



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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July 2018

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



“The beauty of that June day was almost staggering. After the wet spring, everything that could turn green had outdone itself in greenness. The sunlight was a benediction.”
Dan Simmons, Drood

(photo – Peter Tulloch)

Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 3rd July 10am to 3pm Tinhay Retreat – see article below

Thursday 5th July 7.30 to 9.15pm Tavipraise with One Touch at the Abbey Chapel

Saturday 7th July 12.30pm for 1pm Garden Lunch at Maureen & Peter Tulloch's, See Page 7

Tuesday 10th July 7.30pm Tuesday Topics at our church; Film – An Inconvenient Sequel Truth to Power, addressing the progress made to tackle the problem and Gore's global efforts to persuade governmental leaders to invest in renewable energy, culminating in the landmark signing of 2016's Paris Agreement.

Sunday 15th July Church Meeting after the service

Tuesday 24th July 7.30pm Tuesday Topics at our church; Films – 'Reflections by Rob Bell' that touch on issues that we care about and which help us to explore our world from the perspective of Jesus.

Saturday 4th August 10am to 3pm Church Day at Tinhay Retreat – 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:

From **Revd Rob Weston**, 01566 784990 tavistockurcminister@gmail.com

Dear Friends

There is much going on at this time of year, both within the life of our church and in our local community as the summer visitors begin their migration to the South West. Suzy and I are pleased with progress in our garden and delighted to report that we have added three sheep to our flock, these three are Shropshire sheep, quite different in appearance to our Exmoor Horn sheep. We are learning a great deal about the significance of sheep and being a shepherd, some of which I'm sure will find its way into future sermons. During July we are exploring the Holy Habit theme of 'Gladness and Generosity' reflecting on what it means to be a generous people.

Tuesday 3rd July – Tinhay Retreats - Walk and Talk - A day retreat from 10am until 3pm begins with a short time of worship on the theme of journeys. Walk in the morning followed by lunch and an opportunity for a second walk or remain at the centre to relax. Plenty of time to enjoy the garden, sit inside or outside and read or relax. As usual, you can bring your own lunch or have lunch provided. The cost of the day is £10.

Whilst you are enjoying an afternoon at the home of Maureen and Peter, I shall be at the URC General Assembly, the biennial meeting with representatives from England, Scotland and Wales.

I do hope that many of you will be able to come along to the **Church Away Day at Tinhay Retreats on 4th August**, there will be something for everyone and we are arranging for some marquees or gazebos, so that there will be plenty of shade available. The day will include worship, prayer, games and activities starting at 10.00am we will finish with afternoon tea at 3.30pm, further details will follow!

Every blessing.

Quiet Garden Movement

The Quiet Garden Movement nurtures access to outdoor space for prayer and reflection in a variety of settings, such as private homes, churches, retreat centres, schools and hospitals – and creates opportunities for people to experience silence, restfulness and contemplative practices, with regular quiet days and retreats being offered in many Quiet Gardens. There are over 300 Quiet Gardens worldwide. Quiet Gardens are a local initiative and resource for people from your area. They operate in a low-key way with low costs, and are situated in town and country. Quiet Gardens are accessible, friendly and adaptable to local needs, and aim to be places where people can find welcome, stillness and spiritual refreshment. The outdoor space and garden act as both a context and focus, in which to share the inner search for wholeness, natural beauty and silence, and in which ancient Christian wisdom and the contemplative tradition can be explored.

The core values of Quiet Gardens are hospitality, contemplative prayer and nature reconnection. Quiet Gardens are places of hospitality, which is offered to all who wish to visit from any faith background or none. Such hospitality draws on the deep wells of Christian spirituality and the monastic past as well as the gifts of the host team. In a home setting this may begin with listening to guests, as Jesus listened to those he encountered, before responding to individual needs whether those needs are a cup of coffee, a warm corner or a niche in the garden just to be.

Quiet Gardens are rooted in the Christian contemplative tradition as expressed in the Scriptures and the wisdom of the desert tradition, as well as the Christian mystical tradition and Celtic spirituality. Quiet Gardens provide a context for learning about these sources and resources, and enjoying silence, attentiveness and contemplative prayer.

