

tabernacle : penarth

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



Church Profile 2019

Tabernacle Baptist Church (known by many simply as 'Tabs') is a lively, evangelical fellowship which has been greatly influenced by charismatic renewal over the last 30 years. It is situated in the seaside town of Penarth, 3.5 miles from Cardiff City centre. We meet on Sundays in an extended and modernised Victorian chapel close to the main shopping area.

We are seeking to fill the vacancy left by our Senior Pastor. We trust God will lead us in the right way to fill this role and are open to different models of ministry. The model of ministry adopted will be required to lead and pastor the congregation, also equip and release the church family in to every member ministry so that we can fulfil our purpose statement of reflecting God's love in our church, community and world.

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1. Theology

Tabernacle Baptist Church is a renewed, evangelical church that seeks to nurture a faith which is relevant for 21st century life. We believe that the Bible is the Word of God and as such is authoritative in all matters of belief and practice. Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit we read the Bible and seek to live out our historic, orthodox faith in a contemporary setting. Sound biblical exposition is central to our life together, whether in congregational or small group settings.

In addition to valuing the Scriptures, we also give a high value to worship in our life together. We seek to worship in a way that is modern and that not only honours God, but which is also attractive to visitors. For this reason, our worship is led by a contemporary worship group, although the church still retains an organ. We have a prayer ministry team available at all services.

The church has been influenced by both New Wine and Soul Survivor.

2. Leadership Structures

At present, the Church leadership follows a Minister/Elders/Deacons pattern with 3 elders and 11 deacons/officers. Each elder is responsible for overseeing a Hub, ie: Mission, Ministry and Support. Each deacon or officer is responsible for a specific area of church life. The minister and elders are charged with the spiritual oversight of the church.

In 2010, Tabernacle registered with the Charity Commission. The elders, deacons and officers (together called the Leadership Council) serve as managing trustees in addition to their regular leadership roles. Nominations for a leadership role are open to all members in accordance with the church constitution.

The church employs a full-time youth pastor, who is in his final year of the Newly Accredited Minister's scheme before full accreditation as a Baptist Minister.

3. Purpose Statement

*Our purpose is to reflect God's love
in our church, community and world.*

As a church family we chose these words of our purpose statement very carefully and after much discussion together to describe our mission and calling.

Reflect God's love (1 John 4:19)

The love that we seek to share with one another and with our neighbours starts with God's love for us, and we seek to reflect that in all that we do. We will seek to follow Jesus' example of teaching, living and demonstrating the Kingdom of God with our words and our deeds. Whether by telling people about Jesus and preaching the Good News of God's Kingdom, feeding the hungry and clothing the naked, healing the sick, getting alongside the lonely and the outcast or worshipping and praying, we will seek to reflect the love that God has shown us.



Tabs lit up for the Christmas Carol Service, Christmas 2018

In our church

Jesus commanded us to love one another (John 13:34), and to demonstrate the love and mercy we have received by the way we treat one another. We want to be generous towards one another in time and money; we want to be patient and forgiving with each other; we want to express our love for one another in words and actions.

The church holds a fund to support members with specific financial needs called The 434 Fund after the statement in Acts 4:34 "There were no needy persons among them".

Our pastoral support ministries include prayer ministry, a team of visitors and home communion for the housebound, and meals support for new parents and those who have been in hospital.

In our community

God has called us to be a gathering of believers within a local community. We should be an example of God's love to our neighbours in what we say and in what we do. We not only want to tell people in Penarth the Good News about Jesus, but also demonstrate God's love in practical ways. As such, we are committed to serving the local community in any way that we can.

Our outreach activities include Alpha, handing out roses on Valentine's Day; an interactive manger on the day the Christmas lights are switched on in Penarth; hospital hampers at Christmas, Easter chocolates; Summer Festival activities; and a Mother's Day event. We also partner with CAP and have had approval from the church meeting to open a CAP debt centre.

Six years ago, we sold the large Victorian Manse in order to purchase a smaller property to be used as a manse and Arcot House, a building opposite the church that is the hub of our social action activities. It houses an independent registered charity, called Home Access, which was set up by Tabs members to help the homeless and vulnerably housed across the Vale of Glamorgan. With funding from the Welsh Government and the local authority, Home Access provides bonds to help clients into privately rented accommodation. At present 84 households are supported with Home Access Bonds and many more receive ongoing support.

