



The
**United
Reformed
Church**

Tavistock U.R.C.

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

CONTACT

Minister: Revd Robert Weston Tel: 07982 622949
Church Secretaries : Mike & Jenny Dennis Tel: 01822 618142
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Synod website: urcsouthwest.org.uk
Church Payphone: Tel: 01822 612017
Church Website : www.tavistock.urc.org.uk

September 2017

- SUNDAY 3th Service led by Revd Edgar Daniel with Holy Communion
- SUNDAY 10th Service led by Revd Robert Weston
- SUNDAY 17th Service led by Mr Garth Sanders followed by a Church Meeting
- SUNDAY 24th Service led by Mr Mike Dennis



'One God, many faces, one family, many races.....we are all one, but many'



Dates for your Diary

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).

Saturday 2nd September at 3pm. Revd Robert Weston's Induction (helpers please come at 2pm)

Saturday 9th September Sponsored Cycle Ride (see page 4)

Sunday 17th September Church Meeting after the service.

Advance notice :- Sunday 8th October Harvest Festival and Lunch after the service. We are hoping to have someone from the West Devon Syrian Refugee Support Group to come and speak to us after the service and share lunch with us. The other Harvest charity to which donations will be given is Church Action on Poverty.

Tuesday Topics at 7.30pm in our church

12th September –2 short films by Rob Bell – ‘You’ and ‘Today’

26th September – DVD entitled ‘Unpunished Crimes in the Bible’

Church Family News:

From **Mike Dennis:-**

‘Welcome and Thanks

We welcome **Robert and Suzy** to a new life amongst us.

Having had a ministerial vacancy for approximately 18 months, we were pleased to learn that Robert was interested in coming to Tavistock and the church meeting unanimously agreed to invite him to share our journeys together.

We were pleased to welcome Robert and Suzy amongst us in August and are looking forward to his induction service on Saturday 2nd September when he will be officially recognised as our minister in the presence of members of Synod and the Mayors of both Tavistock and West Devon. Church members may have already noticed that details of Robert's appointment with a picture of Robert and Suzy (thanks to Peter Tulloch) has appeared on the Tavistock Times website and also in the paper edition on Thursday 3rd August.

Robert is keen to visit all members of the church and already has some meetings in his diary. Members are requested to remember that Robert is only part time and that they should continue to raise matters of property, finance and general administration with the appropriate Elder. We welcome Robert and Suzy and hope that their accommodation issues will be resolved soon and that they will find themselves at home amongst the congregation of Russell Street.

The Church is also very grateful for the ministry of **Iain McDonald** as our Interim Moderator for the way that he has helped guide us through the appointment process. His experience has been used for our benefit and we will look forward to further visits by Iain when he visits us in his ministry as a preacher to lead worship on future occasions.'

Addition to above from **Maureen Tulloch:-**

'This seems an opportune moment to say 'thank you' to all our church people, and those from other churches, who have served the Lord during the interregnum by leading worship and helping in so many different ways to keep our church in good working order. **THANK YOU ALL.**'

From **Revd Rob Weston**, email: tavistockurcminister@gmail.com ring: 07982 622 949

'Dear Friends,

Firstly, thank you for the warm welcome we have received this summer. Warmer than the weather, which has been unusually cool for August, I believe! It has been a real joy to begin the process of getting to know all the elders and church members, a process that will continue over the next few weeks.

We have begun to make significant progress with regards our new home and we hope that Suzy's parents will be relocated from London to Tavistock before the end of September. This is really Phase One of our plans, as we will be seeking to purchase a suitable property for our Retreat Centre after Suzy's parents are settled. We continue to refine our many exciting plans for the development of a retreat centre, but for the time being we are learning to be patient and to trust in God's timing. We are extremely grateful to everyone who has offered to help out with overnight accommodation and the use of their home while they are away on holiday - your generous hospitality is wonderful and gratefully received.

It has been a real treat to attend worship as a member of the congregation rather than the worship leader during August, after fourteen years of leading and preaching, I am now in a position to be regularly 'nourished' by others. It is such a joy to have so many gifted preachers and leaders within our congregation and I know that I shall enjoy being a part of the team of worship leaders.

I look forward to the induction service on 2nd September and all the other events coming up in the Autumn. I am aware of four people who would like to become members of our church, do let me know if there are any other names to be brought to the September Church Meeting! We are beginning a new and exciting chapter in the life of Tavistock URC, let us pray for God's blessing on all the fellowship at Tavistock URC.

Yours in Christ, Rob Weston'

From **Marlene Horrell:-**

'We (Anne Snook and I) took a stall at the Pannier Market on 29th July to sell bric-a-brac & home-craft in aid of the Church Roof Fund. We raised £80. If you have bric-a-brac or craft items we could sell, please tell us, we would be glad of them for the next time we take a stall'.
Well done, **Anne and Marlene**.

From **Maureen (and Peter) Tulloch:-**

'Since I started to edit CONTACT I have been asking to be told of events affecting the church family; births, marriages and deaths, as well as birthdays and successes; well, this month we have something special to celebrate.

It is our Golden Wedding Anniversary on the 30th September.

