



The
United
Reformed
Church

Tavistock U.R.C.
Russell Street, Tavistock PL19 8BD
Founded 1652
Loving God,
Encouraging Questions, Welcoming all.

CONTACT

Minister: Revd Robert Weston Tel: 07982 622949
Church Secretaries: Mike & Jenny Dennis Tel: 01822 618142
Administrator: Maureen Tulloch Tel: 01579 208519
Synod website: urcsouthwest.org.uk
Church Payphone: Tel: 01822 612017
Church Website: www.tavistock.urc.org.uk

February 2019

- SUNDAY 3rd Service led by Revd Rob Weston with Holy Communion
- SUNDAY 10th Service led by Mr Mike Dennis
- SUNDAY 17th Service led by Revd Phyllis Ball
- SUNDAY 24th Service led by Revd Malcolm Richards



St. Valentine
beheaded 269 a.d.

The proof of love is in the works. Where love exists, it works great things. But when it ceases to act, it ceases to exist. Pope St. Gregory the Great

©mcg 2012

Dates for your Diary

Friday 1 March at 2pm WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE at our church. See page 4.

Wednesday 6th February at 7.30pm– Midweek Topics – “ The bad Christian’s manifesto”

Thursday 14th February - Bread of Life - A day retreat from 10am until 3pm begins with a short time of worship on the theme and the opportunity to make and bake your own bread. Details from Rob or Suzy Weston 01566 784 990 or on tinhayretreats@gmail.com

Friday 15th February at 7pm Community Energy Feast at our church. See page 3.

Tuesday 26th February 12 noon to 1.30pm- Fairtrade Fortnight lunch in Lower Deck Hall with visiting banana producer from St Vincent. Free event, donations to Traidcraft Exchange. See page 3.

Tuesday 26th February 7.30pm to 9.30pm ROC Action Group meeting at The Abbey Chapel. See page 6.

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 Events:-

Wednesday 6th March at 7.30pm– Midweek Topics – “ The story of Judas Iscariot”

Tuesday 12th March - Drawing Deeply - A day retreat from 10am until 3pm on the theme of sustaining faith in the difficult times.

Friday 15th March – A Christian View on Climate Change at Plymouth University. See page 4.

Sunday 24th March Church AGM after the service

Saturday 30th March at 3pm –Quorum Concert in our church.

Wednesday 3rd April at 7.30pm – Midweek Topics – “The Passion of Jesus: Holy Week, Good Friday and Easter Week”

Thursday 11 April - Hope of Easter - A day retreat from 10am until 3pm on the theme of the hope found in Christ.

Sunday 21st April - Easter breakfast from 9.00am in Lower Deck Hall followed by 10.00am Easter Sunday Communion Service in Church

Saturday 8th June - Gilbert and Sullivan Concert in Church from 2.30 - 4.30pm

Saturday 22nd June - BBQ at the home of Stella & Raz Rasdall

Saturday 12th October - The Lost Sound Choir (time to be confirmed) in Church

Minister’s Letter

Whenever we receive a new member into the church, I always feel encouraged. Though many congregations across the United Kingdom have seen a decline in attendance, researchers have found there are as many churches today as there were in the 1980s - the big change is that many of the new churches that have opened are not part of traditional denominations. Within our own denomination there have been churches that have grown, churches with the same membership as 40 years ago and churches that have declined. In the past twenty years, Tavistock URC membership has been around 40 people, which it remains today. So let us all be encouraged, God is still at work in and through God’s people and God’s church.

Robert Weston

Eco Church

Eco Church - we've been taking further steps towards our next Eco Church award - all the lighting in the kitchen is LED which uses a fraction of the energy of the old fluorescent lighting. We've also switched to a 'green electricity' tariff with our supplier. Our work to raise the importance of Fairtrade is also an important part of our eco work. At the South Western Synod in March the resolution requesting that the URC removes its investments from fossil fuel companies will be debated. We will keep you informed of the response.

