



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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October 2016

SUNDAY 2nd 10:00am Service led by Rev Phyllis Ball with Holy Communion
SUNDAY 9th 10:00am Service led by Mrs Kit Harbottle
SUNDAY 16th 10:00am Service led by Mr Mike Dennis
SUNDAY 23rd 10:00am Service led by Dr Peter Fox
SUNDAY 30th 10:00am Service led by Mr Garth Sanders



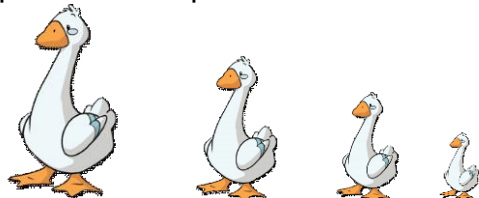
O God, we thank you for this earth, our home;

(Photo – Peter Tulloch)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday 9th October - Short meeting of elders after the service to finalise the arrangements for Goose Fair.

Tuesday 11th October –Anne Snook would appreciate help to set up the stalls upstairs from 10am onwards. ... short periods of help would be fine . She would also appreciate any bric a brac.



Wednesday 12th October –Goose Fair

The Lower Deck Café will be open on Goose Fair day from 9 am till about 4.30.

We have a much simplified menu so there will be no major cooking to do but we do need your help to make the day run smoothly and raise as much money for the Church as possible.

Jobs to be done – completing the setting up and preparing , serving drinks and taking orders, serving food, preparing food, clearing tables, washing up, checking toilets, operating the till and generally being cheerful and welcoming to customers,

Please sign up on the list in the vestry indicating how you can help and when.

We also need home-made soup and cakes. Soup is to be Leek and Potato or Carrot and Coriander.

Please label with your name and ingredients. (In case of allergies)

Any queries contact Stella on 01822 832806.

Anne Snook would also like help to run the stalls upstairs between 9am and 4pm.

Thursday 20th October at 7.30pm The film *The Divide*, is to be shown at the Wharf in Tavistock - see further details under 'Letters to the Editor'

Wednesday 26th October 2-4pm in the vestry there will be a workshop to make Christmas decorations for the Christmas Tree to be in St Eustachius. No sewing skills required just enthusiasm. Please bring scissors if possible. Janet Dashper will be supervising. Please contact Stella if you intend to come

Sunday 30th October Summer Time ends – remember to put your clocks back one hour

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

4th, 11th, 18th and 25th October, Violence Divine by John Dominic Crossan , continued

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Isobel Houldin is going into the Red House at Yelverton for 6 weeks while her daughter is away in Australia. If anyone would like to visit her they should perhaps ring the Red House before going.

Many of you will remember **Diane Bullimore**, who died on 4th September. Di was a regular, loyal attendee at worship for about 5 years until ill health prevented her about 10 years ago. She was a very quiet, private, reserved person and liked our style of worship. She loved children and was a Brownie leader and member of the Trefoil Guild. We give thanks for her and all that she meant to us.

We pray for all those in our church family who are unwell, weary, or troubled in any way. Lord, please give them your comfort, support and peace.

‘Gather us all into a circle of friendship and circle us about with Your love.’

Editor’s Letters

Christmas Tree Festival from **the Elders**: ‘To promote the activities of the church we are arranging to support a Christmas Tree at St Eustachius Christmas Tree Festival from 25th November. In addition to information labels outlining the church's activities, we also need to decorate the tree tastefully. Workshop on 26th October 2 to 4pm in the vestry.’

Christmas Day from **the Elders**: 'Currently we have been unable to find anyone to lead worship on Christmas Day. At the Church meeting on Sunday 16th October we will be looking for commitments from people to attend and take part in a Christmas Day service. If you are unable to attend the Church meeting but would be able and willing to help with a service please speak to an Elder. A Christmas Day Service will be a DIY local arrangement and unless members of the congregation take responsibility for the worship it will not take place. Over to you to make this happen!'

Shoebox Appeal from **Liz Sanders**: 'It's the time of year again when we start thinking of Christmas and giving presents. Please support, once again, our Rumanian Shoebox Appeal for Families or the Elderly. I still have leaflets for anyone who wants one to attach to their box.'



Just a reminder - all completed boxes have to be with me by **30th October**'.

The Divide from **Mike Dennis**

For those of us in the churches, inequality is a Gospel matter as it relates directly to the building of the Kingdom of God on earth as it is in heaven. The Gospel that Jesus proclaimed and which is an integral part of the message which churches are called to preach challenges us to take this matter seriously both in the pulpit and in the street.

Therefore, don't miss the showing of an amazing documentary film, *The Divide*, **at 7.30pm on Thursday 20th October**.

