



Tavistock United Reformed Church , Russell Street.

CONTACT

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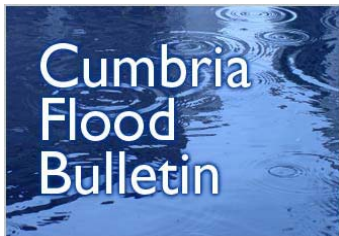
JANUARY 2010

SUNDAY 3 rd	10:00am 6:00pm	Worship & Holy Communion - Rev Rog Salvation Army Meeting: Major Carol.
SUNDAY 10 th	10:00am 6:00pm	Worship - Rev Rog Salvation Army Commitment Sunday: Captain Penny.
SUNDAY 17 th	10:00am 6:00pm	Worship led by Mr Jim Gay (Horrabridge) Salvation Army Meeting: Major Carol.
SUNDAY 24 th	10:00am 6:00pm	Worship - Rev Rog Salvation Army Meeting: Captain Penny.
SUNDAY 31 st	10:00am 6:00pm	Worship led by Mrs Barbara Baker (Plymouth) Salvation Army Meeting: Major Carol.



If anyone is in Christ,
there is a new
creation:
everything old
has passed
away; see,
everything
has become
new!

2 Corinthians 5.17



Following the floods in Cumbria, an impromptu collection was made from Tavistock URC hirers, customers at the Lower Deck Café and church members to help with the relief fund.

£268.33p was raised. Thank you.

Rev Rog kept in touch with the minister of Cockermouth URC - Revd Alistair Smeaton - who was the team leader for clergy response in the west of the county and managed church support at the reception

centres in Workington, Cockermouth and Keswick. Cockermouth URC is on Main Street and widely featured in all the TV news reports with a rescue helicopter hovering over its roof >>>The ground floor of the church was under water. Fortunately the main worship area is on the first floor - but the lift was out of action - so a full inspection was not able to be carried out until the water subsided and power restored!



Alistair said, "Returning to flooded properties is a traumatic experience for many. The emergency plan has moved into a welfare and recovery phase. Financial donations are being collected via the Cumbria Community Foundation. As for practical help - the sheer scale of the task is overwhelming; many people want to work on their own or with friends and relatives in their own businesses and homes; but many others need and want someone along side them.."

By Dec 21st2009 public donations to the Flood Relief Fund had reached £1.5 million!



*The true Effigies of Thomas Larkham
Minister of the Gospel at Tavistock
in Devon.*

I. Gresh sculpit

Tavistock and Cockermouth URC's may be hundreds of miles apart but we share common ancestry from when the nonconformist churches were founded in the mid 17th century.

In Devon, the vicar of St Eustachius, Tavistock was the Revd Thomas Larkham - who in 1652 founded what is now Tavistock URC. At the time the practice of being vicar of one church and pastor of another was not uncommon.

Up in Cockermouth a similar process was happening with Thomas' son, George Larkham being vicar of All Saints Cockermouth who was also appointed pastor of the new nonconformist church.

When both men refused to conform to the Act of Uniformity - along with 2000 others - they were ejected from the Church of England.

In 1871, Mr Lewis from Cockermouth announced his intention to publish the complete diary of Thomas Larkham and send a copy to Tavistock. This he did and it was deposited in the vestry library - but has since been lost.

At the end of October 2009 we were visited by Dr Susan Hardman Moore, senior lecturer in divinity at the University of Edinburgh, who is doing research

into the diaries of Thomas Larkham and has promised to share her findings with us. Fortunately a copy of the diary is held by the British Library in London - not to be taken away!!!! Rev Rog is also hoping to link Thomas Larkham in with his study for his sabbatical this year. Watch this space!!!



There are several jobs in the Church that nobody thinks about - until something either goes wrong, or it doesn't happen! eg flowers, coffee, counting the offering, welcoming people, supplying preachers, cleaning the premises etc etc

We are grateful to those who volunteer to do these jobs quietly and efficiently each week but we need to know when there are going to be any "gaps" !! So please take a look at the list of rotas on the noticeboard in the Vestry and add your name to any of the lists.