Tavistock Area Christians Together

At the annual general meeting of TACT on Sunday 20th January, our Minister was elected as the Vice Chairperson, replacing Revd Pam Stranks who has moved from Tavistock. At the meeting we received reports from a huge number of organisations working together to serve the local community. The need for extra funding for the debt advice service (DATA) and the Catalyst youth work were highlighted.

Eco action we can all take

For those of us living in West Devon Borough, we are asked to sort our recycling items into two boxes. Box one is for paper and glass bottles & jars, box two is for plastic bottles and tins & cans. Getting this right ensures that the collection is more efficient and less is contaminated.

Fairtrade Fortnight Lunch

To celebrate Fairtrade Fortnight we are organising a **free lunch** (home made soup, roll and cakes) and a talk by a banana producer who is visiting the UK. Our guest visitor will be talking about the difference that Fairtrade makes. We will also have a Fairtrade stall available so that you can stock up on some Fairtrade goodies. We'll be running the event from **12.00pm until 1.30pm on Tuesday 26th February** in our church. If you'd like to let us know that you are coming, please email tavistockurcminister@gmail.com or ring 01566 784990. *Tavistock is a Fairtrade Town - let's make a difference to even more lives in 2019.*

Imagining Alternatives and Feast for the Future.

Transition Tavistock been taking part in an initiative developed by the University of Plymouth, Regen and South Dartmoor Community Energy called *Imagining Alternatives - Feasts for the Future.*

Building on the successful Community Energy Feasts Regen has organised in the past, the idea was to bring different groups together to reflect and celebrate together about what we'd like to see in our Utopian future of 2068. We'd also like to use this occasion to celebrate our achievements so far, chat about the future, and in particular how we can contribute to the challenges of significant carbon reduction by 2030 ... Twelve Years!

Now it's Tamar Energy Community's turn to host a feast for our Directors, Members, Volunteers and Supporters and provide some space to chat and reflect together. Please join us, if you can, on **Friday 15th February** at the Lower Deck Hall, United Reformed Church, Russell Street in Tavistock. We'll be kicking off at **7pm**. Partners are welcome (please register each attendee separately). This will be a Vegan Feast provided by a local caterer. We have a small budget from the Initiative and Tamar Energy funding to cover some of the costs, but we would like to ask for a donation of £5 per person on the evening.

Church Family:

(We hope to have an obituary to Magdelene(Callea) in next month's CONTACT – sincere apologies for the delay.)

Just to let you know that Dorothy (Woodyatt) has moved to a care home in Torquay as from 5th January. She is close to her daughter now and has a lovely newly decorated room with all the mod-cons. Dorothy has been a faithful member of our Church Family for many years and we will miss her sorely.

Keep the lovely smile, Dorothy!
May God bless you.



From **Anne Snook**:

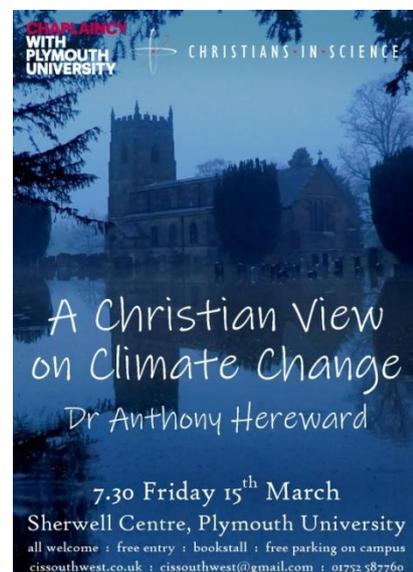
The **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE** will be on Friday 1st March at 2pm at Tavistock United Reformed Church. This special service has been composed by the women of Slovenia. As it is this year, for Tavistock, being hosted by our church, it would lovely to see as many of you there as possible. Offers of help with refreshments would be much appreciated. Contact Anne Snook Tel 01822614801

From **Mike Dennis**:

Church members are reminded that nominations for Elders to be appointed at the Church AGM on 10th March should be with the church secretaries by Sunday 3rd March.

