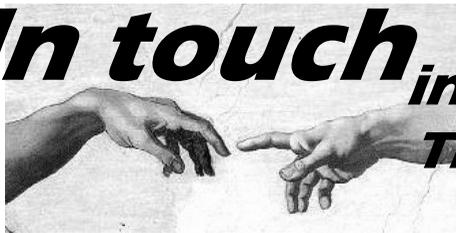


# ***In touch*** *information from* ***The Strand Church*** *the church with the spire*



***April 2011***

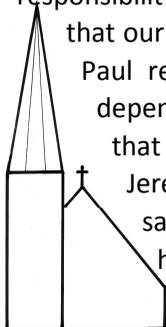
## **FROM THE MINISTER**

One of the constant themes of the Old Testament prophets is that God chose a special race of people - the Jews - for a purpose, which was to be "a light to the Gentiles". God chose to reveal the divine nature and the purpose of creation to a group of people so that the way they lived and what they understood as a nation led by God would be seen and followed by others. When the Jews failed to live up to their high calling, the prophets said God's favour would be withdrawn and they would become no better than other races.

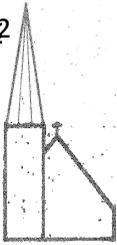
The supreme example God's revelation through humanity is the birth of Jesus. God did not seek to save us by giving us another set of laws. Instead God sent a person to show us what the Kingdom of Heaven is like when it is lived out on earth. Jesus formed a group of people whom he commissioned to follow his example and continue his mission of offering new life to all who are willing to follow in his way.

I believe that God has enabled us to transform the nave in order that we as a church can be more effective as an example of what godly living is like. For all our weaknesses, God has chosen us as individuals and as a congregation for this special work. In the true sense of the term, it is an awesome responsibility. It would be too daunting if Jesus had not taught and shown us that our weakness and inadequacy are our strengths. In one of his letters Paul rejoiced in his weakness because that forced him to be more dependant on God and less on his own abilities. It is in our weakness that the Holy Spirit is most able to help and guide us. In the words of Jeremiah which mean a lot to me, "I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord; plans for good and not evil, to give you a future and a hope."

ROGER WHITEHEAD



## ELDERS MEETING



### Future of Toddlers Group

There was a welcome for the offer of Marie Whitehead to lead the toddler group, assisted by Jan Adams. Because there are more meetings in Dawlish for toddlers on Wednesdays than on any other day of the week, it seems to be sensible to have the Strand group on another morning, and so it was decided to experiment by having it on a Thursday as one of the daily Strand Coffee Mornings and to call it *Coffee and Kids*. An idea to run a crèche for shoppers was also discussed, but was held over until it was seen how the Coffee & Kids develops and until the legal situation is clarified.

### Implications of the change of name of the church

The decision of Church Meeting to change the name of the church to Strand Church has been accepted by the Synod.

**Web site** The congregation owns [www.strandchurch.org.uk](http://www.strandchurch.org.uk) and the website will be moved to that address as soon as possible. For a considerable time, those who go to [www.DawlishURC.org.uk](http://www.DawlishURC.org.uk) will be transferred automatically to the Strand Church site. The congregation's web site needs a make-over because it is looking dated but this will take time to do and it is unlikely to be started in the near future.

**strand** The Centre is planning to produce an eight page A5 leaflet (similar to *In Touch*, but more glossy) to market the building and its work. It will be called *strand* and it will be delivered to every home in Dawlish. It will include information about the congregation and the Centre as well as showing how good our new premises are. It was agreed that the congregation should cease to publish *spire* and to take two or three pages in *strand*, because this would set the Strand Church in the context of the Strand Centre which will give greater visibility to the congregation's outreach work. It is hoped that the first edition of *strand* will be available in mid-April and that it will have a long shelf life.

### Snippets

Considerable time was spent in detailed arrangements for the **Welcome Home Party**, the **Opening Service** and the **Thank You Reception** (3<sup>rd</sup> May 7.00 for 7.30). More details are given on page 5.

