



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

May 2026

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

- 3rd May Service is led by Revd Elizabeth Kemp
- 10th May Service is led by Noel Morgan
- 17th May Service is led by Suzy Weston
- 24th May Service is led by Revd Robert Weston
- 31st May Service is led by Revd Elizabeth Kemp

Keep up your knitting of little people for the Knitted Bible Mission Project and squares/hats and /or scarves for Link to Hope -please do.



Dates for your Diary:

Saturday 9th May 3pm Strawberry tea at Stella and Raz's home - 10 Morwellham Cottages, Morwellham, PL19 8JL

Wednesday 13th May 2.30 - 3.30pm Prayer and Stillness service at the St Eustachius' Parish Hall

Sunday 24th May Church Meeting after the Service.

Saturday 30th May 1 - 2pm, Organ Recital at Tavistock URC by Tom Bayliss

Saturday 25th July 1 - 2pm, Organ Recital at Tavistock URC by Chris Beechey (played in Oct 25)

Saturday 26th Sept, 1 - 2pm, Organ Recital at Tavistock URC by Dr Sean Sweeney (played in Jan 26)

Saturday 28th Nov 1 - 2pm, Organ Recital at Tavistock URC by Shaun Brady (played in Nov 25)

For details of other organ recitals you can visit the website: organrecitals.uk/location/devon

Letter from our Minister

Dear Friends,

Each year, Christian Aid Week in May invites us to pause, reflect, and respond—to stand alongside our global neighbours with compassion and purpose. In 2026, that call feels as urgent and important as ever. Here in our United Reformed Church community in Tavistock, we are once again reminded that even small acts, when offered in faith, can ripple outward in extraordinary ways.

Christian Aid Week is not only about raising funds; it is about renewing our commitment to justice, love, and service. Across the world, communities continue to face the harsh realities of climate change, poverty, and inequality. Yet, through Christian Aid's partnerships and your generosity, lives are being transformed—families gaining access to clean water, farmers learning sustainable methods, and communities building resilience against future challenges.

This year's theme centres on hope in action. Hope is not passive; it moves us to act. It is present in every donations envelope, every conversation shared, every prayer spoken, and every step taken in solidarity. Whether you are able to attend one of our organ recitals, make a donation in one of the Christian Aid envelopes, support other fundraising events, or simply hold this work in prayer, your contribution matters deeply.

As a church, we are called to embody Christ's love in practical ways. Christian Aid Week offers a tangible opportunity to do just that. It reminds us that our faith is not confined to Sunday worship but is lived out in how we care for others—near and far. When we give, we are part of something much bigger: a global movement of kindness, justice, and restoration.

In Tavistock, we are blessed with a strong sense of community. Let us build on that strength by coming together — young and old — to support this vital mission. Perhaps you might invite a neighbour for coffee while sharing the story behind Christian Aid, or take part in a local sponsored walk, enjoying the beauty of our countryside while raising awareness and funds.

Above all, let us hold onto hope. Not a distant or uncertain hope, but a living, active hope rooted in God's love. Together, we can be part of meaningful change, offering light in places where it is most needed.

May this year's Christian Aid Week inspire us, challenge us, and unite us in faith and action.

"Let us not grow weary in doing good..." (Galatians 6:9)

God bless

A Million Acts of Hope

In May 2026, community and faith groups, plus charities big and small, will come together to celebrate and inspire A Million Acts of Hope across Britain. There is far more that connects us than divides us.

It's a week for you to shout out your local hopefuls and do something hopeful yourself. Because hope always counts. But this week it gets counted.

From donating to the food bank when you do your weekly shop, to helping a neighbour or picking up litter in your local park, there's a million different ways to be hopeful. So join us, for a week of hope like no other.

Bring a little hope to your street.

Find out how you can get involved - just visit the website: millionactsofhope.org

Knitted Bible Mission Project update

We made a very short presentation of this idea at the March Synod Meeting. The response was immediate and there are now eight scenes being prepared. Thank you to all those who have already pledged your support and those whose knitting needles are already busy!

The decision has been made and the Bible scene we are providing from Tavistock is the Last Supper - knitting patterns are available for the characters, the loaf and the glasses! If you'd like to be involved please see Jenny Dennis or Rob Weston.

On your laptop or tablet, you can search for St George's URC Knitted Bible project or type in: <https://www.stgeorgesurc.co.uk/the-knitted-bible/>

Premises news

The noticeboard appears to be working well, with no further condensation issues. Likewise the WiFi problems seem to be resolved with a good connection now established both upstairs and downstairs in the Lower Deck.

The laptop has been sent for repair and the Elders have recommended that it is due for replacement, having given seven years' good service. We are in the process of identifying a suitable replacement.

Our five yearly full electrical inspection of the church premises is being carried out on 12th and 13th May. Following the inspection we will receive a full report which will give a list of recommendations some of which will be mandatory and some optional. On the 12th May, Hugh and I will be working on some maintenance projects, largely dependent on weather. One task we'd like to complete is the jet washing of the ramp and railings, which will prepare them for repainting.

We have become aware of concerns about the height of the balustrade round the gallery, originally built to a height of 800mm. The current legislation requires around 1100mm barrier to ensure safety (roughly speaking an additional 12 inches), so we will be looking into quotes or other action that we could take (such as assigning stewards when the gallery is in use, or not using the row of seating nearest to the edge).

