



United Reformed Church

The URC was formed in 1972 with the union of the Congregational church and the Presbyterian Church of England. The Churches of Christ joined in 1982 and the Scottish Congregational Church in 2002.

It is Britain's sixth largest denomination encompassing around 1500 churches and 90,000 members.

It is a broad church incorporating evangelical, liberal, charismatic and radical understandings of the Christian faith and practice.

It stands in the Reformed tradition of the Christian faith:

It believes in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit

It finds the supreme authority for faith and conduct by the guidance of the Holy Spirit in the Word of God in the Bible.

It looks to be continually renewed so as to fulfil its mission of witness and service in the name of Jesus Christ.

It practises both infant and believers baptism and celebrates the Lord's Supper.

Its distinctive form of church organisation is conciliar being governed by councils at various levels of the church. The Elders and minister lead the local church but authority rests in church meetings. Churches are grouped into areas (the Tab is in Gloucestershire) and areas are grouped in Synods (we are in West Midlands). There is a national General Assembly of the URC which meets bi-annually to decide on national policy and initiatives.

For more information log onto the URC website: www.urc.org.uk and/or the synod website: www.urc-westmidlands.org.uk

Welcome Information

DURSLEY TABERNACLE





Welcome Information

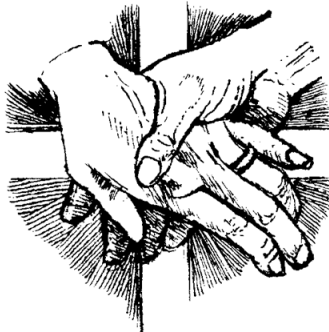
DURSLEY TABERNACLE

Weddings

The Tabernacle is licensed for weddings. Please contact the Minister, Simon Helme, Tel: 01453 542344 to discuss your requirements.

Our wedding service fees are currently £215. This fee includes the church hire, organist and minister's fee, control desk operator, registrar, caretaker and church ushers. The fee includes a number of meetings with the Minister to plan the wedding and a rehearsal. The church can also arrange for flower arrangements and photography.

The Minister, who has had training with Relate, also offers a course on marriage preparation.



The
United
Reformed
Church



Baptism in the URC

As a parent you want to offer your child the best so that he/she will grow into maturity and enjoy life to the full. The church can play an important part in that growth and development:

We all need hope and meaning in life. Christianity says that meaning, hope and purpose are found in God who has transformed suffering and death by Jesus' own death and resurrection.

Everyone needs a vision to guide and inspire them. Christianity offers a vision of a God who actively loves us and offers to make us more capable of living life to the full, albeit with different aims and responses to people who do not follow Christ. It also gives us a clear example of Jesus to follow as a model and guide for how to live our life.

Everyone needs to have a basis for healthy and fulfilling relationships. Christianity offers a view of the world based on the love of God for all, and on the goodness of the things that God created, even though they have been spoiled by human attitudes and actions. We believe that life is more fulfilling when we find ourselves in community.

The church offers that community of care and support for all ages. Being with other people offers us a chance to grow and mature, to share deeply the important things of life, and to act together for the good of our wider community and the world in general. We are stronger when we work together.

There are many different ways into the church for your child and the united Reformed church has adopted three main forms of entry or initiation:

Baptism

Thanksgiving, dedication and blessing

Thanksgiving and blessing

What is Infant Baptism?

Baptism is an outward sign of becoming a new person. It says that a person no longer lives life for themselves but now wants to follow Jesus Christ. So Baptism marks a commitment to be a disciple of Jesus and this means that belief in him is necessary.

Your new baby is not old enough to either have this belief or make a commitment for themselves. This means that you promise to encourage your child to grow up in the faith and life of the church. They then have more opportunity to make their own commitment to Jesus and fulfil the promises you make at baptism.

Your child is always welcome in the Church and is accepted and loved by God whether you choose baptism or not. (We strongly reject the superstitious belief that a child would be damned if they died un-baptised – this represents an abhorrent view of God that we do not recognise in Jesus).



The promises that parents make for their infants baptism are:
Do you believe and trust in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, maker of heaven and earth, redeemer of the world and giver of life?
Do you promise, trusting in God's grace, that by prayer and example you will teach your child the faith of the gospel and bring her/him up in the worship and life of the church?

Infant Baptisms take place during our main worship and the congregation also make a promise to support you in the task of raising your child in the Christian faith. The child receives a certificate and a baptismal candle. There is no charge for the service – we just want to share in your joy!

