

## **Tuesday 27th**

Please pray for the Wales Assembly Government, the First Minister, AMs and all who exercise power in Wales.

## **Wednesday 28th**

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

KISC\* Kathmandu International Study Centre

Contributions can be sent to  
john.stansfield5@btinternet.com or left in the  
pigeon hole before 7th of the month.

## **Thought for the Month**

### **Deception**

Today modern society is plagued by deceptions of all kinds. There was a series of programmes on the television recently which majored on Elizabethan plots and the counter intelligence employed to foil them. Living in a world of fake news, half-truths, downright lies and fabricated stories is nothing new, just that now it gets more media exposure. How can you tell when you are being spun a yarn and when told the truth? The best test is experience. Does the source in question have a good reputation, are they historically reliable, do they have integrity? Everyone knows that the tabloid press historically made up the story to fit their spin profile, and continue to do so to this day. Some media channels are more reliable than others, but history can show who is usually correct.

When it comes to spiritual matters how much store can you set on any one particular church, denomination or individual? False religions and heretical sects abound today, so working out which one is true and which one deceptive is not always easy. Paul tells his readers that anyone who tells them a different message to that which he preached to them is incorrect. The bible tells readers to test prophecy to see if it accords with the will of God. So Christians need to divine truth from fiction when listening to God. The bible is God's manual for Christian living, doctrine and guidance, so using it to guide your prayer life must be a good way to avoid being deceived. Ask God to guide you in the truth as you pray this month.

# tabernacle : penarth

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

## **prayer diary : february 2018**

This is love: not that we loved God, but that he  
loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice  
for our sins. (1 John 4:10)

We don't really 'do' Valentine's Day in our house. Maybe we are just not very romantic, or maybe we have been married too long to get sentimental about it! But we do talk about love a lot, and almost never go to sleep without saying, "I love you" to one another.

Our human relationships are a shadow or a prophetic symbol of God's relationship with his people expressed through the bond between Christ and the 'bride of Christ', the church. That is why marriage is so important in the Bible - it points to deeper things. It is also why unfaithfulness, adultery or sex before marriage are such hot button topics for evangelical Christians! The long term, monogamous covenant relationship of marriage reflects the unchanging love of God. When we mess with that symbol in our relationships, the truth is not in us and we are saying untrue things about God's relationship with his church.

But the Bible tells us something special about the love of God. Whilst we were still far off and walking away from God, he loved us. In fact this is love: not that we loved God at all, but that he first loved us. Usually a couple fall in love and feel mutual love. We love God because he first loved us - even when we didn't deserve it.

**Roger Grafton**

## **Thursday 1st**

Pray today for the volunteers from Tabs freezing in Cardiff on the Paradise Run this evening. Pray too for the clients out sleeping rough.

## **Friday 2nd**

Spare a thought for the unemployed, the unemployable and all those people trapped on benefits. Ask God to sustain their hope and provide long term solutions to their needs.

## **Saturday 3rd**

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.

### **Sunday 4th**

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 5th**

Please pray for the ladies meeting today in the afternoon.

### **Tuesday 6th**

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

### **Wednesday 7th**

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.

### **Thursday 8th**

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.

### **Friday 9th**

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 10th**

Praying for mission in far away 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\*.

### **Sunday 11th**

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 12th**

Remember the local Gideons who are delivering scripture portions and New Testaments to Year 7 pupils in local schools in February. Ask God to use such material to touch lives of young people.

### **Tuesday 13th (Shrove Tuesday)**

Think today, as pancakes are enjoyed by everyone, of those who are hungry. Perhaps an extra tin of vegetables on the shopping list, for the food bank, by way of thanks to God for food on your table.

### **Wednesday 14th (Ash Wednesday) (St Valentine)**

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

### **Thursday 15th**

In the season of Lent ask God for guidance in preparing for Easter, meditate on Jesus, think

about salvation and give thanks for the resurrection.

### **Friday 16th**

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.

### **Saturday 17th**

Evangelical Alliance in Wales serves and represents churches across the nation from around 30 different denominations. EAW encourages churches to work together in evangelism and social action; and works hard to represent evangelicals in Wales to the National Assembly and to the media. EAW believes that together, Wales can be transformed with the good news of Jesus Christ.

Please pray for EAW today.

### **Sunday 18th**

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 19th**

Uphold the Playgroup which meets every morning in Tabs. Ask God to bless this ministry to Mums and young people.

### **Tuesday 20th**

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.

### **Wednesday 21st**

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

### **Thursday 22nd**

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 23rd**

Cardiff Street Pastors go out on familiar streets on weekend evenings to show the love of Christ to often drunk and dysfunctional people. Pray for great love and grace for those who volunteer for such a ministry. (John Squires from Tabs).

### **Saturday 24th**

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 25th**

Please think about the other churches in the district. Pray for revival in Penarth and blessing on each congregation as they seek to reach out to their respective communities.

### **Monday 26th**

Please pray for the outreach among women in and outside the church. Pray for a woman you know who needs to meet Jesus today.