

In touch



information from Dawlish URC

the church with the spire

June 2012

FROM THE MINISTER

It has become clear that there are complications in getting planning permission to put toilets in the foyer because the church is a Grade II listed building. As the work of the Centre continues to grow, and everyone says further progress is imperilled by our lack of decent toilets, it is very frustrating to have to spend time re-doing much of the paper work which has already been done, and having to engage professionals to support us.

One day, as I was beginning to wonder whether it was all worth it, I was helped by a reflection by a Rabbi in our daily devotion:

There are times of faith and there are times of doubt and despair in the histories of peoples and the lives of individuals.

*Faith has always been a venture, a pilgrimage, a struggle
but God, holding a candle, looks for all who wander, all who search.*

St Paul, the great travelling evangelist who established many churches, was laid low with a health problem (probably his eye sight), and he shared his frustration with the Corinthians (II Cor 12). "Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness'." Paul who performed powerful healing miracles had to learn patience when he was not healed.

We are going to face a very frustrating time in the next six months, and it will test our faith in our vision and perhaps in the structures of our church and its planning processes. I hope it is not naïve or simplistic to believe that God has a purpose in the delay. In the frustration of not being able to move things along as we would want, we will discover fresh insights and faith. I hold on to the belief that God has great things in store for us and through us, and the setbacks will be seen as having strengthened our faith and trust.



ROGER WHITEHEAD



CHURCH MEETING

There has been considerable discussion with the Synod about the church's finances following the Church Meeting's resolutions asking for a reduction in the church's target for the national Ministry & Mission Fund and asking for a grant towards the considerable legal costs the church has borne on behalf of the Synod. The result has been that the senior Synod officers are meeting with the elders on 2nd July to discuss the overall situation. They will also meet the trustees of the Strand Centre.

The church's Finance Committee is in the process of producing budgets for 2012 – 2014 so that the congregation and the Synod officers can know the church's financial prospects. This will be reported to a **special Church Meeting on Sunday 24th June** after a shortened morning service.

There have been complications in getting planning permission for the new toilets and kitchenette, and a full explanation will also be given to the Church Meeting.

The Church Meeting will also be asked to adopt the Annual Accounts for 2011. Papers giving information on all these matters will be available on Sunday 17th June. If anyone will not be at the service that day, please let Jean Potter or Roger Whitehead know so the papers can be sent to you.

ELDERS MEETING IN MAY

Most of the Elders Meeting was spent reflecting on the church's finances and the difficulties that have been raised by the Synod about the additional toilets which we have asked for. However, some other matters were raised.

Roger Whitehead's re-appointment as our minister has been confirmed by the Synod Pastoral Committee for up to five years with an annual review. The Terms of Settlement were approved. Pat Willis had drawn up a list of those who wanted to commemorate an event or person by purchasing a chair and **plaques** are being prepared. We have suggested a **Joint Open Day with the Strand Centre**, and we await a reply.

Review of past events It was felt that the Holy Week and Easter Services had all gone well, though the number of children attending the Hot Cross Bun Service had been small, possibly because of inadequate publicity. The Maundy Thursday Passover had been particularly appreciated. The second Café Worship had been led by Jean Potter and had gone well. Once more a visitor had come unexpectedly and found the service met his need.

Family news We noted the death of Harold Babb, a member of the church for over twenty years and of Pat Scrope-Howe who had worshipped with the congregation for some years and attended several of its social events. We also noted that Sandra Lloydlangston had resigned as the local Synod Pastoral Advisor in order to give time to the care of her husband who is paralysed from the waist down following an embolism.



IT'S JUBILEE TIME

Celebrating The Queen's Jubilee

Sunday 3rd: Dawlish Thanksgiving Service St Gregory's at 11.00 note time

Roger Whitehead will be the preacher at the United Town Service. Lifts are available either from your home or from outside the church from 10.30 to 10.45. The Christian Fellowship is offering lunch outside its building in Old Town Street, and we are especially invited to drop by after the service to share fellowship with them.



