



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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September 2018

- SUNDAY 2nd Service led by Revd Robert Weston with Holy Communion
- SUNDAY 9th Songs of Praise led by Mr Garth Sanders
- SUNDAY 16th Service led by Mr Mike Dennis
- SUNDAY 23rd Service led by Revd Phyllis Ball
- SUNDAY 30th Harvest Thanksgiving led by Revd Robert Weston



Giver of all good things, we thank you; for health and vigour; for the air that gives the breath of life; the sun that warms us; and the good food that makes us strong; for happy homes and friends we love; for all that makes it good to live. Make us thankful and eager to repay, by cheerfulness and kindness and by readiness to help others. Freely we have received; let us freely give, in Jesus' name.

Prayer by Thomas Ken

(Photo by Peter Tulloch- taken at Hong Kong Flower Festival)

Dates for your Diary

Sunday 16th September Elders' meeting after the service

Tuesday 25th September Tuesday Topics – The Challenge of Paul

The future of Roman Christianity and Vision and Vocation in Damascus

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

Sunday 30th September Harvest Lunch after the Harvest Festival Service

Saturday 6th October 11.00 to 16.30 **'Green Christian' Event at** Faithspace, Redcliffe Methodist Church, Prewett Street, Bristol, BS1 6PB. See page 3

There will be no **Daytime Discussion Group** in September – the next one will be on **17th October**.

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

Dear Friends

'God is love and everyone who lives in love, lives in God' (1John 4:16)

This was the verse that I included in the address for the wedding of Catherine Peck and Ellie Spicer, on 15th August, which was a very special day for a special couple and for our church.

The church was full of friends, relatives and supporters; it was lovely to have family members involved in leading the music and the prayers. Both Cat and Ellie were smiling throughout the service and during the sharing of cake and refreshments after the service. They both expressed again their thanks to everyone at Tavistock URC for the warm welcome that they received and for enabling them to have their marriage in church. Let us continue to pray for them as they grow together in love - and may we all 'live in love as we live in God.'



Improvements in our halls

At last, the new chairs are in the vestry; this month we will assess the tables and decide if new ones are required. Downstairs in the Lower Deck, you may have noticed the walls are in the process of being painted, this is just the undercoat. The new curtains are on order and should arrive by the end of September, once they are up we will be able to make a final choice on the wall colour.

Tinhay Retreats

The day retreats at Tinhay have been going well with an increasing number of people booking and making enquiries, we are having a break until the latter part of September but our new programme will be published in next month's magazine. Coming soon will be a retreat on the theme of 'Changes and Choices', and one entitled 'Drawing Deeply' based on the encounter between Jesus and the woman at the well.

Eco Church Progress

Following our discussions at the Church Away Day, we are in the process of working towards the Gold Eco Church Award and we have a checklist of items to work through over the next 12 months. When our energy contracts expire in 2019, we will be moving over to a 'Green Tariff' which means we will be supplied with eco friendly electricity and gas. We are also looking at our banking, seeking a suitably ethical bank. Within our premises we have already switched some lighting from 'fluorescent' to 'LED' which uses even less energy but provides the same amount of light - see if you can spot the difference! We also have plans for a water butt and a cycle rack to encourage cyclists.

Devon Historic Churches Trust - Ride and Stride

On 8th September, the annual sponsored cycle ride or walk takes place but this year Rob will be at a wedding instead of cycling round the churches. However, many others will be out on their bikes and if you would like a stroll around Tavistock, there are six churches in the town taking part including Abbey Chapel, King's Church, Methodist Church, St Eustachius, Roman Catholic Church and Tavistock URC. There is a keen group from Buckland Monachorum, some of whom are cycling the whole route via Yelverton and Horrabridge and into Tavistock, others are joining part way and some are walking. They are aiming to be in Tavistock from 2-4pm and would like to pop into each of the Tavistock Churches, if you are able to welcome them to the URC, please let one of the elders know.

'Green Christian' Event

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

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

Including sessions on:

- The [Green Christian Way of Life](#), which provides a framework of 4 disciplines – Prayer, Living Gently on the Earth, Public Witness and Encouragement – by means of a dispersed Community of Companions. It has been described as the spiritual "heartbeat" of Green Christian. There will be an opportunity to discover new resources and share our experiences of using the disciplines as an aid to our ongoing spiritual journeys.
- Joy in Enough, presenting a vision for a society dedicated to human flourishing and the common good rather than the constant pursuit of more. Recognising the value and limits of the natural world, we aim to harness the imagination of people in churches and beyond. We will use one of the modules in a learning guide we are preparing for church groups to explore these issues.

The day is open to all who are interested in finding out more about Green Christian, the wide range of resources we offer and the many activities and events in which we are involved.

Please bring a contribution towards a bring-and-share lunch and your own mug if you can.

