



Tavistock United Reformed Church, Russell Street

CONTACT

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MAY 2010

SUNDAY 2nd	10:00am	Worship & Holy Communion - Revd Mrs Phyllis Ball
	6:00pm	Salvation Army Meeting :
SUNDAY 9th	10:00am	Worship led by Mr Mike Dennis (Tavistock)
	6:00pm	Salvation Army Meeting :
SUNDAY 16th	10:00am	Worship led by Mr Peter Sweeting (Plymouth)
	6:00pm	Salvation Army Meeting:
SUNDAY 23rd	PENTECOST	
	10:00am	TACT united service - Bedford Square
	6:00pm	Salvation Army Meeting :
SUNDAY 30th	10:00am	Worship led by the Revd Bob Jones (Bude)
	6:00pm	Salvation Army Meeting :



I know that my Redeemer lives, and that
in the end he will stand upon the earth.

- Job 19:25 -

From the URC ministers' Spring School in Devon, Rev Rog's next part of his sabbatical takes him " up north" to the WINDERMERE CENTRE - the URC 's training & conference centre in the Lake District - for a retreat led by the Revd John Bell entitled " The Greatness of the Small" from Monday 10th - Thursday 13th May.

In a world where 'super' or 'hyper' or 'mega' are taken to be indices of quality, it might be either encouraging or disturbing to discover that the witness of the Bible never proclaims that big is best. Indeed, the whole Jewish-Christian tradition might be seen as one in which God gradually unveils a preference for the significance of unimportant people and places. This counter-cultural perspective on life and faith is what will be explored in this retreat, drawing on some of the people and stories in the Bible which have never been given high profile, and looking at how in our own lives the greatness of the small might apply.

The Revd. John L. Bell is an ordained minister of the Church of Scotland and a member of the Iona Community, where he develops resources in the areas of music and worship with the Wild Goose Resource Group. He is a past convenor of the Church of Scotland's Panel on Worship and presently convenes the Committee revising the Church Hymnary. John has produced many collections of original hymns and songs and two collections of songs of the world church. He is an occasional broadcaster, and lectures in theological colleges in Britain and North America, but is primarily concerned with the renewal of congregational worship at the grass roots level.



Prior to the start of the retreat, Roger is travelling up to Cumbria on Friday 7th May to visit the church, minister and people at Cockermouth URC. Like Tavistock, their roots go back to the Larkham family - Cockermouth being founded by the Revd George Larkham , son of the Revd Thomas Larkham (Tavistock).



OPERATION SUNSHINE

BRIC A BRAC & PLANT SALE

SATURDAY MAY 8th

9:30am - 12 noon

IN WHITCHURCH VILLAGE HALL

Anyone who has any plants, seedlings etc for sale, please telephone Margaret Philpott (610484) or Sue Savage (853572). Thank you.



ELECTION 2010



It is easy to forget the remarkable power of our democratic process. At least once every five years we are given the chance to vote. All citizens, regardless of wealth or status, have an equal say in deciding what our common future should be.

Of course, this is not to forget the realities of political life: the scandals, the broken promises, the personalities and opportunism. But politics is more than this - it is how the national community operates, expresses its values and has the power to change the world.

A General Election will be held on **Thursday 6th May 2010**. Christians across the country will be campaigning for different parties or standing for election. Some Churches are host to hustings meetings where local candidates can be questioned by local voters. We then have the opportunity to decide who we wish to vote for, and which parties' policies most closely match our own hopes and values.

Lord, we give thanks for the privileges and responsibilities of
living in a democratic society.

Give us wisdom to play our part at election time,
that, through the exercise of each vote,
your Kingdom may come closer.

Protect us from the sins of despair and cynicism,
guard us against the idols of false utopias
and strengthen us to make politics a noble calling
that serves the common good of all.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ Our Lord.

Amen.





**CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2010 :
SUNDAY 9th - SATURDAY 15th MAY**

Christian Aid Week is seven amazing days of fundraising, action and prayer - a time when communities all over the country get together to raise funds to make real and lasting changes in the lives of some of the world's poorest people.

The week started out as the churches' response to the horrors of the refugee crisis in Europe after the Second World War. The different churches in the UK and Ireland got together and started fundraising - sending the money through partner organisations who were best placed to make a difference on the ground.

It has now become the country's biggest 'house-to-house' collection - with 300,000 volunteers going from door to door every year delivering envelopes and picking them back up from householders in the week.

The Christian Aid Week envelope gets everywhere. Hand-delivered by volunteers and landing on over 10 million doormats, it raises about £9 million each year - and nearly £1 million in Gift Aid alone. The envelope is an iconic symbol of the generosity of people in the UK and Ireland - giving money to those who need it most.



And now...

The week continues to go from strength to strength. This year the hope is to raise over £14 million - enough to effect massive change. With 22,000 churches all working together, it's no wonder the week is such a success.

And it's not just the churches who are involved - schools, workplaces and individuals are all getting involved - whether through fundraising events or by giving directly.

In Tavistock, Christians are invited to start the week with a united service in St Eustachius on SUNDAY 9th MAY at 6:00pm.

PENTECOST

Tavistock Area Christians Together are organising a time of 24 hour prayer in the week leading up to Pentecost. However instead of 7 days as last year, it has been reduced to 3 days.

The PRAYER VIGIL will be held in the Tower Room at Abbey Chapel from Thursday 20th - Saturday 22nd May. Member churches have been asked to go on a rota to cover the 24 hours but individuals are able to join in as and when they like.