Adults who have been baptised as children can make a further public commitment to Jesus at a Confirmation Service. Here they confirm the promises that were made on their behalf by their parents and publicly confess their faith in Christ and become full members of Christ's church.

Believers Baptism

People who were not baptised as children and come to faith can undergo Believers Baptism, often by full immersion if requested, followed by an act of church membership. They make the promises of faith and commitment that parents would make in an infant baptism.

Thanksgiving and Blessing

Some people decide to let their children grow up and decide for themselves whether they wish to be baptised. Other parents may feel that they cannot in all honesty make the promises in a service for infant baptism. They may not share in the church's life on a regular basis but they still want to give thanks and celebrate the birth of their children with friends and in Christian worship.

A Thanksgiving and Blessing ceremony takes place in our main worship. We give thanks for the birth of the child. The parents make promises to love and care for their child and God's blessing is sought on all the family.



Some more thoughts on Baptism

Baptism is not christening, which is a naming ceremony (giving the child a Christian name) or simple celebration of the birth of a child. If this is really what you want then the Thanksgiving service is the most appropriate ceremony.

The promises and statements you will be expected to make at Baptism are profound and deeply challenging and you may be feeling daunted by them. That is a good and proper response because it means that you have understood their implications. You are determining the spiritual direction for your child.

If you feel you have little or no faith but you want to know more, then baptism may still be an option for you. It is the start of a journey of faith and it may help you know that all Christians, even the clergy, have doubts from time to time! That's one of the reasons why we need each other's support and encouragement and to belong to a church to grow in our faith.

What to do next?

Contact the Minister, Simon Helme, tel. 01453 542344 to talk more about your situation. You may also wish to explore more about the life of church by looking up other pages on this website, particularly what we offer for children and young people through Tab Tribe and Fury.

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Prayer and Spiritual Growth

Prayer is the vital life breath of our relationship with God. We encourage many forms of prayer within our church.

Corporate prayer takes place during our worship, at most of our meetings, at house fellowship groups and at our prayer meeting on Tuesday morning.

The Tuesday prayer meeting starts at 9.30am either in the church around the communion table, or in the new reception room. There are periods of silence and simple responses. We share in reading a psalm and listen for God's word through the reading of scriptures that link into our Sunday morning worship lectionary. Open prayer is offered for people and situations (the names from our prayer book are remembered at this point). People can pray out loud or in silence. A blessing is given to close the period of prayer and coffee is shared after the meeting. All are welcome.

Personal prayer and devotions are encouraged through the use of the URC Prayer Handbook. This is a series of readings and reflections and prayers linked to the Lectionary Bible Readings for Sunday Worship. The Handbook gives suggestions on how to pray and allows you to further reflect on that week's readings.

Reform Magazine is the monthly publication of the national URC and is full of interesting articles to encourage and enlarge your faith

Bible Reading notes, by the International Bible Reading Association (IBRA), provides bible readings, commentaries and prayers for every day of the year. It is an excellent way to meditate on scripture every day and to discover the wide range of writings in the Bible.

Both the Prayer Handbook, Reform Magazine and IBRA Bible reading notes can be ordered from church representatives. Contact the minister for further information.

From time to time we offer various courses looking at prayer and spirituality. If you wish to receive details of these please contact the minister.





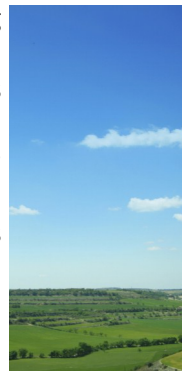
Church Fellowship Groups

Church Fellowship Groups meet fortnightly through the autumn until the end of spring. They meet in people's homes for friendship, laughter, sharing, prayer and bible study. The groups often use music, art, and other creative ways of engaging with the set biblical text for that week. The set biblical passage is the one that will be the focus for that upcoming Sunday. The groups reform each year, often with new members.

People can join a group at any time during the year. We have found them to be a great way for people to get to know others and develop deep friendships within our church community. Details of the groups, hosts and leaders, are usually published in *Wots On* church news sheet or are fixed on the noticeboards.

Church Retreats and Holidays

Occasional retreats and holidays are organised providing the opportunity for people to go away together to relax and find spiritual refreshment. We have had week long holidays on Holy Island Northumberland at the URC St Cuthbert's Centre. We have been to Corrymeela Centre for Reconciliation in Northern Ireland. We are going to Lee Abbey in Devon for a church weekend in 2011. Groups attend the Greenbelt Christian Arts Festival at Cheltenham Racecourse in August.