The building also accommodates a Foodbank which is supported by local churches, schools and organisations. This is open on Wednesdays when breakfast is also available. Above the office there is a four-bedroom maisonette which is currently occupied by a family receiving support from Home Access.

Members of the church support ministry on the streets in Cardiff city centre through the Paradise Run and Street Pastors.

In the world

We want to see the Good News of Jesus shared in every corner of the world, and we do this through going in person to serve overseas, by supporting missionary societies (especially the BMS World Mission) and by supporting aid agencies and international development agencies.

Tabs is active in sending men and women into full time ministry both in the UK and overseas. We currently have a family serving with BMS World Mission in Nepal and one of our young people is on a BMS Action Team in France. Local churches are also supported by members who are accredited preachers.



Joining Tearfund's #TheBigQuiz at Tabs' downstairs conference room, November 2018

4. Worship at Tabs

Sunday Mornings

The main act of worship each week takes place on a Sunday morning at 10.30 am. We begin with about half an hour of sung worship mostly in a contemporary style. Once the children have gone to their groups, there is a scripture reading, prayer and a sermon. There is usually a responsive ministry time before the benediction.

Sunday Evenings

On Sunday evenings we meet at 6.00 pm and generally follow the same pattern of sung worship, reading, sermon and response.

Congregations in the evening are smaller than the morning and many people who do not come to morning service only come along to the evening service (and vice versa). Evening services are an ideal space for different expressions of worship, including café style.

Every service is followed by refreshments of tea and freshly brewed Fairtrade coffee.



Summer 2019's evening Cafe Church series.

Communion

Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday evening and the third Sunday morning of each month. In a month which has five Sundays, the fifth morning service is an all-age family service.

At Tabernacle we currently have an open table policy, where visitors from other churches and non-members are invited to share in the bread and wine. We welcome ministry from both men and women, young and old, lay and ordained.

Mid Week

Every Wednesday, there is a service of communion at 10.00 am. Although only attended by a small number of people, this quiet and reflective service is another valuable opportunity to gather for communal worship. On the first Wednesday of every month, communion is followed by a coffee morning.

Once a month on a Monday evening there is a prayer meeting, known as the Stand. It is a time devoted to intercessory prayer for specific needs.

Members are also invited to join an on-line prayer chain for urgent and immediate prayer requests.

Tab's has run 24/7 prayer events and for the last 2 years, engaged with the national "Thy Kingdom Come" prayer event.



Prayer meetings, worship evenings, family events and 24-hour prayer events from Thy Kingdom Come 2019

5. Congregation Profile

The number of people worshipping at Tab's is stable with an average of one or two new people being recommended for membership at each Church Meeting. At major festivals and special events, we truly get to see how large the church family is.

The church membership list is periodically reviewed to ensure that it is up to date and represents those people who are committed to living out their faith as part of the local, worshipping community.

At the time of writing, our membership stands at 214, with around 20-30 people who worship with us regularly but who are not yet members. In addition to this we have approximately 60 children and young people who attend Sunday worship and Sunday groups regularly, but who are not counted in our membership figures.

6. Children & Youth

On most Sunday mornings the children and young people leave the service at about 11.00 am for groups designed for their age group. The older groups follow their own syllabus, but the younger groups usually follow material written and produced in house.

On Sunday evenings @23 is a time for our teenagers to meet for fun, food and faith discussions. Young people also have their own small group that meets mid-week where they study the Bible, pray and encourage each other in their faith.

On Tuesday evenings there is the JAFFA club, for school years 1 and 2. Friday evenings are time for the Xtreme club, for school years 3 to 6, and the Beyond Xtreme club, for school years 7 to 10, which attract young people from the local community with a mix of sports, games, food and quizzes.

A regular feature of the children's work calendar is the annual children's summer club. Each year about 100 children, mostly from outside the church, join a large team of volunteers for a week of worship, games, drama, craft activities, and teaching.

Soul Survivor, sleepovers and trips to local youth events such as Message Wales Lift also feature in the youth work calendar.

The youth activities at Tabs are overseen by our full-time youth worker, Owen James, with one of our youth leaders representing the children and young people's work at the Ministry Hub.



