



information from
Strand Church
the church with the spire

August 2011

FROM THE MINISTER

In an interview on Radio 4, a reporter from *The News of The World* admitted that he been very intrusive in the lives of a number of people, and may have been one of the causes of the suicide of someone related to a victim of crime. He said that after that incident he decided what he was being asked to do was not right, and he resigned from the paper. He expressed remorse.

One of the things that interested me was how this man, who seemed decent and likable (at least from the interview) had lost his moral compass. The atmosphere in the newsroom where colleagues were hunting for stories and the thrill of the job suffocated his sense of right and his conscience. It is easy to be critical, but sadly there are many examples of people—in the wrong circumstances— who lose their moral way and do things which seem out of character. On a much bigger scale, the support of many Christians in the late 18th century for slavery shows this; many bishops, for example, argued and voted against the abolition of the slave trade in 1807.

As Christians we need always to be questioning our own motives and listening to the comments of other believers to ensure that we are not deluding ourselves. After his resurrection, Jesus entrusted his ministry to a group of people, not to one person or book, and I am sure that this was because the disciples had one other to help and correct them in the fragile early days after Pentecost. The church is a movement of people who need one another to ensure that they do not lose their way. And Christians in places of responsibility have the task of reminding people of their 'moral compass', not in a self-righteous or superior way, but as fellow human beings, all of whom need others to help them in their daily living.



ROGER WHITEHEAD



Delays Some things take longer than we had hoped. We still have not had plans for the **sanctuary furnishings** from either competitor and they are being chased up again. There is still considerable frustration over the failure to get the sound system working. The Strand Centre's plans for this are to be found elsewhere. **The hatch cupboard** still has to be fitted to the wall.

Snippets

Jan Adams circulated the proposed new paper on elder's duties and was thanked for her work. Rosemary Holmes was asked to check the information on preparing Communion.

Property

Plaques on chairs

We are getting samples and costs from two suppliers for the plaques to go on the chairs.

Possible problems with the floor in the foyer

The edge of the floor against the west wall of the foyer had sunk, probably as a result of the damp which had affected the west wall of the auditorium. Stone Co had been asked by Paul Heighway to deal with it.

Photocopier

The photocopier is coming to the end of its lease and its life and it has been suggested that the Strand trustees take on the responsibility when a new one is needed, and they will investigate the options and be ready to take over when necessary.

Commitment for Life

The Commitment for Life service on 3rd July had gone well, but the amount of money raised to date had been disappointing. Members who had not contributed should be asked through the weekly notices sheet and *In Touch* to send in their donations by mid-August. Extra envelopes might be needed.

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

NEWS FROM THE STRAND CENTRE



Managing The Centre At the request of the Elders Meeting, the trustees agreed to manage the church premises from 1st July. We anticipate the lease being signed before the end of August. The Centre now receives all the income from lettings (including from the congregation for its activities) and meets all the running costs and maintenance. It is responsible also for the refurbishment programme including the engagement of advisors (architect, grant advisor and VAT consultant) and paying their legal fees.

New trustee Janet Garland has been elected a trustee, bringing with her considerable legal and administrative experience which we shall be using!

Annual Accounts The Annual Accounts were approved, and are available on request to Geoff Willis. The trustees are confident that the activities at the Centre will generate enough income for ordinary expenditure, but they are concerned about raising enough income to meet the fees of our professional advisor. Advisors are important, and our VAT advisor has now secured registration for the company which should mean recovering VAT already paid on purchases by the Centre, and being able to recover VAT on future building work, which will be a considerable sum.

The Annual Report led to a discussion about the importance of marketing the Centre. The delivery of *strand* to every home in Dawlish will help. We will also seek a feature in August in *The Gazette*. We are applying for a start-up grant to pay for a Development Manager and letting it be known that a volunteer would be welcome!

Legal matters

As intended, the **Synod Trust** has become the sole member of the Strand Community Trust safeguarding the building at the end of the 25 year lease. It is still not known when the **lease** would be signed. The Centre has been registered for VAT and so will be able to recover VAT which it has paid.

Building work

The Centre has taken over most of the outstanding work from Stage 1. This includes:

Acoustics The only way to solve the reverberation problem is to put panels on the walls and possibly the ceiling. Kenn Village Hall has done this and got an Arts Grant to pay for it. We are investigating whether we can do the same.

Organ safety rail The architect has been asked to provide a drawing for the organ safety rail from which Stone Co will make one.



Ventilation pipes We await an estimate of the cost fitting these pipes which will circulate the hot air from the ceiling to floor level. Concern has been expressed that they be fitted before the cold weather to ensure the building was warm in the winter.

