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SYNOD MEETING

Our Synod Meeting will take place as a hybrid meeting at Taunton URC & via Zoom on **Saturday October 15th** from 10.15am (please join from 10.00am) until 3pm. We will have time to worship together and do some necessary business. It seems a long time since we have had a chance to connect up in this way.



The zoom link for joining the meeting is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88191892317?pwd=bWpuQnNJUWZJM21DL2Rab3daU1hVZz09>

Meeting ID: 881 9189 2317 Passcode: 831176

Further details will be sent out in a separate email.

The agenda and associated papers will be available on the website by Friday.

URC DIARIES & PRAYER HANDBOOKS



URC Diaries and Prayer Handbooks for 2023 will be available for purchase at Synod Meeting at Taunton URC on 15th October. Cash or cheque payments can be made on the day. This year Prayer Handbooks are £5.99 each. Diaries (pocket size) are in light blue or orange colour and cost £7.99 each. A5 size diaries are £9.99 each. If you would like to place an order

beforehand to pick up with an invoice at Synod

Meeting, please contact me at the Synod Office and I can get this ready for you; Dinah Firmin (secretary@urcsouthwest.org.uk) or telephone 01823 275470 by 12th October please.



CHURCH NAMES When getting in touch with the Synod Office it would really help if you include in any correspondence the name of the church concerned. Thank you.



Talking about... **HYBRID CHURCH**



Tuesday 11th October
@ 7:30pm

WORSHIP TECH OUTREACH
YOUTH WORK

Come along to YOUR space to
share and learn



For more info, email:
jenny.mills@urc.org.uk;
dan@media4ministry.co.uk



Meeting ID: 892 8553 7599

Passcode: 655777



WORRIED ABOUT YOUR INCREASING FUEL COSTS?



South Western Synod's Green Apostle, Revd Rob Weston, can help with advice on grants for churches looking at loft insulation, secondary glazing etc. One of the best ways to cut down your fuel bills is to reduce the

heat and energy loss in your church premises. There are various fact sheets available from Eco Church (all available for free <https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/resources/>) and

Rob is available via email (tavistockurcminister@gmail.com) or by phoning 01566

784990. Across the Synod we have many different buildings that face different challenges. There is no simple solution that works in every situation, but by sharing our knowledge we can definitely

help one another. In reducing our energy consumption we will also reduce our carbon footprint, a vital part of our application for the Bronze Eco Synod award.



YOUTH ASSEMBLY

Each year the URC Youth Assembly brings together a diverse group of under-25s from across Scotland, England and Wales for a weekend of business and fun combined, exploring issues and topics relevant to Church, society and life through workshops, seminars, discussions and creative activities.

Online bookings for the 2023 Youth Assembly are now open.

<https://urc.org.uk/your-faith/children-young-people/urc-youth/urc-youth-assembly/>

Age range: Year 10/S3 to 25 years inclusive.

Dates and venue: 27 – 29 January 2023 at Whitemoor Lakes near Lichfield.

Cost: **£119** if booking received on or before 11

November 2022, **£149** if booking received on or after

12 November 2022. If money is an issue, please

contact us on 020 7916 8683 or email children.youth@urc.org.uk as financial support is available.

After the success of last year, we will be running a **Youth Leaders' Gathering** for adults alongside next year's Youth Assembly, with opportunities to network with others, share ideas and discuss issues, and a chance to see what happens at Youth Assembly too, as well as social activities and a chance to talk 1:1 with regional youth work advisors from our CYDO+ team. Contact children.youth@urc.org.uk for more details and a booking form.



URC 50TH JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS



North Wilts Pastorate
Sara Crabb
(Malmesbury URC)





200TH ANNIVERSARY OF PORTSCATHO UNITED CHURCH

2022 is, of course, the 50th anniversary of the URC, however one of our smaller churches is celebrating an even older anniversary. There has been a worshipping community in the chapel at Portscatho, a small Cornish village on the Roseland peninsula for 200 years! The story begins when William Billings, a master

seiner in the pilchard industry, arrived in Portscatho to continue his work as a fisherman and to further his vision to establish a religious group promoting non-conformity in the village, and so in 1822 Portscatho Independent Congregation was founded. Christians had already been worshipping in people's houses for several years before the purpose-built chapel was erected. William was ordained in 1825 and continued to serve the congregation until his early death in 1839. The congregation prospered and the current building was opened in 1867.



