

CONTACT

News & Views from
Tavistock United Reformed Church
& Salvation Army, Russell Street.



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Church Websites:

www.tavistockurc.org

www.salvationarmy.org.uk/tavistock

DECEMBER 2008

SUNDAY 7th

ADVENT 2s

10:00am Worship & Holy Communion Rev Rog
6:00pm Salvation Army Carol Service

SUNDAY 14th

ADVENT 3

10:00am Worship - Rev Rog
6:00pm Salvation Army Meeting: Ms Anne Luxton

SUNDAY 21st

ADVENT 4

10:00am Carol Service
6:00pm Salvation Army Meeting : Major Carol

THURSDAY 25th

CHRISTMAS DAY

10:00am Come and worship Christ the new born King!
11:30am - 4:00pm Christmas Lunch

SUNDAY 28th

CHRISTMAS 1

10:00am Worship - Rev Rog
6:00pm Salvation Army Meeting : Major Carol & Captain Penny.





LINK ROMANIA SHOE BOX APPEAL 2008

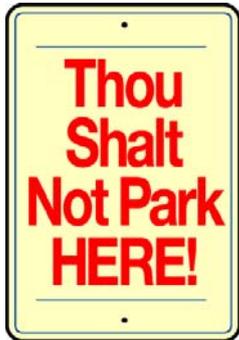
"This year we have sent 60 shoe boxes to needy families via Link Romania . Thank you so much to each one of you who has contributed in any way. This was a joint effort between the 4 Seasons Workshop and the URC fellowship. This year the number of boxes from the URC doubled and a customer from the Lower Deck Café gave 4 boxes. May I suggest that you keep the appeal in mind when you shop during the year? It will make it easier if you decide to help in 2009 - and avoid the panic in October!! Also please tell family and friends about this appeal as they may like to help too. I still have a few leaflets left if they would like more information.

Thank you once again ."

Janet Dashper



PS I am making marmalade and jam to sell in aid of the Roof Fund and would be grateful for any empty jars! Thank you!



.....UNLESS YOU HAVE A PARKING PERMIT CARD !!!!!

Most people know that Mr Guy Talbot of Francis Clark[our next-door neighbour], allows us to use their site for parking on Sundays. It has been noticed that other people are also using the site. Therefore, if you do park there, please ask Phyllis for a card, showing that you are 'bona fide'. Please also remember that we are entitled to 2 spaces only, to the left of the site, and one behind the other. Please give priority to those with limited mobility and/or carrying heavy burdens!

Every Christmas time we appeal for basic - but necessary - items to help cut down the Church's expenditure. With the premises in use every day of the week, there are certain items we run out of more quickly - so this year we are asking for specific items that are running short!!

- 1) and regularly throughout the year.....TOILET ROLLS!!
- 2) Black dustbin bags(with tie handles not draw string or bunnys!)
- 3) Kitchen swing bin liners (tie handles again please)
- 4) J cloths
- 5) Fairy Anti-bacterial washing up liquid.

THANK YOU !



As the New Year approaches, brand new rotas will start appearing on the Vestry noticeboard!!

We thank all those who willingly get on with the little jobs week by week but there is one important area that is desperately in need of help -

CHURCH CLEANING!!

We appreciate that this is not within everyone's capabilities - but if it is, please put your name on the rota . Many hands will make light work!!!!

Please note that the Lower Deck Café will be CLOSED on Fridays December 26th and January 2nd . It will reopen again on Friday January 9th 2009!

Second Sunday



The TAVISTOCK CORPS of the
SALVATION ARMY
invite you to their

CAROL SERVICE

ON SUNDAY DECEMBER 7TH
at 6:00pm

CHRISTMAS REMEMBRANCE SERVICE



Are you, or someone you know, facing a first Christmas without a loved one? Christmas is often the hardest time for anyone who has experienced the grief of losing someone close to them.

The Cooperative Funeral Services Group is organising several Christmas Remembrance Services in different parts of the south west that you are welcome to attend - whether or not you used our funeral services in the past or those of another funeral director, or even if you haven't lost a loved one and just want to get involved in the true spirit of Christmas.

You will be made very welcome. But please contact us first so that we can cater for you, and if you would like your loved one's name printed in our Order of Service, let us know. Telephone 01822 612034 (S J Backwell)

The service in Tavistock will be held at the United Reformed Church in Russell Street on **Wednesday December 10th starting at 7:00pm.**

During December, the following midweek meetings will be held:

Wednesday December 10th - Salvation Army Bible Fellowship in the Church from 2pm - 4pm.

