



The  
**United  
Reformed  
Church**

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

# CONTACT

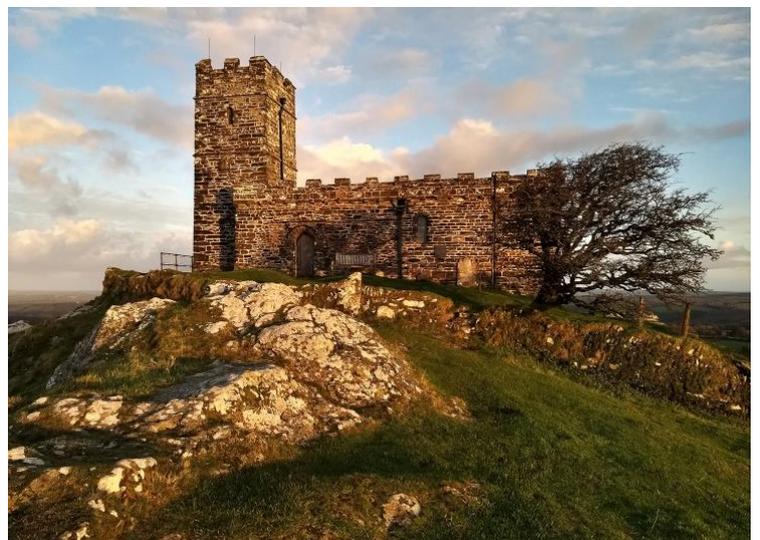
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Church Website: [www.tavistock.urc.org.uk](http://www.tavistock.urc.org.uk)

## April 2018

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|-------------------------|--|
| SUNDAY 1st              | Service led by Rev Robert Weston with Easter Day Communion |
| SUNDAY 8 <sup>th</sup>  | Service led by Rev Phyllis Ball                            |
| SUNDAY 15 <sup>th</sup> | Service led by Mr David Pett                               |
| SUNDAY 22 <sup>nd</sup> | Service led by Rev Robert Weston                           |
| SUNDAY 29 <sup>th</sup> | Service led by Rev Malcolm Richards                        |

Brentor Church – St Michael de Rupe – at 1100ft is the highest working church in England. It was founded in 1130. Regular services are held between Easter and the end of September, and occasionally in the winter, but it is always open to visitors.

(photo – Peter Tulloch)



## Dates for your Diary

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> April, 7.30 to 9.15pm** Tavipraise with band 'Ken' at King's, Pixon Lane, Tavistock – *An evening for all the churches in the Tavistock area to come together to praise our God of grace.*

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> April, 7pm**, Women's World Day of Prayer Christ Church, Station Rd, Brentor PL19 0LR. *"All God's Creation Is Very Good!" - a service written by the women of Suriname in South America, who ask us to pray for the conservation and protection of wildlife and the environment, as well as for the situation in Suriname and concerns for the future. This is not simply a day of prayer for women, but for everyone who cares about our world and those who live in it.*

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> April 7.30pm** Taviprayer at King's, Pixon Lane, Tavistock - *A time to come together as the local church with spirit-led intercessory prayer support for our community and TACT churches, projects and events. Do join us!*

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> April, 10am to 6pm** "Walking the Way" discipleship day at Plymstock URC (see article on Page 4)

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 6pm** Service of Healing and Wholeness, at St Eustachius *Time for prayers, songs, music, breaking of bread, anointing and laying on of hands, or just come and meditate for yourself or on behalf of another. A joint service with Tavistock Methodist Church*

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm** Tuesday Topics- More Expressions of Church in a Changing Culture (DVD) *New initiatives from churches seeking to engage with contemporary society.*

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> April from 2.30 - 5.00pm** Festival of Music for Worship; Service 6pm St.Eustachius' Parish Church, Tavistock ( see Page 7)

**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 7.30 to 9.15pm** Tavipraise with band 'Andrew Jones' at Tavistock Methodist Church

**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> May at 2pm** Free to Believe Conference at Southernhay URC, Dix's Field, Exeter, EX1 1QD (see Page 6)

**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May at 3pm** Quorum Concert in our church (see Page 3)

**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> May at 12.30 pm** BBQ at Stella and Raz's home - 10 Morwellham Cottages, PL19 8JL

**Wednesdays at 2.30** Daytime Discussion Group in our church ( *any change of date /venue will be announced in the notices on the preceding Sunday* ).

