

December 2012

Wot's On

at Dursley Tabernacle URC

www.dursleytab.org.uk

Sun 2 Dec 10.30am Advent Sunday Communion Service led by Revd Simon Helme

Theme: God comes to Mary. Readings: Jeremiah 33. 14-16; Luke 1. 26-56

2.30pm-4.30pm Dursley Tabernacle Friends' Group invite you to an Advent Afternoon Tea Party with tea and cakes. Admission £1.50p Hope to see you there.

Fury Group Christmas Crafts.

Tue 4 Dec 9.30am Prayer Group meet in the church.

Wed 5 Dec 10-1pm Family Café in the main sanctuary of the Tabernacle. Helpers needed.

Fri 7 Dec 9am Fabric Panel meet to work on church premises.

Fri 7 Dec 7.30pm Gloster Gallery Quire Christmas Concert for Tab Funds. (Details inside)

Sun 9 Dec 10.30am Second Sunday in Advent led by Revd Simon Helme followed by Church

Meeting Theme: God comes to Bethlehem. Readings: Malachi 3.1-4; Luke 2.1-7

Fury Group Cinema Trip.

Mon 10 Dec 7.30pm Men's Group Christmas meal at the San Remo Restaurant opposite Tab.

Tue 11 Dec 9.30am Prayer Group meet in the church everyone is welcome.

Tue 11 Dec 2pm Women's Guild Tea-Carols, Readings and Mrs Edna Mellerup

Wed 12 Dec 10-1pm Family Café in the main sanctuary of the Tabernacle. Helpers needed.

Wed 12 Dec 7.30pm Elders Meeting in the Upper Hall.

Thu 13 Dec 7.30pm Cotswold Chorus Christmas Concert (details inside)

Fri 14 Dec 9am Fabric Panel meet to work on church premises

Sat 15 Dec 9.30 am -11.30am Christmas Coffee Morning with cooked breakfasts, and other delicious goodies to tempt the taste buds. Stalls include Christmas cake stall, holly and mistletoe, a raffle, a Gift stall with fresh table decorations. Entrance £1.00 includes coffee.

Sun 16 Dec 10.30am Third Sunday in Advent led by Revd Simon Helme

Theme : God comes to the shepherds. Readings: Zephaniah; Luke 2.8-21

Fury Group Christmas Party.

Tue 18 Dec 9.30am Prayer Group meet in the church.

Tue 18 Dec 7.30pm Open Door Christmas Carol Service

Wed 19 Dec 10-1pm Family Café in the main sanctuary of the Tabernacle. Helpers needed.

Fri 21 Dec 9am Fabric Panel meet to work on church premises.

Sun 23 Dec 10.30am Nativity Service led by Rev Simon Helme and the Junior Church

Readings: Micah 5.2-5a; Luke 2.22-38

6pm Service of Lessons and Carols followed by seasonal refreshments in Upper Hall

Mon 24 Dec Christmas Eve 5.00pm Service around the Tree

11.30pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at the Quarry Chapel

Tue 25 Dec 10am Christmas Day Morning United Service at Dursley Methodist Church.

Sun 30 Dec 10.30am Family Service led by Rev Simon Helme

Theme: God comes to the wise men. Readings: Isaiah 60.1-6; Matthew 2.1-23

Mon 31 Dec from 8.30pm in the church. New Year's Eve Party – (Details inside)

A CHURCH CHRISTMAS CARD will be on the remembrance table at the front of the church.

Please sign it if you wish to do so. Money in lieu of postage will be given to Christian Aid.

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A CHURCH MEMBER? To find out more speak to Simon – 542344.

WE THANK THOSE WHO KINDLY GAVE THE FLOWERS FOR NOVEMBER :-

Nov 4 Debbie Helme **Nov 11** Hilary Green **Nov 18** Joan Whiting **Nov 25** Martine Carter

Thanks to all who arranged the flowers, and to those who kindly delivered them.

Share a Prayer, and make Dursley Tab a powerful prayer base.

Please pray for the following items in the coming month:

1. "Pray for the people who come to our church with their vouchers to collect from the Food Bank. As it nears the special time of advent and the Christmas story it also is a worrying time for families who are not able to supply even the basic food for their tables. We pray that their situations may be eased.
2. Pray for the Youth Centre Partnership Agreement which is between Dursley Tabernacle and the Dursley Town Council, We pray that the agreement will soon be signed and that the architect can progress the plans for the alterations for the Dursley Youth Club.
3. Pray for those people who live in the troubled areas in the Gaza strip, Israel and Palestine. Adjoining countries such as Syria and Jordan are also affected by these troubles. May the leaders chose to negotiate their complex situation with each other rather than to escalate the tension and violence."

Food Bank: Please keep bringing your items for the Food Bank where the need is ever increasing. They are very grateful for all your help.

News of the church family

Our minister and family move to the new manse in Windsor Road early this month, and we pray they will be very happy there. They have had an anxious time in recent weeks because of the serious illness of Debbie's brother-in-law. He is still quite ill, and we remember him in our prayers.

