



CONTACT



NEWS FROM
THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
AND SALVATION ARMY, RUSSELL STREET TAVISTOCK

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Captain Penny Sullivan

Church Websites: www.tavistockurc.org www.salvationarmy.org.uk/tavistock

FEBRUARY 2009

SUNDAY 1st 10:00am Worship & Holy Communion Rev Rog
6:00pm Salvation Army Meeting: Major Carol.

Saturday 7th 10:00am - 3:00pm "Challenge to the Church"
- an Elders' Consultation Day @ Derriford URC Plymouth.

SUNDAY 8th 10:00am Worship - Rev Rog
6:00pm Salvation Army Meeting: Captain Penny.

Monday 9th 7:15pm Elders' meeting in the Vestry

SUNDAY 15th 10:00am Worship led by Mr Peter Sweeting (Plymouth)
6:00pm Salvation Army Meeting: Major Carol.

SUNDAY 22nd **GIFT DAY**
10:00am Worship - Rev Rog
followed by lunch in the Lower Deck
6:00pm Salvation Army Meeting: Captain Penny.



SEASONAL QUIZ RESULTS!

Thank you to all who bought a quiz sheet and those who returned them!

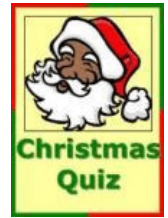
The correct answers are on display in the vestry.

Congratulations to the top 3 scorers - in reverse order:

L & P Trace (43) Shelagh Woodyatt (46) and the Morton family(49).

£23 was raised for the Roof Fund.

Revd Phyllis



THANK YOU to all who responded to the appeal for empty jam jars.

Mrs Janet Dashper has been very busy filling them up with tasty home made jam and marmalade which she is selling for the Roof Fund.

Better see her quickly before she runs out!!

In 2008, OS sent out 7 containers to Africa - more than ever before! 3 went to Zimbabwe, 3 to different parts of Zambia and 1 to Tanzania. However it is the plight of Zimbabwe which has decided OS to concentrate their efforts solely on that country. To the drastic food shortages caused by crop failure and the breakdown of the water and power supplies, is now added cholera, violence and intimidation. OS have pledged to do all they can to raise funds for containers to send out badly needed goods and basic foods to our contact Bryony Pichanick whose own situation grows daily more difficult and dangerous.



A recent email from Bryony to Felicity on Jan 16th included

"I saw with horror last night that there have been another 1000 deaths (from cholera), bringing the total to 2000 deaths. It is now rife in the rural areas. I do not see any let up as the rubbish is still not collected. Water is turned off in most places, and we ourselves have not had water for 9 days now. We have survived as we installed 2 x5000 litre tanks in our garden, and we buy water at US\$ 60 for 8000 litres. It lasts around 8 days. You can imagine the Townships with hundreds of thousands of people all trying to find water from dirty wells etc.

No one can imagine the state of things here and words cannot describe it, so I don't try.

I will do my best this year, but unless things change no one will be able to operate anymore. God knows where He is taking us and how much we can endure. This is our only consolation and where our faith lies. Many thanks to all involved. Blessings Bryony."

Felicity says that she has never heard Bryony so despairing.

Please remember her and all who she helps in Zimbabwe in your prayers.

Along with all the other goods, OS are trying to collect as much FOOD as they can for the next load on FEBRUARY 14th - a good date to show our love.

PLEASE GIVE WHAT YOU CAN VIA THE BLUE BOX. THANK YOU.

- even a little is better than nothing.

Basic food stuffs include : rice, pasta, sugar, salt, cooking oil, soups etc.

If you would like to send money to help with the cost of sending a container (over £7000), please make your cheque payable to Operation Sunshine and send it to the treasurer :

Mr David Philpott, 1 Bluebell Way, Tavistock PL19 9SA - please mark your envelope OS

As promised, a new series of **FILM EVENINGS** will be starting this month on **TUESDAY FEBRUARY 3rd** at 7:30pm in the Church. Last October, Rev Rog spent 10 days travelling around Palestine and Israel on an educational tour with **BIBLE LANDS**.