**Support for Hole in the Wall:** In response to a request from the Teenbridge Project for financial support for the Hole-in-the-Wall, it was agreed to hold a Coffee Morning one Saturday and to seek to involve young people and their parents. The date has yet to be fixed.

It was agreed that **the choir** would be asked to bring their robes each Sunday and robe in the foyer.

Our current logo has successfully identified our congregation as “the church with the spire”. However, we now need to stress that the congregation is people not a building, so we are exploring how to amend the **logo** to include representations of people. It is hoped to make a proposal shortly.

### **Legal (lack of) progress**

The solicitors have still not reported about the finalising of **the application to the Charity Commission** for a Scheme to allow the leasing of the building to the Strand Community Trust.

A paper providing information on the changes to **vetting procedures** for those working with children and vulnerable adults was discussed, and a joint meeting with SCT representatives was set up to consider changes to **licences to use copyright songs and music** which affects both the congregation and the Centre.

### **Holy Week**

Because of a prior booking of the foyer and auditorium by the Dawlish Art Group for Holy Week, it was agreed not to proceed this year with a series of lunch time discussions on moral issues arising from the events of Holy Week. This will be tried in 2012.

However, one innovation this year will be the **Good Friday Hot Cross Bun Service** at 4 pm, details of which appear on page 5.

### **Annual accounts and budget**

Rychard Winslade reported that the accounts for 2010 were with the examiner, and would be available for the next meeting. The Strand Centre has now undertaken to pay for all work on the development of Stage 2, but temporarily for legal reasons the congregation is retaining all the income from lettings. This means that extra ways of helping the Centre have had to be devised.

#### **DAWLISH UNITED REFORMED CHURCH**

<b>Minister</b>	Revd Roger Whitehead	28 High Street	889 098
<b>Secretary &amp; bookings</b>	Mrs Rosemary Holmes	3 Sampson Cottages Brook Street	862 620
<b>Treasurer</b>	Mr Rychard Winslade	3 Prospect House East Cliff Road	866 948

## BUILDING COMMITTEE

### Covering between hall and church

It is clear that there is a going to be a lot more traffic between the hall and the auditorium, and that outside link area lets the building down badly. Paul Heighway has been asked to draw up cheap proposals for a simple face lift for the area. The passage alongside the east (sea-side) wall of the church has already been improved by the removal of all the rubbish which had been left there. A local steeple jack firm has been asked for ideas for netting above the old stairs in the passage way leading up to the gallery stairs in order to stop the steps being covered with bird droppings. The firm's recommendations are awaited.

### Stage 1

A rail of some sort is needed around the organ console platform to prevent the organist falling off. It needs to be unobtrusive, so Paul Heighway has been asked for advice about what would be suitable.

### Review of proposals

It was agreed that a joint meeting with the Centre should appraise the progress of the refurbishment to reflect on whether changes should be made in the priorities for Stage 2.

### Updates

The written **asbestos report** has been received, confirming that there is no reason for concern.

### Lighting in the Hall

Comments have been made about the poor lighting in the Strand Hall which makes it a less attractive room than it might be. Paul Heighway had been asked to look at the lighting on his next visit to Dawlish, and the matter was remitted to the Executive Group.

### OFFERINGS AND OTHER SPECIAL INCOME

	Sunday Offerings*		Special Collections and Events
	2011	2010	
			Coffee Mornings in Feb (2010 = £120) £110
February	£1,457	£1,889	Burns Night £56
Year (so far)	£3,320	£4,916	

\* includes standing orders etc but not Gift Aid rebates

## SERVICES FOR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

### Maundy Thursday (21<sup>st</sup>) 7.30 **Tenebrae** (in The Methodist Church)



*Tenebrae is a Moravian service for Maundy Thursday, beginning with an informal Communion Service as we remember Jesus' last meal was a Passover meal with the disciples. This is followed by readings of the Passion story in growing darkness which reflects the agony Jesus was preparing himself for.*

### Good Friday (22<sup>nd</sup>)



#### 11.00 **Good Friday Meditation** (our church)

*A devotional service leading into a procession to The Lawn for the Open Air service.*

