



The
**United
Reformed
Church**

Tavistock U.R.C.
Russell Street, Tavistock PL19 8BD
Founded 1652
Loving God,
Encouraging Questions, Welcoming all.

CONTACT

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November 2016

- SUNDAY 6th 10:00am Service led by Rev Phyllis Ball with Holy Communion
- SUNDAY 13th **9.30am** Remembrance Sunday Service led by Mr Garth Sanders
- SUNDAY 20th 10:00am Service led by Rev Iain McDonald
- SUNDAY 27th 10:00am Advent Service led by Mr Mike Dennis



Harvest flowers -- God's creation --- picked and arranged by loving hands

(Photo – Hugh Williams)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

9th November at 2.30pm. The Daytime Fellowship will meet at 22 Chapel Lane, Horrabridge (see Letters to the Editor for more information)
13th November Remembrance Sunday (Please note 9.30am start)
27th November Advent Sunday

Art4Fun Exhibition is on in our church on the following dates and times:

Friday 25th November 5pm to 9pm
Saturday 26th November 10am to 4pm
Monday 28th November 2pm to 4pm
Tuesday 29th November 10am to 12noon
Wednesday 30th November 2pm to 4pm and
Friday 2nd December 11.30am to 1pm.

This is an opportunity for you to view the work of the group and buy if you wish. Refreshments will be available.

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

1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd November, Violence Divine by John Dominic Crossan , continued
No further meetings until January.

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Our thoughts and prayers are with Tom Lee who is suffering with a slipped disc, and any of our church family who are ill or feeling down. May God give you the support and hope that you need.

The charities 'Catalyst' and 'Embrace the Middle East' received a total of £400 from the Harvest Lunch & our Benevolent Fund. Thanks to all for cooking, setting up, serving and washing up!

Our thanks go to Anne Snook and Stella Rasdall for organising Goose Fair Day at the church so well, and to all the other stalwarts who cooked/ baked/ washed up or otherwise helped on the day. They all do a sterling job – it is hard work, but everyone pulls together marvellously. We raised a total of £850 to go towards the URC Roof Fund. Well done!

Editor's Letters

From **Revd Phyllis Ball**

'The Daytime Fellowship will be meeting for the first time on Wednesday November 9th at 2.30 at 22 Chapel Lane Horrabridge.

For this first session you are invited to bring questions under the heading of 'Things I've always wondered about the Christian faith but I was too scared to ask'. The meeting will end at 4pm. Each meeting will be 'self-contained' so if you're interested in joining us, but can't get to this meeting, it may be that you can manage a future one. Future topics will be decided by the group. We are intending to be flexible in arrangements, so dates, times etc. may vary. Future meetings will be announced on Sundays and in 'Contact'

The meetings will be open – that is, anyone can come, so your friends will be welcome too. Please contact Phyllis [01822 855731] if you want more information.'

An Old Proverb;

Count your blessings, not your crosses,
Count your gains, not your losses,
Count your joys instead of woes,
Count your friends instead of foes,
Count your health and not your wealth.

From **Mike Dennis**

'I attended Synod last Saturday. The SW Synod is developing its website and we have been encouraged to publicise it. Readers may be particularly interested in the section on local news, the Moderator's sermon blog and news from the General Synod. They are also going to start a facebook page and E News. The website address is: urcsouthwest.org.uk

As part of Interfaith week there is a Walk of Witness in solidarity with Refugees on Saturday 19th November 10 - 12 noon. A walk from Plymouth City Centre Piazza, Armada Way, Plymouth, Devon, PL1 1LE to Plymouth Roman Catholic Cathedral where there will be a short Service. See http://www.interfaithweek.org/index.php?option=com_zcalendar&view=event&id=855&catid=8&ajax=1&Itemid=0&cat%5B0%5D

From **Recycle Devon and Transition Tavistock**: 'REPAIR IT; Come and Join the Repair Revolution on Saturday 12th November, 10 am to 12.30pm at Local Matters, Elbow Lane, Tavistock. Have you something electrical you'd like mended? Small electrical appliances and gadgets including computers ...for free! Bring it along!'

