



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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October 2017

- SUNDAY 1st Service led by Revd Iain McDonald with Holy Communion
- SUNDAY 8th Harvest Festival led by Revd Robert Weston
- SUNDAY 15th Service led by Mr Mike Dennis
- SUNDAY 22nd Service led by Revd Phyllis Ball
- SUNDAY 29th Service led by Mr Garth Sanders



Rev Ruth Whitehead with Rev Robert Weston at Robert's Induction to the pastorate of Tavistock URC on 2nd September 2017.

Dates for your Diary

Sunday 1st October Reception of Rev Robert Weston and Mrs Suzy Weston into membership; Elders' Meeting after the service

Saturday 7th October at 10am. Decoration of the church for the Harvest Service tomorrow. Help needed please. Flowers and foliage can be brought on Sat morning or left in the Church after 11.30am on Friday. Contact :- Stella

Sunday 8th October Harvest Lunch after the service.. Please put your name down on the list in the vestry. A representative from West Devon Safe Haven is to join us and give a talk before the lunch. Contact:- Stella

Tuesday 10th October Time tbc. Preparations for Goose Fair tomorrow. See articles below

Wednesday 11th October Goose Fair Day; LD Café will be open 10am to 4.30pm and we are serving tea/coffee and cakes upstairs, with a bric-a-brac stall. See articles below

Tuesday October 17th Council Meeting Oct 17th –Council Meeting. Our Minister will be leading council members in a short reflection before the Council Meeting.

Saturday 21st October Synod Meeting - Garth Saunders and Rob Weston will be representing Tavistock URC at the meeting of South Western Synod, which is being held at Bridgewater URC - a full report will be found in next month's magazine.

Wednesdays at 2.30, Daytime Discussion Group in our church's vestry (any change of date will be announced in the notices on the preceding Sunday). None on the 11th October.

Tuesday Topics, at 7.30pm in our church

Tuesday 24th Apocalypsis/Revelation

Church Family News:

From **Stella Rasdall**

'**Peter Dixon** has a severe ear infection and has spent a few days in Derriford Hospital last week. He is home now but has to have a nurse visit to give him injections three times a day until 20th October. ' We will say a special little prayer for Peter for a speedy recovery.

Goose Fair Wednesday 11th October 2017

From **Stella Rasdall**

'The Lower Deck Café will be open as usual on Goose Fair day from 9 am till about 4.30.

We have a much simplified menu so there will be no major cooking to do but we do need your help to make the day run smoothly and to raise as much money for the Church as possible.

Jobs to be done include – setting up and preparing on Tuesday evening and Wednesday morning, serving drinks and taking orders, serving food, preparing food, clearing tables, washing up, checking toilets, operating the till and generally being cheerful and welcoming to customers.

Please sign up on the list in the vestry indicating how you can help. It tends to be quieter in the morning but very busy from 11am onwards so please indicate when you can help. I will make a more formal rota this year so that people can have breaks.

We also need home-made soup and cakes. Soup is to be Leek and Potato or Carrot and Coriander. Please label with your name and ingredients. (In case of allergies)

Any queries contact - Stella 01822 832806'

From **Anne Snook**

Cakes would be welcomed for upstairs where we will serve teas, coffees and cakes and have a small bric-a-brac stall.

Letters to the Editor:

From **Revd Robert Weston**

Dear Friends,

Let me begin this month by thanking (once again) everyone involved in my induction service on 2nd September, it was a wonderful day of celebration with friends old and new, from near and far - made possible by the wonderful team work at Tavistock URC. At the service were around thirty people from Park URC in Reading who had a long day out - many of them had been at my ordination service fourteen years ago. It was also good to have your interim moderator, Iain McDonald, taking part in the service along with the South Western Synod Moderator, Ruth Whitehead. I first met Ruth when she was minister of Summertown URC in Oxford. The preacher was Gordon Connell, a good friend, a part-time self-supporting minister at Twyford URC (near Reading) and a full time senior librarian at the University of Reading. I appreciated his message reminding us that we are all called to serve God in different ways. It was also good to have representatives from some of the churches in the town and both the Mayor of West Devon and the Mayor of Tavistock.

I'm pleased to report that there is some progress with our house situation and by next magazine, I hope and pray that we might have something more definite to confirm! Until then, as the disciples were told by Jesus, we have to 'watch and pray'.

I'm delighted that we have welcomed a number of new people and regular visitors in our worship over the past few weeks and I pray that we will see many more coming to be part of our fellowship. At church meeting we agreed to welcome four people into full church membership and we look forward to welcoming them in our worship over the next few weeks. Together, let us continue to grow in faith, love and hope!

