



***information from
Strand Church
the church with the spire***

October 2011

FROM THE MINISTER

The impetus for the abolition of the slave trade in the late eighteenth century came from a group of evangelical Christians called the Clapham Sect, so called because many of them lived in that (then fashionable) area of London. Members of the group were subsequently inspired to social action which ranged from establishing the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and the Factory Acts limiting abuse of workers to the Shaftsbury Society for improving the homes and education of the poorest.

One feature of their campaigning was to form alliances with anyone who would support a particular cause, whatever their faith or background. Wilberforce called these supporters "co-belligerents". It is interesting to note that when talking about caring for others, Jesus said "Those who are not against us are for us." (Mark 9:40).

One of the exciting developments recently has been new 'co-belligerents' joining in the developing work of the Strand Centre. Volunteering in Health, which brings together the health and caring agencies in Teignmouth and Dawlish, has offered the Centre one of its workers a day a week. Oakwood Court College, which cares for and educates physically and/or mentally handicapped young people, is starting a Coffee Morning and a Lunch Club



which will give those in its care the chance to develop their social skills. Dawlish is a town in which much caring is done by volunteers individually at home, or collectively through the many voluntary societies which seek to build a better community. Our church has the privilege of being a major part of this; our task is now is to live out the love of Jesus (which is our motivation), and encourage others to see the new life which he offers.

ROGER WHITEHEAD

NOTES FROM THE ELDERS MEETING



Snippets

There have still been no design ideas for the proposed **new sanctuary furnishings**. Action is being taken to put **memorial plaques** on the chairs. Jan Adams has been consulting with the elders on a **revised list of members**: this should be available shortly for anyone who wants one. We need to update the **external noticeboard**. It is likely that the Centre will want to put up its board as well. We have been asked to contribute our thoughts to a **review of the role of the Moderators** which the Assembly was undertaking. If anyone would like to feed into a discussion on this at the next Elders Meeting, please let Rosemary or Roger know. **The Lease** to Strand Community Trust is with the Charity Commission for noting and should be signed early in October.

Rejection of planning application

Some time ago Teignbridge District Council refused planning permission to remove the steps and lower the doors and windows, and to replace the obscure glass with clear glass. The Elders Meeting has decided to appeal. We have started a petition pressing for permission to facilitate disabled access. In addition it would be helpful if members and friends write the Council – a sample letter is available. At the same time the Strand Community Trust is seeking planning permission only to remove the steps.

Treasurer's Report

The treasurer reported that there was £1,600 in the bank, and he had received an anonymous gift of £1,000 to start a reserve fund which could help him to meet commitments in the peaks and troughs of income and expenditure. The Finance Committee will meet to produce a cash flow budget for the whole year as soon as Pam Mann returns from Australia.

Review Of Past Events

Carnival As before the offer of free drinks for those waiting for the Procession went well. There was a noticeable increase in the numbers wanting to use the toilets, emphasising the need for the new toilets to be easily accessible from the street.

Fleur-de-lis on Strand Hall roof

There is a fleur-de-lis on the apex of the roof of the Strand Hall which has split open and is very dangerous. It has to be repaired at a cost of £1,300.

The mission of the church as the Strand Centre develops

We are looking at the mission of the church as the Strand Centre develops its work. Jean Potter drew attention to the URC's ZI ("Zero Intolerance") project funded by the Council for World Mission and it was agreed to make that the main subject at the next meeting.



THE CHRISTIAN ENQUIRY AGENCY

The Christian Enquiry Agency belongs to all the Christian Churches in England, it provides a single portal for enquiries; it runs a web site; it answers thousands of enquiries each year. Here are four people who contacted CEA in 2011.

Jane's life was chaotic in January. However, she has found in Christ a new source of hope for herself and her children. She is waiting to go into detoxification because she wants to be changed. As soon as she made the decision, her obsession to drink alcohol became ever present for the first time. CEA has been able to support her and pray for her at this very testing time.

Imran is from a Pakistani family with a nominal commitment to Islam. He has become a Christian through the CEA website and has been put in touch with a local church. He has been so overjoyed by his new faith and the fellowship of the local church that he has changed his name to Ian. He wrote to his father in Pakistan to explain what had happened to him, and had a very negative response. He is being supported by a CEA contact living locally.

John is 17. He turned against his parents' very traditional Christianity which is wrapped around by their culture and behaviour, leading them to ban his passion for rock music. His CEA contact has helped him to see Christianity can be different, which has greatly surprised him. He is delighted to find that the Christian faith can be lived out in different ways from those of his parents. He has said "Something inside me is changing" – the Holy Spirit is enabling him to find his own way to an understanding of faith which is relevant to him.

