



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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Church Website : www.tavistock.urc.org.uk

March 2017

- SUNDAY 5th 10:00am Service led Mr Garth Sanders with Holy Communion
- SUNDAY 12th 10:00am Service led by Revd Iain McDonald
- SUNDAY 19th 10:00am Service led by Mr Mike Dennis
- SUNDAY 26th 10:00am Service led by Dr Peter Fox



Winter into Spring (Photo Peter Tulloch)

Dates for your Diary

Sunday 5th March. Final day for **nominations for Elders** to Mike and Jenny and final day for written/electronic **reports** for the AGM.

Saturday 18th March at 3.00pm **Concert** .See >>>>>>

Sunday 19th March **Church AGM** after the service

Every Wednesday at 2.30, **Daytime Discussion Group** at 22 Chapel Lane, Horrbridge (any change of date will be announced in the notices on the preceding Sunday).

Good Friday morning 14th April - **Tavistock Passion Play** ; Men needed for all sorts of jobs! Please contact Revd Dr Steven Martin (details on www.tavistockparishchurch.org.uk)

Tuesday Topics (all at 7.30pm in our church)-

7th March No Meeting

14th March **Reclaiming the World**. Care for the environment is deeply biblical.

21st March No Meeting

28th March **The Exodus**: Story or History? DVD – Speaker Dr Ziony Zevit

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS:

From **Revd Phyllis Ball**

'I had lunch with **Janet (Dashper)** a couple of weeks ago, & she is in good spirits. She is of course still receiving medical treatment for a variety of symptoms. I hope to meet up with her again soon.'

From **Anne Snook**

'I spoke to **Marlene (Horrell)** today - she came out of Tavistock Hospital yesterday and is home with carers coming in. She is not allowed out at present but is feeling better.

I also phoned **Tony (Newell)** and he seemed very poorly but the doctor was uncertain as to the cause and Thelma appeared to be sickening for it as well.'

We pray for all those who are ill or frail, that they might find comfort in the Lord, and know that He is with them always.

Editor's Letters

From **the Elders:**

AGM Sunday March 19th. Full reports will be circulated prior to the AGM. Anyone wishing to give a very short resume of their report will be welcome to do so.

Urgent Vacancy for your consideration.

A Pulpit Supply Secretary is required. We need someone who is on Email who can communicate with local preachers, filling vacant dates and dealing with preachers' requirements starting immediately. For more information please speak to Jenny and Mike.



Tavistock
CONCERT
Spring Serenade
By Quorum
Music and Singing by
John Rutter, Madeline Dring, Anton Dvorak
J W Kalliwoda
William Lloyd Webber and Andrew Lloyd Webber
plus a few surprises
-
Piano .. Dorothy Raven or Margaret Chave
Clarinet .. Philip Bonser
-
Soprano .. Janet Macdonald
Baritone .. Ian McDonald
-
Saturday March 18 at 3 pm
United Reformed Church, Russell St .
Entry Free .. Retiring collection
Proceeds to Tavistock Food Bank

Hospital Lingo (!) from **Tony Newell**

ARTERY.	the study of paintings	NITRATES.	cheaper than day rates
BACTERIA.	back door of a cafeteria	OUTPATIENT.	a patient who has fainted
BOWEL.	a letter like ABEIOU	PELVIS.	Elvis's cousin
CAT SCAN.	searching for kitty	RECOVERY ROOM	upholstery workshop
CAUTERISE.	made eye contact with her	SECRETION.	hiding something
COMA.	punctuation mark	SEIZURE.	Roman emperor
DILATE.	to live longer	IMPOTENT	distinguished or well known
ENEMA.	not a friend	URINE.	opposite of "you're out"

By **Stewart Cutler**, an ordinand at the Scottish Congregational and URC College:

**** Genesis 18.9-15; 21.1-7**

'They said to him, 'Where is your wife, Sarah?' And he said, 'There, in the tent.' Then one said, 'I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son.' And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him. Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, 'After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure?' The Lord said to Abraham, 'Why did Sarah laugh, and say, "Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?" Is anything too wonderful for the Lord? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son.' But Sarah denied, saying, 'I did not laugh'; for she was afraid. He said, 'Oh yes, you did laugh.'



Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the time of which God had spoken to him. Abraham gave the name Isaac to his son whom Sarah bore him. And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him. Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. Now Sarah said, 'God has brought laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh with me.'

Reflection on this passage:

Sarah laughed. Wouldn't we all? It's easy to say that we trust in God, that we believe God can do anything, that God is capable of doing whatever God chooses.