One fascinating snippet of history tells us that disaster struck the community in the great blizzard of 1891 - the church secretary died at sea when his schooner sank. For some bizarre reason he had taken all the church records with him for safe keeping! They were lost!

In 1972 the chapel became part of the URC and so 2022 is a double celebration. In 1986 Portscatho URC started to worship with Gerrans Methodist congregation, and this led to them becoming an LEP in 1990. As a United church they have continued worshipping together ever since.

The chapel sits right on the Southwest Coast Path, and it was decided to offer coffee and a place to rest (donations welcome) to any weary walkers or other holiday makers. The members, though few, are committed to this work and see it as outreach in the community. Judging from the comments in the visitors' book they are succeeding in William Billings's original vision.



On Sunday 25th September the church held a celebration service; the preacher was Revd Lorraine Mellor, the newly appointed Chair of the Cornwall and Isles

of Scilly Methodist District. It was lovely to see many old friends and meet new ones. Being Cornwall, the service ended with a cream tea!

If you are ever passing they'd love you to call in and say hello.

UKRAINIAN CONVERSATION CAFÉ AT TAVISTOCK URC.

At a church meeting earlier this year we considered which areas of mission we would like to focus on in the next year or two. Supporting refugees was one of our mission



priorities but we didn't know where we might start!

Then we heard that the Tavistock Salvation Army were planning to provide support for Ukrainian families in our community, by helping them with their English vocabulary through games and fun activities. We are

blessed to be working with Major Pamela Smith who has such a gift with languages, being fluent in

Russian helps enormously! Tavistock URC hosts the Conversation Cafe each Tuesday afternoon, Pamela leads the sessions with volunteers from many churches in Tavistock including a couple of us from the URC.

Following the success of this project, I am now in conversation with a Christian charity in Bideford to see if Lavington URC (Bideford) can provide some support to the growing Ukrainian community in north Devon. Please get in touch with Rob if you'd like further details. Revd Rob Weston, Minister, Tavistock URC



the
Dunamis
Fellowship in Britain & Ireland

Equipping believers
to advance the Kingdom of God
through Holy Spirit empowered ministry.

[Click here to see upcoming events](#)

TINHAY RETREATS, Lifton, West Devon PL16 0EL

We are planning our first '**Working Party Day**' - simply put, this is an open invitation to anyone who would like to join us in some eco activity in the old orchard. There are trees to be pruned, hedges to be trimmed, wood piles to be stacked and weeds to be removed, bulbs to be planted etc! In exchange for all your energy, we will provide plenty of hot drinks and a hearty lunch, complete with Suzy's famous home made cake! The date we have chosen is Thursday 27th October and the day will run from 10am until 3.30pm (you can come for just the morning or the afternoon, you will still qualify for lunch!) Email us

(tinhayretreats@gmail.com) or phone Rob & Suzy Weston (01566 784990) if you'd like to come along.

Further details of retreat days are available at www.tinhayretreats.com





AMMERDOWN CENTRE AUTUMN PROGRAMME

[Click here for the newsletter](#)

[Click here for the autumn programme](#)



HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT OF BECOMING A SCHOOL GOVERNOR?

[Click here to find out more](#)



DIGITAL RESOURCES

The national URC has many digital resources you may find helpful. Some have been going for a while, some are quite new on the scene.

[Click here to find out more](#)



Journey of the Magi – a festive, light-hearted, joyful event with a moving and profound message.

Share the joy and wonder of Christmas with your church and local community through this exhilarating, critically acclaimed performance. The show offers a bridge between contemporary life and Jesus's birth, comparing our own personal journey to Christmas day with the journey that the wise men took. With sparkle and songs to keep the children entertained and bags of good humour for the grown-ups, Journey of the Magi delights audiences of all ages and offers a chance to reflect and refocus.

Springs is inviting churches to host a performance of Journey of the Magi, which will be available nationally during Advent 2022.

Further information can be found on the Springs Dance Company website page <https://springsdancecompany.org.uk/productions/journey-of-the-magi/> by emailing touring@springsdancecompany.org.uk or by calling 07876 752 910

Deadline for the November Issue Wednesday 26th October. Please email your contribution to Rachel Leach, Synod Clerk at synodclerk@urcsouthwest.org.uk