One of the Elders - Mrs Janet Dashper - arranges preachers on Roger's Sundays off and we thank her for doing that. Mrs Sabrina Burd has been cleaning the premises for us but has now been offered full time work cleaning at Tavistock hospital. Fortunately Mr Neville Donovan is our "new broom" and we thank him for taking on the job so readily!

TAVISTOCK AREA CHRISTIANS TOGETHER (TACT)

The URC will be hosting January's prayer meetings.

The Prayer Breakfast will be held on Saturday January 16th at 8:30am and Evening Prayers will be on Monday January 25th starting at 7:30pm.

A united service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity will be held on SUNDAY JANUARY 24th at 6pm at Tavistock Methodist Church and will take the form of the annual Methodist Covenant Service.

This will be followed by the TACT AGM at 7:30pm.



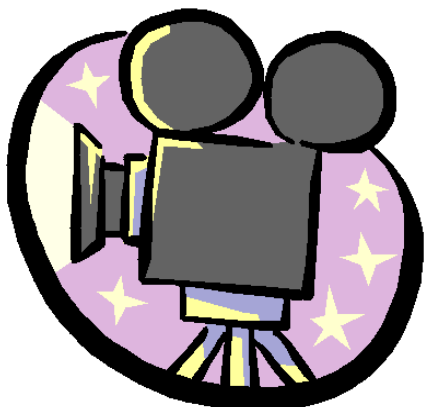
NOTICES FROM THE SALVATION ARMY



* Thanks are expressed to the Band for their amazing ministry through December. They worked so hard and many people were reached with the real meaning of Christmas who might not otherwise have heard it. Thanks too for those who supported this ministry in any way.

* Our thoughts and prayers go with Lt Col Joan Williams and Mary Budge as they go this month to minister and support Salvationists in India.

Major Carol & Captain Penny



The **TUESDAY FILM EVENINGS** will recommence on JANUARY 19th in the Church.

This will be a FISH & CHIP SUPPER starting at 7pm with a film afterwards.

This will be the start of a new series on PRAYER by Philip Yancy - should be good!

Please sign the list in the Vestry if you would like to come - and why not invite someone else?

Subsequent film evenings will be at 7:30pm in the Church.



During 2009, five 40ft containers have been sent to Africa, the last on November 28th for Zimbabwe. Four of our five containers have gone to Zimbabwe this year because the country continues to experience violence, shortages, intimidation and almost universal unemployment and there seems no prospect of this situation being brought to an end. This is not the fault of the ordinary people of Zimbabwe who experience intimidation on an every day basis but despite this continue to have faith in God; we continue to receive letters and emails thanking us for the comfort and strength which our containers bring to those who have so little.

Bryony Pichanick wrote on 31st October : *"We are thoroughly blessed with your container. All your efforts and hard work are appreciated and the money spent in getting it all together, storing it and shipping it. It opens many doors for lives to be changed spiritually and brings hope wherever the goods are distributed"*



Africa is so often in the news with reports of famine, war and corruption. Well, we at Operation Sunshine do see the difference that help on a small scale can make, help which is directed to specific projects and sent to people whom we know and trust, help which reaches those for whom it is intended and is received with joy and gratitude.

We ask you to pray for God's continued protection over them.

As Kathy in Zambia says: *"You harvest goods for us and we harvest souls for God"*.

Please try to bring something for the Blue Box every week - suggested items are listed there - and remember all who work for Operation Sunshine in your prayers. The Winter 2009 newsletter for Tavistock & the South West is also available for you to read or visit the website at www.opsunshinesouthwest.org



BETTY EVELYN MONTAGUE-THORNS

The funeral service was held in Tavistock URC on Wednesday Dec 30th at 2pm conducted by Rev Rog: The chosen hymns were : Jesus is Lord; Father I place into your hands and Lord for the years - all reflecting Betty's strong faith & commitment.