Joyce contacted the Agency six months ago. She was unmarried and pregnant; scans showed that the foetus had a substantial heart problem. She wanted to know the Christian view on termination. What happens to a baby if it dies before being born? The CEA contact had to explain fairly and openly that there were different views within Christianity. After several exchanges nothing was heard. Joyce went full term and when the baby was born she sent a photo of the baby and her thanks for CEA's help. In six months she will need major heart surgery, and CEA prayer partners are praying for Joyce and her baby. The CEA website is: www.Christianity.org.uk.



NEWS FROM THE STRAND CENTRE

Grant Applications

Large capital grants sums are available from the **Social Investment Business**, and a considerable amount of time has been spent in making an application to this fund. The result will be known by 2nd December. A small project team of John Seaborne, Roger Whitehead and Geoff Willis will work with the professional team to complete the application and the preliminary works.

Insurance

The Synod Trust, the Centre and the Elders Meeting have each agreed to appoint the same insurance broker with the request that each body is insured by the same company. This will prevent inter-company disputes in the events of claims. At the same time there has been agreement about what property is owned by the Church and what by the Centre. The Third Age Group owns some tables and chairs in its old rooms in the Centre. The Centre is offering to buy these so that all property and equipment in the common areas which are let out belong to the Centre and can be used by any group.

Storage of equipment

It was agreed that to safeguard equipment belonging to regular users, the 'fire escape' room in the top floor of the hall should be turned into a storage area with a set of lockable cupboards purchased by the Centre and offered to users to store their valuable equipment in. When this is done the lounge will need to be redecorated and volunteers will be needed.

Kitchen on the upper floor Thanks to two grants we have installed a fridge and a cooker in the top kitchen of the hall which completes its upgrading.

Future Events

The Centre has agreed to a **New Year's Eve Ceilidh** run by Teignmouth Folk Group; and welcomed the decision that the 2012 **Garden Society's Annual Show** will again be held in the auditorium. Other new events planned are a **St Patrick's Evening** (17th March) and a **Violet Ball**—reviving a Dawlish tradition – more details later. Another **Flower Festival** will be held during Carnival Week 2012 with a Jubilee theme. With all these events, the Centre needs help with the administration. Offers to Roger Whitehead or any of the trustees .

**For more up-to-date information about the congregation visit
www.StrandChurch.org.uk—it's got photographs too!**

STRAND CENTRE WEEKLY EVENTS IN OCTOBER



Mon	10.00 - 12.00	Coffee Morning run by Oakwood Court College §
	10.30 - 12.30	Third Age social gathering ✕
	12.30 - 2.00	Luncheon Club †
Tue	12.30 - 2.00	Luncheon Club (run by Oakwood Court College) †
	2.30 - 9.30	Ballet School (from 13 th) †
Wed	10.00 - 12.00	Cancer Research Coffee Morning with stalls §
	2.30 - 4.30	Third Age social gathering ✕
Thurs	10.00 - 12.00	Coffee Morning with children's play area §
	10.00 - 12.00	Third Age Meeting <i>Speaker & refreshments</i> †
	2.30 - 3.30	Keep Fit <i>Physical activity for older people</i> †
	5.00 - 7.30	Ballet School †
Fri	10.30 - 12.30	Third Age social gathering ✕ (not 28 th)
	4.00 - 9.00	Ballet School †
Sat	9.00 - 2.00	Ballet School †

Monthly Programme

<i>Week</i>	<i>actual date</i>	
2 nd Tues	10.00	11 th Home Aid Charity Coffee § (see page 6)
1 st Fri	7.00	7 th Friday Evening Events § (see page 6)
1 st Sat	10.00	1 st Table Top Sale § for a table phone 867355

SPECIAL EVENTS IN OCTOBER

Sat	1	10.00 - 1.00	Table Top Sale for a table phone 867 355 §
Tue	4	10.30 - 12.30	Third Age Social group ✕
Thurs	6	10.00 - 11.30	SCT trustees #
Fri	7	7.00 - 9.00	Edwardian Evening (Silver Chain Singers) § (see p 6)
Tue	11	10.00 - 12.00	Home Aid Coffee Morning: for Mission Aviation § (p 6)
Sat	15	10.00 - 4.30	Exhibition of Green Issues §
Sat	29	10.00 - 12.00	Little Pick Up organised by the Volunteer Bureau (p 6)

for key to symbols see back page

Booking Secretary	Mrs Rosemary Holmes	3 Sampson Cottages Brook Street	862 620
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NOTICEBOARD



An Edwardian Sing Along Fri 7th 7.00 for 7.30

Following the success of the Silver Chain Singers earlier in the year, another evening of good food and great entertainment, arranged by Phyllis Bishop, seated café style in the auditorium. Tickets should be bought in advance to aid catering—only £6, includes the refreshments.

