



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: 01566 784990
Church Secretaries: Mike & Jenny Dennis Tel: 01822 618142
Administrator: Maureen Tulloch Tel: 01579 208519
Synod website: urcsouthwest.org.uk
Church Payphone: Tel: 01822 612017
Church Website: www.tavistock.urc.org.uk

May 2018

- SUNDAY 6th Service led by Rev Robert Weston with Holy Communion
- SUNDAY 13th Service led by Mr Mike Dennis
- SUNDAY 20th Service led by Rev Phyllis Ball
- SUNDAY 27th Service led by Dr Peter Fox



Beware! Here we practise
the inclusive Gospel of Jesus Christ.

This means you may be mixing with tax collectors, sinners, adulterers, hypocrites, Greeks, Jews, women as well as men, female and male priests, homosexuals, lesbians, the disabled, thieves and other sinners, the dying, white people, black people, Asians and people from other races, Muslims, Bishops, bigots, people of other faiths, strangers, heretics and people with no particular faith etc. etc. In fact, anyone like those with whom Jesus himself mixed.



So beware - this is not a private club.
We Welcome All.



Dates for your Diary

Monday 1st May, 7.30pm Soul Care Event, Tavistock Methodist Church
(see page 4)

Thursday 3rd May from 9.30am - 5pm Open Gardens at Hotel Endsleigh
£5.00 entry - all proceeds to West Devon Safe Haven.

Thursday 3rd May 7.30 to 9.15pm Tavipraise with Andrew Jones' band at
Tavistock Methodist Church (see page 4)

Saturday 5th May at 2pm Free to Believe Conference at Southernhay URC, Dix's
Field, Exeter, EX1 1QD (see page 4)

Saturday 5th May 7.30pm Tavistock Heritage talk on Tavistock North Station
-our church (see page 4)

Wednesday 9th May - Renew, Refresh, Relax - A day retreat at Tinhay Retreats
(see page 3)

Saturday 12th May at 3pm Quorum Concert in our church (see page 3)

May 13th to 19th Christian Aid Week

Saturday 19th May at 12.30 pm BBQ at Stella and Raz's home - 10 Morwellham
Cottages, PL19 8JL (see below)

Thursday 7th June 7.30 to 9.15pm Tavipraise with Trevor's band at Bere Alston
United Church

Sunday 10th June after church- Pearl's 80th Birthday lunch (see below)

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:

We pray for **Liz** as she continues her treatment. It was lovely to welcome **Dorothy**
and **Magdalene** back to church again and pray that they are both well on the way to
recovery.

Pearl would like to invite everyone to lunch in the Lower Deck to celebrate her 80th
birthday after Church on Sunday 10th June. There will be a list in the vestry to sign.
NO PRESENTS PLEASE. Donations to be given to the Church funds if people would
like to give.

From **Stella Rasdall**

YOU ARE INVITED TO A BBQ
WITH STELLA AND RAZ
AT
10 MORWELLHAM COTTAGES
12.30 ON SATURDAY 19TH MAY

ALL ARE WELCOME

From **Anne Snook**: **Quorum Concert A REMINDER !**

Saturday 12 May at 3pm 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 **Rev Rob Weston**, Minister, Tavistock United Reformed Church
email: tavistockurcminister@gmail.com ring: [07982 622 949](tel:07982622949) or [01566 784 990](tel:01566784990)

Dear Friends,

This month we will be taking part in Christian Aid Week, during which we will learn more about a woman in Haiti. Vilia lost her mum and her home when the earthquake struck Port-au-Prince in 2010. Bereaved and homeless, she went back to her home town with her husband and children. But life was a struggle, and they had nowhere safe to live. Christian Aid partner KORAL built her a new home that was strong enough to stand up to natural disasters. On the terrifying night when Hurricane Matthew hit, Vilia's neighbours fled to shelter with her. As the storm raged, she shared her home with more than 50 of her neighbours for several days. Despite the ferocity of the hurricane, which swept away surrounding homes, her house was barely damaged. Vilia allowed her home to become an emergency shelter when Hurricane Matthew struck Haiti. She is incredibly grateful for the help she's received but worries about those without a secure home. When we raise funds for Christian Aid we can be sure that we are helping real people with real challenges. As we help our neighbours, near and far, we are 'Walking the Way' of Jesus - the way of peace and justice, wholeness and healing.