"Betty Howes was born in Birmingham on 9th July 1930. Her father was a garage proprietor. Betty did very well at school and went to Cambridge. As a conscientious & very hard working person, Betty became a brilliant infants & primary school teacher, first at Sutton Coldfield, then on to schools at Richmond in Surrey, Buckinghamshire and finally in Torbay.

In 1955 Betty married Tom Thorns who was in the Merchant Navy. Tom's parents ran the Queen's Hotel in Dartmouth. Tom & Betty's marriage was blessed with a daughter: Christine and a son: Mark who was tragically killed in a motorbike accident when he was 18. Betty missed Mark terribly & never got over his untimely death. Family was most

important to Betty and she was delighted to welcome her 4 grandchildren: Sarah, Clair, Mark & Kai and her great granddaughter: Isobela.

Betty & Tom were a very close couple, had a great love of sailing and spent many happy times on the River Dart. For 5 years Betty & Tom had a tobacconist and sweet shop in Torquay - then they retired to Loddiswell. Betty loved Loddiswell and entered fully into the life of the community where she made some very good friends. She had an extremely strong faith and became an active member of Loddiswell Congregational Church and for several years was its treasurer.

When Tom died in 1986 Betty was devastated. Shortly afterwards she went around the world with her good friend Dee.

Betty was very interested in medieval and ancient history. She read widely and was a talented artist - painting in both oils and water colours. She had a very quick brain and enjoyed solving crosswords. The 3 main charities that Betty supported were the Cornish Lifeboats, the Homeless and Operation Sunshine.

About 10 years ago Betty moved to Pinder Court, Tavistock to be nearer Christine. It was quite a wrench to leave Loddiswell and Betty still kept in touch with her friends there. Fortunately Betty soon felt at home here in Tavistock URC where she made some good friends and whenever the emphysema she suffered from allowed, played an active part at all our events: spiritual, fund raising & social. Her contribution, especially her wonderful quick sense of humour, was much appreciated by all. Many a service has been jollied along by Betty's remarks! Betty was forthright, always fair, stubbornly independent, a loyal friend and a delight to know. Betty's health deteriorated over the last couple of years but she battled on bravely. Her strong faith sustained her through many a difficult time.

On 17th December Betty died in Derriford Hospital and is greatly missed by all who knew and loved her. We give thanks for Betty's life. Be assured that for Betty sorrow and pain are ended and, reunited with Tom & Mark, she is at peace."

Donations in memory of Betty will be divided between the Roof Fund and Operation Sunshine. Betty's ashes will be scattered at Torbay cemetery with Tom & Mark.

FUND RAISING ROUND UP

Advent Sunday Lunch : £57.35p

St Nicholas Fayre : £239.19p

Ideas are needed for further fund raising events - all suggestions to Anne Snook (Tel: 614801) or Rev Rog. Please form an orderly queue!!!!

£200 has been sent from the Communion Fund to our URC "Commitment for Life" partner - Silveira House in Zimbabwe.

£30 has been collected via the Mite(5p pieces) Jar Appeal for UNICEF .

CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH 2009

All the preparation and organisation went extremely well. However what we could not plan was the weather which turned Tavistock into ice land! We had catered for 80 people, were expecting 75 and got 52!! Those who braved the ice had an enjoyable day. Thank you to all who helped in any way - everyone's contribution was needed and much appreciated.



TAVISTOCK U. R. C. NEEDS YOU!!

Well - you say - I am doing all I can and am playing my part in the life of the church:- worshipping fairly regularly, attending mid week meetings, supporting fund raising events etc . This may be true for you - and we are very pleased to have your support.

However there is one special way you can commit to this fellowship.....by becoming a MEMBER!!
Please speak to Roger if you would like to discuss this further and keep our church growing!!

