

Spring 2009

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

4 for 1 offer

## “APPEAL TARGET WILL BE MET”

£25,000 by Easter

### CHURCH RAISES £25,000 BY EASTER

“I am confident that we will reach our target of £25,000 by Easter,” says the URC’s minister, Revd Roger Whitehead. “The response from our members and friends has been amazing. In 2006 we raised £40,000 to re-roof the church, and how we are on course to transform the inside to make it a real community centre in the heart of Dawlish.”

The church has been stimulated by an anonymous offer to increase every £1 given by Easter by an additional £4, so if the target is met, there will be £125,000 towards the estimated cost of £850,000. Special efforts included a Boxing Day Swim (£4,000), a Christmas sale (£1,500), and a Knit-in for Malawi children (£500). “Many members have given sacrificially,” says Treasurer Rychard Winslade. “I have been humbled by the number of cheques for £1,000 which we have received.”

“We are so delighted,” says Church Secretary Rosemary Holmes, “that we are holding a Thanksgiving Service on 26th April in celebration of God’s goodness to us.”

The church's plans, which are on its website, are ambitious. The pews will be removed and the gallery levelled and extended to provide a large socialising area at the entrance with a kitchen and toilets; the pews will be removed from the worship area which will become a multi

purpose space for everything from short mat bowls to exhibitions, as well as providing a more flexible area for church services.

There will be three meeting rooms in the gallery, one of which will be a computer suite, acting as an internet café as well as an IT training centre with lessons for pensioners.

“The aim is for the building to be open all day every day for the community to use, and to provide an indoor programme for holiday makers on wet days,” explains Roger Whitehead. “There will also be a chapel straight off the street providing a quiet space for reflection and prayer throughout the day.”



One of four street surveys asking residents and visitors for their views

### “THE LIGHT OF CHRIST”

One of the themes of the Easter Service is that the resurrection of Jesus has brought light into our dark world so at the Dawn Service on the beach we light a fire as a symbol of that light.

“It’s the only way to celebrate Easter,” says Youth Leader Marie Whitehead who leads the singing with her guitar. “It was at dawn that the women first realised that Jesus’ tomb was empty. The growing light of the morning echoes the growing understanding of the disciples that Jesus was - and is - alive.”

Those who find it hard to get up so early say it is worth it for the Easter breakfast served afterwards in the church.



### Easter Services

Palm Sunday	10.30	<b>Family Service</b>
	3.30	<b>The Cross of Christ</b> (Choral Service) followed by tea
Maundy Thurs	7.00	<b>Passover Meal</b> (at Methodists)
Good Friday	11.00	<b>Devotional Service</b> (St Agatha’s)
	12.00	<b>Celebrating the Cross</b> (The Lawn)
Easter Day	5.30	<b>Dawn Service</b> (on the beach) followed by breakfast
	10.30	<b>Family Service with Communion</b>

**Roger Whitehead, minister of the church,  
shares his thoughts**



Signs of spring are everywhere and they encourage us because they show that after the bleakness of winter, there will be new life. The Easter story tells the same message—Jesus' death on the cross was not the end of him. He rose from the dead, transformed but recognisable, promising us that with God new life is possible after death and also in the here and now.

Cynics will remember that spring leads to summer and autumn which leads back again to winter. But Jesus speaks of new life which is more than the perpetual cycle of life and death..

His resurrection is about a whole new beginning with no going back, offered to all who are willing to follow him and continue his ministry of serving others. It is a message worth pondering in the current financial crisis, which has come from selfishness and greed. Caring for others, putting them first, is good for them and ourselves.

**MESSY CHURCH'S SUCCESS**

Messy Church has continued to grow and more parents are joining in the craft session and the worship which are two of the main activities. Then parents and children sit down to a cooked tea with lots of cake to follow. Messy Church is a combined URC and Methodist venture. It is 'messy' not only because of the crafts but because it is church fellowship in an informal and participative way.



*Easter garden made at Messy Church*

Messy Church meets next on 24 April, 22 May, 19 June and 17 July. Details from Marie Whitehead 889 098.

**WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT US**

*We asked some people who come to our church what they think of it:*



"We are really blessed with a variety of good quality worship leaders, good singing and a real sense of the presence of God."

*Pauline Laybourne, elder and member for nine years.*



"The foundation of all we do has to be prayer, and it is great to see the prayer ministry of the church growing all the time."

*Revd Eric Carless (retired minister) member for fifteen years*



"I believe Dawlish URC is poised for its most exciting and rewarding time in 100 years. The founders built a church for their day—we are doing the same for our

day by refurbishing the building so that we may witness to God's love and serve the community more effectively"

*Jan Adams, elder and member for eleven years*

**Regular events**

**Sundays**

10.30 **Service & Junior Church**

Communion 1<sup>st</sup> Sun

Healing Service 3<sup>rd</sup> Sun

*(alternate months)*

*Afterwards fair trade tea & coffee*

3.30 **Choral Service** 1<sup>st</sup> Sun

**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 body and mind alert

**Fridays** (usually 3<sup>rd</sup> of month)

3.30 **Messy Church** (in Meth Ch.) children 4 -12

**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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**CELEBRATE ST GEORGE'S EVE**

Stories, singing, poetry

22<sup>nd</sup> April 7.00 URC church

In praise of St George & England

St Cecilia's Choir tickets £6 at door

Wine & cheese refreshments