

# the : tablet

## tabernacle : penarth

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



Volume 2: Issue 2. May 2010

## Safe and Sound

Safeguarding children and vulnerable people at Tabs

Every year at the AGM we recommit ourselves to our child protection policy. This policy is designed to keep all children and young people in our care safe, and also protect those who work with them by providing clear guidelines for good practice and safe working. This subject is important enough that we think it is worth reminding ourselves of some of the key points in this month's edition of 'The Tablet'.

During April Tabernacle organised a morning on the subject of child protection for all the Churches of Penarth. At that meeting the police officers with responsibility for public protection in the South Wales area spoke to us about their work, and how we can work together to ensure the safety of all those whom we have a responsibility for. One of the officers pointed out that in many places child protection policies and awareness have made it difficult for sex offenders to get access to children. As a result some of them have shifted their attention to other vulnerable groups such as the elderly, those with learning difficulties or the physically disabled. Any safeguarding policy should therefore include ALL vulnerable people in our church, and in the near future the leadership will be looking at the Baptist Union policy called 'Safe from Harm' which looks at some of these areas. This document will be brought to the Church Meeting for consideration in due course.

The commitment we make annually at our AGM is:

"As members of this church, we commit ourselves to the nurturing,

protection and safekeeping of all, especially children and young people. It is the responsibility of each one of us to prevent the physical, sexual and emotional abuse of children and young people, and to report any abuse discovered or suspected.

We recognise that our work with children and young people is the responsibility of the whole church. We undertake to exercise proper care in the selection and appointment of those working with children and young people, whether paid or volunteer.

The church is committed to supporting, resourcing and training those who work with children and young people, and to providing supervision. The church is committed to following the Home Office Code of Practice 'Safe from Harm' and adopts the guidelines and procedures published by the Baptist Union of Great Britain in its publication 'Safe to Grow' (revised edition). Each worker with children and young people must know the recommendations, and undertake to observe them. Each shall be given a copy of the church's agreed procedures and Good Practice guidelines."

"Safe to Grow" is currently undergoing a revision, and the new edition will be available later on this summer. The current policy is available in the resource room or from the Church Office. Our explanatory policy document called 'Safe and Sound' is available from the rack in the church lounge, from the church office, and can be downloaded on the church website in the "About Us - Policy Documents" section. If you would like any further information about safeguarding issues or have a concern, please speak to Ann Niblett who acts as our "Designated person".

### COMING SOON

**Sunday Morning: 10.30 am**  
**Sunday, May 9th**

Devoted to Fellowship  
Acts 2:42-47

**Sunday, May 16th**

Powerful in Ministry  
Acts 3:1-10

**Sunday, May 23rd**

**Pentecost Sunday**

Effective in Witnessing  
Acts 2:1-13

**Sunday, May 30th**

Series: Every member  
an evangelist!

What is the Gospel?

Luke 4:14-30

**Sunday, June 6th**

Family Time Team

**Sunday, June 13th**

How to Share the Gospel

Luke 4:31-44

**Sunday, June 20th**

Who are called to be  
evangelists?

Luke 5:1-11

**Sunday Evening: 6.00 pm**

**Sunday, May 9th**

The Body of Christ

1 Cor 12:12-31

**Sunday, May 16th**

The Greatest Way—Love

1 Cor 13:1-13

**Sunday, May 23rd**

Speaking Gifts

1 Cor 14:1-25

**Sunday, May 30th**

Orderly Worship

1 Cor 14:26-40

**Sunday, June 6th**

The Resurrection of Christ

1 Cor 15:1-11

**Sunday, June 13th**

Resurrection of the Dead

1 Cor 15:12-34

**Sunday, June 20th**

Resurrection of the body

1 Cor 15:35-58

# 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 reflect on the Annual General Church Meeting

**For many people Annual General Meetings conjure up memories of long boring reports, detailed finance accounts, questions about minutiae of constitutional proceedings and cantankerous debates. Thank God that our AGM is nothing like that! Set in the context of prayer and worship our AGM is an opportunity to reflect on God's goodness over the last year with thanksgiving and look forward to what He has in store for us in the next twelve months.**

In terms of finances Jon Morse was able to report that God has been faithful to us, and members have been generous in their giving. We finished the year with a surplus of approximately £23,000 over and above our expenditure. This was after paying for new carpets and the repairs to the front of the building. Additionally we have 'ring fenced' money in the bank accounts for the 434 Fund and youth work projects. This surplus will enable us to pay off the loans that were taken out to renovate the Manse earlier than anticipated, and undertake some extra work. It will also enable us to simply give away a significant amount of money. If you have a suggestion for where we might donate money this year, please speak to the treasurer. However, the fact that we have a surplus is NOT a reason to reduce

your giving! This year Sara Redwood will return to work from maternity leave, and we want to look seriously at adding an assistant pastor to the staff team which will add to the church's staffing costs. There are also some major items of expenditure on the horizon as the data projector comes



towards the end of its life and we look at installing a fire protection system in the building.

