



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: 01566 784990

Church Secretary: Jenny Dennis Tel: 01822 618142

Administrator: Maureen Tulloch Tel: 01579 208519

Synod website: www.urcsouthwest.org.uk

Church Website: www.tavistockurc.org.uk

June 2024

Our Church is open for worship on Sundays at 10.30am.
The Service of Worship will be emailed or posted to those who want it.

2 nd June	Led by Revd Elizabeth Kemp with Holy Communion
9 th June	Led by Mrs Suzy Weston
16 th June	Led by Revd Rob Weston
23 rd June	Led by Mr Mike Dennis
30 th June	Led by Dr Noel Morgan

From Thee all skill and science flow;
All pity, care and love,
All calm and courage, faith and hope
Oh! Pour them from above.



Dates for Your Diary

Tues 11th June 7 to 9pm Hungry for Change at our church, Transition Tavi
Sat 15th June Mossy Carpet – Tavistock Library

Church Meetings: 28th July and 20th October

Elders' Meetings: 16th June, 29th September and 24th November.

Letter from our Minister

Dear Friends

During the month of June I will be out on Roadford Lake, teaching some of the Lifton Scouts about sailing, using our collection of dinghies. I've always enjoyed messing around on boats, having been introduced to sailing by my uncle when I lived in Plymouth. There is something quite special about zooming across the water, harnessing the power of the wind.

My interest in sailing has made me stop and reflect on the voyage of a sailor and our journey of faith. I'm not the only one to have considered the lessons learned on the water and how they enrich our spiritual lives, just think of all the hymns that refer to sailing adventures.

Much like sailors setting out on the open sea, we often embark on our spiritual journey with a sense of adventure and purpose. Sailors prepare diligently, studying charts and weather forecasts, ensuring their vessel is seaworthy. Similarly, our faith journey requires preparation and commitment. We immerse ourselves in scripture, prayer, and fellowship, equipping ourselves to navigate the challenges and opportunities ahead. No matter how experienced we become, there is always more to learn.

Sailing isn't always smooth; storms and rough waters are inevitable. In those times, sailors rely on their skills, faith in their vessel, and trust in their crewmates. Likewise, our lives are marked by trials and tribulations. During these periods, we lean on our faith, trust in God's plan, and draw strength from our church community. The support and prayers of our fellow believers are similar to the solidarity of a ship's crew facing choppy waters together.

Moreover, the challenge of maintaining a steady course amidst changing winds mirrors our need to stay grounded in our faith, even when life's circumstances shift. Just as sailors adjust their sails to harness the wind's power, we too must adapt, allowing the Holy Spirit to guide us through times of uncertainty.

Let us be reminded of Jesus calming the storm in Mark 4:39. His words, "Peace! Be still!" echo through our hearts, offering assurance that no matter the storm, our faith anchors us. Let us continue to sail forward, navigating life's seas with hope, faith, and the unwavering love of God as our compass.

May our journey be blessed, and may we always find safe harbour in challenging times.

Transition Tavistock Summer Meeting

Transition Tavistock group are holding their "Summer Meeting" on **Tuesday 11th June 7-9pm**. This will include our AGM with a film and discussion about the film topics. It will be held in the upper hall of the United Reformed Church, the details are below. Please distribute the poster (the full poster is [here](#)), to any individuals and groups who might be interested in learning about food: production, sources of food waste, costs, diet, alternative sources, CO2 foot prints, permaculture, forest gardens and many other aspects.

Premises News

You may have noticed a large hole in the church sanctuary - as our pipe organ has been completely dismantled and removed. This is to enable the full renovation of the organ which is over 100 years old. Our restoration team have assured us that the organ will be as good as new when it is returned. The work will take 9 to 12 months, so it will be a while before the organ recitals can begin. We should also note that it was dismantled in one week, but will take three weeks to be refitted when they return with all the clean and shiny parts!

Redecoration of the Ladies toilets is now complete - the cubicle doors have received several coats of mould resistant paint and have been fitted with new handles and fittings. We have noted the cupboards in the vestry toilet need repainting and this is scheduled with Toby Weston. In addition, there is a set of hinges that will be replaced on the swing doors to the Lower Deck Hall.

