



CONTACT



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

U.R.C. Minister: Revd Roger E Cornish FCCA Tel: 01822 614613
Church Secretary:
Salvation Army Officers: Major Carol Lockhart Tel: 01752 563151
Captain Penny Sullivan
Church Websites: www.tavistockurc.org www.salvationarmy.org.uk/tavistock

JUNE 2009

SUNDAY 7 th	10:00am	Worship & Holy Communion - Rev Rog
	6:00pm	Salvation Army Meeting : Melvyn Thomas.
SUNDAY 14 th	10:00am	Worship - Rev Rog
	6:00pm	Salvation Army Meeting: Majors Cliff & June Bradbury
SUNDAY 21 st	10:00am	Worship - Mrs Barbara Baker (Plymouth)
	6:00pm	Salvation Army Meeting: John & Sandra Dryden
SUNDAY 28 th	10:00am	Worship - Rev Rog
	6:00pm	Salvation Army Meeting: Captain Penny



Ope

Go INTO ALL the world...
BAPTIZING
...IN the NAME OF the FATHER,
AND OF the SON,
AND OF the HOLY SPIRIT.

ration Sunshine: Bucket Baptisms in Harare, Zimbabwe.
See inside for an update from Bryony!



Wednesday May 6th 2009

Greetings !

It is some time since I last sent an update. The photos show that we have been very busy indeed. The ministry of DESTITUTE CARE in Harare is growing with every week that passes. Our numbers continue to increase in the meetings, and the Cell Church programme which consists of weekly meetings held by the leaders in their homes are attracting large numbers which we cannot reach through our main weekly services. These meetings are bringing in double the number of souls for Christ than in the main services. It is indeed a harvest season.

Recently we have been doing Water Baptisms in all our groups. We are now using the bucket method instead of full immersion, due to the dangers of Cholera spreading, being a water borne disease, and also due to the water shortages. The people flocked to be baptised and to date we have done 417 baptisms and still going. At first there was scepticism from the Pastors at the method used, until the power of God showed up at the first baptism and people started to manifest evil spirits during the baptism. These were easily cast out and the everyone was fully convinced that the method was a good one. The photos show some of the scenes, and a time of rejoicing was had by all. Certificates were given out and people went home happy to have those in hand.

We have also been giving out blankets and jerseys, soap, candles, food, kitchenware, and sanitary towels. We are very grateful to OPERATION SUNSHINE and CART for the all the items sent in their containers for distribution to the people. These days we are making our own candles from candle pieces sent in the containers. Due to power breakdowns in this country, candles are most valuable. The young girls count on getting their monthly packet of sanitary towels as these are unaffordable to them here. There are not enough for the women also. Winter is upon us and warm clothing is very much appreciated. Blankets go to the elderly and orphans, and single mothers with children.

I must pass this encouragement on to our container donors and all who contribute financially. It is as much your harvest as ours. Without your invaluable and consistent support NONE OF THIS WOULD BE HAPPENING. Lives are being radically changed through your giving, and in no small numbers. I only wish you could see what I see you would be so surprised at everything happening here. The photos give you a tiny glimpse the best we can do.

Many, many thanks to you all Bryony and Team.



< The doors of the container open!



Tops, candles and soap >



Tools & dustbins >



< Sleeping Bags

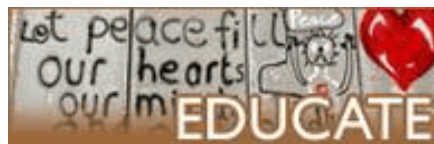
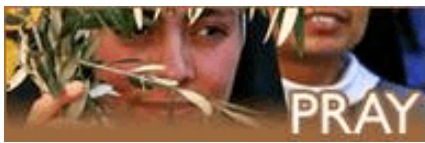


World Week for Peace in Palestine Israel, 4-10 June 2009

Joint action for a just peace convened by the World Council of Churches

The World Council of Churches is inviting member churches and related organizations to join a week of advocacy and action for a just peace in Palestine and Israel. Those who share the hope of justice are invited to take peaceful actions, together, to create a common international public witness.

During World Week for Peace in Palestine Israel, 4-10 June 2009, churches in different countries send a clear signal to policy-makers, interested public and their own parishes about the urgent need for a peace settlement that secures the legitimate rights and future of both peoples. Participants are requested to plan their activities around these points:



1. PRAY with churches living under occupation, using a special prayer from Jerusalem.
2. EDUCATE about actions that make for peace and about facts on the ground that do not - especially settlements in occupied territory.
3. ADVOCATE with political leaders using ecumenical policies that promote peace with justice.

The week calls participants to seek justice for Palestinians so that both Israelis and Palestinians can finally live in peace. It is now more than 60 years since the partition of Palestine hardened into a permanent nightmare for Palestinians. It's more than 40 years since the occupation of East Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza overwhelmed the peaceful vision of one land, two peoples.

Yet the dream of one nation cannot be fulfilled at the expense of another.

The action week's message is that now:

- * **It's time** for Palestinians and Israelis to share a just peace.
- * **It's time** for freedom from occupation.
- * **It's time** for equal rights.
- * **It's time** for the healing of wounded souls.

The 10am service on Sunday June 7th will mark this week with follow up film evenings showing both sides of the story on Tuesdays June 9th 16th & 23rd at 7:30pm.

it's time for palestine



If, for any reason, you cannot get to a service of **Holy Communion** but would like the possibility of receiving it at home - please contact Rev Rog and he will be delighted to arrange a day and time for you.

You may like to invite a friend or neighbour to join you.



In September we shall be hiring out the **CHURCH** to some new hirers and will need to get keys cut - unless there is anyone in the congregation who has a key they no longer require! If so, please give it to Rev Rog. Thank you.



