



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**By 21<sup>st</sup> February;** Reports for the AGM (on 6<sup>th</sup> March) to be with Mike or Jenny, preferably by email.

**Wed 24<sup>th</sup> February;** Equalities Meeting at the URC at 7.30pm. Videos and discussion on social inequality in our society and our world and what we can do about it. Anyone interested is welcome to join the group which was developed by Quakers and URC members.

**Sat 27 February:** Quiz and Cream Tea in Church. 2pm to 4pm. Tickets £4.

**By 28<sup>th</sup> February;** Nominations for Elders ( proposed, seconded and with person's agreement) to be handed in to Mike or Jenny.

### Tuesday Topics.

**2<sup>nd</sup> February:** Calling Jesus Lord in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century - Bishop John Shelby Spong

**9<sup>th</sup> February:** The change that changes everything- Richard Rohr

**16<sup>th</sup> February:** The change that changes everything- Richard Rohr continued.

**23<sup>rd</sup> February:** The change that changes everything- Richard Rohr continued.

## CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

From **Revd. Roger**

'Very many thanks to everybody who made December 13<sup>th</sup> a very special day for me. As you know I find such occasions very difficult but it was good to see so many friends who took the trouble to mark my retirement by attending. The service and meal was most enjoyable.

Your generous gift will be used to purchase gardening equipment which will get good use and Sue was delighted with the beautiful orchid which will bloom for several months. We are continuing to live in Tavistock and will support the church as best we can.

Roger'

Our thoughts and prayers are with

**Liz Sanders** and **Sue Cornish** and with **Garth** and **Roger** as they support their wives;

**Thelma Newell** who has another health problem to cope with;

**Janet Dashper** as she helps with moral support to her family;

Those not so steady on their feet anymore who have suffered from falls;

Those getting forgetful;

.....and any of our church family who need a prayer or two.

### Editor's Letters

From the **URC Web-site**

'We Three Kings

The Moderator of the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church, John Ellis, asks how the journey of the Magi helps us make the transition from the holiday season to the challenges of everyday life. Wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' We don't know whether they were kings and we don't know whether there were three of them. But the story is about people rich and influential enough to bring very expensive gifts. They were saying that this baby was going to matter even in circles unknown to the average shepherd.

As we take down the cards featuring Father Christmas and robins, the cuddly reassuring Christmas has to be packed away. We have shaped our celebrations around what we enjoy but now the world intrudes again. The television news suggests that world is all too similar to what it

was a fortnight ago and the Facebook pages still tell of painful lives. The arrival of the Magi asks us what sort of Jesus we are taking away from the Christmas season. Is Christmas like a good foreign holiday that we look back to fondly but is irrelevant to the challenges of the next week? Or are we risking a Jesus who has something to say even into circles that prefer to abuse or ignore him? A Jesus who is willing to risk the suffering myrrh suggests, if that is what pointing to the Kingdom of God entails. A Jesus who is even more interested in office life than stables, who will be in the midst of the Palace of Westminster and will not be conveniently confined to carol services.

So rather than leave baby Jesus in the Manger, we travel with the lynchpin of history into the places where we have influence, massive or modest. We do our best to point to the King when among those who like to be thought of as people who matter. And we don't lose the Advent longing for the true Kingdom to be revealed in all its Glory.

From **Mike Dennis**

Wind Power leads the way: Denmark's wind industry sprang from concern over the Chernobyl disaster in 1986. In 2013, wind power alone met one-third of the country's electricity needs, and Denmark has exported its wind turbines all over the world. By 2035, all of Denmark's energy demand for electricity and heating will be met from renewable energy, and it is hoped that by 2050 the country will become the first fossil-free nation on earth. You can see the full January 'Prayer Guide for the Care of Creation' in the Faith section of [www.greenchristian.org.uk](http://www.greenchristian.org.uk)

From **Garth Sanders**

Advice from the USA to retired people (most of us!):  
 'Regardless of age, always keep love alive. Love your partner, love life, love your family, love your neighbour and remember: "A man is not old as long as he has intelligence and affection." '

**Prayer for February - Prayer of commitment from Prayer Partners 2016**

<p>Lift up our hearts                  To give thanks and praise                  To respond to your call                  To live out the good news                  And to be salt and light in the world</p> <p>Give us the courage                  To pursue peace                  To act for justice                  To work for freedom                  And to prepare the way of God</p> <p>Challenge and inspire us                  To live simply                  To share what we have                  To offer hospitality                  And to welcome strangers</p>	<p>Give us the wisdom                  To be open to questions                  To recognise our failings and our gifts                  To seek unity                  And to rejoice in your image in others</p> <p>As we forgive those who sin against us.                  Lead us not into temptation                  But deliver us from evil.                  May we know the love of God,                  Grow in the likeness of Christ                  And be open to the Spirit  <b>For yours is the Kingdom,                  the power and the glory                  Now and forever more.</b>  <b>Amen</b>                  ©Rosie Venner</p>
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**Any items for March/April CONTACT should be emailed to Maureen Tulloch by the 24<sup>th</sup> February ([maureen.tulloch@homecall.co.uk](mailto:maureen.tulloch@homecall.co.uk)). Many thanks.**