



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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January 2018

- SUNDAY 7th Service led by Revd Rob Weston with Holy Communion
- SUNDAY 14th Service led by Revd Phyllis Ball
- SUNDAY 21st Service led by Mr Mike Dennis
- SUNDAY 28th Service led by Dr Peter Fox

View
from
Kit Hill
towards
Devon

(photo:
Peter Tulloch)



Move with us into the New Year as we draw strength from your faithful love

Dates for your Diary:

9th January: 10.30 to 12.30 or 2 to 4 – Housewarming at 2 Dolvin Road (see Page 3)

14th January: from 11.30am Church Meeting, open to everyone

19th January: from 7.30pm Taviprayer at Tavistock URC

20th January: 9am to 5pm; Day of Prayer at our church – open to all.

21st January: from 6pm Prayer for Christian Unity Service (followed by TACT AGM) hosted jointly by Tavistock Salvation Army and Tavistock United Reformed Church

23rd January: Tuesday Topics at 7.30pm. A film entitled "The Way".

25th January: from 7pm Service of celebration and thanksgiving for the 50th Anniversary of Dartmoor Search & Rescue Team (Tavistock), at St. Eustachius Church.

Wednesdays at 2.30 Daytime Discussion Group at 22 Chapel Lane, Horrabridge – restarts **10th January** (any change of date /venue will be announced in the notices on the preceding Sunday).

Advance Notice: Quiz and Cream tea on **Saturday 24th February** starting at 2pm

Church Family:

We remember **Roger** and his family in our prayers.



We wish **Revd Rob, and Suzy**, much happiness in their new home. Their address is now "Down Farm Cottage, Tinhay, Devon, PL16 0EL"

From **Anne Snook**

'My intention is to relinquish my position as Social and Fund Raising Coordinator at the A.G.M. in March. I think that it would give someone else the opportunity to bring in some new ideas as I have been doing this for about ten years. I would be happy to explain the role to anyone who is interested. It is not necessary to be an elder to take this on'

From **Revd Rob Weston**, Minister, Tavistock United Reformed Church; email: tavistockurcminister@gmail.com ring: 07982 622 949, Down Farm Cottage, Tinhay, Devon, PL16 0EL

'Dear Friends,

As we start a new year, we often look forward and wonder what the next twelve months might bring.

As a church we look forward, trusting that God will guide us. From experience we know that God has always brought new people to the church and we look forward to welcoming more people this year.

From experience we know that prayers are answered, though not always in the way we expect or in the time frame we hoped.

From experience we affirm that love is stronger than hate - and we seek to be a people of love, hope and joy - not just at the beginning of the year but throughout the year.

May the God of peace bless us all with love, hope and joy.'

From Pam and Brian Mico;

‘Invitation to house-warming. Pam and Brian would like to invite all their friends from Tavistock URC to a house-warming on Tuesday 9th January 2018. Just an informal time for a cup of tea and a piece of cake, either in the morning between 10.30am and 12.30pm or on the afternoon between 2.00pm and 4.00pm. Come at any time and stay as long as you wish, within either time slot! The address is 2 Dolvin Road. ‘

From Rob Weston:



‘We will tell the next generation....and they in turn would tell their children. Then they would put their trust in God... Psalm 78:4; 6

Have you ever wondered what school assemblies are like these days? Have you ever thought that children (and adults) today seem to have very little knowledge of Bible stories? If so, “Open the Book” may be of interest to you.

Open the Book is a national project which offers primary school children a chance to hear the major stories of the Bible in weekly assemblies. It uses local church volunteers to offer the programme at no charge to the primary schools. Each session is around 10 - 15 minutes long and fits comfortably into assembly times.

Open the Book began in Bedford in 1999, when a group of Christians first started presenting Bible stories in school assemblies. They were so well received that they were asked to return - again and again. Open the Book began to grow from a local initiative into a much bigger national enterprise now a Partner of Bible Society. Currently teams of over 15000 volunteer storytellers are going into over 2500 primary schools nationwide reaching over 600,000 children.

One of the aims of Open the Book is to assist primary schools in meeting their statutory collective worship obligations. This requires schools to hold daily acts of collective worship which are “wholly or broadly Christian in character.” Could you be a part of helping with that?

All Open the Book storytellers are volunteers from local churches who give their time freely - and there are no limits on age, gender or size! Each storyteller devotes an hour or so a week during term time.

