

Prayer for May (From a Housegroup)

Father God, we thank you that we are renewed by Jesus' sacrifice and re-commissioned to deliver your peace and hope in this world.

Help us to reflect your grace and love so that the world recognises you in our actions and that we recognise you in each other. We have a time of voting ahead of us - and behind us - and we know how voting can be divisive, create and 'us' and 'them'. We ask your guidance Lord so that we can be a people who live out the truth that our strongest identity is our common identity as your children.

We pray that in debates such as the one on same sex marriage in our church, that we seek not to be the clever Christian with the well-rehearsed quick answer but one that understands that you are revealed in different ways to different people at different times & places. Help us to truly understand that mutual respect and acceptance lead to a flourishing of your Church and a richer, more mature relationship with you and with one another. Show us how to encourage one another, to listen to understand and journey as a family together.

Teach us to be confident followers with a faith that is not insecure, but generous. We don't need to be thin-skinned and vulnerable. We are loved by you, forgiven by you, accepted by you, indwelt by you, guided and strengthened by you. We do not have to be self-justifying, defensive or self-pitying. Help us to not be afraid to ask the difficult questions, stir us up so that our faith doesn't become convenient or cosy but challenges us to think, study and reflect, to know you more closely and to live in an honest relationship with you and our fellow Christians, however uncomfortable that may be at times.

We know that churches have wrestled with the interpretation of scripture from the very beginning as we struggle with our imperfect interpretation of your perfect love. Acknowledging differences is invariably painful, but the reward is in the opportunity for growth, of living not as a static church, but moving ahead as a dynamic body, fearless in faith, seeking to be the footsoldiers of your kingdom. We know that you come to meet us in those difficult places and we ask that your grace will shine through and for your blessing on us as we seek to hold onto the joy of fellowship and focus on the power of your love and forgiveness.

We pray for all of those who approach the same sex marriage debate in our church with a heavy heart and fear, who are feeling vulnerable. We pray that you will draw close to them and to us all as we seek to discern your will. We pray that the Holy Spirit will empower us and work through us so that you and not human ambition are at the heart of all that is done and said.

Give us confidence Lord, not arrogance, grace not intolerance, inspiration not fear. We pray that this process will be one of healing and growth and to the glory of your name.

Amen.

Church Housegroups

Offering a chance to make friends and find Christian fellowship. Groups usually meet alternate weeks:

- Tuesday Evening:** 5 Dursley Court, Cedar Drive, Dursley. Contact John Palmer: 542 381
- Wednesday Afternoon:** 31 The Quarry, Cam. Contact Shirley Welsh 543 549
- Wednesday Evening:** 2 Cedar Drive. Contact Peggy Tresise 543 161
- Or Glenside, Church End, Slimbridge
- Contact Heidi Horn 07970 871 471



CHRISTIAN AID

Christian Aid Big Brekkie Saturday 20th May
 9-11am in the Vibe

Sharing a meal can bring us together and help break down the barriers between us. And this Christian Aid Week, it can do so much more than that. By inviting your friends, family and colleagues to a Big Brekkie fundraising breakfast, you can show love for people living in poverty and suffering injustice around the world.

Jesus' passion for justice inspired the first Christian Aid Week collectors to come together to raise money for refugees in 1957. Now, you can be part of this incredible story of the church in action. We will be having our very own Big Brekkie and follow in the footsteps of thousands of Christians who have made a huge impact over the last 60 years. **Our Big Brekkie will show we stand with refugees. Our Big Brekkie porridge and pancakes, croissants and crumpets are weapons in the fight against injustice.** Do come along and also invite friends.

Simon and Debbie Helme

Same Sex Marriage Debate

To help the church meeting make an informed decision on this issue of whether the Tab should host same sex marriage ceremonies, two URC ministers have come to give separate talks on the arguments for and against. Transcripts and recordings of those two talks are available from Simon Helme. (07443568242 minister@dursleytab.org.uk)

On Wednesday 10th May at 7.30pm in the church there is an opportunity for a forum discussion on the issues and points raised from the talks. All church members are encouraged to attend the meeting to discern how God is leading them to vote on this issue.

Church Meeting after morning worship on Sunday May 21st will be when a vote is taken on the issue.

MAY CALENDAR

Tue 2nd	Prayer Group	9.30am Chapel
2nd-5th	Gower Retreat	
Wed 3rd	Colour Me Calm	1.30pm Comm
Fri 5th	House of Prayer	7.30pm Chapel
Tue 9th	Prayer Group	9.30am Chapel
Wed 10th	Same Sex Marriage Forum	7.30pm
Thu 11th	Elders Meeting	7.30pm
Fri 12th	House of Prayer	7.30pm Chapel
Sat 13th	Plant Sale & Coffee	9.30am
Tue 16th	Prayer Group	9.30am Chapel
Tue 16th	Women's Guild AGM	2.00pm Church
Tue 16th	Churches Together Forum	7.30pm
Fri 19th	House of Prayer	7.30pm Chapel
Sat 20th	Big Brekkie	9-11 am Vibe
Tue 23rd	Prayer Group	9.30am Chapel
Wed 24th	Colour Me Calm	1.30pm Comm
Wed 24th	Pastoral Care Conversations	7.30pm
Fri 26th	House of Prayer	7.30pm Chapel
Tue 30th	Prayer Group	9.30am Chapel
Wed 31st	Colour Me Calm	1.30pm Comm



