



# September 2013

## Wot's On ?

**At Dursley Tabernacle.** [www.dursleytab.org.uk](http://www.dursleytab.org.uk)

Mon 30 Aug Men's Group Cycle Ride please contact Dennis on Dursley 542807 or email [dennis.allen@talktalk.net](mailto:dennis.allen@talktalk.net) for details.

**Sun 1 Sep 10.30am Communion Service with Thanksgiving for Isla Jelf and dedication of her parents – led by Rev Simon Helme.** Theme: The story of Moses: Rescue and Run. Readings: Exodus 2.1-25; Romans 12.1- 8  
6pm Church Membership Meeting for anyone interested in becoming a member at the Tab.

Tue 3 Sep 9.30am Prayer Group meet in the church.

Wed 4 Sep 10 – 1pm Family Café held in the church.

**Sun 8 Sep 10.30am Family Worship led by Rev Simon Helme, including a report by Jo Helme on her work in Nicaragua** Theme: The story of Moses: Holy Ground. Readings: Exodus 3.1-15; Romans 12.9-21

Tue 10 Sep 9.30am Prayer Group meet in the church, all are welcome.

Wed 11 Sep 10 – 1pm Family Café held in the church, helpers needed.

Thu 12 Sep 7.30pm Elders Meeting in the Parsonage.

**Sun 15 Sep 10.30am Family Worship led by Rev Simon Helme, followed by Church Meeting** Theme: The story of Moses: Sacrificial Lamb. Readings: Exodus 12.1-14; Romans 13.8-14

Tue 17 Sep 9.30am Prayer Group meet in the church.

Tue 17 Sep 2pm Women's Guild meet in the church, with the speaker Rev Arthur Williams all are welcome.

Wed 18 Sep 10 – 1pm Family Café in the church.

Thu 19 Sep 7.30pm 'Fishing course' – How to share your faith - Part One

**Fri 20 Sep 7.00-11pm Harvest Barn Dance in the Church** – with a live band, Peterfolk, a Christian band from Gloucester, a ploughman's supper and a bar! Tickets £7.50, family tickets available.

**Sun 22 Sep 10.30am Harvest Thanksgiving led by Rev Simon Helme,** Theme: Everlasting Love. Readings: Psalm 136.1-9; Philippians 4.10-20

Tue 24 Sep 9.30am Prayer Group meet in the church.

Wed 25 Sep 10-1pm Family Café in the church.

**Sat 28 Sep 9.30am – 11.30am Coffee Morning hosted by the Men's Group,** cakes, fruit and other suitable items for the stalls would be appreciated.

**Sun 29 Sep 10.30am Family Worship led by Rev Simon Helme.** Theme: The story of Moses: The Great Escape. Readings: Exodus 14.19-31; Romans 14.1-12

**Sat 5 Oct 7 – 9 pm 'Chamber Concert'. Tickets £5 each.**

## FLOWERS FOR AUGUST WERE KINDLY GIVEN BY:-

Aug 4 Joan Kingham,  
Aug 18 No Service

Aug 11 Anne Noden,  
Aug 25 Hilary Green.

**Sat 21 Sep 10am Donations of flowers and foliage are needed to decorate the church for Harvest Sunday, also flower arrangers and anyone willing to help to decorate the church. Ronnie Harding will be pleased to see you.**

## News of the Church Family

As we head into September, we congratulate Malcolm Harris who celebrates his 80th birthday on the 2nd September. The following day the 3rd September Gill and Vic Watts celebrate their silver wedding anniversary. We send our love and congratulations to them all.

Jan Strutt we hear is feeling stronger and her pain is easier. Joyce Nicholls has been laid up with a bad heel but she is now on the mend. Glyn Goulden is well at present but Gwyneth is suffering from a very painful hip we do miss them from worship but they are always in our thoughts and prayers.

Karen Hall, Aiden and Samuel have now moved to their new home and hope they will be very happy there. Finally we welcome Jo Helme back from Nicaragua. It's great to have her safely home and we look forward to hearing about her adventures.

### **SHARE A PRAYER AND MAKE OUR CHURCH A POWERHOUSE OF PRAYER**

*'Lord Jesus, fill your Church, fill us, with joy and hope and love' (David Temple)*

**Fill us with joy...** the joy of knowing Jesus, the one who was God among us and is with us now by his Holy Spirit; the joy of knowing that we are all members of one body - his Church - loved and precious in his sight.

**Fill us with hope...** the hope that justice and mercy will rule in the hearts of all people; the hope that the chains of fear, oppression, poverty and greed will be broken.

**Fill us with love...** the love for others, that will lead us to share our faith with those who have yet to know the love of God, moving us to witness to the joy and hope within us with sensitivity and respect.

