



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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Church Secretary: Mike Dennis Tel: 01822 618142

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Synod website: www.urcsouthwest.org.uk

Church Website: www.tavistockurc.org.uk

May 2025

Our Church is open for worship on Sundays at 10.30am.
The Service of Worship is available on the Church Website (above).

- 4th May Service led by Revd Iain McDonald with Holy Communion
- 11th May Service led by Revd Elizabeth Kemp
- 18th May Service led by Revd Robert Weston
- 25th May Service led by Mrs Suzy Weston

Whatever your race, colour,
gender, age, sexual orientation,
state of health....

Wherever you are on
your spiritual journey....

We welcome YOU.



Dates for your Diary:

12th to 18th May Christian Aid Week

Tuesday 13th May 12pm - 1.30pm Christian Aid Super Soup Lunch at our church

Sunday 18th May Church meeting after the service

Monday 19th May 7.30pm Midweek Topics at Mike and Jenny's home.

Sunday 15th June Elders' Meeting after the service

Letter from our Minister

Dear Friends

During May we will support Christian Aid week through special collections on two Sundays and a Super Soup Lunch. Every Christian Aid Week people across Britain and Ireland raise funds, act and pray for their global neighbours in a celebration of hope for a fairer world.

This year's appeal runs from 12-18 May and is focusing on the charity's work in Guatemala. In the Alta Verapaz region of Guatemala, 90% of people are living in poverty. The region is home to the Indigenous Q'eqchi' (pronounced: Co-WAY-chee) people. Men in the community often seek work away from their homes, while many women grow crops to feed their families.

Aurelia is a community leader, a mother of eight and a beloved grandmother. Record high temperatures and unpredictable weather patterns have hit farmers like her hard. Water sources are drying up or being polluted by industry in communities like Aurelia's. Aurelia and her neighbours now walk for around four hours each day during the two trips they must make to collect safe, clean water.

Aurelia has seen first-hand the impact of the climate crisis. **'Climate change has been killing our crops, and this is our food,' she says. 'As the plants are dying, the next thing that will die is us.'**

But she isn't giving up. Congcoop, Christian Aid's partner in Guatemala, supports communities with agricultural resources and training that help them to become more climate resilient. Aurelia took up the opportunity to gain new skills with Congcoop. She's combining her deep knowledge and understanding of her land with innovative techniques to make organic fertiliser, construct rainwater collection systems, and grow a wider range of crops.

With Congcoop's support, Aurelia is using her cacao harvest to make chocolate products to sell at a local market. 'I feel very joyful and grateful when I'm preparing chocolate,' Aurelia says. 'I make cocoa products with all my heart! Perhaps that's why they have such a good flavour!' 'I want to ask donors to continue supporting Christian Aid,' Aurelia says, 'because through Congcoop, they've been supporting us.'

May God bless each of us this month, may we be inspired by people like Aurelia as we continue to praise God and love our neighbours both near and far.

Every blessing
Rob

Christian Aid Week

Super Soup Lunch Tuesday 13th May 2025 from 12pm - 1.30pm

Tavistock United Reformed Church will be holding a Christian Aid Super Soup Lunch on 13th May.

A simple lunch; soup with bread roll (gluten free will be available) plus Fairtrade fruit. Plus refreshments: Fairtrade tea, coffee and hot chocolate will also be available.

This event is free with all donations going to support the relief work of Christian Aid.

Organ News

The rebuilding of our refurbished organ will begin on 28th April. All being well, we will be able to start a programme of organ music concerts this summer. The Elders have identified that a small planning group will be helpful in getting these organ concerts organised. If you feel able to help out please contact Robert, we need people with different skills and interests.

Ministers' Spring School

The South Western Synod organises a Ministers' gathering every year, usually it is held after Easter and this year is no exception (28th April - 1st May). Over the past few years the venue has been Saunton Sands hotel which is an excellent location with stunning views across the beach. You might be wondering what we get up to when we get together... It's a really good opportunity to talk with other Ministers from around the Synod, we are a varied bunch. Some are full time, some are part time, some are retired but still very active in the churches. We also like to learn from various speakers, about the ways the church is adapting to the current context, developments in theology or just sharing good practice. We also spend time together in worship. Elizabeth Kemp and I are looking forward to this year's Spring School, I'm sure we'll let you know what we learn this year!

Synod news

Following an extensive survey of all the churches in the South Western Synod, the synod meeting in October 2024 approved the creation of some new roles to support local churches. I'm pleased to report that some of these roles are now being advertised and I'm particularly looking forward to the appointment of a synod communications person who will help bring the synod website up-to-date and produce a regular synod e-newsletter. All being well, I should be reporting on the name of the appointed person next month!

Rob Weston

Eco News: A new tree map for England

Trees outside woods have been comprehensively mapped for the first time, using cutting-edge methods of laser detection and satellite imagery. Produced by the Forest Research agency, it is to help with reaching the legally binding target of 16.5% canopy cover by total land area by 2050. Trees outside woodland make up 30% of England's tree cover and they are seen as increasingly important for mitigating against climate changes. Click to view the national [Trees outside Woodland](#) map but don't look for Armada Way in Plymouth (it's a little out of date)! You can find the map on the website: <https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/>

David Curry, Wilding Devons Churchyards

From **Mike Dennis:**

Midweek Topic.