#### 12.00 **Open Air Service of Witness** (on The Lawn)

*Our traditional ecumenical service of readings, hymns and sharing of hot cross buns, Some new features have been added this year.*

#### 4.00 **Hot Cross Bun Service**

*An activity service to help all members of the family to understand the Good Friday and Easter message, led by Marie Whitehead and ideal for all ages.*

#### 7.00 **Stainer's Crucifixion** sung by St Gregory's Choir

*A very appropriate ending to Good Friday, helping us to reflect on the momentous events of the day, and begin to think towards the hope of Easter Day.*

### Easter Day (24<sup>th</sup>)



#### 5.45 **Dawn Service** on the beach

*The time to celebrate the resurrection is the hour at which the women found the tomb empty. We shall be at the beach (Jesus appeared to his disciples on a beach). Breakfast will follow in the Strand Hall.*

#### 10.30 **Easter Celebration** with Holy Communion

*A service for all ages, and eggs for the children!*

### WANT TO KNOW MORE?

about **Christianity**—visit [www.christianity.org.uk](http://www.christianity.org.uk) for the Christian Enquiry website  
about **Jesus**—visit [www.rejesus.co.uk](http://www.rejesus.co.uk) for a website dedicated to Jesus Christ



### **Grant Applications**

Two £50 grants for necessary kitchen equipment have been received from the funds which town councillors have. No word has been received about the application to the Town Council for a £1,500 grant towards a light weight ramp and consequential work.

Pat and Geoff Willis have done heroic work in going through all the possible funding bodies to categorise them. This enables specifically tailored applications to be made to each grant-making body.

We recognise that apart from a few very large potential donors (eg The Lottery and the Landfill firms), applications are more likely to be successful if one or more of the trustees of the donor charities knows something of our work. We are therefore seeking to find ways of approaching the right people. We shall use the Strand Dinner to invite possible donors to learn about the work we are planning.

### **Trustees**

A very useful meeting of the Trustees was held to consider grant applications and prospective trustees were invited, because it seems that attending a meeting of the trustees was one of the preliminaries some prospective trustees want.

### **Daily Coffee Mornings for Charities & Luncheon Club**

Most of the voluntary groups in the town were invited to meetings to discuss their possible interest in two projects the Trustees hope to develop.

**Luncheon Club** We have four teams willing to run the weekly Luncheon Club on the basis of each taking responsibility for one week a month. The first will be on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May. The idea of the Club is to build loyalty among the members so that they come each week, get to know other members, build friendships and are able to support one another. There will be an annual membership fee of £1; the cost of the meal will be £4 giving a choice from two meat dishes and a vegetarian option and a choice of two sweets. It was agreed that as far as possible the food used should be locally sourced and fair-traded, and the meat ethically produced.

**Daily Charity Coffee Mornings** One of the key developments which the Centre hopes to develop now that the auditorium can be used for Coffee Mornings is to have Coffee Mornings each day run by different charities as part of their fund raising strategy. There has been general interest, but most groups would like to hold one a month rather than one a week. The SCT trustees are considering what to do next.

**Potential users** were invited to look over the premises at the end of March and <sup>7</sup> considerable interest in using them was expressed.

### **Furnishings**

There was no progress on receiving gifts of a new vestry desk and HD TV. The latter will be hired for the Royal Wedding event at the end of April.

It is clear that the auditorium will be used for exhibitions, and so with the Dawlish Art Group holding a special one in mid-April, it has been decided to borrow boards for displaying pictures from various sources to see which boards are most suitable. The Centre will then consider whether to seek grants to purchase boards in the future (if there is somewhere to store them) which could then be let out to future art exhibitors.

### **Visit to Plymouth town centre community centre**

Last month eight people from the Centre visited the Crown Centre, Plymouth, a community centre run in a former pub by Plymouth Central Methodist Church. Though the area it serves is very different from ours, a lot was learned and the commitment and dedication of the staff (led by a URC elder) was inspirational.

