



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 2026

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

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

4 th October	Service is led by Revd Elizabeth Kemp with Holy Communion
11 th October	Service is led by Revd Rob Weston
18 th October	Service is led by Mrs Suzy Weston
25 th October	Service is led by Mr Mike Dennis

Welcome to the

'Season of mists

and

mellow fruitfulness'



Dates for your Diary:

Monday 5th October 7.30pm Midweek Topics at Mike and Jenny's home.

Sunday 11th October Church meeting after the service

Sunday 1st November Elders meeting after the Service

Wednesday 11th November 2.30 to 3.30pm Prayer and Stillness Service at St Eustachius

Wednesday 9th December 2.30 to 3.30pm Prayer and Stillness Service at St Eustachius

(Our new season of organ recitals continues this month. For the following 12 months we will be collecting for St. Luke's Hospice).

28th November 1 - 2pm, Organ Recital at Tavistock URC by Shaun Brady

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

6th March 2027, 1 - 2pm, Organ Recital at Tavistock URC (to be confirmed)

15th May 2027, 1 - 2pm, Organ Recital at Tavistock URC by Michael Hodgson

For details of other organ recitals you can visit the website:

organrecitals.uk/location/devon

From Our Minister

Dear Friends

We celebrated Harvest on 27th September with a special service, followed by a delicious meal at the Blacksmith's Arms in Lamerton. Once again, we thank all those who helped prepare for Harvest, especially those who decorated the church with flowers and produce.

The day before we began the new cycle of Organ Recitals, with Dr Sean Sweeney returning to delight and amaze us with his programme of pieces. Plans are well underway for 2027 recitals and there will be at least one new face on the rota.

There are a number of churches across our synod experiencing a drop in the number of people attending worship, which is causing some concern. One of the things we need to hold onto is that God's measure of success is often different to our measures of success. Faithfulness and perseverance are more valued than simple numbers. The elders spent some time reflecting on the varying attendance on Sundays and decided that we would continue to offer morning worship each Sunday morning, regardless of the size of the congregation. The service might change, with less singing some weeks, for example. But the opportunity to gather and pray together is so important that we will continue in our faithfulness.

Some of you might wonder what Suzy and I have been busy doing at Tinhay Retreats this summer. One answer is that we have dug two ponds, using a mini excavator! We had a lot of fun using the excavator for a week, finding that it demands a great deal of concentration and co-ordination. We are now watching the water levels rise as the rainy season begins! We hope the ponds will attract more dragonflies and damselflies... the signs are already promising.

As we crunch through the autumn leaves this month, may we continue to walk the way of Jesus Christ who lived to serve other people and to bring hope to everyone.

Every blessing,
Rob Weston

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. All welcome.

11 Nov; 9 Dec.

Bob and Patti Owens

Premises news

The upgrading of the kitchen floor with non slip vinyl will be a major operation starting on 5th October - hall hirers will be affected and all have been informed.

Roofers have been busy replacing the slipped tiles on the roof and clearing a blocked gulley has been completed. Our electrician is booked to install emergency pull cords in both of the accessible toilets. Our plumbers are booked to change the pipework for the heating so that we can select the areas of the building that are heated (also beginning of October). The plumbers will also be installing an outside tap. In total the cost of these projects is £25,000 and we have applied for a Synod 50% Facelift Grant.

Hugh and I continue to tackle a list of simple maintenance tasks, as we are able. Most recently replacing the hinges on one of the toilet cubicle doors in the Lower Deck Ladies' toilets. As usual the job was more complicated than we hoped and the edge of the door needed planing so that it would close properly. The extractor fan in the Ladies loo needs the attention of an electrician and this is on the list for when the emergency cords are installed.

Rob

Eco News

Saturday 10th - Thursday 15th October Derek v Derek at Plymouth Arts Cinema

Two neighbouring Devon farmers, both called Derek, go to war over the future of their land in this documentary. One is an advocate for intensive farming; the other is giving his entire farm over to nature, rewilding it into an oasis for wildlife.

To find out more or book tickets visit <https://plymouthartscinema.org/whats-on/derek-vs-derek-15/>

Both Dereks live in the wilds of West Devon, just north of Rob and Suzy!

Rob

The Bereavement Journey® course: local upcoming courses for anyone struggling with grief following bereavement

PRINCETOWN (Fox Tor Cafe) Mondays 5.30-8pm, from 7th September 2026 (*places still available - registration can be accepted up to the second session, 14th Sept.)

OR TAVISTOCK (Library) Fridays, 10-12.30 from 23rd October 2026

(BOOKING ESSENTIAL:

For registration & any queries, pls contact Jackie at tbj@tmc.me.uk or Tel 01822 611049 – please leave a message. Registration fee £5)



‘Intervention from on high!’ - Work on the roof of our Church last month. Photo from Anne Snook.



Photos taken by Peter and Bob of us all at the Harvest Supper on 27th September at the Blacksmiths Arms. Everyone enjoyed the meal and the company.
Thank you, Jo, for organising this for us.

More Eco News:

Plymouth's Waterfront draft plans

A new draft business plan for Plymouth's Waterfront is setting out an ambitious vision for the area through to 2032, combining economic growth, environmental stewardship and community wellbeing. Developed by the Plymouth Waterfront Partnership, the plan focuses on the themes of People, Planet and Place, supporting nearly 1,000 businesses across the Waterfront while enhancing the area's appeal for residents and visitors alike.

