



# **WOT'S ON JANUARY 2016 AT DURSLEY**

## **TABERNACLE URC**

**CONTACT THE MINISTER, REVD. SIMON  
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**ANYTHING FOR THE WOT'S ON SHOULD BE GIVEN OR EMAILED TO  
GILL OR VIC WATTS BY THE 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY IN EACH MONTH.**

**31<sup>st</sup> December 8.30pm to 12.30am New Year's Eve Party**

**Sun 3 Jan 10.30am Epiphany Communion Service led by Rev Simon  
Helme. Theme: Sharing the Good News: Teamwork. Readings: Matthew  
2.1-12; Acts 18.1-17**

**Tue 5 Jan 9.30am Prayer Group meet in the church, all are  
welcome.**

**Thu 7 Jan 7.30pm Elders Meeting**

**Sun 10 Jan 10.30am led by Rev Simon Helme followed by Church  
Meeting. Theme: Sharing the Good News: True Friend. Reading: Acts  
23.12-22**

**Tue 12 Jan 9.30am Prayer Group meet in the church, all are  
welcome.**

**Tue 12 Jan 2pm Knitting Group meet in the church, all knitters  
welcome.**

**Wed 13 Jan 10-1pm Family Café meet in the church, helpers  
needed.**

**Sun 17 Jan 10.30am led by Rev Simon Helme, and  
featuring members of the Door Youth Project Theme: Sharing the  
Good News: Truth Telling. Reading: Acts 25.13-14; 26.1, 9-19, 28-32**

**6pm Churches Together United Service for Christian Unity Week**

**Tue 19 Jan 2pm Woman's Guild meet in the church speaker Rev  
Simon Helme**

**Wed 20 Jan 10-1pm Family Café meet in the church, helpers  
needed.**

**Sun 24 Jan 10.30am led by Rev Simon Helme. Theme: Sharing the  
Good News: Total Trust. Reading: Acts 27. 1-2, 12-26; 28.11-16, 28-31**

**Tue 26 Jan 9.30am Prayer Group meet in the church, all are  
welcome.**

**Wed 27 Jan 10-1pm Family Café meet in the church, helpers  
needed.**

**Sun 31 Jan 10.30am led by Rod Irvine.**

### **NEW YEAR'S EVE TAB PARTY:**

**After missing last year we intend to have another of the successful and  
enjoyable Tab Party to bring in the New Year. Starting at 8.30pm and  
going on until after midnight the Party usually combines something for  
all ages from young to old; a combination of games, dancing and**

**entertainment. Anyone willing to offer to run a game, do some entertaining, or lead a dance or challenge - please contact Simon Helme. As usual we will have a Bring and Share Supper - savouries and sweets and bring a bottle (alcohol is allowed)**

### **CHURCH FIRE ALARM**

**Please note that the fire alarm is regularly tested at around eleven o' clock on Monday mornings. If you are in the premises at this time do not be alarmed!**

### **FLOWERS FOR DECEMBER WERE KINDLY GIVEN BY:-**

6 Dec Maggie Sweeting 13-27 Dec Peggy Tresise

Flowers will be needed in the coming weeks if you would like to give a donation towards the flowers please contact Ronnie on Dursley547080.

**PRAYERBOOK FOR 2016** There is a spare copy of the Prayer Handbook available for 2016, please see Peggy Tresise if you are interested.

**Christina Bye** works at the Stinchcombe Residential Home, is requesting our help, she needs the following items:-  
Women's magazines, Hand knitted garments to be unravelled and re-used

Used birthday and Christmas cards

All these items will be used by the residents in the craft sessions at the Home,

If you can donate any of the above please contact Christina on Dursley543148 or leave them in the Reception Room marked Christina Bye. Thank you.

**Church Meeting after morning worship on January 10<sup>th</sup>** will primarily deal with options for Phase II of the Parsonage Project, namely about whether we replace the lift or opt for a ramped access to the upper hall with the option of using the existing lift shaft to create a disabled toilet at church floor level. Please refer to the paper available, copies of which will be in the church vestibule. There will also be discussion on the church budget for 2016, social events, Alpha, Nicaragua team.