May the Holy Spirit fire us with energy and hope, now and always.

Tinhay Retreats

We have begun to take bookings at Tinhay Retreats and we look forward to hosting the Away Day for TACT (Tavistock Area Christians Together) church leaders, taking place in July. Out in the gardens the trees are full of blossom and the lawn is looking much more like a lawn.

9th May - Renew, Refresh, Relax - A day retreat from 10am until 3pm begins with a short time of worship on the theme and then opportunity to wander round eight acres of grounds or sit inside and read or relax in quiet. Lunch of homemade soup and roll plus fruit included, plus hot and cold drinks throughout the day and afternoon tea of homemade cake. If you would like to book a place, phone 01566 784990, email tinhayretreats@gmail.com or speak to Rob.

This month's theme for preaching. This month, as part of our 'Walking the Way' 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 time it is 'Gladness and Generosity'.

Tavistock North station

May 5th marks 50 years to the day since the last train left Tavistock North station and the town was cut off from the national rail network. Bernard Mills recalls his life on the railway in the town and Stephen Fryer describes the engineering feat of bringing the railway to Tavistock through rock and over steep-sided valleys. If you enjoy heritage with oomph, this talk is for you! Tickets cost £5 (under 16s free) and the venue is **Tavistock URC, 7.30pm on May 5th**. Tickets can either be bought on the day or through PayPal, visit: www.heritageintavistock.org/events

Soul Care Event, 7.30pm Monday 1st May, Tavistock Methodist Church

Have you ever experienced stress, anxiety, depression or burnout? Then come along to this evening of story, music, theatre, honesty and humour designed to help us get back into healthy rhythms of life. Tickets £6 - available online or can be purchased on the night. For more information and to book tickets, visit www.goingpublic.org.uk/soulcare.

Tavipraise, 7.30 for 8pm Thursday 3rd May, Tavistock Methodist Church

An evening for all the churches in the Tavistock area to come together to praise God, with worship led by Andrew Jones. An offering will be taken during the service to bless the worship team. 7.30pm for refreshments and fellowship; 8.00 - 9.15pm praise & worship, prayer & testimony.

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 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

Prayer by **Chester W Nimitz**(based on **Reinhold Niebuhr's** Prayer)

God, give me the courage to change the things I can change,
the serenity to accept those I cannot change,
and the wisdom to know the difference-
but God, grant me the courage not to give up
on what I think is right even though I think it is hopeless.
Amen

From **Ann-Marie**, update@urc.org

End Windrush ‘national disgrace’

Two senior URC staff members backed calls for the government to do all it can to protect people who have lived in the UK for decades from being deported. The Revd Michael Jagessar, Secretary for Global and Intercultural Ministries, and the Revd John Proctor, General Secretary for the URC, criticised the way a group of individuals, known as the Windrush generation, had been treated after they faced difficulty in proving they had the right to live in the UK without restriction. Theresa May, Prime Minister, has since apologised for the fiasco.

Military action in Syria condemned.

The URC is pressing the British Government to avoid participating in any further military action in Syria and to work urgently with international partners to pursue peaceful solutions instead. The plea came after the UK joined the US and France to carry out strikes against government sites in Syria which were thought to be storing chemical weapons facilities. The move, on 14th April was in response to a chemical attack launched by forces loyal to Syria’s President Bashar al-Assad on 7th April when scores of innocent people were killed or injured.

