



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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## August 2018

- SUNDAY 5<sup>th</sup> Service led by Revd Malcolm Richards with Holy Communion
- SUNDAY 12<sup>th</sup> Service led by Revd Phyllis Ball
- SUNDAY 19<sup>th</sup> Service led by Revd Robert Weston
- SUNDAY 26<sup>th</sup> Service led by Dr Peter Fox

Thank you to everyone who organised, planted and / or nurtured our beautiful floral display at the front of the church.

What a lovely way to be welcomed!



## Dates for your Diary

**No Tuesday Topics** in August – next one is 25th September

**Wednesday 1st August** - Create or Make Retreat at Tinhay Retreat see page 3

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> August** 10am to 3pm Church Day at Tinhay Retreat – see page 3

**Thursday 9th August** - Ignatian Retreat at Tinhay Retreat – see page 3

**Tuesday 14th August** - Walk and Talk Retreat at Tinhay Retreat – see page 3

**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 ).

### **Future dates:-**

**Saturday 29th September** at 10am. Decoration of the Church for Harvest

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September** Harvest Lunch after the Harvest Festival Service

From **Revd Rob Weston**, 01566 784990 [tavistockurcminister@gmail.com](mailto:tavistockurcminister@gmail.com)

Dear Friends

Walking the Way, following the path of Jesus, is a useful way of thinking about discipleship and we are in the process of exploring the ten Holy Habits which Andrew Roberts identified in his book entitled *Holy Habits*. They are: eating together, gladness and generosity, biblical teaching, fellowship, breaking bread, making more disciples, prayer, sharing resources, serving, and worship. Each of these themes will help us on our journey and I'm sure we will continue to return to them, as we deepen our faith individually and as a community.

In August, we celebrate with Cat and Ellie as they are married in our church, if you are unable to join us on 15th August then please pray for this special couple, their families and their friends.

Every blessing.

### **Tavistock Tourist Information Centre**

The tourist information centre in Tavistock is located near the Tavistock Museum and is due to open again in August. As the council is unable to fund the centre it is being run by volunteers, with funding from the Tavistock Heritage Trust. For further details and information about volunteering, contact Jo Butler on 07779349483 or email [jobutler22@outlook.com](mailto:jobutler22@outlook.com)

### **General Assembly 2018**

Several resolutions at this year's assembly were about future arrangements. A few years ago it was decided to reduce the size of General Assembly and reduce frequency to every other year. Reducing the size was sensible as we have a smaller membership, but the frequency of meeting has caused problems with decision making. Therefore, it was agreed to return to annual meetings and further reduce the number of representatives from each synod.

The theme of discipleship and 'Walking the Way' was evident throughout the assembly, with several excellent speakers such as Kathy White (lecturer at Northern College, Manchester), Collin Cowan (General Secretary of the Council for World Mission) and Amanda Mukwashi (Director of Christian Aid). If you are interested in attending a future assembly please let me know, the next one is to be held in 2020. If you are interested in reading the Book of Reports, there is a copy in the library.

## **Vestry Improvements**

We look forward to the new chairs arriving for the vestry, they are due in August and we will then be able to assess the tables, which may also need to be replaced. A number of people have expressed interest in the green plastic chairs, please see Hugh (our treasurer) who will be happy to receive a donation if you wish to help in finding new homes for the surplus chairs.

## **Tinhay Retreats**

We have three Retreat Days planned for August as follows:

Wednesday 1st August - **Create or Make Retreat** - A day retreat from 10am until 3pm for any budding artists or writers. Time of reflection on the theme plus opportunity to use the eight acres of grounds or sit inside and paint or write or relax in quiet. Please note that participants need to bring their own art/writing materials.

Thursday 9th August - **Ignatian Retreat** - A day retreat from 10am until 3pm exploring Ignatian spirituality . Time of reflection on the theme plus opportunity to use the eight acres of grounds or sit inside and paint or write or relax in quiet. This retreat is being led by Hazel Butland, who shares in the leadership of a regular Ignatian Prayer group which meets in Tavistock/Mary Tavy.

Tuesday 14th August - **Walk and Talk Retreat** - 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 then opportunity for a second walk or remain at the retreat centre to relax.

To book a place simply speak to Rob or Suzy Weston at church or phone 01566 784990 or email Rob at [tinhayretreats@gmail.com](mailto:tinhayretreats@gmail.com) There are more details and photos, on our website [tinhayretreats.com](http://tinhayretreats.com)

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!

From Rev **Phyllis Ball**;

If you have internet access you may be interested in the following site: it's '**Faith inspiring Action**' and sub-titled 'Reflections on following Jesus in today's world'. Janet Sutton Webb is a URC minister with a difference: she doesn't have a church but since 2009 she has been a 'pioneer minister' in the South Western Synod, following Jesus, alongside individuals who would not normally be interested in going to church. Her reflections make very interesting reading.

From **Stella Rasdall**:

We will meet to decorated the Church for Harvest on Saturday 29th September at 10am. Any offers of help or donation of flowers and foliage would be most appreciated. Please contact Pam Mico.

