



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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## February 2020

Services start at 10am

- SUNDAY 2<sup>nd</sup>      Service led by Revd Robert Weston with Holy Communion
- SUNDAY 9<sup>th</sup>      Service led by Mr Mike Dennis
- SUNDAY 16<sup>th</sup>     Service led by Revd Phyllis Ball
- SUNDAY 23<sup>rd</sup>    Service led by Dr Peter Fox

For the beauty of the earth,  
for the beauty of the skies,  
for the love which from our birth,  
over and around us lies:  
*Christ, our God, to you we raise, this our sacrifice of  
praise.*

1<sup>st</sup> verse of Foliott Sandford Pierpoint's hymn



## Dates for Your Diary

### In February:

**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup>** 10.30am Memorial Service for the life of Thelma Newell in our church. See page 3.

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup>** 10am to 3pm Snowdrop Day at Tinhay Retreats. See page 3.

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup>** Elders' Meeting after the service

**Monday 17<sup>th</sup>** 7.15pm to 9pm Café Theology: Why It's OK to be Angry – God's Anger and Human Action Fr Simon Cuff, St Mellitus College. See page 4.

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup>** 7.30pm Tavipraise at King's, led by Andrew Jones

**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup>** 10 am to 3pm Tinhay Retreat - Gluten free baking. See page 3.

**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup>** 11.30am to 2pm Pancake Day in LD Hall. See page 3.

**Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup>** 7.30pm. Midweek Topics in our church

**Saturday 29<sup>th</sup>** 10am to 3.30pm Elders Day at Derriford United Reformed Church, Powisland Rd, Plymouth, PL6 6AJ

### And in March:-

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup>** 9am to 11am Fairtrade Breakfast in the LD Café. See page 4.

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup>** 10am to 3pm - Bread of Life – Tinhay Retreats. See page 3.

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 13<sup>th</sup>** Tinhay Retreats is hosting a South Western synod camping and retreat taster experience. See page 3.

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup>** 7.30pm Tamar Valley Charity Quiz in our church ; See page 3.

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup>** 7.15pm to 9pm Café Theology. Old Testament Ethics Jonathan Rowe, SWMTC See page 4.

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup>** 10am to 3pm Tinhay Retreat; Egg blowing/ painting; See page 3.

## Minister's Letter

Fairtrade features in several places in this month's magazine, not least because Fairtrade Fortnight begins on 24 February. The Fairtrade mark was introduced to help consumers to choose products that give those at the beginning of the chain a fair deal, often it is the cocoa, coffee and banana growers that get the poorest share of the profits.



With all the discussion around Brexit trade deals we could be forgiven for thinking that all countries operate on a fair playing field, this is simply not the case. In order to redress the balance it is helpful to use the Fairtrade mark as a guide, it is an independent verification to confirm that people are getting a fairer deal.

When Jesus talked about 'setting people free from oppression', I believe his words apply to economic oppression and exploitation, so this Lent as we reflect on the meaning of Easter, let us play our part in setting people free from oppression as we encourage one another to create a fair world for all God's people. In doing so, we will be walking the way of Jesus.

Every blessing,  
Rob

Revd Rob Weston, 01566 784990 [tavistockurcminister@gmail.com](mailto:tavistockurcminister@gmail.com)

From **Jenny Dennis**:

Art4Fun have arranged a memorial service for **Thelma Newell** at 10.30am on Tuesday **4th February** in the church. It is an opportunity for everyone including those unable to attend her funeral in Exeter to give thanks for her life and witness at Tavistock URC.

From **Jo O'Driscoll**:

### **Tamar Valley Tender Loving Care CHARITY QUIZ**

7.30pm Saturday 14th March

£4pp - Teams of 6, at Tavistock United Reformed Church Tavistock PL19 8BD  
Contact Julia to book 01822 890225 or Jo on [joanne\\_odriscoll@hotmail.com](mailto:joanne_odriscoll@hotmail.com) ( there is an underscore between joanne and odriscoll)

Maybe some of our church family might like to enter a team?

