

CONTACT

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



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Church Website : www.tavistockurc.org

JULY 2007

SUNDAY 1st	10:00am	Worship & Holy Communion - Rev Rog
	6:00pm	Salvation Army Meeting - Col Joan.
SUNDAY 8th	10:00am	Worship - Rev Rog
		Elders' meeting
	6:00pm	Salvation Army Meeting - Col Joan.
SUNDAY 15th	10:00am	Worship led by Revd David Evans.
	4:00pm	Salvation Army Open Air Meeting - Bedford Square
	6:00pm	Salvation Army Meeting - Col Joan
SUNDAY 22nd	10:00am	Worship - Rev Rog
		Church Members' meeting.
	6:00pm	Salvation Army Meeting - Major & Mrs Alan Green
SUNDAY 29th	10:00am	Worship led by Mr Jim Gay.
	6:00pm	Salvation Army Meeting - Major Charles Durman.





RETIRED MINISTERS' HOUSING SOCIETY

Ministers and church related community workers are provided with a manse free of rent, council tax and some other charges. But the pension paid on retirement is based only on the stipend paid. On retirement many ministers are unable to purchase a property because they never earned sufficient to get on the property ladder nor can they afford to pay a commercial rent.

In 1979 General Assembly recognised it had a responsibility for housing retired ministers and ministers widows/widowers as a matter of integrity, which led to the launching of the Retired Ministers' Housing Society. Thanks largely to the generosity of many individuals who left houses and money in their wills or who made donations, the Society has thus far been able to provide housing for all who qualified for assistance and currently helps **370** ministers and/or spouses with housing. The legacies and gifts made by individuals, local churches and Synods were a recognition that the responsibility for retirement housing lies with the whole Church.

In more recent years, as house prices have risen, the number of ministers requiring assistance has increased and the Society has had to borrow from the Church to supplement its income from donations for the purchase of properties. **By 2006 the Church had invested nearly £10million in this way.** The current situation is that the Church is finding it increasingly difficult to lend money for the purchase of houses but estimates of future housing requirements indicate that the level of investment in houses will not diminish.

We need **INDIVIDUAL PEOPLE** once again to give consideration to making provision for the needs of Retired Ministers Housing in their wills. We need **LOCAL CHURCHES** to continue to remember Retired Ministers' Housing in their charitable giving as well as considering sharing unexpected income with us.

PROVISION OF HOUSING BY THE SOCIETY

Using the Land Registry figures, the Society sets a ceiling price for the purchase of property within each county. Ministers, whenever possible, are expected to make a contribution towards the purchase cost and thereby have an equity share in the property. A rent is paid to meet the cost of maintenance repairs and administration. Ministers are responsible for council tax, water rates and internal decoration. The Society is responsible for structural repairs and external maintenance and decoration. Where ministers have contributed to the purchase they are required to contribute in the same proportion towards the cost of structural repairs and maintenance. It is occasionally necessary for Ministers and their spouse to be rehoused when their homes are no longer suitable (usually for reasons of health) and the Society helps whenever this is possible.



Throughout **July** there will be a special collection for the Retired Ministers' Housing Society. This can be made through the Communion service offering on Sunday July 1st or through the offering plate, in an envelope marked "Retired Ministers' Housing" and give it in on any Sunday to the end of July. **If you are a tax payer please ensure that your envelope number or name is included.**

THANK YOU !

United Reformed Church
GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2007

Saturday July 7th - Tuesday July 10th

at the University of Manchester.

The agenda for each day and up to date reports can be seen on the URC website - www.urc.org.uk - and follow the Assembly Hotline!



SANKEY EVENING

Saturday 7th July

7:00pm in the Church.

Admission FREE - but extremely generous donations for the Roof Fund please!!!!

Dwight L Moody (1837 - 1899) and Ira D Sankey (1840 -1908) were American evangelists who attracted vast audiences to their revivalist meetings in the USA and Britain.

Moody was a powerful preacher but could not sing! However he knew the value of songs and singing in his evangelistic work.

Sankey was a composer and singer whose songs and hymn singing - accompanied by himself on a small reed organ - helped draw the crowds and create a suitably inspirational atmosphere for Moody's sermons.



