



The  
**United  
Reformed  
Church**

**Tavistock U.R.C.**

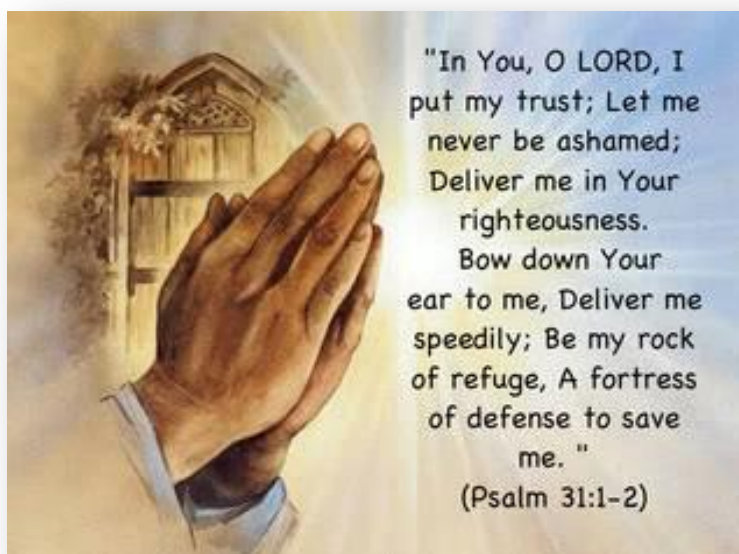
Russell Street, Tavistock PL19 8BD  
Founded 1652  
Loving God,  
Encouraging Questions, Welcoming all.

# CONTACT

Interim Moderator : Revd Iain McDonald  
Church Secretaries : Mike & Jenny Dennis Tel: 01822 618142  
Administrator : Maureen Tulloch Tel: 01579 208519  
Synod website: [urcsouthwest.org.uk](http://urcsouthwest.org.uk)  
Church Payphone: Tel: 01822 612017  
Church Website : [www.tavistock.urc.org.uk](http://www.tavistock.urc.org.uk)

## July 2017

- SUNDAY 2<sup>nd</sup>      Service led by Revd Phyllis Ball with Holy Communion
- SUNDAY 9<sup>th</sup>      Service led by Revd Edgar Daniels
- SUNDAY 16<sup>th</sup>     Service led by Dr Peter Fox followed by Elders' Meeting
- SUNDAY 23<sup>rd</sup>    Service led by Mr Garth Sanders
- SUNDAY 30<sup>th</sup>    Service led by Mr Mike Dennis



## Dates for your Diary

**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July** at 3pm. Walter Brown's funeral in our church.

**Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July** at 3.30pm. Tony Newell's funeral at St Peter's Chapel, Exeter Crematorium. Lifts can be arranged if required.

**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> July** from 1pm. "Ploughman's and Puddings" at Peter and Maureen Tulloch's home (Trewoodloe Barn, Trewoodloe, Callington, PL17 7NJ). Cost £7. Lifts can be arranged. Please put your names on the list in the vestry and take directions if you need them.

**Wednesdays 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 – **Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> August** . BBQ at Stella and Raz Rasdall's home. Details to follow next month.

Advance Notice – **Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> September at 3pm**. Revd Robert Weston's Induction in our church.

**No Tuesday Topics in July or August.**

## Church Family News:

From **Revd Roger Cornish**

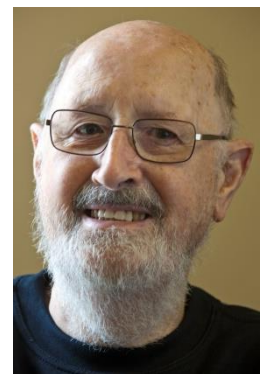
'You will be saddened to learn of the death of one of our faithful members at Blackdown Nursing Home: **Walter Brown**.

He found an accepting home in our church and attended all our events. You will remember how in his last year with us he turned up 45 minutes late for services and joined us for a drink and a piece of cake. He gave a generous amount every week for the roof fund. He also worked for the Lower Deck Café for many years until his health deteriorated.'

Walter's funeral is to be held in our church on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July at 3pm.



There is further sad news. **Tony Newell** who, with his wife Thelma, has been a pillar of strength in our church for many years, has died suddenly. Tony had been our 'Buildings Steward' and his last large project was to oversee the new roof installation and associated works, which he did with his usual enthusiasm and considerable expertise. Tony had a unique sense of humour – but a kind heart. He will be missed greatly. His funeral is to be at St Peter's Chapel, Exeter Crematorium on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July at 3.30pm.



May God bless them both and be with those they leave behind.

On a brighter note, **Jenny Summerfield** has had major surgery, but is now at home recuperating. Her sister-in-law has come from Canada to help look after her. Thank God for our families – what a blessing they are. We pray that Jenny recovers well, and regains her strength quickly.

## Letters to the Editor:

From **Garth Sanders**

'Summer Songs of Praise on 13<sup>th</sup> August.

Please write down your favourite hymn / song of praise and maybe a reason for it to be considered for our Songs of Praise worship Service in August. Please give the slips to Garth or Liz during July. We will select the most requested hymns and will try to fit them all in.'

From **Revd Robert Weston**

'Dear Friends,

It won't be long before we will be joining you in Tavistock, after fourteen years at Park URC in Reading we have made many friends and whilst we shall miss them, we are really looking forward to meeting lots of new friends in Tavistock. I thought it might be useful to let you know how I plan to use my time during the first couple of months...

