



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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April 2019

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

O Lord,
Risen, alive and full of grace.
You paid such a price that we may live in freedom today.
We worship your holy name and give thanks for your
redeeming grace.

'May the Easter message of joy, peace and hope speak
into all our lives.'
Revd Robert Weston



Dates for your Diary

Wednesdays at 2.30 Weekly Daytime Discussion Group in our church . The group are using the Lent Study - Living Fruitfully. A series of 6 Studies by 'Embrace the Middle East.' All are welcome.

Wednesday 3rd April at 7.30pm – Midweek Topics – “The Passion of Jesus: Holy Week, Good Friday and Easter Week” a talk by the late Marcus Borg.

Marcus Borg's style is very engaging and he provides insightful comments which enlighten and inspire. A good preparation for Easter.

Friday 5th April at 12.30pm. Marlene Horrell's funeral in our church

Sunday 7th April – Elders' Meeting after the service

Thursday 11th April - Hope of Easter - A day retreat from 10am until 3pm on the theme of the hope found in Christ, at Tinhay Retreats. See page 3

Thursday 18th April - Water of life: - A day retreat from 10am until 3pm; a reflection on life-giving water, at Tinhay Retreats. See page 3

Saturday 20th April - 10am to noon - Decoration of Church for Easter

Sunday 21st April - Easter Breakfast from 9.00am in the Lower Deck Hall followed at 10.00am by the Easter Sunday Communion Service in Church- please sign up on the sheet in church or email tavistockurcminister@gmail.com

Special events coming up in 2019:-

12th-18th May Christian Aid Week

Tuesday 14th May - Walk and Talk Retreat - A day retreat from 10am until 3pm with the theme of journeys. See Page 3.

Thursday 16th May 9.00 -11.00am Big Breakfast in the LD Hall for Christian Aid

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

Saturday 22nd June - BBQ at Morwellham, with Stella & Raz Rasdall

Saturday 29th June 10am - 12noon Art4Fun Coffee Morning/ Art Exhibition in aid of St Luke's Hospice.

Saturday 31st August –1pm Garden Lunch with Maureen and Peter

Saturday 12th October - The Lost Sound Choir (time to be confirmed) in our Church. See Page 4.

Sunday 13th October –Harvest Lunch after the service, in the LD Hall

Minister's Letter:

During April we celebrate Easter, because the message of the gospel of Jesus is revealed as we are reminded of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. There is great mystery in the empty tomb, the absence of the body means that we, like the first disciples on the scene have to ask, 'what has happened and what does this mean?' However we understand the empty tomb, we can conclude that it is a symbol of hope and a new start - Jesus has given his disciples all the preparation they need, all the teaching they need. God's power has been demonstrated, not through violence but through Jesus' actions of peace. Death is not the end, but the start of a new beginning. May the Easter message of joy, peace and hope speak into all our lives.

Robert Weston

Eco Church

Eco Church - we've been taking further steps towards our next Eco Church award - at the South Western Synod meeting in March our resolution was debated in some depth and it was agreed to ask the *Ethical Investments Group* to review the current policy, with a view to remove all URC funds from fossil fuel companies. The South Western Synod has also agreed to work towards the Eco Synod award, joining East Midlands, Wessex and West Midlands. At their March meeting, Yorkshire Synod agreed to remove its investments in fossil fuels. Vegetarian meals are now clearly indicated on the new Lower Deck Cafe menu and we continue to use locally sourced products, where possible.

Tavistock Area Christians Together

We are all invited to help distribute hot cross buns in Bedford Square, on Good Friday. These are given away as a free gift from the local churches and will be accompanied by a leaflet giving details of all our Easter services. On Easter Monday, an ecumenical service of celebration called 'Risen' will take place in the Town Hall, Bedford Square, representatives from all of our local churches will be in the service - all are welcome.

New Menu at Lower Deck Café

Regulars at the Lower Deck Cafe will recall that we carried out a customer survey earlier this year. The results have now been analysed by the computer brain of Stella and a number of changes have been made, to further enhance the service we offer. We are adding a 'special' hot meal, which will vary from week to week, we have added a salad meal and the menu now shows which meals are suitable for vegetarians. The charges continue to be excellent value, with some small increases in line with inflation.

Day Retreats in 2019 at Tinhay Retreats

11 April 2019 - Hope of Easter - A day retreat from 10am until 3pm on the theme of the hope found in Christ. Time of reflection on the theme, plus opportunity to wander round eight acres of grounds, sit inside or outside and pray, read or relax in quiet.

