

Autumn 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

Anonymous challenge worth £100,000 to church

"I can't believe it, but it's true!", rejoices Revd Roger Whitehead, the minister of Dawlish United Reformed Church. "If we can raise £25,000 we will be given an additional £100,000—every £1 we raise will have £4 added to it!" This surprise gift comes as the church finalises its plans for major alterations to its interior. "We need about £650,000," says Rosemary Holmes, the Church Secretary, "because we want new toilets and kitchen, and we plan to level the gallery to provide extra rooms. The pews will be removed so we have a much more usable space for many community activities."

Serving the community is at the heart of the church's plans. It is consulting community groups about forming a community trust to run the refurbished building as the way to ensure maximum community use. "We want to find out what the real needs are so that we can see if we can shape the changes to meet those needs" says Roger Whitehead. Among suggestions likely to be included are a computer suite for beginners with a help line for those in difficulty; two fully



The church foyer which will become a prayer chapel open 12 hours each day; a part of it will become the new kitchen.

equipped conference rooms with all the modern requirements; and an exhibition space for arts and crafts. The building will have easy disabled access throughout.

Outline plans have already been sent to the church planning authorities and it is hoped to go out to tender early in 2009. Church Treasurer Rychard Winslade comments, "It all depends on raising that £25,000 so it can be turned into £125,00 but with the congregation's efforts and God's help I am sure that we will get there."

You can get further details or donate by phoning 889 098 or 862 620 or by going to www.DawlishURC.org.uk, the church's website.

Ideas for turning



into



Church members are busy thinking up new ideas for raising money. June Wilson (in her 70s) and Marie Whitehead (50s) are undertaking a sponsored swim on Boxing Day. They hope friends and well wishers will make it worth their while. Marie says, "Many of my friends are willing to sponsor me as a thanksgiving gift that they have not been asked to do it themselves!"

The church is also inviting members to buy something for the refurbishment as a Christmas present for those who have everything. The recipients will receive a card showing what has been bought for them for the church refurbishment and also a slice of the church's Christmas cake. At the moment a square of a glass door (£25) and a pair of door handles (£5) are the most popular selling items.

Turn over for:

Regular activities

Our minister writes

Disappointment

Crashing computers

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Buy your charity Christmas Cards locally

Dawlish URC is hosting a sale of Christmas cards by local charities from 9.30 -11.30 on Saturday 8 November so you can choose which charities you want to support. Over 15 charities are expected to be present. If you want a table (free) ring 889 098.

Roger Whitehead shares his thoughts



The wettest summer for many years has hit local farmers and shop keepers hard and our sympathy is with them. So when we celebrate Harvest on 28th September

we will be in a reflective mood. Our problems may be bad, but we have not suffered hurricanes like the Caribbean, or huge floods like those in India, or the collapse of our economy like that of Zimbabwe.

As we become more conscious of the effects of global warming and of our dependence on other countries for basic commodities like oil, it is good to be thankful for what we have. It helps us to value things more and builds up a sense of responsibility for what we have. God has called us to be co-creators with him and we explore what this means at the service.

Disappointment in scarecrow competition



Though the church did not win the Scarecrow Competition this year, there was satisfaction that 'Messy' was a good advertisement for Messy Church which is held in the Methodist Church on 17 Oct, 14 Nov & 13 Dec. 5-12 year olds who like craft, stories and a good tea are welcome from 3.45 - 6.00; parents are encouraged to stay and join in.

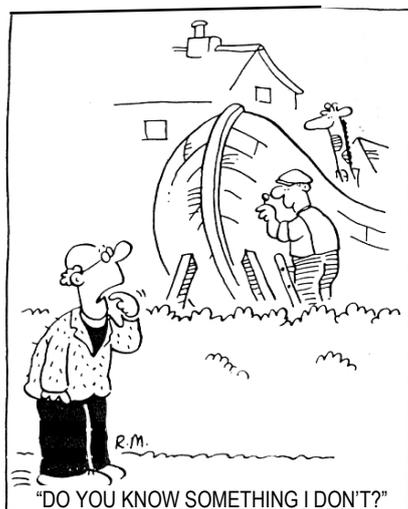
PRAYER AMONG THE CRASHING COMPUTERS

Rychard Winslade is his firm's computer trouble shooter. In his spare time he is a Morris musician, Town Crier, sailor and motorbike enthusiast. He is the church treasurer, and he speaks here about how he prepares for his daily job. The full conversation can be found on the website (members).



Every job can be done to the glory of God. We are not all called to be doctors or nurses. Some of us are called to be shop workers, teachers or train-drivers (ah! if only that was me), some are even called to work with computers.

Whatever I am doing, I try to do it God's way and to do it with prayer. I start



the day by committing it all to him, I ask to see the face of Jesus in every person who comes to me with a problem and to see problems as the purpose of my job, not an interruption of it. Not all goes smoothly. Serious error messages occur and computers crash, but when I have committed it all to him I find there are solutions - often after a quick prayer like, "Lord, I don't know the answer to this one!" Help may come as an idea in my head or a hint from a colleague. At the end of the day I go home tired and happy knowing that I have seen the hand of God at work, and perhaps I may have been the hand of God for someone.

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**
knit for orphans 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

Fridays

2.30 Bible Study Group

Saturdays

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

Baptisms, Weddings & Funerals
by arrangement with the Minister

Minister

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Visit our website:

www.DawlishURC.org.uk