



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

September 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.

1st September Led by Revd Elizabeth Kemp with Holy Communion

8th September Led by Mike Dennis

15th September Led by Anne Stevens

22nd September Led by Kit Harbottle

29th September Led by Revd Rob Weston

21st September –

International Day of Peace



Dates for Your Diary

Friday 20th September 10am - 2.30pm Partnership and Network lunch celebrating 30 years of Fairtrade at Sherwell United Church Plymouth.

Saturday 21st Sept 10-12 noon Motanka Doll Making in the Vestry.

Saturday 19th October 9:45am-3:15pm South Western Synod at Westfield URC, West Street, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA6 7EU.

Saturday 19th October 10-12 noon Shoebox Filling and Knitting hand-in for Link to Hope; also Setting up Harvest display in church for tomorrow

Sunday 20th October Harvest Lunch after the service

Sunday 8th December Advent Lunch after service

Church Meetings: 20th October

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

Letter from our Minister

Dear Friends

The Season of Creation takes place every year from 1 September – 4 October. As an Eco Church we celebrate creation and work towards reducing our carbon footprint throughout the year. The Season of Creation is an opportunity for churches across the globe to focus on the natural environment, either for one Sunday or for the whole season. In the UK, many churches observe the season in addition to an annual Harvest service.

The Joint Public Issues Team has put together a wide range of resources, suitable for all kinds of congregations. Featuring breath-taking videos, poetry, sermon outlines, prayers, song suggestions and all-age activities, some materials closely follow the Revised Common Lectionary while others are perennial. Everyone can explore the resources, see jpit.uk/creation.

The URC has a Special Category minister the Revd David Coleman, who is the Chaplain with EcoCongregation Scotland. David has curated an online resource to support congregations in celebrating Season of Creation. With lectionary notes, prayers, poems, and location videos, there is a variety of writers and media for you to use in whatever way is most encouraging for your own church and community. The web link is ecocongregationsctland.org/creation-2024. I anticipate that we will be using some of these resources in our worship this month.

Together, let us continue to make a difference through the choices we make as we walk the way of Jesus.

Every blessing,

Premises news

Work on the vestry refurbishment began on 12th August as planned. Unfortunately the floor required additional preparation which added a little extra to the time required but this work has now been completed.

Hugh has been fixing a few maintenance issues such as replacing the hinges for the door into the Lower Deck Hall, removing a wisteria bush from above the porch, replacing the glass in the outside noticeboard and repairing the end wall of the church before the organ is refitted.

South Western Synod

Celebrating our Synod!

Following the success of last year's October Synod meeting we have agreed to run a similar style meeting this year. We'll meet from 9:45am-3:15pm on Saturday 19th October at Westfield URC, West Street, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA6 7EU. Essential Synod business will be limited to time in the afternoon. The bulk of the day will be devoted to small group discussions and learning from each other – our explorations of tools and resources to help congregations seek, serve and share Christ in our communities. Further details will be available next month.

We are opening this gathering to up to 10 from each church, it would be wonderful to have ten people from Tavistock to join in this event. We want to share with a wider cross section of Synod in celebration (travel expenses can be reclaimed from the Synod for all attending, but please share transport as much as possible). If you are interested in attending please let Robert know, or one of the Elders.

Rachel Leach, Synod Clerk

Environmental Talks and Films

Calstock Arts Centre in Calstock are continuing an environmentally based series of events.

19th Sept 7:30pm - 'From Honey Bees to Dairy Cattle' A double bill featuring two speakers, vet Michael (Spike) Head on The Challenges and Solutions of Dairying in the 'New World', and apiarist Dale Wood who will speak on 'Honey Bees...and Almost Everything Else'.

15th Nov 7:30pm - Chantal Lyons will talk about "The Return of Britain's Wild Boar"

Further details of all these events and more can be found here: <https://calstockarts.org/whats-on/>

Fairtrade Fortnight 2024

Friday 20th September from 10am to 2.30pm Partnership and Network lunch celebrating 30 years of Fairtrade at Sherwell United Church Plymouth. Go for all or as much of the time that you can manage - everyone is welcome. You can let them know when you'll be joining them when you register for your (absolutely free) ticket via: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/food-conversations-and-celebrations-with-food-plymouth-tickets-965243327777>

Rob

From **Jenny Dennis:**

Motanka dolls.