18 April 2019 - Water of life: a reflection on life-giving water, using the story of the woman at the well and the foot washing of the disciples. The day will run from 10am until 3pm and we will be using **the Woman at the Well icon**, on loan from the Retreats Association www.retreats.org.uk/icon-events.php

14 May 2019 - 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.

Details from Rob or Suzy Weston 01566 784 990 tinhayretreats@gmail.com

The Lost Sound Choir

If you have never come across The Lost Sound Choir, then you are in for a treat in October, when they perform in our church. They are a Dartmoor based choir of women and men, I've taken this from their website (which is excellent) www.thelostsound.co.uk

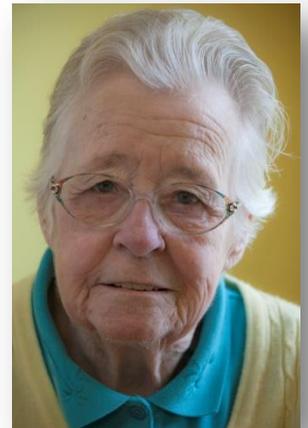
'We sing with a strong folk element under-pinning our set, always searching for imaginative, contemporary arrangements that give new slants to these wonderful old melodies and acappella traditions. We are known for our multi-layered textures and harmony - often having 5-8 parts running at once! We actively support living composers by singing new songs and arrangements. We run mixed quartets and all male and all female ensembles too, which encourages us to improve our choir and harmony skills as well as our singing.'

Church Family:

Our thoughts and prayers are with those of our church family who have not been able to come to church lately for various reasons – **Joan, Muriel, Valerie, Thelma, Dorothy, Tom and Jane**. We do remember you regularly in our prayers. God bless you all.

We were saddened to hear that **Marlene (Horrell)** has died. She was a hard worker, a true and faithful servant and a great asset to the church for many years with her fundraising efforts, organising 'sales of work' and of course baking a delicious cake every week for the LD Café. She was also a key holder for occasional hirers – what a help that was.

A farmer's wife and a Tavistock Market stall holder she was always on the go and even in the last few months she was knitting hats for the women of Romania. We will miss her greatly. May God bless her.



From **Mike Dennis:**

Orchard Cottage.

Do you need a break away or would like to explore the south west of Cornwall? Orchard Cottage is situated on the Tolroy Manor Holiday Estate near Hayle. It has a double bedroom and 2 single beds and a set of bunk beds in the other 2 bedrooms.

We are not offering this on a commercial basis but will seek a contribution towards the basic running and service costs. Therefore charges could be £100/150 per week or pro rata rather than the commercial rate of £350/800. For any with mobility issues, it should be noted that the bathroom is on the ground floor and all bedrooms upstairs.

The best thing to do if you have any interest is to speak to Mike or Jenny about availability or facilities.

A Happy Occasion - celebrating **John (Noyes)** 90th Birthday in church on March 3rd:



Congratulations again, John, and all the best to both you and Anne.

From **URC Communications Office**:

Faith Leaders gather to offer prayers and support in the wake of the New Zealand Tragedy

On 15 March, the sickening news about the senseless shootings at the Al Noor and Linwood mosques in Christchurch resounded around the world. People of all faiths and none gathered across the UK to show solidarity with grieving families in New Zealand and the Muslim community in Britain.

The United Reformed Church (URC) was represented by the Revd Philip Brooks, Secretary for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations, at the London Central Mosque where faith, community and political leaders offered prayers and messages of support. In the north, the URC National Synod of Scotland sent a letter to the Scottish Ahlul Bayt Society affirming the rich contribution of Muslims to Scottish society and their horror at the targeting of peace-loving people. This led the URC's interfaith enabling group to endorse a commitment to encourage local churches and synods to write to their local mosque and council of mosques in a show of further support.

Derek Estill, Moderator of the URC General Assembly, said: 'It is important that all faith communities demonstrate a united determination against all terrorist attacks to make it clear that such mindless acts of violence can never and will never succeed.'

Church AGM

Mike and Jenny (Dennis) retired as Elders and Church Secretaries, and Garth (Sanders) retired as an Elder, at the Church's AGM in March.

Grateful thanks were expressed by the whole meeting for their willingness, enthusiasm and hard work over the last 5 years or so.

Peter (Tulloch) –photographed here - was elected as an Elder and as Secretary.



Some memories of Magdalene.