£385 was raised from the concert given by the **Plymouth Area Police Choir**.
Thank you to all who helped in any way.

The next "**Taste and See**" is to be held on Wed 24th June, 7 for 7.30pm, at The Moorland Links Hotel. The speaker is Lizzie Fox, an award-winning, professional Image Consultant. Tickets £8 to include a light buffet and a glass of wine. Tickets are available from Georgina's Pets, West Street, or contact Linda Medland on 01822 615940 or see Judy Morton.



The annual **STRAWBERRY TEA** will be held on **SATURDAY JUNE 27th** in the garden of John & Judy Morton, 7 Church Lea Whitchurch starting at 3:00pm.

To help with catering numbers please buy your tickets in advance- £5

BRING & BUY STALL and a **PLANT STALL**.
Proceeds are for the Roof Fund.

If it dares to rain - the event will be held in Church !

Next month, the **Budleigh Salterton Male Voice Choir** will be giving a concert in Tavistock . This is a unique event when two churches- St Eustachius and the URC - will share the proceeds!!

The concert will be held in St Eustachius on **SATURDAY JULY 11th** at 7:30pm. Tickets will be available soon.

Please listen out for notices on how you can help and make a note of the date!!



SALVATION ARMY NOTICES.

The Bible Fellowship meetings will be held in the Church on Wednesdays June 3rd and 17th.

There will be a stall in the Pannier Market on Saturday June 27th.

On Saturday 3rd October an 'Away Day' led by Commissioner Keith Banks at the Hannafore Point Hotel, Looe. This will be £25 per person including lunch. Booking forms are available from Carol & Penny. If you wish to start paying in installments now we are very happy to receive them. If you need transport please let us know.
Major Carol & Captain Penny.



TACT prayer meetings this month are hosted by the Roman Catholic Church of Our Lady of Assumption, Tavistock.
Saturday 20th June from 8:30am - 9:30am with breakfast.
Monday 22nd June from 7.30pm - 8:30pm.

As part of the celebrations for 1100 years of the church in Devon, the Bishop of Exeter, the Rt Revd Michael Langrish, is coming to Tavistock and the surrounding area for 4-5 days.

The specific aim of the visit is mission, and to encourage local Christians in the same.

There are a number of key points in the visit to which all churches are warmly invited:

1 A service to welcome the bishop, 7 pm,

Wednesday 17 June,

at Tavistock Methodist Church.

2 A teaching evening with the bishop, for all Christians, at Tavistock College, at 7 pm on Friday 19 June.

3. On Sunday 21 June there is an outdoor service of baptism and affirmation of faith at 10 am at St Eustachius, Tavistock and at 6.30 pm a 'seekers' service' at St Andrew's, Whitchurch, for all those who have been stirred towards faith during the bishop's visit, so an ideal opportunity to bring along enquirers and friends.



NewsLetter
DEADLINE

PLEASE NOTE - the next edition of CONTACT will cover the months of July and August. It will be available on Sunday June 28th so any information you would like included must be sent to Sue by SUNDAY JUNE 21st at the latest please. Thank you.



VISION 2020: Planning for growth in the URC

Vision2020 is a 10-year strategic plan that will support and strengthen the mission of the church at local, synod and denominational level. It will seek to provide a framework for the many activities already taking place and to bring coherence, so that duplication - or worse - competition, can be avoided. More importantly, it will be a tool that will help all of us to respond more faithfully to God's call to mission, as we seek to prioritise what we should do and find the resources we will need to do it.

Based on a survey in a number of URC congregations and discussions in Mission Committee and at Assembly in 2008 we have identified 10 priorities, or statements of mission and purpose, to work towards between 2010 and 2020. Very few of the priorities are new, and there is no suggestion that many churches are not working on these already. The Vision2020 plan will affirm these activities and strengthen them, but at the same time it will also encourage churches to work on them more or perhaps to look at new priorities. In Vision2020 there will also be a stronger emphasis on identity, evangelism and church growth, as these are the areas in which we have been weaker in the past.

Vision2020 starts with the local church. The basis for Vision2020 will be the local mission plan. This sets out a number of mission-oriented pledges or commitments, determined by a church's local aims and objectives. It will contain some expression of a local church's understanding of its mission and purpose and some form of covenant with all the other churches in the synod. Based on this a local church can receive more tailored support from both the Synod and the denomination to help it achieve its aims. How often churches make such a plan and how it is shared with the synod and national church levels is being explored and is one of the subjects of the consultation process that is currently taking place.

Local mission plans will inform Synod mission strategies, where these exist or are being developed.

They will help Synods to plan how to use their resources, for example in terms of placing ministers, supporting particular types of work, or providing training. Just as local churches might make mission pledges with one another across the Synod, so it is hoped that each Synod, through the aggregation of local pledges, enters into some form of covenant with Assembly with a number of commitments to help work towards our ten statements of mission and purpose. Again, how this might work in practice is still being worked out and is subject to the outcome of the consultation process

Does every church have to work on all these priorities?

No. First of all, no church can be forced to do anything. Our tradition is such that each local church works out for itself what it needs to do.

However, all are called to mission. It is why the church exists. All of us are called to be witnesses to the life and work of Christ in our communities. What the main focus of that mission is in your community depends on your context. A church in a small rural community will have different priorities from a church in a large urban area. Each church has to discern itself what its greatest priorities are. No one is asked to work on all ten.

One of the marks of a healthy church is to do a few things and to do them well.

[The Tavistock Elders will be discussing the questions posed by the Mission Committee of the URC for a sharing of views at their meeting on Monday June 8th at 7:15pm in the Church.](#)