TLS Courses (Training for Learning & Serving)

The National URC runs training courses deepening people's understanding and practice of their faith. A number of our members have done these courses (on pastoral care, theology and biblical studies) and have found them very helpful. More details from the URC website or from the minister.

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Mission Interests

Dursley Tabernacle supports a number of organisations throughout the year as part of its Mission:

We support the work of Christian Aid through its campaigns and its appeals and by taking part in the Christian Aid week door to door collections in May.

We support the Bible Society and Bible Sunday and collect spare change for 'Bible a month' (Collection jar is in the church vestibule).

Every August we hold a Garden Fete for Leprosy Mission.

We also support them through buying gifts from their catalogue at Christmas: See Peggy Tresise.

Every March we hold a Corrymeela Lunch to support the work of the Corrymeela Community for Peace and Reconciliation in Northern Ireland. We have supported them for over thirty years and visited the Community in 2007.

In 2007 and 2009 groups of our young people and adults have gone out to Nicaragua to work with the Christian Charity the Peace and Hope Trust. Working in the poorest communities of one of the poorest countries on earth they have experienced the issues of poverty and development first hand. We hope to continue to send people out and support the work of the charity.

For more info www.peaceandhope.org or contact Debbie Helme 542344

This church is a Fair-trade church and tries to ensure that wherever possible we use fairly traded products that give a better deal for Third World Producers.

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We are active within our local Churches Together of Cam, Dursley and District.



The 13 churches share together in United Services, Walk of Witness on Good Friday, Lent studies, Lectures, Friends at Christmas and supporting a different Convenor's Charity each year.

Set up after a Churches Together Lent course on peacemaking, the Child Contact Centre is a neutral meeting place where children of estranged parents can meet safely the non resident parent. Many from this church volunteer at the centre which meets in our Community Rooms alternate Saturday afternoons. Contact Carol Bye the Co-ordinator 07924 872854.



As part of the United Reformed Church we are linked to the Council for World Mission – Congregational and Presbyterian Churches around the world. Our Synod (West Midlands) has a special relationship with the church of North India, in particular the Diocese of Durgaphur and Amristsar.



We are also part of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches (soon to become the World Communion of Reformed Churches) and the World Council of Churches.



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Dursley Tabernacle Officers Nov 2010

Minister:

Revd Simon Helme, The Parsonage, 3 Parsonage Street, Dursley Glos
GL11 4BW, Tel. 01453 542344, minister@dursleytab.org.uk

Church Secretary

Liz Swanwick 511790

Church Treasurer

John Heslop 545434

Elders

Carole Allen, Dennis Allen, 542807

Martine Carter 800432

Hilary Green 547191

Ronnie Harding 547080

Jenny Heslop 545434

Rod Irvine 543760

Lionel Jones 543396

Joan Kingham 547275

Jan Strutt 519640

Peggy Tresise, 543161

Youth Worker

Emma Irvine 543760

Fabric Steward

Ron Heathman 542032

Bookings Secretary

Jan Strutt 519640

Archivist David Evans

Bible a Month Club Peggy Tresise

Caretaker Clive Brain

Charities Vic Watts

Christian Aid Martine Carter

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Cleaners
Coffee Mornings (Thursday)
Churches Together
Church Flowers (supply)
Church Flowers Distribution
Church Rotas

Fabric Panel

Fellowship Groups
Fire Officer
Fund Raising Chair Person

Fund raising Committee

Freewill Offering Treasurer

FURY Group leaders

Garden of Rest Rota
Gift Aid Secretary
IBRA Notes
Junior Church Superintendent
Leprosy Mission Boxes
Minutes Secretary
Minutes Church Meeting

Music Group
Organists
Reserve Organist

Prayer Group
Prayer Team Co-ordinators

Reform Magazine

Responsible Person
(Weddings registration)
Additional Authorised Persons

Safety Officer
Sunday Coffee Rota
Synod Representative
Ushers (funerals, weddings)
Wots On

Frances Yeomans, Martine Carter
Betty Hearn
Peggy Tresise, Jenny Heslop, Martine Carter
Betty Hearn
Joan Kingham
Rod Irvine

Ron Jones, Mike Pritchard,
John Heslop, David Murphy,
Vic Watts, Matt Welsh

Liz Swanwick
Rod Irvine
Ron Swanwick

John Heslop, Gill Watts, Helene Dalrymple,
Margo Parsons, Angela Jones, Carol Bye,
Joan Whiting, Pip Whittard, Hilary Green,
Sally Larkham

