

Sunday 30th

Please pray for those suffering for the gospel in places around the globe. Ask God to bless them just like you expected to be blessed this Christmas.

Monday 31st (New Year's Eve)

Give thanks for the good things which God has given you and done for you this past year.

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

Thought for the Month Learning from Experience

Do you ever learn from experience or are you unable to grow and develop from day to day events? When you suffer the nth knockback when looking for a job, the n+1 th refusal from the love of your life for a date, the never ending stream of bad results at school or college what do you do? When life gets you down with seemingly endless bad days how do you cope? Do you give up and retreat into a shell or perhaps try to bluster your way out of your difficulties? Whatever life throws at you like a spanner in between two cogs there are many ways to seek solutions. Sometimes enlisting the help of a friend or relative can help, talk it over with Mum or Dad, start your own business and be the boss yourself.

In the Psalms David often found himself on the end of other people's venom, like when Saul tried to get him killed. In such times David turned to God for comfort, hope, guidance and protection. The life of David was not perfect, he got into scrapes and sometimes tried to fix them himself, instead of asking God. Usually such efforts came unstuck and people got hurt as a result. When David was in tune with God he succeeded in the wars, raids and enterprises which he led and patronised.

So it should be with Christians. God does not promise to fix every problem, but he does promise to love His children unconditionally and keep them safe. Take your burden to Jesus today, give it to Him and pray for a future nearer to God than in the past.

tabernacle : penarth

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

prayer diary : december 2018

"For unto us a Child is born,
Unto us a Son is given."
Isaiah 9:6

As it was 100 years since the end of the First World War, 2018 was a big year for remembering. Remembrance is important if we are not to forget the horrors of the Great War and repeat many of the same mistakes in the modern world.

Remembering is also important in the Bible. After the flood, God sets a rainbow in the sky to remember his covenant with mankind; the Israelites were told to hold festivals and special meals so that they would remember God's salvation from slavery in Egypt; the Psalmist sat down and wept by the rivers of Babylon when he remembered Zion. The central act of worship in the Christian faith is communion which was instituted by Jesus with the words, "Do this in remembrance of me".

Christmas may have become all about parties and food, presents and family gatherings for most people, but for the Christian it is mostly an act of worship all about remembering - remembering that God so loved the world that he gave us Jesus all those years ago in a town called Bethlehem. As we celebrate, so we remember God's good gifts... and we say thank you.

Pastor Roger

Saturday 1st

Please pray for those families and individuals who will be overseas for Christmas. Send a card or write a letter today.

Sunday 2nd (Advent Sunday)

The Sundays of Advent remind Jesus' followers that preparation for His arrival is very important. Not just the Christmas gifts and trimmings, but also thinking about who Jesus is and what happened on Christmas night.

Monday 3rd

Please remember young people doing Nativity Plays and Christmas Concerts in the next couple of weeks.

Tuesday 4th

Please remember those in Small & Alpha groups who will be having Christmas functions in the next few weeks. Remember to invite those who maybe do not fit in too well.

Wednesday 5th

In this run up to Christmas pray that members of Tabs will be generous with their shopping, and add in a few extra goodies for the Food Bank.

Thursday 6th

The Paradise Run takes place every evening with different churches providing supplies and volunteers. Remember the volunteers from Tabs out tonight.

Friday 7th

Pray for the young people who attend Tabs' youth outreaches every Friday. Pray for the leaders, young people and their parents.

Saturday 8th

Please remember the congregations of other fellowships in Penarth today. Commit their outreach, ministry and worship to God.

Sunday 9th (Second Sunday in Advent)

Pray today for those who make services happen, minister, band, sound crew, greeters, security, teachers and helpers.

Monday 10th

Think of people who had their lives devastated this past year by natural disasters, floods, earthquakes, storms. Pray for the people in the Philippines, the Carolinas, and China etc.

Tuesday 11th

Pray for the vision of the church to encompass outreach to men and young families. Ask God for direction and leading in these areas of ministry.

Wednesday 12th

Please pray for the food distribution and breakfast club held at Arcot House each Wednesday

Thursday 13th

Pray today for your favourite mission family, at home or overseas.

Friday 14th

Pray for any you know who have lost loved ones this year, for whom Christmas will be difficult.

Saturday 15th

Pray for members of the emergency services this Christmas. Some people expect to be "rescued" from their own stupidity, pray for those faced with such selfishness this Christmas, ask God to give them an extra helping of grace.

Sunday 16th (Third Sunday in Advent)

Let the name of Jesus be honoured in Tabs services today.

Monday 17th

As the shopping madness draws to a head this week, pray for overworked shop staff, medical staff dealing with injuries and drunks, police dealing with difficult situations, in fact anyone working while everyone else is celebrating.

Tuesday 18th

Pray today for your extended family, ones you never see or hear from, perhaps pick up the phone, message them or send a card.

Wednesday 19th

Please pray for people not to drink and drive, mobile phone and drive, or drugs and drive this Christmas.

Thursday 20th

Ask God to show you His plan for you this Christmas, who could you help, visit or do something nice for as a special treat?

Friday 21st

Please take time out from all the razzmatazz and think of those who need a hand up this festive season, the old, the sick, the lonely, the odd balls. Pray God will provide for them too.

Saturday 22nd

Remember to pray for the Crib Service (Christmas Eve), The Midnight Communion (Christmas Eve), and Christmas Service (Christmas Day).

Sunday 23rd (Fourth Sunday in Advent)

Pray for someone you know who is planning to give up their Christmas to serve other people. Give thanks for their generosity and self-sacrifice.

Monday 24th (Christmas Eve)

Pray for shop staff faced with preparations for the sales next week. Ask God to curb the greed and money lust of corporate managers whose only motive is profit. Pray for good outcomes for shop workers at work today.

Tuesday 25th (Christmas Day)

Today is 'the day', Father Christmas has been, carols and presents, all the trappings. Merry Christmas to all our regular prayers.

Wednesday 26th (Boxing Day)

Ask God to curb the greed and selfishness on display in shops and supermarkets today in the sales.

Thursday 27th

Please pray today for families travelling to visit relatives, particularly if the weather is bad.

Friday 28th

Please pray today for old people, those who live on their own, the foreign person who has no friends in the local area, think of anyone who needs a touch from God today.

Saturday 29th

If you enjoyed a good Christmas, give thanks to God today.