

Thursday 26th (Boxing Day)

Boxing Day is traditionally celebrated as the feast of St Stephen, the first martyr. Please pray for the families of martyrs who have died in 2013 for their faith.

Friday 27th

Today will be a travelling and moving day, pray for those who have to make long journeys, particularly if the weather is bad.

Saturday 28th

Please pray for those who have chosen to spend their holiday trying to make someone else happy too, like catering, running Christmas meals, etc. Give thanks for their generosity and self sacrifice.

Sunday 29th

On this the last Sunday of 2013, give thanks to God that the year has contained some tremendous events at an international as well as local level. Ask God to point to new events to bring glory to Him in 2014.

Monday 30th

Jesus told His disciples that the poor would always be there. Pray for the lonely, old and infirm, those stuck in hospital and anyone else in need of God's blessing today.

Tuesday 31st

On New Year's Eve please pray for all those New Year resolutions, some of which may be kept and help to make a difference in people's lives.

TWAM* Tools With A Mission

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

Money and finance figure large in the calculations of many people at this time of year. Can I afford all the presents and trappings for Christmas? Are the treats expensive enough, will my friends think I am a cheap skate if I don't have the latest fashion garment as a present? All the emphasis gets diverted to the 'wrong' things and the cliché about the lost meaning of Christmas is proved yet again. However, it does not have to be that way. Putting Jesus back in His rightful place at the centre of proceedings will help to get all the other concerns into their rightful place too.

When praying this month ask God to focus your attention on Jesus, and all the Christmas extras will assume their proper secondary place. Give thanks for God's gift of Jesus to a hurting and broken world, ask blessing on those less fortunate than you, and have a very Happy Christmas.

tabernacle : penarth

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

prayer diary : december 2013

*We are asked to remember the poor, and that is
something I have always been eager to do.*

Galatians 2:10

We know well that as a society Christmas is a time of excess and over-indulgence in the West. However, in line with our recent sermon series and small group studies on the disciplined lifestyle, perhaps we should ask whether this should be so for Christians? We have so much in our country all year round, do we really need to indulge even more at Christmas? The recent terrible news from the Philippines ought to make us pause and think about what we want to make of this Christmas. People have been dying for the want of a bottle of clean water, a simple shelter or basic medicines. That should perhaps give us cause to pause and think and review our perspective. What is important to us as a culture at this time of year? What is important to us as believers? What is important to us as a church. A minor adjustment to how much we spend this Christmas time, along with a gift to one of the DEC charities could be life changing for someone half way around the world - maybe even life saving!

Pastor Roger

Sunday 1st (Advent Sunday)

Today is the start of the church year when 'The Advent' or coming of Christ is prepared for by God's people. Please pray for an appropriate response from the people of Tabs today.

Monday 2nd

Please pray for the new government in Nepal after the recent elections in November. Pray for peace, equity and stability for the people of Nepal, (Dot Evans).

Tuesday 3rd

TWAM* ask for prayer for their patrons: Archbishop Rt Rev John Sentamu, Delia Smith and Tommy Walsh.

Wednesday 4th

Please remember the homeless at this time of year. Pray for the work of Home Access as they

seek to help those without somewhere to live. Pray for the staff, (Claire Grafton and Jan Booker), plus Committee and Trustees.

Thursday 5th

There will be lots of young people doing nativity plays and getting very nervous in the next couple of weeks, please remember all small performers.

Friday 6th

Friday evening sees lots of teenage young people in Tabs for youth meetings. Please pray for this vital ministry, the leaders, the children their parents and all involved, for good fun, good ministry and a safe club each week.

Saturday 7th

Please pray for people who will be away from home over Christmas. In particular remember Angus and Helen Douglas and their three children in Nepal.

Sunday 8th

On the second Sunday of Advent let God be glorified in Tabs today. Please pray for all who participate in the service, leadership, congregation and backups. Remember the other fellowships around Penarth today.

Monday 9th

The old, sick, lonely, housebound, homeless, refugees, poor, destitute, society's rejects and all who need a touch from God should be of concern in prayers today. Jesus made special efforts to encounter such people; as such His followers should try to do the same. Please pray for those in need today, whatever that need may be.

Tuesday 10th

The people of Syria will not enjoy much of a Christmas this year because of the war that has engulfed their country. Ask God to bless and provide for the people of Syria this Christmas.

Wednesday 11th

Please pray for the work of those who broadcast the gospel into the Middle East. Some countries are now so repressive this is the only succour which some Christians receive as meeting together is too dangerous.

Thursday 12th

Please remember the families of people in prison today. Please pray for prison chaplains, visitors and Prison Fellowship as they try to improve the lot of those who have got themselves into bother.

Friday 13th

Please pray for Roger Grafton, Jonathan Bugg and other ministers who have to be on duty at Christmas. Remember the extra burden each one faces as demands from needy people appear.

Saturday 14th

Please today think of the poor and repressed in two countries in particular: Burma and Zimbabwe. These places have suffered at the

hand of brutal political dictators for years, the people are exploited and the rest of the world pretty much has given up. Pray for freedom in these countries.

Sunday 15th

Prayer for the Sunday services needs to be explored and taken to a new level. Pray that people will want to spend time upholding the ministry of Tabernacle as the word of God is proclaimed every week.

Monday 16th

For many people today will be just another day at work, the office, school or college, (maybe). Please pray for those who work that they may be a good witness to those around them.

Tuesday 17th

Please pray today for those people who have lost loved ones around Christmas. New bereavements are hard to bear when everyone is bent on having a good time, but the passing of years can sometimes not dull such pain. Pray particularly for anyone you know in this situation.

Wednesday 18th

Please think of those who serve in the armed forces of many nations who will not be home for Christmas. Pray for troops and support units stationed in Afghanistan and other trouble spots around the world.

Thursday 19th

At the festive season let us pray for those who will be facing persecution at this time. There are many Christians around the world who would love to celebrate the birth of Jesus openly, but to do so would invite persecution.

Friday 20th

Christmas is portrayed as a time for families and in particular children. Please pray for some children you may know.

Saturday 21st

There will be a rush to get the last minute shopping done today and it could be the busiest Saturday in the year. Please pray for those involved in the retail trade, particularly anyone you know, for patience and tact today.

Sunday 22nd

Today could be a good day to say 'thank you' to God for good things He has done in your life over the last year.

Monday 23rd

Many people will finish work today, pray for those who have to work over the holiday, ask God to bless them.

Tuesday 24th (Christmas Eve)

The now traditional Crib Service will be on in the afternoon, and Midnight service as well. Pray for these events and those who attend.

Wednesday 25th (Christmas Day)

Please pray today that Jesus may resume His rightful place at the centre of Christmas, and the rest put into proper perspective.