From **Christian Aid web site**:

'Learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow.' (Isaiah 1:17)

Preserve us from only praying, God,
But by our prayers orientate us
towards your world to
do good, seek justice,
rescue the oppressed
defend the orphan and to always
plead for the widow.
Amen.

Inclusive Church – have you heard of it? Here is an excerpt from their website <http://inclusive-church.org>

'Inclusive Church is a group of Christians uniting together around our statement of belief: "We believe in inclusive Church - church which does not discriminate, on any level, on grounds of economic power, gender, mental health, physical ability, race or sexuality. We believe in Church which welcomes and serves all people in the name of Jesus Christ; which is scripturally faithful; which seeks to proclaim the Gospel afresh for each generation; and which, in the power of the Holy Spirit, allows all people to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Jesus Christ."

- We are looking ahead into 2017 and already we are involved in planning some important work.
- We have a delegation of 20 from the Church of Sweden with us in May exploring models of good practice around inclusion. We shall be based in the North West for a week with them.
- We shall be working with the CoE Ministry Division for our 2017 Partnership Day as we explore vocations to ministry – especially from within our various constituent groups. We are gearing up to be at General Synod and considering being at the Methodist Conference.
- We shall be continuing our work on The Hub (see more about this in the newsletter).
- We shall of course be Greenbelt and are exploring ways in which we can do more than just having a stall. Are there ways we can be involved in the programme itself?
- We shall be seeking to strengthen our work with the 298 registered churches on our books. Many of these have been with us from the start. How we relate to them effectively is one of our targets for next year.
- We shall seek to strengthen our work with our Regional Ambassadors (see more in the newsletter)

- We know that we also need to do some work to strength our internal processes related to our data management.

All this – as well as the day to day work of running the charity that is Inclusive Church; maintaining the website, ensuring our social media outlets are well used and being present at speaking and conference engagements’

From **Mrs Kit Harbottle**



‘More than 30 volunteers gathered last month to try out the script for The Tavistock Passion, a promenade performance in the town centre on Good Friday morning (14th April 2017). Following the success of this launch, the production team, led by Steven Martin, is hard at work putting plans in place.

Auditions for main speaking roles, eg Jesus, Peter and Judas, are likely to take place by mid-November. Steven and director David Stranks are keen to hear from potential actors who would like to audition. On the practical side, volunteers with stage management experience are sought. Use the production email Tavistockpp@gmail.com, or phone Steven on 01822 611148, or David on 612840 to find out what’s involved.

New choral music by Andrew Wilson will weave through the performance. The next open meeting gives an opportunity for those interested in singing and/or being part of the crowd (from which many cameo roles are drawn) to sample the music and script, and for “backstage” volunteers to find out about the numerous support roles required. **Come to the Parish Centre, Plymouth Road at 7.30pm on Wed 23rd November.**

The Tavistock Passion is a project of St Eustachius’ Church with backing from Tavistock Area Christians Together and participation open to all. Prior experience is not essential – just willingness to work with others to put on a unique community event in the heart of Tavistock. For the latest news see www.tavistockparishchurch.org.uk/tavistock-passion/.

United Reformed Church Past Case Review: Phase Two

The United Reformed Church (URC) launched the second phase of its Past Case Review on 4 October 2016, with the public being invited to raise concerns formally about the behaviour, or conduct, of anyone affiliated with the URC since its formation in 1972.

The first phase ran from September 2015 to May 2016. It involved a specialist team reading the records of everyone who held ministerial office from 1972 onwards, around 2,500 files, to look for any historic incidents of inappropriate behaviour or abuse that may have been overlooked at the time. Some significant cases emerged, but the majority were found to have been handled appropriately.

Further details and resources are available from www.urch.org.uk/past-case-review .

Any items for December CONTACT should be emailed to Maureen Tulloch by the 23rd November (maureen.tulloch@homecall.co.uk). Many thanks.