## Church Family:

From **Rev Rob Weston** Minister, Tavistock United Reformed Church  
email: [tavistockurcminister@gmail.com](mailto:tavistockurcminister@gmail.com) ring: 07982 622 949 or 01566 784 990

Dear Friends,

Easter should be a joyful celebration, in the wider community Easter is not as 'big' an event as Christmas, which is such a shame because the real message of Christianity is lost and Easter is just a long weekend holiday or a time for some DIY project. For me Easter is the real pinnacle of the Christian year, a time to celebrate the triumph of good over evil, of life over death, of hope over despair. In the cross and resurrection of Christ, we see God's goodness, God's grace and God's love for all of creation; not just for one moment in time but for all people, all cultures, in all time. There is mystery too, all is not neatly packaged or explained, faith is required... and always will be. We have something amazing to celebrate and share: the 'way of Jesus' is revealed and it is the way of peace, endurance and hope. So, this Easter, may our lives be marked by these characteristics too and may the God of generosity and grace, bless you this Easter and always.

(Ed) We pray for **any of our church family** who are ill, incapacitated or undergoing treatment. May our God be with you and help you through these difficult times.

With thanks from Rev Rob Weston to all those who supported Fairtrade Fortnight.



From **Rob & Suzy Weston:**

### **Tinhay Retreats**

It was good to welcome so many of you to our new home on our Open Day in March, those who were able to walk around outside saw the enormous task we face in the gardens! There are still nettles to be removed from the vegetable garden and brambles encroaching along many of the hedgerows, but there are good things happening in the fruit garden with our raspberries, gooseberries and currant bushes. Having sheep in the far field means that we can hear lambs bleating, in addition to the various bird songs - certainly sounds like Spring now. We will be hosting other events in the near future and hope you'll be able to join us.

For those who have mislaid it - our new landline number is 01566 784 990 and our website is [www.tinhayretreats.com](http://www.tinhayretreats.com)

*(Ed) Thank you, Rob and Suzy, for tea and cake, and a pleasant walk around your land. A lovely rural spot with lots of potential for a retreat (and for hard work too!).*

From **Anne Snook:**

### **Quorum returns!**

**Saturday 12 May at 3pm** Quorum Concert in our church

This is a talented group of musicians organized by Ian McDonald who many of you will remember from last year when they performed for us.

They sing and play a range of popular and classical music to an exceptionally high standard.

Entry free; any donations will go to Shelter Box .



From **Tamar Energy:**

### **Local Energy Advice Programme (LEAP)**

#### **Free Energy Advice and Home Visits**

- Low income? / Housing Benefit? / Income or Disability Benefit?
- Long term illness / disability?

#### **We can:**

- Install FREE simple measures; Provide day to day energy tips; Check you're on the best energy tariffs; Refer you for additional support.

Call 0800 233 5414 for an appointment or email [hello@tamarenergycommunity.com](mailto:hello@tamarenergycommunity.com)

From **Mike and Jenny** (if you would like to go to the discipleship day below, please speak to an elder about arranging lifts.):

From **Janet**, Synod Pastoral Adviser for Cornwall, Plymouth and North Devon :

I am sending some more information about the “Walking the Way” discipleship day on **Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2018 at Plymstock URC from 10.00 to 16.00.**

10.45-11.45 The Mission Challenge: how do we engage with our communities?

11.55-13.00 The discipleship challenge; what do whole life disciples do?

13.45-14.45 The church Challenge: what kinds of churches do whole life disciples make?

14 50-15.30 The personal Challenge: reflection and resources

There will be a bookstall so bring some money if you think you might wish to buy anything. Please bring your own lunch, but tea and coffee will be provided.