The proposals include a vibrant programme of events, from established favourites such as Seafest and Plymouth Pirates Weekend to potential new attractions including a carnival, outdoor theatre performances and festive winter celebrations. Alongside events, the plan aims to strengthen local businesses through marketing support, networking opportunities, skills development and initiatives to improve staff recruitment and retention.

Environmental sustainability is woven throughout the plan. Priorities include supporting the Green Tourism Scheme, promoting Plymouth's blue and green economy, reducing single-use plastics and waste, encouraging sustainable travel options, and improving access to information about public transport and active travel routes. The plan also seeks to celebrate local culture, enhance public spaces and ensure the Waterfront continues to play a key role in Plymouth's wider regeneration and economic development.

If approved by local businesses later this year, the plan will help shape a thriving, sustainable and welcoming Waterfront that benefits both people and nature for years to come.

Read more at [Plymouth.gov.uk](https://plymouth.gov.uk)

Dear TACT friends

This is a message from me (Jackie) about a community support programme which I am involved in facilitating through the local Methodist church. Owned by the Christian charity "AtaLoss", ***The Bereavement Journey®*** is for anyone aged 18 or over who may be struggling with grief following bereavement. I am letting you know in case there is anyone you know who you feel may benefit.

The course in Princetown is starting shortly and the other, in Tavi library, a little later this autumn. Help can be hard to come by and waiting lists for counselling can be long, and yet this course has proved to be effective in providing valuable and much needed support. Please also see below in [blue](#) for some quotes from those who have taken part in recent local courses, and who say they would readily recommend it to others. The programme is now being run in over 600 churches and Christian organisations in the UK and is becoming increasingly recognised and well regarded. It has been featured on Songs of Praise and the patron of AtaLoss is the Archbishop of Canterbury. Locally, the Links magazine featured an article in the recent edition Aug/Sept (p27).

I heard about ***The Bereavement Journey®*** a few years ago and became involved shortly afterwards. Research and data collected supports the fact that many thousands of people have found it helpful in enabling them to at least start to move forward at a time when they have felt overwhelmed with grief, or to begin to process previously unresolved grief. (For more about its impact see www.lossandhope.org/the-bereavement-journey). And if folk opt to attend the final optional session looking at faith related questions around bereavement, which the majority do opt to attend, it also gently presents the hope of Christ. 75% of those attending the 3 local courses run so far have had no previous church connection. I'd be grateful if you would prayerfully consider mentioning it to anyone you know who you feel might benefit from attending...

Some quotes from participants of local courses in the last year:

- From a young adult: "I am very grateful for the support this group has given me and feel it has helped me develop as a person in wisdom, strength and the ability to process my grief. Thank you."
- "It made me realise how much you can benefit from being with others who have been bereavedThe course was in my view an "eye-opener", and it touches all aspects of grief. It helps to find different ways of coping and to have a different perspective moving forward. I felt this course was very beneficial"
- "I found myself benefitting from the course in ways I was not expecting. I really found this an excellent course in the way that it dealt with various aspects of grief. The videos were well delivered and addressed the various aspects of grief in a supportive and informative way. The group sessions were good - it was a very relaxed comfortable setting allowing people to feel safe and chat. Thank you for a great course."
- "The course was clear and well run in a good venue. The material covered was very thought-provoking... thank you, it has been very beneficial."
- "If you have lost a loved one, no matter whether it was recent or a long time ago, this course can help you to understand the grieving process and where you are on your journey. It was great to be among people who truly understood."
- "The videos are excellent; well put together and helpful"
- "The course was very well led; very welcoming and kind"
- "I would highly recommend this course to anyone bereaved - thank you so much"

Shoebox Appeal 2026 officially launches!



The wait is over – **Shoeboxes are GO!** Our 2026 Shoebox Appeal is officially underway. We need **YOU** to help make it another amazing year. **Fill a shoebox and help us bring hope to families and elderly people this Christmas.**

Please collect goods suitable for children or adults to fit into your shoeboxes ready for collection from church on **25th October**. Knitted blankets will be collected then too. Shoebox Appeal leaflets are on the entrance table. Thank you!

From **Mike Dennis:**

Following the book review by Jenny printed in last month "Contact", I too have now read the book "How we learn to be brave" by Mariann Edgar Budde. My offering is a couple of quotes which may stimulate thought.

Perseverance in prayer isn't about doing it more, but allowing our hearts to be stretched by the trials and struggles of life so that our capacity for love and forgiveness grows as well as what we are willing to endure for the sake of love.

Jesus didn't just come to die. Jesus came to live – to teach, to heal, to turn over tables, to touch people who weren't supposed to be touched and eat with people who weren't supposed to be eaten with. To break bread, to pour wine, to wash feet, to face temptation, to tick off the authorities, to fulfil scripture, to announce the start of a brand new kingdom, to show us what that kingdom is like, to love his enemies to the point of death at their hand....

The book is now on the library shelves for anyone else who wishes to read it.

Also from **Mike:**

The theme for Midweek Topics on October 5th will focus on the sermon delivered by Iain McDonald on Sunday 23 August. There was so much worthy of further thought in that service that it seems good to delve a little deeper into it and reflect on the implications for us. I will circulate copies to all who wish to join us at Mike and Jenny's home at 7.30.

We think of, and pray for, members of our church who have been unable to get to church lately- Dorothy, David, John, Malcolm and Garth. May God bless them and keep them.

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.