But when it comes down to it we are much more like Sarah that we might want to be. Not me. I'm too old or too young or too set in my ways or too inexperienced or too busy or too whatever. How could God possibly use me? How could God possibly think that I can be part of his plans? Our church is full of Sarahs. We look around at our aging congregations and see decline when God looks and sees new possibilities. Or we feel ourselves less capable, our creaks and groans remind us of how things used to be.

And yet God chooses Sarah to carry and raise a child. God chose Sarah to birth a whole new nation. Even though she laughed at the very suggestion of it.

I wonder what plans God has for us, despite our laughter? I wonder what you are called to bring into being, even though we might chuckle at the thought?'

From the [URC website](#):

'The Moderators of the United Reformed Church General Assembly, Alan Yates and Kevin Watson, have issued the following call to prayer:

It was with deep sadness that we received the news that President Trump has barred entry to the US to the nationals of seven countries. As the ruling was immediate, it caused severe distress and personal loss to many.

If the President will not listen to his critics at home, including one of the foremost American finance businesses, Goldman Sachs, we have no expectation that he will listen to us. However, that does not prevent us from expressing our disgust at this action, which is both immoral and illogical. It is not likely to have any positive impact on the security of the US, and in fact could have just the opposite effect.

Jesus calls us to do two things: To love the Lord our God and to love our neighbour as ourselves. We call upon the Trump administration to reverse this obnoxious order and to begin showing the love Jesus called us all to show to one another.

We call upon all Christians to pray that the Trump administration will drop this odious order, and to pray for all our Muslim sisters and brothers that they may find peace and forgiveness in their hearts. - See more at: <http://urc.org.uk/latest-news/2293-immoral-and-illogical-immigration-rules-in-the-us.html#sthash.psTqlvSj.dpuf> '

An Interfaith Prayer for Peace

Oh God, you are the source of life and peace,
Praised be your name forever.
We know it is you who turn our thoughts to peace.
Hear our prayer at this time of crisis.

Your power changes hearts
Muslims, Christians and Jews remember and profoundly affirm,
That they are followers of the one God, Children of Abraham, brothers and sisters;
Enemies begin to speak to one another;
Those who were estranged join hands in friendship;
Nations seek the way of peace together.
Strengthen our resolve to give witness to these truths by the way we live.

Give to us:
Understanding that puts an end to strife;
Mercy that quenches hatred, and
Forgiveness that overcomes vengeance.

Empower all people to live in your law of love.
Amen

Author unknown, Pax Christi

From **Bob Callaghan**, the National Coordinator of Inclusive Church

‘“We need a radical new Christian inclusion in the Church” are the words of the Archbishops of Canterbury and York in their letter following the meeting of General Synod in February. This phrase marks a change in the way that the church is engaging not only on LGBT+ issues, but the wider issues of inclusion that are at the heart of what Inclusive Church has been about since its creation.

For too long the word ‘inclusion’ has been seen by many Christians as unacceptable – seeming to suggest that ‘anything goes’. This is far from the truth. Inclusive Church has always seen inclusion at the heart of the gospel and the way we understand what it means to be church.

So where are we now – in this new landscape where we have Archbishops using the word so freely?

It is clear that there is much work to do, let’s not be complacent or fooled into thinking that everything is now sorted! Take a look in the newsletter at the information about the WATCH annual report on Developments in Women’s Ministry. Yes we have women bishops – but there is still a huge amount of work to do to tackle inequality.

We need to continue to challenge the church about discrimination based on disability, mental health, ethnicity as well as sexuality. To call for ‘radical new Christian inclusion’ is all well and good – but we need to see the evidence of a willingness to work with us to bring this about. The trustees will consider how best to respond to the letter from the Archbishops. Inclusive Church will be more than willing to engage in the process to create a fully inclusive church. What will be interesting to see is whether the church is prepared to work with us.’

Quotes:

From **Mike Dennis**

Church buildings can be dangerous places if they are allowed to become a retreat from the world, a sanctuary from contamination, a haven for people like ourselves. (Rev Peter Murray)

It is not the laity's job to help the minister run the church but it is the minister's job to equip the laity to change the world.

The church's task is to assist its people in plumbing the depths of their own humanity, where transcendence, being and even love are discovered, and to bring these qualities, found in the centre of life, into the world. I call that centre of life, God. (Bishop John Shelby Spong)

From **Joan Joynes**

Washing one’s hands of the conflict between the powerful and the powerless means to side with the powerful, not to be neutral. (Paulo Friere, Brazil)

Any items for April CONTACT should be emailed to Maureen Tulloch by the 29th March (maureen.tulloch@homecall.co.uk). Many thanks.