Sunday 3rd: The Thames River Pageant screened in our church from 1.30 Full television coverage with continuous serving of cream teas. All are welcome: it's fun to watch in company.

Tuesday 5th Thanksgiving Service and Carriage Procession from 10.00.

Again full television coverage of the event followed by lunch. Coronation Chicken and a jubilee sweet are on the menu. Sign the list for lunch if you are coming.

Celebrating Revd Eric Carless's Jubilee

Sunday 10th: Holy Communion Service led by Eric Carless

Celebratory Church Lunch We share in the 60th Anniversary of Eric's ordination with a special Church Lunch. Please sign the sheet to indicate if you are coming.



OFFERINGS AND OTHER SPECIAL INCOME

Sunday Offerings* Special Collections and Events

2012 2011

April	£1,283	£1,107	Coffee Mornings in April (2011 = £107)	£100
Total to date	£5,468	£5,801	Fund raising	£60

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



SYNOD DAY – 27 OCTOBER 2012

QUEEN'S COLLEGE TAUNTON

Theme:

Conscience, Celebration and Challenge



This year marks the 350th anniversary of the Great Ejection and the 40th birthday of the United Reformed Church and the Synod Day theme reflects this. In 1662 2,200 ministers were forced out of their churches and manses because they would not agree to the Act of Uniformity which allowed only Anglican Services to be held in place of worship, and which insisted on an oath of obedience to bishops. The personal cost for many ministers' families was great—homeless and deprived of income. These 'Dissenters' often illegally formed small congregations which over the years became Congregational churches. One consequence was that Dissenters were not allowed to enter either Oxford or Cambridge Universities and this persisted for over 275 years.

Topic Groups choose the ones you're interested in

Diversity in church life—led by **Michael Jagessar**, the URC secretary for multi-racial & multi-cultural ministry, and Assembly Moderator 2012-2014.

1662— the Birth of the Dissenting Churches—led by church historian **Stephen Orchard**

Local events around Axminster in 1662 (some amusing) - led by **Iain McDonald**

Assisted Dying—led by **Malcolm Johnson**

Church Finances - led by **Dick Gray**, Synod Treasurer

Current developments in church life - led by **Janet Sutton**, the Synod's emerging church pioneer

Faith communities collaborating around public issues—led by **Heather Pencavel**, the Synod's inter-faith adviser

Being a hymn writer—led by **Alan Gaunt** (URC hymn writer)

2012 Facing challenges and opportunities in the URC led by **Tracey Lewis**, chair of the Assembly Mission Committee.

Have you signed the list to book your (discounted) place for Synod Day?

An every-church event

Identifying ourselves Each church is asked to bring and display items or pictures illustrating its history, and to share the life of the church today and tomorrow. We are also asked to bring a postcard to show when each church in the Synod was founded and these will make a Timeline showing. Every church is asked to create a small postcard with a picture or a brief comment to show where it fits.



A birthday cake The Synod Day coincides with the celebration of the 40th birthday of the United Reformed Church, so each church is also to bring a small piece of birthday cake, decorated with the name of the church on it.

Where and how to get there

The event is being held in Queen's College, Taunton. Coaches are being arranged to collect people from each town, so there will be no problem getting there and back. The price of the ticket includes the coach journey.

Personal contributions are wanted

Be creative—make your contribution

Creative people are invited to write a **new hymn**, or a **new poem** on one or all of the themes of Conscience, Celebration, and Challenge, or to create a unique **postcard** (A6 landscape), or **paint a picture** (A4 landscape). Fuller details are available from Jean or Roger.

What else will be happening?

There will be a **drama** based around the events of 1662 – an event that was the real start of Non-Conformism as we know it today.

Worship

Our celebration day will end with a formal act of worship, to be held in the magnificent auditorium at Queens College, Taunton.

