

Did you know...

That when a member of the fellowship is bereaved, they receive a letter of loving sympathy on behalf of the church written by Jean Davies?



That if you are recovering from an operation or illness which is going to keep you confined to your home for some time, you can receive communion in your home? Speak to the Pastor.



If you wish to mark a special birthday or anniversary, why not supply the church flowers for the nearest Sunday? You don't have to arrange them unless you want to. See the Flower Rota in the foyer.

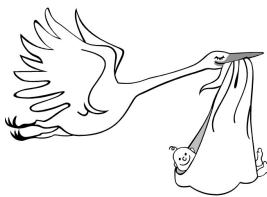
VERY IMPORTANT

If you have moved house recently, even if you have moved into temporary accommodation, we would appreciate if you would let the church office know as soon as possible.



Rejoicing!

Congratulations to Angus and Helen Douglas on the arrival of their daughter Esther Helen.



Please continue to pray for all our mums-to-be and their babies-in-waiting!

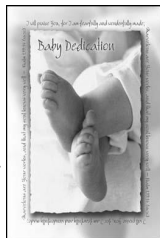
Small Groups

After the Christmas break the Small Groups will be studying a series called "Spitting Image" which will take us up to the beginning of Lent. In this series we will look at the ways that God reveals himself at different times in the Bible: In creation, to Moses, to David, to the early Church and of course, most importantly, through Jesus. We will remind ourselves that Jesus is the "image of the invisible God" as we look afresh at God's nature and character.

If you are not in a small group and would like to be, or have not been for a while and would like start in a new group, please contact **Sheila Weaver** or **Pastor Roger**.

Special Celebrations

We have recently had special services when the parents of three of our youngest members of the congregation brought them before the church for dedication. We celebrated with David and Kathryn Elston on the dedication of Cerys Louise, Alex and Sara Redwood on the dedication of Ioan Michael and Suzanne and Iestyn Jones on the dedication of Taliesin Nathan.



Congratulations to Gareth and **Carol Humphreys** who recently celebrated their 35th Wedding Anniversary by renewing their wedding vows.



Congratulations also go to Ann Niblett who is seeking accreditation as a lay preacher. The recent church meeting unanimously and wholeheartedly agreed to commend her to the Baptist Association.

the : tablet

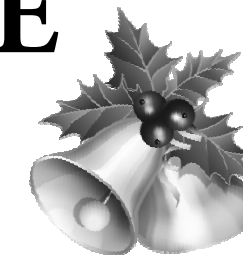
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purpose: to reflect God's love in our church, Community and world.



Volume 1: Issue 5. December 2009

JOY TO THE WORLD!



Christmas is an exciting time with all the celebrations that will be happening: special food and drink, presents, decorations and lights. However, as the family of God we want to remember that the reason we celebrate is because of what Christmas represents: that God became flesh and dwelt amongst us, born as a baby in Bethlehem and destined for a cross in Jerusalem. The road that led to an empty grave on Easter Day begins in a manger at Christmas, and we rejoice in the good news of Jesus' birth. There will be plenty of opportunities to celebrate in worship this Christmas with a wide range of services to suit all ages and tastes.

The main guest service is the Carol Service which will take place on 20th December at 6.00pm. At the time of writing the choir are hard at work practicing, mince pies and other refreshments are being prepared, invitations and magazines are being printed, lighting plans and stewarding rotas are being prepared and the sermon polished. A special feature this year is that the carol service will

be candlelit – a return to a tradition from the past. If you are able to volunteer as a steward or a welcomer, or are able to help with serving refreshments or clearing up afterwards, we would love to hear from you. More importantly, we need YOU to invite a guest or two to the service. Please pick up an invitation from the back of Church and make sure that you play your part in this important evangelistic event.



On Christmas Eve there are two services. The first will take place at 3.00pm and is the family crib service. Each year this service grows a little bigger, and we would urge you to arrive early if you want to get a good seat! Although advertised as a children's service, people of all ages enjoy this opportunity to pause amidst the busyness of Christmas preparations and reflect again on the Nativity story. As always you are

invited to come dressed as your favourite Nativity story character, so get out those dressing gowns and tea towels for your dad! The second service on Christmas Eve is the midnight communion service. Starting at 11.15pm this is an opportunity to see in Christmas Day with worship and the Lord's Supper. For many people this is their favourite service of the year, and if you have never been before you are invited to join us on this special occasion.

Christmas morning just wouldn't be Christmas morning without our family celebration, and we hope you can join us at 10.30am Christmas Day to gather and worship Christ the new born King! Pastor Roger particularly loves this service as he gets a chance to play with your Christmas presents, so don't forget to bring your favourite gift along to show everyone.

On the Sunday after Christmas (27th) there is a morning service only, and then on New Year's Eve at 11.15pm you are invited to join us for the Watchnight Service to see in 2010 in prayer and worship. Pastor Roger and his family will be taking a week away (hopefully somewhere warm and dry!), so this service is being planned and led by David Smith and Peter Henry.

Whatever you are up to this Christmas season, we hope you will be able to come and celebrate with us!

Christmas Services at a Glance

December 20th	Carol Service at 6.00 p.m.
Christmas Eve	Crib Service at 3.00 p.m.
Christmas Eve	Midnight Communion at 11.15 p.m.
Christmas Day	Family Celebration at 10.30 a.m. Bring along your favourite Christmas gift to show to everyone else.
New Year's Eve	Watchnight Service at 11.15 p.m.



THE BIG ISSUE

Each issue of *The Tablet* will look at one issue that has been discussed at a recent Church Meeting and explain some of the background. Our hope is that you will use this as a guide for prayer, but also that you might be encouraged to attend future Church Meetings. The matters we deal with are sometimes mundane, sometimes

routine, but sometimes of incredible importance to our Christian life together. This issue we examine church budgets...

