

Tavistock United Reformed Church

Russell Street, Tavistock PL19 8BD Founded 1652
Loving God Encouraging Questions Welcoming All



CONTACT

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April 2016

- SUNDAY 3rd** 10:00am Worship led by Rev Phyllis Ball with Holy Communion
- SUNDAY 10th** 10:00am Worship led by Rev Iain McDonald
- SUNDAY 17th** 10:00am Worship led by Mr Mike Dennis
followed by an Elders' Meeting
- SUNDAY 24th** 10:00am Worship led by Mr Garth Sanders



Nothing you do in The Lord's Service is ever useless.

Photo by Peter Tulloch

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 23rd 2.30 to 4.30pm Devon Youth Brass Band Concert in our church ; 'We have players from 11-19 yrs old from all over Devon. It is free concert with a retiring collection as part of the Tavistock Music and Arts Festival.' The refreshments at half time are being run by the church for URC funds.

Saturday 30th 2 to 5pm Torridge and West Devon Labour Party Meeting in our church. Open to the general public.

Saturday 30th 7 to 10pm JDACC concert in our church in aid of church funds.



JDACC are a very talented family quintet –parents and three daughters - who all play different instruments. They have even been on TV! Come along and enjoy their music...
Tickets :£6, children free.

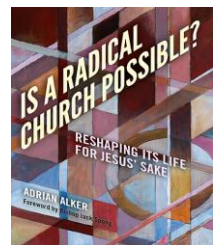
Tuesday Topics (all at 7.30pm).

5th April The Challenge of Worship after the Jesus Seminar – Bruce Mille

12th April REVD CANON ADRIAN ALKER, chair of PCN Britain, on tour of the UK with his new book “**IS A RADICAL CHURCH POSSIBLE?**”
Suggested donation £5 on the door

19th April Speaker – Hayley Kemp -The Refugee Crisis, Calais and Iraq

26th April Sing your Song – Harry Belafonte – A portrait of the man.



CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

We thank the Lord for **Sue Cornish's** operation and pray now for a full recovery. We pray for **Roger** too and **Liz** and **Garth Sanders, Marlene Horrell** and **Muriel Midgley**. It is good to see **Dorothy Woodyatt** back again and fighting fit.

Welcome to **Hugh Williams** as our new Church Treasurer from 1st April 2016 (though Roger will still be involved in handover for a few weeks). Also welcome to **Anne Williams**, as assistant treasurer. Thank you for taking on this work and hope the roles don't turn out to be too onerous!

Editor's Letters

From **Tony Newell**

'Personally I am glad the HAIRY months are over. Januhairy and Februhairy.'

From **Garth Sanders**

Advice from the USA to retired people (most of us!):

'Some people embrace their golden years, while others become bitter and surly. Life is too short to waste your days on the latter. Spend your time with positive, cheerful people, it'll rub off on you and your days will seem that much better. Spending your time with bitter people will make you older and harder to be around.'

From **Jenny Dennis**

'Easyfundraising.org.uk

Do you shop online?

I have just registered Tavistock United Reformed Church to receive donations from many large retailers such as Amazon, Tesco Direct, Ebay, Argos and John Lewis, if purchases are made through easyfundraising.org.uk.

Log onto easyfundraising.org.uk and sign up to support Tavistock United Reformed Church.

How it works: Say you want to buy a pair of shoes from John Lewis.

Instead of going to John Lewis.com directly you first go to easyfundraising.org.uk. From the easy fundraising website click through to John Lewis to make your purchase. This tells John Lewis you come from Easy Fundraising. The price of the shoes is exactly the same. After you buy your shoes, John Lewis will give a cash reward that you can turn into a donation to Tavistock United Reformed Church. Easyfundraising collect this and send it to our bank account at no extra cost.

What an easy way to raise money to help pay off our loan for the roof!

Jenny Dennis'

From **Maureen Tulloch** to **Rex Harpham**

'If you want to read something more 'challenging' in CONTACT, I need you and others to contribute. I have had compliments from people who like the friendlier face of 'CONTACT' and the church family news though. It's not ALL about challenging politicians, big business and the heads of the churches. Maureen'

In reply from **Rex**

'You say that it is not about challenging politicians, etc. but I believe that it should be. It is they and their policies which are causing so much damage to our society and disrupting people's lives. It is their overwhelming values of materialism and need for power that essentially Christ was opposing, i.e. put first the kingdom of God and not the values of man and this world.

You say that our magazines are not ALL about challenging these people but I cannot recall any anywhere in which this has been done. To me at least these magazines should have regular features on this. The churches should surely help keep a check on power and destructive values which usually accompanies it.

We are one of the richest countries in the world yet we have millions of people in desperate poverty and little more than a tweet from the church leaders about it from any denomination. To my mind at least, it is a disgrace and I believe that all of our church leaders should be ashamed of themselves for allowing the situation to go on so unchallenged, both from the pulpit and outside generally.

Hopefully, church magazines generally, will soon stop having bits about who is putting out what flowers, where etc., and sloppy drivel like that.

With all best wishes Rex.'

(Take up the challenge and let **Maureen** have your views on this subject for publication in CONTACT)

Turning the Year

From John Ellis' Blog, Moderator of the URC

The most appropriate rededication for 2016 grew out of the opportunity to share in the annual service in Canterbury Cathedral on 29th December commemorating the martyrdom of Thomas Becket. Before the altar at the site of the assassination, Archbishop Justin removed his mitre. The candles carried by the congregation gathered around him lit the cathedral, as they had done on that fateful winter afternoon 845 years before. The overwhelming liturgical drama reached its climax as the doors from the cloisters were slammed shut, as they once were to keep out four murderous, alcohol-soaked knights. The tension mounted as the heavy doors were then flung open again, recalling Archbishop Thomas' insistence that "The church is a house of prayer and is not to be made into a fortress." The deep silence that followed was of rare intensity. The privilege of serving the Church is not always costless.

My first Moderatorial sermon of 2016 was closer to my home in Kent, but in the context of a small piece of history of its own. The local Interim Moderator, the Revd Bernard Fidler, and I led what is thought to be the first Sunday Communion service fully in the forms used by the United Reformed Church to be held in All Saints' Church, Tudeley, a parish church near Tonbridge, mentioned in the Domesday Book. The Local Ecumenical Partnership serving the two villages of Tudeley and Five Oak Green regularly includes services drawing on URC liturgical insights within its varied worship patterns, but normally hosts these in the former URC building.



All Saints' Church, Tudeley

Within the boundaries of the LEP's parish there is a third and ancient church. It is dedicated to none other than St Thomas Becket.'

(Readers may be interested to know that **Maureen and Peter Tulloch** lived in Five Oak Green in Kent for 34 years and worshipped at the URC there, and later, at All Saints, and occasionally at the redundant church of St Thomas Becket. Maureen and Peter moved to Callington in 2012.)

Prayer for April from Kneelers

'Thank God for any neighbours you have who follow other faiths and for Christian neighbours who worship in other churches. Ask to be shown God's spirit in them all, and pray for the breakdown of harmful barriers and the growth of our mutual understanding of God and his purpose for us all. Amen'

Items for May CONTACT should be emailed to Maureen Tulloch by the 26th April

maureen.tulloch@homecall.co.uk). *Many thanks.*