**Fill us with compassion...** as we pray for those known to us who are suffering in body, mind or spirit, both in our church fellowship and in the wider community, seeing them on the screen of our minds and who, in the quietness of our hearts, we lift up to God in trust and acceptance. **Amen.**

## **PRAYER MINISTRY**

Every Sunday morning there is the opportunity to receive prayer ministry at the back of the church after morning worship. Our prayer team has been trained and has been in operation now for a year and offers a confidential listening and prayer service. Many people have been helped and encouraged by having a couple of people with whom they could share concerns, burdens and issues and receive their combined counsel and prayer. If you would prefer to have a private session with some members of the prayer team just ask Simon (tel 07946402954) or Martine (890432) to arrange a visit. We have been asked to pray for healing, especially for those with serious life threatening illnesses, for the blessing of houses and for those who have been disturbed or afraid. We have also taken communion to those who needed to know the presence and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Don't be afraid to ask.

**YERCOMBE LODGE** – which provides long stay, short stay, respite and day care for the disabled, elderly and frail, are looking to recruit new trustees. If you are interested please see Simon or the letter on the church noticeboard.

**'FISHING COURSE' – How to share faith without annoying people. Thursdays 19<sup>th</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Oct, 7.30pm at the Tab**

A short course, linked to the house fellowships, to help you have more confidence in sharing your faith and giving an answer for the hope you have, without being embarrassing, annoying or offensive. Simon Helme and John Palmer will look at what we can say when people ask us about why we go to church, why do we follow the Christian faith. We will also look at how we can offer 'bait' in conversations that give people permission to ask questions about faith. Finally we will look at possible replies to common objections to the Christian faith and belonging to a church. All welcome.

## **Faith and Culture**

During the autumn and winter Simon will offer a series of centrally based meetings looking at the relationship of Faith and Culture.

Faith and Film – 7<sup>th</sup> Nov

Faith and Contemporary Music – 28<sup>th</sup> Nov

Faith and Art – 16<sup>th</sup> Jan

Faith and Literature – 30<sup>th</sup> Jan

Faith and Poetry will be covered on the Church Retreat in October.

More details to follow.

## CHURCH FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

As in previous years, our church house fellowship groups reconvene this month and will meet in people's homes every other week. Groups will usually start in the week beginning 23<sup>rd</sup> September. They are a great way to get to know other people in the church, find new friendships, and also strengthen and encourage your faith and that of others. The meetings are relaxed and informal and accessible to all people at whatever stage of your faith journey you are at.

This year we will be using the Vision 4 Life material the URC brought out a couple of years ago designed to help churches reflect on their faith and become more confident in sharing that faith. The booklet we are using, 'Exploring Evangelism', can be downloaded from the URC website at

<http://www.vision4life.org.uk/index.php/evangelism/>

If you click on the image of the Exploring Evangelism booklet the material will download.

At the time of going to press the following groups are being offered:

<b>TIME</b>	<b>VENUE</b>	<b>LEADER</b>	<b>CONTACT</b>
Monday evening	TBA	Martine Carter	890432
Tuesday evening	10 May Evans Close, Cam	John Palmer	542381
Tuesday evening	Various (mainly young parents)	Heidi Horn	549741
Wednesday afternoon	12 Shelley Rd, Dursley	Shirley Welsh	543549
Wednesday evening	2 Cedar Drive	Peggy Tresise	543161
Thursday afternoon	11 Shakespeare Rd, Dursley	Ronnie Harding	547080

Please contact the leader of the group that you are interested in joining to find out more.

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**Jo Helme, will share in the morning service of September 8th about her recent summer trip to Nicaragua as part of a team with the Peace and Hope Trust.**

She will tell of her experiences of working in some of the country's poorest communities and how it has affected her.

Simon Helme will repeat his recent talk on Human Sexuality at Rodborough Tabernacle URC on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> September at 6pm. The talk will cover issues of gender politics, sex and homosexuality.

### **Dursley Tabernacle's Retreat Holiday**

**14<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> October 2013 Windermere, Cumbria.**

#### **THEME**

Our Main sessions will explore Christian spirituality as expressed through some classic poets. Carole Allen and Simon Helme will look at the Lake Poets Wordsworth and Coleridge, as well as John Donne, George Herbert, Gerard Manley Hopkins and Thomas Traherne, considering some of their 'spiritual works' and reflecting on their cultural and theological contexts, especially the Romantic movement. Simon will also offer morning bible studies on the psalms. Carole will lead morning and evening prayer.

