

Monday 28th

Pray for Karen tribal Christians in Burma (Myanmar) and Thailand persecuted by their government. Pray for all the oppressed people of Burma.

Tuesday 29th

Peace is not just an absence of war. During Christmas there was emphasis on peace in the world in the person of Jesus. Let us pray for diplomats and peacemakers who work behind the scenes to settle national & international conflicts.

Wednesday 30th

Please pray for students who are returning to college in the next few days/weeks. Think of some of the young people who have gone from Tabs in recent years.

Thursday 31st

On New Year's Eve everyone will be out to have a good time. Please pray for those who have to pick up the pieces: doctors, nurses, paramedics, police, Street Pastors, fire crews and family members dragged into situations not of their own doing. Ask God to restrain the powers of evil at work today.

Contributions for the prayer diary should be sent to john.stansfield5@btinternet.com or left in the pigeonhole in the foyer by 7th of the month.

THOUGHT OF THE MONTH

When everyone has more or less everything that they need there is a great danger that it gets taken for granted. When the opportunity comes to share some of the bounty with which everyone is blessed then either apathy or meanness can hinder a generous spirit. Take for example giving to the church, particularly in services. How often is the bag passed along the row and very few people put anything in? Is the reason that everyone has forgotten their handbag or wallet, or because they make some excuse about already giving via the bank.

When the Minister invites the congregation to donate their tithes and offerings it should be just that, an offering to God for his bounty. If you want to make a bank payment to avoid carrying cash all well and good, but by not participating in the church collections are you not saying that 'I don't put much value on this service because I can get away without contributing anything'. By contributing via the offering you are saying you value the proceedings and feel able to give thanks in a token way by putting something into the offering. No one expects to get large amounts, but there is a value in being an example to those who do not contribute. In addition, giving above your tithe level will never mean you being out of pocket, because God loves a cheerful giver.

Please pray about how much you should put into the collection plate next time it comes your way. By using an envelope no one else, apart from the Treasurer, need ever know what you do contribute. Look upon it as an investment in heaven for which you will receive a dividend when the Judgement takes place.

tabernacle : penarth

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

prayer diary : december 2009

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and
the government will be on his shoulders.

Isaiah 9:6

Each month John Stansfield prepares the prayer diary, and then it is sent to me for checking, and adding a few words. As I was reading through the diary this month I noticed that John has faithfully included prayers for Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and Boxing Day. My initial reaction was to ask "I wonder who will be using the prayer diary on those days!" But then I thought, actually John is quite right. We are called to pray continually, at all times and in all places. This may be a busy and exciting time of year, but that is no excuse for failing to pray—every single day! Let me urge you as you celebrate Christmas, over-eat, meet with family, attend services, go to parties and all the other things that go with Christmas not to forget the important and central place of prayer

Pastor Roger

Tuesday 1st

Please pray for the ladies of Dorcas who meet together to do craft and have a good natter. Please also remember the leaders and children who meet as JAFFA club every week. Please pray for some more helpers for this and other youth groups in the church.

Wednesday 2nd

The Leadership Council meets today, please pray for all the decisions which need to be made.

Thursday 3rd

The old, sick, lonely, housebound, homeless, refugees, poor, destitute, and all who need a touch from God should be of concern in prayers today. Jesus made special efforts to encounter such people, yet as His followers can we claim to do the same? Please pray for those in need today, whatever that need may be.

Friday 4th

Please remember the families of people in prison today. Please pray for prison chaplains, visitors and Prison Fellowship as they try to improve the lot of those who have got themselves into bother.

Saturday 5th

'The Wave' is a public demonstration about the concerns people have for climate change taking place in London today. There will be many

Christians taking part, so please pray for a peaceful event.

Sunday 6th

The morning service today will be 'Family Time'. Please pray for all the children and those involved in running the service. Please also pray for the entire congregation to be motivated to attend.

Monday 7th

Today the leaders of the world will gather in Copenhagen to put together a new treaty on climate change. Please pray for wisdom to win over self interest and stubborn, intransigent greed. Pray for wisdom for all the world leaders involved.

Tuesday 8th

If you know someone who attends another church in Penarth, please pray for that person, the church to which they belong and the outreach, ministry and witness of that fellowship.

Wednesday 9th

Please pray for the ladies who sing in the choir, as they will be doing events over the next couple of weeks. Pray for those involved in the weekly communion service today.

Thursday 10th

Please pray for the church's small and Alpha groups who will be holding Christmas parties over the next few days. Let everyone have a good time and be thankful for God's bounty.

Friday 11th

Please pray for the young people and leaders of Xtreme and Beyond Xtreme and ask God to bless their meetings, have a safe and happy time and learn about Jesus too.

Saturday 12th

The Baptist Union ask for prayer for the Cambrensis Choir and ask for refreshing for all those who lead worship. In particular please pray for renewal for those from churches which struggle to keep up their standards of worship. Let us give thanks to God for the rich pool of talent available in Tabs and pray for those in need in this area.

Sunday 13th

There will be lots of young people doing nativity plays and getting very nervous in the next couple of weeks, please remember all small performers.

Monday 14th

The maintenance team is always looking out for new recruits; from tea boy to foreman there is work for every one who can volunteer. Please give thanks for those who fix the broken things in Tabs and ask for safe work and a happy team in the future.

Tuesday 15th

Please pray for those who meet week by week in the Ladies Evening Fellowship and the Men's Club. Please pray for an inspired programme and more recruits.

Wednesday 16th

Christine Haggitt would like to thank all those who supported her while in Nepal. Please pray for Christine as she studies in Glasgow for the next couple of years.

Thursday 17th

At the festive season let us pray for those who will be facing persecution at this time. There are many Christians around the world who would love to celebrate the birth of Jesus openly, but to do so would invite persecution.

Friday 18th

Please pray for Roger Grafton and other ministers who have to be on duty at Christmas. Remember the extra burden each one faces as demands from needy people appear.

Saturday 19th

There will be a rush to get the last minute shopping done today and it could be the busiest Saturday in the year. Please pray for those involved in the retail trade, particularly anyone you know, for patience and tact today.

Sunday 20th

Today is the Carols By Candle Light service this evening. Please pray for all those who celebrate the coming of Jesus at this event.

Monday 21st

Finance is a subject dear to some people, a bore to others but one which always needs to be considered. Please pray how your contribution to the finance of the church is decided. Think today about your gift as opposed to offering through the bank. See note below.

Tuesday 22nd

Please pray for those who are separated from their families, like troops on duty in Afghanistan and other overseas postings. While every effort is made to give them a good time, it is just not the same as being at home. Pray too for the families of those who are absent.

Wednesday 23rd

In the hectic rush to be ready for the great day please remember today those who have lost loved ones in the last year. For them Christmas will be hard, so please pray for those who mourn at this time. Ask God to uphold them while the rest of the world holds a party.

Thursday 24th

Please pray for the services in Tabs over the next two days, like the Crib Service which has become part of the Tabs calendar over the last few years.

Friday 25th

Today is the day to celebrate the festive season by giving thanks to God for all the good things that He gives to us all.

Please pray for those who have chosen to spend their holiday trying to make someone else happy too, like catering, running Christmas meals, etc.

Saturday 26th

Please pray today for those members of the family who are happy to celebrate Christmas but who 'do not do God'. Ask God to open hearts and minds to the message of love which is being proclaimed at Christmas.

Sunday 27th

'How lovely is thy dwelling place, O LORD of Hosts! My soul longs, yea, faints for the courts of the LORD; my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God', (Psalm 84:1-2). Let this be your attitude going to service today.