

Sunday 27th (Easter Day)

On the most important day of the Christian year when the church worldwide celebrates the risen Christ, give thanks to God for the salvation offered to anyone who will accept Christ.

Monday 28th (Easter Bank Holiday)

As spring gets underway, let us give thanks to God for all the many good things which He gives us. Remember in particular why Christ died for everyone who believes on His name

Tuesday 29th

Environmental concerns and Fairtrade campaigns often go hand in hand. Please pray for those who seek to bring fair trade practices to the market place and who seek to improve the environment along the way.

Wednesday 30th

Please pray for the ministry of Bethel Penarth church: vision, outreach, fellowship and evangelism in the town.

Thursday 31st

Pray for the small groups which meet during the day every week. Hold up to God the members and leaders as they study the Bible and pray.

BMS* Baptist Missionary Society.

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

March is the month traditionally associated with wind, not the howling gales of winter but something more gentle and spring like. Easter figures large on the horizon with days off work - for some - and the prospects for better weather, flowers, holidays, and longer days and generally a better outlook than the bleak winter mostly just past. Giving thanks for the blessings which come our way - chocolate or otherwise - is a good thing to do. Unfortunately spring is also the season when 'kings ride out to war' and conflicts around the world tend to become renewed, invigorated and violence seems to increase. On the other hand it also becomes a better prospect for campaigning for change in the status quo. Taking the demonstration to the doors of Parliament, picketing exploitative employers, demanding civil rights for downtrodden groups of people, and for airlines workers to go on strike when I want to fly to Spain on holiday!

God calls His church to support the rights of disadvantaged people, to take up the cause of peace, to broker reconciliations between parties in conflict and take up the case of the underdog. This month please give thanks for the good things God gives us, but also pray for current conflicts to be resolved, for world leaders trying to do peace deals and anything else in the news which needs the Hand of God.

tabernacle : penarth

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

prayer diary : march 2016

Thought for the Month

"Jesus has risen from the dead & is going ahead of you..."
Matthew 28:7

In this prayer diary this month we are reminded that Christians all over the world celebrate the resurrection of Jesus at Easter. What you may not know is that we don't all celebrate it on the same day! Whilst we in the West will celebrate Easter Day on 27th March this year, the 300 million Orthodox Christians worldwide will celebrate it on 1st May. This all comes from the different calendars used by the churches and how they calculate when the 'vernal equinox' is. You may have seen recently that there are efforts going on at the moment to agree a date between the churches and fix it on the same date every year. The World Council of Churches has said the current situation, "gives a divided witness and compromises the churches' credibility and effectiveness in bringing the Gospel to the world".

Whatever the date of Easter we should remember that every day of our Christian life ought to be a celebration of Easter. We are a resurrection people called to witness to the life of Jesus in our church at all times. Jesus is alive ALL THE TIME! We should be celebrating and bearing testimony to this with our words, thought and deeds every single day, not just at Easter.

Roger Grafton

Tuesday 1st (St David)

As St David gets celebrated by people all over Wales, let us remember that David was involved in mission in a hostile land. God blessed his ministry so let us give thanks for Welsh heritage and for those who went before to bring the gospel to Wales.

Wednesday 2nd

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

Thursday 3rd

Please pray for Angus and Helen Douglas and their children in Nepal. Uphold them for finance, fellowship and ministry. Ask God to guide your praying for overseas nations and workers

Friday 4th

Please pray for those who are sick, a suitable list can be found on the weekly newsletter.

Saturday 5th

Christians in Pakistan come in for much persecution from militant Islamists. The militants blame American drone strikes and associate Christians with the American actions. Neither is correct, only the innocent suffer. Please pray for an end to the war in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

**Sunday 6th (4th Sunday of Lent)
(Mothers' Day)**

Today is a day for Dads to cook dinner and make a fuss of Mum. Pray for any Mums you may know.

Monday 7th

Please remember the ladies meetings going on each week, Women's Hour and Ladies Evening Fellowship.

Tuesday 8th

Wycliffe Bible Translators (WBT) has many success stories in disparate places all round the world: sign language DVDs in India, new translations in Indonesian New Guinea, language clusters in Nigeria for example. Please pray for Bible translators around the world.

Wednesday 9th

Please think of someone today who might be backsliding. This could be someone who was a Christian once, but turned away from God. Bear them up today.

Thursday 10th

Pray for the small groups which meet every week. Hold up to God the members and leaders as they study the Bible and pray.

Friday 11th

Pete Hodge is an evangelist and children's worker based in Cardiff. Pete works with Open Air Campaigners to do street evangelism and train younger men to do the same. Please pray for Pete and the outreaches in local schools and colleges.

Saturday 12th

Men sometimes miss out on hearing about God because they are too busy. Pray for a man in your life today.

Sunday 13th (5th Sunday of Lent)

Let us think of all the joy which has been shared in past worship, and ask God to increase our joy 'In Him' today as worship takes place in Tabs and other places where we may have an interest.

Monday 14th (Commonwealth Day)

Commonwealth Day is marked to recognise the values and achievements of all members of this august body. Much of the Commonwealth shares a common heritage with Britain, so pray for the church in the Commonwealth.

Tuesday 15th

Please pray for those who support Tabs' ministry in administration, those who produce the weekly news sheet, prepare video presentations, pay the bills, prepare rotas and many other such tasks.

Wednesday 16th

Please pray every week for those who take part in the communion service held every Wednesday morning.

Thursday 17th (St Patrick)

Ireland is not a destination where missionaries traditionally travel to, rather from where they originate. Today the Irish church is in serious decline and Ireland is once again a mission field. Pray today for outreach all over Ireland.

Friday 18th

Please remember the youth work that takes place in Tabs on Friday evenings, with two groups for teenagers. Please pray for the leaders, young people and helpers in these clubs.

Saturday 19th

At this season of Easter please pray for peacemakers. Wars rage around the world, in the end most conflicts end in stalemate and everyone has to end up talking, even after years of hate. (See piece at the end).

Sunday 20th (Palm Sunday)

Jesus rode in triumph into Jerusalem on this day, celebrate if you love Jesus and give thanks He rode to Calvary for you.

Monday 21st

BMS* is the Baptist Church's own outreach arm overseas. Please pray for the BMS personnel working at Baptist House Didcot and the training facility in Birmingham. Ask God to provide finance, fellowship and ministry for all BMS workers all round the world.

Tuesday 22nd

Much prayer is offered for the needy of the world. Today let us remember those who have everything in material terms, but who do not have Jesus. Pray for one rich person today that they might find God.

Wednesday 23rd

Please pray for Judy Cook working in Thailand at the Agape children's home in Chiang-Mai. Judy mentions the Hope care home for children, please pray for the ministry amongst sick and abandoned children.

Thursday 24th (Maundy Thursday)

In preparation to celebrate the greatest Christian festival of the year let us confess before God all our sins and beg forgiveness and mercy.

Also spare a thought for Her Majesty the Queen who has to give out 160+ sets of Maundy pennies today. (80+ men & 80+ women!).

Friday 25th (Good Friday)

Please pray for the services today and the March of Witness organised by Cytûn for all the churches in the district.

Saturday 26th

If you know of someone who is bereaved, or someone who is about to die, ask God to comfort them today.