

Monday 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.

Tuesday 29th

Give thanks today for someone special to you who has been a good friend, and give them a call, email and tell them how special they are. Pray for someone you know who is not a Christian so you can become a special friend to them and introduce them to Jesus.

Wednesday 30th

If you have enjoyed a bountiful and joyous time this Christmas, give thanks to God. Today please pray for those who were not so fortunate, some of the millions of refugees in camps in the Middle East or in makeshift shelters in Europe, for example. (See piece below).

Thursday 31st

There will be a Watch Night Service tonight to celebrate the New Year. Please pray for all who attend.

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

Thoughts about Christmas are either full of excitement and anticipation or full of memories. Children get worked up to fever pitch and need to be encouraged to calm down sometimes. On the other end of the spectrum there are older citizens who have no family left to celebrate Christmas with, so their thoughts naturally turn to past times. In both cases they need encouragement, care and love at times when everyone is having a good time. In addition to these there are always people who always seem to be in need, those who find themselves strangers in a strange land, and just the inadequate, all want to celebrate Christmas too. For those who are capable and able it falls to them to put out the helping hand to whoever is within their ambit. Jesus did not try to envelope everyone in his sphere, only those who were in his line of sight at any one time. Each individual can help one or two less well off people, but not the whole world. This Christmas let us each do what is within our power to help someone less well off, but at the same time enjoy the festival as well while celebrating the birthday of Jesus.

Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year to you all.

tabernacle : penarth

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

prayer diary : december 2015

How good are you at waiting? I don't know about you, but as soon as I enter a doctor or dentist's waiting room I feel uncomfortable. There is something about the not-knowing how long you will be there for. And then there's the uncertainty of what the doctor will say when you finally get in; you rehearse what you will say; you pick up a magazine and skim through it distractedly; You get fidgety and keep looking at your watch. And then, when the call finally comes, you never feel prepared. It always feels like an unexpected and rude interruption, though it was what you were waiting for, all along.

Advent is a season of waiting. We often think of it as a time of thinking about Christ's coming at the first Christmas, but historically it was a time for the church to focus not on the first coming of Jesus, but his second coming in glory. It was a penitential time of preparation for Christ's return. We should remember this Advent that this season is not just about looking back at Jesus' first coming, but a looking forward joyfully and expectantly to his return!

Pastor Roger

Tuesday 1st

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.

Wednesday 2nd

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

Thursday 3rd

At the festive season some people are sad and lonely because of anniversaries of deaths in the family. Remember anyone you know who is bereaved at Christmas and ask God to give them comfort.

Friday 4th

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 5th

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

Sunday 6th

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 7th

The playgroup will be doing their nativity presentations soon. Please pray for the children and their parents as they act out the birth of Jesus.

Tuesday 8th

Small churches do sterling 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.

Wednesday 9th

Please pray for those involved in the weekly communion service today, led by a Tabs member.

Thursday 10th

Please pray for those small groups holding Christmas activities in the next couple of weeks. Remember to invite the "odd" people too.

Friday 11th

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.

Saturday 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.

Sunday 13th

John Hall was a Tabs boy; his father was an elder in Tabs. John is now minister of Caldicot Baptist Church near Newport. Please pray for the ministry of this church.

Monday 14th

Remember Jonathan Bugg and David Evans ministering in their new churches in Nuneaton and Grangetown for the first time solo over Christmas. Pray for God's blessing on their efforts.

Tuesday 15th

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 16th

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.

Thursday 17th

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.

Friday 18th

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

Saturday 19th

Think of the family of Roger Grafton who have to share Dad with all the folk in the church. Let us pray that the Pastor makes enough time for his family and says 'no' when appropriate. Give thanks for his contribution to the life of the church throughout the year.

Sunday 20th

The services today in Tabs are the family service in the morning and 'Carols By Special Light' in the evening. Pray for people to enjoy praising God at these events.

Monday 21st

Pray for Christians in parts of the world that do not recognise Christmas as a holiday. Please think of those who celebrate Christmas in jail or who are persecuted for their faith and cannot celebrate openly.

Tuesday 22nd

Everyone has a request to bring to God. Pray for something today for yourself at this festive season.

Wednesday 23rd

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

Thursday 24th (Christmas Eve)

There will be a Crib Service today in the afternoon at 3.30 pm and Communion at 11.30 pm. Please pray for Jesus to be at the forefront.

Friday 25th (Christmas Day)

Celebrate the birth of Jesus today with joy. The family thanksgiving will take place today 10.30 am.

Saturday 26th (Boxing Day)

Boxing Day is a day when families should be together. Thank God for those who are, and for the bounty of yesterday. Spare a thought for those shop workers who cannot enjoy this delight because they have to work on Boxing Day

Sunday 27th

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