



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

November 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.

3 rd November	Led by Revd Iain MacDonald with Holy Communion
10 th November	Remembrance Sunday -led by Revd Elizabeth Kemp
17 th November	Led by Mr Noel Morgan
24 th November	Led by Revd Rob Weston

We will remember them.....



Dates for Your Diary

Sunday 3rd November 7 to 9pm Catalyst Youth Service at our church

Saturday 16th November 7pm Tearfund Big Quiz Night, at The King's, Pixon Lane

Saturday 16th November 7pm Blowzone Concert at our church

Sunday 24th November Elders' Meeting after the service

Sunday 8th December Advent Lunch after the service

Church meetings: 26th January 2025; 16th March 2025 AGM

Elders' meetings: **24th November 2024**; 23rd February 2025; 13th April 2025

Letter from our Minister

Dear Friends

As we approach this year's Remembrance Sunday, we will all be acutely aware of the many places around the globe still struggling with conflict and loss of innocent lives. In Israel, Palestine, in Ukraine, Ethiopia, South Sudan and other places around the globe that don't reach our regular news updates. Over the past twelve months we have seen dreadful images on our TV screens of destruction and injury.

As we remember the conflicts of the past and the loss of millions of lives, it is the tradition at Remembrance Services that we express a desire to learn from the mistakes of the past. Yet, somewhere across the world it seems that the lessons of the past have still not been learnt. Perhaps it is the desire to expand 'kingdoms', the desire for occupation, the desire for domination.

When Jesus speaks of the kingdom of God, he appears to be proposing a very different kind of kingdom. A place of peace, of justice, of compassion. A place when all can live together in harmony. In Paul's letter to the Galatians, he sums this up when he talks about the unity we have in Jesus Christ. In chapter 3 of Galatians, we read 'So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptised into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, neither male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.'

Let us pray for those people in the world who create conflict and division, that they might be able to turn from their ways of destruction and 'turn swords into ploughshares, spears into pruning hooks' (to use the imagery of Isaiah 2:4). May we also plant the seeds of kindness, peace and compassion in our lives and in the lives around us.

God bless you during this season of remembrance.

Rob Weston
Minister

Ordination of Bob Stride on October 20th— welcome Bob!



From **Mike Dennis**:

Item from Synod

At Synod, we were presented with a series of very balanced resolutions regarding the IOPT (Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories) situation. We were also reminded that the situation needs to be seen in its historical context.

This made me ask whether the events of October 2023 were inevitable? Do we need a longer-term view of history to understand what led up to the events of that time?

The UK attitude relating to the formation of a home for Jewish people is often said to be based upon The Balfour Declaration of 1917. This stated that:

“His Majesty’s Government view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people and will use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object, **it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine**, or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country.”

It is to our shame that our governments have subsequently only focussed upon the first element and ignored the requirement to safeguard the rights and well-being of those already living in the land who were not Jewish.

The establishment of an Israeli home in Palestine in 1948 led to the Nakba when approximately half of Palestine's predominantly Arab population, or around 750,000 people, were [expelled from their homes or made to flee](#) through [various violent means](#), at first by [Zionist](#) paramilitaries, and after the establishment of the State of Israel, by [its military](#).

75 years of occupation, oppression, apartheid and violence provided fertile ground for those seeking retribution. Maybe we should be crying out to our Government to put right our failure to ensure that the second element of the Balfour Declaration is a fundamental element of our concern for peace in the Middle East.

The Harvest display included a poster by Art4Fun explaining the LOAF principle.



From **Jackie**, Tact:

CATALYST CELEBRATION & COMMISSIONING: SUNDAY 3 November, 7pm at the URC, Russell Street, Tavistock.

Please come along to celebrate what God has achieved with Catalyst during the last year, to meet our new part-time youth worker Ali Bixter and to encourage our new team for the year ahead.

A short time of praise and worship, an opportunity to hear from the team, a time to listen to God and to offer a prayer of commissioning for Jack and Ali.

