

### **Wednesday 27th**

Pray for those involved in Pharaoh's Pantry and food distributions done each week in Tabs.

### **Thursday 28th**

Pray for the ministries planned or operating from Arcot House. CAP courses, Home Access and the Food Bank are all planned to relocate there.

### **Friday 29th**

Think of something which only you know about, take that thought to God in prayer.

### **Saturday 30th**

Pray for a missionary situation which you know about.

IMC\* International Mission Centre, Birmingham

Contributions for the prayer diary should be sent to [john.stansfield5@btinternet.com](mailto:john.stansfield5@btinternet.com) or left in the pigeonhole in the foyer by 7<sup>th</sup> of the month.

## **THOUGHT OF THE MONTH**

### **Prayer Topics**

Topics which merit attention in prayer are many and varied. Usually prayer involves trying to change a situation for what is perceived to be a better status. In the 1980s many people prayed for the end of the Berlin Wall and the destruction of the Soviet Empire. When these events happened a new situation was created which now generates a new set of prayer requests. The new threats come from a different place, with an equally heinous political agenda attached, in the form of Islamic extremists. When does the church cease trying to dictate the agenda to God and allow Him to direct the topics of prayer and intercession? You could say 'well God gave us all brains to use, and so we should pray for what seems to be right'. That is correct, but how much of a church's prayer agenda is dictated by the political agenda of the society in which it exists?

Trying to determine what to pray for can be simple or difficult: simple in that there are myriad requests from mission societies, socially needy individuals, all sorts of ministries and churches. Difficult in trying to see what God wants each person to take an interest in and following through those requests over time. Perhaps this month could be a time to step back and seek renewed confirmation from God that what you pray for every day is in fact His task for you. It may be that God will prompt you to discard some causes and embrace different ones. Whatever He leads you to pray for is bound to have consequences beyond those which are immediately apparent. The will of God in action.

# tabernacle : penarth

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

## **prayer diary : april 2016**

"The Lord has told us what is good. What he requires of us is this: to do what is just, to show constant love, and to live in humble fellowship with our God."

Micah 6:8

Week by week a small group of us have the great privilege of serving those most in need in our community at the Food Bank, or as they come into the church throughout the week looking for help in other areas of their life. Over the last year we have literally saved lives and set people free from frightening and abusive situations. There is one story (which I can't share at the moment because the case is going to court soon) that will probably be on the TV and in our papers soon, and it will shock you in its details. It also shows the life-changing work staff and volunteers at the church do every day - we are doing Kingdom work! Another real joy is that we are now starting to see our clients asking us about our faith and even coming along to church from time to time to find out more!

This year the Gift Period is being used to raise money for the continuing work on Arcot House. Builders have been appointed and work will start very soon. When it is completed we will have a new home for all our benevolence ministries. The flats WILL provide a safe space for the most vulnerable in our society and give us the ability as a church to react more quickly to those in need. However, we need to pay for this work and so I ask you to pray and to give to this year's gift appeal. There will be a leaflet available with more details of how to give, but can I use the prayer diary this month to ask you to ensure you are praying as this work goes ahead?

**Pastor Roger Grafton**

### **Friday 1st**

On April Fool's Day ask God for wisdom in all the decisions you make, from what to pray for to life changing situations.

### **Saturday 2nd**

Praying for revival is not everyone's favourite occupation, so remember those who do meet regularly to pray for it, and pray for the church to be more open to God's leading.

### **Sunday 3rd**

Today someone may go to church for the first time and sit by you. Are you preoccupied in your own little world, or do you have enough perception to see that maybe this is God's will for you to speak to that person? Pray for God to show you His plan in such situations.



### **Monday 4th**

The maintenance team work in Tabs on Monday mornings. Ask God to bless their efforts.

### **Tuesday 5th**

Think today about the ministry to young families at Playgroup run each morning in Tabs. Pray for the leaders, helpers, Mums and kids.

### **Wednesday 6th**

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

### **Thursday 7th**

The weekly fellowship and small groups meet mostly on Thursdays. Pray for those involved and encourage those who miss out to join in too.

### **Friday 8th**

Please pray for the outreach to young people run on Friday evenings. Ask God to inspire new volunteers as leaders and pray for good time for kids and leaders each week.

### **Saturday 9th**

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

### **Sunday 10th**

Please pray for all who contribute to the quality and variety of worship in Tabs. The list is long and the church needs to give thanks for the collective contribution of lots of people.

### **Monday 11th**

Please remember the church prayer meetings held on Monday nights. Think of a good reason why you should attend and then ask whether Jesus would approve of you not going.

### **Tuesday 12th**

Backsliding is not something that those in "good standing" would want to do, but some people do fall from grace. Pray for someone who may be having a crisis of faith particularly anyone you may know.

### **Wednesday 13th**

The Baptist Assembly is on in May. Please pray for the speakers, the delegates and all involved. Pray for the planning, logistics, the delegates and all aspects of preparation. Ask God if you should be attending.

### **Thursday 14th**

Please pray for Peter Stevenson as Principal and other members of faculty and students at the South Wales Baptist College. Ask God to direct their studies and life as a College.

### **Friday 15th**

Young people from Tabs will be going to 'Soul Survivor' in August. Ask God to speak to and prepare hearts for people who will go to this enormous event.

### **Saturday 16th**

During the week most people concentrate on work, school, social events etc and have little time for God. Please pray for those for whom God is likely to be a very real event in the very near future as they prepare to meet their maker. Pray for the sick and dying especially anyone you know.

### **Sunday 17th**

Please pray for a situation only you know about. Remember old friends, that awkward "friend", personal needs, whatever you need to bring to God.

### **Monday 18th**

The Tabs Visitor Scheme looks to provide regular contact for those who are housebound. Please pray for the visitors, the coordinating deacon and those needing visitors.

### **Tuesday 19th**

BMS is the Baptist Church's own outreach arm. Please pray for the HQ staff in Didcot, the IMC\* in Birmingham. Also pray for Angus and Helen and their children in Nepal. Ask God to give them all the means to fulfil their respective callings: finance, prayer and fellowship.

### **Wednesday 20th**

Please pray for the Communion Service held every week led by a Tabs member.

### **Thursday 21st**

Please pray for those who man the reception desk each morning during the week. Remember the coordinator and those using the service.

### **Friday 22nd**

Think of the thousands of people in camps, tents, trudging along strange roads in Europe. Ask God to provide for their needs and bring peace to war ravaged places.

### **Saturday 23rd**

Pray for the Anglican parishes in Penarth and their associated churches: St Augustine's, Holy Nativity, St Dochdwy Llandough, St John Sully, All Saints, St Peter's Old Cogan, and St Peter's Dinas Powys. Ask God to bless their worship, outreach and ministry.

### **Sunday 24th**

Could God be challenging you about your prayer choices? Try praying about who or what you should be taking to God in prayer. (See piece at the end).

### **Monday 25th**

Please pray for Roger Grafton as minister and ask God to provide wisdom, patience and leadership in the Tabs ministry.

### **Tuesday 26th**

Please pray for the smaller churches in the district. Ask God to bless their outreach, ministry and witness in Penarth and surrounding villages.