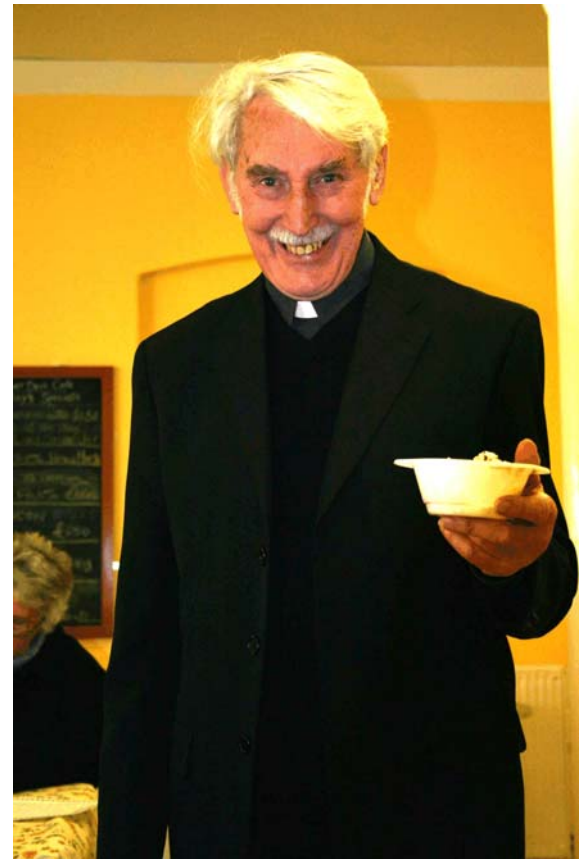
The Revd. Geoffrey William Ball

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A service of Thanksgiving was held on Friday June 8th at St John the Baptist, Horrbridge- where Geoffrey had been vicar- and led by the present vicar Revd Geoff Lloyd. The hymns and readings had been selected by Geoffrey and included "Praise my soul the king of heaven"; "Love Divine" ; "What a wonderful change (Since Jesus came into my heart); and "Blessed assurance Jesus is mine" . The readings were John 14v1-6&27 and Isaiah 40 v27-end.

Rev Rog led the prayers of intercession:

"Eternal Godwe give thanks for Geoffrey's life ; for all that he was and for all that he gave of himself to his family, to friends, to the community of faith in the Church; to the world of work and to the wider community; for everything he achieved by your grace during his life, for the gracefulness, warmth and tenderness he embodied. We give thanks because in Geoff we have seen something of Jesus. Help us through his death to see more clearly the significance of life and to grasp more firmly the hope that we are more than our years and that love is stronger than death. We praise you that for Geoffrey all suffering and sorrow are ended, death itself is past, and he lives for ever in your love and care.....We pray for those among us whose loss is greatest - especially Phyllis and Geoffrey's children and grandchildren. Give them courage as they mourn. Comfort them when their pain seems unrelenting and no light shines in their darkness. Help us as a community to offer support and comfort, to know when to speak and when to be silent. We remember those who lovingly cared for Geoff and ministered to his needs - especially the consultants at Derriford hospital, St Luke's hospice and the Macmillan nurses. As we honour Geoffrey we commit ourselves to care for each other, to bring hope to the despairing and joy to those in sorrow.....Amen"



Geoffrey was a keen fisherman and so here is a Fisherman's

"I pray that I may live to fish...
Until my dying day.
And when it comes to my last cast
I then most humbly pray:
When in the Lord's great landing net
And peacefully asleep
That in His Mercy I be judged
Big enough to keep."

Prayer.....



" Phyllis & the family would like to thank all those who have supported Geoffrey and ourselves during the time of his illness. Your concern and prayers were very much valued. Thank you too to all those who were able to share in his Thanksgiving service with us. We have received so many messages of comfort and encouragement that it

would take a long time to answer them all - so please take this as an acknowledgement of our thanks for all your kindness." Phyllis.



VOLUNTEERS are required to help with the following.....
CHURCH CLEANING - for a rota beginning August 1st. Offers to Garth Sanders please.
The **LOWER DECK CAFÉ** on a Friday is in urgent need of extra staff .There is a range of jobs available to suit all talents! Details from Rev Rog.
PLAYBOX (every Thursday morning during term time) We say goodbye and **THANKYOU** to Lisa Dashper for all her hard work setting up and running the group - all this with a young child and new baby is a fantastic achievement!! So from September we need a new leader!! Playbox also requires people to help with the session, clear up , refreshments etc..etc.. Further information and offers to Rev Rog

If you have any keys to the premises, please sign the list of key holders in the vestry or let Revd Phyllis know what you have got so she can update the list.

If you borrow a key from the upstairs cupboard PLEASE PUT IT BACK!!!