Ordination and induction of our new Elders

It was a great encouragement and joy to welcome two new Elders to the eldership at our Church AGM: Bob Stride and Elizabeth Kemp. It was also great to welcome back Mike Dennis who begins a second term of three years and we are blessed with the continued service of Jo O'Driscoll, Jenny Dennis and Sabrina Burd.

The ordination and induction of both Bob Stride and Elizabeth Kemp will take place on Sunday 16th June 2024, during our morning worship. Please join us on this special occasion if you are able.

Tavistock Fairtrade News

During May we ran our **Tavistock Fairtrade children's art competition** for the second year. Some of the Fairtrade prizes this year have been donated by the Cooperative supermarket in Tavistock and we are grateful for their support. The artwork submitted will be on display in Tavistock Library throughout June, please do pop in and see the creativity of young people in Tavistock.

Spring Cleaning Day

Perhaps we should actually call this a Summer Cleaning Day - the date we have chosen to give the church a good clear up and deep clean is Saturday 10th August from 10am until 1pm. There will be some light duties and some heavier lifting, as we clear some of the unused and unnecessary items from the corners of our buildings, so please join us if you can!

Eco Church prayer from Laura Young, an environmentalist and Tearfund Ambassador

Lord, how wonderful your creation is, the place we call home. May we be reminded each day to open ourselves to experience the beauty that is creation.

We thank you for the trees – as they are vital to all life. Trees are in the first page of Genesis and in the last page of Revelation. They are in the first Psalm and first page of the New Testament, and they mark the spot of many major events in the Bible.

Lord, help us protect your trees, and all creation, not just because they are part of your world, but because they hold together your land, which protects our neighbours from floods and landslides. Because they are a sign that life is near, and water, shelter, and sustenance is possible.

Lord, may we see a tree and be reminded of your goodness, faithfulness and provision, and may we remember our responsibility to care for creation. Amen

From David Jowett:

I was born in Torquay in March 1940. My family were not Devonians but my father, who worked for the textile firm British Celanese, had been moved out of London by his employers because of the war. One of my earliest memories is of the piles of glass in the road where we lived after a flight of German bombers jettisoned their surplus bombs after a raid on Plymouth. In 1943 my father was called up and sent up to Catterick for training before being assigned to the Royal Corps of Signals, in which he served until 1946, spending the last few months of his service in Palestine. My mother moved with me to Penge, near to where her mother and stepfather lived. In 1944 we used to spend nights in Chislehurst Caves, in which a virtual town had been set up, to avoid the doodlebugs, one of which landed in the back garden of our house. Later that year we moved to Darlington in order to be close for my father's leaves. We were still living there on VE Day in 1945. I remember several visits to the railway station there to see the Flying Scotsman and other steam trains.

After the war I attended my first primary school in Beckenham but within a year we were living in Bromley and I changed schools. I never knew what grandparents were until I was about seven as my father's parents were always referred to as Pippy and Tortus and my mother's as Auntie Mama and Uncle Pop. My mother was a Christian Scientist and I was sent to the relevant Sunday School in Bromley. In 1947 my father left home and I remained with my mother for the next two years until I said goodnight to her one night and was greeted in the morning by my father and the lady who was to become my stepmother. I didn't see my mother again for over thirty years.

I was fortunate enough to win an assisted place at Dulwich College, where I ended up with A-levels in Latin, Greek and Ancient History. While there I was confirmed as an Anglican but I lost my faith during my years at university. In 1958 I won a Classics scholarship to New College, Oxford. After Mods, the first set of exams, being less interested in the history and philosophy than the language, I switched to Mediaeval and Modern Greek. Leaving Oxford in 1962 I spent a year in Aberystwyth training to become a teacher. It was there that I met my future wife Meinir. We met quite literally in the potting shed, doing School Gardening for an optional subject as refugees from Athletics in my case and Biblical Studies in Meinir's.

My first teaching post was at a primary school in Orpington, followed by a Classics post at a girls' grammar school in Mansfield before becoming Head of Classics at Plymouth High School for Girls.

I was a keen cyclist in my youth, riding over 21,000 miles between the ages of 11 and 23, including cycling from Bromley to and from Oxford. In 1962-3 the sea froze in Aberystwyth and I cycled from there to rural Essex, where my Father and stepmother then lived, taking 36 hours to do the journey in the icy conditions. Meinir could not (and still cannot) ride a bike, so we took up hill-walking. We visited the Lakes, the Alps, the Pyrenees, the Himalayas and the Andes, including walking the Inca Trail. I did persuade Meinir to try a tandem and in 1984 we rode it from Land's End to John O'Groats six weeks after getting it. Between then and last year we covered over 24,000 miles on the three tandems we had. The first was second hand and had 20-inch wheels and a 3-speed gear, the second was stolen in Toulouse and the last we regretfully got rid of last year, the Devon hills having at last become too steep for us! It found a good home with a charity that takes blind and otherwise disabled people for tandem rides.