From **John Ellis**, Immediate Past Moderator of the General Assembly and Church Secretary of Capel United Church in Kent – URC Daily Devotions:

Read Genesis 39: 1-6

Now Joseph was taken down to Egypt, and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, the captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had brought him down there. The Lord was with Joseph, and he became a successful man; he was in the house of his Egyptian master. His master saw that the Lord was with him, and that the Lord caused all that he did to prosper in his hands. So Joseph found favour in his sight and attended him; he made him overseer of his house and put him in charge of all that he had. From the time that he made him overseer in his house and over all that he had, the Lord blessed the Egyptian’s house for Joseph’s sake; the blessing of the Lord was on all that he had, in house and field. So he left all that he had in Joseph’s charge; and, with him there, he had no concern for anything but the food that he ate.

Reflection

The closest I have come to staying in the house of the Captain of the Royal Guard was staying at the bottom end of Windsor Castle, across the courtyard from the homes of the Military Knights of Windsor and with Guardsmen on sentry duty marching to and fro. I was there with Philip, the youngest Admiral in the Royal Navy. Educated at Mansfield College, his background was more orthodox than Joseph’s. We were both part of a group who were deemed “successful” and invited to consider the challenges of assuming national leadership.

From a pacifist family, I start with no particular enthusiasm for Admirals. Philip was nonetheless striking not for his knowledge of naval weaponry, although he was an expert, but for the way the human dimension of every situation was what caught his attention first. He lived out his words by finding ways of relating warmly to every one of our diverse group. If we have to have a Navy, let people like him lead it. I was not surprised to read recently that he is now Sir Philip KCB and First Sea Lord.

I wonder what it was about the youthful Joseph that so impressed Potiphar. Clearly he could do his job, but maybe he did it with unusual humanity. The way he later treated his family in Egypt suggests he had learnt something from his earlier selfish arrogance. In every context, we need leaders who do more than just the job.

And Joseph was actually No.2. It was still Potiphar's household. A former President of the Methodist Conference, Leslie Griffiths, likes to say "It is always the No.2s who do the work." Not quite true, but often those just behind the prominent leader carry as large a workload for less visible reward. Those with fast-moving careers often see their debt to the calm, competent No.2s who have supported them at each stage.

From **David at ROC** (Redeeming Our Communities)
Join the ROC Conversation in Tavistock

Tavistock is a great place to live, with plenty going on. But you may have ideas for how our community could be even better? Or some time to give but not sure how to use it? Would you welcome a chance to sit round a table with other residents, local voluntary groups and public bodies and talk about what we should celebrate, where the gaps are, and new possibilities from getting together? If so, put **Thursday 28th June, 7pm to 9pm**, in your diary.

Tavistock Area Christians Together has invited national charity ROC (Redeeming Our Communities) to host a community engagement event in the Town Hall. It's called a "ROC Conversation": over 150 have already been held around Britain. Councils, the police and West Devon CVS have welcomed the opportunity to be involved. ROC bring a vision for "people of goodwill working together for safer, kinder communities" and experience of running enjoyable, constructive consultations which influence local action.

The focus of the evening is Tavistock (Town Council area), respecting the autonomy of the surrounding villages. However even if you don't live in town, you may work, worship, volunteer or use services here. Please spread the word to others who might be interested (of all faiths and none). The event is free, and there are no age limits, but places are limited, so register in advance on www.roc.uk.com/tavistock (or phone 0161 393 4511) and you will get pre-event updates.

Excerpt from 'The Old Man's Comforts' By **Robert Southey**

*'You are old, Father William, the young man cried
and life must be hastening away;
You are cheerful and love to converse upon death,
now tell me the reason, I pray.*

*I am cheerful young man, Father William replied,
Let the cause your attention engage;
In the days of my youth I remember'd my God
And He hath not forgotten my age.'*

Any items for June CONTACT should be emailed to Maureen Tulloch by the 23rd May (maureen.tulloch@homecall.co.uk). Many thanks.