



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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May 2019

- SUNDAY 5th Service led by Revd Malcolm Richards with Holy Communion
- SUNDAY 12th Service led by Revd Robert Weston followed by Church Meeting
- SUNDAY 19th Service led by Revd Iain McDonald
- SUNDAY 26th Service led by Mr Mike Dennis

Alleluia – Christ is Risen!
He is risen indeed.

(The Easter Cross outside our church)



You are as welcome as the flowers in May.

Dates for your Diary

Wednesdays at 2.30 Weekly Daytime Discussion Group in our church . All are welcome.

Wednesday 1st May at 7.30pm Midweek Topics
"#She Too" - exploring violence against women in the Bible - resources from the Bible Society.

12th-18th May Christian Aid Week

Sunday 12th May Church Meeting after the service.

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 -10.30am Big Breakfast in the LD Hall for Christian Aid
See page 4

Saturday 24th May - Barbara Brown Taylor will be speaking in Truro as part of her UK tour. More info on the PCN website or just ask Mike Dennis.

Special events coming up later in 2019:-

Saturday 8th June 2.30 - 4.30pm Gilbert and Sullivan Concert in Church. Tickets (£7) are available from Peter Dixon. See Advert on Page 5

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

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

Tuesday 16th July 2019 - Ignatian Retreat - A day retreat from 10am until 3pm exploring Ignatian spirituality. See Page 3

Saturday 20th July Tavistock EcoFest and Carnival Day – Church / Vestry will be open for teas and coffees (organised by Mike and Jenny). Time to be confirmed.

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

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

Sunday 13th October –Harvest Lunch after the service

Minister's Letter:

Dear Friends,

What a great Easter celebration weekend, not only were we blessed with glorious weather but we had twenty people sharing in our Easter Breakfast and thirty people in our Easter Sunday worship. The cross outside the church now stands transformed by the colourful flowers that were added during the Sunday service. Our church was beautifully decorated for both the breakfast and our worship, my thanks go to all who helped to make this such a special celebration weekend. This month we continue with our exploration of the Holy Habits, in May we are looking at 'Serving' - how we serve God and how we serve our neighbours, both near and far. May God bless each of us as we walk the way of Jesus.

Rob Weston

Photo from Suzy of Rob cooking Breakfasts



Tinhay Retreats

Our next day retreats are in May and July, as we are taking a week long holiday in Scotland in June:

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.

16 July 2019 - Ignatian Retreat - A day retreat from 10am until 3pm exploring Ignatian spirituality. Time of reflection on the theme plus opportunity to use the eight acres of grounds or sit inside and paint or write or relax in quiet.

Suzy is offering the following craft activities on Saturdays, from 10am until 3pm:

11 May : Wet felting for beginners; have a go at making a piece of hand-made felt to turn into a purse or a wall hanging.

1 June : Silk painting; make abstract patterns or paint a picture using silks and paints. Show off your works of art, on some greetings cards or in a picture frame.

6 July : Funky Birds; hand sew and embroider some cute, funky fabric birds to sit on your windowsill.

Our number is [01566 784 990](tel:01566784990) and our website is www.tinhayretreats.com
Rob & Suzy Weston

Other News from **Revd Rob Weston**:

Dementia Alliance

In March I attended the Dementia Alliance AGM and it was good to see the number of organisations that were represented, all interested in helping people in the Tavistock area who are living with dementia and those who care for people living with dementia. There is a new website for the group which you can visit at: www.tavistockdementia.org

Eco Church news

Congratulations - we are getting closer to applying for our Gold Eco Award - steps we have taken, in recent months, include:

- switching to a green electricity supplier
- investigating where we could install a bike parking area
- increasing our use of recycled paper
- encouraging our South West Synod to become an eco synod
- requesting that Mission Council of the URC review its policy on investments in fossil fuel companies
- providing a separate bin for recycling paper, plastic, cans in the kitchen
- replacing more low energy bulbs with LED lighting in the church premises
- helping Tavistock to renew its Fairtrade Town status by providing two members on the new steering group
- joining other churches in requesting HSBC to review its investments in coal mining

Redeeming Our Communities

The next ROC Tavistock Action Group meeting is on **Tuesday, 30th April from 7.30 - 9pm at Abbey Chapel**. This is open to everyone and it would be good to have more people from Tavistock URC involved. We will be looking this time, at developments and plans for future projects around "Men in Sheds", "Dementia trails", and support for TASS - among other things that the groups are already doing. If you are unable to join us, please pray for this work and these projects.

Devon Bat Project Display

You may have spotted some unusual pictures and display boards in the Lower Deck Hall, as we are hosting the Devon Bat Project display for the next few weeks. The display highlights the need to protect our bats, which are a threatened species, especially the Greater Horseshoe Bat which is only found in certain locations. The Devon Bat Project has been trying to map the whole of Devon to discover where these bats are living. The project involves people borrowing a bat detector for four days and recording the bat movements, which are analysed and then a report is produced. Rob and Suzy discovered, last year, that they have eleven species of bat in the Tinchay area. Find out more at the Bat Project website: <http://devonbatproject.org/>

Church Family:

Stella Rasdall and Suzy Weston were re-ordained as Elders and Peter Tulloch was ordained as Elder and Church Secretary at our Easter Sunday Service – here they are with Revd Rob.

