

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 27th

Please pray for the people of Gaza enduring ongoing difficulties and war. Pray for a lasting peace.

Tuesday 28th

The persecuted church of whatever complexion needs to be prayed for often. Imagine if your family kicked you out for being Jesus' friend. How would you get on for work, somewhere to live, ongoing money worries etc? That is the reality of being persecuted. Please pray for Jesus' friends who suffer for His name.

Wednesday 29th

The weekly communion service held on Wednesday mornings is not a crowd puller, but for those who attend and lead it is an important interval in a hectic world to reflect on Jesus. Please pray for those who use this opportunity.

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

Christmas is but a memory, all the New Year resolutions evaporated in good intentions sometime mid January, now all there is are short winter days and cold winter nights. About this time in the story of Jesus, Joseph, Mary and Jesus were headed for Egypt to avoid the troops sent by Herod to massacre all small children around Bethlehem. Given that Herod was not a military commander in the Roman army and Jews did not have power to inflict the death penalty this is hard to believe. Whatever the truth it is most likely the Holy Family fled for their lives if God told them to through Joseph's dream. Imagine yourself fleeing off to France with a newborn child and mother. Only transport a donkey, pretty awful prospect.

Today there are in Britain lots of people who have faced similar events in their lives. These folk get painted by the tabloid press as 'scroungers', 'benefit refugees' or other equally endearing labels. Jesus always had time for the refugee, the outcast, and downtrodden, and so should His followers. In December the congregation at Tabs was encouraged to send greetings to those suffering discrimination and oppression today, through Amnesty International. Please pray for people caught up in oppression, tyranny, and poverty. Pray for a new spring for them, like people who hope for spring after a long dark winter.

tabernacle : penarth

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

prayer diary : february 2012

Love one another John 13:34

"Hang on", I hear you say. "Isn't that the same verse from John 13 that you used in last month's Prayer Diary?" Well, yes it is! I heard of a preacher years ago who preached a sermon on unforgiveness amongst Christians. The following week he preached the identical sermon, word for word. When the third week came around and he started exactly the same sermon again one of the elders stood up and objected loudly. "Yes", the pastor said, "this is the same sermon I've preached for the last 2 weeks...and I'm going to keep on preaching it until we start doing it". I guess we'll be hearing a lot from John 13 on love one another this year.

Pastor Roger

Wednesday 1st

Please pray for the Leadership Council as they meet to consider the work in Tabs.

Thursday 2nd

Please pray for the work of 'Compassion' which seeks to recruit people in well off countries to sponsor children in poverty stricken places all round the world.

Friday 3rd

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

Saturday 4th

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, (Gwyneth Jones).

Sunday 5th

The outreach to teenagers and young adults takes place most Sundays after the evening service. Please pray for 'The House Thing' as they meet week by week.

Monday 6th

Today you could pray for someone who you have never prayed for before. Think of a neighbour, person at work, college or school. The chances are you can quickly think of an individual or family you have yet to pray for,

their welfare, spiritual growth and walk towards God.

Tuesday 7th

Prayer in the church is vital to invigorate the ministries and activities of the fellowship. Pray for more members to be burdened to pray formally and informally for the work.

Wednesday 8th

Somewhere in the world there is a situation for which God has shown you enough information to pray about, a mission station, a war zone, an individual etc. If you don't pray then no one else will, please pray as God leads.

Thursday 9th

Spare a thought for those members who would love to go to a house group today, but cannot because of age, sickness, being house-bound, domestic commitments, work or any other reason.

Friday 10th

The maintenance team meet on Mondays and Fridays. They need new recruits and encouragement. Please pray for them as they keep Tabs functioning in a physical way.

Saturday 11th

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 12th

Please remember all who contribute to worship in Tabs. Give thanks for dedicated 'backroom boys' as well as those who stand up at the front. Ask God to direct and bless the worship in Tabs today.

Monday 13th

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.

Tuesday 14th (St Valentine)

Today please pray for young people at school and college trying to live by the standards of behaviour found in scripture. Ask God to bless those who refuse to bow to the world's way in ethical and moral decisions which affect relationships between boys and girls.

Wednesday 15th

Please remember the work of Home Access who seek to help the homeless and unfortunate people who find themselves with nowhere to live. Please pray for Jan Booker and Claire Grafton as they deal on a day to day basis with folk in need. Please also remember those volunteers who support the cause and without which there would be no long term project.

Thursday 16th

Please pray for groups meeting around the district today: Alpha and small groups. Ask God to bless these gatherings week by week.

Friday 17th

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.

Saturday 18th

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

Sunday 19th

Please today pray for the Anglican parishes in the district, St Augustine's, All Saints and their daughter churches, Holy Nativity, St John Sully, St Dochdwy in Llandough, St Peter's Old Cogan and Dinas Powys. Remember their witness, ministry and outreach in the town.

Monday 20th

Remember the staff at Baptist House in Didcot, representing BUGB and BMS. Ask God to give them wisdom and guidance as they lead the work of Baptist churches around the country.

Tuesday 21st

Please pray for Nick Bradshaw and the team at South Wales Baptist Association, dealing with mundane matters like buildings, ministerial appointments, and mission initiatives on a day to day basis.

Wednesday 22nd (Ash Wednesday)

Today is Ash Wednesday. Pray for a spirit of repentance in Tabs as the season of Easter approaches, and the church moves towards celebrating the greatest miracle of the faith.

Thursday 23rd

Please remember the work among young children like at Playgroup which meets every morning. Remember all involved.

Friday 24th

In this year of Olympic Games and Jubilees there will be particular efforts at evangelism based around these events. Ask God to make the most of such opportunities to call people to Himself. Ask how you might be involved.

Saturday 25th

Please pray for the sick at this time. Thank God for those who have been healed and bring intercession for those who are now sick. A suitable list can be found in the weekly newsletter.

Sunday 26th

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