

In touch



information from Dawlish URC

the church with the spire

April 2012

FROM THE MINISTER

Perhaps it was inevitable, but one of the most significant parts of the Annual General Meeting was passed over quickly, and that was the **Reports of the Church Groups** which were circulated in advance as a booklet. They speak of a lot of dedication and hard work by many people. All of us are grateful for the relatively small number of people who look after the building, who care for the church members and who sustain the activities of the congregation. It is worth noting how much is now done by our members who are also volunteers of the Strand Centre where activities are growing faster than the number of volunteers available.

It is important that we acknowledge what people do and that we thank them. Paul writes to the Thessalonians, "Encourage one another and build each other up." The ministry of encouragement is often neglected but it is important.

Of course all that we do in and for the congregation as well as for our neighbours and in the wider world is done as a thanksgiving offering to God in response to what he has done for us. The more we appreciate the sacrifice of Jesus in his ministry and on the cross, the more gratitude wells up inside us, and the Holy Spirit challenges us to keep finding new ways of caring for and supporting those in need. Lent and Easter are particularly the seasons for personal devotion focusing on Jesus' life and death. We can do this individually in Bible study and in fellowship at services and on the other occasions which are available. This year our Maundy Thursday evening service will be a Passover in the hall when we will be following what Jesus did on the night before his arrests. It brings amazing insights into the way we celebrate Holy Communion.



On Good Friday we have a reflective service in our church at 11.00 and then we join in the Act of Witness by Churches Together at noon on The Lawn. Each offers us a way of enriching our spirits before the celebration of Easter.

ROGER WHITEHEAD



CHURCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

People

Tribute was paid to **Rosemary Holmes** for her work as Church Secretary, and before that as Treasurer, and as the person who had held the congregation together during vacancies and who put her energy and vast knowledge of Dawlish at the service of the congregation. It is hoped to express our thanks at an appropriate occasion. **Jean Potter** was elected Acting Church Secretary and Rychard Windslade was re-elected as Treasurer for one more year, after which he will resign from the post after seven year's service during which the work has increased greatly.

Financial matters

Because the examination of the accounts had not been completed, it was agreed that the Church Meeting would re-assemble later to approve the accounts. However, it was clear that the congregation was in debt because of unexpected repair work and the rising amount paid to the national Ministry and Mission Fund for stipends and the wider work of the church. Church Meeting asked the Synod Trust to pay for the major repairs to the trefoil on the Strand Hall roof and the dry rot in the hall from the money which it holds back from the manse rent. This will go some way to reducing the congregation's debts and to balance the books. However, the amount paid to the Mission and Ministry Fund is more than can be afforded, and Church Meeting asked the Synod to agree to an immediate review of its contribution.

Future of ministry in the Strand Church

Roger Whitehead's appointment as minister of the church ends on 30 June 2012. Roger Whitehead had informed the Elders Meeting that, if invited, he was prepared to continue as minister after 30th June 2012, and Elders Meeting unanimously recommended that Church Meeting calls Roger Whitehead to continue as its minister for up to five years from 1st July 2012. This was agreed unanimously.

Report from the Strand Centre

Church Meeting was encouraged to learn from the Strand Trust about the grant of £20,000 from the Ugbrooke Landfill Trust towards disabled access and two new toilets in the foyer. Full details are given on page 4. The Synod has to give permission for the work to go ahead and Church Meeting passed two resolutions urging it to do so quickly. So Church Meeting ended on a high note with members excited that after 21 years, it looks as if we will finally have decent toilets at The Strand end of the building.

ELDERS MEETING REPORT



Church Accounts for 2011

After the Church Meeting the examined church accounts for 2011 were available to the Elders Meeting which approved them. They will be brought to Church Meeting for adoption sometime after Easter.

Good News

The elders were delighted to know that both the main lease and the sub-lease have been completed and signed. They also congratulated Jean Potter on being appointed by the Synod as a member of the General Assembly, meeting in July.

Re-appointment of Roger Whitehead

Following Church Meeting's decision nem con to seek the re-appointment of Roger Whitehead for up to five years, the Church Secretary has spoken to the Moderator who was supportive and will recommend agreement to the Synod Pastoral Committee.

The Ugbrooke grant

The elders were delighted at the news of a grant from Ugbrooke Landfill Trust which will mean new toilets and kitchenette. A small group has been set up to work with the Strand Centre on the design of the kitchenette, so it can provide more hot snacks than can currently be served. It was noted that although the building work is the responsibility of the Strand Community Trust, the congregation has to make the application to vary the planning permission to allow the phasing of the refurbishment work. A short Church Meeting will be called to pass the necessary resolution.

