

In touch



information from Dawlish URC

the church with the spire

February 2012

FROM THE MINISTER

It is sometimes said that when someone leaves office it needs two people to pick up the work. It will take many more than two people to do what Rosemary has been doing. Apart from being Church Secretary, she has looked after the bookings, opened up and closed the building after non-church events, supplied and arranged the flowers, cleaned the church, welcomed visitors and made available her vast knowledge of Dawlish people, firms and practices. We will struggle to live up to her high standards as she “returns to the back benches”. We are very grateful for all she has done.

My mind has turned to the early 20th century hymn:

There's a work for Jesus, ready at your hand,
'tis a task the Master just for you has planned.
Haste to do his bidding, yield him service true;
there's a work for Jesus none but you can do.

Service in and for the church is service for our Lord, as is our care for the world (see the Commitment for Life prayer on page 7). What we do is given freely and without the expectation of reward, and within the church it is often unrecognised. We need to express our thanks and encouragement for it.

When we see what we do in any sphere as service to Christ, work is transformed. This is beautifully expressed in George Herbert's great hymn:

Teach me, my God and King, in all things thee to see, and what I do in anything to do it as for thee.	A servant with this clause makes drudgery divine: who sweeps a room, as for thy laws, makes that and the action fine.
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This is basic and challenging. It is good to remember that while others may not appreciate what we do or understand why we do it, one day Jesus will say, “Well done, good and faithful servant. Enter into the joy of your Lord.”

ROGER WHITEHEAD



Resignation of Rosemary Holmes

A letter was received from Rosemary Holmes resigning from the Elders Meeting and as Church Secretary. The meeting accepted the decision with regret, noting the long years of service Rosemary Holmes has given in many capacities, particularly as Treasurer and Church Secretary, and recording thanks for her tireless work to ensure that the building was always welcoming. It was agreed that on an appropriate occasion thanks should be publicly expressed by the congregation.

Jean Potter agreed to continue as **Acting Church Secretary** to give the Elders Meeting time to consider a permanent appointment. Jan Adams was asked to look at how the people in Rosemary Holmes' **elder's group** could be allocated to other elders.

Review of past events

The series of themed **services during Advent** was thought to have been a success. The inclusion in the services of short dramas as part of a progressive development of the theme was appreciated. The idea could be repeated in another year.

Attendance was maintained or increased at all the **Christmas Services** and it was agreed that the same arrangements should take place in 2012.

There was a good response to the **Exhibition of Nativity sets**, with some 40 on display. Attendance was a little disappointing, though those who did come seemed very impressed. It was a labour-intensive time ensuring that there were at least two people present all day. About £114 was made in refreshments. **The Quiet Space day** was very disappointing; it showed that people did not shop in large numbers for Christmas things in a last minute rush in Dawlish. **The New Year party** was not very well attended, but it was thoroughly enjoyed by those who did attend, and Jean Potter was thanked for her work in preparing it.

Snippets

The main lease There was no news about the main lease of the building from the Synod Trust to SCT; Roger Whitehead was asked to chase up the solicitors to see what stage the signing was at. Pat Willis brought a sample **plaque for chairs** from a local shop and work has begun on checking details of the wording to go on the plaques before getting them engraved. There will be a **Synod Day** on 27th October, which will be held in Queen's College, Taunton. **Roger Whitehead** indicated that he would like to accompany his wife when she

attends the 60th birthday celebrations of her brother in New Zealand. The elders supported his three weeks absence (10th April to 4th May). It was noted that with the closure of the *Piece of Cake*, the **meal vouchers** scheme of the Methodist Church to provide redeemable vouchers for the homeless seeking food was not in operation, but CTDD has agreed to underwrite the scheme and it is hoped to establish more than one outlet for the vouchers.



Treasurer's Report

Rychard Winslade shared information about the commitments and likely income of the congregation for 2012. Our monthly contribution this year to the national Ministry and Mission Fund is £1,840, which exceeds the monthly offering so there is likely to be a shortfall over the year and a cash flow problem in a short time. This will be the main subject at the next meeting.

ANNUAL MEETING OF CHURCHES TOGETHER IN DAWLISH AND DISTRICT

At the Annual Meeting of Churches Together, Revd Bill Robertson was elected as Moderator for a year. Concern was expressed that no lay person could be found to take the office, and member churches have been asked to see if they have members who would be willing to help. Job descriptions for this post and that of the Secretary are needed.

In a review of the working of the Forum, which consists of the ministers and two lay people from each church, it was agreed that the united services for Advent and Christian Aid Week and the annual pulpit exchange are best left to the ministers, but the three major outside events require small working parties to review and plan them. They are the Good Friday Service on The Lawn, the Carnival Service and the Nativity Service with the turning on of the lights. So instead of looking for a Deputy Moderator, CTDD is looking for a convener for each of the three events as well as people to help them.

