

Wednesday 25th

Please pray today for whichever is your favourite church activity. Uphold the leaders, people involved as workers or clients. Commit the whole ministry to God.

Thursday 26th

Maintaining an effective prayer ministry in a church calls for dedication and commitment on behalf of people. Please remember those who are 'Prayer Warriors' who back the church by being at the throne of grace when others have given up or are too busy.

Friday 27th

Pray for the ministerial team of Jonathan Bugg and Roger Grafton, and also any others you know. Ask God to give them wisdom in their ministries.

Saturday 28th

Remember the Barn Dance being held at the Cons Club Penarth today.

KISC* Kathmandu International Study Centre

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

Razzmatazz

There is a word used to describe the embellishments added to policy proposals by politicians and their spokesmen: spin. To people of a certain generation "spin" was what you did to a top or a cricket ball. Today the word has acquired an additional meaning of adding hype and glitter to things, usually to make them look better. One of the ways desperate people can get into difficulty is by believing the spin of the traffickers about a better life elsewhere. "The grass is always greener on the other side of the hill" just about sums up that situation, and vulnerable people can be taken in. In the Bible the promises made by God to various people sometimes seemed never to happen. When Moses was called to lead Israel out of Egypt the promises God made to him were all kept, despite the apparent spin about 'great works' needed to impress Pharaoh and his court. Jesus made many promises in the New Testament about many things. How do you rate the promises of God for today? Does the promise, for example, never to leave or forsake His children seem like spin, or can you believe it for your own life? Jesus promised to send His spirit to indwell all who would believe in Him. Does that sound like spin or something to desire and ask God to enable in your life? Christians have been praying that God would lead them in His promises for generations, many can testify to His faithfulness. When praying this month ask God to show you His promises for your life.

tabernacle : penarth

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

prayer diary : february 2015

Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction,
faithful in prayer.

Romans 12:12

This month sees the start of Lent, a tradition customarily for the preparation of the believer through various practices including prayer and self-denial. Often people give up something quite trivial for Lent such as chocolate, but this isn't the only way we can mark this season. We can for instance commit to something new instead such as giving more to charity, or setting aside valuable time and committing to pray more seriously throughout Lent. May I encourage you all to utilise this diary heartily and maybe consider attending the prayer meeting, or the scriptural meditation that follows every Monday.

Pastor Jonathan

Sunday 1st

Somewhere in the world there is a situation for which God has shown you enough information to pray about, a mission station, a war zone, an individual etc. If you don't pray then no one else will, please pray as God leads.

Monday 2nd

Remember the local Gideons who are delivering scripture portions and New Testaments to Year 7 pupils in local schools in February.

Tuesday 3rd

In the third month of winter, thoughts start to turn to hopes of spring, sunny, dry days, holidays and new growth. Please pray for any new Christians you may know, those who were baptised recently or new church members.

Wednesday 4th

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

Thursday 5th

Please pray for Nick Bradshaw and the team at South Wales Baptist Association, dealing with mundane matters like buildings, ministerial appointments, and mission initiatives on a day to day basis.

Friday 6th

The maintenance team meet on Mondays and Fridays. They need new recruits and encouragement. Please pray for them as they keep Tabs functioning in a physical way.

Saturday 7th

In many Christian Unions in academic institutions, colleges and universities, there will be new executives taking over this month. Pray for fresh ideas and enthusiasm for young people in positions of leadership, often for the first time in their lives

Sunday 8th

Please today pray for the Anglican parishes in the district, St Augustine's, All Saints and their daughter churches, Holy Nativity, St John's Sully, St Dochdwy in Llandough, St Peter's Old Cogan and Dinas Powys. Remember their witness, ministry and outreach in the town.

Monday 9th

Remember the staff at Baptist House in Didcot, representing BUGB and BMS. Ask God to give them wisdom and guidance as they lead the work of Baptist churches around the country.

Tuesday 10th

Please remember members of the Pastoral Care Scheme who minister to those people unable to get to services. The team visit, keep in touch, regularly write to elderly and housebound members and serve communion to those who are sick. Please pray for discernment in this ministry.

Wednesday 11th

Today will be a normal working day for most people, for some it will be the end of life, for someone else a day spent in hospital. In all these situations people need God to guide them. Ask God to guide someone you know today.

Thursday 12th

Please pray for groups meeting around the district today: Alpha, small groups. Ask God to bless these gatherings week by week.

Friday 13th

Many people have thoughts based on superstitions and myths about Friday 13th. The promise of God is eternal life through faith in Christ and such superstitions should have no place in the lives of Jesus' followers. Ask God to banish such nonsense from your life.

Saturday 14th (St Valentine)

Valentine is celebrated as the patron saint of lovers. Pray for the team distributing roses with bible verses attached today in Penarth.

Sunday 15th

One of the regular events in Tabs is the coffee after the morning service. Please pray for those who volunteer to serve and clear up. Please also let people see that this is a good opportunity to build contacts and socialise in the church, acorn contacts from which oak trees can grow. Please pray people will use this opportunity well.

Monday 16th

Please pray for the sick at this time. Thank God for those who have been healed and bring

intercession for those who are now sick. A suitable list can be found in the weekly newsletter.

Tuesday 17th (Shrove Tuesday)

Think of those who are old and infirm, perhaps having trouble getting out. Is there a church member near you who would appreciate a visit or phone call? Ask God to show you that person.

Wednesday 18th (Ash Wednesday)

'Living on the promises of Christ my Saviour' is an old hymn with an eternal theme. Ask God to show you His promises today. (See piece at the end).

Thursday 19th

Praying for mission in far way places may not seem, to the rational person, to be a sane thing to do. Ask any missionary what difference prayer makes and they will tell you it is vital to cover every aspect of ministry in prayer.

Today please uphold the work of BMS in Nepal. Pray for Helen and Angus and their family at KISC*.

Friday 20th

The persecuted church of whatever complexion needs to be prayed for often. Imagine if your family kicked you out for being Jesus' friend. How would you get on for work, somewhere to live, ongoing money worries etc? That is the reality of being persecuted. Please pray for Jesus' friends who suffer for His name.

Saturday 21st

As the itinerant preachers supported by Tabs prepare to go out tomorrow to lead worship in small churches around the district, ask God to bless their efforts and the churches where they minister.

Sunday 22nd (First Sunday in Lent)

Today is the First Sunday in Lent. Pray for a spirit of repentance in Tabs as the season of Easter approaches, and the church moves towards celebrating the greatest miracle of the faith.

Monday 23rd

Please pray for those entrusted to lead the weekly prayer meeting held to uphold the work of Tabs. Seeking the face of God at the church prayer meeting is one of the most important meetings of the week. Please uphold those who attend week by week. Encourage Jonathan Bugg by going along.

Tuesday 24th

Please remember the work of Home Access who seek to help the homeless and misfortunate people who find themselves with nowhere to live. Please pray for Jan Booker and Claire Grafton as they deal on a day to day basis with folk in need. Please also remember those volunteers who support the cause and without which there would be no long term project.