



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

June 2026

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

Some services of Worship are available on the Church Website(above)

7th June Service is led by Revd Robert Weston

14th June Service is led by Suzy Weston

21st June Service is led by Mike Dennis

28th June Service is led by Revd Elizabeth Kemp

Matthew 19:19, You shall love your
neighbour as yourself.



Dates for your Diary:

Sunday 7th June Elders' Meeting after the Service

Saturday 13th June from 12.30, BBQ at Tinhay Retreats

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)

Saturday 30th Jan 2027, 1 - 2pm, Organ Recital at Tavistock URC by Stephen Tanner,

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

Letter from our Minister

Dear Friends,

Life has a habit of changing the rules just when we think we've finally learned the game. Childhood gives way to awkward teenage years, then suddenly we are expected to know how mortgages work and how to apply for jobs. Before long, we are explaining to younger people that music was once stored on something called a vinyl record, cassette, CD or iPod.

Every stage of life brings its own surprises, blessings, and adjustments. Young families discover that silence is suspicious. Teenagers discover that parents know nothing—until they become parents themselves and mysteriously recover confidence in the older generation. Retirement, too, comes with its own learning curve.

As many of you know, I have a special birthday this year. Which means this month I will begin to receive my teaching pension. Becoming a pensioner (whilst also being a part timer) feels like an important milestone. Although I'm still uncertain whether it means my children will be telling me that I've started walking more slowly, complaining about the price of tea, or beginning every sentence with, "Back in my day..."

People speak of pensioners as though one instantly transforms into a full time gardener who drinks coffee at leisure while birds sing appreciatively nearby. The reality is somewhat different. I seem to be busier than ever, now my diary includes extra appointments involving vari-focal glasses, hearing tests and discussions about blood pressure.

Yet there is something deeply reassuring about the changing seasons of life. Scripture constantly reminds us that God works through every stage. Abraham began his great adventure in later life. Moses was eighty when he led the Israelites out of Egypt. Caleb, at eighty-five, was still asking for new mountains to climb. Apparently, in biblical terms, I am practically middle-aged!

Perhaps that is the lesson: God does not stop calling us simply because our hair changes colour or our pension arrives. Each season has its own purpose. Perhaps youth brings energy, middle age brings more responsibility, and later years often bring patience, wisdom, and perspective — along with an alarming appreciation of how difficult it can be to get up from low chairs!

The years may change us, but God's faithfulness remains constant. And for that, at every age, we can be truly thankful.

God bless
Rob

Prayer and Stillness services at the St Eustachius' Parish Hall

Reminder that Prayer and Stillness services, led by Bob and Patti Owens, run on Wednesdays from 2.30 - 3.30pm in the St Eustachius' Parish Centre, Plymouth Road, Tavistock. Followed by tea/coffee afterwards.

10 June; 8 July; 12 Aug; 9 Sept; 11 Nov; 9 Dec.

Knitted Bible Mission Project update

At Church Meeting, we heard that there is good progress with our first Bible scene, we look forward to seeing the knitters' progress over the summer.

It is great to hear that one of our Art Club members is also contributing, as she first spotted the idea!

Tavistock URC is preparing the 'Last Supper' - knitting patterns are available for the characters, the loaves 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

Our five yearly full electrical inspection of the church premises was 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. Hugh and I will be working on some maintenance projects, including the jet washing of the main access ramp. We have painted the wall along the ramp and the black railings also need some attention.

New poster holders have been fitted in the church, they are smarter than the old picture frames and easier for us to change the posters.

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, so we will be looking into quotes from companies that could offer a suitable solution.

URC Calendar 2027

The 2027 URC Calendar, "**Transparent as Glass**," will showcase stained glass windows and glass sculptures from URC churches and Local Ecumenical Partnerships.

Please submit photos (with church name and photographer) by **5th June 2026** to pressoffice@urc.org.uk

Rob Weston

From **Suzy Weston:**
Guide Dog Puppy: 'Lexie', May 2026

Most of you will already know that Robert and I are Puppy Raisers for a Guide Dog Puppy called Lexie.

Lexie arrived in our home at the age of eight weeks last October and we have been through the highs and lows of a young puppy's development and most recently her first season. She is 9 months old now and we will probably be saying "goodbye" to her before Christmas.

We are asked many questions about being a Puppy Raiser but the most common is "how can you give her up at the end?"

It's taken me a long time to understand how I can do this, but giving my adult children's favourite cuddly toys away is almost impossible!

Puppy Raisers (formally known as Puppy Walkers) have strict guidelines to follow, set out by Guide Dogs. We have monthly supervision meetings with our supervisor and monthly Puppy Classes to attend with other Guide Dog pups.

The puppies come to us for a set period of time and their time with us has a set of goals that we need to help them achieve in that time.

The puppies do not belong to us, they belong to Guide Dogs. And this is what makes all the difference between having your own puppy and raising a Guide Dog puppy.

We have experienced the incredible difference these dogs make to the lives of visually impaired people and whilst we will be sad to say goodbye to her, we know she'll be well looked after and have a fulfilling life. We will be informed of her progress when she is in advance training and will be sent a photograph of her all dressed up in her harness when she passes. We will hear where she's going to live and a little bit about her owner.

