



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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April 2017

SUNDAY 2nd Service led by Revd Phyllis Ball with Holy Communion

SUNDAY 9th Service led by Mr Garth Sanders

THURSDAY 13th 7pm Maundy Service led by Revd Phyllis Ball with Holy Communion

SUNDAY 16th Service led by Mr Mike Dennis

SUNDAY 23rd Service led by Mr Mike Dennis, followed by an Elders' meeting

SUNDAY 30th Service led by Revd Phyllis Ball

*The great Easter truth is not that we
are to live newly after death but that
we are to be new here and now
by the power of the resurrection.*

(Rev Phillips Brooks 1835-93)





Revd Robert Weston with his wife, Suzy.

We are delighted to announce that the members of Tavistock URC asked for Revd Robert Weston to be 'called' as our new minister, and that he has accepted. The Synod Pastoral Committee has confirmed his appointment to our pastorate. Wonderful news! Robert hopes to be with us at the beginning of August.

(Photo – Peter Tulloch)

Dates for your Diary

Good Friday 14th April – starting at 11am. Tavistock Passion Play in Bedford Square (or in the Town Hall if it is wet). The Parish Church invites everyone to join them for a dramatic retelling of the Easter story. All are welcome to this free, open air, community play. The Tavistock Passion is a dramatic portrayal of scenes leading up to the Passion and Crucifixion of Jesus, scripted from the gospel stories by our Director, David Stranks, linked by original music by award-winning local composer Andrew Wilson. It's a promenade performance, in costume, using five locations around the historic Parish Church and the Victorian civic buildings. Everyone is welcome to a short ecumenical service in the Parish Church at 10.15 am, to include a blessing of the cast and choir.

Saturday 15th April at 10am. We will be decorating the Church for Easter. Any donation of flowers and foliage will be gratefully received.

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

Advance Notice: 11th May - Study Day – Exeter -Exploring God in Dementia: theology, spirituality and personhood. An ecumenical South West Regional Study Day for ministers, local preachers, readers and church leaders in Exeter on Thursday 11th May 2017 from 10 am to 4 pm. For more details see www.urcsouthwest.org.uk

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

4th April A Kingdom without Walls

The Good News of the gospel tells of a Radical Hospitality where boundaries, barriers and walls are overcome by a grace that knows no bounds. Living the Questions II DVD

11th April Enslaved in Egypt: What Genesis suggests about Israelite slavery.

A lecture on DVD followed by discussion. Speaker: Dr Ziony Zevit

18th April – No Meeting

25th April Social Justice: Realising God's Vision.

Faith requires action not just prayer. Living the Questions II DVD

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS:

We pray for all the members of our church family, but especially for **Tony and Thelma** (Newell), **Tom and Jane** (Lee), **Liz** (Sanders) and **Suzanne** (Cornish).



Thank you, Quorum, for a wonderful concert, 'Spring Serenade'. We loved your music. And thanks also to Anne Snook for organising it, and to those who baked cakes and helped behind the scenes. We raised £382 which will go to Tavistock Foodbank and our church's Roof Fund.

(Photo – Peter Tulloch)

Lovely to see **Marlene** (Horrell) back in church, enjoying the concert and voting too.

Editor's Letters

From **Joan Joynes**

'The churches only exist to make a difference in God's world. Theological and political discourse are the same things. The Kingdom (Jesus) and the Body (Paul) are political concepts. To be a Christian is to be a political animal. (Alastair Redfern, Bishop of Derby, Swanwick 2013)'

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

'I have only written to the Archbishop of Canterbury once in my life. It was in response to the event that gave rise to the creation of Inclusive Church when Jeffrey John's nomination as Bishop of Reading was withdrawn.

My letter to Lambeth was less about the issues, but more about the person. I wanted to express my concern that in the mess of that episode, appropriate pastoral support was being provided for Jeffrey. The church must take some responsibility for care and support to all those who are exploring vocation – lay and ordained. For those for whom this exploration takes place in the full glare of publicity – it is even more important. This is true again for Jeffrey and Landaff, and it must also be true for Philip North and Sheffield. Whatever the arguments, these are real people with families and friends.

Inclusive Church is often seen as a single issue organisation. In fact it is an education charity that explores a wide number of issues. But in fact, it is not the issues themselves that are paramount. Behind the issues are people, and the lives they lead. It is my privilege as I go round the country and meet with people, to hear of people's stories. In Wigan just this weekend, visiting one of our inclusive churches, I sat with Stephen who was dealing with alcoholism and mental health issues. He told me something of his story and just said how welcomed he felt in that church. Not an issue or a case study – but a person.'

From **Revd Phyllis Ball** [extract from the March edition of 'Reform']

"We cannot truly call ourselves an inclusive Church, unless we first listen to those who society is so good at excluding.

...If you were going to invite someone out for a coffee, who would it be and where would you go? The local *Big Issue* seller? The neighbour who happens to be from another class, race or religion? The quiet member of church who never lets on that they can't afford to pay their bills, for fear of somehow bringing shame on themselves? And if, as a church, you decide to each invite someone to share with you in a simple soup lunch after church on a Sunday (but not to insist that they come to church first) who would it be?

Where would Jesus go and who would he spend time with, if he had a week in your neck of the woods? And, if that's who he would choose to get to know, then why not you?"

From **The URC**

**THE URC PAST CASE REVIEW PROCESS
A TIME TO ACKNOWLEDGE PAST ABUSES, SHOW CHRISTIAN LOVE
AND BUILD A STRONGER, SAFER CHURCH COMMUNITY**

The United Reformed Church has set up a **Past Case Review** and is now inviting anyone with concerns about the behaviour or conduct of anyone affiliated with the URC since its formation in 1972 to raise them formally.

The URC has established a formal process to receive, evaluate and respond to any allegations involving ordained ministers and also lay church leaders. All churches are being asked to draw this to the attention of congregations. A brochure (explaining the process in detail) and a poster are available (www.urch.org.uk/past-case-review). A team of independent people will respond to the allegations and provide support to all involved.

Anybody from our church who wishes to talk over a concern can speak with the Minister, their Elder or Safeguarding lead. You can also contact the Past Case Review team direct, no matter who you are or what your question, by sending an email to pastcase.review@urch.org.uk.

The website is full of information and resources, including a wide range of counselling services: www.urch.org.uk/images/PCR/PCR-docs/Past-Case-Review-Brochure-10-09-2016.pdf

From the **Revd Dr Rosalind Selby**, Principal of Northern College in Manchester.

Prayer

Lord, as we give of ourselves and of our money we trust that you will help us to be generous and wise, and we pray that you will steer us in the use of our time and energy and resources.
As we ask you to guide us,
as a church,
in the demands we make of one another –
may we be generous in our not-requiring
as well as in our offering.
For Jesus' sake.

Amen

From **Mike Dennis**. 'Synod has asked for comments on the following topics. I would value your comments which I will feed back to Synod and use to improve local communication. Thanks.'

		COMMENTS
Do you use the Synod Website?	Yes: - What do you use it for? - Can you find the information or resources you need? - What would make it better for you?	
	No: - Why not? - What would encourage you to use the website?	
Do you see the Synod E-newsletter?	Yes: Via the website or through your church secretary?	
	What would you like to see included in future editions?	
	How often do you want to receive it? (it is currently monthly)	

1. How can churches be supported in their mission and discipleship?

	COMMENTS
What can Synod do for churches?	
Area Days: Have you been to an Area Day?	
What did you like about it?	
What didn't you like?	
For future Area Days what would you want to be included?	

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