In this new series of film evenings he will share his observations and show what it is like to live as a Palestinian in these troubled times, how it all came to be this way and what charities like Bible Lands are doing to help.

These meetings are open to everyone - do try and come along!



Major Carol & Captain Penny continue their **BIBLE FELLOWSHIP** meetings on **WEDNESDAYS FEBRUARY 4th** and **18th**. These start at 2pm in the Church.

(With apologies for the mix up over the January dates!!)

The **HOME BIBLE STUDY** group meet fortnightly on Thursday mornings at 10am. If you would like to join, please telephone Revd Phyllis (855731) and she will let you have all the details.



LENTEN



STUDY GROUP

ASH WEDNESDAY - February 25th - sees the start of a 6 week course entitled

"BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS WITH GOD'S LOVE"

this will be held every Wednesday in Lent starting at 2:30pm in the Church.

This is a joint venture with the Salvation Army fellowship - but all are welcome to join in!

A daily readings booklet is available at £4.50p and if you would like a copy please sign the list in the Church as soon as possible or tel Rev Rog (614613)

The Purpose Driven UK team have adapted this campaign for UK churches.

The theme is based on the well known passage in 1 Corinthians 13 and looks at applying God's Love into our relationships, home, church and personal situations.

Pastor Rick Warren says " We live in a world where knowledge is exploding. It doubles about every 6 years in our society. We are smarter than we've ever been before - more than any other generation. But we still have the same old problems - war, terrorism, crime, abuse, prejudice, hatred, violence. Why? Because what the world needs is not more knowledge; it needs more love. Without love, nothing I say will matter; and without love, nothing I know will matter.

All the knowledge in the world cannot compensate for it. God says I can have the eloquence of an orator, the knowledge of a genius, the faith of a miracle worker, the generosity of a philanthropist, the achievements of a superstar; but if I don't have love in my heart it is worth zero, it doesn't count.

The only thing that matters to God is do I love Him and do I love other people"

So how do you do it? How do you build a life of real deep love?

Why not join us to find out?

SUPPORTING THE CHURCH

The upkeep of the church buildings and the cost of its ministry is paid for by church members.

Money comes into the church by various means - the weekly offering, planned giving through the envelope scheme, the tax rebate from Gift Aid, the hiring of the premises, and special fund raising events - from concerts and flower festivals to quiz sheets and home made jam - it all adds up!!

Once a year Tavistock URC hold a special GIFT DAY . We do appreciate that times are tough. However if we believe as a Church that God has a purpose for us here in Tavistock - we have to pay the price!!



Tavistock URC's Gift Day will be
on SUNDAY FEBRUARY 22nd

Worship at 10:00am
followed by a Roast Beef lunch
in the Lower Deck Hall
cooked by our Christmas chef - Joy May!

The lunch will be FREE
with a plate for donations.

Please write your name on the list if you would like to come!

TAVISTOCK AREA CHRISTIANS TOGETHER

(TACT)

TAVI Praise will be held at St Andrew's Whitchurch on Thursday February 5th starting with coffee at 7:30pm followed by praise ,worship, prayer and testimony at 8pm . A collection will be taken for the visiting worship team from New Life , Estover in Plymouth.



The monthly prayer meetings this month will be held at the URC. Breakfast will be on SATURDAY FEBRUARY 21st at 8:30am and Evening Prayers will be the following MONDAY - FEBRUARY 23rd - at 7:30pm .

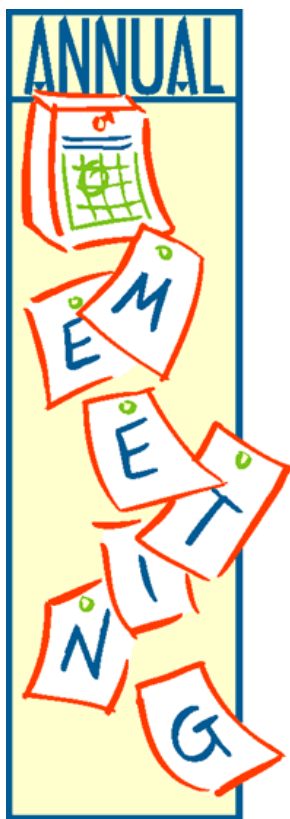
It's not just money which churches need. Without committed congregations - people prepared to give their time and talents to serve as Elders, clean the church, arrange the flowers, welcome people at services, do the odd jobs, work in the Lower Deck Café ... and many other tasks, the church cannot thrive as a living focus for its community.