From **Ruth Wilde**, National Coordinator, Inclusive Church:

Inclusive Church were present at Church of England General Synod this month, where several of our supporters and trustees gave some excellent speeches both in the Synod debates and at the IC pop-up event at Westminster Central Hall. The event was to launch a booklet marking five years of the Disability Conference (in partnership with St Martin in the Fields).

As well as our event, there was a focus on Downs' Syndrome at Synod- both at a fringe event and at a subsequent debate and vote. The motion being voted on called on the government to give prospective parents 'full information about the support available and the future prospects of those with this condition, with no implied preference for any outcome". It was voted through unanimously, following some excellent speeches.

From **Rev Rob Weston**:

### **This month's theme for preaching**

This month we celebrate Easter so our theme throughout April is the Easter message. After which our themes for the following months are as follows: in May we begin the series of 'Holy Habits' starting with the theme 'Eating Together', in June we focus on Mark's Gospel, in July we continue with another 'Holy Habit' this month 'Gladness and Generosity.

### **Compassionate Friends**

Suzy and I joined with people from other local churches for the 'Compassionate Friends' awareness session delivered by St Luke's Hospice Staff. The idea behind the session is to support communities in making a difference to their neighbours and friends with a life limiting illness or affected by loss.

The presentation was excellent covering a range of topics to build skills and confidence to have open, honest and compassionate conversations. One of the key messages was the importance of listening without offering solutions, or opinions, or platitudes, but *really* listening to what was being said.

There is a group based at Brentor. If you would like further details, please ask Rob or Suzy.

From **Rev Rob Weston**:

### **Eco Church news**

Congratulations - **you** have helped us to achieve the Silver Eco Church Award! 'But how have we done that?' I hear you ask. This has not happened overnight, it is all about our long term commitment to reduce, recycle and reuse; it includes all aspects of church life from our prayers and hymns that regularly celebrate creation, through to our solar panels, our support of Fairtrade, to our regular events to encourage members and friends to be 'greener'. All the groups that use our buildings have also contributed by helping us reduce our waste, including the Foodbank who have a new arrangement with Tesco to ensure recycling of cardboard boxes.

There is still more that we can do, perhaps we can be the first URC in the South Western Synod with a Gold Award. We need to agree a few more steps before we can apply for the Gold Eco Award - such as:

- agreeing an international eco charity to support
- switching to a green gas supplier
- investigating whether we could install a bike rack or storage area
- increasing our use of recycled paper
- becoming more involved in local litter pick events
- inviting environmental speakers to come to Tavistock, we can do this with other local churches and local organisations such as Transition Towns
- hosting activities and/or events that facilitate the recycling and/or reuse of goods (e.g. clothes swap events or 'give and take' schemes)
- encouraging people to walk or cycle to church more often!

From **Stella Rasdall**:

### **Bible Reading Fellowship**

The BRF provides resources to help our spiritual journey through Bible reading notes, books for study and prayer, quiet days and retreats.

New Daylight provides daily reading and comments throughout the year in three, four monthly books written by a regular team of contributors from a range of Church backgrounds. I have been using the readings for years now and find them very useful in helping me focus my quiet time. It is amazing how often the readings echo what is happening at the time and how I am feeling.

I have a group account for the Church which means the individual cost for New Daylight is reduced from £16.95 per year to £13.50 for the regular copy or from £21.45 to £17.25 per year for the large print copy. I can also order other books too. Please have a look at the resources pack and information at the back of the Church and let me know if you would like to try anything.

**Prayer – author unknown**

*Love is giving, not taking,  
mending, not breaking,  
never deceiving,  
patiently bearing and faithfully sharing  
each joy, every sorrow,  
today and tomorrow.*

From **Ann-Marie** [update@urc-news.org.uk](mailto:update@urc-news.org.uk)

### **Ministers to share inspiration and ideas at a special gathering**

Some 340 United Reformed Church ministers and Church Related Community Workers are expected to attend a national Ministers Gathering in Staffordshire from 30 April to 3 May. They will take part in an extensive programme of workshops, spend time networking, and listen to talks from keynote speakers including; the Revd Dr Rowan Williams, currently Master of Magdalene College, Cambridge, and the Revd Dr Peggy Kabonde, General Secretary of the United Church of Zambia. The event is being held to consult ministers on the Walking the Way process, introduce new resources, and foster an atmosphere where ministerial colleagues can contribute creatively to planning for change. For those not attending, recordings of some of the main talks will be made available.