My faith was reignited about 4 years ago by a Chinese friend and soon afterwards I started attending the URC.

(And welcome, David! Thank you for this insight into your life. Good to have a Classics expert on board!)

Sunday Morning Rota for June: (Please ensure that you swap with someone if you are unable to fulfil your duty)

Date	Preacher	Organist	Elder	Welcoming Steward	Reader	Refreshments
2 nd June	Revd Elizabeth Kemp	Steve	Sabrina	Pam D	Steve	Pam & Peter
9 th June	Mrs Suzy Weston	Jenny	Mike/Bob	Stella	Mike	Stella
16 th June	Revd Rob Weston	Jenny	Jo/Elizabeth	Sabrina	Jo	Maureen
23 rd June	Mr Mike Dennis	Jenny	Elizabeth	Malcolm	Jenny	Elizabeth
30 th June	Dr Noel Morgan	Jenny	Sabrina	Pam D	Peter D	Pam & Peter

We are very sorry to tell you that the Revd Phyllis Ball passed away on 14th May 2024 at Mount Gould Hospital in Plymouth. Phyllis served churches in East Devon and Cornwall & Plymouth District. In her retirement she was a valued member of our church and continued to preach regularly. Please hold all her family in your prayers.

There will be a small family cremation in Plymouth, which will be followed by a service of thanksgiving for her life at our church. Further details will be announced soon.

May God bless her, she was a lovely lady, a good Christian and a faithful friend. And she had a super sense of humour. She was small of stature but not of personality! Somewhere there is a photo of her standing full height but still able to be tucked into the armpit of Bob Stride! We will all miss her greatly.

From **Maureen Tulloch**:

We think and pray for Barry, John, Geoff, Garth, Anne & Peter, Bob and Dorothy. May God be with them all and keep them in His loving care.

Keep knitting! Squares for blankets, and also scarves and gloves - they will be collected from you at the end of October to be passed on to 'Link to Hope' Charity for onward transportation to Eastern European countries. I already have 10 blankets, 8 scarves and 4 hats ready to go – (not all my own work, I hasten to add!). Wool in the church cupboard if you need some....

Please let me have a brief synopsis of your life – max 1000 words – for this magazine.



From Janet Gray, Synod Pastoral Adviser for Devon and Cornwall:

Dear Friends

As some of you may know, our daughter-in-law has incurable cancer. She was diagnosed a year ago and so far she is doing very well and about to start her fourth round of chemo. She has a husband (Andrew) and Sam, 14 and Ellie, 12 who are being remarkably resilient.

You may also know that every year I aim to complete a long-distance walk. However this year I have decided to do something slightly different. I intend to walk 100 miles in the month of May. The walks range from 4 to 13 miles in length. The aim of this is to raise money for "Maggie's" a cancer charity that provides counselling, information and support to cancer sufferers, their family and friends in beautiful, calm environments in centres around the country. Meg regularly uses the centre next door to Bart's Hospital where she goes for treatment. Here she can work, relax or just wait to be collected after treatment.

I have set up a "Just Giving" page www.justgiving.com/page/janet-gray-1711832127970

If any of you feel able to contribute, I would be very grateful. (Please also pray for good walking weather!)

Many thanks.

From Mike Dennis - Poster >>>>>>



From Jenny Dennis:

Saturday 15th June at Tavistock Library.

An opportunity to join the community in making a section of The Mossy Carpet. This is an Art and Energy Project to make a carpet of bright colours representing moss. Mosses return carbon to the earth. Plans are for the finished item to be displayed in an iconic location in 2025 for the COP30 the UN Conference on Climate Change. All are welcome to come and take part or view what is happening - maybe we could make some mossy items to be included?

As a Gold Award Eco Church, we email out copies of our magazine and use recycled paper for our printed copies.

CONTACT items for June— please email them to me (maureen.tulloch@homecall.co.uk) by the 23rd May. Many thanks.