

Thought for the Month

Living through changing times on a personal level, at work, in church, at your favourite sports club or hobby society is always a challenge. In life change comes all the time, there is a new President in America, maybe not of your flavour, like it or not. In Britain the debate about "Brexit" has raged for months now, and will have long term consequences for everyone in the country. Some change can be planned and the effects controlled, like calling a new minister in church; or it can happen without notice, like a sudden death. In each case everyone involved has to adapt their thinking and behaviour to deal with the consequences of change.

In scripture change is a constant theme of many lives. People had to make long journeys, usually on foot, they had to fight battles, act as ambassadors, take messages and many other tasks. Sometimes God supplied helpers, like Aaron who was sent to help Moses. At other times people had to go on their own, like when David had to do battle with Goliath, or Jonah go to Nineveh. Today Christians face the same dilemmas, some are called to face situations where they can help others, and sometimes they have to face situations alone. This month ask God how you could help someone who is facing change on a large or small scale.

tabernacle : penarth

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

prayer diary : february 2017

"Look carefully, then, how you walk,
not as unwise but as wise,
making the best use of the time."
Ephesians 5:15-16

It's February already! And as we all know, February is a short month, so before we know it we will be into March. Easter will be upon us before we know it, followed by exams for many of our young people. Then before you know it we will be into summer holidays, and for the Grafton household, getting ready to send a child off to university (I have a plan for Isabel by the way - she completes her degree and commits herself to a life of celibacy and mission work. She then returns home in my old age to look after me. All I have to do is convince her that it is a good idea.) Once summer is over, we have harvest, Women's Hour anniversary, Refined and the start of Advent. Christmas will be upon us before we know it and 2017 will turn to 2018.

Seriously though, time does fly, all the more quickly the older you get. So let me ask you, how are you using your time? In the days, months and years ahead of you, do you plan to use your time productively in the service of the Kingdom, or will you simply let it slip away? It's probably worth thinking and praying about at the beginning of this New Year.

Pastor Roger

Wednesday 1st

Please pray for the children's activities which take place in Tabs each weekday morning for preschool children.

Thursday 2nd

Pray for those involved in Small groups on Thursdays and other times during the week. Please pray for the volunteers tonight from Tabs involved in the Paradise Run ministry to the homeless in Cardiff.

Friday 3rd

Pray for the youth outreaches held for teenage young people in Tabs on Friday evenings. Ask God to provide enough

qualified leaders to enable safe, enjoyable clubs for those children.

Saturday 4th

Remember lay preachers who go to other churches each week. Ask God to bless the churches they go to each week.

Sunday 5th

Please remember each week to pray for those leading services and preaching in Tabs.

Monday 6th

Pray for someone very special to you today.

Tuesday 7th

There are no shortage of stories on Social Media and in the press about persecuted Christians. Syria and Iraq have been prime places, but it is happening in many other countries too. Pray for the persecuted church.

Wednesday 8th

The distribution from the Food Bank and the Breakfast Club are held each week at Arcot House. Please pray for those involved week by week.

Thursday 9th

Please pray for the Anglican parishes in Penarth: St Augustine's and All Saints. Ask God to bless their outreach, ministry and witness in the town and surrounding areas.

Friday 10th

Drought in Africa is causing much suffering in many places where harvests fail. Ask God to send rain to Africa.

Saturday 11th

Pray for the new Youth Pastor as he gets to grips with a new job, town and church.

Sunday 12th

Please pray for the young adults who gather for fellowship after the evening services each week. Ask God to help them grow in His grace.

Monday 13th

Please pray for the ladies meeting today in the afternoon.

Tuesday 14th (St Valentine)

Attacks on crowded places were a feature of terrorist activities in 2016. Ask God to end the hate campaigns designed by the likes of ISIS and their cohorts.

Wednesday 15th

In Uganda and Mozambique BMS sponsor legal services to help disenfranchised people to get justice. Pray for these ministries and other legal 'help services' you may know about.

Thursday 16th

Refugees are coming to Wales like every other Western country. Pray for those who have to leave their homes because of war,

and also for the host societies which receive refugees.

Friday 17th

Pray for a ministry which you support which may or may not be hosted at Tabs.

Saturday 18th

Christmas is long gone, as are all the good resolutions from New Year. Ask God to guide you as you look to the future long and short term.

Sunday 19th

Think about anyone you know who died recently. Ask God to comfort their families and friends.

Monday 20th

Far East Broadcasting Association (FEBA) have developed a worldwide ministry broadcasting the gospel into hard to reach places. Nowadays FEBA develops local, digital stations to put the gospel into local communities. Remember FEBA and other gospel broadcasters before God.

Tuesday 21st

Remember those who are sick, a suitable list can be found on the weekly news sheet.

Wednesday 22nd

Give thanks to God today for someone whose contribution may not be widely recognised: like for example those who wash up the communion cups.

Thursday 23rd

Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) have operations around the world. They fly light aircraft to isolated places and act as a 'flying bus' to many different organisations. Ask God to bless their efforts and provide qualified personnel where required.

Friday 24th

Ask God to bless the church officers faced with leading the church.

Saturday 25th

Pray for the finance team, ask God to keep them sharp and honest.

Sunday 26th

Give thanks today for something good which happened to you. Maybe a new girl/boy friend, a new baby, new job, new house or whatever.

Monday 27th

Pray today for a situation only you know about, ask God to resolve difficult issues.

Tuesday 28th (Shrove Tuesday)

At the beginning of Lent, ask God to lead in prayer on the gift of Jesus, Son of God, Saviour of the world.

Contributions can be sent to john.stansfield5@btinternet.com before 7th of the month.