From **Mike Dennis**:

### **Free to Believe Conference**

'Free To Believe' began within the the URC as an informal network of liberally minded Christians striving for an open, inclusive and thinking church. They hold a national conference but in 2018 they are to have four individual regional conferences. The local event will take place on **5th May at Southernhay URC, Dix's Field, Exeter, EX1 1QD starting at 2 pm** and with refreshments during the afternoon. It will close by 5 pm. This event will be led by Iain McDonald - well known to us. The afternoon will offer an exploration and reflection on the work of Diana Butler Bass as she releases her new book 'Grateful: The Transformative Power of Giving Thanks'. There is a £5 charge for each regional conference. To book, we are asked to contact Linda Harrison on [l.harrison96@btinternet.com](mailto:l.harrison96@btinternet.com) to book. Payment can be made at the venue on the day. Anyone interested in attending and would like a lift, please contact Mike or Jenny. You will find more information about 'Free To Believe' on [www.freetobelieve.org.uk](http://www.freetobelieve.org.uk)

From **Paul Snell**, Churches Together in Devon:

### **'Devon County Show : May 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>.**

This is a special request to all Churches – We offer visitors to the Devon County Show, hospitality including free refreshments and a peaceful haven amongst the hustle and bustle of the show. However, we need help and donations to keep this facility available. Are you able to make a donation of a homemade cake (anything that you enjoy cooking.)

Cakes can be taken to:

Blooms Florist 141, Pinhoe Road, Exeter EX4 7HX - Opening Times 9am – 5pm.

Roman Catholic Church, 25 South Street, Exeter EX1 1EB 15th or 16th May.

10.30am – 12.00pm

or to: G W Keys, 32 Fore Street, Heavitree EX1 2QL

If you like a real challenge – Cakes could be themed to represent the Royal Wedding.

From **Andrew Maries**, Chairman of RSCM Devon:

### **Festival of Music for Worship**

Sunday 29th April 2018 2.30 - 5.00pm; Service 6pm St.Eustachius' Parish Church, Tavistock

Directed by Steven Martin and Andrew Maries with Shaun Brown (organ)

In the 700th anniversary year of St Eustachius' Parish Church we invite all from across the region to join with us as we celebrate the range and diversity of church music over the period, exploring choral, congregational and instrumental music in the afternoon, and incorporating the music into our closing worship.

Bookings and enquiries about this event to Mrs Joy Winzer, 1 Abbey Grange Close, Buckfast, Buckfastleigh, TQ11 0EU. ! 01364 642448 [joy.winzer@btinternet.com](mailto:joy.winzer@btinternet.com)

From **Rev Rob Weston**:

### **Calor launches £50,000 national grant scheme for rural communities**

Rural communities throughout the UK could be eligible to receive funding via the Calor Rural Community Fund from energy provider Calor.

With a total fund of £50,000 and with 21 individual prize pots up for grabs, this year's Calor Rural Community Fund will be open for applications between 20<sup>th</sup> March and 21<sup>st</sup> May. Application is via our Calor website, which will open for entries on the 20<sup>th</sup> March 2018 for a period of nine weeks. Accepted projects will be published online and we'll be encouraging communities to get on board by voting for their favourite, before we shortlist the finalists. Entries open on the 20<sup>th</sup> March 2018 via [www.calor.co.uk/communityfund](http://www.calor.co.uk/communityfund)

### **A Gentle Blessing:**

*May the God of Gentleness be with you,  
caressing you, with sunlight, wind and rain.  
May his Tenderness shine through  
to warm all those who are hurt and lonely.  
May the blessing of Gentleness  
be upon you.*



**Any items for May CONTACT should be emailed to Maureen Tulloch by the 25<sup>th</sup> April ([maureen.tulloch@homecall.co.uk](mailto:maureen.tulloch@homecall.co.uk)). Many thanks.**