We will grow together in humility, gentleness and patience; we will nurture each other in faith; and we will bear with one another in love.



Tavistock United Reformed Church Big Breakfast

On **Thursday 16 May** the URC will be hosting its first ever Big Breakfast event to raise funds for Christian Aid. We are looking for volunteers from all the churches in the area to help cook, serve and wash up from 8.30 - 11.00 am .If you are interested in helping please email tavistockurcminister@gmail.com or ring/text 07982 622949. We will be serving breakfasts from 9.00am until 10.30am - so even if you can't help in the kitchen, you can support Christian Aid. Both the mayor and deputy mayor are coming!

Rather than a set price for the breakfasts, we will be taking donations, which will all go to Christian Aid. A full range will be available, so whether you would like toast and marmalade or cereal and milk, whether you would like a full English breakfast or a veggie alternative, there will be something for you!

From **Liz Sanders**:

EARLY INFO FOR THE CHRISTMAS SHOE BOX APPEAL.

The shoe boxes will be collected from me on the **3rd NOVEMBER**. Seems a long time away now, but it will soon creep up on us .

This year the contents form is slightly different.

You will notice a blue box on the form where they are asking that all boxes should have certain items included.

The Family box items are in a Red box and the Elderly in purple box. The transport cost is now £3 instead of £2.

Please do not let this increase stop you from sending a box as the cost will be covered as in other years. The leaflets are available now at the back of the Church. Any hats or scarves we are given will be available for inclusion at end of August.

Thank you for your support again this year.



Advert for the Gilbert and Sullivan Concert on 8th June.

A poster for a Gilbert and Sullivan concert. The title is "THE WORLD IS BUT A BROKEN TOY" in large, bold, black letters. Below the title is a caricature of Gilbert and Sullivan. To the right of the caricature, the text reads "The Strange Adventure of Gilbert & Sullivan". Below that, the date and time are "Saturday 8th June 2.30pm". At the bottom, the venue is "United Reformed Church, Tavistock", the price is "£7.00 each", and the contact information is "01822 613702 or Email: dixon.peter34@gmail.com". The logo for "PGS THEATRE PRODUCTIONS" is in the bottom right corner.

“THE WORLD IS BUT A BROKEN TOY”

The Strange Adventure of
Gilbert & Sullivan

Saturday 8th June
2.30pm

United Reformed Church, Tavistock
£7.00 each
01822 613702 or Email: dixon.peter34@gmail.com

PGS
THEATRE
PRODUCTIONS

From **Jenny Summerfield**:

How beautifully the Church and Hall were decorated for Easter! They were splendid. And my family and I enjoyed our breakfasts too!

Thank you everyone who helped with the decoration and the cooking– Well done. (and so say all of us!)



News from Knit and Natter- **Suzy Weston**

You may be aware that our Knit and Natter group meet most Friday mornings, at the Lower Deck Cafe between 10.15 and 11.30am. There is no charge and you can either bring your own work or join in with one of our projects. Thank you to Margaret, Jenny and Pam for knitting the Easter Chicks who graced our Easter breakfast tables and later the church window sills(see photo on Page 5). It was a treat for everyone to have a little egg and friendly chick to take home.

Over the past months we have made some Twiddle Muffs for dementia patients. This week I delivered a large bundle of colourful Muffs to the Matron on Hembury Ward. She was very grateful and would be happy for us to knit more. I am currently researching different styles of lap-rugs. I plan to have a number of patterns available next month which you are welcome to use at home or come to Knit and Natter on Friday and join in with us.

The neonatal unit at Derriford Hospital can always use new born size baby hats and jackets. I am happy to take any baby items there. Premie sized hats are not so useful, as babies that are super small are not dressed.

The Tavistock Carnival is coming up in the summer. Maybe we could yarn bomb our railings with hand made flowers, leaves, insects and small creatures, in line with our environmental ethos. Patterns available from me.

If you have any suggestions for projects which we might be able to tackle, please come and have a chat with Pam Mico, Margaret Richards or myself.

God bless.

From **Paul Snell**, Churches Together in Devon

You are invited to join Paul & Linda Snell on a trip of a lifetime from 2-11 September 2020 as we fly to Munich and travel to Oberammergau for the world renowned Passion Play, and then on to the Holy Land for a 7 day tour of Jerusalem, the Dead Sea and Galilee. See the play of the book and then visit the setting! Optional extra 3 days in Jerusalem. More details from Paul Snell - County Ecumenical Officer - or at www.thesnells.org.uk

Prayer from **Kneelers** – Prayers from 3 Nations.

Lord

We pray for the work of Christian Aid,
its staff and its partners around the world;
that it may everywhere help the needy to eat well,
the homeless to be sheltered,
the weak to live,
hungry minds to be filled
and justice to be done;
We pray for those who collect and those who give.
In our name and in the name of Christ.

Amen



Any items for June CONTACT should be emailed to Maureen Tulloch by the 29th May (maureen.tulloch@homecall.co.uk). Many thanks.