From **Revd Rob Weston**:

### **Fairtrade Pancake Event**

At Tavistock URC on Tuesday 25 February (Shrove Tuesday) from 12:00 until 1:30pm. Pancakes served with Fairtrade tea, coffee, or juice. A variety of toppings for you to add to your pancakes will be available. All donations will go to Tavistock Fairtrade Group, to help pay for the installation of new road signs declaring Tavistock to be 'a Fairtrade Town'. A Traidcraft stall will also be available. Further details from Rob.



**Tinhay Retreats** in Devon offers a range of activities including day retreats and spiritual direction, for further details please visit the website [www.tinhayretreats.com](http://www.tinhayretreats.com) where you will find the 2020 Programme of day retreats along with many other details.

**8 February - Snowdrop Day** - A day to plant snowdrops in the grounds of our Quiet Garden, which can be in memory of a loved one or simply to aid the biodiversity on site. Cream tea available for all visitors, join us any time between 10am and 3pm

**12 March - 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.

**12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> June** Tinhay Retreats is hosting a **South Western synod camping and retreat taster experience** - ideal for anyone who has never been on a retreat before. Just one night in our quiet campsite, suitable for tents, caravans and motorhomes.

Further details by phone 01566 784990, by email: [tinhayretreats@gmail.com](mailto:tinhayretreats@gmail.com) or by post: Down Farm Cottage, Lifton, Devon PL16 0EL

### **Tinhay Retreats CRAFT EVENTS**

Each workshop runs from 10.00am until 3.00pm, costing £15

**22<sup>nd</sup> February** - Gluten free baking; top tips for baking bread, cakes, etc without wheat (gluten) ;opportunity to bake bread and a cake.

**21<sup>st</sup> March** - Egg blowing and painting; empty out some eggs, decorate and create a colourful springtime mobile.

Please see Suzy Weston if you are interested in either of these events, or phone 01566 784990

## Fairtrade Breakfast Event:

At Tavistock URC on Friday 6 March from 9:00 until 11:00am a wide variety of breakfast available including cereal, toast, bacon, egg, beans, mushrooms and more! Come along for breakfast and to meet two cocoa producers from Ghana who will explain the difference that Fairtrade makes to their lives.

All donations will go to Tavistock Fairtrade Group, to help pay for the installation of new road signs declaring Tavistock to be 'a Fairtrade Town'. A Traidcraft stall will also be available. Further details from Rob.



## Café Theology:

Café Theology is sponsored by the Diocese of Exeter, Plymouth Marjon University, St Mellitus College SW and the South West Ministry Training Course and aims to offer accessible theology to clergy, ministers, readers, ordinands and anyone with an interest in theology. Seminars are held in the Marjon Chapel, on Monday evenings, 7.15 to 9 pm. All are welcome. Marjon offers free evening parking.

**17th February** Why It's OK to be Angry – God's Anger and Human Action  
Fr Simon Cuff, St Mellitus College

**16th March** Old Testament Ethics Jonathan Rowe, SWMTC

From **Mike Dennis**:

There are a number of DVDs and books in the old office which are unlikely to be needed for use in the church. During **February**, they will be placed on a window sill and you are invited to take any that might interest you.

Meanwhile, there are options to borrow books and DVDs from the library. Could be very useful on a cold night or a wet afternoon!

Two articles from the **Joint Public Issues Team** via **Revd Rob Weston**:

### **How can your money make change?**

Interested in opening up conversations about money, faith and a fairer world? The Ecumenical Council for Corporate Responsibility (ECCR) has launched a new resource called Money Makes Change.

It's an accessible, interactive resource for small groups designed to help you inspire conversation, prayer and action around a range of issues. A preview of the resource and accompanying materials can be downloaded [here](#) and a full version requested for free from [info@eccr.org.uk](mailto:info@eccr.org.uk).