Board game success

Our games afternoon on 18th April was a great success and we enjoyed several different games (Sequence, Triominoes, Draughts, Dominoes) plus some delicious cakes, scones and tea. We had all brought games along and decided we would like to have another games afternoon later in the year. In May we are invited to Morwellham for a strawberry tea, look forward to seeing you there!

From **Stella Rasdall**:

The Reverend Lillian Dean – Lil, Minister for Tavistock URC 1990 - 96

Died Saturday 21st March 2026 at the age of 95.

I first met Lil in 1991 when I came to the Church with my daughter to arrange her wedding. It was a very joyful wedding, many of the young people attending commented on it.

At the time I was looking for answers to help me cope with my job as a Macmillan Nurse supporting patients needing palliative care and their families through the process of dying. I was made welcome, I had found my Church family.

Lil didn't have an easy start. Some Church members left to start up their own house group - she was a woman and an American from Chicago! But she was a breath of fresh air and increased the membership a lot in those few years. She was unorthodox using various props and illustrations to get her message across. She used to bring a carrier bag with things to illustrate the children's story on the theme of the sermon which helped me understand too. She always started her services with "This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it".

I had been brought up in the Church of England but it was the first time I understood that Faith was individual and Christianity was about love not ritual.

Lil was a one off, she did things her way. She didn't want a funeral and wrote her own obituary which was not about herself at all but a message for those of us that were touched by her life.



"Thanks for the memories of our shared life. It has been a great journey, and you made it all worthwhile. Lil"

May the Lord Bless you and guard you, May the Lord make his face to shine on you and be gracious to you.

A prayer - The Means of Grace - Samson Morning Hymn:

Awake our souls; away our fears!

Let every trembling thought be gone.

Awake, and run the heavenly race

And put a cheerful courage on.

True, 'tis a strait and thorny road,

And mortal spirits tire and faint

But they forget the mighty God

That feeds the strength of every saint.

I spoke to Jane, a friend that was with her at the end. She said " she was determined, independent, one of a kind till the end. She did it her way"

We were blessed to have known her and we will miss her.

Also from **Stella:**

Strawberry Tea Saturday 9th May 2026

Raz and Stella would like to invite you to tea in their garden at 10 Morwellham Cottages, Morwellham, PL19 8 JL on Saturday 9th May at 3pm.

We will also be serving Chocolate Eclairs in remembrance of Lil (Rev Lilian Dean). This was her favourite but had to be posh ones! (Marks and Spencer or Waitrose)!

We look forward to seeing you.

RSVP: 01822 832806 or stellarasdall@gmail.com

From **Suzy Weston:**

Here's a little "Names of local places" puzzle for the magazine. A mix of anagrams and cryptic, mixed up with some lateral thinking. Have fun...answers on the last page.

1. A dark, torn, rational mop (3 words)
2. A woman's name + a local river.
3. Royal incarceration.
4. This town sounds like a container belonging to someone named 'Tavy'.
5. Split into two: a young sheep and a settlement.
6. A mighty tree in the homestead
7. A rocky hill that's had a difficult time.
8. An anagram of 'wod weIn'—a quiet Devon village.
9. A watery crossing you could cover up.
10. Used to fire into the water

From **Jo O'Driscoll:**

We have had a very successful lambing resulting in 4 beautiful and very lively lambs, spring has truly sprung.



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

Date	Preacher	Organist	Elder	Welcoming Steward	Reader	Refreshments
3 rd May	Revd Elizabeth Kemp	?	Stella	Anne	Stella	Anne
10 th May	Noel Morgan	Jenny	Anne	Stella	Anne	Peter and Pam
17 th May	Suzy Weston	?	Jo	Jenny S	Jo	Sabrina
24 th May	Revd Robert Weston	?	Bob	Anne	Anne	Elizabeth
31 st May	Revd Elizabeth Kemp	Roger	Stella	Malcolm	Stella	Anne

From **Mike Dennis:**

Did you know Brits buy more clothes per person than any other European country?

Or that just in the UK £140 million worth of clothing goes to landfill / incineration each year and 92 million tons of waste is created by the industry worldwide? Although more recent reports suggest that textile waste has already hit 120 million metric tons.

Fast fashion is the main reason for the fashion industry releasing an estimated 10% of global carbon emissions; that's double the emissions from international flights and maritime shipping combined and far more than data centres or AI. Then there's the horrible conditions workers have to endure and the fact that textile dyeing contributes 20% of industrial water pollution.

Yet sales keep rising and sadly so do the negative impacts.

Fast fashion brand Shein* adds 6,000+ new styles daily, creating 52+ micro-seasons annually compared to fashion's traditional 2-4 seasonal collections, and the brand now produces as much annual pollution as the entire country of Lebanon. They aren't the only ones of course; other examples include Boohoo and Primark.

Another negativity of this industry is that the return rates for online fashion orders can reach 30-40% and processing returned items is often costlier than sending them to landfills / incineration.

In a cost of living crisis as we are now, it is very easy to say we cannot afford more expensive clothing but bargains can still be had by shopping in the sales / clearance sections, buying second hand e.g. from Vinted or charity shops, repairing instead of replacing and also of course by simply wearing what you already own for longer and asking yourself if you really do need it before buying / ordering.

“Buy less. Choose well. Make it last.” Vivienne Westwood

From **Suzy Weston:**

Answers to the quiz:

- 1.Dartmoor
- 2.Mary Tavy
- 3.Princetown
- 4.Tavistock
- 5.Lamerton
- 6.Okehampton
- 7.Rough Tor
- 8.Lewdown
- 9.Lydford
- 10.Gunnislake

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.