May the God of peace bless us all,

Rob Weston, Minister, Tavistock United Reformed Church

From **Peter Tulloch**

'Some of you may remember Marilyn and Roger Stinson . They came to the induction. Here is a photo of Marilyn Stinson and, in the background, the hanging 'altar cross' which she made whilst a member at Tavistock URC. They were both elders here, I believe? Hope we made them feel welcome....

They are currently serving members at Sidmouth URC.'

(photographs by Peter Tulloch)



From **Revd Rob Weston**

Sponsored Cycle Ride: 9th September 2017

It was a wet and windy day this year for the Ride and Stride sponsored cycle ride and I was delighted to be joined by three other intrepid cyclists, who joined for the first part of the challenge.

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). This year we have raised over £200 which is really encouraging, thank you to everyone!



So where did we go? We started outside Tavistock URC, then we went to the Roman Catholic church on the hill, using the off road cycle route we went along to Horrabridge where we stopped for a very welcome cup of tea! Then it was back on the bike to face the rain and on to the small village of Meavy, back up the hill to Yelverton. Then I headed south to Milton Combe, which is down a very steep hill and there is only one road in and one road out! From there I headed downhill to Denham Bridge to cross the River Tavy, which meant another steep hill up to Bere Ferrers and then to Bere Alston to visit both the Parish Church and the United Church. At this point I met up with Toby and Suzy for lunch and a welcome break.

After refuelling it was time to head north and the long trek to Lamerton, stopping at Gulworthy Church on the way. At Lamerton I had to make a hasty exit to avoid appearing in someone's wedding pictures! By this time all my limbs were aching and I realised that if I was to be in any fit state to preach the following day, then I needed to return to Tavistock. So in total, I visited 11 churches - my hope is that by the next time I participate more of the Tavistock Churches will be involved and it will be possible to encourage more walkers and cyclists!

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

From **Revd Rob Weston**

'Tavistock Area Christians Together issues

A warm welcome was given, at my first meeting of church leaders and representatives on September 14th where it was good to hear of the good collaboration across the town. The issues discussed included the development of Street Pastors to cover some day time slots, beginning with Fridays from around 11am-2pm. Homelessness was also discussed at length and a policy is being explored to enable a consistent approach to be shared across the churches, there will be more to report in due course. I have confirmed with TACT that Tavistock URC would like to be included in this year's joint Christmas Card.'

Shelterbox Gift.

After a plea for donations from Shelterbox to provide assistance to those caught up in the recent hurricane disasters, the **Church Meeting** agreed to send a donation from the Church's Benevolent Fund.

From **Revd Rob Weston**

'Eco-Church

Most of us are aware of the issue of climate change which continues to threaten the lives of some of the poorest nations of the world, people who live close to sea level in countries such as Bangladesh are at significant risk of displacement. Climate change is a problem caused by our lifestyles, the vast majority of the scientific world now agree on the cause; the challenge is to make changes to the way we live so that we all reduce our impact on the environment. To help encourage churches to make helpful changes, the charity A Rocha (which is a Portuguese word meaning 'The Rock') administers a great scheme called Eco Church. I will be sharing more about Eco Church at our Harvest service in October, details can be found on the website: <https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/> '

From **Wisdom of Words,**

'Two men trod the way of life;
The first with downcast eye;
The second with an eager face,
uplifted to the sky;
He who gazed upon the ground said
"Life is dull and grey",
But he who looked into the stars
went singing on his way.'



From **URC Daily Devotions ; Jo Clare-Young** is an ordinand at Westminster College and member of Cuxton URC in Kent.

'Psalm 15

LORD, who may stay within your tent,
your sacred dwelling-place?
And who upon your holy hill
may live before your face?

He casts no slur on anyone
nor does his neighbour wrong;
He has no spite within his heart
or slander on his tongue.

He lends his money at no charge;
no bribe can he endure.
Those who behave in life like this
will always stand secure.

Whoever walks a blameless path,
who acts in righteousness,
And who will always from the heart
sincerely truth express.

He honours those who fear the LORD;
the worthless he'll despise.
He keeps the oath which he has sworn,
however high the price.

This is a pretty wonderful assurance, in that last line, that if we walk with God in discipleship, if we let God create those qualities in us, we can be confident that we will stand secure in our relationship with God.

Prayer, also from **Jo Clare-Young**

Lord,

We give thanks for the invitation to walk the way with you.

Help us to step out with integrity,

so that those that witness our walking will want to walk with us.

Help us to treat those we meet with respect, to be trustworthy travellers of the way, attracting others to closer relationship with you.

Amen.'



From **Revd Rob Weston**

'Publicity

As discussed at the church meeting, there is a feeling that we need to improve our publicity so that everyone in Tavistock is aware of all that we offer as a church. Therefore, the elders will be working on a number of improvements to our sign boards, to the website and articles in the local press. If you have any ideas or suggestions, please do contact one of the elders or the minister. You can already see some changes to our website: <http://tavistockurc.org.uk/> '

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