

always be there. Pray for the lonely, old and infirm, those stuck in hospital and anyone else in need of God's blessing today.

Wednesday 31st (New Years Eve)

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 other people's lives.

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

One of the good things about Christmas is that it always has an international dimension. There are collages of greetings in different languages, there are friends and relatives who live overseas to greet and think about, there may even be presents from overseas. Communicating with other places may include using another language beyond English. Learning or remembering another tongue is always a challenge, especially when not used every day. However 'practise makes perfect' and so with increased use comes increased skill and proficiency.

Speaking the language of heaven (not Welsh!) is also a skill which increases the more it is practised. Getting to grips with vocabulary, grammar and all the other bits takes time and effort, similarly with praying in the language of heaven. The 'arrow prayer', the 'kitchen sink quickie', and the 'on the way to work gasp' all have their place. However, getting to grips with God needs a bit more thought. What better time than Christmas to ponder the wonder of the Incarnation, think of the mighty miracle God did in Palestine all those years ago. When all the razzmatazz is silenced take some time to contemplate anew what God did for mankind at Christmas. Read the Nativity story away from distractions, ask God to guide your thoughts about what has happened in the past and guide you into the New Year. Resolve to learn the language of heaven better next year, you will not be disappointed.

A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our readers.

tabernacle : penarth

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

prayer diary : december 2014

Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders;
make the most of every opportunity.

Colossians 4:5

People often say to me, "I don't have a gift for evangelism: I could never share my faith with someone." Christmas is a marvellous opportunity for EVERYONE to become an evangelist! There are very few people who don't like to sing Christmas carols or attend a special event over Christmas, if only they were invited. You don't have to be a great public speaker or able to speak about Jesus without embarrassment to invite someone you know to a service over this year. Whether it is the Billy Graham event on 14th December in Tabs, the Carol Service, the Crib Service, Midnight Communion, or Christmas Day, it is easy to invite a family member or friend along to join us. They will hear the sermon and hear the Gospel proclaimed through the words of the carols, and who knows—a simple invitation could lead to a new believer! Why not take the risk?

Pastor Roger

Monday 1st

Please remember those who gather to pray for the work of Tabs today. Ask God to guide Jonathan Bugg leading the revived weekly prayer meeting. Try and come up with a good excuse, which you would put to God for not being there, otherwise you might want to go along.

Tuesday 2nd

In Rom 13 Paul tells his readers to pray for those who rule the nations. Please pray for HM The Queen, the Royal Family, and governments in London and Cardiff.

Wednesday 3rd

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.

Thursday 4th

Many of the small groups will be arranging celebrations soon, pray for those who meet in weekly groups and the Alpha Course.

Friday 5th

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 6th

Remember those itinerant preachers who serve God in other fellowships every week. Give thanks for their ministry.

Sunday 7th (2nd Sunday of Advent)

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 8th

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.

Tuesday 9th

Please pray for someone like Sam Hackett, serving God away from home in Britain.

Wednesday 10th

Remember those who attend the communion service today.

Thursday 11th

Please pray for the young people meeting at Manse 2 today.

Friday 12th

Small churches do stirring work in sometimes isolated, rural areas as well as towns and cities. Please pray for the ministry of a small church you may know about.

Saturday 13th

South Sudan was a new country a few years ago. There are many problems, some of which are being addressed, but much needs to be done. Pray for organisations and individuals who seek to help the war torn people of this nation.

Sunday 14th (3rd Sunday of Advent)

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

Monday 15th

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 16th

Think of someone who may appreciate a visit, phone call or other contact. Perhaps pray about inviting someone to join in on Christmas Day.

Wednesday 17th

Please remember someone you care about who is not a Christian, please pray for them today.

Thursday 18th

Please pray for the other churches around the district who will be celebrating Christmas. Ask God to bless their outreach, ministry and witness.

Friday 19th

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, Iraq and other trouble spots around the world.

Saturday 20th

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 21st (4th Sunday of Advent)

Do you keep short accounts with God? How about burying the hatchet with that irritating person who has bugged you for years? Ask God for grace to tidy up unfinished business which is spoiling your relationship with Him.

Monday 22nd

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.

Tuesday 23rd

Give thanks today for all your blessings.

Wednesday 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.

Thursday 25th (Christmas Day)

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

Friday 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 2014 for their faith. Also remember those persecuted for their faith.

Saturday 27th

Many families will be doing the annual visits to the 'once a year' relatives in distant towns and cities up and down the country this week. Pray for harmonious visits and travelling mercies.

Sunday 28th

On this the last Sunday of 2014, 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 2015.

Monday 29th

Consider taking time out to reflect on the Christmas story. See piece attached below.

Tuesday 30th

Jesus told His disciples that the poor would