

to give them a heart for mission and outreach. Remember Reach Volunteers and staff workers employed by UCCF* in full time outreach in towns and cities all over Britain. Pray for young people from Tabs away at college.

Thursday 29th

Please pray today for those who are affected by death, family, patients and medical staff. Ask God to give them grace and peace to cope with bereavements. (See piece at end).

Friday 30th

Please pray for something which is unique to you, a thanksgiving, a confession, a request or prayer for someone else's need.

Saturday 31st

Today ask God to help you be a good witness for Jesus, pray for that person who always gives you a hard time because of your faith. Ask God to forgive their sinful attitude and bless them.

UCCF* University and Colleges Christian Fellowship

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

The rituals surrounding the end of life vary from place to place, time to time and culture to culture. In some cultures burial has to be done within a day of death. In ancient cultures there were months of processing to create a mummy as in Egypt. In modern British culture the lack of burial space promotes a culture which uses cremation as a method of hygienic disposal of human remains. In mediaeval times the church kept dug up bones in church crypts in the belief that they would be needed by their owners in the resurrection to eternal life. This belief is based on the book of Revelation, and the vision it paints of the dead rising to meet God. Such ideas seem to hold little credence amongst modern Christians, yet the church professes to believe the bible in every respect. The funeral acts as a channel for the living to say 'goodbye' to those who have passed away, and in some circles is used to proclaim the gospel at the same time. When praying this month please give thought to those for whom Christmas may not have been so merry, due to bereavements and the anniversaries of deaths happening around Christmas. Pray for those who have lost loved ones recently, those in hospices and those who are facing the prospect of soon being face to face with God for real. Please ask God to comfort those relatives who are sad, and ask Him to grant them His comfort and peace.

tabernacle : penarth

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

prayer diary : january 2015

Behold, I am doing a new thing;
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
Isaiah 43:19

The Hopi Nation in the west of the USA and the Maori people of New Zealand both have a saying that we 'walk backwards into the future.' What they mean is that whilst we can see what has already in the past, we do not know even where our next step might take us. At the beginning of the year it is natural to ask, "what might the future hold?" The answer is, that none of us know! However, one thing that we can be certain of is that it will contain some surprises and some new things. Our God is the God of the 'new thing', and just because he has done something in a particular way in the past, there is no guarantee that He will do it the same way in the future.

As we begin the New Year we need to be open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we walk with Him into the future—trusting that the God who loves us is in control and seeking our good and blessing.

Pastor Roger

Thursday 1st (New Year's Day)

Please give thanks today for recent festivities and commit this year to God. If you still believe in New Year resolutions pray over what they might be for the coming year.

Friday 2nd

Please pray for single people and those who live alone, through choice or circumstances. Consider who you could invite to share with in this New Year.

Saturday 3rd

Please pray for those who are unemployed. 2 Thess 3 talks about: 'he who will not work should not eat'. Ask God to provide opportunities for those who are unemployed.

Sunday 4th

Let Jesus be glorified in the worship in Tabs today. Try to repair broken relationships and ask God to make you more gracious in the next year. Start by getting right with God, pray for forgiveness and humility.

Monday 5th

Many workers will go back to work today after the holiday. Please pray for someone you know who works.

Tuesday 6th (Epiphany)

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 as they discerned. Pray for you to receive those qualities too.

Wednesday 7th

Today the Leadership Council will meet, please pray for them as they meet to consider the business of the church.

Thursday 8th

As small groups recommence ask God to open His word and encourage all those involved in house-groups, Alpha and youth group. Pray for inspiration and patience for leaders.

Friday 9th

This time four years ago the church was being asked to pray for the new nation of South Sudan. In the last year the news from there has been abysmal. Please pray for the leaders and people of this nation, ask God to bless them as they try to build a Christian country in Africa.

Saturday 10th

Barnabas Fund provides help to persecuted believers. Two examples show refusal to be cowed by hostile people. One scheme in Senegal gives loans to new converts to start mini businesses. The other pays for lawyers for imprisoned Christians in Pakistan to try to get them acquitted of false charges. Pray for the persecuted church around the world.

Sunday 11th

Pray for peace in the Middle East. Pray for millions of displaced Syrians in the middle of winter, ask God to provide for their needs. Ask God to end the bloodshed and hate in this New Year.

Monday 12th

Please support the weekly prayer meeting. Ask God why you should be excused, and then go along to support Jonathan Bugg revitalising Tab's prayer ministry.

Tuesday 13th

Please remember the Playgroup meeting in the mornings each day in Tabs. Pray for leaders, children and parents.

Wednesday 14th

Remember "Pub Alpha" which commences tonight at The Bear's Head

Thursday 15th

Please pray for the teenagers meeting under the guidance of Catherine Bugg to do Bible study. Ask God to prosper their debate and exploring what being a young Christian in 21st century means.

Friday 16th

Remember the youth outreaches on Friday nights, Xtreme and After and After That. Please uphold leaders and kids in these enterprises.

Saturday 17th

Many people play sport on Saturdays and reaching them is a difficult task. Pray for coaches, players, umpires, chaplains and others who seek to witness for Christ in the sporting arena.

Sunday 18th

Please pray for the other Baptist causes in the area: Eden, Dinas Powys, Llandough, and Stanwell Road. Pray for Geoff & Mary Dyas at Mt Pleasant Barry. Ask God to bless their witness, outreach and ministry.

Monday 19th

Please remember the South Wales Baptist Association and the work they do in supporting Pastors, promoting mission and looking after legal and practical questions on properties used by Baptist congregations. Please remember Nick Bradshaw, Andy Hughes and Jackie Godding.

Tuesday 20th

Please pray for the sick. A suitable list can be found in the newssheet.

Wednesday 21st

Please pray for those taking part in the Communion Service each Wednesday morning, led by a church member.

Thursday 22nd

Remember the needs of Home Access providing help to those in need. Ask God to prompt people to donate to Pharaoh's Pantry which is much used by clients. Pray for Claire Grafton, Jan Booker and all those involved in support committees.

Friday 23rd

Please pray for the Maintenance Team working Monday & Friday mornings, led by Peter Lock.

Saturday 24th

Please pray for the finance team looking after the money. Pray for God to keep them from temptation, and give thanks for their ongoing work, without which Tabs would soon stop functioning.

Sunday 25th

Please pray for all those who contribute to the worship in Tabs. Pray for the worship group, the sound desk, the Pastors, those on rotas and all who come to honour the name of Jesus.

Monday 26th

Please pray for the ladies meeting taking place each Monday. Remember those who are infirm as well as those able to attend.

Tuesday 27th

Please pray for the group who visit the housebound and take them communion. Remember to pray that the Pastor will visit those in need.

Wednesday 28th

As universities and colleges go back to work please uphold Christian Unions in their witness in campuses around the country. Pray for God