

# Tavistock United Reformed Church

Russell Street, Tavistock PL19 8BD  
Loving God Encouraging Questions

Founded 1652  
Welcoming All



# CONTACT

Minister : VACANCY

Church Secretaries : Mike & Jenny Dennis Tel: 01822 618142

Administrator : Maureen Tulloch Tel: 01579 208519

Church Payphone: 01822 612017

Website : [www.tavistock.urc.org.uk](http://www.tavistock.urc.org.uk)

## June 2016

- SUNDAY 5<sup>th</sup> 10:00am Service led by Revd Sue Macbeth with Holy Communion
- SUNDAY 12<sup>th</sup> 10:00am Service led by Mr Garth Sanders
- SUNDAY 19<sup>th</sup> 10:00am Service led by Mr Mike Dennis followed by an Elders Meeting
- SUNDAY 26<sup>th</sup> 10:00am Local arrangement (\* see letters to the Editor)



All are welcome in this place

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> June 7pm – Tavistock Peace Group meet in our church.

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June 7.30 pm at the Local Matters Shop, Elbow Lane, Tavistock. Climate Matters in the EU referendum. How would "in" or "out" affect action on climate change? A talk by Sarah Holmes a solicitor specialising in environmental and planning law.

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> June 7.30pm at Mary Tavy Methodist Church, PL19 9QA. 'Cathedrals and Cappuccinos' – an illustrated talk by Trish Rogers, when she shares the delights and surprises encountered when visiting all 42 Anglican Cathedrals and tips on finding the secrets of these historical spiritual sites. Admission free – retiring collection for Christian Aid.

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 7.30pm Slavery & Human Trafficking Awareness Event at Tavistock Methodist Church. 1) Did you know, wherever we are in the UK, within a 10 mile radius someone is being used for slavery and human trafficking? 2) Did you know that the UK is in the top 3 places for human trafficking? 3) Did you know that UK citizens also traffic UK people? To find out more and to support this event, please do come.

### **Tuesday Topics (all at 7.30pm in our church).**

7<sup>th</sup> June Does Christianity have a future?

14<sup>th</sup> June Does Christianity have a future?(cont)

21<sup>st</sup> June Does Christianity have a future?(cont)

28<sup>th</sup> June Does Christianity have a future?(cont)

## **CHURCH FAMILY NEWS**

Good news – **Marlene Horrell** is feeling much better and hopes to come back to church in a week or two. Also **Muriel Midgely** is settling happily into her new home with her nephew and his wife and is enjoying going out and meeting different people.

Is anyone willing to deputise for Maureen as Letting Secretary when she is away? Usually this entails no more than taking a few phone calls and passing on messages, but whoever takes it on does need to be on email. Please let Maureen know (01579 208519).

### **Letters to the Editor**

From **the Elders**:

'You will have noticed that on 26<sup>th</sup> June we have a Local Arrangement because it hasn't been possible to find any one available to lead our worship.

At our Church meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> May Jenny outlined the plans for worship based on the Lectionary theme for the day. The theme for the service will be "A Committed Community" and based on Luke 9 v 57-62. Jesus begins a new stage of his ministry which may challenge us to consider our new stage of ministry as a community.

Instead of a formal talk we invite people to contribute offering their experiences (about 3 mins each) poems/reflections on the following subject:

"What have been the pivotal or turning points in our lives? Did we recognise them at the time? Turning points - such as changing job, having children, illness, and retirement- can change the course of our lives. Some are of our choosing, others are not. Do we embark willingly on a new course? Do we want to blame others - or God- for having to change our course? Can we see ( looking back) that something good has come out of uninvited changes? "

For this to be successful we do need people to step forward and provide a contribution. If you are able to offer any help please email or speak to Jenny Dennis (or an Elder) as soon as possible so she can co-ordinate the order of service. Many thanks'

From **Tony Newell** with thanks to Yeolmbridge Methodists.

