



*information from
Strand Church
the church with the spire*

July 2011

FROM THE MINISTER

Although some people did not like building the Annual General Meeting around the morning service, most people seemed to like the mixture of worship, scripture, reports and praying. One part of our tradition is to see Church Meeting not only as a business meeting but as a time to praise God and reflect on what God might be saying to us.

However, one disadvantage of what we did was not having the opportunity to thank those who have worked so hard over the last eighteen months to prepare for and take advantage of the changes which have taken place in the building. Thanking people is always slightly hazardous because some people who ought to be thanked are overlooked—and some who want to be thanked are not included. But it is important to recognise how much we owe to some people in the church for doing a huge amount of work for the benefit of the whole congregation. In particular our thanks to Rosemary Holmes, our Church Secretary, who is a fount of information and a dynamo of activity. The Elders Executive, which also works for the Strand Centre, has given immense time and effort to finding ways forward in our building work and spiritual life together. Many others have also helped greatly.

In one way, like the servants in the parable of Jesus, those we thank can reply, “We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty” (Luke 17.10). It is a privilege to serve our Lord and his people, and in my experience that brings its own reward. After all, how can we repay the Lord for all that he has done for us? Our reward is in Jesus’ promise that ultimately we will be with him. But also we need to remember that Jesus said, “Well done, good and faithful servant. Enter into the joy of your Lord” (Matthew 25:21). Like Jesus we want to show our appreciation and encourage people with our thanks.



ROGER WHITEHEAD



Carnival 2011 The Carnival this year will have a marquee and so the church building is not needed for Carnival activities. The Elders believe that it is important to have the church open during Carnival Week and that it is more difficult to arrange a prayer walk when there are no aisles to guide people round. So it has been decided to hold **a flower festival from the Monday to the Friday**, inviting contributions from the URC congregations in the former Torbay District, the other churches in Churches Together in Dawlish, and from the flower shops and local businesses. The theme will be Hymns and a verse from each hymn will be displayed with the flowers. Refreshments will be available throughout the day. Rosemary Holmes is arranging this – offers of help will be appreciated. As usual free drinks will be provided during the Carnival Procession.

New Logo

Malcolm Couch, a school friend of Jean Potter, has designed a **new church logo**. The reasons for this are (1) the Elders Meeting wanted a slightly new image to go with the new name, and (2) we want to stress the church is not the church building but the people. Malcolm's design retains the spire, but adds people who are – some have said – dancing. We hope it projects a genuine image of people enjoying praise and fellowship with one another.

Snippets

The congregation will pay a portion of the **cost of strand**, an 8 A5 page booklet about the Centre and the congregation which is replacing *spire*. It will be delivered by a local delivery firm. **The Membership List** is being revised and will be available on request in mid-July. We are chasing up the competitors who are designing new **sanctuary furniture**. The **lease on the church photocopier** will not be renewed after November because of the age of the machine. There will be discussion with the Strand Centre about what type of photocopier might be suitable as a replacement. We were asked about the congregation's views on the URC Mission Forum which **brings together ten URC churches** in the Torbay area. We agreed (a) that we want the Forum to continue; and (b) the social events (including the Quizzes) should also be continued.

Finances

We spent time looking at the accounts for 2010 and the Budget which the Finance Committee had prepared for 2011. Our report was presented the Church Meeting (see opposite). A gift of £200 has been given in memory of Min Holt and it was decided to purchase of three chairs.

SUMMARY OF THE AGM



The full minutes of the Annual General Meeting are on the church noticeboard.

The meeting took place in the context of the morning service.

Reports The annual reports from the church organisations had been circulated in advance. A representative of each organisation spoke briefly about something during the past year for which the organisation gave thanks.

Report on the Strand Centre Alethe Virgin, Chair of the Strand Community Trust, spoke of the developments in the work of the Strand Centre since the completion of the Stage 1 and outlined some of the plans which the Centre had for the future.

The Accounts for 2010 were presented and adopted unanimously. The Treasurer was thanked for all his hard work. **The budget for 2011** was also presented and adopted. It was noted that in order to complete Stage 1 the congregation's reserves had been used up. The Elders Meeting believed that the congregation needed reserves of around £3,000 to £4,000 to ensure the liquidity during the year and to meet any emergency which might arise. It was agreed to hold a Thanksgiving Day during the summer at which members might pledge themselves to help develop the work of the congregation and the Strand Centre, and to make a financial contribution towards it.

LEGAL MATTERS

The Synod Executive Committee has agreed to become **the sole member of the Strand Community Trust** (as expected). Formalities should be completed by mid-July. It is hoped that the lease will be signed by the end of July. This will mean that legally the responsibility for the church building will pass from the congregation to the Strand Community Trust. There will be a **sub-lease** granting the church the exclusive use of the upper tower room – something which we are told the Charity Commission wants.

The Elders Meeting has expressed concern to the Synod about the rising **cost of legal fees**.