There are several Open the Book teams in Devon including at Tavistock (3 schools), Mary Tavy, Princetown, Gulworthy, Lamerton, Meavy, Walkhampton and Bere Alston. If you are interested in finding out more about Open the Book please contact me for further information or look on the Bible Society website for Open the Book at <https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/get-involved/open-the-book/>

Thanks to Open the Book, many children in schools will have the opportunity during Collective Worship to discover all the wonder and wisdom that the Bible can offer – and you could be a part of it!

David Stranks (☎ 612840 ✉ dwstranks@gmail.com)

Letters to the Editor:

From **Rob Weston**;

'Peace for all

In December we followed a theme of 'Peace for All' - coincidentally in December the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) *"for its work to draw attention to the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons and for its ground-breaking efforts to achieve a treaty-based prohibition of such weapons"*.



Several churches in the UK (including the United Reformed Church) are calling on the Foreign Secretary, asking that the UK might move towards signing the treaty to prohibit nuclear weapons. If you would like to sign up with your support, please visit the website of the Joint Public Issues Team: <http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk> The letter requests Boris Johnson to develop and publish an appropriate transition plan so that the UK is prepared and ready to sign and ratify the treaty at the first opportunity. '

From **Norrie Philips** re Christmas Day Lunch, which the Rotary Club organised ;

'It was a cold wet day yesterday, but I think the Rotary Christmas Lunch went very well indeed. Have you seen the Tavi Times pictures on Facebook? Anyway, this is just a short note to thank you and everyone at the URC for your support and encouragement. We have tried to leave everything exactly as we found it but, if there is any more that we can do, then please let me know.

Once again, please accept our grateful thanks to everyone in the URC team. With best wishes for a very happy new year to you all.'

From **Rob Weston**;

'Traidcraft Stall

As agreed at our November Church Meeting, we have begun a regular Traidcraft stall in church. Fair Trade goods are available once a month and there is always opportunity to take a catalogue home to see what other items are available and to place an order. Traidcraft was established in 1979 with the aim to ensure that producers in some of the poorest communities of the world were not exploited, but would receive a 'fair wage' hence the term Fair Trade.

There are many items now available with the Fair Trade logo, some of which are available in our supermarkets and local shops. All Traidcraft items are Fair Trade items as their whole business model is based on helping other communities.'



From **Rob Weston**;

'Eco Church

We are well on the way with our application and I'm delighted to report that we will soon be applying for a Silver Award. The award is given to recognise the steps we have taken to work with others in our locality, the steps we have taken to ensure our buildings are eco-friendly and steps we have taken as individuals.

We have made enquiries with West Devon Borough Council to see if we can establish a regular recyclable waste collection, an update will be given at our church meeting. It was good to hear that in December 2017 the World Bank made a commitment to stop financing oil and gas exploration and extraction from 2019; the tide is beginning to turn in favour of renewable energy sources.'

From **Rob Weston**;

'Special URC Appeal for the Rohingya People of Myanmar

At the November 2017 Mission Council, the moderators of General Assembly invited Michael Jagessar (past Moderator of the URC) to write to all congregations of the United Reformed Church to consider contributing to an appeal on behalf of the Rohingya people of Myanmar, whose plight continues to be that of displacement, suffering, persecution, death and rebuilding lives.

Our partner Church, the Presbyterian Church of Myanmar (PCM) has been doing some significant work for the Rohingya people, including the provision of shelter, food, clothing, and care especially for the displaced children. The Council for World Mission is also working with both the PCM and the Church of Bangladesh (another CWM Partner) to find helpful ways to respond to the situation.

Mindful that many in our churches are concerned about the situation a Special URC Appeal has been set up for the Rohingya People of Myanmar, **£250** from our Advent meal has been sent from Tavistock URC.'

From **Kneelers**- prayers from 3 nations



'We have arrived at the other side of Christmas, and in your pantomime the scenery has changed. We have come down to earth with a jolt.

Joseph, Mary and Joseph, safe for a while in a stable, become homeless again, refugees, fearing for their lives, seeking asylum in a foreign land, pawns of political power. They would be quite at home in our world.

*How different from the Christmas story; good news, great joy, glory, peace. But again **we celebrate our faith: the light shines in the darkness. And the darkness has never been put out.***

*Move with us into the New Year as **we draw strength from your faithful love.***

Any items for February CONTACT should be emailed to Maureen Tulloch by the 24th January (maureen.tulloch@homecall.co.uk). Many thanks.