At Mike's recent service a Motanka doll was brought to represent friends who have had to flee their homes in Ukraine. I planned to make some to add to the shoeboxes this year but it has been suggested to me that instead of making Motanka dolls myself that I run a workshop in the vestry one Saturday morning so others can learn how to make them. These dolls are quite simple to make - no stitching - just cutting material and winding cotton thread round the neck!

If you would like to come along and have a go, please bring any floral and or white/skin coloured cotton material you have, a pair of scissors, a tape measure and a reel of white cotton thread. I will be bringing materials so there will be some available should you not have any.

Date : Saturday 21st September 10-12 noon in the Vestry.

From **Jennie Benham, Devon in Sight:**

This year Devon in Sight will be hosting our second **Devon Sight Loss Conference** on **Friday 10 September** in central Exeter, based on **'Helping you Navigate Your Sight Loss Journey'**.

This event will include some leading speakers both nationally and locally and will feature a Living Well with Sight Loss Exhibition and our first face-to-face Annual General Meeting since the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Confirmed Exhibitors include: Sight and Sound Technology Ltd, Blind Veterans UK, Devon Sensory Team (Rehabilitation Team), Devon Carers, Community VI Groups, Exeter Community Energy, Living Options Devon, Improving Lives Plymouth and many more... There will only be a maximum of 100 places at the conference and the closing date for bookings is Saturday 31 August 2024. Tickets will be issued on a 'first come, first served' basis. We have introduced some smaller more intimate Specialist Seminars this year in the Derby Room where we will be showcasing WeWalk Smart Cane 2 an innovative new navigation device and the Empatheyeyes Visual Impairment Simulator.

Tickets are only £15 per person and must be purchased in advance. Your ticket will entitle you to attend the event and includes ongoing refreshments and a light lunch. You will need to advise us of any special dietary requirements or allergies at the time of booking. For further information click on this link <https://devoninsight.org.uk/the-devon-sight-loss-conference-2024> You can book your place by filling in the booking form (ask Maureen to email it to you) and returning it to me by email or if you have any queries, please call my Direct Dial **on 01392 878 802**

From **TACT:**

World Suicide Prevention Day: Raising Awareness in Plymouth Join Us to Make a Difference in Our Community

On Tuesday 10th September 2024, the Public Health Team at Plymouth City Council, in collaboration with Methodist Central Hall, will host a pivotal event in recognition of World Suicide Prevention Day. The event will take place at Methodist Central Hall on Eastlake Street from 9am to 12.30pm, offering a morning of insightful talks, discussions, and networking opportunities aimed at raising awareness and providing support for suicide prevention.

The purpose of this event is to bring the Plymouth community together to address the critical issue of suicide and explore ways to support those in crisis. The event will provide valuable information on local suicide prevention strategies, crisis and bereavement support, and training resources available in the city.

This event is open to anyone interested in suicide prevention, including local businesses, education staff, members of community and voluntary services (CVS), and the general public. Whether you are a professional in the field, a community member looking to support others, or someone seeking information for personal reasons, your presence and participation are invaluable.

By coming together on World Suicide Prevention Day, the intention is to collectively work towards making Plymouth a community that supports individuals in times of personal crisis and builds resilience at both individual and community levels.

The city's ambition is to achieve a consistent downward trend in the suicide rate, ensuring it remains below or at least in line with the national average. This event is a step towards breaking the stigma, starting important conversations, and making a tangible difference in the lives of those affected by suicide.

Book your ticket here -> [World Suicide Prevention Day: Raising Awareness in Plymouth Tickets, Tue 10 Sep 2024 at 09:00 | Eventbrite](#)

My LifeAnne Snook

I was born in London during the war. Several years earlier my parents had received a direct hit on their home losing everything but they survived in their shelter in the garden. When I was about 18 months old and in my play-pen, a flying bomb exploded nearby, I was surrounded by glass but amazingly completely unharmed!

My early childhood was spent in a pleasant part of North London. I was the middle one of three girls and the naughtiest. One day when I was about seven years old I persuaded the baker to take me in his van on his rounds, two hours later I arrived home, my mother was frantic she had no idea where I had gone and was about to call the police! I was in grave trouble and received no pocket money for several weeks.

I came from a Salvation Army family, my grandparents were SA officers and my father was a bandsman. My sisters and I attended the local SA Sunday school.