Disabled access It looks as if the temporary ramp which has been offered to us could be fitted across the front of the church. We understand that the Town Council is to give us a grant of £300 towards the cost. However, it has been decided that it would be unwise to proceed even with a temporary ramp until the outcome of our appeal against the rejection of the planning application by Teignbridge Council to remove the steps at the front (and so be able to lower the floor) and the consequential extending of the windows and door.

The lease of the top floor of the hall to the Third Age had ended, and the whole floor is available for use by the Centre. The **upstairs kitchenette** should be re-fitted early in August, thanks to the gift of units from the Kentispeers.

Next steps in refurbishment

The trustees are mindful of the pressure from the congregation for decent toilets and a kitchen in the 1871 building. It is difficult to get grants at the moment; all our advice is that you need to make personal contact with some of the trustees of the grant making bodies to be successful. If anyone knows anyone who sits on a grant making body, do please tell Roger Whitehead.

So the trustees are discussing how to phase the refurbishment within the overall scheme which has already had planning permission. Options include a permanent ramp outside across the front of the church so not lowering the floor and building the kitchen as a pavilion in the auditorium. Both of these would require both LBAC and local authority planning approval.

Developing the work

Contact had been made with the **Garden Trust** and **Oakwood Court School**. It seems likely that the latter arrange for their more able young people to run either a café or a lunch one day a week from the autumn.

Flower Festival

Taking over the Flower Festival had transformed some of the thinking of the Trustees. The focus of the Trust is now more on people than on buildings, and it has adopted the strap line "The Centre at the heart of The Strand". The major aim of the Flower Festival is explaining to the public how the proposed refurbishment of the building relates to the renewal of The Strand and the plans for the regeneration of Dawlish. So the title of the Flower Festival will be "Putting you in the picture". Help will be needed – see on page 3.

STRAND CENTRE WEEKLY EVENTS IN AUGUST



Mon	10.30 - 12.30	Third Age social gathering ☒
	12.30 - 2.00	Luncheon Club †
Tues	10.30 - 12.30	Third Age social gathering ☒ (2 nd August only)
Wed	10.00 - 12.00	Cancer Research Coffee Morning §
	2.30 - 4.30	Third Age social gathering ☒
Thurs	10.00 - 12.00	Coffee Morning
	10.00 - 11.30	Third Age Meeting <i>Speaker & refreshments</i> †
	2.30 - 3.30	Keep Fit <i>Physical activity for older people</i> †
Fri	10.30 - 12.30	Third Age social gathering ☒ (not 26 th)

Monthly Programme

<i>Week</i>	<i>actual date</i>	
2nd Tues	10.00	9 th Home Aid Charity Coffee § (see below) <i>and large selection of preserves</i>
1st Wed	1.30	- Dawlish Stroke Association (not this month) †
1st Fri	7.30	1 st Friday Evening Events § (see below)
1st Sat	10.00	6 th Table Top Sale § <i>for a table phone 867355</i>

SPECIAL MEETINGS EVENTS IN AUGUST

Fri	5	7.30 - 9.00	First Friday Event: Pot Pourri (see page) §
Sat	6	10.00 - 12.00	Table Top Sale for a table phone 867 355 §
Tue	9	10.00 - 12.00	Home Aid Coffee Morn: Myasthenia Gravis Assoc §
Fri	12	9.00 - 11.00	SCT trustees (Cary Room)
		10.00 - 12.00	Cancer research Coffee Morning
Mon to Fri	22 nd - 26 th	9.00 - 1.00	Ballet Summer School

for key to symbols see back page

OFFERINGS AND OTHER SPECIAL INCOME

	Sunday Offerings*		Special Collections and Events	
	2011	2010		
June	£1,227	£1,805	Coffee Mornings in June (2010 = £131)	£63
			Refurbishment Fund	£38
Year (so far)	£8,551	£10,164	Sales of chairs (£460) mugs (£100)	£560
			Christian Aid	£38

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



Pot-Pourri of Music & Words (5th at 7.30) auditorium

Home Aid's Coffee Morning on 9th is for Myasthenia Gravis Assoc
Myasthenia Gravis is an auto-immune disease which is characterised by fluctuating, sometimes fatal, muscle weakness. The body's immune system, in the form of antibodies, attacks and damages the nerve signal reception areas on the muscles - causing a breakdown in communication between nerve and muscle; this results in a loss of effectiveness of the muscle. Activities taken for granted by most of us become difficult or even impossible at times.