Thursday December 11th - Home Bible Study Group at 14 Heather Close from 10am - 12noon.

Tuesday December 16th - a special film newsnight - "Bethlehem Year Zero" featuring Martyn Lewis starting at 7pm with a fish & chip supper!
"Plaice" your order with Roger by Sunday 14th please.



Third Sunday



SUNDAY DECEMBER 21st
CAROL SERVICE

10:00am

led by Revd Phyllis Ball
and featuring many others!!!!

CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH

Plans are well under way for this year's lunch and party. Mrs Joy May will once again be our head chef for the day and we have received a steady supply of volunteers to help. There will be a meeting for all would be helpers on

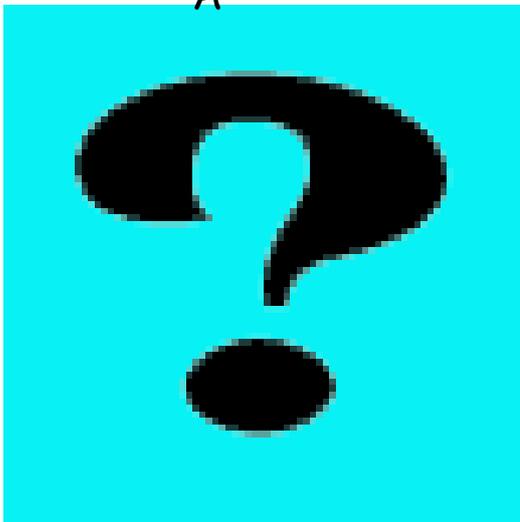
**TUESDAY DEC 9th at 7pm
in the Church.**

Please note that no one is automatically included on the guest list - so if you would like to come you must either fill in a form or telephone Rev Rog /Sue - 614613 - by **Sunday December 21st** at the latest.

Numbers are limited - so do it now!!!!



A



SEASONAL

QUIZ

Put aside thoughts of writing cards, choosing presents and buying food for the festive season and put your brain to work!!!

Quiz sheets may be obtained from Phyllis, at £1 each, proceeds to the Roof Fund.

All sheets returned to Phyllis by 21st December at the latest will be entered in a draw. The first 3 all-correct entries [drawn at random] will each receive a prize. If there are no entries with all answers correct, the prizes will go to those with the most

correct answers.



**Two things to do when you've eaten the sweets!!
Help Operation Sunshine!!!!**

1. Buy a tube of Smarties. . Eat the contents.
Fill the empty tube with £1 coins.
Return the tube to Phyllis or hand it in at Wilkins Shoe Shop
- they will then be passed on to Operation Sunshine.



- 2.. Buy a small sweet tin with a secure lid [the sort that travel sweets come in is ideal]. Eat the contents. Clean the tin & fill it with: needles & pins, threads, scissors, safety pins and any other useful bits & pieces for sewing. Stick an attractive piece of paper, sticky plastic or fabric on the top of the lid.
Put the tin in the Operation Sunshine Blue Box.

PS to Operation Sunshine knitters - please make sure if you are knitting a garment with sleeves that there is plenty of room for babies & toddlers to get their arms through!

PPS There is a rumour going round that OS sells the things that are donated - this is a half-truth: some people donate articles of value so that they can be sold to raise money. All money raised by and for Operation Sunshine goes to pay for containers - current cost of a container to Zimbabwe = £7,100.
Revd Phyllis

We have been pleased to see some new faces in the congregation over the past few months. We are delighted that **NEVILLE & VALERIE DONOVAN** would like to join the membership at Tavistock URC. They will be officially welcomed at the Communion service on **Sunday January 4th** at 10:00am. What a lovely start to the New Year!!
If any one else would like to make a commitment to the Church please speak to Rev Rog in confidence and without obligation!