**We would like to wish all our members and friends a Happy and Healthy New Year.**

## **PRAYERS FOR THE NEW YEAR**

God of heaven and of every season beneath  
help us to leave in the year that has died  
all that it held of shame, sorrow and sin,  
and to treasure the riches it leaves  
the learning, the laughter, the love

God of past and future,  
teach us how to grasp in the year that is born  
promises by which we may live,  
kindness we can offer ;  
hopes you set before us.

God of every season  
may the living of our years,  
serve the purpose of heaven.

We pray for Peace throughout your world, we pray for an end to the terrorist activities and wars. We pray for all those people who have lost their friends and family due to activities of terrorist groups and the action of others. Support them Lord and comfort them. We pray for the refugees and all those people who are homeless we ask you to provide. We pray for all

the organisations and individuals who are working in troubled areas, support and protect them.

We pray for your beautiful world Lord which is in a delicate balance which can be tipped so easily by man's actions. We think of those people whose lives have been affected by floods recently. We ask you Lord to work in the hearts of the world leaders to implement measures to diminish global warming and to protect the environment for future generations.

We ask all these prayers in Jesus's name. Amen

### **Christmas Message 2015**

#### **Waiting, waiting, waiting**

**How long do you wait for things?**

**The sign at my doctor's surgery says that if you have been waiting for more than 20 minutes after your appointment time, you should go and speak to the receptionist. (I don't suppose it changes anything if you do, but it might make you feel a bit better!)**

**Any parent knows the cry from the children in the back seat of the car, "Are we nearly there yet?" It usually comes about 10 minutes into a journey of three or more hours, and is repeated often thereafter.**

**In the middle of November, Christmas lights appear. The adverts are playing on our TVs. The shopping frenzy has begun. It's Christmas. Except...it's not - not yet, at least.**

**We are not used to waiting. We are used to getting what we want, when we want it. But God tells us to wait.**

**The people of Israel endured centuries of waiting. The prophets had told them that one day Messiah would come. They gave all sorts of glimpses about where He would come from, what His birth would be like, and what would happen to Him - over 100 prophecies, in fact, all fulfilled in the person of Jesus of Nazareth.**

**There are more prophecies yet to be fulfilled. We will see the realisation of these when Jesus returns in glory. Whether or not that is in our lifetime, we will just have to wait and see!**

**When we read that well-known passage from Isaiah 9 at Christmas this year, I shall be reflecting particularly on the promise of the "Prince of Peace." No doubt so will the people of countries from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe, and many households in this country too, along with all who long to see an increase of His government and peace, upheld with justice and righteousness.**

**The recent tragedies in Paris and Beirut, along with the continuing crisis in Syria, Nigeria, and other places, just seem to scream to me that the world needs its Prince of Peace ever more urgently. But God tells us to wait.**

**It was last December when I received the news of my call to come and serve here as Moderator. It seemed an inordinately long time to wait, and yet the time flew by. Sometimes, the waiting is surprisingly easy to manage - when we trust ourselves fully to God.**

**So as we wait, let us be people who are faithful in prayer. Let us be like that persistent widow, who eventually received justice. In the rush to prepare for Christmas, let us take time to be with our Lord. Let us keep Advent, and endure the waiting - but more than endure: let us enjoy the waiting, so that when we finally get to celebrate the arrival of the Christ-child, the moment will once again be special.**

**May God bless you in your waiting this Advent, this Christmas, and in the coming year.**

**Steve**

#### **ALPHA MONDAYS IN THE VIBE 7.30PM FROM JANUARY 18<sup>TH</sup>**

Alpha has around ten sessions and involves food, a short talk and discussion where you can offer your own thoughts and ask your own questions. Alpha is for anyone who is curious about life and faith and wants to find out more about Christianity. It is designed to be informal, accessible and enjoyable. The course will cover questions like what is the evidence for Jesus? Why did he die? What happens when we die? Where can we find guidance and meaning for our lives? Why and how do we pray?