Recently people have wanted a key to open/lock the kitchen or meeting room and no keys are there! Please check your handbags and pockets carefully!!!

If you have a key you no longer require please give it to Revd Phyllis or Rev Rog. Keys are expensive to get cut - especially if it is not necessary!



With the premises in use every day of the week, the stock of loo rolls is running out !! If you can buy and bring some - it would save the Church's money going down the toilet!!!! Thank you! 0

There will be a "farewell" dinner for representatives, past & present, who have served on the **Cornwall & Plymouth District Council of the URC** at Tavistock URC on Wednesday July 25th at 7:00pm. Please book through Revd Pat Whittaker 01326 311794



SEPTEMBER SONGS & HYMNS OF PRAISE

On Sunday 16th September, there will be a favourite hymn sing at 10:00am led once again by Garth & Liz Sanders.

If you have a favourite worship song or hymn that you would like included in the service, please write it down on a piece of paper and give it to Garth or Liz by the end of JULY !



AUGUST 2007

SUNDAY 5th 10:00am Worship & Holy Communion - Rev Rog
4:00pm Salvation Army Open Air Meeting - Bedford Square.
6:00pm Salvation Army Meeting - Col Joan

SUNDAY 12th 10:00am Worship - Rev Rog
6:00pm Salvation Army Meeting - Col Joan

SUNDAY 19th 10:00am Worship led by Mr Peter Sweeting.
4:00pm Salvation Army Open Air Meeting - Bedford Square.
6:00pm Salvation Army Meeting - Col Joan

SUNDAY 26th 10:00am Worship - Rev Rog
6:00pm Salvation Army Meeting - Col Joan.



GRAND AUCTION TUESDAY AUGUST 7TH @ 7:30pm in the HALL

Auctioneer : Russell Woolacombe
(Ward & Chowen)

Items accepted 10am - 12noon in the Hall
NO CLOTHES, LIVESTOCK OR ELECTRICAL GOODS.
Viewing from 2:30pm - 6:00pm

People are required to help receive goods in the morning, to display and steward the viewing in the afternoon and generally assist in the evening .Please phone Mike Silcox (01822 616892).

Mike & Sue Silcox invite you to
LUNCH @ 14 Heather Close Tavistock
on SATURDAY AUGUST 11TH
12:30 FOR 1:00PM

Cost £5

Please telephone 616892 if you would like to come!



BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!!!!!!!
the fabulous ladies of the
BRUNEL HARMONY CHORUS

SATURDAY AUGUST 11TH
at 7:00pm in the Church.

Tickets : £5

Refreshments.

The **COMPUTER OPEN DAY** was a great success and all 36 places are now booked !

Janet Mashford wishes to thank everyone who has helped either prayerfully or practically (or both!) and especially to Rev Rog for his massive contribution of time and effort he has put into this project .Also to Anne Luxton & Anne Snook for their assistance at the Open Day and ongoing....to Ann FitzGerald for her

contributions and support; and Mike Mashford for going in each morning to help set up.

Details of future courses will be handed out/ announced soon. So if you want to sign up for a class or offer help with refreshments etc please speak to Janet.

A Wednesday morning class is pictured below.....





Tavistock Corps

WORSHIP IN THE SQUARE!

There will be a series of
OPEN AIR MEETINGS
in Bedford Square, Tavistock
on **SUNDAYS JULY 15th,**
AUGUST 5th & AUGUST 19th
starting at 4:00pm.
ALL WELCOME!!!

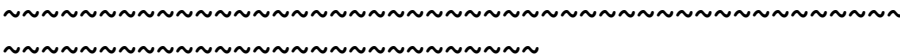


The midweek BIBLE
STUDY continues every Wednesday afternoon throughout July at Bookworm
Alley 36 Brook Street Tavistock, starting at 2:30pm.

The next OUTINGS will be held on
THURSDAYS JULY 12th & 19th.
Details of where to and how much will be announced!



GET ON BOARD!



CONTACT is now available to read online via the church website. Go to www.tavistockurc.org click on Magazine and follow the instructions !!!
(If you are in touch with former church members and friends who live away - tell them too!!!)
No computer of your own? Come into the **INTERNET CAFÉ** every Friday from 10am - 2pm and take a look!!!
The **SEPTEMBER** edition of CONTACT will be out on Sunday August 26th. Any items for inclusion as soon as you like but by Sunday August 19th at the latest. Give to Rev Rog or email suzannecornish@breathe.com