

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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## October 2018

- SUNDAY 7th            Service led by Revd Malcolm Richards with Holy Communion
- SUNDAY 14th        Service led by Revd Robert Weston
- SUNDAY 21st        Service led by Revd Phyllis Ball
- SUNDAY 28th        Service led by Mr Mike Dennis



“None of us is perfect; each of us is unique; and all of us have potential.”

Quote from Revd Phyllis Ball's sermon on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2018

(Photo by Peter Tulloch)

## Dates for your Diary

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October** 11.00 to 16.30 'Green Christian' Event In Bristol, see page 5

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October** 2-4pm Christian Aid 'Uprooted' Talk and Tea - in our church  
see page 3

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> October** Church Meeting after the service

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> October** Preparations for Goose Fair

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> October** Goose Fair

**13<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> October** End Hunger week – see page 4

**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> October** 7.30pm Tuesday Topics in our church– The Challenge of Paul

**Wednesday 17 October 2018** - Changes and Choices - A day retreat at Tinhay  
Retreat from 10am until 3pm - see page 3

**From Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> October** 2.30 – 4pm **Every Wednesday** Daytime  
Discussion Group in our church

**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> October** 2pm to 4pm –Quiz and Afternoon Tea in our church

## Letter from our Minister, Revd Rob Weston:

01566 784990 [tavistockurcminister@gmail.com](mailto:tavistockurcminister@gmail.com)

Dear Friends

'Love is...'

For the second month in a row, I'm thinking about marriage, following the beautiful wedding day that Andrew and Becki celebrated on 8th September at St Enodoc Church, in Cornwall. The sun was not as strong as it might have been but the rain stayed away, allowing for some wonderful photos on the beach of Daymer Bay. It was a real privilege to be able to offer a few words of wisdom and blessing to the couple on their special day. One of the readings was from Colossians 3:12 '...as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.' Good advice for all of us, whoever we are, wherever we are on our journey!

## Derriford URC Interim Minister

I have been asked to serve Derriford URC as their Interim Minister, for two years or until they call a new minister (whichever is sooner). But don't panic, this will not affect my time allocation for Tavistock URC where I will continue to serve 30% of my ministry. The time will be allocated from my Tinhay Retreats time. Now that we have set up the retreat centre and the small camp site, I have more flexibility and time available than I had at the beginning of 2018! Suzy and I have met the congregation at Derriford URC and like Tavistock URC, they are a warm and welcoming fellowship.

## Christian Aid campaigns workshop: Exeter

This workshop is coming to Exeter on Saturday 10 November; Venue and times to be confirmed. Come and explore campaigning from a faith perspective, with advice and tips on getting your church and local community involved. Further dates for West Devon and/or North Devon are to be arranged. If you are interested please email Jill Stone [jstone@christian-aid.org](mailto:jstone@christian-aid.org) or ring 07814 131167.

### **‘Uprooted’ Talk and Tea - Saturday 6th October 2-4pm in our church**

Two thirds of people around the world who are forced from home, are still in their own country. That’s more than 40 million people. Seeking safety but unwilling or unable to cross a border, they are largely ignored by the international community and denied the official protection afforded to refugees. But Christian Aid believes that everybody counts.

Uprooted is a moving photographic exhibition featuring stories of those displaced in Nigeria, Kenya and Iraq, which will be in **Tavistock URC from 1st - 7th October.**

Ayuba Azagwu was one of the first to flee his village, so managed to find a property in Maiduguri, northern Nigeria. He’s opened up his home to those who’ve fled violence. Although his house only has nine rooms, he’s sheltered up to 100 people. Many are from his home village, who fled the destruction Boko Haram brought and arrived in Maiduguri with nothing.

Ayuba is losing rent money, but he feels obliged to help: he said ‘they have no one else to help but me.’ He’s not sure if he’ll ever get back to his farm and his old life. The harrowing stories of Boko Haram show us the worst that people can do to one another. But there are also stories like Ayuba’s which reveal the best humanity can be.

Come along to the ‘talk and tea’ and add your voice to those calling for a fairer deal for everyone on the move including Ayuba and those like him. Although the United Nations and its member states are currently working on two new agreements on refugees and migration, neither will tackle the problem of internal displacement.

We believe that the world can and must do better. At the ‘talk and tea’ you will find out more from Jill Stone and Russ Bayliss about those who have been displaced, what Christian Aid is doing to help those communities affected by displacement, and how you can be part of calling for change.

Find out more at [www.caid.org.uk/uprooted](http://www.caid.org.uk/uprooted)

### **Tinhay Retreats**

We have just released the dates of our next season of Day Retreats:

**Wednesday 17 October 2018 - Changes and Choices** - A day retreat from 10am until 3pm for anyone facing a time of change or transition. Time of reflection on the theme plus

**Thursday 15 November 2018 - Advent Craft** - A day retreat from 10am until 3pm for anyone who would like to have a go at some craft activity (such as an Advent wreath). Time of reflection on the theme, optional craft activities.

**Wednesday 5 December 2018 - An Advent Adventure** - A day retreat from 10am until 3pm exploring Advent, the time of preparation for Christmas. Prayers and meditations on the theme.

All retreats include the opportunity to explore eight acres of grounds, to sit inside or outside and read or relax in quiet. The address is Down Farm Cottage, Tinhay, Lifton PL16 0EL and our website is [www.tinhayretreats.com](http://www.tinhayretreats.com)

## Church Family News



### GOOSE FAIR Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2018

The Lower Deck Café will be open as usual on Goose Fair day from 9 am till 4 pm.