27 million people have tried Alpha in 169 countries. The Guardian newspaper said this about the course: *'What Alpha offers, and what is attracting thousands of people, is permission, rare in secular culture, to discuss the big questions: life, death and the meaning'*

The Tab last held an Alpha Course in 2010. This time round we will be serving delicious puddings and deserts to start the evening and Simon Helme will give a short talk followed by discussion on the night's theme. It is open to anyone. It is free.

If you are interested in coming then please drop us a line for catering purposes: [minister@dursleytab.org.uk](mailto:minister@dursleytab.org.uk) or 542344

#### **Child Contact Centre need more volunteer helpers.**

The Child contact Centre was set up by the Churches of Cam and Dursley eight years ago and meets in the Tab Community Rooms fortnightly on Saturday afternoons. The Centre tries to provide a neutral venue where the non-resident

parent of separating families can keep in contact with their children. It is a vital and much appreciated service to help families in crisis. Volunteers just provide a friendly welcome and a caring environment. For more details please contact Liz Swanwick or Simon Helme or Iain Hearn.

### **Tab Social Events**

A group of people in the church are looking at organizing social events in the church that can bring people together to enjoy each other's company and build friendships and community. We recognize that generational differences mean that different events will appeal to different ages, whilst some may appeal across the board. There is a list of ideas for you to show your approval of in the church reception room or take the survey online at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/H8D3GVQ>

### **Can you help support Syrian Refugees?**

In the New Year we are having a number of refugee family's move into our District. Working in partnership with Stroud District Council, the Foodbank, Kids' Stuff and Furniture Bank are providing the items the families need.

We need your help in collecting the following items:

**15 beds and bedding and chairs**    **15 wardrobes**    **15 chest of drawer**    **5 table**  
**5 sofa set**    **5 coffee table**    **5 washing machine**  
**5 microwave**    **5 Fridge**    **5 Freezers**

If you have something you can give to help these families call 01453 367260 and we can organise collection.

**Sheldon 24th to 26th June 2016.** If you have not been on any of our previous Sheldon holidays, do tour their premises by looking at their website [www.sheldon.uk.com](http://www.sheldon.uk.com) or ask around the congregation to hear stories of our time there. To book your place on the weekend, collect a booking form from the church and return the reply slip to 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. Places are offered on a first-come first-served basis, so book early to be sure of a space on the weekend. If places are not filled by January we will invite other local churches to join us.

**Lent Groups** Churches Together usually have ecumenical Lent Groups where Christians from different churches and backgrounds can share together during the five weeks of Lent. Next year's course will be looking at the Psalms. If you are interested in leading or hosting a group please get in touch with either Simon Helme or Teresa Potter [gnt.potter@btinternet.com](mailto:gnt.potter@btinternet.com)

**Churches Together are still looking for someone to take over the *co-ordination of the Christian Aid Week collections*. Please contact the above if you are interested.**

**Pilgrimage to the Holy Land 5-12<sup>th</sup> November 2016.**

Led by Simon Helme, open to the Tab and friends, organised by Worldwide Christian Travel (You can see more at their website: <https://www.christian-travel.com/>).

Simon writes: 'A journey to the place where Jesus lived and ministered is the ultimate in pilgrimage. I have been a couple of times and to walk in the footsteps of Jesus transforms your understanding of the Bible and enrich your faith.

To go with others is a special experience too. I shall be offering spiritual insight as we journey together. We will also have a local guide to get the most out of our visits.

This will be an amazing opportunity to share our faith journey. Hope you can join us.'