The Director of the Windermere Centre, Lawrence Moore, will also have some input into the programme. He will give two sessions: one on Walter Bruggeman's poetic approach to Biblical interpretation, as expressed in his book, *Finally Comes the Poet*; secondly the singer songwriter Leonard Cohen, "the Poet of Brokenness and Grace".

Afternoons will be free to enjoy the beauty of the Lake District and the autumn colours. Evenings will be opportunities to relax together.

#### **BOOKING INFORMATION**

The retreat will begin at tea time on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2013 and end after breakfast on Friday 18<sup>th</sup>, allowing people plenty of travelling time in daylight hours. Full board accommodation is to be provided at a cost of £234 per person, although a slight discount of £4 per night is available for those prepared to share a room. To book your place on the weekend, please contact Carole Allen with your deposit as soon as possible. Contact her on 01453 542807 or [caroleallen28@gmail.com](mailto:caroleallen28@gmail.com) for more information or if you have concerns about costs.

## **JOHN BELL RETURNS TO DURSLEY TABERNACLE - NOVEMBER 2<sup>ND</sup> AND 3<sup>RD</sup> 2013**

### **'FOR ALL THE SAINTS'**

John Bell, from the Iona Community came and shared with us at Dursley Tab in 2008. Now five years later he will return to share with us over the weekend in which the Church celebrates All Souls and All Saints. The theme will be '*For All The Saints*'. With John's extensive experience and travels around the world he will share some stories of how the Global Church is responding to the issues of the world. He will share how the Saints of God are campaigning for justice, working alongside the poor, making a difference in their localities, sharing good news, reshaping faith, forming community, being disciples of Christ in different contexts.

### **Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> November**

The afternoon will feature two seminars and in the evening a Big Sing. *If there is enough demand we may be able to provide paid child care for the Saturday afternoon sessions. Please contact us as soon as possible if you would appreciate this provision as we will require a clear idea of the number of children, their ages and requirements if we are to provide appropriate care.*

2pm                    RECEIVING GIFTS FROM STRANGERS - a reflection on what the affluent Western church has to gain from the experience of Christians across the globe.

3.45pm              RE-IMAGINING GOD'S PEOPLE - looking at the biblical pigmies and giants through different lenses.

5-7pm                *Break*

7pm                    SATURDAY EVENING BIG SING: SINGING WITH THE WORLD CHURCH ...songs from many countries all suited to British voices.

### **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November**

10.30am            SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP - John will preach

6pm                    SUNDAY EVENING BIG SING: THE COUNTER CULTURAL NATURE OF THE CHURCH'S SONG ....examples old and new.

*There is no charge for these events – but an offertory will be taken to cover costs. It should be a fantastic weekend. Book it in your diary now.*

## Rotas for September 2013

Please swap any duty you are unable to do and inform Liz of any changes.  
Many thanks.

Duty	1 <sup>st</sup> September	8 <sup>th</sup> September	15 <sup>th</sup> September	22 <sup>nd</sup> September	29 <sup>th</sup> September
Duty Elder	Hilary Green	Ronnie Harding	Shirley Welsh	Hilary Green	Ronnie Harding
Vestry Elder	Carole/Dennis Allen	Rod Irvine	Jan Strutt	Liz Swanwick	David Pritchard
First Reading	Michael Weedon	Hazel Harris	Rod Irvine	John Harris	Rod Irvine
2nd Reading	Gwyn Goulden	Gill Watts	Zoe Avastu	Gwyn Goulden	Shirley Welsh
Door Duty	Eric Murray Farida Barnes	Gloria & Mike Pritchard	Enid Fullard Ronnie Harding	Eric Murray Farida Barnes	Lita & Ron Heathman
Audio Desk	Lionel Jones	Carole/ Dennis Allen	Lionel Jones	Andy Spears	Lionel Jones
Flower Distribution	Peggy Tresise	Enid Fullard	Hilary Green	Carol Bye	Ronnie Harding
Welcome Team	David Pritchard Chris Purnell Peggy Tresise	Kathryn & John Palmer	Helene Dalrymple Carole Bye Malcolm Harris	Shirley & Matt Welsh Ronnie Harding	Martine Carter Hilary Green Iain Hearn
Prayer Team	Peggy Tresise Elaine Jones	Kathryn & John Palmer	Jackie Pritchard Julie Perrin	Martine Carter Hilary Green	Martine Carter Hilary Green
Flower Arranging	Sally Lavis	Diana Baldwin	HARVEST FESTIVAL EVERYONE NEEDED	Veronica Harding	Christina Bye

Communion Preparation 1st September: Audrey Stewart

Communion Servers:

Rod Irvine, Kathryn Palmer, David Pritchard, Jan Strutt

