

## **Bishop Sutton Community Church Letter:**

100 years ago, General Allenby was charged by the war cabinet to liberate Jerusalem without firing on the people or the city. How on earth was it to be done? Allenby asked his superiors... "Pray", came the answer from above. This didn't seem to be very helpful at the time, but Allenby prayed and came across the work of Bible scholar, Dr H. Aldersmith who in 1898, believed Jerusalem would be delivered by Great Britain in 1917. Aldersmith based part of his belief on the words of prophet Isaiah 31v.5:

*Like birds flying about, So will the LORD of hosts defend Jerusalem.*

*Defending, He will also deliver it; Passing over, He will preserve it."*

He was convinced that the UK would have a part to play in the restoration of Jerusalem, and that it would be accomplished by some kind of flying machine (5 years before the Wright brothers took their first flight in 1903).

The Turks who had ruled Palestine for 400 years believed they would never be defeated saying "*When the waters of the Nile flow into Palestine, then will a prophet of the Lord come and drive the Turks out of this land!*" But... General Allenby's name translated into Arabic was Allah (God)-en-Nebi (Prophet) or the Prophet of God; and in order to supply British troops in the desert, water from the Nile was brought across the desert by pipeline with many thousands of gallons flowing into Palestine each day in 1917.

Allenby dropped notes from airplanes over Jerusalem with the words which read in Arabic "Surrender the city! The Prophet of God". His troops surrounded the City leaving an escape route to the south and from the evening of December 8, Turkish troops fled the City. By early morning all had gone, Jerusalem was delivered and not a shot was fired!

From sunset on December 8<sup>th</sup> to sunset December 9<sup>th</sup> that year was the 24<sup>th</sup> day of Kislev, the 9<sup>th</sup> month of the Jewish year. 25 Centuries earlier the prophet Haggai had foretold the deliverance of Jerusalem on this very day (see Haggai 2:18-22). And remarkably, in the Book of Common Prayer the reading for December 8<sup>th</sup> is Isaiah 31... Coincidence? or is God in control? Dave & Jenny Dickerson, Facebook: @Bishop Sutton Community Church  
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## **Bishop Sutton Community Church Activities:**

**Sunday Services: at the Village Hall 10 am every week in the Taylor Room upstairs (Chair lift available) with children's Junior church for primary age. All welcome.**

Carols at the Red Lion: Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December 6:30pm followed by Mince Pies and Mulled Wine – bring a torch!

Christmas Day Service: Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December 10:00-10:45am

Messy Church: Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> December, 10:00am-12:00am mainly aimed at preschool and younger primary age with activities, games and refreshments. Mums, Dads, grandparents, and all the family welcome.

Connection: "Going deeper with God" ... 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday in the month. Next is 7<sup>th</sup> December 8pm, for prayer, praise, worship and waiting on God at 24 Highmead Gardens.

Youth Group: Monday 5:00pm – 6:30m for Yr 5 (9/10 year olds) to Yr 9 (13/14 year olds) children for table tennis, pool, craft, jigsaws, etc. at the Village Hall Taylor Room.

Coffee Club: Tuesday 10:30am – 12noon in the Village Hall Lounge for hot drinks, chatter, scrabble, jigsaws, and other board games, or bring your newspapers or art and craft, and just enjoy friendship time together.

Food Bank: We hold emergency food supplies, if you hear of people in difficulty, contact Dave/Jenny to help these needy people. We collect food at the times we are open at the Village Hall. **Most needed items:** Jars of bolognese sauce or other pasta sauce, Coffee (small jars), Instant mashed potato, Jam, Peanut butter, Honey. **Other items needed:** Packets of custard, Rice pudding, 500g Pasta, Meat (tinned hot dogs, Fray Bentos tins, ravioli, meatballs), Long life fruit juice, Tinned tuna, Sweets, chocs and cereal bars, Cereal packs 500g, Cup a soup packets. A BIG THANKYOU to all who give to this worthy cause.

Men's Breakfast: Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> January 8:30am-10am in the Red Lion with Don the Whistler. Don is Vice Chancellor of Witherwood University and appeared on Britain's Got Talent with over 100,000 hits on YouTube. Tickets £7 from Dave: 01275 332746.