Matt Welsh

Emma Irvine, Dennis Allen, Liz Hecht

Mary and Michael Weedon
Matt Welsh
Mary Sherratt
Jane Parsons
Pat Roberts
Alan Simpson
Rod Irvine

Carole Allen
Simon Fullard,
Pat Roberts

Joan Kngham
Martine Carter, Hilary Green

Gloria Pritchard

Vic Watts
Diana Moir, Revd Simon Helme

Gordon Moir
Shirley Welsh
Rod Irvine
Joan Kingham, Gill & Vic Watts
Gill Watts

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Dursley Pastorate

Dursley Tabernacle shares a minister with Quarry Chapel and Sharpness URC and fosters a joint relationship between the three churches with occasional joint activities and services.

Michele Everett (811419) is church secretary at Sharpness and Ken Hembury (543758) at the Quarry.

Membership and structure of Dursley Tab

In the URC, people who have been baptised can decide to become members of the local church. This entitles them to a vote at church meeting and the opportunity to hold office within the structures of the church. The promises made on becoming a church member involve a confession of faith in God and an acceptance of Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour and a promise to regularly attend the church and support its work and witness and to be faithful to the way of Christ.

The basic decision making body of the local church is the Church Meeting, which upholds the decisions of the wider councils of the URC. Church meeting elects Elders from within the membership responsible for the day to day running of the church, finances, the maintenance of the buildings and to share with the minister in the worship, pastoral care and mission of the church. The church secretary and treasurer are elected from within the eldership. The elders are responsible to the church meeting for their stewardship.

The elders have specific oversight of certain ministries:

Administration and finance:

Alan Simpson, Rod Irvine and John Heslop

Property:

Lionel Jones

Worship, Children and Youth:

Liz Swanwick, Carole and Dennis Allen, Jenny Heslop

Mission:

Peggy Tresise, Ronnie Harding, Martine Carter

Pastoral Care:

Hilary Green, Jan Strutt, Joan Kingham

Church Meetings

Church meetings happen usually every other month and usually take place after Sunday morning worship. All members and adherents may attend but only members can vote. In the church meeting we are prayerfully trying to discern the

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mind of Christ. We believe that the Holy Spirit may use anyone to speak a word to the church. Church members are therefore asked to take their attendance at church meeting as a serious commitment and to involve themselves in the decision making process of the church. Items for discussion should be given to the church secretary in time for inclusion in the agenda.

Church Organisations and other Groups

The life of the Tab is expressed in various groups and organisations. If your interests are not covered, then contact the minister or an elder to see if others share your interest and an appropriate group might start.

Church Fellowship Groups

Meet fortnightly through the autumn until the end of spring. They meet in peoples homes for friendship, laughter, sharing, prayer and bible study. The groups often use music, art, and other creative ways of engaging with the set biblical text for that week. The set biblical passage is the one that will be the focus for the forthcoming Sunday. The groups reform each year, often with new members. People can join a group at any time during the year. Details of the groups, hosts and leaders, are usually published in Wots On church news sheet or are fixed on the notice boards.

Co-ordinator: Liz Swanwick 511790

Coffee mornings

The shoppers Coffee morning takes place on the second Thursday morning of each month and the Saturday coffee morning takes place on the last Saturday in the month. There are usually a number of stalls to tempt you to part with your money for church funds!

Fabric Panel

Meets on Tuesday mornings at approx 9am to undertake maintenance projects on the church premises thereby helping to keep our costs down. Other jobs are undertaken at members' convenience. If you have DIY skills or can use a paint brush we would appreciate your help!

Contact: Ron Heathman 542032
Ron Jones 544378
Mike Pritchard 544885

Funky Friday

Meets on last Friday evening of the month 6-7.30pm. A fun activity based evening for families with food provided.

Organiser Carole Allen 542807



Fury Youth Group

Meets on Sunday evening 6-7.30pm. and occasional trips out, weekends away. For Secondary School aged young people. A safe space for friendship, fun and exploring faith.

Youth Worker Emma Irvine 543760

Ladies Group

Tab ladies group meet on 2nd and 4th Monday evening each month in the Upper Hall at 7.30pm. They have a broad based programme covering many subjects and interest. Many meetings are open to men!