'Price £1340

What the price includes

- Return flights from London Luton to Tel Aviv (Details of flight numbers and times have not yet been finalised)
- Accommodation in good quality 4\*hotels in twin bedded rooms with private facilities on half board basis
- Transfer of passengers and baggage
- Sightseeing as in itinerary
- Services of a fully qualified English speaking guide
- Travel by air-conditioned coaches
- Entrance fees, gratuities, service, charges and portorage
- Airport taxes

Brochures are available in the vestibule and reception room. Please contact Carole Allen [caroleallen28@gmail.com](mailto:caroleallen28@gmail.com) or tel: 542807 or Simon Helme for further details.

## **The Door Youth Project**

**Are looking to recruit volunteers for training at the beginning of Feb.**

1. Family Support - led by Victoria Robson [victoria@thedoor.org.uk](mailto:victoria@thedoor.org.uk)
2. Young People's Mentoring - led by Shelagh Goldie [shelagh@thedoor.org.uk](mailto:shelagh@thedoor.org.uk)
3. Youth work - led by James Honey - [james@thedoor.org.uk](mailto:james@thedoor.org.uk)

Contact James Honey, Youth Work Services Manager at

[www.thedoor.org.uk](http://www.thedoor.org.uk)

[james@thedoor.org.uk](mailto:james@thedoor.org.uk)

Tel: 01453 756745

## **Rotas for January 2016**

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

<b>Date</b>	<b>January 3rd</b>	<b>January 10th</b>	<b>January 17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>January 24th</b>	<b>January 31st</b>
<b>Duty Elder</b>	<b>Rod Irvine</b>	<b>Hilary Green</b>	<b>Ronnie Harding</b>	<b>Graham Strutt</b>	<b>Kathryn Palmer</b>
<b>Vestry Elder</b>	<b>Ronnie Harding</b>	<b>David Pritchard</b>	<b>Kathryn Palmer</b>	<b>Carole or Dennis Allen</b>	<b>Liz Swanwick</b>
<b>First Reading</b>	<b>Zoe Avastu</b>	<b>Terry Larkham</b>	<b>Rod Irvine</b>	<b>Tarina Cieciora</b>	<b>Malcolm Harris</b>
<b>2nd</b>	<b>John</b>	<b>Liz</b>	<b>Jayne</b>	<b>Rod</b>	<b>Hazel</b>



<b>Reading</b>	<b>Harris</b>	<b>Swanwick</b>	<b>Parsons</b>	<b>Irvine</b>	<b>Harris</b>
<b>Audio Desk</b>	<b>Rod Irvine</b>	<b>Andy Spears</b>	<b>Lionel Jones</b>	<b>Rod Irvine</b>	<b>Christine Welsh</b>
<b>Flower Arrangers</b>	<b>Ronnie Harding</b>	<b>Christina Bye</b>	<b>Sally Lavis</b>	<b>Gloria Pritchard</b>	<b>Gill Watts</b>
<b>Flower Distribution</b>	<b>Maggie Sweeting</b>	<b>Hilary Green</b>	<b>Martine Carter</b>	<b>Sylvia Woods</b>	<b>Shirley Welsh</b>
<b>Welcome Team</b>	<b>Shirley and Matt Welsh</b>	<b>Martine Carter</b> <b>Hilary Green</b>	<b>Joyce Longman</b> <b>Anne Moirez</b>	<b>Carol Bye</b> <b>Malcolm Harris</b>	<b>Kathryn and John Palmer</b>
<b>Prayer Team</b>	<b>Peggy Tresise</b> <b>Elaine Jones</b>	<b>John and Kathryn Palmer</b>	<b>Jackie Pritchard</b> <b>Tarina Cieciora</b>	<b>Martine Carter</b> <b>Hilary Green</b>	<b>Graham Strutt</b> <b>Julie Perin</b>
<b>Coffee Rota</b>	<b>Shirley and Matt Welsh</b>	<b>Sylvia Woods</b> <b>Carole Smith</b>	<b>Edna Mellerup</b> <b>Pat Hembury</b>	<b>Gloria and Mike Pritchard</b>	<b>Avril and Brian Lamming</b>

**Communion Preparation: Gloria Pritchard**

**Communion Servers: David Pritchard, Hilary Green, Will Barrett,  
Rod Irvine**