

In touch



information from Dawlish URC

the church with the spire

March 2012

FROM THE MINISTER

On two occasions St Paul used the metaphor of the human body to describe the church. The human body is made up of many parts, all of which need to be in place and working if a person is to be physically whole. Even the smaller parts are significant—it only needs one tooth to be painful for the whole body to be affected.

Paul was explaining that the Christian fellowship needs all sorts of people to make it whole. People have different gifts which are needed, which range from pastoral care to administration, and from preaching to listening. And it is by sharing together that we discern the mind of Christ. A Christian community of like minded people can easily become a clique and then a sect, distorting the Gospel and its members by an absence of mutual accountability and respect.

However, because we are all different, we do not always agree and we do not always like what others find helpful. For example, one of the features of post-war church life has been the huge variety of worship now available. This ranges from traditional liturgies found, for example, in cathedrals to informal happy-clappy Spirit-led informal fellowships; and from choirs singing 15th century anthems to Christian rock festivals. This is hugely enriching and enables most of us to find the style of worship we like. Most of us like some variety, because our circumstances and moods change. Sometimes it is good to relax with the familiar; at other times we like to be stimulated and challenged by something new.



In a large church several different services can be held on a Sunday to provide this variety. In a small church like ours, this cannot be done, and so we vary the pattern, often on a bimonthly basis. No one will like everything, but for the fellowship's sake we should recognise and respect our differences, and thank God we do not all like the same thing. If we did we would never be able to help those who are different from us.

ROGER WHITEHEAD



Progress

The elders approved a **sample plaque** to be put on the chairs which have been bought in memory. One is being engraved so that we know what the finished product will look like, and then the other plaques will be engraved. Elwyn Jones has kindly agreed to install a **rail behind the organ** console to stop anyone falling off the platform. Though the architect has had ideas for this he has not delivered the plans. The architect has also not made progress on an overall design for **new sanctuary furnishings**, so the elders are returning to Robert Kilvington (who has designed a pulpit/lectern) to discuss ideas with him: money has been promised for this. It seems that the **sound system** is now better, but we want someone at the controls during services to vary the volume according to the speaker. Jan Adams is hoping to prepare a duty list – volunteers would be appreciated.

Café Worship

A letter was received from one member, complaining on behalf of others that the café church service did not enable the majority of the congregation to worship God in a familiar and helpful way, and they miss a sermon. He asked that the practice be discontinued. The elders reflected on this and other comments, some of which were appreciative of the style of this type of worship; they noted that more people stayed much longer for coffee after the service that Sunday; and they heard about a woman who chanced into the church and not believing she would like café worship, but who was able to speak about her personal circumstances in a way which was healing for her.

The elders agreed that there should be some changes to the format including a definite start to the service, and that the leader should give more of a steer in introducing the discussion and each table should also have a leader for the discussion. It should be made clear on the menu card that there will be no reporting back and all conversation is confidential.

The elders reaffirmed the need to provide varied worship in the congregation, accepting not everyone would like every service. So it was agreed to continue Café Worship bi-monthly, and in due course it will be moved to the last Sunday of the month, offering the Iona Service as an alternative for those who do not like café worship.

Information

The **Synod Day** will be held on 27th October There is a reduction in admission charges for tickets bought before 30th June. Coaches are being arranged to enable people to get to Taunton easily. Further details on page 5.

The Great Ejection On St Bartholomew's Day (23rd August) 1662, 1,700 ministers refused to sign an oath affirming the episcopal church reintroduced after the restoration of King Charles II. They were expelled from their homes and income. Many founded independent churches, most of which became Congregational Churches. The URCs in Newton Abbot and Dartmouth trace their origins to the Great Ejection. There is a conference on 1662 in Exeter on 28th to 30th August, and Jean Potter has the details. The congregation will mark the Great Ejection on 23rd September.



Faith in Community Network is being established by Teignbridge Council for faith based organisations active in community work. This will be held in Newton Abbot on 19th April. Neither Roger Whitehead nor Jean Potter is able to attend, but it is important for the Strand Church and Centre to be represented. If you would be willing to attend on our behalf, please let Roger Whitehead know.

Future of Ministry Roger Whitehead's appointment expires at the end of June and this led to a discussion about the likely future level of stipendiary ministry in Dawlish. Proposals will be brought to Church Meeting.

