

Wot's On at Dursley Tabernacle URC in February 2013 w.w.w.dursleytab.org.uk

Thu 31 Jan 7.30pm Genesis Live: From dust you came and to dust you will return-reflections on our mortality-a talk by Simon Helme.

Sun 3 Feb Communion Service led by Revd Simon Helme followed by Church Meeting
Theme: God's Call and Promise 1. Abram's call. Reading: Genesis 12.1-9; Matthew 9.9-13
6pm Praise Service led by the Worship group on the theme of Love. All welcome
03/02 Fury Group Crafts Session/Games night + ENERGIZE

Tue 5 Feb 9.30am Prayer Group meet in the reception room.

Wed 6 Feb 10-1pm Family Café in the main sanctuary of the Tabernacle. Helpers needed.

Thu 7 Feb 7.30pm at the new manse, 7a, Windsor road Elders Meeting

Fri 8 Feb 9am Fabric Panel meet to work on church premises.

Sat 9 Feb 9am-12 Youth Centre Public Consultation, Dursley Market Hall

Sun 10 Feb led by Revd Simon Helme Theme: God's Call and Promise 2. Abram and Lot.
Reading: Genesis 13; Romans 4.13-25

10/2 +17/2 HOLIDAY (NO FURY)

Tue 12 Feb 9.30am Prayer Group meet in the reception room, everyone welcome.

Wed 13 Feb 10-1pm Family Café in the main sanctuary of the Tabernacle. Helpers needed.

Fri 15 Feb 9am Fabric Panel meet to work on church premises.

17 Feb First Sunday in Lent led by Revd Simon Helme Theme: God's Call and Promise 3.
God's Promise to Abram. Reading: Genesis 15.1-5; Hebrews 11.1-3, 6-12 **6pm United Lent Service** at Dursley Methodist Church, led by the Bishop of Gloucester

Tue 19 Feb 9.30am Prayer Meeting in the reception room.

Tue 19 Feb 2pm Women's Guild in the church, Speaker – Revd John Palmer 'From Metals to Ministry'. Everyone welcome.

Wed 20 Feb 9am Parenting Course in the Community Rooms.

Wed 20 Feb 10-1pm Family Café in the main sanctuary of the Tabernacle. Helpers needed.

Thu 21 Feb 7.30pm Taking Faith: The God Question – at the Old Spot

Thu 21 Feb 9pm Lent Contemplative Night Prayer in the Parsonage

Sun 24 Feb Second Sunday in Lent led by Rev Simon Helme Theme: God's Call and Promise 4. Abram's new name. Reading: Genesis 17.1-10, 15-16; Mark 8.31-38

6pm United Lent Service at Dursley Methodist Church

24/2 Fury Group Games Night + ENERGIZE

Tue 26 Feb 9.30am Prayer Group meet in the reception room.

Wed 27 Feb 9am Parenting Course in the Community Rooms

Wed 27 Feb 10-1pm Family Café in the main sanctuary of the Tabernacle.

Thu 28 Feb 7.30pm Taking Faith: The Jesus Question – at the Old Spot

Thu 28 Feb 9pm Lent Contemplative Night Prayer in the Parsonage

Sat 2 Mar 9.30am-11.30 SATURDAY COFFEE MORNING HOSTED BY GLORIA & MIKE

PRITCHARD cakes and other items for the stalls and your support on the day appreciated.

Rearranged Church Meeting (due to the weather) Sunday Feb 3rd after morning worship. The agenda will include the church budget and financial statement, youth work report and update on youth centre and upper hall developments, worship and mission plans.

THANKS TO THOSE WHO KINDLY GAVE THE FLOWERS FOR JANUARY:-

Jan 6 Gill & Vic Watts, Jan 13 Sally Lavis.

Jan 20 Mrs Nella Wintle Jan 27 Jean & Charles Jukes.

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:

Pray for our members who have been ill, those with chest infections and gastric bugs.

Pray for those who have become housebound due to bad weather that they will soon be able to go out again.

Pray for peace in our troubled world, for Northern Ireland to find the right way forward to solving their differences, for Mali in Africa and pray for the Algerian Gas Plant victims. Pray for peace to come for the people of Syria in the Middle East where conflict has caused so many fatalities among the innocent population.