With a small congregation this is more difficult to do than raising money!!

We value everyone who does their bit - from the cleaners to the coffee makers, from the painters to those who pray for us at home..... THANK YOU!

Just a thought.....if everyone brought someone else.....the work load would be halved!!!

Next month sees the Annual Church Meeting and election of Elders.



Last year Revd Phyllis gave her intention of resigning her post as Church Secretary so we need someone else to do this!

Please do not dismiss this thought!!

The position is important but not over taxing!

A job description is as follows:

The Church Secretary is chosen from among the elders, and the appointment is taken to the Church Meeting for approval. S/he works with the Minister and Elders in the oversight of the Church, including members & adherents. S/he may delegate any of the duties to other Church members as appropriate.

In particular the Church Secretary is.....

To receive all correspondence (excluding finance) coming to the Church body and distribute it to the relevant person[s].

To receive and publicise notices re: meetings, courses, etc. from Synod and other interested organisations.

To ensure [in conjunction with the Minister and elders] that Sunday Worship takes place regularly: this includes the regular celebration of Holy Communion, the provision of appropriate worship leaders, and the fulfilling of various tasks associated with worship and fellowship on Sundays.

To ensure that weekly notices are given at Sunday worship

To complete and return in due time, the return required annually by Synod.

To ensure that regular meetings of Church and Elders take place and are duly minuted, and that decisions made at the meetings are duly followed through.

To ensure that a regular record is available of current members and adherents, together with contact details [giving due regard to personal privacy].

Please pray that the right person comes forward.

Phyllis is NOT going to say < well as no one has offered I will carry on !! >

Roger is NOT going to say < I am the minister - and treasurer - I'll be the secretary as well ! >

Could you offer yourself on the Eldership?

If you have been a member of the URC for a year, have a proposer and a seconder and are willing and able - you are eligible!!

Meetings are 6 times a year and you don't have to be super spiritual - just a supporter of the Church and its work and witness.



HEALTHY CHURCH CHECK UP



Everyone's concentrating hard!

An inspiring day, led by Synod representatives Angela Steele, Richard Brooks & Julie Kirby, was enjoyed by 18 church members seeking God's will for the future of the fellowship.

It was based around the idea of each church having an angel looking over it and receiving a letter from Christ as in the book of Revelation. We were divided into 4 groups and led through a series of exercises and finally each group wrote a letter to the church.

What follows is the gist of what was written.

A letter from the risen Christ to the angel of the church in Tavistock URC:

1. These are the words of him who was dead and came to life - the first and the last:

I know your works to be compassionate, infectious, generous, caring but I have this against you: you need to get closer to your neighbours and help them to see that Christ can help them through life's ups and downs.

2. These are the words of him who was dead and came to life - the first and the last: I know you to be forward looking, welcoming, loving, friendly, hospitable & concerned to nurture people in the faith but I have this against you: you need to listen to God, surround your activities with prayer and reach out to those outside the fellowship.

3 These are the words of him who was dead and came to life - the first and the last: I know you to be a welcoming, friendly, non-judgmental, caring, honest, practical & adventurous fellowship but you need to read & use scripture to grow, guide, teach & share your faith & become good news to everyone you meet.

4. These are the words of him who opens and no-one will shut: I know you to be a welcoming, caring, adventurous & spiritually alive fellowship but you need a more active approach to evangelism.

To everyone who conquers I will give the assurance of eternal life.

Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.



The angels & letters to the church in Tavistock



In 2009 Churches of all denominations across Devon are celebrating 1100 years of the westward expansion of Christianity from Sherborne to Devon.

Many events are organised for the year, the climax of which is a Celebration Day in Exeter on Saturday 27 June 2009.