Treasurer's Report Full details of the church finances, the annual accounts and recommendations will be in the agenda papers for the Annual Church Meeting on 11th March.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting will be held after a shortened service on Sunday 11th March. An agenda paper and the Church Reports will be available on Sunday 4th March. There will also be an introduction and background information on the main subjects which will be:

Church Accounts for 2011; projected budget for 2012

The future scoping of ministry; whether we want Roger Whitehead's appointment to be extended beyond its termination on 30th June 2012.

Possible developments to the building (the Strand Centre will report).

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

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 being prepared.

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 Carol Service on The Lawn with the turning on of the town Christmas lights. So instead of looking for a Deputy Moderator, CTDD is looking for conveners for each of these three events.

The CTDD website is almost ready to go on the web; the 2012 *Churches Directory* has been revamped with more photographs. As proposals emerge about the way in which the town will celebrate the Jubilee, we are reflecting how the churches may best join in.

METHODIST-URC LIAISON GROUP



Representatives of the Methodist stewards and URC elders meet twice a year to keep in touch and plan services we join together for. We learned of the success of the *Time for Life* group run by Ali & Martin Rowe on the last Saturday of each month for lonely and handicapped people. It runs from 11.00 – 3.00 with a programme of activities and games as well as lunch.

Both churches were encouraged by the news of **Messy Church** which continues to go well thanks to a good group of helpers. The average age of the children is younger, more parents are staying, and more of them are attending the worship session.

We hold two weekday services a year as the town centre churches – Ascension Day and Ash Wednesday. Both of these seem to meet a need and will be continued. Our joint Maundy Thursday evening event this year will be a Passover meal in our hall. We also encourage exchange of ministers and lay preachers.



Application to Ugbrooke

It was reported that it seemed that there had been more applications from churches than had been expected for the final grants from the Ugbrooke Landfill Trust, and the expectation is that recipients will get only part of what they requested (£20,000 in our case). However, the outcome will not be known before mid-March. If there is any grant to do the work which the Centre proposed, it would give a fillip to the congregation, and increase the use of the building. However, the Centre will have to find additional grants to achieve all it wanted to from the grant. A full report will be given by the Centre to the AGM on 11th March.

Varying the planning permission

Under the lease the Centre is responsible for any new building work. In granting ecclesiastical exemption permission for the proposals for the building the Synod said that all the work had to be done at the same time and not phased. The Centre will need to ask the Synod to vary this.

Dry rot One estimate has been received and another is expected to deal with the dry rot, which was fortunately not as extensive as had been feared

1662 - 1972 - 2012

Conscience
celebration
Challenge

Synod Day 2012

**Come and
celebrate
together**

Saturday

27th October 2012

at Queens College, Taunton

Workshops

Seminars

Competitions

Displays

Music

Drama

Games

Children's activities

Big Birthday cake

10.30am to 4.30pm

Something for
everyone,
something for
YOU.

*Celebration Worship
to close the day*

Tickets booked through local church
Coach travel available from most areas

Look out for more details in the New Year
Put the date in your diary NOW

LENT LUNCHEAS IN MARCH

12.00-1.30

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| Fri | 2 | Methodist Church hall
Brunswick Place |
| Fri | 9 | Strand Church (hall)
Lawn Hill |
| Fri | 16 | St Agatha's Church Hall
Elm Grove Road
(jointly with St Gregory's) |
| Fri | 23 | Methodist Church hall
Brunswick Place |
| Fri | 30 | Strand Church (hall)
Lawn Hill |

Lunches cost £3.50— soup & rolls; and fruit. Proceeds to Christian Aid.

NOTICE BOARD



Praying for Malaysia

Women's World Day of Prayer Friday 2nd

This year the prayers have been prepared by the women of Malaysia under the title *Let Justice prevail*. Malaysia is a country with several faith communities, so the women have much to share. The service is in St Gregory's Church at 2.30. Men as well as women are invited to this annual service.

**Welsh Weekend****Welsh meal and Concert Saturday 3rd 6.30-9.00**

Enjoy a pre-concert two course meal of traditional Welsh lamb casserole, served at 6.30. The concert begins at 7.30. Meal & Concert £8; Concert only £5.