### **Celebrating the Re-Opening**

In addition to the programme of events marking the Re-Opening, special mugs have been commissioned and they are on sale at only £5. They make an ideal Easter present and we offer quantities of bubble-wrap to help you send them to your family and friends. We are also inviting donations for the chairs, and a leaflet is enclosed with this edition of *In Touch*.

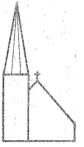
## **THE RE-OPENING PROGRAMME—KEY EVENTS**

**Welcome Home Party** (2<sup>nd</sup> April afternoon – 3.30 – 5.00 with tea from 4.00) to which all members are invited, together with members of the Torbay URC churches, our colleagues in Churches Together in Dawlish and the SCT Trustees and potential trustees.

**Thank You Reception** (Tue 3<sup>rd</sup> May from 7.30) will be hosted by the Mayor and invitations are going to all the Town councillors; local District and County councillors; the MP; those involved in the building work; key local organisations (eg Rotary Clubs, British Legion) and local government officials from relevant areas in Health & Social Services.

**For more up-to-date information about the Strand Centre visit  
[www.StrandCentre.org.uk](http://www.StrandCentre.org.uk)—it's got photographs too!**

## SERVICES IN APRIL



**Morning Services at 10.30** unless otherwise stated

- |    |  |                                    |
|----|--|------------------------------------|
| 3  | <b>Re-Opening &amp; Dedication Service</b> | led by Sandra Lloydlangston        |
| 10 | Baptism Service                            | Music Group & Revd Roger Whitehead |
| 17 | Palm Sunday Service                        | Revd Roger Whitehead               |
| 24 | Easter Communion                           | Revd Roger Whitehead               |

### Evening Service

- 24 6.30 (Easter day) *No evening service or Iona service*

**Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Dawn—see page 7**

## REGULAR WEEKLY CHURCH EVENTS

- |                   |               |   |
|-------------------|---------------|---|
| <b>Wednesdays</b> | 10.00 - 12.00 | <b>Coffee Morning</b>   |
|                   | 2.30 - 3.30   | <b>Friendship Hour</b>  |
| <b>Thursdays</b>  | 2.30 - 3.30   | <b>Keep Fit</b>   |
| <b>Fridays</b>    | 12.30 - 2.00  | <b>Bible Study Group</b> (not Good Friday or 29 <sup>th</sup> ) |
|                   | 6.00 - 7.00   | <b>Choir practice</b> (not Good Friday)                         |

### NOT MEETING UNTIL AFTER EASTER

**Knit & Chat** (Tues); **Parents & Toddlers** (Weds)

## ADDITIONAL MEETINGS IN APRIL

(on our premises unless otherwise indicated)

- |                  |          |                |   |
|------------------|----------|----------------|---|
| Fri              | 1        | 12.00          | Churches Together Lent Lunch (our church)                 |
|                  | 4        | 2.30           | Elders Meeting  |
| Thurs            | 7        | 2.30           | SCT & Elders Executives with architect and grant advisor  |
| Fri              | 8        | 12.00          | Churches Together Lent Lunch (Methodist Church)           |
|                  |          | 3.45           | <b>Messy Church</b> (Methodist Church Hall)               |
| Tues             | 12       | 10.00          | <b>Home Aid Coffee Morning</b> for the South West Hospice |
| Fri              | 15       | 12.00          | Churches Together Lent Lunch (Methodist Church)           |
| Sat              | 16       | 2.30           | <b>Mayor's Concert</b> by Exeter Recorder Orchestra       |
| Mon }<br>Thurs } | 18<br>21 | <i>All day</i> | Dawlish Art Group Exhibition                              |
| Good<br>Friday   | 22       | 11.00          | <b>Meditation Service</b>                                 |
|                  |          | 12.00          | <b>United Service of Witness on The Lawn</b>              |
|                  |          | 4.00           | <b>Hot Cross Bun Service</b> family service for all ages  |
|                  |          | 7.00           | <b>Stainer's Crucifixion</b> St Gregory's Choir           |
| Fri              | 29       | 10.30          | Royal Wedding Party with TV broadcast, Strand Hall        |