Special events for the Queen's Jubilee

It was agreed to accept the invitation of St Gregory's to have a united Civic Service on Sunday 3rd June at 11.00 to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee—there will be no service in The Strand Church that day. Lifts will be arranged to St Gregory's. Other ways of marking the Jubilee are being discussed.

OFFERINGS AND OTHER SPECIAL INCOME

Sunday Offerings* Special Collections and Events

	2012	2011	Coffee Mornings in Feb (2011 = £111)	£191
February	£1,838	£1,457		
Total to date	£2,632	£3,055	Christian Aid (Lent Lunch)	£25

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



STRAND CENTRE REPORT

Grant success!

The meeting of the Strand Centre trustees was dominated by the good news of the grant from Ugbrooke Landfill Trust of £20,000 towards the costs of disabled access and toilets. The disabled access will be achieved by using a ramp generously donated by Andrew Fuller rising from near the base of the tower to the east (lower) entrance to the building. To facilitate wheelchair access the existing door from the entrance to the foyer will be blocked up and a new doorway will replace it where the Creation banner now hangs. The toilets will be built where the kitchenette is now; a new kitchenette will be built where the piano is now. It will be larger than the existing one to allow more people to work in it at the same time, and to make it easier to serve the increasing number of hot snacks at coffee mornings etc.

Teignbridge Council has approved the external plans, but permission is needed from the URC Synod Property Committee which made it conditional on the (a) approving the builders drawings (which they have done); (b) being assured that there was enough money available to pay for the proposed work (which there will be); and (c) agreeing that the work could be phased – which is what we want changed to allow us to put in the toilets. An application for this has been made. Agreement will be necessary before the Synod Property Committee issues the appropriate building licence to the Strand Community Trust.

The grant did not include some fittings and furnishings, including any electrical appliances in the kitchenette. It is anticipated that at least another £7,000 may need to be raised to fit out the kitchenette and the trustees are working out a strategy to raise this.

Snippets

The **main lease** of the building to the Strand Centre has now been signed. Progress is being made in getting an **Entertainment Licence** though the form is complex. It will include an alcohol licence which will permit groups to sell glasses of wine on the premises. An agent from the **Insurance** company has inspected the property and we anticipate that the reinstatement costs of the buildings will be increased considerably.

Letting charges have been reviewed, and from April 2012 charities and charitable activities will be eligible for a 50% discount as support to their community activities. The costs for regular users will be considered individually as their agreements came to an end.



The building

Derek Collins is about to set up his office the **Garden Room** (formerly the fire escape room) which has been repainted and provided with a new carpet. Work has been completed on eradicating the **dry rot** in the hall. A heating consultant is working out whether the proposed **heat exchange pipes** to bring hot air from the ceiling to floor level will be cost effective. This involves calculating the heat lost through the thin lath and plaster ceiling which has no insulation. We are looking into the cost of a replacement **photocopier** because it is not possible to get parts for our existing one. There is now a book on the photocopier for recording all photocopying which users *must* use.

Cleaning and caretaking

We are trying to establish a daily inspection of the whole building in order to ensure that the building is ready for users. Volunteers are needed to do this on a regular once-a-week or even once a-month basis. Jan Adams would be glad of volunteers.

Further grant applications

Ian Parkin is approaching two trusts which have no upper limit on their giving, asking them for £220,000 to undertake the basic structural work on the building. Because all the information needed has already been gathered, this will not be a time consuming job. Ian Parkin believes that it is important for the development of the Centre to have a Centre Manager/Developer in place as soon as possible, and he is exploring whether funding might come from one of the few charities which support revenue applications.

Fund raising Violet Ball

Plans are well advanced for the **Violet Ball** on 11th May. It is going to be one of the major events in the Dawlish Calendar, with Dawlish Community College's final year catering group making the sweets for the buffet and supplying waiters/waitresses. Large and small local firms have been approached to supply different things. Tickets are now on sale at only £10 each. The Activities Group has also suggested **an auction** in the autumn, probably of promises.

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 & Centre phone number: 01626 889 038

STRAND CHURCH NOTICE BOARD



Dawlish Home Aid's charity on 10th April is Rowcroft Hospice, and your support is appreciated.

Marie & Roger Whitehead will be away from 10th April to 4th May in New Zealand to celebrate Marie's brother's 60th birthday. During that time please contact Jean Potter for any pastoral requests (773 856).