As you may be aware, initially, I shall be preaching once a month which will enable me to allocate sufficient time to pastoral visiting and networking with other people in Tavistock. My aim will be to visit all members of the church, in their homes, during the first two months. This will enable me to gain a greater understanding of the church and the priorities that you have already identified together. It will also enable me to find my way around the town and surrounding area, I am a keen cyclist, so you might even see me cycling round the town on my pastoral visits!

Progress with the purchase of a suitable new house has been slower than we expected, so we have made alternative plans and will be staying with friends near Tiverton during August, with the hope that some progress with the house might be made during the summer. We have many exciting plans for the development of a retreat centre, offering a wide range of activities, but for the time being we are learning to be patient and to trust in God's timing.

We are both looking forward to our move this summer and pray for God's blessing on all the fellowship at Tavistock URC.

Yours in Christ,  
Rob and Suzy Weston'

From **Karen Carter** at [update@urc-news.org.uk](mailto:update@urc-news.org.uk)

### Commitment for Life Zimbabwe trip

A United Reformed Church delegation has returned from Zimbabwe after a six-day trip to see the work of our Christian Aid partners. The visit marked 25 years since the founding of Commitment for Life as the URC's world development fundraising programme. Recalling the beginnings of the programme in 1992, the Revd Ruth Whitehead, Moderator of South Western Synod, said:

'Of all the General Assemblies I have attended, the one at which I came nearest to standing on my chair and cheering was in 1992 when Commitment for Life was launched. The concept of learning about, praying for and giving to people in the developing world, through Christian Aid, stirred in me a desire for justice, action and committed giving.'

Read more at [update@urc-news.org.uk](mailto:update@urc-news.org.uk)



Nelly Tapelo and her husband Davies Dube have set up a village hotel (votel) in their community. They have had stargazers from Japan and birdwatchers to stay.

From **Jenny Dennis**

**'Tavistock Community Bereavement Group.**

They provide a free and informal support facility for people who are coming to terms with the loss of a loved one. Losing someone often makes you feel angry, guilty and resentful as well as many other emotions. Sometimes loneliness makes it hard to move on. If anyone you know is experiencing any of these feelings they are welcome to go to the afternoon tea in the Upper Lounge at the Anchorage Centre. They meet every Thursday between 2-4pm. To find out more, you can telephone Clare Foy on 612034.

**Harvest gifts.**

At the recent church meeting, two organisations were suggested as possible recipients of our harvest donations.

a) West Devon Safe Haven. This project is to help Syrian Refugee families who are to be settled in West Devon. Though Central Government provides much of the basic requirements for these new families when they arrive, West Devon Safe Haven hope to be able to provide additional items such as toys, toiletries and maybe even bikes for children. This assistance will be followed up by support in learning English and coming to terms with a different culture so that they may become independent members of our community within 5 years.

b) Church Action on Poverty. This is a national Ecumenical Christian social justice charity which is committed to tackling poverty in the UK. They work in partnership with churches and with people in poverty themselves to find solutions to poverty, locally, nationally and globally.

Following **the statements of faith** submitted earlier in the year, I offer a further suggestion.

1. The Bible is foundational as the product of our ancestors' journey of faith and within their wisdom and limitations we find the words of God. The bible is not inerrant, is sometimes wrong and is culturally limited but is nevertheless a substantial source for faith.
2. Salvation is about transformation this side of death. Transformation is both of the individual and also of society.
3. The death of Jesus is central. This is not a payment for transgressions but a metaphor of personal transformation and also political change. He was executed for his message of the Kingdom of God, of justice and non-violence here on earth. Easter is God's Yes to the way of Jesus and No to the ways of the world.
4. God is the name we give to the still small voice of silence which calls us to love, to hope, to peace, to pursue justice, to seek the good of our neighbour and environment, to be creative and to live the life of all that this entails within our community.'

**A prayer:-**

Watch, dear Lord, with those who wake, or watch, or weep tonight,  
and give your angels charge over those who sleep;  
Tend your sick ones, O Lord Christ, rest your weary ones, bless your dying ones,  
soothe your suffering ones, pity your afflicted ones, shield your joyous ones,  
and all for your love's sake.

Amen

*St Augustine ( 354-430AD)*

## A poem:-

“The Weaver

My life is but a weaving  
between my Lord and me;  
I cannot choose the colours  
He worketh steadily.

Oft times He weaveth sorrow  
And I, in foolish pride,  
Forget He sees the upper,  
And I the underside.

Not til the loom is silent  
And the shuttles cease to fly,  
Shall God unroll the canvas  
And explain the reason why.

The dark threads are as needful  
In the Weaver's skillful hand,  
As the threads of gold and silver  
In the pattern He has planned.”

*Benjamin Malachi Franklin*



From: **Inclusive Church** <[office@inclusive-church.org.uk](mailto:office@inclusive-church.org.uk)>

## OneBodyOneFaith

OneBodyOneFaith, formerly known as LGCM, held an AGM on 27 May when the name was officially changed and the Statement of Conviction updated. This now reads:

“It is the conviction of the members of OneBodyOneFaith that human sexuality, sexual orientation and gender identity in all their richness are gifts of God gladly to be accepted, enjoyed and honoured as a way of both expressing and growing in love, in accordance with the life and teaching of Jesus Christ. Therefore it is their conviction that it is entirely compatible with the Christian faith not only to love another person of the same sex, but also to express that love fully in a personal sexual relationship;

We believe that expressing our gender and sexuality with integrity is important as a way to grow in love and discipleship; we long for the day when Christians fully accept, welcome, affirm and offer equality to everyone in their diversity.”

***Any items for August CONTACT should be emailed to Maureen Tulloch by the 26<sup>th</sup> July. ([maureen.tulloch@homecall.co.uk](mailto:maureen.tulloch@homecall.co.uk)). Many thanks.***