



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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Synod website: www.urcsouthwest.org.uk

Church Website: www.tavistockurc.org.uk

July 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.

7 th July	Led by Revd Elizabeth Kemp with Holy Communion
14 th July	Led by Mr Mike Dennis
21 st July	Led by Revd Elizabeth Kemp
28 th July	Led by Revd Rob Weston

Thank you, Lord, for barbeques and picnics and for family and friends to share them with.

For sunshine and blue skies (and a little rain!) .

For 'all good gifts among us that are sent from heaven above'.



Dates for Your Diary

Saturday 20th July 3pm Open house at Revd Iain McDonalds.

Tuesday 23rd July 7:30-9pm, Transition Tavistock - by Zoom, book to be discussed will be "Rooted" by Sarah Langford.

Monday 29th July 7.30pm Midweek Topic at Mike and Jenny's home.

Sunday 11th August 11.45am - 12.30. Dementia Training at our church

Saturday 17th August 10am – 1pm Spring Cleaning our church

Church Meetings: 28th July and 20th October

Elders' Meetings: 29th September and 24th November.

Letter from our Minister

Dear Friends,

The gift of music is a very special one, I would love to be able to play an instrument, perhaps I can learn to play something when I retire. It is a great gift if you are able to play an instrument or to sing or write songs. Last month I was able to see several live performances in Plymouth and at Calstock Arts Centre. Most recently I saw Cara Dillon, an Irish folk music singer at Calstock. Listening to a live performance is quite a different experience to listening to a recorded version and I love watching experienced performers interacting with an audience.

I know many of you enjoy different types of music. At the service of thanksgiving for the life of Phyllis Ball, many of us discovered that she had learnt to play the guitar and had inspired members of her family to do the same. The service of thanksgiving for Phyllis was a wonderful tribute to her friendship, her care, her faith and her compassion. Thank you to all who came along to support her family, they have expressed their gratefulness to everyone for the support they've received.

Playing music requires much co-ordination and an ability to 'hear' the music as well as read the notes on a page. The popularity of films and TV programmes about music, musicians and musicals remind us of the importance of music in our lives. When you look in the Bible, the references to music and singing are constant. Psalm 96 instructs 'Oh sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth!' It's not just human beings that are called to sing but all of creation. Singing remains important in our worship and even a small number of people can sing to God.

Whether you enjoy the sound of guitars, brass bands or pipe organs, may your music inspire you to offer praise wherever you are during the summer!

Eco Church News

Christian Climate Action (CCA) is a community of Christians supporting each other in acts of non-violent direct action and public witness, as a way of following Jesus Christ in the face of climate breakdown. To explore the various options of non-violent ways to raise awareness of Climate Change they have arranged an online workshop on Wednesday 17th July, 7.00pm-8:30pm, led by Holly. For further details visit <https://christianclimateaction.org/events/> They also hold **daily prayer meetings** on Zoom at 9am.

Premises news

Work on refurbishing the pipe organ is progressing well and our restoration team have assured us that the organ will be as good as new when it is returned. As previously reported the work will take 9 to 12 months, so it will be a while before the organ recitals can begin. We are also aware that we only have a few months to get the wall behind the organ repainted. This needs to be completed so that they can start the rebuild process.

The work on the vestry refurbishment is due to begin on 12th August, this will involve updating the serving area and repairing the plaster on the wall.

Prayer Diary for July

w/c 1-07-24

We pray for the United Kingdom as the General Election takes place, we pray that those elected serve the people of our country may do so with integrity and honesty.

w/c 8-07-24

We pray for football fans across Europe as they cheer their teams, we pray for the players that they may be good role models for children who admire them.

w/c 15-07-24

We pray for those who are unable to get out and about, for those unable to join us in worship or at Tuesday cafe, may they be strengthened by our prayers.

w/c 22-07-24

We pray for young people as they begin their long school holidays, may their summers be filled with happy memories of playing in the park and picnics on the beach.

w/c 29-07-24

We pray for the work of the Foodbank in Tavistock, as they ensure that families in need can provide nutritious meals.

Reminder of our 2024 Church Charities

At the AGM in March we chose the charities for support this year, they are:

- Amigos, a charity working with famers in Uganda
- Medical Aid to Palestine
- The Fisherman's Mission
- Crisis, the homelessness charity
- Red Cross Ukrainian Appeal
- Catalyst Youth Project, working in Tavistock and surrounding villages

Further information about these charities will be shared in future Contact magazines.