Time in a Quiet Garden can be helpful for our health and wellbeing, as well as our spiritual journey. Deep restfulness and refreshment within the beauty of creation can often take place, and there will be many opportunities for attentiveness and moments of wonder and transcendence to occur. All these restore body, mind and soul. Our care for the environment creates balance for daily life and inspiration for compassionate activism. Time in a Quiet Garden can enhance our relationship with the earth and encourage care for creation. Further details can be found on the website: quietgarden.org Your nearest Quiet Garden is at Tinhay Retreats, give us a ring if you'd like to visit the garden, there is no charge we simply ask for a donation towards running costs. Telephone 01566 784990.

General Assembly 2018

This year I shall be attending the General Assembly as one of the South Western Synod's eighteen representatives. Amy Weston is also attending, she is one of the Synod's under 25 representatives. We are meeting in Nottingham from Friday 6th until Monday 9th July. Please pray for all those involved in this event.

From **Paul Snell**, County Ecumenical Officer - Devon

I have been asked to pass on this invitation to the Buckfast Abbey Millennium Celebrations, and specifically to the the Civic and Ecumenical Service on 11th July at 3pm - Vespers followed by tea. Please get in touch directly with Lesley on lclark@buckfast.org.uk More details are on the Buckfast website <https://www.buckfast.org.uk/whats-on> Many thanks

From **Revd Roger Cornish**:

Isobel Houldin 28.12.35 to 06.06.18

Isobel Gray was born at Bebington on the Wirral where her father was chief engineer for the Stork Margarine works. Isobel began work as a farm records clerk before becoming a veterinary nurse for Liverpool University. Later she worked as an auxiliary nurse at Clatterbridge Hospital and in various nursing homes.

Isobel had 2 children: David and Carolyn and several grandchildren. She was devastated when her husband, Peter, died in 1989.

Isobel enjoyed travelling, eating out, the theatre and ballroom dancing. She liked to read, was a regular letter-writer and often did crosswords whilst listening to the radio. She had a great sense of humour and was generous towards the many charities she supported.

All through her life Isobel attended Congregational, Methodist and United Reformed Churches. She had a strong but questioning faith, was an elder and deeply involved in Tavistock URC. She was much loved and her contribution to the life of this church was greatly appreciated by all members.

Margaret and Malcolm Richards were welcomed into membership of Tavistock URC by Revd Rob Weston, on 10th June 2018. Lovely to have you with us, Margaret and Malcolm.

(photo Peter Tulloch)



From **Ben Gavan**, RNIB:

The Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) are running a special two part course on Wednesday 18th July and Tuesday 24th July at Tavistock United Reformed Church.

The Living with Sight Loss Course will run from 10:30am to 3pm with different practitioners speaking throughout the day. The Courses are information courses which highlight local services in your area and help to increase visually impaired people's confidence in their day to day lives. Topics that are covered include getting out and about, tips and gadgets for everyday living, assistive technology – including tablets and phones, eye health, welfare rights, wellbeing and leisure, hobbies and interests.

(Please note that we would wish for course users to attend both days).

If you would like to book yourself onto the course please call Ben Gavan on 07738854842. Spaces are limited so please call now to ensure your place on the course.

From **Andy Braunston**, Coordinator, Daily Devotions from the URC Project

Songs of Praise iPlayer Link

BBC's Songs of Praise featured the Daily Devotions last Sunday. The episode was entitled The Power of Prayer and the programme included a short piece on the Devotions showing how they can be used on various electronic devices.

The Rev'd Dr Susan Durber was interviewed about her use of the Devotions (she also writes for them) alongside myself. We are grateful to Songs of Praise for featuring the devotions and sending these pictures of myself and Susan.

We've had a big increase in the number of subscribers to the Devotions since then which is lovely.

In case you missed the programme you can see it, if you are in the UK, via the BBC iPlayer on www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b0b8h8gk

If you would like Daily Devotions may I refer you to the URC's main website (<https://urc.org.uk/>) where there is now a direct link to the Devotions archive page (<https://devotions.urc.org.uk/>) where folk can read previous issues and sign up to receive them.

From **Beth**, from the charity 'Libraries Unlimited':

Devon County Council has launched a consultation this week regarding improvements to the mobile library and outreach services that we run on their behalf. But while the diversity of services on offer in Devon's public libraries has expanded beyond the traditional book lending service - with digital technologies such as 3D scanning and printing in FabLabs in Exeter and Barnstaple libraries; support for businesses and entrepreneurs; partnerships with health and wellbeing organisations; a growing range of arts and cultural events; and hosting local community activities - the county's mobile library and outreach services in rural areas has remained largely unchanged.

