

Summer 2008

spire

spire provides news about the Church with the spire in the Strand. It is delivered by members of the Church.

news from Dawlish United Reformed Church

Church plans major refurbishment

“Now the re-roofing of the church is completed we are working hard on plans for refurbishing the interior”, says Revd Roger Whitehead, the minister. “We hope to have detailed plans by the end of July. We have set ourselves to make our church a real asset to the community, a place of practical care and support.”

The scheme, which will cost at least £500,000 means removing the pews and creating new rooms both on the ground floor and in the gallery, which will be levelled. The worship space will be multi-functional, ideal for concerts and large meetings as well as Sunday worship. There will be new toilets and a kitchen meeting modern catering standards to serve Lunch Clubs for the elderly.

There will be additional rooms in the gallery space, together with a computer suite giving internet access; regular beginners computing classes will be held with a help line available at certain times.

“There is so much we want to do,” enthuses Rosemary Holmes, the Church Secretary. “The building will be so much more attractive for coffee mornings, mid-week



The church as it is now; plans include removing the pews and pulpit and lowering the platform area

meetings and fairs of various sorts, in addition to a much more flexible space for our growing Sunday morning services, but our plans won't spoil the worshipful atmosphere.” Asked when the work might start, Roger Whitehead replied, “As soon as possible, but realistically it is not likely until early next year. We've got a lot of money to raise before then!” And he added, “We welcome your comments and ideas at this formative stage.”

Scary?



Last year the church came first in the Dawlish Scarecrow Competition with 'All things bright and beautiful' (pictured). “We're going to win this year too,” says a very confident Marie Whitehead who made

last year's. But she's not saying what it will be. Look out for it in mid-August—and vote for it because it's bound to be

Turn over for:

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Our minister writes

When you feel low

How to contact us

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Popular Messy Church

“See the excitement on the faces of the young people as they arrive and you know that Messy Church is cool,” says Alethe Wetenhall, co-leader of the after-school club which meets on the third Friday of each month at 3.45. at the Methodist Church.

One encouraging feature is more mothers staying to help and join their children for the meal at the end of the session.

Messy Church is for children up to 12 years. There is a craft session; paint blowing and cooking are most popular, though using the computer comes a close third. And children like learning new songs in the 15 minute worship time, which follows the theme of the day. For more details contact Alethe Wetenhall on 866 756. The next meeting is 18 July.



Roger Whitehead, minister of the church, shares his thoughts

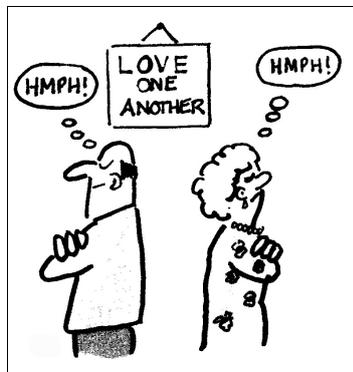


For a short time the London tube had Jokes On The Underground, and one had me laughing out loud. It went "My computer beat me at chess, but it

was no match for me in kick boxing." It summed up perfectly my frustration when the computer does not work, or expects me to do something in an inexplicable way. What a relief it would be to hit it or threaten to take it to the recycling yard so that it would understand how frustrating and annoying it can be.

Sometimes people make me feel the same. Though I would never hit anyone, I can express my feelings about them in a number of unpleasant ways to make my point. However, in

my better moments I pray for them, and the effect can be quite surprising. I usually begin by moaning to God about them and particularly why they have irritated me. But when I am praying it is very hard to remain angry for long. Firstly I begin to get a new perspective, and then I start to realize why they might be as they are, and slowly I have to recognize their good points. Anger melts and I feel better. Try it for yourself and see how it works.



WHEN YOU'RE FEELING LOW

Pauline is one of our elders, and she organizes the annual Christian Aid Week collection, doing more streets than anyone else. At a recent Service she spoke about what the church has meant to her.

When I gave my testimony last week I couldn't carry on without breaking down. I wanted to say so much more and I couldn't, so I have written it down. Without your support and prayers I truly would not have made it in the very low time I have been through. At the church I knew there was always someone I could turn to - not many places of worship offer such out-of-hours service.

The power of prayer is amazing. Once I started to let go and accept the Lord's guidance, the anger and resentment left me, and slowly I felt calm and happy to accept the future without any guarantee. Thank you, Revd Ken Hibberd, for knowing I wasn't strong enough to come forward for the laying

on of hand in your wonderful services of Prayer and Healing. I would be sitting in that pew crying, but the services helped so much that when they were over I felt drained and yet so lifted up that I was able to face another day. I've reached a better place now in my life and I know that I am going to make it. Thank you all so much



If anyone reading this is going through a time of pain, loss or just being afraid and lonely, or who knows someone in that situation, I suggest that they come to us and with the grace of God we can help you.

Prayer for Healing Services are held bimonthly on the third Sunday. The next ones are 20 July and 21 September, but prayer for healing is available on Wednesday 10.00 – 12.00 and by request to the minister.

Regular events

Sundays

10.30 **Service & Junior Church**
Communion 1st Sun
Healing Service 3rd Sun

Afterwards fair trade tea & coffee

Tuesdays (alternate weeks)

2.00 **Knit & Chat**
knitting for an orphanage in Malawi

Wednesdays

10.00 **Coffee Morning**

10.00 **Parents & Toddlers**
children from 0 - 3 and their parents

2.30 **Friendship Hour**
Talks, videos & members' contributions

Thursdays

2.30 **Keep Fit**
exercises to enjoy for keeping the body and mind alert

Saturdays

10.00 **Choir practice**
The choir leads the singing at each Sunday service

Baptisms, Weddings & Funerals
by arrangement with the Minister

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