From **Jenny Dennis**:

See alongside a photo of Revd Elizabeth Kemp during her Ordination as Church Elder on 16th June.



From **Rev Rob Weston:**

Memories of Revd Phyllis Ball:

Let's start at the beginning. Phyllis was born on 1st May 1943 in Plymouth - a little sister to Lester. She attended Ford Primary School. Apparently she was very ill when she was young, spending extended periods of time in hospital which cannot have been much fun at that age. However, it seems that she had a natural academic ability as she still came 7th in her class of 50! Therefore it's no surprise that she attended Devonport High School for girls, which has always had a good reputation. She always said she was hopeless with numbers but loved languages. It was her love of languages that inspired her to study for a Spanish Degree at Bristol University, spending time in Spain between 1961-63.

She then trained to become a primary school teacher in Southampton, qualifying in 1964. After a few years she moved back to Devon living in Pinhoe, Exeter. She had bought a house in Pinhoe, which she shared with her Persian cats: Honeybunch and Sugarplum.

It was during this time that she felt called into the Ministry of Word and Sacrament. She met Geoff whilst they were completing their theological training, Geoff was ordained into the Anglican Church and Phyllis was ordained into the United Reformed Church in 1986, at a time when there were only a few women in ministry.

Geoff and Phyllis married on 25th October 1986 at Southernhay United Reformed Church which is in the centre of Exeter. After their marriage they went to live in the newly built Vicarage in Dousland near Yelverton. Phyllis retired from teaching when she became a non-stipendiary Minister. She and Geoff worked side by side in the parishes where he was vicar around Yelverton and then Coryton, Lewtrechard, Marystow and Thrushelton. Her ministry was across the East Devon District and then the Cornwall and Plymouth District.

Phyllis and Geoff shared 21 happy years together, they are remembered in the area as a very special couple. They retired and moved to Horrbridge where they were both active in the community, as well as (here) in Tavistock URC.

There are so many lovely memories of Phyllis, her life was full of so many good things. She loved sunflowers, family roast dinners especially roast potatoes and nut roast, marzipan, ginger and dark chocolate, and cats of course - even the neighbourhood cats were always welcome in Phyllis's garden. Phyllis was gifted in many crafts and I know many of her friends in church were in awe of her craft room and its treasure trove of material and threads. She touched our lives with care and grace, with love and kindness; she will be greatly missed but our special memories will remain.

From **Jenny Dennis:**

At our service on June 9th Suzy inspired us all to make pompoms or similar for a section of the Mossy Blanket. Suzy attached the items to the piece of canvas .

Apparently one section was laid out in Exeter Cathedral and people were encouraged to take their shoes off and walk up it. Amazing!



Spring Cleaning Day

The date we have chosen to give the church a good clear up and deep clean is Saturday 17th August from 10am until 1pm. Please join us if you can!

From **Stella Rasdall**:

BBQ for Cafe Volunteers

It was wonderful to welcome our wonderful Lower Deck Cafe volunteers to a BBQ at our house on Saturday 15th June.

The weather was uncertain for Saturday so with some difficulty between heavy showers and wind we erected two garden shelters and got all the chairs and tables out of the sheds.

They all arrived suitably dressed in warm jackets and umbrellas but only a few drops fell. Everyone brought food to share so we had a marvellous selection of salads and pudding. We missed some who were unable to make it.

We are so busy in the Cafe now we miss the time to chat and catch up with people's lives outside Cafe times so it was great just to have that space and also meet some of their nearest and dearest who support them so that they can help us on a Friday.

Being the generous lovely people they are the garden chairs were stacked and the washing up all done before they left.

I feel very privileged to work with them all. They all bring their special talents and gifts.

I thank God for them every week and you, my Church family for supporting Jo and me.

Thank you all. (*And thank you too, Stella and Raz, for what must have been an enjoyable BBQ*)



From **Mike Dennis**:

That they all may be one.