Events this summer have underlined that we are a divided country in many ways. But perhaps more important than political differences is the stark divide between rich and poor, which has increased so sharply over the last five years. Can you make a guess at the missing percentages in these statements?

Between 2012 and 2014, 'the wealthiest 10% of households owned% of total household wealth. The least wealthy 50% of households owned% of total household wealth.' (*Total Wealth in Great Britain, 2012 to 2014*, Office for National Statistics). In the US there has been an even more dramatic upwards transfer of wealth: the top% in the US own as much wealth as the bottom 90% of the population.

Trussell Trust food banks such as the one in Tavistock are operating all over the UK. Another question: how many foodbanks do you think they now operate across the UK (and Trussell Trust are not the only foodbank organisers)?

Valerie O'Neill, Chairperson of Tavistock Foodbank, says,

"Tavistock Foodbank has been open now for four years and in that time we have issued 1120 vouchers and fed 2670 individuals in need. The foodbank initially, during the first year, saw clients who were undergoing issues with benefit claims however in the last 3 years we have seen a change and the use of the food bank has moved progressively to the 'working needy', meaning those who fall through the net and are not able to claim benefits and yet not able to feed their families on their wages alone.

We are ever grateful for the support we receive from the local community who, whenever we have requested it, have stepped up and made our task at the foodbank far easier than we imagined when we opened our doors. Year on Year the numbers are still increasing, but so is the support we receive from the people of Tavistock and the wider community, to whom we thank very sincerely."

As many Western countries have become richer, they've seemingly become unhappier, with social and health problems which refuse to go away. What's been going wrong? The film *The Divide*, being shown at the Wharf in Tavistock **at 7.30 pm on Thursday 22nd October**, seeks to unravel that mystery: why, despite increasing material wealth, Western countries such as the US and the UK are experiencing greater inequality and social breakdown. It is inspired by the critically-acclaimed, best-

selling book *The Spirit Level* by Richard Wilkinson and Kate Pickett.

The film tells the stories of seven characters each striving for a better life: Wall Street psychologist Alden wants to make it to the top 1%; Glaswegian rapper Darren just wants to stay sober; Newcastle carer Rochelle wishes her job wasn't looked down on so much; Jen in Sacramento, California, doesn't even talk to the neighbours in her upscale gated community - they've made it clear to her she isn't "their kind". As we discover these very different case histories, it becomes very clear that a higher income doesn't ensure happiness and inequality damages us all – rich and poor.

The film will be followed by a Q&A session with Scott Walker from the Devon Community Foundation and Stuart Wallace from the New Economics Foundation. There is an opportunity for groups to have a stall to express what they are doing to combat social inequality.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the film.

[answers to the questions: the UK percentages are 45% and 9%; the US missing percentage is 0.01%. The number of Trussell Trust foodbanks in 2016 is 424]'

Landlords Beware – from Tony Newell

'If you rent a room in your house to a lodger, you must now check their ID to make sure they have the right to be in the UK – even if they are a relative. If you fail to make the checks and keep evidence of them, you could be fined up to £3,000. You may like to know also that the rent-a-room allowance has risen from £4,250 pa to £7,500pa from April 2016. For more information log on to gov.uk and search for 'right to rent'.'

Past Case Review from Mike Dennis

'The URC has previously taken up the issue of incidents of possible abuse by and of people associated with the church. They now wish to extend the offer to look into wider incidents in order that all may feel that the church is a safe environment for everybody.

From 4th October 2016 to 31 March 2017 the URC will issue an open invitation for anyone to raise concerns about the behaviour or conduct of anyone affiliated with the URC since its formation in 1972. A copy of the information brochure will be placed on the noticeboard in the vestry. There is a list on that leaflet of supportive counselling services. Further copies can be downloaded from www.urch.org.uk/past-case-review. If you have any questions you can email pastcase.review@urch.org.uk or telephone 02079 168682. Any current concerns about safeguarding should be directed to Stella or Anne but any historic issues about wider concerns about behaviour or conduct can be addressed directly to the past case review team who will deal with the concern within the usual appropriate boundaries of confidentiality.'

Prayer for October

O God, we thank you for this earth, our home; for the wide sky and the blessed sun, for the salt sea and the running water, for the everlasting hills and the never-resting winds, for the trees and the common grass underfoot.

We thank you for our senses by which we hear the songs of the birds, and see the splendour of summer fields and taste of autumn fruits and rejoice in the feel of snow, and smell the breath of spring.

Grant us a heart wide open to all this beauty; and save our souls from being so blind that we pass unseeing when even the common thornbush is aflame with your glory, O God our creator, who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Walter Rauschenbusch (1861 -1918)

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