Chair Enid Fullard 860301

Secretary Ann Shillitoe 546631

Prayer Meeting

Tuesday mornings 9.30-10am in the church or reception room. An opportunity to listen for God's word and pray for the needs of the church and the world.

Joan Kingham 547275

Tab Music Group

Have monthly rehearsals to provide contemporary music for worship on Sundays.

Co-ordinator: Carole Allen 542807

Women's Guild

The Women's Guild is open to ladies of all ages and meets on alternate Tuesdays at 2.30pm. They have a variety of speakers and events. All welcome.

Chair: Sally Larkham 542175

Brownie and Rainbow Company

Brownie and Rainbow packs meet on Monday at 6.15pm and Tuesday at 5.45pm respectively.

Brownies Marion Paisey 545802

Rainbows Sue Lee 549630

Dance Group

Meets on Wednesday evenings from 5.30pm

Child Contact Centre

The Child Contact Centre is a neutral meeting place where children of estranged parents can meet safely the non resident parent. Many from this church volunteer at the centre which meets in our Community Rooms alternate Saturday afternoons.

Contact Carol Bye, Co-ordinator 07924 872854

Open Door Club

Open Door is a social club for adults with learning difficulties and disabilities. They meet on Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm and provide a 'club' atmosphere with recreational activities, outings and weekend breaks. New helpers always welcome!

Chair Mary Wright 545594

Tabard Players

An amateur dramatic society meets on Wednesday evenings in the Upper Hall from 7.30pm. They produce a wide range of drama presentations to the local community.

Secretary Laura Cooper

Toddler Group

Little Owls parent and Toddler Group meet on Thursday mornings in the Community Rooms for pre-school children and their parents/carers.

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Church Finances

How you can support our Ministry at the Tab

Obviously the church needs money to run, in order to serve the community and make a difference. In the United Reformed Church each church has to fund its own activities, local mission and the upkeep of its own buildings. Each church pays into a national fund, called the Ministry and Mission (MAM) fund, which then pays for all the ministers and the national administration of the church, mission nationally and internationally and training. Each minister, regardless of situation, gets the same stipend (currently at £21K pa before tax). A stipend is technically different from a salary in that it is not money given in return for work done but it is money given so that the minister is largely free from concerns about earning enough money to live on and so can devote his/her full time to the work of the church. Each Synod levies its churches for a contribution for the costs of the running of the Synod and for their contribution to MAM. No church in the URC is forced to pay anything – although if a church offers nothing, or a pastorate doesn't pay its way, then their allocation of ministry may be withdrawn or re-scoped.

For 2011 we have been asked to contribute £31,500 to MAM which, with a present membership of 130, equates to roughly £258 per member per year. This is the fifth lowest average figure per member of the 14 pastorates that make up the Gloucestershire area of URC.

Of course we recognise that some people are in a position to contribute more, and others less. There is no fixed membership fee for being a church member!

Being a church member does not depend on what you can give financially!

What you can give towards the work of this church is a question between you and God. Please pray about it.

The URC a few years back recommended that members set aside 5% of their income for the local church and 5% to give to other charitable causes





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and Christian work, thereby adhering to the biblical principle of tithing a tenth of your income (Deuteronomy 14.22-29) and giving back for God's work in appreciation of the harvest of good gifts that God has given to you. This was always with the caveat of making sure that you had enough to live on first of all. John Wesley famously said that we should live as simply as we could, earn all we could, and give away all we could (to the poor and not just to the church). Paul tells us to give cheerfully and giving is done from the heart (2 Corinthians 8 and 9 vs.-8). Of course not everyone is in a privileged position to have spare money to give.

Churches will always be needing money! We have been trying to raise money for a part-time youth worker to invest in our work with children and young people. We are preparing plans for renovating the kitchen and improving access to the Community Rooms (Lower Hall).

As a growing church will want to develop and thrive and make more of an impact for the gospel. As such we need to try to be as generous as we can, by reflecting the abundant grace of our loving God who did not count the cost but gave us even his only Son Jesus Christ, that we may have life!

We are all in this together and we have seen God's wonderful provision in recent years. May we continue to trust that God will supply all our needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4 vs10-20)

You can increase your giving by over a quarter, through no extra cost to yourself, if you Gift Aid your giving. Forms can be requested from the treasurer John Heslop who would also be glad to answer any further questions you have about giving to the church and where the money is spent.

Dursley Tabernacle Church Treasurer:
John Heslop, 6B Dursley Rd, Cam, GL11 6PE
Tel: 01453 545434