Pray for the Dursley and District Churches Together who are organising

The Lent Groups in February. That volunteers to host, and others to lead a group. Pray that people will come forward so making this a very rewarding time.

News of the church family

We were all delighted to hear of the safe arrival of little Isla Jelf, a daughter for Hannah and Adrian. Congratulations and welcome Isla. It was good to see her and her parents after church recently.

We have missed Debbie Helme from our worship as she has been very poorly with a chest infection which then developed into pneumonia. She is getting stronger and we hope it will not be long before she is fully recovered .

Eileen Denning, Kathryn Teale and Anne Easey have also been quite unwell since New Year and we have missed them.

We continue to remember Jan Strutt and Glyn Goulden in our prayers, as they continue their therapy.

We were sorry to hear that Ann Cameron-Murphy needs a heart bi-pass operation. We do hope all will go well. We also hope that Jean Jukes will be able to have her much needed operation.

We were sorry to hear that Michael Parsons had had a health set back, and is now in Gloucester Hospital. We hope to have better news soon.

It was good to see Audrey Stewart, Val Smith, and David Pritchard back in church. Also Gareth Jenkins who has recently come back to live in Cam.

Belated congratulations and good wishes to Joyce Nicholls who celebrates her 90th birthday on January 31st. We hope she had a very happy day.

A big 'Thank you' to all my friends who helped to make my birthday a very special day. I had so many cards and greetings and presents. From Joan Kingham
Jean and Charles Jukes send grateful thanks for all the flowers and kind messages sent, thanks to Simon and Joan for bringing the present from the church. To Sally and the Women's Guild for their card and present, all so much appreciated. God bless you all.

Poetry Book

Glyn Goulden has finished selling the poetry book he wrote some time ago and raised £1500 which has been shared between six Cancer Charities.

He has recently written twenty five more poems and wondered if anyone would like to use them possibly with the last edition of poems he wrote and publish another book for church funds. If anyone is interested in doing this please contact Glyn on Dursley 01453 548355.

THE DURSLEY DOZEN

This is a 12 mile trail run called the Dursley Dozen and takes place on February 10th in Dursley (up Stinchcombe Hill etc). Tarina Cieciora is running and hopes to raise money for Focus at Cheltenham oncology, specifically for their research into cancer treatments.

Please sponsor Tarina when you next see her next in church.

Women's World Day of Prayer

We have just heard that the Women's World Day of Prayer Service will be held in St Dominic's Church on Friday March 1st and this year it will be a morning service at 11am with a light lunch in the hall provided by the Union of Catholic Mothers. The service this year has been prepared by the women of France. There will be a meeting at St Dominic's on Monday February 4th at 10am to make the first arrangements.

Representatives from Dursley Tabernacle are needed to help with this. If you are willing to take part, please contact Joan Kingham.

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

The Helme family have moved house to 7a Windsor Rd, Dursley, GL11 4BU. The church telephone number remains 542344 - for Simon/Elders' use for church business when on the premises. The Minister, Simon Helme now has a church mobile with the number: 07946 402954. This number will be provided on the church answer-service message and will be included from now on in all new publicity material, making Simon much easier to contact, and allowing his church and personal communication to be separated.

It is worth everyone knowing that it will cost the church slightly more for Simon to retrieve messages from the church mobile than from the landline answering service, so if Simon is unable to answer his mobile at any time and the answerphone on that cuts in, it will be cheaper for us, and for you, for you to redial and leave a brief message on the landline. Simon will be checking this regularly, as he used to do the answerphone in the parsonage.

Also note that Simon has a new email address: smhelme@gmail.com The old address will continue for a short while though.

Thurs 21st February “SAND, STONES & SILENCE” (LEARNING FROM the Desert Fathers & Mothers) This is a Quiet Day for lent led by Elizabeth Vooght for the Spirituality Network of Gloucestershire. It will be held at URC church, Chapel Lane, Thornbury. BS352BA from 10.00am – 3.00pm Cost of the day £10.

