



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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November 2018

- SUNDAY 4th Service led by Revd Robert Weston with Holy Communion
- SUNDAY 11th Service led by Revd Malcolm Richards – **9.30am start**
- SUNDAY 18th Service led by Revd Phyllis Ball
- SUNDAY 25th Service led by Revd Iain McDonald

The Earth is the Lord's and everything in it.

Our Church Harvest Display
(Photo - Mrs Suzy Weston)



Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 30th October, 7:30pm Plymouth Churches Green Action Talks - "Ethical Shopping", St. Edwards Church Hall, Church Hill, Plymouth PL6 5RN. Free entry.

More details: www.ctip.org.uk/events/plymouth-churches-green-action-talks-ethical-shopping

Friday 2nd November 7.30pm - Christians in Science lecture - "Does Science Need God?" Upper Lecture Theatre, Sherwell Centre, Plymouth University, PL4 8AA . More

details: www.cissouthwest.co.uk/doesscienceneedgod/ cissouthwest@gmail.com / 01752 587760.

Sunday 4th November Elders' Meeting after the service

Tuesday 6th November 7.30pm Tuesday Topics 'Gods, Goddesses and the role of Gender in devine evolution'

Saturday 10th November Christian Aid campaigns workshop: Exeter

Venue and times to be confirmed.

Thursday 15th November - Advent Craft - A day retreat - see page 3

Saturday 17th November Hope in Conflict 9.30 registration for 10.00am – 4.15pm at The Alumni auditorium, The Forum, Streatham Campus, University of Exeter, Stocker Rd, Exeter EX4 4PT.

Sunday 2nd December Decoration of the church for Christmas after the service.

Wednesday 5th December - An Advent Adventure - A day retreat- see page 3

Friday 7th December Dickensian Evening – Church is open for carols /craft/ photographic displays. Christmas Tree in the Christmas Tree Festival at St Eustachius.

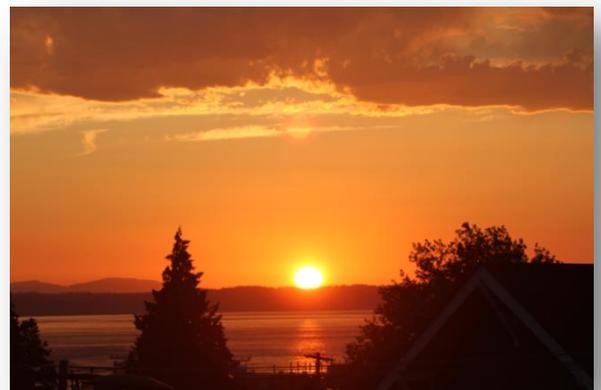
Sunday 9th December Advent Lunch after morning service.

Every Wednesday 2.30 – 4pm Daytime Discussion Group in our church **except Wednesday 21st November** when the group is **cancelled**.

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

Minister's Letter

Sat in the Tavistock Council chambers we looked out of the window and saw a beautiful sunset, a number of councillors drew attention to the red sky, there was a sense of awe and wonder. I was there to lead the council in their 'quiet reflection' before their meeting, the sunset was a superb link to my chosen theme of 'care for the environment'. But more than that, the sunset was a visual prayer, as powerful as any carefully crafted words - one might go as far as to say, it was a gift of God.



The theme of our worship in November is **prayer** and my hope is that we will all be open to new ways into prayer - through words and silence, pictures and paintings, the dark night sky and the golden sunsets, chants and songs and much more! For prayer is simply communication with God and God communicates with us in many different ways.

May you know God's grace and peace,
Robert Weston

Minister's usual day off

Now that Robert is getting into a more settled pattern of work, he has chosen Wednesday as his usual 'church day off'. If he has to work on a Wednesday, he will allocate a different day during that week.

News from Traidcraft

As you may have heard, Traidcraft plc has recently been going through a period of consultation. We've received hundreds of messages of support from shareholders, Fair Traders, fair trade shops, staff, suppliers, and producers, and it's all contributed to this latest update. It's the passion and drive of these communities which has proven to our Board that Traidcraft's mission isn't yet over. There's still work to be done!

Our Board is currently investigating a proposal which would mean Traidcraft is downsized, but transformed into a fair trade business of tomorrow – fit for purpose (and success) in the 21st century. Traidcraft would maintain its pioneering spirit, and seek to deliver greater transparency and added value to ethical consumers. If the proposal is accepted, Traidcraft would continue to operate, and you'd be able to continue to shop with us and change the lives of growers and artisans worldwide. The Board believes that this transformation is possible and we hope to share our vision with you in the week commencing 5th November.