Glyn Goulden, after a stay in hospital is now home but still has further chemotherapy.

Jan Strutt is still very poorly, but has been able to eat a little more food, and is as always, so positive and bright.

Ron Heathman has also been unwell. We hope he will be feeling a lot better soon.

It has been good to see **Eileen Denning** in church again. We hope she will be sensible and take care.

Audrey Stewart had yet another cancellation of her planned hip operation. It is now fixed for December 13th. We do hope it will happen this time, and go well.

Ken Bloodworth has now moved to Stinchcombe Manor Nursing Home, and **Doris Biddle** has now moved to The Grange, at Eastington.

Margaret Pengelly has a little throat operation on December 3rd.

Peter Strange has now moved to a Nursing Home in Leicestershire, which is near to his son.

It was good to see **Joan Goulding** back in church but we were sorry that she was taken ill recently during the service, and we hope to hear better news of her soon.

Peggy Tresise is looking much better recently.

Dilys Morgan is also back with us and feeling much better too.

Jean Jukes had better news recently after tests, she has been told she should be able to have her much needed hip operation in January. We hope so too, as we have missed her from our worship.

How good to hear **Tarina's** good news. It was also good to see **Anne Easey** in church.

We think of all these friends and remember them in our prayers.

Congratulation and good wishes to Mabel Lucas who will be 100 years old on December 12th. Mabel is our oldest member, now living in The Hollies and Gill & Vic visit her every week. We hope she will be well enough to enjoy her special day.

TAB NEW YEARS'S EVE PARTY Last year we held our first church New Year's Eve Party and it was a roaring success! We had about 80 people there of all ages and we had heaps of fun. Many people came apprehensive that a church party would be boring – usual prejudice towards church events! Everyone went home believing it was the best party in town! The same ingredients this year will include disco, Zumba, barn dances, quizzes, games, entertainment, auld lang syne and conga down the town, etc. Bring some food and drink to share and be prepared to pitch in with help needed especially clearing up. If you have a turn (song, poem, jokes, sketch etc) then please see Simon. Start from 8.30pm - going on until after midnight of course!

Dates for your diaries

Tue 4 Dec 7.30pm St George's Church, Upper Cam Churches Together in Cam and Dursley
International tax justice: why tax dodging hurts the poor

A talk by Christian Aid Senior Public Policy Advisor Helen Collinson. Developing countries lose \$160 billion every year in tax revenues that are rightly theirs – a sum that is one and a half times the entire global aid budget. Christian Aid tax campaign expert Helen Collinson explains why tax haven secrecy is keeping the poor in poverty and how Christian Aid is campaigning for tax transparency. Persuading multinational companies to pay their dues in the developing world would help poor countries to help themselves.

Fri 7 Dec 7.30pm. Gloster Gallery Quire Following two successful appearances at the Tabernacle the Gloster Gallery Quire in their quaint



costumes and period instruments are returning for another Christmas programme of music and prose. Cost £7.00 including mulled wine and mince pies. Tickets available from Gloria and Mike Pritchard and Ron Swanwick. Make a note in your diary.

Thurs 13th Dec at 7.30pm. Cotswold Chorus Carol Concert in the Tabernacle

Guest Artistes are St Josephs School Choir Nympsfield. Tickets from members or on Door £6 Accompanied children under 12 free. To include seasonal refreshments.

TABERNACLE CHURCH FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

Fellowship groups are now about half way through the Genesis material, but it is still possible to join a group. As all the groups are following the same material it is possible to swap and change around if you miss a session or if you feel that the time/venue/composition of your group is no longer suiting your needs. The original plan was to meet in a set venue and at a set time on the first and third weeks of each month, but inevitably some of the groups have special arrangements to change venues or times because of the personal circumstances of leaders or group members.

It is always wise to ring the contact number in advance if you are planning to attend a group for the first time, or after a period of absence.

Monday Evening

Martine Carter **890432**

Venue varies

Wednesday Afternoon

Shirley Welsh **543549**

2.30pm at 12 Shelley Road, Dursley. Led alternately by Joan Symes and Shirley

Wednesday Evening

Carole and Dennis Allen **542807**

8pm at 18 Knapp Lane, Cam.

Wednesday Eve

Peggy Tresise **543161** and Jan & Gray Strutt

Meeting in Cedar Drive, Dursley.

Thursday Afternoon

Helene Dalrymple **549209** Ronnie Harding **547080**

2pm at 11 Tilnor Crescent, Norman Hill.

Thursday Evening

Hannah Jelf **548367** Heidi Horn **549741**

Venue varies. Hannah will soon be going on maternity leave and is now being ably supported by Heidi as necessary. We offer Hannah, Adrian and baby Jelf all our love at this time.

Any general questions or concerns, please call Carole on 542807.

Genesis Live! During autumn most groups have been looking at the book of Genesis and the great biblical themes it covers. Linked with the house groups there will also be monthly, Thursday evening, church based, minister led discussions:

Thursday 31st January – To Dust You Shall Return – Loss, grief and coming to terms with our mortality.