On **PENTECOST SUNDAY** (May 23rd) there will be a united service in Bedford Square starting at 10:00am.

NB THERE WILL BE NO MORNING SERVICE AT THE URC.

A MESSAGE FROM CAMP BASTION, AFGHANISTAN

Whatever the arguments are at home whether or not our troops should be fighting in Afghanistan, the fact remains that they are out there. Although this email refers specifically to 40 Commando Royal Marines based in Taunton, it was felt that it was applicable to all personnel serving in Afghanistan from the many bases we have here in the South West. It was sent to all URC ministers in the SW Synod to share with their churches as a focus for prayer.



Dear Colleagues

Some of you will be aware that 40 Commando is located very close to the Synod office at Norton Manor Camp. The new recruits as part of their initial training run past the Synod office which causes, as I am sure you will all imagine great interest amongst some members of the staff! I realise that for some of you, 40 Commando is not on your doorstep so you have no immediate connection. However, on reading the email from Andrew and the request for prayer in the way that it was expressed, I actually thought it was worth a wider audience. I simply share it with you out of interest. I have replied directly to Andrew on behalf of the Synod staff assuring them of our prayers for them in the difficult task that they are facing.

With all good wishes. Revd David Grosch-Miller Moderator

15th April 2010

Subject: Greetings from Camp Bastion, Afghanistan

Dear friends,

I've been here just over a week now and thought I'd establish a link. I've just completed a week of refresher training, and hope to leave here very soon to start visiting the Forward Operating and Patrol Bases.

For most of the newly arrived marines, acclimatisation to the heat and dust is the main concern. They are also keen to leave Bastion and get on with the job, and into a routine.

So far we have had three Royal Marine casualties, but no fatalities. Yesterday I visited a marine in hospital here who was flown back from Sangin after a suicide bomber (15 yr old boy) blew himself up in front of him. The marine had minor shrapnel wounds - a miracle. The marine said that the boy looked terrified before he detonated the bomb. Please pray for the boy's family and community - we have no idea what led to this event - fear, despair, deprivation, desire for revenge? I am confident in the prayer support from those at home, but also in the calibre and professionalism of our men. However its going to be tough. We are here to engage in 'population-centric' counter insurgency operations, which means that our priority is to protect and win the support of the population. The buzz term is 'courageous restraint,' which means that the marines are expected not to retaliate or use lethal force (even if it is justified), in order to ensure that the cycle of violence is broken, the insurgents do not gain any moral impetus, and the population remains unharmed. 'Courageous restraint' requires courage and discipline, but more importantly 'love' - love for our neighbour. Please pray that the marines will see the Afghans as their neighbour, and be able to empathise with them, and love them as they would want themselves to be loved.

Some of the marines have been asking me the meaning of Jn 8: 12. This is inscribed on the US manufactured ACOG weapon sight which each of them has on their rifle. I have quoted to them: 'I am the light of the world, whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life.'

Your prayers are giving oxygen to the flame that I believe is alight here and will bring life to many.

Thank you.

Continued....



Here's a reflection to inform your prayers:

Please don't pray for me;

pray for the people who want to kill me, for the people who have put a bounty on my head:
the people who want to see me and my colleagues dead.

Please don't pray for me;

pray for the people who see me as the invader, for the people who want to get revenge, for the
people who want to avenge the honour of their tribe.

Please don't pray for me;

pray for the people who are driven by fear, fuelled by poverty, energised by anger and grief, and
motivated by rejection.

Please don't pray for me;

pray for the people who have brought me here, for the people who make the decisions, for the
people who want money, power, influence and control.

Please don't pray for me;

pray for the people who live here,

for the people whose lives have been disrupted by violence, for the voiceless and oppressed, for
the people who are caught in the cross fire.

Please don't pray for me;

pray for the children who have lost parents, for the fathers who have lost sons, for the mothers
who have lost children, for the wives who have lost husbands, for the people who have lost
everything.

Please don't pray for me;

pray for those who have lost limbs,

for those who have lost their hearing and eyesight, for those who have lost their peace, or a piece,
of mind, for those who have lost their future, for those who have lost hope.

Please don't pray for me;

but cry out for mercy,

scream out for justice,

shout for compassion,

plead for forgiveness,

whisper for peace.

All the best,

Andrew Rawding Padre

40 Commando Royal Marines

FUND RAISING FOR THE ROOF

The "Spuds & Puds" lunch raised £130 and the last market stall £65.

Anne Snook is contacting several groups to get some concert dates - but we would welcome any other ideas
YOU may have!! Please telephone Anne (614801).

Anne would also appreciate you having a sort out to find good quality items
for the URC stall at the **CHARITY BONANZA MARKET** organised by
Tavistock Area Support Services (TASS). This annual event is to be held
in the Pannier Market on **SATURDAY 29th MAY** - so it would be good to
offer a full stall!!!

If anyone would like to offer to help on the stall - please let Anne know -
it's a long day on your own !!

The **sale of eggs** from the 4 Manse hens has now reached over £110!!

Thank you to all who buy -every £2 goes to the Roof Fund!!

Eggs are on sale at the Lower Deck Café on Fridays and in Church on
Sunday. Isobel Houldin is collecting the money while Roger is away.



June CONTACT will be out on SUNDAY MAY 30th. Any items you would like included must be sent to Sue as soon as you can - but by May 23rd at the latest please. Thank you.