Kitchen extraction system

We now have three quotes for the extensive work that is required to upgrade the extraction system in the Lower Deck kitchen. We have also had an assurance of 10% grant from the South Western Synod funds towards the works. Further details will be available at the next Church Meeting.

Thursday 15 November - 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 - 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

It's Christmas Shoe Box time!

Shoe boxes, blankets etc need to be handed in **by Sunday November 4th**.

Leaflets are available at back of the church and from **Liz Sanders**. Many thanks to those who have been busy knitting, and packing their shoe-boxes. Total numbers of boxes, blankets, scarves and hats will be reported in next month's CONTACT.



Fairtrade Charter urges action

The United Reformed Church joined 250 organisations from across the globe last month to help launch the International Fair Trade Charter. The charter which sets out the fundamental values of Fair Trade and defines a common vision towards achieving the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

Initiated by Fairtrade International and the World Fair Trade Organisation, the global Fair Trade movement is urging policy-makers, business leaders, citizens and consumers to embrace the vision of the International Fair Trade Charter by signing the it.

The Library is not just books.

On the library shelves there are also DVDs. Newly added this month was "The Challenge of Paul" by John Dominic Crossan. There are 4 sessions on each of the 2 DVD's making 8 sessions in all. Each session is approx. 15 – 18 minutes long. The final 4 sessions have been the topic of the recent Tuesday Topics so, if you would like to borrow the DVDs, do ask Mike for the accompanying notes as he has spare copies.

However, with regard to books, I have added a copy of The Message version of the Bible. There was much interest expressed in the lively way that the Gospel was expressed when this version was used during Robert's last service. There are various other versions of the Bible on the bottom shelf.

Recent added books include a) An Other Kingdom by Block, Bruggemann and McKnight, b) Kissing Fish by Roger Wolsey and c) What is the Bible by Rob Bell.

Things are changing frequently so keep watching the shelves.

Mike Dennis

Christmas Angel Project.

Knit and Natter and others are busy knitting angels which are going to have a Christmas greeting from the church attached to them.

On Friday 14th December these will be available in the Lower Deck Cafe for customers and those attending the Foodbank.

They will also be placed on the railings outside the church for people passing to help themselves.

If we are able to make enough it would be good to provide them for the Christmas Day lunch clients as well!

Anyone wishing to help by knitting please speak to Pam M, Suzy or Jenny D or take a pattern from the noticeboard in the vestry.

I have attached a photo of some I have made,



Jenny Dennis

Poem

Somebody's mother

The woman was old and ragged and grey - and bent with the chill of the winter's day.
The street was wet with the recent snow - and the woman's feet were aged and slow.
She stood at the crossing and waited long, - alone, uncared for, amid the throng.
of human beings who passed her by - nor heeded the glance of her anxious eye.

Down the street with laughter and shout,- glad in the freedom of 'school let out'
came the boys, like a flock of sheep,- hailing the snow piled white and deep.
Past the old woman so old and grey - hastened the children on their way.
nor offered a helping hand to her – so meek, so timid, afraid to stir
lest the carriage wheels or horses' feet - should crowd her down the slippery street.
At last came one of the merry troop,- the gayest laddie of the group;
He paused beside her and whispered low, - "I'll help you across, if you wish to go."

Her aged hand on his strong young arm - she placed and so without hurt or harm,
he guided the trembling feet along,- proud that his own were firm and strong.
Then back again to his friends he went,- his young heart happy and well content.

"She's somebody's mother, boys, you know,- for all she is aged and poor and slow
and I hope that some fellow will lend a hand - to help my mother, you understand,
if ever she's poor and old and grey,- when her own dear boy is far away."
And 'somebody's mother' bowed low her head - and the prayer she said
that night was 'God be kind to the noble boy,
who is 'somebody's son,' and pride and joy!'

By Mary Dow Brine.

Prayer from 'A Book of Prayers to keep for ever'

*May we learn from each other, Lord
how to give, how to receive;
how, in joy, to celebrate
how, in pain, to grieve;
how to fight for what is right
yet not do any wrong;
how to be the family
to which we all belong.*

Amen



Any items for December CONTACT should be emailed to Maureen Tulloch by the 28th November (maureen.tulloch@homecall.co.uk). Many thanks.