

Tuesdays Together diary

A varied programme of Christian teaching, prayer,
exploring and learning together
in a friendly peaceful atmosphere.

January

Tuesday 14	7.30pm-9pm	Bible Study
Tuesday 21	7.30pm-9pm	2B1
Tuesday 28	7.30-9pm	Reflections and Prayers

February

Tuesday 04	7.30pm-9pm	Bible Study
Tuesday 11	7.30pm-9pm	Life Builder
Tuesday 18	7.30pm-9pm	2B1
Tuesday 25	7.30pm-9pm	Bible Study

March

Tuesday 03	7.30-9pm	Life Builder
Tuesday 10	7.30pm-9pm	Reflections and Prayers
Tuesday 17	7.30pm-9pm	2B1
Tuesday 24	7.30pm-9pm	Bible Study (more details later)
Easter Holiday		

April

Thursday 09	Maundy Thursday Reflections and Prayers with Holy Communion	
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Minister: Revd John Haley 01803 556971
Torbay Circuit Office 01803 846020 Office hours:
Tuesday - Friday mornings.

Goodrington Methodist Church

Together

Information on Tuesdays Together at
Goodrington Methodist Church
www.goodringtonmethodist.co.uk

Spring 2020 issue

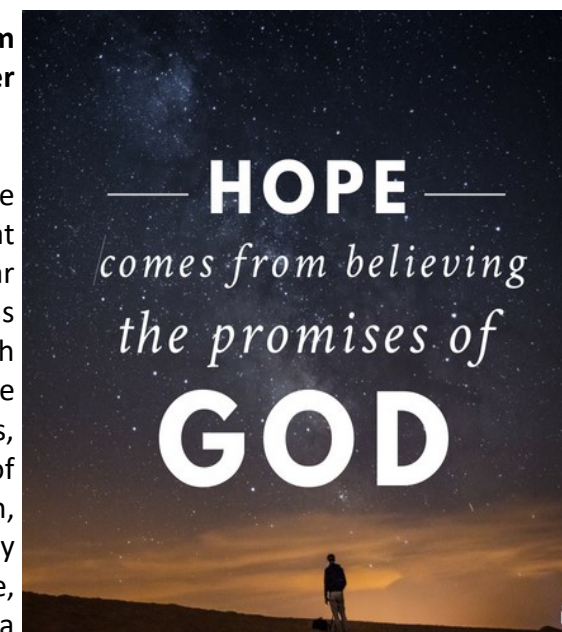
**Acts 2:42—They devoted themselves to the apostles’
teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread
and to prayer.**

Our Minister writes:

Dear Friends

**Cast all your anxiety on him
because he cares for you (1 Peter
5:7).**

While a lot of people enjoy the New Year celebrations I think that many of us approach the New Year with mixed feelings. Christmas is over and we come back to earth with a bump – we return to a more familiar routine without the lights, the decorations and the sense of anticipation. In the church, Methodists have traditionally celebrated the Covenant Service, which inevitably is something of a contrast to the carol services of the preceding weeks.



The ordinary, everyday word for ‘covenant’ is ‘promise’. We quite rightly think at this time of New Year’s resolutions of renewing our promises to God – but if we think it is only that then we miss an important dimension. When I was growing up, the notice board of my church in Devonport, painted in the traditional black with gold lettering, advertised ‘Divine Worship’ and in a small letters underneath details of the services said ‘registered for the solemnization of matrimony’.

Over the years, I have been to nearly 400 wedding services – at most of them I have been the minister conducting the service and have been the responsible authorised person. I have needed to make sure that the right words are said, that the witnesses have heard and that the registers have been duly completed and signed. But, of course, there is more to it than that. If a wedding service is simply going through the legal rules then it is hollow, lifeless, loveless, joyless and barely legal!

Although the popular chorus is a later addition, the hymn ‘O happy day’, especially in the unlikely chart hit of the 1970s by the Edwin Hawkins Singers, captures a sense of joy. Like a wedding day, but even more so, the day that ‘we fix our hope’ on Jesus ‘my Saviour and my God’ is a ‘happy day’. The hymn continues, ‘high heaven that heard that solemn vow that vow renewed shall daily hear’ – solemn and joyful are not opposites!

I began with a quotation from the First Letter of Peter, which I have yet to mention. It’s one of many promises in the Scriptures. I wanted to remind everyone that while we often think of Covenant Service as making promises to God the focus is more properly on our claiming the promises that God has made to us. We cannot claim God’s promises if we do not know them – which is an important part of studying the Bible together. To know, to claim, to experience God’s promises – that’s the joy of the Christian faith – church without it is hollow, lifeless, loveless, joyless and barely Christian!

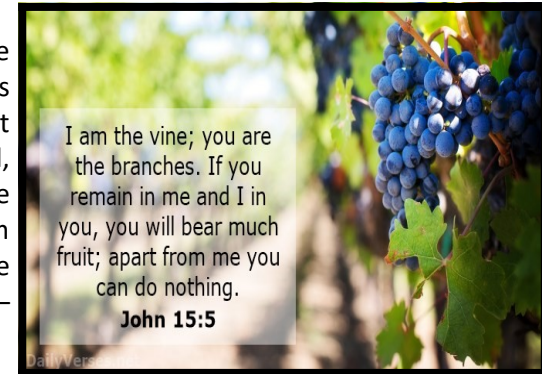
God bless

John

John Haley
Minister

As we begin another year of *Tuesdays Together* We will be continuing with the Bible study, Prayers and Reflections, 2B1 and ‘*LifeBuilder Bible Study*’. *LifeBuilder Bible Studies* are based on small books prepared by Scripture Union. Members of the group are encouraged to read a Bible passage at home, and reflect on it with the help of thought-provoking questions. There are spaces in which to write your answers (I always write mine in pencil in case someone else has a better answer than me). Preparation at home takes 45-60 minutes and in the group members are encouraged to share their insights from the passage.

This term we will have two sessions of the *LifeBuilder Bible Study*. The theme is *Images of Christ* and we will be looking at The Branch as portrayed in Isaiah 11, and, The True Vine as seen in John 15. The study book is available from me or from the circuit office for £3.99. You won’t be made to feel awkward or embarrassed – so do join with us.



In the ***Bible studies*** we will be continuing in Matthew. We have reached session 15—Matthew 23:1-24:28 ‘The Little Apocalypse: Teaching.



Prayers and Reflections is an oasis of calm in a busy and often stressful world. People are invited to move around various tables for guided prayer and personal reflection.

We will be having another Half Day of Prayer on 10 March when the church will be open during the day as well as for the usual evening session.

2B1 continues to be a time of worship and fellowship with Christians from different churches. A growing church is made up of growing Christians. The basic aim of *Tuesdays Together* is that we grow as Christians – everyone is welcome. Come as often as you can.

If you have never been to a Tuesday Together evening, we encourage you to try it. The atmosphere is gentle and informal and no one is put on the spot, or made to feel uncomfortable. We generally find, that at the end of the evening, everyone feels pleased that they have come!