



information from
Strand Church
the church with the spire
November 2011

FROM THE MINISTER

In Proverbs 29: 18 we read that, “Where there is no vision the people perish”. I believe this is true for churches as well as nations. I have seen churches of 40 or 50 members decline to closure because they had no idea of what God was calling them to be and do, while much smaller churches, which at first glance seemed likely to close, grew because they had a vision and believed God would enable them to do it and then they acted in faith.

It is important, therefore, for congregations like individuals to discern their purpose under God—what God is calling them to do—and keep it alive so that it shapes their thinking and inspires their devotion. This does not mean that a vision cannot evolve as circumstances change, but it is good at times to go back to the vision and let it keep inspiring us when difficulties and doubts set in.

We are fortunate as a congregation to have discerned our vision and written it down. When it was done it was called a Mission Statement. It reads

Following the example of Christ,
our Church Fellowship exists to love God
and our neighbour with sincerity;
through worship, prayer, fellowship, guidance and healing
to help deepen our relationship with God
and to equip all to serve the community
with care, compassion and commitment
to the glory of God.



These words should constantly challenge us, leading us to turn them into practical action. We are privileged that God has given us the vision to use our building to serve the community and then to see how the community has welcomed and embraced our vision.

ROGER WHITEHEAD

NOTES FROM THE ELDERS MEETING



Next steps in the refurbishment

The main discussion at the October Elders Meeting was about the next steps in the building development. It was reported that the Strand Centre has applied for a grant of £150,000 which would enable most of the basic structural work to be undertaken and this led to a long review of the overall plan for the alterations of the building, with hesitations expressed about some aspects, particularly lowering the floor and extending the gallery/foyer. Some of the difficulties about getting grants were then explained, particularly getting a sufficiently large grant or grants to enable the key structural work to be done. If this could be achieved, it would be very much easier to get smaller grants to complete the work. At the conclusion of the discussion there were changes to the plans which had been approved previously.

Snippets

The membership & attendance list has been completely revised and is available for anyone who wants a copy. **Letters of appreciation** have been received from Janet Garland on the welcome she has had from the church; The South West Musicians Guild for hosting its meeting in September; and Oonagh Wood (sister of Joan Perry) for remembering the anniversary of her sister's death. We were glad to learn that **Eileen Lovell** had a good journey to Washington DC to stay with her granddaughter and she is very happy to be with the family.

There was some concern expressed about the **frequency of Baptisms** for families with no connection with the church, which often leads to embarrassment in the congregation when it makes promises which it will not be possible for it to keep. Various suggestions were made including holding a Baptism in a Café Worship format, though it was thought likely that such couples would want a 'traditional' service. It was agreed that in some cases families could be offered an afternoon service.

Zero Intolerance

The URC is one of the partners in the Council for World Mission which from time to time funds mission projects in members' countries. It is paying for a widespread advertising campaign emphasising that churches are (or should be) open and unjudgmental in welcoming people. Local URC congregations are invited to affirm that they are Zero Intolerant. People who want to know more will be directed to the nearest URC which has registered for the campaign. The elders are discussing how to respond.

THINKING ABOUT WORSHIP



Following the café worship

After Heather Whyte led café worship in September she shared ideas with the elders on developing worship, who decided to adopt some of them.

The Worship Team is looking at forming a **discussion group** to look at a TV programme, book or film preferably meeting in someone's home.

The Dawlish Art Group has been approached to see if it would arrange an exhibition of pictures relating to the Passion of Jesus **for Holy Week**.

The Friendship Hour has been invited to use its meetings in Lent as **weekly Lent meetings** discussing the topic of the week's lectionary and sermon.

It was agreed to try out **café worship** on a bi-monthly basis in place of the bi-monthly service led by the Music Group which is no longer able to lead worship.

Synod Conference of Advent and Christmas

A Synod conference on ideas for Advent and Christmas, led to the following:

Advent

The Worship Team and Roger Whitehead are developing a **theme for Advent**, incorporating dramas written by Jean Potter. Each Sunday morning service will start with a sung **Introit**. More emphasis will be placed on lighting the **Advent Crown** so that it becomes more significant in the service.

More will be made of **decorating the Christmas tree**. It will be decorated progressively, using suitable objects to hang on the tree reflecting the theme of the Sunday. The Christmas tree lights will not be switched on until the fourth Sunday in Advent (18th December this year).

Each Sunday during Advent an episode of the BBC's **Nativity** series will be shown from 10.00 and refreshments will be available.

Christmas and Epiphany

It was agreed to open the church on Saturday 17th and Friday 23rd December serving mulled wine and mince pies as a place to relax during the two busiest shopping days before Christmas.