There will be a Harvest Lunch after the Harvest Festival Service on the 30th of September. Contact Stella Rasdall

From **Mike Dennis**;

It's not wallpaper.

Just because some things are in the same place, it doesn't mean that everything stays the same.

Take the library. New books and DVDs do get added. If you don't look, you could miss something interesting.

Then there are the publications on the back wall. If you do not receive the Reform magazine, you can borrow the copy from the rack. The same applies to publications from Green Christians, Amnesty, Global Justice, Progressive Christianity Network, Seeds of Faith, Karibuni Trust and many others. They are there for your benefit so don't let the opportunities go begging. They are not wallpaper to decorate the back of the church but are for your education and inspiration.

Some of the Church Family enjoying lunch at Trewoodloe Barn - in the sunshine for a change!

We raised £180 for the church roof fund. Thank you everyone, for coming and for participating in the quizzes, 'Spot the Ball' and 'Smite' !!

(Photo Peter Tulloch)



From **Andy Braunston** – URC Daily Devotions;

Our next series looks, in detail, at the Apostles' Creed. The URC upholds, amongst others, the Apostles' Creed. We tend only to use it during baptismal services which is a shame. Other traditions recite it more often as part of Sunday worship.

The Creed is a basic statement of Christian belief. It is first mentioned in the year 390 and note is then made of it being old and venerable. It was once believed to have been composed by the Apostles themselves but that belief is unlikely. Instead, it seems to have come from the Early Church as a simple statement of Christian belief. In Calvin's Geneva this was one of the things that he ensured people learnt and he, and his pastors, expounded upon.

It's not a bad discipline for us now.

From **Hugh Williams**, our Church Treasurer;

Following the Church meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> July, the subject of Sunday collections was discussed, and in response I hope this small article will answer any outstanding questions Church members may have.

Donations to the Church are a vital source of income to support the Church and its mission. Members can donate by monthly or weekly standing orders to the Church, by using the Gift Aid envelopes provided for the weekly Sunday collection, or by cash gifts placed in the collection plate.

Any Church member who wishes to clarify their individual situation can speak to me in confidence so that they can feel that their valued financial contribution to the life of the Church is maximized.

Once a donation has been made, as Treasurer, it is my responsibility to take maximum advantage of current Government Tax legislation to maximize your generosity, and the income of the Church. This is achieved by claiming two forms of Tax relief, Gift Aid and Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme.

Gift Aid is relevant to members who are current UK Tax Payers and have filled in a Gift Aid Declaration. The Gift Aid Small Donations scheme can be claimed on individual cash donations of £20 or less, including donations in an envelope if the donor has not given a Gift Aid declaration. If any member's Income Tax situation changes to move in or out of paying Tax, it is their responsibility to inform me, so I can switch the Tax benefit from one scheme to another.

In 2017 the Church recovered £4,290.00 from HMRC.

There are 20 pages of detailed rules and regulations on specific aspects of both Gift Aid schemes in the Association of Church Accountants and Treasurers handbook, which we comply with to maximize the benefit to the Church.

In summary, your donations are a vital source of income to the Church. I will be delighted to clarify or change any arrangements that any Church member may wish to discuss about donations and Sunday collections.

From **Ann-Marie**, URC Communications Officer;

United Reformed Church members have raised £10,000, which was match funded by the Church, to donate a total of £20,000 towards the Rohingya relief efforts.

The Council for World Mission (CWM) will use the money at its discretion to help those in need; and urged all member churches to stand in solidarity with the Presbyterian Church of Myanmar (PCM) and Church of Bangladesh (COB), both located at the centre of the crisis, to help with relief efforts having itself committed financial support.

## What a tasty treat!

LAST Friday (July 13), two friends and I went to the Lower Deck Café in Russell Street. What a treat, we had lovely home-made food at a very reasonable price. It was all freshly cooked and the gooseberry crumble was out of this world!

The café is run and staffed by volunteers who are brilliant, making everyone feel special and very welcome. They hold the café on a Friday lunchtime, not to make a profit but to offer the chance of a shared mealtime for everyone, making it a brilliant place to meet old friends or make new ones.

Well done to everyone at the Lower Deck Café. We will return to taste more of your lovely tasty food, Alba, Pam and Trevor.

Mrs Pam Coxwell,  
Tavistock

This letter appeared in this week's Tavy Times (21<sup>st</sup> July).

It is very encouraging.

Well done, the staff of the Lower Deck Café !

You are obviously appreciated by your customers.

Take a bow!

Prayer from **Revd Susan Dunbar's** 'Surprised by Grace'

*Oh God,  
who, in Jesus Christ,  
came to save us and to heal our deepest wounds,  
come close to me now,  
to the places where I hurt and sorrow,  
and lift me up by your love.*

*Keep me safe in the house of your protection,  
that I may grow strong,  
soothed and tended by your presence.  
Then let me walk the path of life that I may journey freely,  
not passing by those in need,  
but showing compassion to all who come near.*

*Amen*

**Any items for September CONTACT should be emailed to Maureen Tulloch by the 29<sup>th</sup> August. ([maureen.tulloch@homecall.co.uk](mailto:maureen.tulloch@homecall.co.uk)). Many thanks.**