Following the finance report the elders gathered on the platform to thank the Church for their partnership this year, and to thank all those who work so faithfully in the church. John Weaver particularly highlighted the jobs that no-one notices, and pointed out that the only time we realise that this work is needed is when it isn't being done!

The next item on the agenda to be dealt with was the appointment of elders and the election of a deacon. Gwyneth Jones and John Weaver have both completed three years of service as elders, and according to the Church constitution needed to be re-appointed if they were to

serve another three years. Pastor Roger was delighted to announce that after serious thought and consideration both of them were willing to offer themselves for re-appointment. Pastor Roger was also delighted to announce that after many months of meetings, prayers and discussions the name of Julian Haines was being brought to the Meeting as a new elder. All three of these candidates were duly appointed by secret ballot with overwhelming majorities.

One deacon needed to be appointed, and only one candidate had offered to fill this post, so Peter Turner was elected to serve as a deacon and a managing trustee.

The final ballot of the evening was to consider whether the church was willing to recommend Angus and Helen Douglas to go and train as overseas missionaries at the BMS college in Birmingham. At the last Church Meeting they had shared their sense of calling and asked the church to pray for them. In order to train they needed a formal commendation from the church to the BMS, which we voted to provide, again with an overwhelming majority.

The final item of business was to recommit ourselves to our Child Protection policy, and Ann Niblett led us through this corporate act of dedication. The meeting closed as it had begun with a time of prayer and worship as we committed ourselves once again to one another and to Christ for the coming year.

# Role of Deacons

Fairly early in the life of the Church, the followers of Jesus ran into a problem: managing a large and growing church is time consuming, and it can be distracting for those who are called to preach and pray (see Acts 6 for details). As a result they appointed 7 people to take care of the day to day pastoral needs of the fellowship & the administration of the ministry. The role of deacons is essentially the same today! It is to serve the church and ensure that it runs smoothly, and to assist the elders and pastors in such a way that they are released to concentrate on the ministries that God has called them to. One of the main tasks of the AGM is to consider and elect people to serve as deacons. Below is a list of those who have been appointed to this role, and a brief description of their jobs:

## **FINANCE**

### **Jon Morse**

Responsibility for all matters pertaining to income and expenditure and on financial matters generally; to prepare and present budgets annually; to promote and administer covenants and Gift Aid; to ensure the provision of up to date accounts and arrange audit; to administer loans when necessary, insurance and the church payroll and to be responsible for other financial dealings of the Church.

## **PROPERTY**

### **Peter Turner**

Responsibility for the maintenance, repair and improvements to all Church property.

## **EVANGELISM**

### **Carol Humphreys**

Responsibility for the outreach programme for the church.

## **GLOBAL MISSION**

### **Jeanette Minns**

Responsibility for stimulating interest and action throughout the fellowship in supporting mission both in the UK and overseas. It includes the recognition of candidates for ministry and mission training, their on-going support as required and advising short term mission workers.

## **SMALL GROUPS**

### **Angus Douglas**

Responsibility for overseeing the running and administration of the Small Groups system within the church, working alongside Cedric and Helen Longville who act as facilitators

## **WORSHIP**

### **Richard Jackson**

Responsibility for all aspects of Sunday and weekday worship from the practical to the spiritual.

## **CHURCH CENTRE**

### **Mary Dyas**

Responsibility for all general administration matters of the Church including liaison with BUGB, church correspondence, distribution of information, maintenance of membership roll, Trust and constitutional matters, Church meeting annotated agenda and minutes, liaison with the caretaker, all staff matters, use of Church Centre, reprographics, bookstall, publicity, security, catering, health and safety matters and the Annual Report.

## **CHYPBOARD**

### **Tim Hollinshead**

Responsibility for Sunday and weekday programmes for children and young people to 21 years. This includes nurture and discipleship of young Christians.

Full copies of a leaflet called 'Responsibilities of Leaders' can be found in the racks in the lounge.