Thinking Ahead

Another Synod day consultation sharing ideas for certain services will be held on 12th May 10.30 - 3.00 in Collumpton Village Hall. It will look at worship material for Harvest and Remembrance. The two previous consultations have looked at Christmas and Easter and have been very useful. Lifts are available; you do not have to be a worship leader to attend and benefit from the day.

Living with Differences – Deepening Dialogue is a booklet and CD from the URC to help local churches face the forthcoming debate on marriage – should churches be allowed to hold civil partnerships? Should marriage no longer be “between a man and a woman”? Copies of the material are available from Roger Whitehead.

STRAND CENTRE INFORMATION



Young People's photographic competition Dawlish Chamber of Trade will be supporting a photographic competition for young people of 16 and under, and it is likely that the foyer will be used to display entries in the weeks before and after Easter.

The informal independent **public examination of the Dawlish Parish Neighbourhood Plan** will be held at the Strand Centre Monday 23rd and Tuesday 24th April. We are pleased that Teignbridge Council has chosen the auditorium for this. We have been invited to serve light refreshments through out the hearing on Monday from 2.00 – 5.00; and on Tuesday from 11.00 – 1.00; 2.00 – 4.00 and 6.00 – 8.00. This will be an opportunity to raise funds for the congregation. Please offer your help to Jan Adams—this is an important opportunity for the congregation.

The Dawlish Art Group is holding its spring **Art Exhibition** in the auditorium from 1st to 5th May and normal activities will be relocated to other parts of the building. We are sorry for the disruption this will cause. The Centre's monthly **Table Top Sale** in May will be held Saturday on 19th not 5th May.



FOR YOUR PRAYERS



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Commitment for Life prayer for April

Lord God of endless time,
I bring to you this one day in my life.
May it be one of service; may it be one of prayer;
and may it be one of good news.
And at its end, may this world be better because I have been in it,
and because you have been in me. Amen

TWO HYMNS TO REFLECT ON IN THE EASTER SEASON

When my love to God grows weak,
when for deeper faith I seek,
then in thought I go to thee,
Garden of Gethsemane.

There I walk amid the shades,
while the lingering twilight fades;
see that suffering, friendless one,
weeping, praying there alone.

When my will to love grows weak,
when for stronger faith I seek,
Hill of Calvary, I go
to thy scenes of fear and woe.

There behold his agony,
suffered on the bitter tree;
see his anguish, see his faith,
love triumphant still in death.

Then to life I turn again,
learning all the worth of pain,
learning all the might that lies
in a full self-sacrifice;

and I praise with firmer faith
Christ, who vanquished pain and death;
and to Christ enthroned above
raise my song of selfless love.

God came in Jesus,
human life sharing;
gave his life for us,
suffered and died;
then, Resurrection!
Death could not hold him;
by love's perfection
death was defied.

Then, as they waited,
all of a sudden,
strong and elated,
freed of all cares;
with no misgiving,
joyful apostles
knew that his living
Spirit was theirs.

He will be coming
mighty and glorious
universe humming
loud in acclaim,
through resurrection
all of creation
brought to perfection
praising his name.

Alan Gaunt

SERVICES IN APRIL



1	Palm Sunday	Revd Roger Whitehead
8	5.45 Easter Dawn Service	<i>on the beach</i>
	10.30 Easter Communion	Revd Roger Whitehead
15	Family Service	Rosemary Quinn (Methodist Local Preacher)
22	Café Worship	Jean Potter
29	Family Service	Catherine Harris (Kingsteignton)

Other Services (for further details see separate leaflet)

5	7.00	Passover Service	United with Methodists in our hall
6	11.00	Good Friday	Meditative Service
	12.00	Churches Together	Service of Witness on the Lawn
	4.00	Hot Cross Bun service	
29	6.30	Iona Service	in the Methodist Church

REGULAR CHURCH EVENTS

Tuesdays	2.00 - 4.00	Knit & Chat (17 th) #
Thursdays	10.00 - 12.00	Coffee Morning (with a play area for children) §
	2.30 - 3.30	Friendship Hour (not 5 th) #
Fridays	12.30 - 2.00	Bible Study Group (resumes on May 11 th) #

ADDITIONAL MEETINGS IN APRIL

(on our premises unless otherwise indicated)

Sat	7	10.00	Table Top Sale §
		2.00	Preparing the Church for Easter §
Tues	10	10.00	Home Aid Coffee Morning for Rowcroft Hospice § (see p 6)
Fri	20	3.45	Messy Church (Methodist Church Hall)
Sat	21	8.30	Men's Breakfast (<i>St Mary's Church Hall Dawlish Warren</i>) auditorium § Strand Hall † lounge x 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