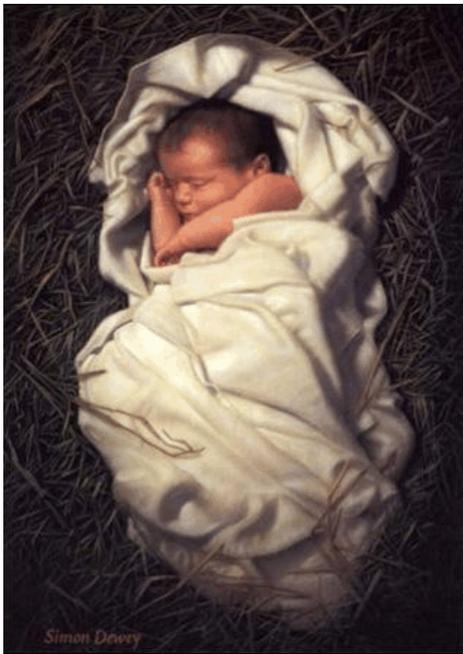
Join the Revd Phyllis to celebrate the eve of the Epiphany!
"TWELFTH NIGHT COFFEE & CAROLS"
on **Monday 5th January** from 6:30 - 8:30pm
at 22 Chapel Lane Horrabridge

There will be 'festive nibbles', and your last chance to sing 'We three kings' - with Barry at the piano!

Numbers are limited to how many can squeeze into her bungalow - so please write your name on the appropriate list in the vestry if you intend coming!

There is no charge for the evening but you are invited - in true Magi tradition - to bring a gift of gold, frankincense or myrrh - in other words- a donation for the Roof Fund!

**This will be the first fund raising event of 2009 for the Roof Fund .
Have you got any ideas for future events?**



So what sort of message is a baby? What is that all about? Fundamentally a baby is a symbol and a reminder of newness. It is a new thing, a new creation. When a child is born its future is a mystery, its character is a mystery - unknown and unknowable. It is not a repeat of an old pattern, not a clone, but something that has never been seen before, a completely new beginning. Having a child is an act of faith - you don't know what will happen to it or how it will change you.

Throughout Advent we call out in our hymns and prayers, "[Come, Lord Jesus](#)". We invite God to come to us. But the story of the child in the manger is a reminder that when God comes he does not come as we expect, not as a military leader or a great king, not even as a fully grown man, but in something as surprising and new as a baby. When God acts in our lives, now as then, this story tells us it may not be in old familiar ways. When he calls us to follow him it may not be on old familiar routes. God is a God of newness, a God whom we can't control or predict.

That is a profound challenge to us. "[Come, Lord Jesus](#)," we call, but what if he comes, as he did then, in a way no one expected? That kind of God will bring change and disturbance to us. He might call us to unlearn old ways, drop old prejudices, break out of our moulds, act in ways that feel challenging to us. Change isn't easy - and the older you are the harder it is - but the God who comes as a child in a manger isn't the kind of God who will do what we expect.

"[Come Lord Jesus](#)," we cry, as groups - families, churches, societies - but what if he comes like a child in a manger and leads those groups in new directions?

Groups tend to want their members to fit in, to follow the same pattern. It's hard if some members want to do things differently. It takes courage to let other people be, to give support as they make their way through life, to be open to the possibility that, though their way may not be your way it may yet be a way full of blessings. It is so easy simply to condemn what seems new or different without waiting to understand it, to see its real impact, but a "child-shaped" God calls us to be open to change.

"[Come Lord, Jesus](#)", we cry, as a global community that is desperate for help, but what if he comes like a child again, and asks us to change our attitudes and assumptions to our world? In an age of global climate change, we all need to question radically the ways we live. For hundreds of years humans have believed that we can climb ever upwards, producing more, consuming more, growing all the time. Accumulating possessions has been a mark of status for generations. Only lately do we see that over-consumption and greed may not just be bad for our waistlines and our bank balances, but might quite literally be the death of the human race, and a lot of other species too, as we pump out greenhouse gases to sustain our lifestyles. To change a whole way of life, though, is enormously difficult, almost unimaginable for many. The global machinery involved with our modern economic systems is hugely complex. Feeling baffled about what to do? Feeling hopeless that anything can be done? Join the club. But if we and our brothers and sisters around the world are going to survive, we need to be open to the child in our midst, the solutions that are new, that we haven't thought of yet, and that may seem strange and uncomfortable to us.

May we this Christmas, have the courage to see the child of God that is born in us and for us today, the work of God that he seeks to do in our world, our church, our families, our individual lives. May we have the courage to seek and to find his new answers for our new and frightening times.

Rev'd Anne LeBas

With hopeful
hearts we
await your
coming,
Lord