HELP NEEDED



Flower Festival—Carnival Week (15th-19th August 10.00—4.00)

The Flower Festival will be open for six day and we will selling cream teams and cake throughout the day. We will also be talking to those who come about the plans we have for the church and the work of the Centre and inviting them to become Friends of the Strand Centre. We need a lot of helpers. Can you offer to do a two hour shift? Do you have a friend who might come to help?

Carnival Week - Procession (19th from 6.00) Serving hot & cold drinks

As usual we will supply drinks for those waiting around for the Carnival Procession to pass by. Great fun and a good view of the Parade.

Combating Malaria in Tanzania Community Fair on Lawn (8th 10.00—4.00)

Wanda & Peter Chislett are running a stall for the Rotary's campaign against a disease which kills one child every 30 seconds in Africa. If you could help please contact them: 01626 862717.

Messy Church Holiday Club - 22nd -23rd August in the Methodist Church

We need: Pringle pots; inside of kitchen rolls; small clear plastic bottles; smooth rocks which will be painted. Please leave them in the box in the vestibule or give them to Marie. Helpers are also needed, because some regular helpers are on holiday.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS THIS MONTH

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

about **Christianity**—visit www.christianity.org.uk for the Christian Enquiry website
about **Jesus**—visit www.rejesus.co.uk for a website dedicated to Jesus Christ



For those on holiday

Creator God
who rested on the seventh day
and who has commanded us to rest also;
we pray for those who are on holiday:
that their bodies may be replenished
their minds may be renewed
and their souls may be refreshed.
Give them joy in their companions
and deepen the relationships
they have with one another and with you.
Keep them in safe through your Spirit
so they may return to us renewed
In body, mind and spirit. Amen



For those who face crucial decisions

*remembering the unemployed and those
who are getting exam results this month.*

Accompanying God,
we pray for all who face crucial decisions:
for young people awaiting exam results,
for the unemployed seeking work,
for those who are moving home,
for those facing great moral dilemmas
and for those who find themselves alone.
We also pray for those who support them,
who share their anxieties
and rejoice in their successes;
walk beside them at this time, we pray.

Southernhay United Reformed Church

Part of our series of using the Synod Prayer Handbook to pray for others.

Like many other churches, Southernhay is evolving and growing. We have been reviewing our life and our role. We need to ensure that our witness to the Gospel of love and reconciliation is relevant to our surroundings and we are engaged in a plan to adapt and improve the premises so that they are attractive and accessible to all. Under the banner 'progressive, intentionally inclusive, open and affirming', we aim to serve all those in the community around us.

Prayer

God of many names,
you have set us in an awesome world as creatures
who can worship beauty, benefit from science,
work wonders with words and ideas.
Yet we have minds that are aware of our own mortality
and our capacity for self destruction.
Remind us that we do not need to call for divine assistance,
but to be ever aware of your spiritual presence.
Help us to live and work for the Earthly Kingdom of Justice
proclaimed by Jesus, "Here in the dust and joy of human life!"

STRAND CHURCH SERVICES IN AUGUST

Morning Services at 10.30 unless otherwise stated §

7	Holy Communion	Revd Sandra Lloydlangston
14	Carnival Service	Revd Roger Whitehead
21	Family Service	Revd Roger Whitehead
28	Family Service	Revd Eric Carless (one of our retired ministers)



Evening Service

14	6.45	CTDD United Carnival Service in the marquee
28	6.30	Iona Service united in our church

REGULAR WEEKLY CONGREGATIONAL EVENTS

Thursdays 10.00 - 12.00 **Coffee Morning §**

Fridays 5.45 - 6.45 **Choir Practice #**

NOT MEETING IN AUGUST

Tuesdays 2.00 - 4.00 Knit & Chat

Thursdays 10.00 - 12.00 Coffee & Kids (run by the church for the Centre)
2.30 - 3.30 Friendship Hour

Fridays 12.30 - 2.00 Bible Study Group

CONGREGATION'S ACTIVITIES IN AUGUST

Fri 19 6.00 **Free Drinks** for those waiting for Carnival Procession

Mon 22 12.45 **Messy Church Holiday Club** (in Methodist Hall)

Tue 23 12.30

§ in the auditorium

† in the Strand Hall

⌘ in the upper lounge of Strand Hall

in the foyer

CARNIVAL 2011

SONGS OF PRAISE

Sun 14th at 6.45

in the carnival marquee

New format this year

FREE DRINKS WATCHING THE PARADE

As usual we will be offering free hot and cold drinks outside the church for those waiting for the Parade. Helpers needed!

Putting you in the picture

Flower Festival throughout Carnival Week

cream teas all day many lovely displays children's activities

Learn about the Centre users information about Dawlish Regeneration

Can you help make the most of this tremendous opportunity?