The CTDD website is almost ready to go on the web; the 2012 *Churches Directory* has been revamped with more photographs. We wait to hear what events for the Jubilee the Town Council will be proposing which we might join in with.

For further details about -
the church: see *In Touch* or www.DawlishURC.org.uk
Jesus: visit www.rejesus.co.uk
Christianity: visit www.christianity.org.uk
The Strand Centre: visit www.strandcentre.org.uk
Church phone number: 01626 889 038



Snippets

There is a **new procedure for booking rooms** in the Centre, and members are asked to ensure that congregational events are booked properly. The bookings can be seen at www.strandurc.org.uk. The Centre needs someone to **check the building** at some time each day. Jan Adams is drawing up a list which volunteers for this and a job description is available.

General improvements to the building

It is hoped to put **shelves in the tower room**, to store things now in the gallery and east entrance. The Strand hall **upstairs corridor** has been painted, and **the garden room** has been cleared and repainted, largely thanks to Janet Garland and her helpers. The **boiler room** has been cleared of a lot of rubbish. The walls in the **electric and gas meter area** will be repaired and painted to provide a very useful area for the cleaning equipment now left in the lobby outside the kitchen. Controlling the **heating in the Strand hall** by turning the thermostat up and down is not working; heat has been left on and the thermostat is temperamental. A time switch is to be fitted. The **photocopier** is too old for the service contract to be renewed. The Strand Centre has agreed to take over the photocopying responsibility and costs will be shared between the Centre and the congregation on a basis to be decided.

Uses of the Centre

The Centre trustees are pleased at the way in which the work of the Centre is developing. In addition to three Coffee Mornings a week, in January there was a Ceilidh with over 100 people present; two public meetings about the future of Dawlish; a children's party; and two church social events.

One particularly encouraging development is that Oakwood Court College has started to serve Cream Tea on Wednesday afternoons. The students have benefitted a lot from serving meals, and the trustees welcomed this initiative and the gratitude expressed by parents for the way in which the young people have developed as a result of their experience.

However, the trustees are concerned about continuity of provision of the Monday Coffee Morning, Tuesday Lunch Club and the Wednesday Cream Teas because they close during the college's holidays. It has been decided to explore the possibility of franchising these out to someone willing to provide these services during College holidays. The trustees would be pleased to hear about anyone who might be interested.

For details of the programme of The Strand Centre please see the weekly notices sheet.



Dry Rot

Dry rot has been found in the hall in the Strand Hall and it has spread into the boiler room. The Elders Meeting agreed to ask the Strand Trust, which is managing the building on behalf of the congregation, to take responsibility for arranging remedial action which will be paid for by the congregation. The cost of treating the rot is not likely to exceed £750, though there will be reinstatement costs in addition. It was agreed to ask the Synod Trust to reimburse the church from the money which it holds on the church's behalf.

Loop system

It was decided to bring in the acoustics specialists from Exeter who were involved in Phase 1 to test what needed to be done to improve the system. It was also noted that there was an intermittent fault in the lapel microphone.

PROPOSALS TO MEET IMMEDIATE PROPERTY NEEDS

There are two major structural jobs which need to be done in order that the rest of the proposed work to the building can take place. One is the lowering of the floor; if this is not done, at some time the planning authority is likely to say that the proposed temporary disabled ramp is no longer temporary and then the only way to provide disabled access will be within the bay of the foyer, thus considerably reducing its size. The other requirement is the steel frame to extend the gallery; without this there cannot not be a kitchen in the church building, so chairs and tables will continue to be stored in the west entrance thus ruling it out as a street chapel. The cost of these two jobs is around £200,000 and it is difficult to see where one large grant could be obtained in the present hard financial times though applications are being made to three grant-giving bodies for this sum.

The Elders Meeting is very keen to achieve decent disabled access and toilets at the road end of the church building, and so they have asked the Centre to explore a scheme to put in a disabled ramp to the east entrance (the one we do not use at present), and to put in two toilets where the kitchenette is now (their position in the overall plan when it finally takes place), and to resite a kitchenette similar to the existing one in the foyer where the piano is. A counselling area would be made where the hymnbook trolleys are, which could also double up as storage space, thus enabling the west entrance to become the proposed street chapel. A grant application for this has been made, and if successful, permissions will be sought.



Special this month

Torbay Churches Quiz Night 16th 7.30 Brixham

This is always a pleasing evening out, usually enhanced by spectacular wins by our teams. Help us win—lifts are available.

Torbay Churches Ash Wednesday Service 7.00 Central, Torquay

Ideal for those who cannot make the morning service in our church.

Annual reports

If your group has not got its annual report to Jean Potter or Roger Whitehead, please do so quickly, because they have to be prepared for the church's AGM.