Cost free – but donations on the day welcome.

Booking is essential as space is limited. Deadline for receiving bookings is Thursday 4th October 2018. Book online - just search for 'Green Christian Event Bristol' then click on 'Register'

From **Peter Dixon**:

On September 13th Pamela and I are celebrating **our Diamond Wedding Anniversary**. We were married in Old Meeting House Congregational Church, Uxbridge, Middlesex. It is a very old building (original bits from the 1600's) which still exists but is now a Community Centre.

(How very young you both look! And such a handsome couple. Congratulations, Peter and Pam – Well done! God Bless.)



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. There will be a notice in the Church to sign up. No price but donations. Contact Stella Rasdall.

From **Liz Sanders**:

SHOE BOX APPEAL 2018.

It's the time of year when I start to think again about the Christmas Shoe Boxes.

This year they need to be handed in by Sunday November 4th which may seem a long time off, but will soon come around.

Leaflets are available at back of the church and from me.

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



From **Revd Rob Weston**:

Foodbank is currently short of the following items: confectionary, shampoo, shaving foam, crisps, fruit juice, instant potato, sponge puddings, coffee, rice, washing powder and washing up liquid. Donations would be welcomed.

From **Alan Yates**, Immediate Past Moderator of General Assembly, in Daily Devotions

Read Ephesians 4: 25 - 32

So then, putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbours, for we are members of one another. Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not make room for the devil. Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labour and work honestly with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, and be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.

Reflection

We see a clear list of things that a disciple of Christ should do and not do. In simple terms, this is an explanation of what it means to love your neighbour as yourself. It is quite a test to mark ourselves against this standard!

Let me finish with a couple of sentences from William Barclay's commentary: 'The anger which is selfish and uncontrolled is a sinful and hurtful thing, which must be banished from the Christian life. But the selfless anger which is disciplined into the service of Christ and our fellow [women and] men is one of the great dynamic forces of the world.'

Prayer:

*Lord, I pray
that you will give us all
the wisdom, courage and stamina
to live our lives
in the light of your example.
Enable us to forget self
when we are tempted to become angry
because someone has hurt us.
Help us to channel our anger
towards those who deprive our neighbours of your great blessings and freedoms.
Amen.*

From **Mike Dennis**:

A Rose for Rueben.

This is the title of a new book added to the library. It is a collection of short stories. The stories are short: the longest is only eight pages. Each story is complete in itself but it is their combined impact which is so effective. They are all linked directly or indirectly to the dreadful events that took place during the Holocaust. In these circumstances, it is inevitable that the stories have their tragic and horrendous aspects. However, each of them leaves you uplifted. They are a testament as to how goodness can come out of evil. They reveal aspects of human nature at its best and can renew your faith in human nature.

It is definitely worth a read.

Also from **Mike**:

Hope in Conflict

Can we find hope in times of conflict – personal, communal, international?
An event on **November 17th 2018** with keynote speaker **Pádraig Ó Tuama**, poet and theologian, Leader of the Corrymeela Community, Northern Ireland's oldest peace centre.

Venue: The Alumni auditorium, The Forum, Streatham Campus, University of Exeter, Stocker Rd, Exeter EX4 4PT

Time: 9.30 registration for 10.00 – 4.15

Open to those of all faiths and none.

Discover creative ways to deal with conflict, from practitioners in different contexts. Lunch is not included, so please bring sandwiches, or buy at various outlets in the Forum. **Tickets** are available now from <https://store.exeter.ac.uk/conferences-and-events/education-student-experience/events/hope-in-conflict>

From **Ruth Wilde**, National Co-ordinator, Inclusive Church

One Body One Faith 'Extending the Table' Conference

One Body One Faith are holding their first ever conference **exploring gender identity** on the **15th September** at St James & Emmanuel church in Didsbury, Manchester. Speakers include Rachel Mann, Tina Beardsley, Susannah Cornwall, Chris Dowd, Kenneth Wilkinson and Neil Mackin. More details on www.inclusive-church.org/

From **the wall of an old inn**, Lancaster;

*Give us, Lord, a bit of sun,
a bit of work and a bit of fun;
give us all in the struggle and splutter,
our daily bread and a bit of butter;*

*Give us health, our keep to make,
and a bit to spare for others' sake;
give us sense for we're some of us duffers,
an' a heart to feel for all that suffers;*

*Give us, too, a bit of a song
and a tale and a book to help us along;
An' give us a share o' sorrow's lesson
that we may prove how grief's a blessin';*

*Give us, Lord, a chance to be
our goodly best, brave, wise and free,
our goodly best for ourselves and others,
till all men learn to live as brothers.*

Any items for October CONTACT should be emailed to Maureen Tulloch by the 21st September (note earlier date) (maureen.tulloch@homecall.co.uk). Many thanks.