We sincerely hope you will be able to attend this short service which will be followed by refreshments and a chance to meet some of the other Catalyst Supporters.

Bob Stride – Condensed Life Story

I was born in July 1958 at the Bearstead Hospital, Hampton Court in Surrey. The adjacent bed was occupied by a one-day old babe who became a lifelong friend. Growing up in Hampton was a peaceful and happy time. I remember the daily shopping trip walking alongside the large blue Royale Pram containing my younger brother David and being greeted in every shop we visited starting at the far end of town for the Post Office, baker and Chemist, working back home via the greengrocer who was adept at twirling the brown paper bags followed by the butcher with a sawdust covered floor and finally if I was lucky a visit to the sweet shop at the top of our road. I attended the local primary school and later, what part way through became a comprehensive senior school, I was told I would not achieve anything as I was slow and lazy!! Dyslexia and dyscalculia were not recognised in those days so it was no surprise when I left school with no qualifications.

My mother had a strong faith and I regularly attended the local Methodist church with her. My father was well known for his support of my mother, attending irregularly despite not believing and it was not uncommon for the minister to call out 'Wake up Tony' during the sermon! I met my wife Anita at a party in the autumn of 1976 and we married at the Hampton Church in 1980. We were fortunate to obtain a Council Flat seven floors up in Basingstoke which allowed us to save and eventually purchase our first house, a little two up two down in Tadley Hampshire which needed more than a little TLC. We bought a book on DIY and set to. Our eldest son Peter was born while we there and we moved to Tilehurst in Reading where our second son Johnathon appeared. We then moved to Walton on Thames due to my work and became very active within the Methodist Church, Anita assisting at the Sunday school and myself helping with the youth and running the associated Air Scout Troop. We then moved to Byfleet as we needed a larger house where my daughter Katrina was born. Sadly, at that time we came away from the church. I have always loved trees and the outdoors and so on leaving school I obtained a job as an apprentice with Richmond Council as a labourer on the Tree Gang learning the practical skills needed to be a tree surgeon. While there I chose to attend night school and obtained the required qualifications to attend Merrist Wood Agricultural College in the late 1970's to study Arboriculture. I subsequently worked for several local authorities initially as a tree surgeon and then as a Tree Officer and Woodland Manager eventually attaining the heady heights of Principle Arboriculture Officer. Sadly, I became ill and was advised to make a change so we moved to Horrabridge in 2001 and I took my HGV enjoying a few years driving a variety of trucks until I was moved into the office as a Route Manager. We downsized from Horrabridge to a bungalow in Bere Alston in 2010 as the last child had left home and we were rattling around in a large family house, we were also aware my mobility was going to become an issue in time. It turns out it was a good decision.

I retired at 60 as I was unable to keep working. We decided to travel while I still could, touring South Australia, Singapore, parts of North America, Mexico, and Europe. I have some wonderful memories. We now happily explore the beautiful island that is the UK. I have been involved with the Scout movement man and boy, being one of the last Wolf Cubs in the 1960's through to the Scouts and then Venture Scout section. As an adult I continued my involvement assisting with Cubs and then Scouts, eventually becoming a group Scout leader and finally Chair of the West Devon District until I had to sadly give it up. I still have fond memories of my time with the movement. I enjoy fishing and model railways; tropical fish have taken over my home with aquariums of various sizes dotted around.

I have been aware of God's presence for several years and despite trying to ignore the call He eventually made me realise we had never really parted and I started to seek out a fellowship where I would feel comfortable to worship. Indirectly the Scouts led me to the URC through a conversation with Rob who I was unaware was a Minister. He invited me along to worship and I found my like-minded brothers and sisters in Christ. It has taken a while but I am home.