All those who have reports for the AGM should ensure that the reports are with the church secretaries by Thursday 28th February as Mike and Jenny need to collate them and have hard copies available for members not on email by Sunday 3rd March.

"A Christian View on Climate Change" by Dr Anthony Hereward on Friday 15th March, 7.30pm, Sherwell Centre, Plymouth University.



Local Energy Advice Programme (LEAP)

Free Energy Advice and Home Visits

- Low income?
- Housing Benefit?
- Income / Disability Benefit?
- Long term illness / disability?

We can:

- Install FREE simple measures
- Provide day to day energy tips
- Check you're on the best energy tariffs
- Refer you for additional support

Call 0800 233 5414 for an appointment ... drop in to Local Matters (11:00 to 13:00 Mon to Sat) or email hello@tamarenergycommunity.com..

From **Anne-Marie** – URC Communications Officer

Young Christians debate social issues at URC Youth Assembly

Ninety-eight young people from 13 synods attended the United Reformed Church (URC) Youth Assembly 2019 at Whitemoor Lakes, Staffordshire, from 18 to 20 January. Guest speakers at the event, themed 'One Body: We're all in this together', included A Rocha, an environmental charity; the Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT), which champions social justice issues; and Beacon: LGBT+ in the URC, which supports and resources LGBT across the denomination. Resolutions debated included requests to encourage local churches to give children and young people a meaningful voice, to install WiFi, and to create a task group to research ways to tackle young people's loneliness. Read more on <https://urc.org.uk/latest-news>

From **David Palmer**, ROC Coordinator

ROC (Redeeming Our Communities) Tavistock

ROC is a church and community project working for the benefit of everyone in our community. Here is the latest update from ROC Tavistock, which includes an indication of what is in the pipeline:

So far....

- Over £200 donated to ROC from churches
- ROC Tavistock Facebook page set up and leaflets being distributed
- Two Coffee mornings arranged for a local neighbourhood:
- Queen's Head Managers, Jo & Trevor Huckle, have opened up weekly meeting for PCSO to talk informally to parents about digital safety issues in the spirit of ROC - this project appears in the Wetherspoon's National Magazine
- "In Touch Tavi" leaflets prepared by Health & Well Being Alliance, WDCVS, TASS with ROC support: A5 sheets on Health, Wellbeing, Family, Money, etc.
- Children identified for Phoenix courses: Police and ROC
- Agreement with local shops to provide Digital Parenting magazine from Vodafone: Police & ROC (cont. on next page)

(Cont)

Actions planned for the next six weeks.....

- Youth survey in Tavi College for students in years 8 and 9 about their wishes and needs
- Listening Café planned for the lonely, possibly working with Tavistock Foodbank.
- Magic Table Project. For all kinds of groups including those suffering from Dementia. Working with Dementia Alliance, £4000 funding received and £2000 to go. The idea is to install the Magic Table in the Library.
- Launch of "In Touch Tavi" leaflets 10am -12noon on 1st March at Butchers' Hall as mentioned above.

Thank you everyone for your support. We have got off to a great start and we will need helpers and volunteers for some of these ROC actions, and if you would like to help out on any of the above, please let David Palmer know by email.

The next ROC Action Group meeting is Tuesday 26th February 7.30 -9pm at The Abbey Chapel to update and plan future short term goals. All who are interested are welcome.

From **Anne-Marie**, URC Communications Officer

The call to climate action is getting louder. Research suggests that time is running out to reduce the predicted impact of global warming. This year, the Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT) is inviting you to become part of the 'Living Lent' community, where together we can make significant, personal commitments to changing our lifestyles for the climate during the 40 days of Lent, which starts on 6 March.

Read more on <https://urc.org.uk/latest-news>

FEBRUARY

Trees felling
Ground exposing
Rains falling
Mud forming
Shacks slipping
Desperation creeping
Hope fading
Help coming
Faith acting
Future clearing
Hope rising



Any items for March CONTACT should be emailed to Maureen Tulloch by the 26th February (maureen.tulloch@homecall.co.uk). Many thanks.