When I was eleven because of my father's occupation we moved to Lyme Regis. We all loved it there and spent lots of time on the beach and in the sea. I enjoyed swimming but once nearly drowned; I can remember being swept towards the rocks but somehow I managed to extricate myself. No lifeguards in those days! After two years in Lyme my father was moved again, this time to Paignton. I attended Torquay Girls' Grammar school, quite a shock after the co-ed school at Lyme. Now a teenager I joined the local church youth club and was confirmed into the Church of England. I joined the Sea Rangers and enjoyed rowing and participating in local regattas. I was also in the local tennis club.

At eighteen I went to London to train to be a nurse at University College Hospital, this was in the days of starched white aprons and little frilly caps. The regime was very strict, one night I forgot to sign in. I was asleep when there was a knock on the door, it was night sister telling me to put on my uniform and to go across to the main hospital and apologise to the deputy matron. I loved nursing but unfortunately after a long session of night duty I was ill and had to give it up. My next venture was to train and qualify as a teacher at St. Gabriel's College in South London. My first teaching post was at a Primary School in Exeter and then onto British Army schools in Germany. Having become hooked on skiing I was attracted by the accessibility of ski slopes in Southern Germany and Austria. I enjoyed living there, in the Officers Mess— it was a rather unreal existence. It was here that I met my first husband but this marriage only lasted a few years.

I returned to England and taught at a school in Modbury. A lovely school, the headmaster was very eccentric but great fun. After six years I moved on and became deputy head at a primary school near Dorchester. During this time I started going on walking holidays and became a walks leader for HF holidays where I met my future husband, Peter. In 1995 we got married and lived in a beautiful village called Sydling St. Nicholas. We bought a motor caravan and with it had many lovely holidays walking in the Lake District, Scotland, the Alps and the Pyrenees. We had some very exciting times, walking along narrow ridges, scrambling on mountain routes and coming down a winter abseiling course in the Alps. One very memorable experience was flying across the Himalayas in a tiny sixteen-seater plane and landing on an uphill dirt track before starting on a trekking holiday in Nepal.

When we both retired we decided to move closer to a town and after searching came to Tavistock. This was convenient for visiting my parents in Paignton and also for walking on Dartmoor. It was ideal for Peter as he has always loved sailing so he bought a boat and enjoyed sailing from Plymouth.

In Tavistock I visited nearly all the churches in the area and I found the URC to be the most welcoming and I liked the form of service. I have now been a member for nineteen years. For many years I was involved in fund raising for a new roof. I had a regular bric-a-brac stall at the market and organised concerts, quizzes, and cream teas etc. I also helped at the Lower Deck Cafe until my hearing deteriorated and I was unable to hear what people were ordering. Nowadays I spend a lot of time gardening, help at Tavistock Museum and to keep my brain active I learn Spanish. Unfortunately Peter's health has deteriorated so he is unable to go out walking at the moment but hopefully it will improve. *(Thank you, Anne, what an interesting life!)*

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

Date	Preacher	Organist	Elder	Welcoming Steward	Reader	Refreshments
1 st Sept	Rev Elizabeth Kemp	Steve	Bob	Malcolm	Steve	Anne
8 th	Mike Dennis	Jenny	Jo	Jenny S	Jo	Jo
15 th	Anne Stevens	Steve	Bob	Stella	David	Maureen
22 nd	Kit Harbottle	Steve	Suzy	Sabrina	Suzy	Sabrina
29 th	Revd Rob Weston	Jenny	Stella	Malcolm	Stella	Maureen

From **Mike Dennis:**

Harvest Lunch - Sunday 20th October

The items to be brought for the Harvest display on 20th October should be (LOAF) Local, Organic, Animal Friendly and Fairly Traded, please.

Also, the decoration of the church will be on Saturday morning 19th October when gifts can be brought, though gifts are welcome on the Sunday if people cannot get there on the Saturday. We are also doing the Link to Hope shoebox filling on that Saturday morning, so it will be a busy day!

From **Maureen Tulloch:**

Link to Hope

Just a reminder to continue knitting blankets, hats and scarves for 'Link to Hope' Charity. We plan to get together at 10am on Saturday 19th October to fill shoeboxes and hand in knitted blankets etc. Do collect as many shoe boxes as you can – we filled about 20 last year. Many thanks.

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

May I learn something new every day.

May I do something new every day.

May I learn something good every day.

May I do something good every day.

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

CONTACT items for October– please email them to me (maureen.tulloch@homecall.co.uk) by the 25th September. Many thanks.