(Bless you, Bob, interesting, informative and very readable)

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

Date	Preacher	Organist	Elder	Welcoming Steward	Reader	Refreshments
3 rd November	Revd Iain MacDonald	Steve	Elizabeth	Stella	Stella	Sabrina
10 th	Revd Elizabeth Kemp	Steve	Bob	Malcolm	Bob	Maureen
17 th	Noel Morgan	Jenny	Anne	Pam D	Anne	Peter and Pam
24 th	Revd Rob Weston	Jenny	Suzy	Malcolm	Suzy	Anne

From **Jackie**, TACT

Tearfund Big Quiz Night, 7pm on Saturday 16th November at The King's, (Pixon Lane, Tavistock PL19 9AZ)

The money the quiz raises will support Tearfund's "Transforming Communities" programme, helping local churches around the world lead their communities out of extreme poverty and into a sustainable future. Entrance: £3 per person. Light refreshments available and a raffle on the night. Contact kingstavi@outlook.com for more details, or visit <https://www.tearfund.org/campaigns/big-quiz-night>.

A great cause, and always a fun evening. Rally your friends! Either come as a team (4-6 is ideal) or just come along on the night!

(If anyone would like to make up a team, they can contact Mike or Jenny.)

From **Jenny Dennis**:

Do come to the Prayer and Stillness Group held at the St Eustachius Parish Centre on the second Monday each month at 2.30 pm. It is a time of music, short readings and shared silence followed by refreshments and fellowship and is affiliated to the Julian meetings network.

From **Liz Lazenbury** (Pip's daughter)

I just thought I'd give you an update on Mum. She is doing a lot better and has settled into the home well. She is going to have an assessment on Wednesday (23rd Oct) to work out what to do next, not sure if she is good enough to go home with care or better to stay in the home.

I have to have an operation on 14th November and am going to be unable to visit Mum for at least two weeks after. I was hoping that some people from the church might be able to visit her whilst I can't. It would be amazing if possible. I'll let you know if anything changes but for now I think Mum will be staying at Camplehay.

Please remember in your prayers the folk from our church who are unable to come anymore – Pip, Barry, Geoff, John, Garth, and Dorothy.

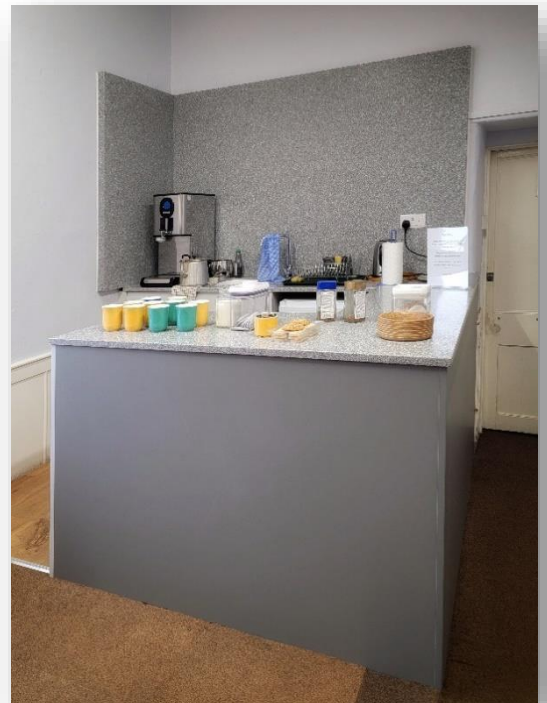
From **Maureen & Peter Tulloch:**
Link to Hope

Once again, we have continued the tradition of finding, filling and delivering 'Shoe' boxes for families in need at Christmas time. This year the team included Elizabeth and Jo as well as those pictured, Anne, Jenny and Maureen. Nineteen boxes were assembled and wrapped, and seven beautifully knitted and colourful blankets delivered - well done ! Thank you very much, to everyone who knitted, and/or contributed goods for the shoe boxes, and to those who helped pack them. **A good team effort!**



Our lovely new kitchenette, doesn't it look smart?
"So much cleaner and easier to use" !
(With thanks to Hugh, Anne and Jo)

(and thanks to Peter for the photos)



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

CONTACT items for December– please email them to me (maureen.tulloch@homecall.co.uk) by the 27th November. Many thanks.