Sales this month**Table Top Sale Saturday 3rd 10.00-1.00**

Speak to Pat Willis about a table. (867 355)

Children's Nearly New Sale Saturday 17^h 10.00-12.00

Bargains of clothes, books, toys, maternity clothes and equipment even more! Tables £5—enquiries to Emma Nankervis 07881 491948

Men's Breakfast Saturday 17th 8.30-10.00

The Men's Breakfast is a hidden secret—cooked breakfast in the pleasant surroundings of St Mary's Church Hall, Dawlish Warren, and speakers who relate their Christian Faith to ordinary life. Try it out. Lifts available.

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.

Arrangements for Holy Week and Easter

Apr	5 th	Maundy Thurs	7.00	Passover Meal	Strand Hall
Apr	6 th	Good Friday	11.00	Meditation	Auditorium
			12.00	Act of Witness	The Lawn
			4.00	Hot Cross Bun Service	Auditorium
Apr	8 th	Easter Day	5.30	Dawn Service	Beach

SYNOD PRAYER FOCUS IN MARCH

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Flavel Church, Dartmouth



We are a tiny fellowship of very elderly but lovely people, working together to find our mission to Jesus Christ in the context in which he has placed us.

One problem is that few people actually live in this delightful chocolate-box little town: most of them are up the top of the steep hill in the district of Townstall. The big plus-point is that we have a beautiful building, on the flat (and there's not much flat in Dartmouth), opposite the famous Newcommen engine-shed and the colourful park, and on the edge of one of Devon's prime tourist areas.

There is a great community spirit in this town, and we see our mission in terms of extending the warm welcome of Jesus. We have begun by starting a partnership with the local amateur dramatics society, who now use our redundant balcony for storage and have their rehearsals in the main body of the church. There are several other groups to whom we would like to offer the hospitality of the Lord. Essential to this is the removal of the hard old pews, and replacing them with comfortable and moveable chairs. We are talking to the Synod about this.

And another thing: not many of our churches are about to celebrate their 350th anniversary! John Flavel was ejected from his benefice in 1662, and he founded his independent mission. We intend to make a big splash this year.

Please pray for us. You could perhaps also pray that one or two of the grand people who regularly take their holidays here, often several times a year, and who always come to worship with us, might decide to come and retire here.

OFFERINGS AND OTHER SPECIAL INCOME

Sunday Offerings*

Special Collections and Events

January	2012 £797	2011 £1,598	Coffee Mornings in Jan (2011 = £28)	£83
			Christmas Services	
			Carol Service (Force Hospice, RDE)	£49
			Crib Service (Children's Hospice)	£50
			Candle-lit Carols (FOMO)	£150
Xmas Day Lunch (donations by guests) for Christian Aid	£144		Christmas Day (Xmas Day Lunch)	£154

* includes standing orders etc but not Gift Aid rebates

SERVICES IN MARCH



Morning Services at 10.30 unless otherwise stated §

4	St David's Service	Revd Dr Tom Arthur
11	Prayer for Healing	Revd Roger Whitehead *
18	Mothering Sunday	Revd Roger Whitehead
25	Family Service	Rychard Winslade

* short service followed by the Annual General Meeting

Other Services

25	6.30	Iona Service at the Methodist Church
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REGULAR CHURCH EVENTS

Tuesdays	2.00 - 4.00	Knit & Chat (13 th and 27 th) #
Thursdays	10.00 - 12.00	Coffee Morning (with a play area for children) §
	2.30 - 3.30	Friendship Hour (not 2 nd) #
Fridays	12.30 - 2.00	Bible Study Group #

ADDITIONAL MEETINGS IN MARCH

(on our premises unless otherwise indicated)

Fri	2	2.30	Women's World Day of Prayer Service at St Gregory's
Sat	3	10.00	Table Top Sale §
Fri	9	12.00	Christian Aid Lent Lunch † (see page 5)
Sat	10	10.00	URC South Western Synod, Bridgwater
Tues	13	10.00	Home Aid Coffee Morning for Mayor's Charities ¥ §
Fri	16	3.45	Messy Church (Methodist Church Hall)
Sat	17	8.30	Men's Breakfast (<i>St Mary's Church Hall Dawlish Warren</i>)
Tues	27	11.00	Churches Together Forum #
Fri	30	12.00	Christian Aid Lent Lunch † (see page 5)

auditorium § Strand Hall † lounge x in the foyer #

¥ The Mayor's charities are Disabled Transport and Surestart

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