Start talking about money and budgets, and most people's eyes begin to glaze over. Church budget meetings are one of those boring events that everyone knows we need to have, but very few people look forward to. That was the reason that Pastor Roger spoke about the December Church Meeting as a chance to think again about our vision, and how we would finance it, rather than purely as a budget meeting! It is easy to forget that budget meetings are not about getting the columns of pounds and pennies to add up, but rather a fundamental part of our strategic thinking about ministry and mission. The first question any such meeting needs to ask is not 'how much money do we need?' but rather 'what is God calling us to do?' Our God is a big God and a generous God who is able to do more than we can hope or imagine, and for Him resourcing His plans are not a problem! As we are reminded in Paul's letter to the Philippians "God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus." (Phil 4:19) Our job is to discover what God is calling us to do, and then as we are obedient to him, trust him for his provision.

Pastor Roger spoke first of all about his vision for a growing, healthy Church. In the past Tabs has been known as being a 'large church' and Roger believes this is on God's agenda again. This is not so that we can boast about

the number of people we have here or feel carnally proud of our achievement, but so that we can be more effective in mission. A bigger membership means that we have more resources in terms of people, gifts and money to release for mission in our town and across Wales. Tabs already sends over two dozen recognised preachers out to assist other Churches in the South Wales area, but we believe that this is a ministry God wants to grow even bigger. How wonderful would it be to be able to send not just individual preachers, but also trained ministry teams, evangelists and worship groups to help struggling smaller churches? A larger congregation would mean that we could also support more evangelistic efforts locally – more youth and children's groups, more involvement in evangelistic projects in Penarth and more impact in our town. We could help more people through our social action projects and thus help more people not only hear about the love of Jesus, but see it put into action.

Roger reminded us that membership numbers are significant because each statistic represents an individual whom God loves and wants to be saved. More people being born again and joining the Church is primarily about getting more people to heaven, not about building a bigger Sunday congregation! With this in mind

we have set a budget for 2010 that we believe is realistic in these hard economic times. We are not asking for more money in the coming year, but we have redistributed how we will spend it. For the first time in recent years we have set a 0% growth budget, but at the same time one in which we give away more money (to mission societies and organisations.) The Gift day 2010 will hopefully be aimed purely at evangelistic events here in Penarth, and we have faith that as God more than amply supplies our needs we will have a surplus for other mission and evangelistic opportunities.

Please PRAY for our income, our finance team and our leadership team as we look forward to an exciting year in 2010!

BUDGET 2010

Ministry	£84,544
(Pastoral expenses, manse upkeep, worship)	
Mission	£43,303
(BMS, Global Mission, Home Mission)	
Establishment	£33,370
(Building and running costs)	
Support	£34,002
(Pastoral support, publications, refreshments)	
Total budgeted expenditure	£195,219
Projected income for 2010	£190,000



Baptism

Our evening service on the 18th October saw three of our young members being baptised. Tasha Hole, Jordan Goddard and Josh Jeffries all gave their personal testimonies of the

changes in their lives since they have come to know the Lord Jesus personally.

If you would like to be baptised as a believer, please speak to Pastor Roger or to Pete Everitt who would be delighted to meet with you, do some preparation, and book a date for your baptism with you.

Angel Tree



Angel Tree is a nationwide scheme which enables prisoners to give a present to their children at Christmas. People give either gifts or donations of cash for the buying of gifts and these are then wrapped up and distributed to the children in time for Christmas.

The Tabs Prison Fellowship group are very involved in this project locally and recently Lorna and Peter Lock hosted an afternoon tea at their home in Dinas so that people could go along and make donations whilst enjoying fellowship, tea and delicious cakes at the same time! As ever, everyone had a good time and the group want to say a big thank you to all those who supported the event. Lorna was left with a house full of toys waiting to be wrapped and distributed so whilst that means she's going to be very busy in the run up to Christmas, it's good news for a lot of children.

The Sanctuary

"Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends." (John 15:13)

Wet, Wet, Wet, the Beatles and Diana Ross have all sung about it and we buy cards in the millions to tell our loved ones about it. LOVE; it's a big thing in our society. At the next Sanctuary event we are going to be focussing on the greatest love of all; Jesus. And what better way to express our thanks to him than through worship? We are really excited to be joined for the evening by the drama group 'Going Public' and we cannot wait to see what God has in store for us. So put the date in your diary: Sunday 7th February 2010 at 8 o'clock.

COMING SOON

Sunday Morning at 10.30 am

New series: "What's Eating Jonah?"

Sunday January 3rd

Family Time Team

Sunday January 10th
Jonah flees (chapter 1)

Sunday January 17th
Jonah prays (chapter 2)

Sunday January 24th
Jonah preaches (chapter 3)

Sunday January 31st
Jonah sulks (chapter 4)

Sunday February 7th
Family Time Team

Sunday Evening at 6.00 pm

New series: 1 Corinthians (part 1)

Sunday January 3rd
Covenant Service

1. Agree with one another

Sunday January 10th
2. The message of the cross

Sunday January 17th
3. Wisdom from the Spirit

Sunday January 24th
4. Divisions in the church

Sunday January 31st
5. Apostles of Christ

Sunday February 7th
6. Church discipline

Sunday February 14th
7. Living together in unity

Teaching @ Tabs

If you miss a service at Tabs, but would like to keep up with the teaching then there are three ways to listen to the sermons.

1. Contact Graham Niblett to buy a CD.
2. Listen online by going to www.tabspenarth.org.uk
3. Download a sermon from the website to listen to on your MP3 player.

Teaching from the last 3 months is available on the new "Resources Page".