Magdalene Tamara Callea was born in Geneva, Switzerland in 1950. Her father was an Italian diplomat. She spent most of her childhood travelling the world. A gifted linguist, by the time she was 20 she spoke 5 languages fluently. She decided to do a degree in Psychology in Heidelberg, Germany, and when she finished her degree in 1979 she went to visit her parents who were working in Ecuador. There she took a part time job in a book shop and met an Englishman, Michael. Three months later they were married and after a year they had had their first child, a girl, Savannah, followed 17 months later by a boy, Alun.



In 1983 Magdalene and Michael moved to South East England where Magdalene began her Psychotherapy Practice in Berkshire and Autogenic Training in London at the Homeopathic Hospital. She was also involved in an organisation called Mother Tongue helping refugees in their own language as they arrived in the UK. In 1986 she had her third child, a boy, Luke. Just after Luke was born, Magdalene was diagnosed with cancer for the first time. A growth the size of a grapefruit on her abdominal wall was removed and there seemed to be no other indications of cancer.

In 1998 Magdalene divorced Michael and moved into the country. She discovered after several years of pain, that the cancer had returned, this time around her left kidney. Savannah described her mum as an exceptionally caring and loving mother who despite her own challenges, always had time and made space for others. She respected other people's thoughts, valued their emotions and took the time to listen. She is a lady who touched more lives than she realised and is deeply missed but always loved.

Christopher Owen, her husband, recalls; " It was while we were sharing a friend's cottage in Dorset for 8 months in 2012 that our friendship blossomed into a strong beautiful relationship. From the beginning we were both aware of the Spirit moving and guiding us. When the time came for us to move home we ended up in Okehampton, where we were married in 2014. A visit to Italy then, some months in India, brought us back to Devon and Tavistock. What is so clear looking back over these years, especially reading Magdalene's journals, is the strength and depth of her desire for God, of her faith and trust, especially as the cancer progressed, quite rapidly in her final year. It seemed that nothing could quench her love of life, her delight in simple pleasures, or her openness to people. I would like especially to pay tribute to her great courage and faith through the years of pain and suffering. Magdalene was a beautiful and extraordinary woman and I feel so grateful and blessed to have shared those years with her."

[Though Magdalene was a part of our church in Tavistock for a relatively short time, she made a huge impact with her love of life and deep spirituality. We were delighted that she was able to participate in our church Away Day at Tinhay Retreats in August 2018. The service of thanksgiving for her life was a memorable occasion and the sincere reflections from all her children and her husband, demonstrated the deep love and affection which she shared with them all. We continue to hold all the family in our prayers. Rob Weston]

Excerpt from **Ruth Whitehead's** blog (Moderator of URC SouthWest Synod):

Blessed – really? (Epiphany 6) –**Luke 6: 17-26**

When did a sermon last take you by surprise?

For most of us – when we're sitting in the pews, anyway – it's time to settle down, pop in a mint imperial, and wait to hear some interesting things about God, or the Bible, or the life of Jesus.

I wonder whether the crowd who first heard Jesus speak had similar expectations to us? Or had they seen enough of Jesus in action to feel that they might hear something amazingly radical?

Because actually that's what they got.

“Blessed are you who are poor...

“Blessed are you who are hungry now ...

“Blessed are you who weep now ...

“Blessed are you when people hate you...”

It was true for Jesus hearers that day, and it's true for us:

If you're poor – the kingdom is for you

If you're hungry – God will fill you with good things

If you are weeping – God will wipe every tear from your eyes

If people hate you for what you do in God's name – you will be rewarded.

And if you're rich, full, laughing, spoken well of... if life is easy for you – watch out! These things won't last forever, and they might blind you to what is important. But God's love is still waiting for you to turn away from the shallow things of this life and see the reality of God's kingdom where ALL will be welcomed.

What could Jesus say that would surprise us?

“blessed are those who wonder if God exists”

“blessed are those who never go to church”

“blessed are those for whom life is a constant series of disasters”.

Jesus wants all his listeners to know that the good news is for them, that the Kingdom is open to them, that God loves them, us, all.

Poor/rich

Hungry/full

Weeping/laughing

Hated/admired

The blessing of God is for all and for each.

To God's praise & glory.

Amen.

(All photos taken by Peter Tulloch).

Any items for May CONTACT should be emailed to Maureen Tulloch by the 24th April (maureen.tulloch@homecall.co.uk). Many thanks.



Blessed