#### We need your help

**Jobs to be done include** – Setting up and clearing up. Serving drinks and taking orders. Serving food. Preparing food. Clearing tables. Washing up. Checking toilets. Operating the till. And generally being cheerful and welcoming to customers.

Please sign up on the list in the vestry indicating how you can help. It tends to be quieter in the morning but very busy from 11am onwards so please indicate when you can help. I will make a more formal Rota so that people can take breaks.

We also need home-made cakes, and carrot and coriander or tomato soup. Please label with your name and ingredients (in case of allergies).

Any queries contact - Stella Rasdall- 01822 832806 or 07811 924 550

### SHOE BOX APPEAL 2018.

It's almost Christmas Shoe Box time!

They need to be handed in by Sunday November 4<sup>th</sup> which may still seem a long time off, but will soon come around.

Leaflets are available at back of the church and from Liz Sanders.

Many thanks to those who have been busy knitting as we now have 18 blankets, 16 hats and 10 scarves.



**End Hunger week** is 13th -20th October 2018.

It would be good if we could get as many as possible signing the petition linked to this campaign. The link is : <http://endhungeruk.org/ucpetition/>  
Please do log on and sign.

Peter and Pam Dixon being presented by Garth Sanders with the 'Congratulations on Your Diamond Wedding' Card from the church family.

A happy occasion – well done, Peter and Pam.

(photo – Peter Tulloch)



From Revd Rob Weston:

**'Green Christian' Event**

WHEN: Sat 6 October 2018 11:00 – 16:30

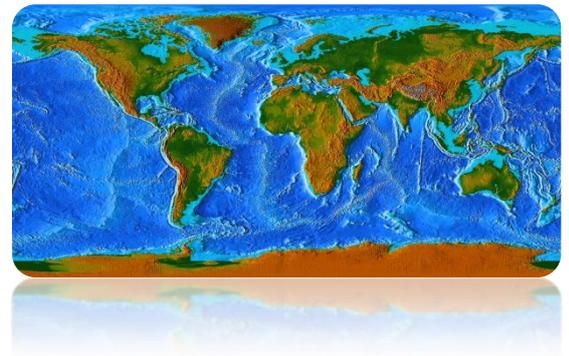
WHERE: Faithspace, Redcliffe Methodist Church, Prewett Street, Bristol, BS1 6PB

To find out more and to book just search for 'Green Christian Event Bristol' then click on 'Register'.

From John Collings in Daily Devotions:

Do we respect the faithfulness of God in the way we treat the world He created?

God made the host of the heavens by the breath of his mouth and we burn fossil fuels and pollute the atmosphere. He gathers the waters of the sea as in a bottle and today we throw away millions of plastic bottles every year and some of these end up in the oceans where they help to destroy many of the sea creatures that God created.



While many people seem to live and care nothing about this earth there is a growing movement of Christians who are working to change attitudes and reduce the damage we do to God's world. Christians have a chance to lead the world by changing what we do as individuals, as churches, as a denomination and as Christians. Eco Church and Eco Congregation Scotland unite churches who want to stand against the destruction of God's world by making small, or large, changes.

As we stand in awe of God and of all that is created we have to choose, do we continue to destroy it or do we make changes that start to change the world. The world stood firm when God spoke and yet is being eroded by human action, we have to show our respect for God, for God's creation and for all creatures by changing and lessening our impact on this fragile earth.

**Prayer**

*Loving God*

*We are sad when we see the damage to your world.  
We praise you for the majesty and diversity of all that you created.  
We ask your forgiveness for all the damage we have done.  
We ask that you guide us as we strive to do better  
and that you help us when we fail  
and show us what we can do  
to change how we treat this world.*



*Amen*

## **Crelake Care Home - request for services**

Steve Emery-Wright spoke at the TACT Leaders meeting about Crelake Residential Home which is asking for Christians to go in to the care home on a regular spot to do some kind of services for the residents. These can often bring back memories and quicken faith as old hymns are sung. I know there is pastoral care and communion offered already .

To provide this service across TACT churches would be a good thing to do. Please can you pass this request for helpers on to your congregations and ask anyone interested to let Steve know ([steve@tmc.me.uk](mailto:steve@tmc.me.uk)) as soon as possible.  
Very many thanks

From Mike Dennis:

### **A new book in the library.**

**Free Range Christianity.** This is an anthology of quotes and comments which can be dipped into. It can be used for reflection or for information. There is something for everyone except those who do not wish to be disturbed. I provide a couple of extracts which may be of interest.



A Russian youth who had become a conscientious objector was brought before a magistrate. He told the judge of the life which loves its enemies, which does good to those who abuse it, which overcomes evil with good. "I understand" said the judge, "But you must be realistic. These laws you are talking about are the laws of the Kingdom of God; and it has not yet come". The young man straightened and said "Sir, I recognise that it has not come for you, nor yet for Russia or the world. But the Kingdom of God has come for me. I cannot go on hating as though it had not come".

Do borrow the book and see what nuggets you can discover. Do share any that surprise you.

Quote from Mother Theresa:

"Let us always meet each other with a smile, for the smile is the beginning of love."



**Any items for November CONTACT should be emailed to Maureen Tulloch by the 24<sup>th</sup> October ([maureen.tulloch@homecall.co.uk](mailto:maureen.tulloch@homecall.co.uk)). Many thanks.**