. There are many folk who either live alone or who do not get on with those around them. If you know someone like that please make an extra effort today to pray for them and maybe even give them a call.

Sunday 24th (United Nations Day)

These days the UN is mostly to be found in disaster zones. Please pray for UN peace keepers, disaster relief teams and peace negotiators where ever they operate in the world.

Monday 25th

Today please pray for those who are sick or bereaved. There will be a suitable list in the weekly news letter.

Tuesday 26th

Ask God to show you what to pray for today: perhaps a friend, a situation, the Minister, a need or something else.

Wednesday 27th

Please remember those who sail the oceans of the world to bring the imports on which we all rely. Please pray for outreach to sailors in ports around the country, a welcome and a friendly face in a place far from home has won the heart of more than one maritime wanderer.

Thursday 28th

Please today pray for the Anglican parishes in Penarth, St Augustine's, All Saints, St Dochdwy in Llandough, St John's in Sully, St Peter Old Cogan, and Holy Nativity. Please pray for those who attend these churches and their witness, outreach and ministry.