We will have an **Epiphany Carol Service** in 2013 (that Sunday in 2012 is to be a Covenant Service). There will be a **Candlemas service** on 5th February 2012.

We would like a series of daily posters on a Christian version of **The Twelve Days of Christmas**. Is anyone available to change the posters each day?



Buildings

Buildings dominated the October Trustees meeting. An estimate for £3,794 + VAT has been received from sound experts for panels to dull the **reverberation**. No action will be taken until the outcome of the grant application is known because, if the proposed work is carried out, there could be an alteration to the reverberations. For the same reason it was decided not to do anything about the **heat transfer pipes** for the time being.

We can, however, **redecorate the lounge** with voluntary labour. Several trustees agreed to help, and we will make plans at the next meeting.

It has been agreed to **purchase the property of the Third Age Group** including tables and chairs so that everything in the Centre belongs to the Centre.

Planning permission

Paul Heighway has submitted a revised planning application which will be heard on 31st October. Janet Garland will speak for the trustees at the meeting. About 200 people signed the petition in support of the application which has been approved by the Town Council Planning Committee.

Grants received and promised

Grants of £300 from the Town Council and £600 from Teignbridge Council have been received. We are seeking personal contacts with key local worthies to solicit their support with grant making trusts. In these cash-strapped times, with so many applications for reduced funding, it seems essential to get the support of at least one of the trustees when approaching private trusts.

VAT

Thanks to a lot of hard work by Geoff Willis (our Treasurer) our first VAT return was made, resulting in recovering £489.

Activities and Plans

Oakwood Court College has now established the Monday Coffee Mornings and Tuesday Luncheon Club. It is very pleased with the arrangement and the learning progress of the four youngsters involved is apparent to regulars. A working party is planning **the Violet Ball** (reviving a Dawlish tradition) and a **Christmas Nativity Festival**. Further details on page 6 about the Nativity.

There are many opportunities which the Centre cannot develop because of lack of volunteers. Can you recruit your friends to help?

STRAND CENTRE WEEKLY EVENTS IN NOVEMBER



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 †
Wed	10.00 - 12.00	Cancer Research Coffee Morning with stalls §
	2.30 - 4.30	Third Age social gathering ¶
	6.30 - 7.30	All Age Keep Fit Group †
Thurs	10.00 - 12.00	Coffee Morning with toddler'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 ¶
	4.00 - 9.00	Ballet School †
Sat	9.00 - 2.00	Ballet School †

Monthly Programme

<i>Week</i>	<i>date this month</i>	
1 st Fri	7.30	4 th First Friday Evening Events §
1 st Sat	10.00	5 th Table Top Sale § <i>for a table phone 867355</i>
2 nd Tues	10.00	8 th Home Aid Charity Coffee for Barnardos § <i>(see page 6)</i>

SPECIAL EVENTS IN NOVEMBER

Fri	4	4.30 - 5.15	Working Party on Xmas Nativity Display & Violet Ball ¶
		7.30 - 9.00	Concert of Acapella Singing & classical piano (see p 6) §
Sat	5	10.00 - 1.00	Charity Xmas Card Sale for a table phone 889098 §
Sun	6	3.00 - 4.30	Festival of Remembrance Concert § (see page 6)
Tue	8	10.00 - 12.00	Home Aid Coffee Morning: for Barnardos § <i>(page 6)</i>
Wed	9	7.00 - 9.00	Public Meeting on Neighbourhood Plan §
Thu	10	10.00 - 11.30	Strand Centre trustees ¶
		10.00 - 8.00}	Public Exhibition and Consultation on Plan §
Fri	11	10.00 - 6.00}	
		10.00 - 3.00	Cancer Research Christmas Fayre §
Sat	19	10.00 - 2.00	Craft Sale for children's charities §

symbols on back page



First Friday Event —Fri 4th at 7.30

Acapella Singing (Voicemale) and **Classic Piano Playing** (Angus Ramsay) in the auditorium. £5 including wine & nibbles.

Charity Christmas Card Sale Sat 5th 10.00 to 1.00

Your chance to support your favourite charity and buy your Christmas cards. Refreshments are available all morning as well. Bring your friends.

Remembrance Concert Sun 6th 3.00

A commemoration in word and song of those who fought in wars, and an opportunity to support the British Legion funds for injured veterans.

Home Aid's Coffee Morning on Tues 8th is for Barnardos, one of the oldest and most effective organisations caring for children in UK.

