

Tavistock United Reformed Church

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



CONTACT

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May 2016

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| SUNDAY 1 st | 10:00am | Revd David Parker with Holy Communion |
| SUNDAY 8 th | 10:00am | Mr Garth Sanders |
| SUNDAY 15 th | 10:00am | (Pentecost) Mr Mike Dennis |
| SUNDAY 22 nd | 10:00am | Revd Dick Gray followed by a Church Meeting with Janet Gray, Synod Pastoral Advisor, and then Church Lunch. |
| SUNDAY 29 th | 10:00am | Revd Phyllis Ball |



Our Father who art in heaven...

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 12th May 7.00pm The final Public Theology Lecture of this academic year at The University of St Mark and St John Chapel. Professor Sir Ghilleen Prance will speak on the title 'The Christian Gospel includes the care of creation'. If anyone would like to go, speak to Mike about transport.

Sunday 15th May to Saturday 21st May - Christian Aid Week 'This is the week we love every neighbour. Jesus calls us to love our neighbours as ourselves, and not just the ones next door or at the end of the street. Christian Aid Week unites over 20,000 churches to put this love in to action. Together we'll hold church collections, host Big Brekkie fundraising breakfasts, and collect house-to-house.'

Saturday 21st May 7pm at Tavistock Methodist Church Board Games Evening for Christian Aid.

Sunday 22nd May. Church Lunch (after the service and church meeting) when the Synod Pastoral Advisor Janet Gray, is visiting. Cost will be £6.

Tuesday Topics (all at 7.30pm at our church)).

3rd May. Jesus for the non-religious. Bishop John Shelley Spong

11th May. Secular Religion – Sea of Faith – Stephen Batchelor

18th May Secular Religion – Sea of Faith – Don Cupitt

24th May Secular Religion – Sea of Faith – Richard Holloway

31st May Secular Religion – Sea of Faith – Plenary

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Congratulations to **Jenny and Mike Dennis** on the safe arrival of their 6th grandchild



– a girl named Sophie. May God bless her.

Thanks go to **Revd Roger Cornish** as he finally hands over the reins to **Hugh**, for all his hard work as our Church Treasurer over many years. Our prayers are with him and Sue for both health and happiness in the coming years.

A vote of thanks goes to all the people who work together to make our Church the welcoming place that it is. We include all the people who put down their names on the rotas including the Sunday tea, flower and welcoming at the door. Those tasks, we know from experience, make a difference to our visitors.

Our special prayers are for **Marlene Horrell** after an extended stay in hospital, may she soon feel 'more like herself' again. Also for **Muriel Midgley** as she plans to move to Norfolk to stay with her nephew and his wife. May the Lord go with you, Muriel. We will miss you.

We wish **Margery and Rex Harpham** well, as they go back to worship at Tavistock Methodist Church. But Rex does say that he appreciated the high standard of the URC's sermons, social concerns equally so, also the lovely people in the membership.

Editor's Letters

The following three articles are summarised, in response to [Rex Harpham's](#) letter last month.

1. From [Revd Phyllis Ball](#)

'The first and foremost purpose of Contact is to share information about members and friends, and to give notice of events. In order to have debates about subjects such as world poverty, nuclear power, global warming etc. the publication would have to be considerably larger; more time-consuming for the editor; and more expensive to produce.

If the voices of our church leaders are not heard sufficiently in the media, it doesn't mean that they aren't saying anything. The dissemination of news is never totally objective, even in the BBC. As a result, if the Archbishop of Canterbury [for instance] makes a statement criticising government policy, it may get a brief mention provided there's not much else in the news. If a journalist suddenly discovers that the Archbishop's father is not his mother's husband, *that's* really news!

2. From [Eileen Hooper](#)

'Being a regular reader of Contact I have especially enjoyed your editions, so felt I must support you on any criticism you have received. I hope you will have others also giving their appreciation. With many thanks.'

3. From [Garth and Liz Sanders](#)

'In response to your request about articles appearing in Contact, we feel that a good balance has been maintained so far. What would we consider suitable to be included? – perhaps important Church events or situations relating to people or places in the UK. or around the world . We do feel that the Contact should not become a political platform.'

