

Spring 2010

*spire*

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



## FRUSTRATION AND HOPE

### WHILE WE WAIT

"Delays in planning permission continue to hold back the work of the church," complains Rosemary Holmes, the Church Secretary, "It is now a year since the church's ambitious plans were submitted for planning permission."

The problem is that the church is a Grade 2 listed building so nothing can be done without consulting English Heritage and other heritage bodies. "Conservation and the work of the church are in conflict," explains the minister, Revd Roger Whitehead. "We want to create a community centre to serve Dawlish people; the heritage groups want to preserve the church as it is."

Detailed amended drawings are now before the authorities and a decision is expected in July.



*Artist's impression of the expanded foyer, showing the staircase to the gallery and the kitchen serving into the foyer and the auditorium, which is behind the glass doors.*

### DOING WHAT WE CAN

From January the Strand Community Trust has been managing the church building, and in due course it will become the lease holder. This will enable a community centre to be established within the building. "It's quite a change for the congregation," says Geoff Willis, the Centre Treasurer. It has become one user of the building among the others, paying to use the premises."

One of the worship leaders, Jean Potter, is enthusiastic. "We believe the church is here to serve the community and by becoming part of the Community Centre with other caring organisations we are showing we are serious about partnering local community groups. So much good work is done in Dawlish by volunteers, and we want to work with them."

Plans which will be implemented when the refurbishment work is completed include luncheon clubs for the elderly; a daily drop-in coffee morning; developing support groups for carers; and using the auditorium for exhibitions, arts, music festivals and family film shows. "It's going to a great place for family gatherings," says Geoff Willis, "and we will offer a full silver service for weddings and celebration meals."

Twenty organisations and the Town Council have written to express their support for the proposals, which have been identified by the Regeneration Consultants as making a significant contribution to the future of Dawlish.

### Easter Services

Maundy Thurs	7.00	<b>Tenebrae Meditation</b> (Strand Hall)
Good Friday	11.00	<b>Devotional Service</b>
	12.00	<b>Celebrating the Cross</b> (The Lawn)
Easter Day	6.15	<b>Dawn Service</b> (on the beach) <i>followed by breakfast at Dawlish Christian Fellowship</i>
	10.30	<b>Family Service with Communion</b>

### THE CHALLENGE

Join the Christians of Dawlish for the Easter Dawn Service on the beach below the Viaduct at 6.15. It's an unbeatable way to celebrate Easter.

Afterwards there is a traditional British Breakfast with Dawlish Christian Fellowship.



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



The General Election has become a choice between the two or three leaders (and their wives), as they all say, "Trust me." They invite us to examine their characters and judge whether their understanding of our national situation makes sense to us. This seems reasonable, because the character and beliefs of the next Prime Minister will have a great effect on all our lives.

The implications of Easter is that Jesus Christ says, "Trust Me," and he invites

us to examine his character and judge whether his understanding of what is important makes sense to us. He said that for real meaning and contentment in life, we had to put others first especially the poor, the sick, the widows strangers, and those who had no hope even if it was personally costly. He died poor in because what he preached was an unpopular challenge.

Christians believe that he rose from the dead as God's sign that what he said is true—following Jesus' way of self-denial will satisfy us more than the endless pursuit of wealth at the expense of others. Can we trust him?



**BOCCIA**

Boccia (which rhymes with "Gotcha") is indoor bowls played sitting down, so wheel chair users are at no disadvantage. It is held on the last Monday of each month in the Strand Hall from 2.00—4.00. Come and bring your friends, particularly those in wheelchairs, for an afternoon of real fun. We will try to help transport wheel chair users .

*Our picture shows wheelchair bound Flip Ware taking her turn, watched by her all-age team*

**Introducing - THE STRAND HALL**

The Strand Hall (formerly Hamilton Hall) has been up-graded with new toilets, disabled access, a new fully equipped kitchen and a



new meeting room for 20 people. Each space has been painted. It is proving popular with all who use it. It is available for hire (862 620). Walk up Lawn Hill and judge the improvements for yourself!

**MESSY CHURCH IS GOOEY FUN**

For 4—11 years; meets each month on 3rd Friday; 3.45 to 6.00 for games, crafts, Bible stories and ends



*"Ooh how lovely"*

with a family meal. It is held in Methodist Hall, Brunswick Terrace. Details from Marie Whitehead 889 098.

**Regular events**

**Sundays**

10.30 **Service & Junior Church**  
Communion 1<sup>st</sup> Sun  
Healing Service 3<sup>rd</sup> Sun  
*(bimonthly on 16 May & 18 July)*  
*Afterwards Fairtrade tea & coffee*

**Tuesdays** (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** Strand Hall  
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  
*(23 Apr, 21 May & 18 June)*  
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  
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**Church Secretary & Bookings**

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Visit our website:

**www.DawlishURC.org.uk**