

tabernacle : penarth

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

Annual Report 2009

Floods and Fire: Pastor Roger reflects on 2009

2009 was my first full year as senior pastor at Tabs, and after the previous ministry which lasted more than 27 years it was always going to be an interesting journey! I must confess that I was more than a little nervous of stepping into John's shoes. Everybody who had read my vision statement knew that I hoped to make some changes in church life, and this was greeted with a mixture of excitement, dread and bewilderment! However, at the end of my first full year, and after 16 months of ministry as senior pastor I can still say as I did in last year's annual report that "The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; surely I have a delightful inheritance." (Psalm 16:6)

The reason I have felt so blessed has not been because of the changes that have been made, or even the successes that by God's grace we have achieved together. It is not because of the blessing we have received in our finances as a church or the large number of people who have decided to make Tabs their church home recently. No, I have been blessed most by the atmosphere of love and support which has been evident in Tabs this year, and which seems to be growing. From the inception of the "434 fund" following the Gift Day 2009 to the 'meals on wheels' service provided by members for new mums and those who are housebound; from the people



who took us into their homes when the Manse drains blocked and the yard flooded with sewage to those who have taken it on themselves to pay other people's utility bills during hard times; from those who assist me in pastoral care and visiting to those who sit week by week in the prayer meeting holding us up in prayer I have felt a real sense of growing unity and purpose.

When the fire of the Spirit fell on Pentecost, the most visible sign to the inhabitants of Jerusalem was not the gifts of the Spirit (indeed some in the crowd were bemused by them). Nor was it the powerful preaching of Peter, although that in itself was amazing! The most powerful sign to those who saw the early church was their devotion to one another and to serving one another and the Lord. Acts 2:42-44 tells us that the early church was devoted to the teaching of the Word of God AND to each other. They were together, united and of a common mind, and it was this that seems to have most impressed the onlookers.

I pray daily for the fire of Pentecost to fall on Tabs bringing

**Annual General Meeting
26th April 2010 at 7.30pm**

A G E N D A

1. Opening worship
2. Pastor's address
3. Minutes of A.G.M. held on the 27th April 2009
4. Matters Arising
5. Acceptance of printed report
6. Presentation of accounts
7. Presentation and acceptance of other reports
8. Vote of thanks to all Officers
9. Election of Leaders (A separate note will be issued providing information on candidates)
10. Appointment of Independent Examiner
11. Membership
12. Recommendation of Angus and Helen Douglas to the BMS for service overseas
13. Recommitment to Child Protection
14. Closing Devotions

a new power to the preaching, signs and wonders and hundreds of converts... but I want to thank God right now for the sense of unity, love and common purpose he has already brought amongst us. Let us cherish it and preserve it as we move on into 2010 and all that God has for us remembering that where brothers and sisters dwell together in unity, there the Lord bestows the blessing.

Roger Grafton

"The children and young people remain a source of great blessing. It is a challenge to look after them and nurture them, but if we do they will provide us with many more highlights!"

Tim Hollingshead
CHYPBoard Deacon

"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."
Mark 10:14

"The highlight of the year was that we had so many excellent candidates to interview, some at the very start of their ministry training. It was great to also hear from so many people involved in world mission."

Jeanette Minns
Global Mission Deacon

"He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation."
Mark 16:15

"A real answer to prayer was received for the brother of a member who was suffering from cancer."

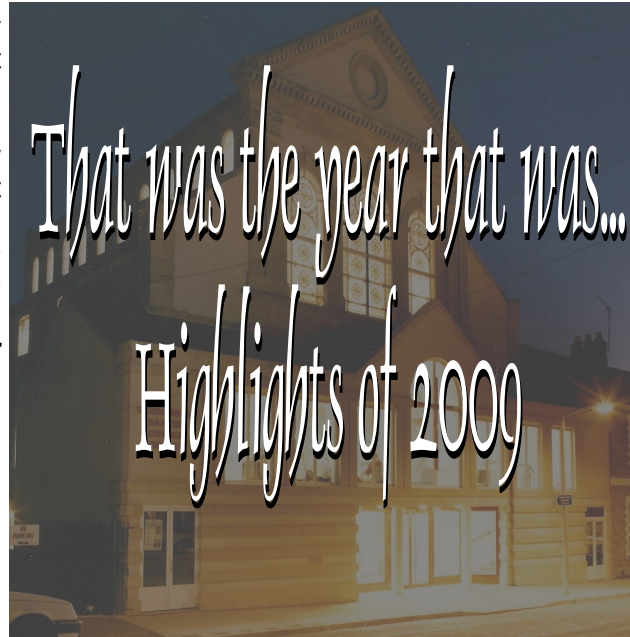
Julian and Margaret Haines
Small Group Leaders

"I am the LORD, who heals you."
Exodus 15:26

"In a year of many, many highlights, one that stands out was to be at the front of church during the carol service, and see a packed church lit up by candlelight. It was a most beautiful and moving sight. Sadly, only those of us on the platform could really see the full effect! "

Pastor Roger

"The people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned."
Matthew 4:16



"Back to Church Sunday gave the Church an opportunity to invite people to a friendly and welcoming service, which so many did! We had great feedback from this event."