It's up to the guide dog owner as to whether they remain in touch with us, but often we can glean bits of information on the Guide Dog grapevine!

As for her development, well she has always been "a bit of a character and not lacking in confidence" as her supervisor said on an early visit! She loves to play with other dogs and games with us. She can be stubborn and attention seeking, but is also very loving. She enjoys watching television, especially if there are dogs or other animals on the screen. Our dog, Poppy, is her companion at home, but Poppy keeps her in line. When she gets too boisterous (frequently) Lexie is told! It doesn't make a lot of difference, but I think Poppy feels better having told her off!

If we are sitting still, she likes to lie as close as possible and rest her head on a foot. I think she feels more secure and knows she'll wake up if we move. Her most endearing thing is that if I sneeze, she leaps up, rushes to my side and nudges me and leans on me until I tell her I'm ok. She won't settle until she's sure the giant monster attacking Suzy has left and everything is calm again!

I haven't brought her to church for a while a) because I am often at work in another church or with family and b) because she is old enough to be left for longer periods of time.

However, I was very pleased with her behaviour on Pentecost Sunday when she attended church and slept all the way through. That's what we have been looking for and she's ticked that box nicely.

Finally I would like to say thank you for your patience and understanding with her and for putting up with her noise when she was little. Lexie is growing into a strong, beautiful dog and will make a wonderful Guide Dog, and you have been (maybe unwittingly) a part of that progress.



From **Rev Rob Weston:**

Strawberry Tea in the Sunshine

Our Strawberry Tea at the home of Stella and Raz was a great success, the weather was dry and sunny and we enjoyed a leisurely afternoon. It was good to be with John and Judy who spoke of Lil Dean and her special ministry at Tavistock URC.

The next social activity for everyone at Tavistock URC and Lower Deck Cafe and friends - is a BBQ at **Tinhay Retreats on Saturday 13th June** from 12.30. Please let us know if you are able to join us - a sign-up sheet will be at church or leave a message with Rob or Suzy Weston. For directions to Tinhay Retreats see tinhayretreats.com/findus

Eco News

In the Synod e-newsletter the different carbon footprints for some churches were explained. It was good to see that Tavistock URC has reduced its gas consumption over the past 6 years, therefore reducing our carbon footprint.

2019 Gas consumption = 50664 kWh

this 2019 consumption gives us a carbon dioxide emission of 10.67 tCO₂

2025 Gas consumption = 36941 kWh

this 2025 consumption gives us a carbon dioxide emission of 7.88 tCO₂

The drop in consumption is approximately 25%, which will be largely due to the improvements in draught exclusion, installation of double glazing in the vestry and careful control of the heating programme.

Prayer Diary for June 2026

w/c 1st June: Prayer Pointers

Gracious God, we give thanks for the *trypraying* initiative and all who participated in Tavistock in April and May. For those who have used the prayer booklets, we pray that our exploration of prayer will continue to grow and develop.

w/c 8th June: For Our Community

Loving God, bless our community especially those who make and create - for the artists and potters. For the musicians and composers, the pianists and the penny whistle blowers of all ages. Bless all of us in our creativity and bless those who enable live music performances in our area.

w/c 15th June: For the Church

Faithful God, guide our church as we grow, pray, and serve together. Renew our commitment to worship, deepen our fellowship, and help us listen for your leading. We give thanks for our organ concerts and if we can be a place for the performance of more music events and concerts, we pray for confidence to trust in God's provision.

w/c 22nd June: For the Environment

God of action - may we use this week's prayer time to combine litter picking and prayer for our local community. As we walk round our streets, open our eyes to all the people around us and the needs around us.

w/c 29th June: For Peace in the World

God of peace, may we be a light in the darkness - in our world of conflict, we pray for those negotiating peaceful resolutions. In our world of division, we pray for unity and reconciliation.

From **Joyce Wightman**;

Rev Lilian Dean

I was a member of Tavistock URC in the 1990's before moving to Plymouth. Shortly after Rev Lil came to Tavistock, Martin (my late husband) had an idea of starting a "Hymnalong" and Lil thought it was a good idea. We had the first one in our house on Bishopsmead, Martin playing the keyboard and everyone choosing their favourite hymn. It became a very popular monthly meeting, travelling round to friends' houses, with Martin taking his keyboard.

We kept in touch with Lil over the years and I felt so blessed when she came to Martin's funeral at Efford a few years ago.

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

Date	Preacher	Organist	Elder	Welcoming Steward	Reader	Refreshments
7 th June	Rev Robert Weston	Jenny	Sabrina	Pam D	Sabrina	Peter and Pam
14 th June	Suzy Weston	tbc	Elizabeth	Stella	Elizabeth	Stella
21 st June	Mike Dennis	Jenny	Jo	Sabrina	Jo	Anne
28 th June	Rev Elizabeth Kemp	tbc	Bob	Malcolm	Bob	Peter and Pam

From **Maureen Tulloch**:

Just a reminder to keep up with your knitting – squares for blankets for the Shoebox Appeal, and also it may be a good idea to start collecting items for the Shoeboxes themselves. Not needed until October so don't panic! Bless you....

Happy Birthday to Rob!

Not sure exactly when, or how many years he has reached – but may we wish him, as a congregation, Many Happy Returns!

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

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