Friends at Christmas

Now it is November, we are getting ready for this year's Friends at Christmas. Each year, we host between 30-40 guests who are alone at Christmas, and about 30 volunteers pull together to provide transport, food and entertainment from **11am - 4pm on Christmas Day and Boxing Day. The Methodist Church provides a lovely venue, and guests come from Cam, Dursley and Uley.** Local funders provide about £500 for the event, gifts are collected in the local churches, and pies, cakes and trifles are donated from many sources.

This cheerful community event is enjoyed by guests and volunteers alike, in the true spirit of Christmas.

If you would like to get involved as guest or volunteer, baker, gift collector or funder, then please contact Indigo Redfern on 01453 547032 or email indigo.redfern@gmail.com.

Dursley Tabernacle's Church Family Weekend Away

28th to 30th June 2013

Sheldon, Dartmoor

BOOKING INFORMATION

Next June we are planning to return to the Sheldon Centre for our church family weekend. Those who went last year will tell you there is something for everyone. The centre has lovely grounds to walk in and many quiet places, but it's also great for children with lots of adventures and games to be had. It's close to the beach (as last year's pictures will testify...!) and also to the attractions of Dartmoor. Tour the premises by looking at their website www.sheldon.uk.com or ask around the congregation to hear stories of our time there last summer. The pictures are now certified.

The weekend will be run by ourselves, including the catering, to keep costs as low as possible, but we will be making a few changes in the arrangements from last year due to an increase in costs for the use of the communal room for our meetings. Costs this year are £90 per adult, with no charge for children under 18 who are still in education. There will be no camping option this year.

Accommodation is mainly in twin bedrooms, some of which can have additional mattresses for children and two with extra children's beds on an upstairs deck. There are just a couple of single rooms* and a couple of ground floor rooms. There are 38 beds available with 8 extra mattresses for children. We will all eat together and meet together. The programme is being planned by a team of elders and will include a balance between free time and planned sessions for all ages. We intend to share the load of delivering the weekend by creating teams of people with certain responsibilities. It's a good way to get to know someone!

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 for more information or if you have concerns about costs. Places are offered on a first-come first-served basis, so book early to be sure of a space on the weekend.

**Dursley Tabernacle's Retreat Holiday
14th to 18th October 2013
Windermere, Cumbria.**

BOOKING INFORMATION

This year, by popular request, we are offering another midweek retreat holiday to allow the adult members of our congregation a time for fellowship and reflection together. We have booked the Windermere Centre which is the United Reformed Church's residential training centre located, unsurprisingly, not far from the shore of Windermere in our beautiful Lake District. The centre is close to the local railway station or can be reached from Dursley by car in about four hours, depending on traffic. More information is available on their website which is: www.windermere.urc.org.uk

The retreat will begin at tea time on Monday 14th October 2013 and end after breakfast on Friday 18th, 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. Accommodation for up to 30 people is available in 21 en-suite rooms, with 12 single rooms (2 of which are fully equipped for wheelchair users) 5 twin rooms, 1 double room and 3 triple rooms*. The programme is to be planned by a team of elders and will include a balance between free time and planned sessions.

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 for more information or if you have concerns about costs. Places are offered on a first-come first-served basis, so book early to be sure of a space on the holiday

Advent and Christmas Music

Plans have now been made for the music to be used in worship during the Advent and Christmas season. If you would like information about getting involved please see Carole Allen. Choirs will be required for various services, and a rehearsal of the choir music will take place in church on Thursday 6th December at 10am for those who can attend. Anyone not able to attend this rehearsal can see Carole for music to practise at home, and can then join in a quick run through on the relevant day just before the service.

December Rotas

Please swap any duty you are unable to do and amend the rota in the reception room. Thank you.

Duty	2 nd December	9 th December	16 th December	23 rd December	30 th December
Duty Elder	Martine Carter	Hilary Green	David Pritchard	Ronnie Harding	Rod Irvine
Vestry Elder	Lionel Jones	Martine Carter	Ronnie Harding	Kathryn Palmer	Shirley Welsh
First Reading	Carole Allen	Gordon Moir	Lionel Jones	Terry Larkham	Iain Hearn
Second Reading	Ronnie Harding	Michael Weedon	Victor Watts	Gordon Moir	
Door Duty	Carol Bye Mike Pritchard	Betty Hearn Ronnie Harding	Mary and Michael Weedon	Jean Harris Joan Kingham	Gloria Pritchard Ronnie Harding
Welcome Team	Chris Purnell Carole Bye Malcolm Harris	Kathryn & John Palmer	David Pritchard, Joan Kingham Helene Dalrymple	Chris Purnell, Carol Bye, Malcolm Harris	Shirley, Matt & Ronnie Harding
Flower Distribution	Shirley Welsh	No flowers	No flowers	No flowers	Hazel Harris

December Communion Preparation: Ronnie Harding

Communion Servers: Hilary Green, Rod Irvine, Kathryn Palmer, Shirley Welsh



August **2011**

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