Carol Humphreys
Evangelism Deacon

"Go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find."
Matthew 22:9

"The highlight of the year for the magazine? Meeting the deadlines!"

Suzanne Jones
Editor of Tabs Magazine

"We write this to make our joy complete."
1 John 1:4

"It was a real highlight to see Ali, a young Muslim come to faith in Christ and then be baptised, also to see the obvious spiritual growth of other cafe members."

Steve and Naomi Roberts
International Cafe

"He lifts up a banner for the distant nations, he whistles for those at the ends of the earth. Here they come, swiftly and speedily!"
Isaiah 5:26

"To join with many women from other churches at the Ladies Day Rally last October. The assistance of our young people in serving tea afterwards was a great witness to the women from other churches."

Norma Williams
Women's Hour

"This is where the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, to praise the name of the Lord"
Psalm 122:4

"The highlight of the year was to see two men giving their lives to Christ and being baptised."

Lorna Lock
Prison Fellowship

"The King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance...for I was in prison and you came to visit me.'"
Matthew 25:34 & 36

"What a joy to see answers to prayer, especially for the safe arrival of babies we have prayed for when there have been problems in pregnancy. It is also great to watch women getting excited about studying God's Word."

Helen Douglas
Mum's Daytime Study Group

"A woman who fears the LORD is to be praised."
Proverbs 31:30

"In May the BMS action Team, led by our own David Stansfield, were inspiring as they related to us their time in India."

Margaret Henry
Ladies Evening Fellowship

"I took you from the ends of the earth, from its farthest corners I called you. I said, 'You are my servant'; I have chosen you and have not rejected you."
Isaiah 41:9

"NOT getting promoted this year was fantastic. The division above us is too good for us!"

Angus Douglas
Tabs Football Team

"Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith which God has given you."
Romans 12:3

Looking Back: The 434 Fund

“None amongst them had any need.” Acts 4:34

Following the Gift Day in 2009 we were able to set up the 434 fund as a reserve to meet members' needs in times where their finances were stretched. Tim Hackett reminded the Church Meeting that this had been suggested in Pastor Roger's vision statement in 2008, and with the worldwide financial crisis happening and recession on the horizon, some members might find themselves in need of a little help. Following the close of the Gift Day we were delighted to find that over £9,500 had been donated to the fund.

During 2009 £1,802 was given to members as gifts to meet specific needs. From helping a new mum with the expense surrounding the arrival of a baby to a retired member who needed help with transport costs; from an unemployed member who had a bill they couldn't meet to someone who was ill and needed their central heating boiler repaired, the money has been used to try and ensure that we look after those who need a helping hand at the moment.

The biggest problem with the fund has been trying to get people to accept the help on offer! However, there is no need to feel uncomfortable about asking for help from the fund. It is not the intention of the scheme to cause discomfort to anyone and all requests for help will be kept strictly confidential. If we are to live as a fully functioning biblical community we need to change our understanding of how we handle money. This is not “our money” or “your money” or even the “church's money” that is being used. This is God's money and His desire is that we use it to be a community which reflects more fully His love for us.

If you want to give into the 434 fund, please speak to Jon Morse, the treasurer. If you need to access the fund, or know someone who could use some extra help, please speak to Pastor Roger.

Looking Sideways:

Around the Union in 2009

Tab's has always taken seriously its responsibility as a member of the Baptist Union of Great Britain. We always send delegates to the annual assembly and take part in the governance of the Union nationally and locally. We take seriously the financial commitment we have to Home Mission and the BMS, and twice in the last 15 years BUGB's President has come from Tab's! But what has been going on this year?

- Attendance is UP, but membership is DOWN. Throughout the last decade Sunday attendance at Baptist Churches has risen by 3½%, but these new worshipers are not committing themselves to membership. Membership is DOWN by 7% in the same period
- The number of teenagers attending churches has RISEN, but the number of young adults and children under 14 has DROPPED.
- Although MORE people are attending church, baptisms across the denomination has FALLEN by 25% in 6 years.
- The average attendance for a worshipper at a Baptist Church has changed from 1 service each week to 1 service every 2.5 weeks in the last decade.

These figures from around the Union fairly represent what is happening at Tab's too. People want to worship and feel part of what is going on, without the commitment of baptism or membership. As you pray for the church each day, please pray about these figures... and ask God about your own commitment to Tabernacle. Is NOW the time that YOU should be baptised or become a member?