To reserve a place contact Revd. Paul Henstock Tel.01452 525244
ph 005a4900 @blueyonder.co.uk Pre booking only due to limited numbers.

The Church AGM will take place on Thursday 21st March at 7.30pm

Youth Centre Public Consultation Saturday 9th February, Dursley Market Hall.

Architects plans, drawings and suggestions for redeveloping the Parsonage ground floor into the new Dursley youth Centre will go on show to the public for their comment.

Fellowship Groups Contact Information

Most Fellowship groups will suspend their meetings during Lent to give people the opportunity to join in the ecumenical Lent Groups.

Any general questions or concerns, please call Carole on 542807

Thursday 31st January 7.30pm Genesis Live: From dust you came and to dust you will return reflections on our mortality – a talk by Simon Helme in which he will look at how Christians face death and the resources and hope we have through our Christian faith.

The Minister will be away on his MA Course 25 Feb to 3rd March, and 12-13th March.

Talking Faith: Lent Sessions at the Old Spot

A series of honest talks and open discussions for those who have questions about the Christian faith or are just curious but don't want religion shoved down their throats. Simon Helme, Minister of Dursley Tabernacle, will be leading the sessions in his usual light hearted and lively manner. They will take place during Lent in one of his favourite venues: the Meeting Room at The Old Spot Inn.

1. The God Question: Delusion, Despot or Divine Daddy? Thursday 21st Feb 7.30-9pm, Old Spot.

How can you believe in God today? What can you believe about God? Isn't God dangerous and violent?

2. The Jesus Question: Swear word or Saviour?

Thursday 28th Feb 7.30-9pm, Old Spot

Who is Jesus? Did he exist? Why is he important? What about other faiths?

3. The Gospel Question: Papa don't preach!

Thursday 7th March 7.30-9pm, Old Spot

What is the Christian message and why should we be bothered?

4. The Sex Question: Forbidden Fruit!

Wednesday 13th March 7.30-9pm, Old Spot

The Bible and human sexuality. Why have Christians got a hang up about sex?

5. The Future Question: It's the End of the World!

Wednesday 20th March 7.30-9pm, Old Spot

Suffering and Death, Justice and Hope. All Welcome to come and join the discussion.

Lent Contemplative Night Prayer

Thursdays during Lent 9-9.30pm in the Parsonage.

An opportunity, at the end of the day, for quiet reflective and contemplative prayer by candlelight.

For more details see Carole Allen or Simon Helme (542344)

Churches Together Lent Groups

This year the ecumenical Lent Groups will be based around the Bishop of Gloucester new book

Jesus and Peter: Growing in Friendship with God. 'Jesus and Peter' is an exploration of

discipleship and especially what it means to grow in friendship with God. It takes themes from the

life of Peter and encourages us to learn what it means to be a friend of God.

Study titles include:

Chapter 1 – Follow me

Chapter 2 – A little faith

Chapter 3 – Take up your cross and follow

Chapter 4 – Servants no longer

Chapter 5 – Losing not a single one

Chapter 6 – For he was naked

Chapter 7 – Filled with the Holy Spirit

Chapter 8 – There is nothing unclean

Chapter 9 – A drowning man restored to life

Chapter 10 – You will stretch out your hands

Groups will be offered at various times and days in various parts of Cam and Dursley to encourage

Christians from all the churches to mix and share together. A list of groups will soon be available.

You do not need a copy of the book but it can help in your preparation and refection: 'Jesus and

Peter' by Michael Perham, published by SPCK, copyright © Michael Perham 2012. ISBN:

978-0-06754-1. eBook ISBN: 978-0-281-06755-8.

Churches Together United Lent Services

As usual there are United Services on every Sunday evening in Lent, at 6pm at Dursley Methodist

Church. They will follow the themes of the Lent course based on the Bishop of Gloucester's book

'Jesus and Peter'. The Bishop himself, Michael Perham, will lead the first service on February

17th and will give an introduction to the course.