In the first week of August this year a large group of people from Tabernacle will be travelling to Shepton Mallet in Somerset to attend New Wine 2010. This massive conference is a chance to get together with 1,000s of other Christians for worship, teaching and fellowship and, over recent years, has been a life-changing experience for a number of people from Tabernacle. Although the deadline for discounted places has now passed, there are still spaces for those who wish to make a late booking. The festival is hosted under canvas so you need to be able to camp for the week with your own tent but with ample shower and WC facilities on site and catering facilities in the central area, it is generally not too arduous...providing it doesn't rain too hard! If you would like to make a late booking to join the group going from Tabernacle please speak to Gemma Humphreys or Pastor Roger as soon as possible.

## **434 FUND**

The Pastor would like to remind members of Tabernacle of the existence of the 434 Fund. We have monies in reserve in the church bank account to assist members who may be experiencing financial difficulty. Scriptures say that the early church in the book of Acts had none amongst them with any need and we would like to try and copy their example. If you are aware of somebody in the congregation who could use a little extra financial help at this time, or if you yourself are in some difficulty, please speak to Pastor Roger in confidence and he will make every effort to assist you.

## Did you know...

In August this year three of our young women, Bea Owen, Fi Adams and Jordan Goddard will be travelling to Uganda together with Sian Owens as Team Leader. They will be visiting the Hope Land Project in Jinja and helping out whilst they are there.

The team will be fundraising over the next couple of months and you can help with this by supporting the events that have been organised.

Saturday, May 15th—coffee morning at 36 Victoria Road, Penarth

Saturday, 29th May—quiz night

Saturday, June 12th—film afternoon for children

Saturday, June 26th—Scrabble evening

Saturday, July 10th— film night for adults

Saturday, July 24th—‘Tabs Has Talent’!

Wii games night—date to confirmed

For further details about all these events and how you can join in, speak to one of the Uganda Team or Jeanette Minns

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## Healing Course

Pastor Roger will be conducting healing ministry training on Saturday 15th May and 10th July. Starting at 9.30 am and finishing at 4.00 pm. Drinks provided, bring your own lunch.

The June date will include a large chunk of practical training as we take the healing team into the town centre to do ‘Healing on the Street’, so some courage will also be needed!

## Rejoicing!

Congratulations to Allan and Claire Rennie on the birth of their son Ewan Andrew, a brother for Thomos.



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## Congratulations! ...

to Helen & Angus Douglas who have been accepted by the BMS for training at the Baptist Overseas Missions College in Birmingham. Their commendation was approved at the Tabernacle church meeting on 26th April.

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## GIFT DAY 2010

Between Easter and Pentecost every year Tabernacle holds a Gift period to allow members to give a financial gift towards a specific large scale project. This year any money raised during this time will go towards the tent mission in July.

Originally the plan had been to borrow a tent and hold the event fairly inexpensively, but this plan soon ran into problems! The first major problem was that the tent on offer was far too small. Secondly, modern Health and Safety regulations made it difficult to have a group of volunteers put up a borrowed tent and still get an event licence and insurance. To do it properly we needed to hire a professional company.

Add to that flooring, lights, sound equipment, generators, wiring and a host of other equipment needs, and pretty soon you are looking at a large bill! As a result we are asking you to seek God and give generously to this evangelistic effort. 3 days of celebrations will be followed up in the Autumn and at Christmas with more special events where we will introduce the people of Penarth to Jesus. Please help make this vision a reality with your generous giving. Gift envelopes are available in Church.

## Baptisms



Since the last edition of ‘The Tablet’ we have rejoiced at the baptism of three people at Tabernacle. On 14th March Sarah Bailey was baptised, and then on Easter Evening (4th April) Stephanie Leech and Gareth Humphreys were both baptised

On the Bank Holiday weekend of 30th May Matt Baird will be baptised at Tabernacle. Please make every effort to attend the service to support Matt and to worship God as we receive a new member into the Body of Christ.

If you are considering believer’s baptism and would like to talk to someone about it, please contact Pastor Roger.

## 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.



## Masterlife

Masterlife is a major course lasting 6 months designed to help new and mature Christians grow in their faith and discipleship.

This course was run at Tabs many years ago, and we are hoping to start it again in the autumn. If you are interested in making a commitment to this course, or if you have already done the course and would like to be a leader on the new course, please speak to Pastor Roger.

The course is divided into 4 sections. There is a cost to cover materials of £8 per section or £24 for the whole course.