'There was a painter named Smokey MacGregor who was very interested in making a penny where he could, so he often thinned down his paint to make it go a wee bit further. As it happened he got away with this for some time, but eventually the local church decided to do a big restoration job on the outside of one of their biggest buildings. Smokey put in a bid, and because his price was so low, he got the job. So he set about erecting the scaffolding, and setting up the planks, and buying the paint and yes, I am sorry to say, thinning it down with turpentine....

Well, Smokey was up the scaffolding, painting away, the job nearly done, when suddenly there was an horrendous clap of thunder, the sky opened and the rain poured down, washing the thinned paint from all over the church, and knocking Smokey clean off the scaffolding to land in the car park, surrounded by tell-tale puddles of thinned paint.

Smokey was no fool. He knew this was judgement from the Almighty so he got down on his knees and cried:

"Oh God, Oh God, forgive me; what should I do?"

And from the thunder a mighty voice spoke.

"Repaint! Repaint! And thin no more!"

Jdacc Brass Concert on 30<sup>th</sup> April – what a wonderful evening! - by **Maureen Tulloch**

"Two families with their combined talents on selected brass instruments and percussion playing a broad spectrum of music made for a most enjoyable evening. Charlotte and Cathryn have gained places at Cheam Music School so may not play again with the band for some time. Thank you all of the Jdacc Band for giving their time and to all those who helped to make it such a successful evening.



Jdacc from left to right:

Cathryn Nuta, Marian Quick, Julie Dobson, Dave Dobson( standing), Mark Quick, Emily Quick, Charlotte Nuta and Alina Nuta.

(£318.80 was raised to go to our Church Roof Fund - a very good result. Jdacc say they will be happy to come again next year)"

From **Liz Sanders**

'Review of the Life of Harry Belafonte –film shown at Tuesday Topics on 26<sup>th</sup> April

Harry Belafonte, is better known for being an American singer, songwriter, actor in the 1950`s and 60`s

But the film showed that rising from the poverty of a single parent family in Harlem, New York, he became a world renown and revered social and progressive activist. He was prominent in the fight for Civil rights for black Americans, and marched along with Martin Luther King Jnr., although there were times when he and his family were attacked and criticised for it. He is currently 89 years old and still fighting for equality of minorities in America and where ever they can be found. He was a founder of the Band aid concerts raising millions of pounds for food aid in Ethiopia and other starving African Countries.

Being an admirer and supporter of Nelson Mandela, he met him when released from prison and marched with the South Africans in their final victory for freedom.

It was a most entertaining, interesting and informative film.

Bringing back many memories, for me, of the 50`s and 60`s, as many of his songs and films were reviewed at various stages of his life.

Particularly I recall the song, "Scarlet Ribbons" that he wrote, thinking about his little girls.

Well worth coming out for on a wintery Tuesday night. Just a shame, that there were only six people came. Remember Tuesday night presentations are on throughout the year.'

From **Revd Roger Cornish**

EU Referendum

THINK, PRAY, VOTE – Resources for Churches.

See [www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/issues/eu-referendum](http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/issues/eu-referendum)

This link gives online briefing notes covering different topics and includes background information, issues for debate and questions from a perspective of faith.

(Do look at it and make up your own mind ! )

## **Prayer for June**

God of Life

Abundant, generous and free,  
Let me have the ears to hear good news,  
And the willingness to believe it.

When life is rocky,  
Save me from Danger.  
When everything seems shallow and unimportant,  
Draw me into your deep presence.  
When I feel choked with worry,  
Quieten me with your calm.

And do not let anything that harms me,  
Any worry or fear,  
Or anything that really doesn't matter,  
Be the end of my story.  
But only your overwhelming, generous and joyful gift of life.

*From Revd Susan Durber's "Surprised by Grace" referring to the parable of the Sower and the Seed in Matthew 13, Mark 4 and Luke 8.*

**Any items for July CONTACT should be emailed to Maureen Tulloch by the 24<sup>th</sup> June ([maureen.tulloch@homecall.co.uk](mailto:maureen.tulloch@homecall.co.uk) ). Many thanks.**