### **Lent with All We Can**

The climate story and me: how can the radical stories of Jesus help us to respond to the growing climate crisis? This Lent, you could go beyond giving up chocolate again, and radically change the story. Journey with All We Can is a devotional resource that will help you reflect on how Jesus' storytelling can motivate us to take that action. See [allwecan.org.uk/lent](http://allwecan.org.uk/lent)

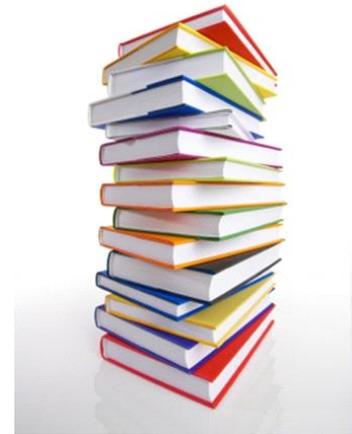
From **Mike Dennis**:

**New additions to the library.**

3 booklets in the Together in Hope series - "Proclaiming God's Justice.Living God's love", "Jesus then and now" and "Walk the Jesus Walk".

One quote from each to tickle your imagination.

Jesus is not looking for our worship. He has no desire to be surrounded by sycophants! Could there be too much "Jesusolatry" (worship of Jesus) in the church? Are there too many hymns and prayers which put Jesus at the centre and which invite people into a love affair with Jesus? Did Jesus want that?



What is in the New Testament is influenced by a) the character, convictions and aims of the writers; b) the different environments in which they worked; and c) their subject - Jesus: risen from death; fulfilling Old Testament hopes; initiating God's Kingdom. Although some details of what happened may be unclear, what we do see are writers who have put their faith in Jesus as the one who announced a new age - the Kingdom of God - to be realised here and now; calling all people to change their ways by allowing God to govern their lives. Everyone had cause to celebrate because the reign of God was arriving. And yet, God demanded total obedience and his claims were paramount. Above all, Jesus was not just a person from the past, he was a living Lord to be followed now.

It is positively misleading to try to collapse the different Gospels into one literal biography. That would miss the point, which is that the Gospels record very personal responses to God as revealed in Jesus. When we see this, we can have the freedom to make our own, perhaps different, personal response. And that is what the Bible should be, a diverse, developing sets of texts that embody a personal divine address inviting us to make our own unique response, not a set of facts that we just have to accept without question.

**Our thoughts and prayers** are with Liz, Garth, Jane, Tom, Dorothy, Clifford, Anne, Jo, Audrey, Phyllis, Neville, Joan and Brian :-



For those who are ill that they might soon recover;  
those who are lonely that they might have caring company;  
those who are weary that they might find energy;  
those who are afraid that they might have courage to face the challenge;  
and those who are worried that they might have peace of mind.

With the love of God.

Good news of Dorothy! After several falls, she is much better though still with painful back-ache, but cheerful again with her lovely smile, and she is still interested in the folks in our church. She sends her love to all who remember her.

**May God bless all of our church family.**

## Flower Rota for February:

Just to serve as a reminder-

**2<sup>nd</sup> February** – Salvation Army

**9<sup>th</sup> February** - Suzy Weston

**16<sup>th</sup> February** – Barry Higgins

**23<sup>rd</sup> February** - Pip McIntyre



( And to say **thank you** to you all.)

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

### So where do we start?

If we look at the international scene, it seems as though the complications of life and the major issues facing so many put our own agenda's into perspective.

I would like to make two suggestions . We start where we are and we start with God. Where we are is where God has placed us and it will be in our own localities and neighbourhoods that we will best be used to make a difference.

And we need to start with God. Amidst what seems like the chaos of our world at the moment, we have nowhere else to go. And where is God? He is here! That is the message of Christmas that we have just celebrated. "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth." (John 1:14)

### *Prayer from a Book of Prayers to keep forever:*

*Oh God, we thank you for this earth, our home;  
for the wide sky and the blessed sun,  
for the salt sea and the running water,  
for the everlasting hills,  
and the never-resting winds,  
for the trees and the common grass underfoot.*



*We thank you for our senses by which we hear the songs of  
birds,  
and see the splendour of the summer fields, and the taste of autumn fruits,  
and rejoice in the feel of snow and the smell and breath of spring.*

*Amen*

**Any items for March CONTACT should be emailed to Maureen Tulloch by the 26<sup>th</sup> February. ([maureen.tulloch@homecall.co.uk](mailto:maureen.tulloch@homecall.co.uk)). Many thanks.**