Quiz Nights run by URC Torbay Churches

are always fun occasions and we usually have a winning team. Join a team on **Wed 9th at 7.30** - lifts to Furrough Cross are available.

Dawlish Neighbourhood Plan

sets the framework for the town's development town over the next 20 years. A public meeting will introduce revised plan in the auditorium on Wednesday 9th at 7.00. On Thursday (10th) and Friday (11th) the plans will be on display all day and the planning officers available for your questions and comments.

Dona Nobis Pacem Fri 11th at 7.30 at All Saints, Kenton A Concert for Peace on Remembrance Day by The eXe Singers (led by Kenneth Hall). Tickets £7.

Men's Breakfast Sat 19th St Mary's Hall, Dawlish Warren at 8.30 am

continues its series looking at local charities. Also the last meeting at which Kenneth Hall will be present. Well worth attending, just for the breakfast!

Report on Visit to Fomo - Friday 25th in the auditorium—full details back page.

Carols Down The Line Tuesday 6th December depart at 6.00 pm

Join us for the annual trip on the South Devon Railway with hot drinks, mince pies and carol singing at intermediate stations. Tickets have to be bought in advance at £8.50. We may go by coach—cost not known at present.

Display of Nativity Sets—week before Christmas (19th to 23rd)

We need to borrow Nativity sets for our display and a dressmaker's/tailor's dummy to make the centre piece of a life-size crib: ideas, offers and volunteers to supervise and serve refreshments to Janet Garland or Roger Whitehead.



FOR YOUR PRAYERS



COMMITMENT FOR LIFE PRAYER FOR NOVEMBER

There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male or female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.

Galatians 3:28

Come, you are created in God's image – you are welcome in this place.

Let us affirm the dignity of all people.

Let us reject all forms of discrimination and stigma.

Come, we are all God's people, many and diverse.

We are called to live out a gospel of love.

Let us enter into this worship with open minds and hearts

let us be prepared and challenged and moved to action.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

There was a time, Lord,
when an eye for an eye
and a tooth for a tooth,
though brutal,
limited the damage.
Now nations can maim or kill
those they do not see;
technology has made war so
impersonal and people so cheap.
In the face of this
I sense my inestimable weakness
and rely on your inestimable strength



O Lord, our hiding place,
give us wisdom, we pray,
to look for no hiding place
apart from you
in life or death.
Now hide us
in your own presence
from the provoking of others
and keep us
from the strife of tongues.
Teach us to seek peace

Christina Rossetti

*From 'Pray Now',
Church of Scotland Panel on Worship*



Prayers for individuals and particular events will be found on the weekly news sheet available near the front door.

OFFERINGS AND OTHER SPECIAL INCOME

	Sunday Offerings*		Special Collections and Events	
	2011	2010		
September	£1,239	£2,018	Coffee Mornings in Sep (2010 = £91)	£170
			Commitment for Life	£249
Year (so far)	£12,088	£15,794	Sales of chairs (£0) mugs (£0)	£0

** includes standing orders etc but not Gift Aid rebates*

STRAND CHURCH SERVICES IN NOVEMBER



Morning Services at 10.30 unless otherwise stated §

6	Holy Communion	Revd Roger Whitehead
13	Remembrance Sunday	Revd Roger Whitehead
20	Prayers for Healing	Revd Roger Whitehead
27	Advent Service	Revd Roger Whitehead

Evening Service

27 6.30 United Advent Service at St Gregory's

REGULAR WEEKLY CONGREGATIONAL EVENTS

Tuesdays	2.00 - 4.00	Knit & Chat # (1 st , 15 th & 29 th)
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 # (on 18th meeting in lounge †)
	5.45 - 6.45	Choir Practice #

CONGREGATION'S ACTIVITIES IN NOVEMBER

Wed	9	7.30	Torbay URC Churches Quiz night , Furrough Cross
Fri	18	3.45	Messy Church , Methodist Church Hall
Sat	19	8.30	Men's Breakfast St Mary's Hall, D Warren (see page 6)
Fri	25	2.30	Report on FOMO § (see below)

§ in the auditorium † in the Strand Hall ‡ Strand Hall lounge # in the foyer

The congregation is invited to participate in the events of Strand Centre (page 5)

AN INVITATION FROM KNIT AND CHAT FRIDAY 25th NOVEMBER

In the Church on Friday afternoon on November 25th, Jean Potter's son and some of his pupils will talk about their visit to the orphan children in Malawi. These are the children who use our blankets and wear our jumpers. Come to hear more about the work of F.O.M.O (Friends Of Mulanji Orphans) in Malawi. Everyone is welcome.

THE STRAND CHURCH

(United Reformed)

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