Harvest Festival Sun 9th October

Help is needed with decorating the church from 9.00 on Saturday 8th. There will be a Harvest Lunch the next day. Please sign the form to indicate which main course you want—this helps the catering.

Home Aid's Coffee Morning on Tues 11th is for Mission Aviation Fellowship Throughout Africa, Asia, Eurasia, and Latin America, people are enjoying healthier, more spiritually complete lives due the work of MAF which flies everything from missionaries to water wherever it is needed.

Men's Breakfast Sat 15th - back at St Mary's Hall, Dawlish Warren at 8.30 am Subject yet to be decided.

Make a difference—Little Pick Up Sat 29th 10.00—noon

The Volunteer Bureau and the staff of the local NatWest bank are promoting a Little Pick Up as part of Make a Difference Day. The Council will provide pickers and bags and will also collect the rubbish afterwards. It will followed by a get together for coffee in the foyer. Further details nearer the time.

Redeeming our Communities Thurs 20th at 7.30 in Plymouth is a launch event of partnerships for social transformation. It is hosted by the Police, Probation Service and Fire Brigade, and arranged by the Christian Police Association, and it will look at how communities can help each other. It would be good is someone was able to attend and report back any lessons for the Centre.

OFFERINGS AND OTHER SPECIAL INCOME

	Sunday Offerings*		Special Collections and Events	
	2011	2010		
August	£1,282	£1,731	Coffee Mornings in Aug (2010 = £128)	£105
Year (so far)	£9,833	£11,894	Refurbishment Fund	£38
East Africa Famine		£56	Sales of chairs (£0) mugs (£25)	£25
			Commitment for Life	£256

* includes standing orders etc but not Gift Aid rebates



FOR YOUR PRAYERS



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COMMITMENT FOR LIFE PRAYER FOR OCTOBER

May God bless you with discomfort at easy answers,
half truths, and superficial relationships,
so that you may live deep within your heart.

May God bless you with anger at injustice,
oppression, and exploitation of people,
so that you may work for justice, freedom and peace.

May God bless you with tears to shed for those
who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation and war,
so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them
and to turn their pain into joy.

May God bless you with enough foolishness
to believe that you can make a difference in this world,
so that you can do what others claim cannot be done.

And the blessing of God who creates, redeems, and sanctifies
be upon you and all you love and pray for
this day and forever more. Amen.

Harvest Festival is on 9th October

This is our tea when we eat the bread .
that was made by the baker
that contains the flour
that was ground by the miller
that comes from the wheat
that was planted by the farmer
that grows in the field
that is part of the world that God made.
This is the day when we say 'THANK YOU'
to the baker, the miller, the farmer and to God
for giving us bread by which we live
in the wonderful world which God made.

10.30 Thanksgiving Service

12.30 Harvest Lunch

*Please sign up for the lunch so we
can cater for the right number*



THE STRAND CHURCH



Bookings Mrs Rosemary Holmes

3 Sampson Cottages 862 620
Brook Street

website: www.strandchurch.org.uk

phone: 01626 889038

STRAND CHURCH SERVICES IN OCTOBER



Morning Services at 10.30 unless otherwise stated §

2	Baptism	Revd Roger Whitehead
9	Harvest & Communion	Revd Roger Whitehead
16	Family Service	Revd Roger Whitehead
23	One World Wk Service	Mrs Rosemary Quinn (Teignmouth)
30	Family Service	Mrs Sally Sergeant

Evening Service

30	6.30	Iona Service united with the Methodists in our church <i>This will be a spirituality experience, not the usual Iona Service</i>
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REGULAR WEEKLY CONGREGATIONAL EVENTS

Tuesdays	2.00 - 4.00	Knit & Chat # (starts 4 th & 18 th Oct)
Thursdays	10.00 - 12.00	Coffee Morning (with a play area for children)§
	2.30 - 3.30	Friendship Hour #
Fridays	12.30 - 2.00	Bible Study Group #
	5.45 - 6.45	Choir Practice #

CONGREGATION'S ACTIVITIES IN OCTOBER

Mon	3	6.00	Elders Meeting #
Sat	8	9.00	Decorating the church for Harvest §
Sat	15	8.30	Men's Breakfast St Mary's Hall, D Warren (see page 5)
Tues	18	10.30	URC-Methodist Liaison Group †
Fri	21	3.45	Messy Church , Methodist Church Hall
Fri	28	6.00	One World Week (involving Guides, Brownies etc) §
Mon	31	6.00	Elders Meeting #

§ in the auditorium

† in the Strand Hall

‡ in the upper lounge of Strand Hall

in the foyer

THE STRAND CHURCH

Minister	Revd Roger Whitehead	28 High Street	889 098
Treasurer	Mr Rychard Winslade	3 Prospect House East Cliff Road	866 948
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