



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

October 2025

Our Church is open for worship on Sundays at 10.30am.

The Service of Worship is available on the Church Website (above).

5th October Service is led by Revd Elizabeth Kemp, with Holy Communion

12th October Service is led by Revd Iain McDonald

19th October Service is led by Revd Robert Weston

26th October Service is led by Revd Elizabeth Kemp

Our church at Harvest Time.

*We decorated our sanctuary with the
fruits of the land.*



Dates for your Diary:

Saturday 25th October, 1 - 2pm, Organ recital with Chris Beechey of Bideford

Saturday 29th November, 1 - 2pm, Organ recital with Shaun Brady of Tavistock

Saturday 31st January 2026, 1 - 2pm, Organ recital with Dr Sean Sweeney of Tavistock

Letter from our Minister

Dear Friends

As the days grow shorter and the air begins to carry the crispness of autumn, October gently invites us to pause, reflect, and give thanks. The countryside around us here in Devon is aglow with the rich hues of the season—fields golden with stubble, orchards heavy with fruit, and hedgerows offering their final burst of colour before winter sets in.

At the heart of this season lies **Harvest Festival**—a time when we gather as a church family to express our gratitude to God for abundant provision. It's one of the most grounded and joyful moments in our church calendar. As you know, we decorated our sanctuary with the fruits of the land, we sang those cherished harvest hymns, and we remembered: *"The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it."* (Psalm 24:1)

But harvest is about more than food. It's about recognising all the ways God blesses us—not just with crops and rain, but with friendship, community, health, peace, and the small daily mercies that often go unnoticed.

A Season to Share

Giving thanks also reminds us of our call to share. Just as God gives freely to us, we are called to be channels of love and compassion in a world where many go without.

Perhaps this October, we might each ask ourselves:

- What am I truly grateful for this season?
- How can I share the fruits of my own harvest—whether that be time, talents, or resources?

In a world that often seems to be in a great rush, Harvest encourages us to slow down, take stock, and say "thank you" - to God, to one another, and even for life's challenges that shape and deepen us. It was great to join you for the Harvest lunch this year, it was an inspired idea to go out together - saving certain people rushing round in the kitchen and others loading up the dishwasher at the end of the meal!

May this Harvest season fill your heart with thankfulness, your hands with purpose, and your soul with peace.

Every blessing
Rob

Organ Recital News

In September we finally got the opportunity to hear our refurbished organ and we now have an extensive programme of organ music recitals. The first to launch our programme was on 27th September with Stephen Tanner, to whom we are most grateful.

Coming up next we have:

Saturday 25th October, 1 - 2pm, with Chris Beechey of Bideford

Saturday 29th November, 1 - 2pm, with Shaun Brady of Tavistock

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Premises news

Unfortunately, one week after a new lock had been installed in the disabled loo near the Lower Deck Hall someone got stuck again. Once again the door had to be literally 'kicked in'. We have now arranged for the door and lock to be replaced by a professional. Hopefully this will mean the new lock will allow for easier access in an emergency.

Sarah Lace is preparing our replacement leaded windows. Sarah has a workshop on the Pitts Cleave Industrial Site on the edge of Tavistock. We have been awarded a 20% grant from the South Western Synod for this work, which should be completed within the next few weeks.

Free Coasters

To enable better and deeper conversations about faith with each other and those in our wider community, the Children's and Youth work team have worked with the Ugly Duckling Charity to create "conversation starter" coasters. The team have sent every local URC a free sample pack of ten and would love to hear how you use them. There are four questions to get people chatting on the coaster, and a QR code linking to a new question every day. I can't resist a freebie - so I've ordered a pack of these discussion starter coasters from the URC. We can use them on Fridays at our cafe. We've been asked to take photos and send them to the Children and Youth work team,

please could someone remind me!

Eco News from 'Butterfly Conservation'

The results of Butterfly Conservation's Big Butterfly Count are in, and while the numbers are a vast improvement on 2024's record lows, experts warn urgent measures are still needed to reverse long-term decline. The sunniest spring and hottest summer ever recorded in the UK provided good weather conditions for butterflies after 2024's record-breaking lows. However, the results from the Big Butterfly Count show that it was definitely not a bumper summer for our beleaguered butterflies.

Between July 18 and August 10, over 125,000 citizen scientists got involved in the Big Butterfly Count – more than ever before – and recorded 1.7 million butterflies and moths, with the top five species being Large White, Small

White, Gatekeeper, Red Admiral and Meadow Brown.

On average, participants recorded 10.3 butterflies during each 15-minute count. While a marked improvement on last summer's record low of just 7.2, it is only broadly average by modern standards and has done little to reverse longer-term declines. Butterflies need two things to thrive: good weather and a healthy environment. We can't change the weather, but we can play our part in creating a healthy and biodiverse environment for our butterflies!



Climate, Cake and Conversation

The next event in the **Climate, Cake and Conversation** series is on **22nd October 7:00pm** in **Tavistock Library**.

Watch the locally made film “**Farming the Flood**”_about the Dartmoor Headwaters natural flood management project. Chat about this and other local action for nature and climate. Free entry (donations towards refreshment costs and future events invited).

"Farming the Flood shows complex issues in a positive way and how farming can become resilient to climate and biodiversity issues. It follows local British farmers on Dartmoor implementing natural flood management techniques to protect communities while enhancing biodiversity."

From **Mike and Jenny Dennis**:

Mike and Jenny would like to thank everyone who attended their Golden Wedding tea, sent cards and contributed to the two charities - Prostate Cancer UK and Shelterbox.

It has been lovely to celebrate with so many people.

(And thanks to Mike and Jenny from all who were able to go – it was a lovely tea, and great to be able to help you celebrate).

Also from **Mike**:

I am aware that we have not been able to continue our Bible study from Mark's Gospel over the summer. It is proposed that we will reconvene on Monday 10th November and 8th December.

I had expected the radiotherapy to commence this month, but it is now due to start on 15th October. Assuming that my recovery goes OK, we will look forward to welcoming any whom would wish to join us at our home at 7.30pm on the above dates.

Harvest Lunch at the Rifle Volunteer, and none of us had to cook or wash up!

Thanks to Jo for organising us all – it was thoroughly enjoyable.

God does bless us with friendship.



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

Date	Preacher	Organist	Elder	Welcoming Steward	Reader	Refreshments
5 th October	Revd Elizabeth Kemp	Jenny	Sabrina	Stella	Stella	Stella
12 th	Revd Iain McDonald	Jenny	Anne	Jenny S	Anne	Peter and Pam
19 th	Revd Robert Weston	Roger	Bob	Sabrina	David	Sabrina
26 th	Revd Elizabeth Kemp	Jenny	Jo	Anne	Jo	Jo

From **Revd Rob Weston:**

Suzy and I are puppy walking again - our latest puppy is due to arrive on 23rd October and will be just 8 weeks old...

Here's a photo of Kate who we had in 2021/2022 and is now a working guide dog in Somerset.



From **Maureen Tulloch:**

We think of, and pray for, our members who have not been able to get to church recently – Geoff, John, Garth and Dorothy. And also for Mike as he undergoes medical treatment. 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 November– please email them to me (maureen.tulloch@homecall.co.uk) by the 24th October. Many thanks.