In 1972, 3000 people gathered in London to become the United Reformed Church. This was the culmination of nine years work which led to Congregationalist and Presbyterian churches uniting. Steven Tomkins is the current editor of the Reform magazine and he has written a book entitled "That they all may be one" in order to celebrate 50 years of the URC. As one who was not a URC insider from 1972, I found the book highly readable. It recounted the disappointment in that other churches did not also seek greater unity and also the hopes for the future as the URC negotiated the social, cultural and theological changes over the half century. The URC has proved to be a listening church but as for the future the issue is not just about numbers in a small church but about how can we be faithful to the way of Jesus in the present and the coming years.

The book can now be found on the library shelf and you are encouraged to read it.

Also from **Mike**:

On our way to a mission conference in Sheffield, Jenny and I made a call to Hereford to visit her aunt and uncle. While we were there we visited John Noyes who lives in the same complex. John was in good spirits. He seems to be well looked after by the staff and is already well known by other residents. He seems to be making himself at home by having a bag in the entrance porch for the delivery of his daily paper!



From **Mike Dennis:**

Refugees by Brian Bilston

They have no need of our help
So do not tell me
These haggard faces could belong to you or I
Should life have dealt a different hand
We need to see them for who they really are
Chancers and scroungers
Layabouts and loungers
With bombs up their sleeves
Cut-throats and thieves
They are not
Welcome here
We should make them
Go back to where they came from
They cannot
Share our food
Share our homes
Share our countries
Instead let us
Build a wall to keep them out
It is not okay to say
These are people just like us
A place should only belong to those who are born there
Do not be so stupid to think that

(Now read from bottom to top -The world can be look looked at another way)

From **Revd Iain McDonald:**

Ken and I would like to invite friends from Tavistock to our usual Open House. This year it will be on Saturday 20th July from 3pm - 7pm. Everyone is welcome to join us for a cream tea on the terrace. Sunshine has been ordered...

If people could let me know at iain.mcdonald@mansfield.oxon.org if you plan to come, that would be good. We look forward to welcoming you!

1 Coastguard Cottages, Dawlish, South Devon, EX7 0BT



From **Jenny Dennis:**

Recycling for Charity.

The next collection is on Saturday 13th July at Kings carpark 10 .30- 11.30 am.

This is a monthly collection of items such as bread bags, biscuit wrappers, cheese wrappers, toothbrushes (not bamboo), printer cartridges and used stamps.

From **Mike Dennis:**

Dementia Friendly Church refresher training has been arranged for 11th August , 11.45 am to 12.30. This is something we need to encourage everyone to come to as we all need to be updated.

Also from **Mike:**

The July Midweek Topic will be on Monday 29th July at the home of Mike and Jenny at 7.30. The theme will revolve around different versions of the Lord's Prayer both in the Gospels, from differing churches and modern equivalents. This is a one-off session so you do not need to have been to previous occasions. All welcome.

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

Date	Preacher	Organist	Elder	Welcoming Steward	Reader	Refreshments
7 th July	Revd Elizabeth Kemp	Steve	Jo	Stella	Steve	Jo
14 th July	Mr Mike Dennis	Jenny	Elizabeth	Jenny S	Elizabeth	Jenny S
21 st July	Revd Elizabeth Kemp	Jenny	Bob	Malcolm	David	Maureen
28 th July	Revd Robert Weston	Jenny	Suzy	Sabrina	Suzy	Elizabeth

From **Janet Gray:**

I thought I would let you all know that I have done it! I finished my last walk this morning, so I have now completed the challenge I set myself a while back to walk 100 miles during May to raise money for Maggie's, the cancer charity that has helped Meg and the family so much after her incurable cancer diagnosis a year ago. Meg herself is doing as well as can be expected and has started her fourth round of treatment. Many of you have already been extremely generous in donating and spreading the word around, and I thank you from the bottom of my heart. I am thrilled to be able to say that I have raised around £1500 so far for Maggie's. However, I am not ashamed to make a final plug for my Just Giving page. If you would like to donate or know someone who would, please go to www.Justgiving.co/page/janet-gray-1711832127970 or you can send me a cheque made payable to me. I will be collating them and the cash I have also received and banking it then donating it direct.

*From **Maureen Tulloch:** We think and pray for Barry, John, Geoff, Garth, Anne & Peter, Bob, Dorothy and the family of Revd Phyllis Ball. May God be with them all and keep them in His loving care.*

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

CONTACT items for August– please email them to me (maureen.tulloch@homecall.co.uk) by the 26th July. Many thanks.