Our mothers said we wouldn't last more than two years together, because we argued so much, but here we are still wed after such a long time. Not that we've stopped arguing – part of the fabric of our relationship, I guess, but with love, mutual respect and, yes, sometimes patience and tolerance, our marriage has weathered and survived. Many of you will have already reached this milestone, or even longer. In this day and age it is something of which to be proud and for which to be grateful, so thank you, Lord, for the chance of long and happy marriage.'

From **Stella Rasdall:-**

'Our garden BBQ on 12th August was well-attended, and for a change there was no rain and we could all enjoy sitting out in the garden. We raised £240 for the Church Roof Fund. Thank you all who came and made the day worthwhile.'

From **Liz Sanders**:-

'I know it is not the done thing to think of Christmas in September, but I hope we can make an exception on the subject of The Christmas Shoe Box Appeal. The leaflets are slightly different this year, so you will see that there are lists for "Essential items" and an "Extra items" list. They are also asking for new and knitted gloves, hats and scarves, as well as the usual knee blankets. The date for collection is November 10th. So we will need to have all the boxes in by Sunday, October 29th. I will put the final date of completion and a reminder of what joy and comfort these boxes give, to young and old alike on the vestry notice board. I would like to thank everyone for taking the time to knit, or fill our Shoe Boxes, in anticipation that we will do as well this year as we did last year.'



Letters to the Editor

From **Revd Robert Weston**:-

'Sponsored Cycle Ride; 9th September 2017

Every September the Historic Churches Trust across England organises a sponsored cycle/walk, in which people are encouraged to visit as many local churches as they can to raise money for the Trust and for their specified charity (usually their local church). I have participated in this event in three counties so far: Dorset, Hampshire and Berkshire. This September I will be adding another county, Devon and more specifically, the Tavistock area.

My route is ambitious, but I do like a challenge - I shall start by visiting the two churches involved in Tavistock (the URC and the parish church), then I shall head over to Horrabridge and Yelverton, down to Buckland Monachorum, Milton Combe then further south to Bere Alston and Bere Ferrers. After lunch I shall cycle north via Sydenham Damerel and Bradstone then east to return via Mary Tavy and Peter Tavy. In total, I hope to visit 19 churches. If you'd like to join me for some of the ride, do get in touch and if you'd like to sponsor the cycle ride, just see me in church.

To find out more about the Historic Churches Trust and the grants they offer, you can visit their website: nationalchurchestrust.org'

Poem:-

'ONE BUT MANY
One God, many faces.
One family, many races.
One truth, many paths.
One heart, many complexions.
One light, many reflections.
One world, many imperfections.
ONE.
We are all one,
But many.'

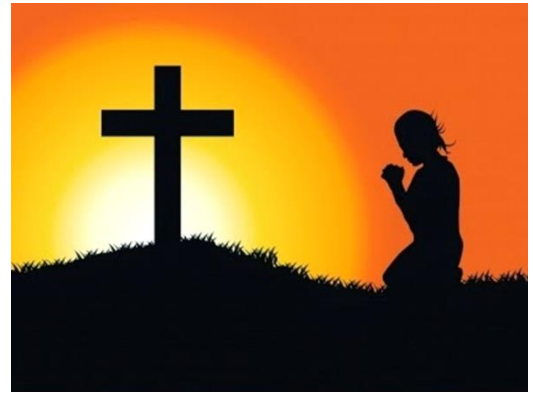
by *Suzy Kassem*,



From 'Wisdom of Words' given to me by **Dorothy Woodyatt**:-

I am only one,
but I am one;
I cannot do everything,
But I can do something;
And what I can do,
That I ought to do;
And what I ought to do,
by the grace of God I shall do.

By *Edward E Hale*



From **Bob Callaghan**. National Coordinator of Inclusive Church

'You might think that August is a quiet month. Schools are off, Vicars go on holiday and it's just one long lazy summer day after another. Where that might be true for you, at Inclusive Church August is as busy and full as ever. It's been time to turn round from the AGM and Annual Lecture and get ready for summer and autumn events.

We have been busy getting ready for Greenbelt, planning what to do whilst there. This has involved painting and drilling! We have also been working at final planning for the 6th Annual Disability Conference in partnership with St Martin in the Fields. Alongside that we are producing a booklet celebrating the first 5 conferences. For this to be ready in the autumn we have been collating text and images so that the booklet is ready to go to print.

The newsletter contains more information about each of those – and more. So get the deckchair out, pour yourself something long and cold and settle down to read the newsletter. Oh and don't forget your brolly – you might need it! '

Prayer from Daily Devotions by **Revd Fleur Houston**:-

Most loving God,

Grant your blessing today
to all who in any part of the world are serving in Christ's name:
all ministers of the gospel,
church fellowships and councils;
teachers and missionary workers,
NGOs, doctors and nurses who seek to bring healing often at great personal cost.
Accomplish in them your purposes and sustain them with your joy.

Amen.

Any items for October CONTACT should be emailed to Maureen Tulloch by the 27th September (maureen.tulloch@homecall.co.uk). Many thanks.