The Listed Buildings Advisory Committee is now requiring the production of **the photographic record** in a bound form, with each photograph identified clearly. Marie Whitehead has kindly agreed to undertake the work.

Paul Heighway will be **resubmitting the planning application** to remove the front steps into the church which had been rejected by Teignbridge Council. This will be done in the name of the Strand Community Trust.



NEWS FROM THE STRAND CENTRE

The Strand Dinner

The Strand Dinner was a great success. The first two courses of the meal were prepared in the kitchen under the oversight of Pat Willis. Members of the Community College Year 10 Catering Group made two delicious sweets and also served as waiters. The Garden Trust supplied table decorations and a flower arrangement. 33 people sat down for the meal, including the Lord-Lieutenant who spoke of his admiration of the vision of the church in adapting and leasing its building. Other guests included the Chair of Teignbridge Council, the Mayor and Mayoress, and the URC Synod Clerk and Property Officer

The Friends of the Strand Centre was launched at the Dinner. A leaflet is available about joining. We hope Friends will support the activities of the Centre and also make a regular financial contribution.

Future Plans

The screening of the **Wimbledon Finals** will be on 1st to 3rd July with refreshments available. And **Open Day** will be held on Thursday 11th August when there is also a community fair in the town.

New ideas

The trustees are exploring the possibility of developing a partnership with one or more voluntary groups to work with young adults who have learning difficulties. One idea is a weekly simple lunch of soup and rolls and sandwiches prepared and served by youngsters under adult supervision. There also is the possibility of a second Memory Café in Dawlish which would be held in the Centre.

Finding a Development Manager

The trustees believe that there is a need to find someone who will focus on the development of the Centre to get more users, to build partnerships with voluntary bodies and to generate income. There is no money at present to pay someone, but the need is being aired in *strand* without making any commitment to employment. A Job Description is available, and ideas are welcome.

Grants

Pat and Geoff Willis have done an amazing job in sifting through possible trusts and identifying the names of the trustees. One major step will be to see if anyone has personal contacts with any of the trustees, because this is the most effective way of ensuring that an application is treated seriously. Names of two local possible well-connected individuals have been identified.



Next stages in the building work

Paul Heighway has shown us plans on how to deliver the various ideas we have had, and a Quantity Surveyor has outlined the cost of each option. This has made us realise that the decision on whether or not to lower the floor will affect all further alterations to the building and this must be resolved before anything more can be decided. There are conflicting views about the need to lower the floor. However, It is generally agreed that the immediate priorities are

- getting the acoustics right; perhaps by putting sound panels on the ceiling
- providing adequate if temporary disabled access to the main building
- ensuring the heating system is adequate for the winter
- developing the street chapel including lowering the floor.

None of these priorities is affected significantly by the decision on the floor.

In the end the trustees agreed that they needed to reflect on (a) whether the floor was to be lowered or not; and (b) their other priorities. The next meeting is will be early in June.

PROPERTY

Manse

Rosemary Holmes and Roger Whitehead visited the manse and approved paying half the cost of new carpets. They were disturbed at the amount of damp in the house and, with the agreement of the Synod, the Synod's Five-Year Manse Survey will be done by our architect, Paul Heighway. His attention has been drawn to the damp. The cost of any necessary work will come from the Dawlish 'sinking fund' for repairs and improvements which the Synod builds up by retaining a portion of the rent. At the moment there is about £8,000 in that fund.

Completing Stage 1

Most of the Stage 1 work has now been completed, though the floor on the west side of the foyer (where the hymnbook trolleys now stand) is to be investigated for suspected wet rot. The acoustics continue to irritate worshippers, and Paul Heigh-way is calling in a specialist to consider sound baffles placed on or near the ceiling.

Ramp and Strand Hall Kitchenette

John Seaborne, one the Strand Trustees, has agreed to investigate the possibility of siting the ramp offered by Andrew Fuller across the front of the church to gain access through the east vestibule. He has also agreed to superintend the removal of the kitchen units which the Kentispeers are giving us to put in the kitchenette in the upper floor of the Strand Hall. There had still not been a response from the Town Council about the grant application for a ramp.

STRAND CENTRE WEEKLY EVENTS



Mon	12.30 - 2.00	Luncheon Club †
	6.00 - 8.30	Ballet Group (teaching session) †
Tues	2.30 - 9.30	Ballet Group (teaching session) †
Wed	10.00 - 12.00	Cancer Research Coffee Morning §
	2.30 - 4.30	Third Age social gathering ‡
Thurs	10.00 - 12.00	Coffee & Kids § <i>play for toddlers; chat for parents</i>
	10.00 - 11.30	Third Age Meeting † <i>Speaker and refreshments</i>
	2.30 - 3.30	Keep Fit † <i>Physical activity for older people</i>
	5.30 - 8.00	Ballet Group (teaching session) †
Fri	4.00 - 9.00	Ballet Group (teaching session) †
Sat	9.30 - 1.00	Ballet Group (teaching session) †

