



The
**United
Reformed
Church**

Tavistock U.R.C.

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

CONTACT

Interim Moderator : Revd Iain McDonald
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January 2017

SUNDAY 1st 10:00am Service led by Mr Garth Sanders with Holy Communion
SUNDAY 8th 10:00am Service led by Revd Ian McDonald
SUNDAY 15th 10:00am Service led by Mr Mike Dennis
SUNDAY 22nd 10:00am Service led by Dr Peter Fox
SUNDAY 29th 10:00am Service led by Mr Garth Sanders



Happy New Year everyone!

Dates for your Diary

Sunday 8th January – Church Meeting after the service- see Page 3

Wednesday 11th January- 2.30pm Daytime Discussion Group at 22 Chapel Lane, Horrabridge

Saturday 21st January – 10am to 4pm God's Best Kept Secret – see Page 3 and flier at the back

.Advance notice:- Saturday 18th March at 3.00pm. Concert of light classical and popular music in our church, led by Revd Iain McDonald.

Tuesday Topics all at 7.30pm in our church-

Tuesday 10th January Out into the World: Challenges facing Progressive Christians

Tuesday 17th January Walking Forward: Bishop John Shelby Spong

Tuesday 24th January Walking Forward: Bishop John Shelby Spong - Question & Answer

Tuesday 31st January Restoring Relationships.

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

- Walter Brown is still poorly and in Derriford Hospital but it seems likely that he may be transferred to a hospital near his brother in the S.E.
- Thanks go to everyone who helped with our Advent Lunch on 11th December. In particular to Anne Snook who did all the food organising and preparation, then, after cutting her hand badly, had to go to hospital and missed her lunch altogether! Her hand is healing now. It was a lovely meal –thank you.

Editor's Letters

From **Jenny Dennis:-**

Christmas Tree in St Eustachius

'Those who took part and those who viewed it were complimentary of our efforts. The decorations made by some of the church were hung on our Christmas tree for all to see.

These decorations are to be sold in aid of a charity in the New Year. We hope that others who viewed the tree will be more aware of what we stand for and our activities including the Lower Deck Cafe and Art4Fun. Thanks go to all who gave their time to support this venture by making decorations, decorating the tree and dismantling it afterwards.'

Craft Group – card making

'Following the successful workshop making items for the Christmas Tree it has been suggested that there may be scope for people to learn new skills in making greetings cards or other decorations. Janet is prepared to support such a group and has offered lots of resources. Anyone who is interested in learning new skills or meeting with others for sharing ideas on an occasional basis please contact Jenny Dennis.'



From **Liz Sanders:-**

'Anyone who needs wool for knitting squares for the next lot of blankets, please speak to me.'

From **The Methodist Church:-**

God's Best Kept Secret....

'Are you involved in mission and ministry in a rural context? Or would you like to be? There is a day conference providing equipping, fellowship, conversation and worship on Saturday January 21st at Hatherleigh Village Hall, near Okehampton. The flier at the back of this month's CONTACT gives all the details and booking information. We have input from the Arthur Rank Foundation as well as Gary Streeter MP, our Rural Officer for Plymouth and Exeter district and others. The day is free although booking is necessary, with lunch provided. All are welcome - please spread the word and include our ecumenical partners. Look forward to seeing you there. '

From **Mike Dennis:-**

January Church Meeting

'There will be a church meeting on January 8th after the morning service. Rev Iain McDonald will lead worship and also chair the meeting.

The agenda will not be comprised the usual business but will be an opportunity for sharing with our interim moderator how we are coping with the vacancy; what we hope for the future and a discussion as to the process for agreeing an appointment when someone makes an offer to fill the vacancy.

There will be some time to express general matters of the ministry and mission of the church. Any other business will be restricted to any urgent issues requiring an immediate decision of the church meeting.'

From **Leo Roberts** (Children and Youth Development Officer for the URC NW Synod.):-

*Families are sometimes difficult –
we don't get to choose them and we don't always get on with them.
There are relationships that go sour,
they sometimes disappoint us –
as well as sometimes making us feel happy, safe and secure.*

Prayer

Loving God,

mother and father to us all,

we give thanks for our families,

for parents who show us the way,

for children who look to us for guidance and for siblings and cousins who grow as we grow.

We remember those for whom family is not a pleasant experience and ask that they can feel the light of your love shine on them in the difficult times.

Amen.

From **News Update** from the URC:-

'Book now for The Big Day Out at Warwick!

Open up those 2017 diaries and make a date for Saturday 20 May when the whole URC is invited to enjoy The Big Day Out, organised by Pilots, at Warwick Castle. This is festival for all ages where activities will run from 10am to 5pm in the historic and beautiful setting. Individuals and groups, with their church communities and wider family and friends, are all welcome to be part of what promises to be a day to remember.

Tickets include access to the castle and attractions where Big Day Out visitors can have a go at archery, watch birds of prey in flight, take part in worship with hundreds of others, and listen to influential and engaging speakers – including General Secretary John Proctor.

Booking forms, available from the Feasts and Festivals desk, should be returned as soon as possible, but no later than 31 March 2017. Booking packs, with advertising materials and forms, have been sent to all churches so please ask Jenny Dennis for details.'

Quote of the Month:-

'True evangelical faith, cannot lie dormant, it clothes the naked, it feeds the hungry, it comforts the sorrowful, it shelters the destitute, it serves those that harm it, it binds up that which is wounded, it has become all things to all creatures.'

Menno Simons, Protestant Reformer, 16th century.

From **Norrie Philip**, Rotary Club:-

'Just a short note to thank you -the URC people- for all your support and advice during the preparation for this year's Christmas Dinner at Tavistock URC, organised by the Rotary Club.

Guest feedback was really very good.'



The Bowerman's Nose

Standing high above the plain the weather beaten rock sits,
Oblivious of time, waiting and watching creation cascade.
Wind, rain, sleet and snow, day and night,
An ever present marker in an evolving world.

A symbol of an eternal God:

The essence of an eternal presence, watching, waiting and caring.

When we sit and wait we become a part of the eternal presence.

When we pray we become one with creator and creation.

When we love we become as a weather beaten rock, oblivious of time,

Wholly in the moment and one with God.

Lord of all creation, may we be your rock in the world today.

Heather Whyte 2009

Any items for February CONTACT should be emailed to Maureen Tulloch by the 25th January. (maureen.tulloch@homecall.co.uk). Many thanks