Still got those Christmas cards hanging around?

Jan Adams will be pleased to have them for recycling.

Lunch Clubs

Both our lunch clubs now have vacancies for new members. These are held on Mondays and Tuesdays at 12.30. The Monday one is currently run by three teams of two people which is very demanding, and more helpers would be greatly appreciated.

Men's Breakfast Third Saturday at 8.30 at St Mary's Hall Dawlish Warren

As one member said, "The only cooked breakfast I ever get". He might have added, "And always a good speaker with interesting things to say." Lifts are available; men, why not join us? It's great.

Future dates for the diary

St David's Weekend 3rd - 4th March

A café style Saturday evening of Welsh entertainment and food. This is our first -of-the-month special for March. On Sunday 4th the morning service is led by the distinguished Welsh preacher Revd Dr Arthur.

The Violet Ball

will be held on 11th May not 20th April. Tickets for this special event co-hosted by the Strand Centre and Cancer Research will be on sale shortly. Numbers are limited so buy yours early.

Synod Day 27th October at Queen's College Taunton

A chance to meet people from other parts of our Synod, with a range of workshops, seminars, competitions, displays drama and games, together with a Big Birthday Cake celebrating the URC's 40th birthday.



FOR YOUR PRAYERS.

Commitment for Life prayer focus for February

The spirit of the Lord is upon me because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, and to let the oppressed go free.

Luke 4:18

Pray for those who bring good news to those in poverty through their words and their actions

Lord, grant them your justice.

Pray for those who bring good news to those in captivity through their words and their actions.

Lord. grant them your freedom.

Pray for those who bring good news to those who have lost their vision through their words and their actions.

Lord. grant them your healing.

Pay for those who bring good news to those who are oppressed through their words and their actions.

Lord, grant them compassion. Amen.

SYNOD PRAYER FOCUS IN FEBRUARY—Cornerstone Church, Torpoint

Torpoint is one of the gateways to Cornwall, linked to Plymouth by the chain ferry. It is a town built of granite stone on the outskirts of the Naval Training Base. Cornerstone is a united church with the Methodists, close knit and rejoicing that divisions do not exist.

“Our prayer request is that the plans for young peoples’ work will continue to flourish under the guidance of our new minister, Alison Richardson,; and that our Churches Together work will be even more rich than it is already.

OFFERINGS AND OTHER SPECIAL INCOME

Sunday Offerings* Special Collections and Events

	2011	2010	Coffee Mornings in Dec (2010 = £103)	£172
December	£1,349	£1,642	Coffee Mornings in 2011 (2010 = £1,314)	£1,244
Year 2011	£15,466	£20,572		

* includes standing orders etc but not Gift Aid rebates

SERVICES IN FEBRUARY



Morning Services at 10.30 unless otherwise stated

5	Holy Communion	Revd Roger Whitehead
12	Café Worship	Revd Roger Whitehead
19	Pulpit Exchange	Revd Patrick Parkes (St Gregory's) *
26	Holy Communion	Revd Roger Whitehead

* *annual Churches Together pulpit exchange*

Other Services

22	10.00	Ash Wednesday Communion led by Revd Bill Robertson
26	6.30	Iona Service (URC) A spirituality experience led by our minister

REGULAR CHURCH EVENTS

Tuesdays	2.00 - 4.00	Knit & Chat (restarts 14 th and 28 th) #
Thursdays	10.00 - 12.00	Coffee Morning (with a play area for children not 16 th) §
	2.30 - 3.30	Friendship Hour #
Fridays	12.30 - 2.00	Bible Study Group #

ADDITIONAL MEETINGS IN FEBRUARY

(on our premises unless otherwise indicated)

Sat	4	10.00	Table Top Sale §
Tues	7	7.30	Torbay URC Churches Forum , Central Church, Torquay
Tues	14	10.00	Home Aid Coffee Morning for St Gregory's §
Wed	15	10.30	Methodist-URC Liaison Group Methodist Church
Thurs	16	7.30	Torbay Churches Quiz Night (Brixham) (<i>lifts available</i>)
Fri	17	3.45	Messy Church (Methodist Church Hall)
Sat	18	8.30	Men's Breakfast (<i>St Mary's Church Hall Dawlish Warren</i>)
Wed	22	6.00	Elders Meeting #

auditorium § Strand Hall † lounge ✕ in the foyer #

THE STRAND CHURCH

Minister	Revd Roger Whitehead	28 High Street	889 098
Acting Sec	Mrs Jean Potter	1, Ivy Lane, Teignmouth	773856
Treasurer	Mr Rychard Winslade	3 Prospect House East Cliff Road	866 948
Bookings	Mrs Janet Garland	10, Luscombe Terrace	888312