Monthly Programme

3 rd Tues	10.00	12 th	Home Aid Charity Coffee § <i>and large selection of preserves</i>
1 st Wed	1.30	6 th	Dawlish Stroke Association †
1 st Fri	7.30	1 st	Friday Evening Events § <i>This month: Wimbledon Tennis (from 2 pm)</i>
1 st Sat	10.00	2 nd	Table Top Sale § <i>For a table phone 867355</i>

SPECIAL MEETINGS IN JULY

Fri - Sun 1 st to 3 rd	2.00 - end	Wimbledon Semis and Finals § <i>Projected on a big screen; refreshments available</i>
Sat 2	10.00 - 12.00	Table Top Sale for a table phone 867 355 §
Tue 5	2.30 - 4.30	Strand Community Trust meeting # (<i>check time</i>)
	7.30 - 9.00	Arts Festival: Flute & Pianist Concert §
Tue 12	10.00 - 12.00	Home Aid Coffee Morning for C32EE (opposite) §
Fri 15	9.00 - 12.30	Dawlish Choral Society Coffee Morning & Stalls §
Sat 16	7.00 - 8.30	Exeter Recorder Concert (for Strand Centre) §
Mon—Sat 25 th to 30 th	10.00 - 6.00	Dawlish Art Exhibition (closes 2.30 Saturday) §

for key to symbols see back page

NOTICE BOARD



Thanks for helping Flip

The daughters of Flip Ware, who died last month, have written to thank the congregation for their support given to Flip while she was in Palm Court. “Thank you for your love and care; for giving Mummy the security during her Sunday worship with you.”

Help with Wimbledon

We are desperately in need of helpers when we show the final days of Wimbledon on the big screen. We want to serve afternoon tea refreshments so we need scones, cakes etc; and we need people willing to take two hour shifts.

Home Aid’s Coffee Morning on 12th is for CR2EE

The organisers write: “The root of Christian Response go back to 1990 when Gary Taverner had a vision to help in orphanages in Romania. Over the years, the situation in Romania improved and missions were made to Albania and some of the areas devastated by the Chernobyl nuclear disaster. Then we heard reports about neighbouring Moldova and the appalling levels of poverty there. One fleeting visit and Moldova was taken into our hearts. Whilst maintaining our interest in Romania by far the majority of effort is now concentrated on Moldova. It is Europe’s poorest country and the situation there is really dreadful.”

For more information see: www.christianresponse.org.uk.

Men’s Breakfast—breaking new ground with a woman speaker! 16th July 8.30

The Men’s breakfast on Saturday 16th has as its speaker Gwen Davies who will talk about her experiences living in the Falklands at the time of the war. All men in the congregation welcome—speak to Geoff or Roger about a lift.

Strand takes over the management

The Strand Community Trust will **manage the building** from 1st July on the same terms as it had done in 2010. This will operate until the lease is signed. This will mean a complete half-year of the changed funding arrangements which will make accounting simpler at the end of the financial year.

DAWLISH UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

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

STRAND CHURCH SERVICES IN JULY



Morning Services at 10.30 unless otherwise stated §

3	Commitment for Life	Mrs Linda Mead (national URC officer)
10	Holy Communion	Revd Roger Whitehead
17	Prayers for Healing	Revd Roger Whitehead
24	Family Service	Margaret Noel (lay reader at St Gregory's)
31	Family Service	Mrs Helen Potter (URC lay Preacher north Devon)

Evening Service

31 6.30 Iona Service united in the Methodist.

REGULAR WEEKLY CHURCH EVENTS

Tuesdays	2.00 - 4.00	Knit & Chat (not 5 th & 19 th) #
Thursdays	10.00 - 12.00	Coffee & Kids (run by the church (not 28 th)) §
	2.30 - 3.30	Friendship Hour (not 28 th) #
Fridays	12.30 - 2.00	Bible Study Group (not 22 nd or 29 th) #
	5.45 - 6.45	Choir practice #

CONGREGATION'S MEETINGS IN JULY

Thurs	14	6.00	Elders Meeting #
Fri	15	3.45	Messy Church (in Methodist Hall)
Sat	16	8.30	Men's Breakfast: Gwen Davies (see page 7)
Mon	18	12.45	CTDD Forum (Methodist Church)
Tue	19	12.30	CTDD Ministers Meeting (28 High Street)

§ in the auditorium

† in the Strand Hall

⌘ in the upper lounge of Strand Hall

in the foyer

OFFERINGS AND OTHER SPECIAL INCOME

	Sunday Offerings*		Special Collections and Events	
	2011	2010		
May	£1,552	£1,771	Coffee Mornings in May (2010 = £90)	£123
			Refurbishment Fund	£111
Year (so far)	£7,323	£8,360	Sales of chairs (£450) mugs (£50)	£500

* includes standing orders etc but not Gift Aid rebates