Feb 17th Follow Me Bishop of Gloucester

Feb 24th Take up your cross Domenic Bucci

March 3rd Losing not a single one Ian Robb

March 10th Filled with the Holy Spirit Simon Helme

March 17th A Drowning Man Restored to Life Janet Bromley

Sat 6 July "An Introduction to Quaker Spirituality" Led by Indigo Redfern, and Team, at

Christchurch, Nailsworth from 10am – 3pm. Cost of the day £10

To reserve your place contact Rev Dr Alison Evans Tel 01453 824034

Malcolm.alison@btinternet.com

(Booking opens 1st May) This event is organised by The Spirituality Network for

Gloucestershire Indigo has organised "Friends at Christmas" the last 2 years and I am sure this will be a very interesting meeting and early booking will be desired.

Date for your diaries

Thu Mar 21 Advance notice for our Corrymeela Lunch Please put the date in your diary.

News from the Church Secretary

As some of you will know Ron and I are planning a long trip away from the middle of February to almost the end of April, including a visit to my son and his family in Australia, whilst he is working there. So whilst I have my sabbatical from church secretary duties Shirley Welsh has kindly agreed to act as temporary church secretary. So if you have any issues you want to raise please speak to her. Shirley will be co-ordinating church notices with Simon, so please let her have any notices in good time. I will be away for the Annual Church Meeting so Carole Allen has agreed to co-ordinate the reports for this. She will be in touch in due course requesting reports. As is our practice we will be collating these into a full set of reports ahead of the meeting. She will be in touch soon about this. The meeting will take place on Thursday 21st March so please keep this date free. I look forward to resuming my duties in due course. Huge thanks from me to those who are taking on additional work whilst I am away.

Liz

Parenting Course – Wednesdays 9 -10 am Tab Community Rooms

We are hoping to start a new parenting course on Wednesday mornings 9-10am at Dursley Tabernacle community rooms for five weeks starting on Wednesday 20th February. We hope to offer a crèche in one room while parents discuss the course in an adjacent lounge. After Easter we may offer an evening course. We will charge a notional £1 per session.

Information about the course we use can be found at the following website:

<http://www.relationshipcentral.org/parenting-children-course>

The course is split into five sessions:

1. Building Strong Foundations
2. Meeting our children's needs
3. Setting boundaries
4. Teaching healthy relationships
5. Our long term aim

The course is designed for those parenting children up to ten years old. Each session includes a couple of talks on DVD with the opportunity to discuss. If you are interested in coming then give Simon a ring: 542344 or 07946402954

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. **FINAL DEADLINE FOR BOOKING IS FEBRUARY 17 AFTER WHICH ANY AVAILABLE PLACES WILL BE OFFERED TO PEOPLE OUTSIDE OUR PASTORATE**

Dursley Tabernacle's Retreat Holiday
14th to 18th 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

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

February Rotas

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

Thank you

Duty	3 February	10 February	17 February	24 February	3 March
Duty Elder	Shirley Welsh	Rod Irvine	Carol or Dennis Allen	Shirley Welsh	Kathryn Palmer
Vestry Elder	Ronnie Harding	Carol or Dennis Allen	David Pritchard	Ronnie Harding	Lionel Jones
First Reading	Vivienne Dean	Liz Swanwick	Carol Allen	Vivienne Dean	Hilary Peacock
Second Reading	Liz Swanwick	Hazel Harris	Peggy Tresise	Victor Watts	Gill Watts
Door Duty	Betty Hearn Joan Kingham	Jean Harris Ronnie Harding	Gloria Pritchard Joan Kingham	Carol Bye Farida Barnes	Iain Hearn Ronnie Harding
Welcome Team	Shirley & Matt Welsh Ronnie Harding	Iain Hearn Martine Carter Hilary Green	Kathryn & John Palmer Ron Swanwick	David Pritchard Joan Kingham Helene Delrymple	Chris Purnell Carol Bye Malcolm Harris
Flower Distribution	Helene Dalrymple	Shirley Welsh	Hazel Harris	Peggy Tresise	Enid Fullard

Prayer Team	Peggy & Elaine	Martine & Hilary	Kathryn & John Palmer	Emma & Tarina	Jackie & Julie
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February Communion Preparation: Sally Larkham

Communion Servers: Carol or Dennis Allen, Kathryn Palmer, David Pritchard & Hilary Green