Now, the Council wants to consider ways to increase take up in rural areas in order to reach more people who can't easily access Devon's 50 public libraries.

We are working in partnership with Devon County Council and want to consider the opportunities to improve our mobile library and outreach service to reach more people in our rural communities and are keen that as many people as possible take part in the consultation.

Details of the consultation and how to take part in the consultation are online here <https://new.devon.gov.uk/haveyoursay/consultations/devon-library-outreach-service/>.

Details are also available in all libraries across the county, including the mobile and outreach library service. Many thanks.

Prayer (author unknown):

Father God,

*Help us to learn to live in your wild and fragile world:
the trembling earth.....the tumbling rivers.....the tumultuous seas.*

*May your people all find
A harbour a havena home.*

Pearl cutting her 80th Birthday Cake, on Sunday 10th June. Well done, Pearl! 'May Jesus bless you, and love you and keep you', as we sang to the tune of 'Happy Birthday'.

With love and best wishes for the 80+ years from her friends and family.

We all enjoyed a delicious lunch – our thanks go to Stella, Jo, Carol and Chris for their culinary expertise and hard work. And to all who set up, washed up and cleared up afterwards! Lovely flower arrangements too – thanks to Pam.



From [John Ellis](#), Daily Devotions:

Richard Baxter (1615 – 1691) was at the court of King James VI & I but was so disgusted with the low moral standards there that he returned home in order to study divinity. He was ordained but, after the promulgation of an infamous Oath, in 1640, which required obedience to a string of persons ending in the trite phrase 'et cetera', he rejected belief in episcopacy in its current English form and went as a curate to a poor area of the west Midlands. He opposed the Civil War and played a prominent part in the recall of Charles II, but his continuing dissatisfaction with the way episcopacy was practised led him to decline the See of Hereford. This refusal led him to be debarred from further office in the Church of England,



though he continued to contribute to its life as a prolific hymn writer. He is probably the only Englishman in the Anglican calendar who also has a United Reformed Church named after him, which is in Kidderminster where many saw him as a Presbyterian champion. His exasperation with the priorities and narrowness of the Church of England meant the second half of his life was a model of what today might be called pioneering ecumenism. He did believe that those who named Jesus as Lord had a fundamental unity as Christians and the institutional Church should not make that hard to see. He worked tirelessly to establish forums where Christians of different traditions could meet to discover that unity. As the Church Secretary of a united URC-CofE congregation, I would gladly have Baxter as our patron saint.

Read St Mark 4: 1-9 Parable of the Sower

The parable of the sower reminds us that the legacy of our work is unpredictable. Sometimes seeds stay dormant in the ground for a long period before new life appears. If you are one of those members of the United Reformed Church who still believe that when Jesus prayed that his people should be one he meant it, don't despair. As Baxter's hymn 'Ye holy angels bright' reminds us, the Church on earth is not on its own in facilitating God's purposes.

It is better to fail in a cause that will ultimately succeed than to succeed in a cause that will ultimately fail.

From **Maureen Tulloch**:

Garden Lunch

on Saturday 7th July 2018, 12.30 for 1pm

at the home of
Maureen and Peter Tulloch
(Trewoodloe Barn, Trewoodloe, Callington PL17 7NJ).

Ploughmans and Puddings!

Please put the date in your diary and enter your name on the list in the vestry.

Lifts can be arranged. Direction slips are attached to the list.

Tickets £7 per person (in aid of the URC Roof Fund), payable on the day.

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

Inclusive Church AGM / Annual Lecture

This year's AGM and Lecture will be taking place at Leicester Cathedral on the 25th July in the evening. Ruth Hunt, Stonewall Chief Executive, will be giving the lecture.

Greenbelt Festival, Northamptonshire

Dates for Greenbelt this year are: 24th - 27th August. We will have an IC stall (alongside partners Modern Church and WATCH) and a meet-up in the Jesus Arms (first five drinks on us!)

IC Disability Conference, in partnership with St Martin-in-the-Fields

This year's conference is from the 13th-14th October at St Martin-in-the-Fields. Tickets will be available from next month.

More details of any of these events are available from office@inclusive-church.org

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