The May meeting will be held on Monday 19th May at Mike and Jenny's house at 7.30pm. We will be continuing our study of Mark's Gospel.

From **Peter Tulloch:**

This photograph was taken at this week's meeting with the Tavi Times to raise awareness of the plight of those who are less steady on their feet whilst walking or using their wheelchairs on the pavements of Tavistock.



From **Maureen Tulloch:**

Link to Hope

Please do keep knitting squares to be sewn into blankets, and hats, gloves or scarves for Link To Hope Charity. For blankets -a square should have a base of 50 stitches, in Double Knitting using size 8 needles. Knit until base equals length. Twenty five squares (five by five) sewn together to make a blanket. And if you would like to, crochet around the outside to 'finish it off'! There is lots of wool in the church cupboard, use the 4ply doubled if you want. We will collect them late in October so you have lots of time yet.

Sunday Morning Rota for May: do organise swaps if necessary.

Date	Preacher	Organist	Elder	Welcoming Steward	Reader	Refreshments
4 th May	Iain McDonald	Steve	Elizabeth	Anne	Steve	Elizabeth
11 th	Elizabeth Kemp	Jenny	Anne	Stella	Anne	Anne
18 th	Rob Weston	Jenny	Jo	Jenny S	Suzy	Sabrina
25 th	Suzy Weston	Steve	Bob	Anne	Anne	Elizabeth

From **Pip McIntyre:**

My Testimony

In 1992 my elderly neighbour asked me to a bible study at a friend's house. I remember thinking I'll go once, but it won't be my cup of tea, but I found it was. They were a lovely group, looking after each other but I couldn't go along with this belief they all had.

My husband died of a heart attack on a Thursday in November 1993, as you can imagine sleep was tricky. The following Tuesday in bed, I remembered bits and pieces from the group meetings and suddenly realised my husband had never been baptised which seemed to be the key to eternity 'if there was such a place'. I just said, "Please God, don't let him, wherever he is, feel lonely and unloved". Then I had this dream which is odd, like all dreams - I was just wandering lost really, then I felt I must go a certain way, but two chickens barred my way- they didn't look very friendly- so I put my hand out to the one on the left and it pecked and held my hand – this is illogical because chickens always just peck and let go immediately. The pain went all up my arm and the left side of my chest, it was extremely painful, so to avoid that pain I moved the chicken on the right. I happened (as one does in dreams) to have to have a dead chick in my hand so I used that to hold back the other hen. All the pain went and I had this wonderful feeling of peace, well-being and completeness. I got up, made a cup of tea with heaps of sugar and went upstairs to tell my daughters because I felt so much better, I hoped it would help them. I told them I didn't understand it but I thought I had gone through what had happened to their father – the pain was his heart attack and the pain went on because he was resuscitated and my second chicken was when he finally died and there was this incredible sense of peace. Sue, my daughter asked me when I had this dream because she was woken by this terrific pain in her ring finger on her left hand and only then did I remember that that was the finger by which I had been held.

We got up and we had a rule at that time that nobody could leave the table until we had at least eaten a piece of toast. I went to eat and realised that my appetite had returned. I walked round to the Doctor's surgery for my injection and felt just like the little boy on the Ready Brek advert who goes off to school with this little glow around him. I felt as if I had been given all this energy. I came home and did housework, preparing for the funeral party, which before I could not have coped with. That night I slept soundly for the first time. Next day was the funeral, we had the gathering afterwards and stayed talking until 9 o'clock.

Needless to say I now believe there is a God because I could never have been given a dream of such comfort in my own right, and such energy to cope.

I have gone on to be baptised, I love going to church, singing hymns and reading the Bible. Cannot believe it is me, who had not been in church for about 24 years and scoffed when people talked about the power of prayer. How different my life is now. I pray through Jesus, my mediator to God the Father, and thank Him for guidance in my life and for all His care.

Thank you, Pip – an interesting testimony – and a glimpse of your life.

From **Maureen Tulloch:**

I'd be very pleased to receive some more 'life histories' for CONTACT for next month and the following months. Please, if you have not already done so, put pen to paper (or fingers to keyboard) and write your history for us all to enjoy. About 800 words is ideal. Email to me at maureen.tulloch@homecall.co.uk or post to me at Trewoodloe Barn, Callington, PL17 7NJ

From **Peter Tulloch**:

A photo of our family rolling our hard-boiled and decorated Easter Eggs on Easter Monday- ---watch out for those coming towards you---!



We think of, and pray for, our members who have not been able to get to church recently –Geoff, Pam and Peter, John, Garth and Dorothy. Barry is well, he has been worshipping in a Callington church recently.

May God bless them and keep them all.

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 27th May. Many thanks.