7. Small Groups

Small groups are central to our ministry and our life together as a community at Tabs. They consist of between 8 and 15 people, (sometimes called 'cell groups') and meet in people's homes during the week. They have four main purposes: welcome, worship, word, witness and are an essential part of our pastoral support. Study material is mostly prepared in house

8. History of Tabernacle

In the 19th century a group of Baptists from Bethany Baptist Church in St Mary's Street, Cardiff, moved to Penarth to work amongst the growing population. After worshipping in rooms above shops and in small chapels, in 1886 plans were drawn up for a 700-seat chapel with a 400-seat schoolroom, classrooms and vestries on the present site.

By the late 1980s it became apparent that the building no longer suited the worship needs of the congregation and significant alterations were made to arrive at the present layout.

In the 1990s, the church planted two congregations, one at Cosmeston and the other in Dinas Powys. Later these congregations became independent.



Tab's tent amidst the Penarth Summer Festival, giving away fruit, drinks, and prayer.
Penarth seafront, Summer 2019

9. Terms of appointment

Stipend

The church will pay as a minimum the Baptist Union recommended level of stipend. However, the church has a history of paying in excess of this figure depending upon experience.

Accommodation

The church owns a manse in Cornerswell Road, 10 minutes walk from the church centre and suitable for a family.

It is near to a number of parks, one of several primary schools and one of the secondary schools.

The church will provide a telephone and internet access and will be responsible for the cost of the rental and church business calls. The church will be responsible for the repair and maintenance of the exterior of the manse and any interior redecoration required before occupation. The church is also responsible for the payment of council tax, water and sewage charges and building insurance premiums.

Alternatively, if the appointed candidate(s) wishes to purchase their own property the church is willing to consider making a housing allowance in addition to the stipend to allow this. To be agreed between by the Church based on the housing market in the area.

Terms

In accordance with the Equality Act 2010 it is a genuine occupational requirement that the post holder is a practicing Christian and would be expected to adhere to our values as a church. The successful candidate(s) will be appointed according to the recommended terms published by the Baptist Union of Great Britain.

Tab's has a long history of receiving ministry from women, and we welcome applications from both male and female ministers. This post falls within the exceptions from the requirements of the Employment Equality (Sexual Orientation) Regulations (2003) and the Equality Act 2010 (as set out in schedule 9).

10. Inter Church Relationships

Tabernacle is a member of the Baptist Union of Great Britain and of the South Wales Baptist Association. The ministry team are able to attend both the Central Baptist Ministers' Fellowship and Cardiff Church Leaders on a monthly basis for mutual support, prayer and worship.

Tab's is an active member of the Churches Together in Penarth through CYTŪN.

At present there are 20 Churches involved in CYTŪN in the Penarth district.

11. Legal Requirements

The Church's Constitution can be found in the downloads section of the church website at www.tabs.church

12. A Typical Week at Tabs

Sunday

10.30 am Morning Service
6.00 pm Evening Service
7.30 pm @23 (Church Youth)

Monday

9.00 am Home Access
9.30 am Maintenance Team
2.30 pm Women's Hour
7.30 pm Monthly Prayer Meeting
7.30 pm Members Meeting (bi-monthly)

Tuesday

9.00 am Home Access
6.00 pm JAFFA Children's Club
7.30 pm Small Groups meet
7.30 pm Alpha

Wednesday

9.00 am Home Access, Food Bank and Breakfast Club
10.00 am Communion
10.30 am Monthly coffee morning
2.30 pm Ladies Afternoon Fellowship once a month

Thursday

9.00 am Home Access
2.30 pm Small Groups meet
7.30 pm Small Groups meet
5.30 pm Youth Small Group
7.30 pm Music Group practice

Friday

9.00 am Home Access
9.30 am Maintenance Team
6.00 pm Xtreme Children's club
7.30 pm Beyond Xtreme club

Other community groups, choirs local schools and Musical Minis use the church premises on a regular basis.

TWAM Cymru (Tools with a Mission) team meet at the Bute Lane unit at 9 am on Tuesdays and Thursdays

More details of the weekly programme, sermon downloads and church policy documents are available at www.tabs.church



Tabernacle Baptist Church Penarth, Plassey Street, Penarth, CF64 1EN
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www.tabs.church

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