Looking Ahead: Tent Mission 2010



Roll Up! Roll Up! Roll Up! On the weekend of 16th-19th July you are invited to join us in our big top on the Penarth cliff top near Cioni's cafe as we hold the "Big God Tent Weekend". Over those three days Tabernacle Baptist Church will be holding a series of events and activities for the whole community and you are warmly invited to join us... either as a visitor to one of the events or as a volunteer.

Each evening there will be worship events ranging from a traditional 'Songs of Praise' led by a combined churches brass band, through to a contemporary service called 'The Sanctuary'. Here the lights get turned down and the guitars get turned up as a band leads us in modern songs, drama, video and interactive prayer.

On Sunday morning Tabernacle will be holding its main morning service in the tent at 10.30am. However, it's not all about worship services: a kid's club, 24 hour prayer and prayer for healing, an art exhibition, a tea-dance, a display of community involvement by the churches of Penarth, fun activities for all the family, 'beer and hymns' and many other events will fill the tent from early morning though to the evening. We need your help to make this event a success: your prayer, your financial giving, your time and your gifts and talents will all be gratefully accepted! Please speak to Sarah Mayer or Carol Humphreys for more details of how you can get involved.

Financial Summary

(For the year ending 31st December 2009)

During the year ending 31/12/09 Tabernacle received £218,569 in income. This was made up of £18,710 restricted for particular projects and £199,859 of general income available to spend as needed for church ministry and maintenance. This is shown in figure 1. In the previous year (2008) we had received £15,000 in loans for the renovation work on the manse, and an additional £15,000 in loans during the current year (2009).

During the same period we spent a total of £232,414. £55,645 was spent on activities for which 'restricted' funds were given, the majority of which was the Manse renovation project. The whole project was funded in full by the Gift Day 2008 and with short term loans.

£176,769 was spent on church ministry and maintenance which is shown in figure 2. This meant that during the year we had a surplus of £23,090 in general funds.

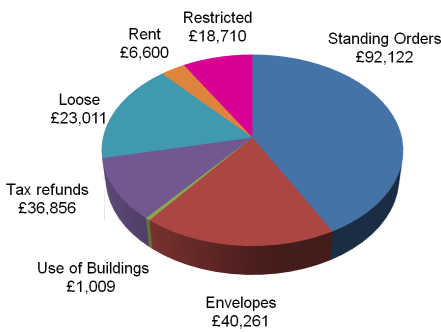


Fig. 1

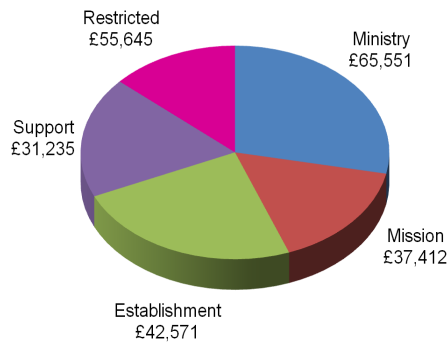


Fig. 2

Bank/Cash Balances @ December 31st 2009:

Current Account	£9,777
Deposit Account	£43,456
Manse Account	£150
Petty cash	£50
	<u>53,433</u>

Loans Outstanding @ December 31st 2009:

Manse Renovations	<u>£20000</u>
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A full copy of the audited accounts are available on request, and can also be found on the members notice board and on the church website at www.tabspenarth.org.uk/downloads

Membership Matters

The major change in the membership this year came as a result of the revision of the membership roll following the March 2009 Church Meeting. At that meeting we talked about how we could make membership more meaningful and how we could emphasise the responsibilities and privileges of membership. More and more people are choosing to worship at the church without committing themselves to membership (see "Looking Sideways" on page 3 of this report). Pastor Roger asked why people would consider membership meaningful when there were so many people on the list who never came to services? There was also an issue of integrity to deal with.

For many years Tabs has been listed in the Baptist Union directory as the largest Baptist Church in the Association. However, the numbers published each year simply did not reflect the actual level of attendance. Pastor Roger was keen to see that put right.

As a result of long and sometimes painful conversation 42 names were transferred from the active members list to the 'Friends List'. Some of those whose names were removed had not been in church at all for 8 years... and we discovered one member had moved away and then passed away a decade ago without us being informed!

A further 11 names were removed from the membership for various

reasons. Most of them were removed because the members had either moved away from the area or started attending another church. One member, Laban Sadler, died during the year.

18 new people were received into membership during the year, 6 by baptism and 12 transferred to us from other churches. This means that at the end of 2009 our membership stood at 284. This was DOWN 35 members on the previous year, but would have been an increase of 7 had we not undertaken the revision of the membership roll. It should be noted that whilst Sunday attendance is rising, many of those who join us for worship still do not choose to take up membership.