

Autumn 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

## REPAIRS IMPROVE THE HAMILTON HALL



Although tucked away up Lawn Hill between the Hole in the Wall and the mobile phone shop, the Hamilton Hall is one of the most used community buildings in Dawlish. It is the home of The Third Age Project, a ballet school, a Keep Fit group and many other local groups, providing a hall for over 50 people and meeting rooms.

Over the summer the Hall has been repaired and the opportunity has been taken to upgrade the kitchen, provide disabled access and renew the toilets. The Hall is owned by Dawlish URC, and its minister, Revd Roger Whitehead explains, "The building is increasingly used by groups because it is in the centre of the town and we wanted to make it more comfortable for them."

To save money the church members will do the painting - though the Church Secretary, Rosemary Holmes (who also

takes the Hall's bookings), says, "Other volunteers would be greatly appreciated!"

One of the first new users will be a Boccia group in which disabled and able-bodied people together play the game (pronounced to rhyme with "gottcha"). It is a form of indoor bowls at which the players are seated so everyone is equal. The game was tried out during the summer and already there are a number of people keen to play. Details from Rosemary Holmes (862620).



Flip Wade plays Boccia

## CHARITY CHRISTMAS CARDS SALE



"Most people would like to buy charity Christmas cards, but it is hard to know where to get them, or otherwise you have to buy a large quantity." says Marie Whitehead. "So we have invited all the local charities to have a table in the church and sell their cards. Last year we had 13 charities and sold £980 worth of cards."

The sale is on Saturday 7 November from 9.30 to 11.30, and refreshments are available.

Charities wanting a table should ring 889 098.



*spire* is published by Dawlish United Reformed Church, 32 The Strand, Dawlish EX7 9PT and delivered by church members.

## KNITTING FOR ORPHANS IN MALAWI

Every second Monday a group of dedicated knitters meets in Dawlish URC to knit for the Friends of Mulanji Orphans (FOMO) - this is in Malawi. Over the years they have produced a large number of blankets and garments, and they specialise in comfort dolls which can be a treasured possession of a child who has virtually nothing.

The sad reality is that there are too many children in need of help and too few local families that can afford to help. From small beginnings FOMO now looks after over 5,000 children through a network of 13 centres covering over 85 villages in Mulanje district of Malawi.

The leader of the group, Roma Hibberd, explains, "This is something we can do to help the innocent victims of AIDS and other tragedies. We hear from visitors to Mulanji how much they appreciate what we send. And we enjoy a good chat and tea."

The group would welcome more knitters. The date of the next meeting is usually on the noticeboard outside the church—or ring Roma on 867 197. Roma adds, "We always welcome those who cannot come to the meetings but are willing to knit at home; we supply them with wool."



Knitting for orphans



comfort doll

**Roger Whitehead  
shares his thoughts**



In my school days there was a saying, "Those who ask don't get." I never understood the logic or fairness of this, and later life has proved the

saying is not true!

Our church takes the words of Jesus seriously when he says, "You do not have because you do not ask God." We encourage people to ask God for what they want, and when we know what people want, we add our prayers to theirs. So in the church we have a board for prayer requests and whenever the church is open you can come in and write your request. Each Sunday these are included in our church prayers.

In alternate months we have a service of prayer for healing when people can come forward for personal prayer and the laying on of hands as the congregation silently prays for them. Each prayer is confidential.



Naturally people ask, "Does it work?" We believe it does. We have seen people recovering from sickness when recovery was not expected; we have seen people face great problems with a deep peace they had not known before; we frequently have people say, "You'll never know how much the service meant to me,"

Come and ask at any time; we have the Prayer for Healing services on 20<sup>th</sup> September and 11<sup>th</sup> November.

**The autumn programme  
gets under way**

"We're looking forward to a busy autumn," says June Makey the leader of the **Parent and Toddler group**



which meets in the Hamilton Hall. "We provide an opportunity for children to play with larger toys than they have at home, and they learn to relate to others of the same age. Mothers find it a good time to share experiences with one another and have some time to themselves. The refurbished Hall will be an even better venue and we can give more to our mothers and toddlers." More details from June 888 908.

June Wilson also sees the repairs providing a better space for her weekly **Keep Fit group**. "I have a dedicated group of mostly older people who enjoy exercising in ways which are right for them. The hall is now a much more pleasant place to meet."

Following the success of our last **50s & 60s Evening** there is another at 7.30 on 10 Oct in the Hamilton Hall. Ian Hattersley will introduce music from the era and there will plenty of dancing. Tickets at £5 include refreshments.



**HARVEST SERVICE**

for all the family  
**Sun 4 October**  
at 10.30  
followed by Harvest Lunch  
*all welcome*



**Regular events**

**Sundays**

- 10.30 **Service & Junior Church**  
Communion 1<sup>st</sup> Sun  
Healing Service 3<sup>rd</sup> Sun  
*(bimonthly on 19 July, 20 Sept)*  
Afterwards Fairtrade tea & coffee
- 3.30 **Choral Service** 1<sup>st</sup> Sun

**Mondays** (alternate weeks)

- 2.00 **Knit & Chat**  
knitting for orphans in Malawi

**Wednesdays**

- 10.00 **Coffee Morning**  
*cake stall on 3<sup>rd</sup> Weds*
- 10.00 **Parents & Toddlers**  
children from 0-3 & parents
- 2.30 **Friendship Hour**  
Talks, videos and members' contributions

**Thursdays**

- 2.30 **Keep Fit**  
exercises to enjoy to keep body and mind alert

**Fridays**

- 1.00 **Bible Study**  
lunch together from 12.30
- 3.30 **Messy Church** (in Meth Ch)  
children 3-12 *(16 Oct & 13 Nov)*
- 6.00 **Choir practice**  
The choir leads the singing at each Sunday service

**Baptisms, Weddings & Funerals**

by arrangement with the Minister

**Minister**

Revd Roger Whitehead  
28 High Street  
Dawlish EX7 9HP  
01626 889098  
minister@DawlishURC.org.uk

**Church Secretary & Bookings**

Mrs Rosemary Holmes  
3 Sampson's Cottages  
Brook Street Dawlish EX7 9AQ  
01626 862 620

Visit our website:  
**www.DawlishURC.org.uk**