From the [Southern Synod URC](#) Website –

'The terrorist attacks in Brussels are the most violent to hit Europe since the November attacks in Paris that killed 130 people. Yet this is not the first, or even the second or third, terrorist attack in that time. We must not forget Bamako, Tunis, San Bernadino, Istanbul, Jakarta, Ouagadougou, Ankara, Mogadishu and Grand-Bassam, and Ankara and Istanbul for a second time, let alone the on-going and daily struggles in Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq and Gaza.

The litany of death and violence in our world, and on our own streets, has the danger to make us sink into the helplessness and hopelessness of the situation.

Yet it is for times of doubt and darkness like Brussels, Ankara and Paris that Easter provides a glorious message of encouragement. Through the darkness of despair came the Easter dawn. It is impossible to believe in the Resurrection and at the same time believe that the darkness of this world will overthrow the light of Christ. At the empty tomb, we know that right is might, and that evil, in the long run, will succeed only in its own death and destruction.'

From [Garth Sanders](#) Advice from the USA to retired people (most of us!):

'Don't stress over the little things. You've already overcome so much in your life. You have good memories and bad ones, but the important thing is the present. Don't let the past drag you down and don't let the future frighten you. Feel good in the now. Small issues will soon be forgotten.'

From [Revd Phyllis Ball](#)

Please note:- 'For many years we have been permitted limited parking next door to the Church at Ridge Grove, the former premises of Messrs. Francis Clarke, on Sundays and Goose Fair. This was through the kindness of Mr. Guy Talbot. His business has now moved into Plymouth and the premises are to be let, so we can no longer be assured of this concession in the future.'

From **Tony Newell** – isn't this clever?

'The passenger steamer SS Warrimoo was quietly knifing its way through the waters of the mid-Pacific on its way from Vancouver to Australia. The navigator had just finished working out a star fix and brought the master, Captain John Phillips, the result. The Warrimoo's position was latitude 0 degrees x 31 minutes north and longitude 179 degrees x 30 minutes west. The date was 30 December 1899. "Know what this means?" First Mate Payton broke in, "we're only a few miles from the intersection of the Equator and the International Date Line". Captain Phillips was prankish enough to take full advantage of the opportunity for achieving the navigational freak of a lifetime. He called his navigators to the bridge to check and double check the ships position. He changed course slightly so as to bear directly on his mark. Then he adjusted the engine speed. The calm weather and clear night worked in his favour. At midnight the "Warrimoo" lay on the Equator at exactly the point where it crossed the International Date Line! The consequences of this bizarre position were many. The forward part of the ship was in the Southern Hemisphere and the middle of summer. The stern was in the Northern Hemisphere and in the middle of winter. The date in the aft part of the ship was 30 December 1899. Forward it was 1 January 1900. This ship was therefore not only in two different days, two different months, two different seasons and two different years but in two different centuries-all at the same time.'

From **Jenny & Mike Dennis**

'PCN are delighted to announce that they have been successful in attracting Brian McLaren to the South West this October. He will be in Exeter on Sunday 9th October at the Mint Methodist Church Centre, Fore Street, Exeter, EX4 3AT for two sessions in the afternoon commencing at 2:00pm. Tickets are £10.00, PCN members £8.00 and full time students £5.00. Brian will also be speaking at Holy Ground which is held in Exeter Cathedral commencing at 7:00pm. Tickets are now on sale and can be obtained from http://www.pcnbritain.org.uk/shop/product/brian_mclaren_tour_october_2016 They are limited to 250 places and are sharing this event with the university and cathedral and it is anticipated that tickets will sell fast. **If you are interested in attending I recommend you buy your tickets soon.'**

Prayer for May

God,
help me to be brash for your sake,
not to hide the light you lit in me,
but to shine like a neon strip in a dark alley.

God,
help me to be salty and strong, cutting through slush,
unsubtle, intense, giving life zing.

And whenever I am tempted just to be meek
and to think of myself as ordinary, lowly and little,
bless me with the sheer nerve and the downright cheek, of salt and light.
And let anyone taste,
and let anyone see that you are gracious and wonderful,
that life is good, and that even I can change the world.

From Revd. Dr. Susan Durber's book – "Surprised by Grace", referring to the parables of Salt and Light in Matthew Ch 5 v 13-16.

Any items for June CONTACT should be emailed to Maureen Tulloch by the 26th May (maureen.tulloch@homecall.co.uk). Many thanks.