MAY WORSHIP

Sunday 7th May 10.30am

Communion Service
 led by Rev Simon Helme
Theme: The Pilgrim People: Journey to the Holy Mountain 1
 Readings: Exodus 16.1-18

Sunday 14th May 10.30am

Service led by Rev Simon Helme
Theme: The Pilgrim People: Journey to the Holy Mountain 2
 Readings: Exodus 19.1-23

United Service for Christian Aid Week 6.00pm at the Tab led by Rev Simon Helme

Sun 21st May 10.30am

Service led by Rev Simon Helme
Followed by Church Meeting
Theme: The Pilgrim People: Revelation at Mount Sinai
 Readings: Exodus 20.1-21

Sun 28th May 10.30am

Led by Rev Simon Helme
Theme: The Pilgrim People: Relationship broken and restored
 Readings: Exodus 32. 1-14

Pastoral Care Conversations

Tuesdays 7.30pm from 24th May

A series of meetings led by Simon Helme looking at issues of pastoral care from a Christian perspective. The meetings will try and help give a better understanding of some pastoral issues thereby improving our sensitivity and concern and also consider how to help people in those situations more effectively. The meetings are open to anyone who is interested or has a pastoral/caring role.

The subjects will include: Pastoral Care introduction; mental illness; addictions; terminal illness and bereavement; loss of faith; depression; relationship difficulties/divorce; anger/forgiveness; abuse; guilt and anxiety; stress.

Same Sex Marriage Vote

Church Meeting on Sunday 21st May

The Church Meeting of January 22nd decided the following parameters for the vote on the question 'Should Dursley Tabernacle host same sex marriage ceremonies?'

It will be a secret paper ballot: one ballot slip per church member

Logistics of the vote: ballot papers will be numbered in advance for each member - these ballot papers would not be traceable. The votes would be counted by church members who do not know which vote number was assigned to which member and hence can count the votes ensuring consistency. The prepared ballot papers would be available to Church Members at least two Sundays before the voting Sunday. Postal votes would be acceptable on condition that there is good reason the church member cannot attend the vote in person.

Timeframe for revisiting the decision and consequently is the vote reversible: the decision of the church meeting (by a 2:1 majority) was that the result of the vote should not stand in perpetuity, but that it cannot be reviewed for a minimum of seven years and only then if church members request.

Majority threshold: General Assembly operated their vote on same sex marriage by requiring a majority of two-thirds to change the status quo. Church meeting agreed that this should be the threshold for the Tab vote to make a change to church policy, namely a two-thirds majority of the votes cast.



CHURCH FLOWERS

FLOWERS FOR APRIL WERE KINDLY GIVEN BY
Joan Kingham, Carole & Ronnie, Angela Jones,
Pat Roberts
Thank you

Thanks to all who contributed to the Easter flowers. Donations of money, flowers or foliage are welcomed for the church flowers - the flowers form an important part of the ministry at the Tab; at the end of the service they are distributed to those who are unwell in our community.

Please see Ronnie for more information.

FOOD BANK SHOPPING LIST:

rice pudding, custard, UHT milk, UHT juice, small bags of sugar
New Assistant Manager position
We are seeking applicants for a new part-time Assistant Manager position. We will be drawing up a shortlist for interviews in May.

WORKING PARTY

MONDAY 22ND MAY

7.00PM - 8.30PM

@ THE CHURCH

FOLLOWED BY COFFEE & CAKE

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

14th-20th May

Please remember Door to Door Collection.

If you can help please see Martine or Will.

Soup lunches will be taking place at the Methodist Church most days in Christian Aid week, please see posters. We are hosting lunches on either the Thursday or Friday please see Carole Allen if you can help, either making soup, sweets or serving etc on the day.

Thank you all for your help during Christian Aid week
Martine Carter and Will Barrett

TAB HOLIDAYS

Church Holidays 2017

Booking forms available at front of church.

Hill House in Somerset

Church family weekend at from 22nd to 24th Sept 2017. Costs will be in the region of £130 per adult. U18s go free.

Talk to Carole Allen for more information.



Dursley's 'diamond', Peggy Tresise (86) has received a Christian Aid national award for tackling global issues - from helping to establish Dursley as a Fair Trade town to engaging MPs on trade, debt and climate justice issues.

Peggy, a member of Dursley Tabernacle, who has collected for Christian Aid Week for over 40 years and supported its campaigns for over 20 years, was presented with a Diamond award by the charity's Diamonds Coordinator Emma Nutbrown for her ongoing commitment to tackling global poverty and injustice.

The Diamond Awards were created by Christian Aid to recognise the crucial part played by supporters as it prepares to mark 60 years of its annual fundraising drive, Christian Aid Week. Well done Peggy!!



Tab Family Cafe
is open on
Wednesdays
10am-1pm
(term time)