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 12th June is St Petrock's, the Exeter charity which focuses on homeless people, and to which we give our Harvest produce. With rising poverty comes rising homelessness so the need is even greater.

The Bible Study Group resumes on 15th June and will be looking at the stories of the Maccabees in the Apocrypha. It is about the Jewish revolt about 200 years before Jesus' ministry. It led to a Jewish state, and so it had a profound influence on Jesus' ministry. The Bible Study starts at 1.00, but some folk bring their lunch to eat from 12.30.

During Jubilee Week we would like to have the church open each morning serving refreshments. Please consider whether you could help in this. It is a bad image of the church to be closed at the busiest time of year.

Flowers Gwen Davies is now in charge of flowers. She would be glad of offers to provide or pay for flowers. Sign the Flower List, or speak to Gwen (864636) or Marie Coulthard (862823).

The New Century Singers of Bovey Tracey

present

SUMMER CONCERT

Fri 8th June at 7.30

in aid of

Help for Heroes

Strand Centre

wine & nibbles in the interval

Tickets £5 in
advance or
at the door



The Silver Chain

presents

A Jubilee Celebration

A HANDFUL OF SONGS OF THE FIFTIES

Sat 16th June

**Supper at 6.30
Concert 7.45**

Supper £5; Concert £5

Supper & Concert £8

(supper tickets sold in advance to
help the caterers)

in aid of Strand Church



Commitment for Life prayer for June

We are on our way to respecting the dignity of each person
and the integrity of the earth.

But we're not there yet, Lord.

We guess that we have far to go:

- you know just how far.

Give us such hope, such visions, such commitment, such faith
that even though the task ahead still daunts us

we travel on our way with you, rejoicing!



A Prayer of Thanksgiving for the Queen in her Jubilee year

God of time and eternity, whose Son reigns as servant, not master;
we give you thanks and praise that you have blessed this Nation,
with Elizabeth, our beloved and glorious Queen.

In this year of Jubilee, grant her your gifts of love and joy and peace
as she continues in faithful obedience to you, her Lord and God
and in devoted service to her lands and peoples,
now and all the days of her life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

From the URC prayer of ordination to the ministry

Gracious God, dwell in your servant, whom we now ordain,
and strengthen the gifts you have given him/her
that the ministry and mission of your people may bear fruit.

Inspire him/her in leading worship, in preaching and in teaching and in service;
may the gospel be celebrated when he/she presides at the sacraments.

Bless him/her with love and humility to tend your flock, to feed the hungry,
to heal the wounded and to find the lost.

Give him/her power and patience to witness with all Christians to your way,
and to labour with all people of goodwill for justice and mercy in society.

Watch over him/her in times of trial and weariness,
when disappointed or frustrated;

and keep him/her from complacency and spiritual pride.

SERVICES IN JUNE



- 3 11.00 **United Jubilee Service at St Gregory's**
 10 10.30 **Holy Communion** Revd Eric Carless ¥
 17 10.30 **Café Worship** Revd Roger Whitehead
 24 10.30 **Morning Service** ≠ Revd Roger Whitehead
 ¥ Diamond Jubilee of the ordination of Eric Carless
 ≠ Shorter service followed by Church Meeting (see page 2)

Other Services

- 24 6.30 **Iona Service** in the Methodist Church

REGULAR CHURCH EVENTS

- Tuesdays** 2.00 - 4.00 **Knit & Chat** (12th, 26th) #
Thursdays 10.00 - 12.00 **Coffee Morning** (with a children's play area: not 7th) §
 2.30 - 3.30 **Friendship Hour** #
Fridays 12.30 - 2.00 **Bible Study Group** (from June 15th) # (see page 6)
 5.45 - 6.45 **Choir Practice** # (not 8th)

ADDITIONAL MEETINGS IN JUNE

(on our premises unless otherwise indicated)

- Sat 2** 10.00 **Table Top Sale** §
Thurs 7 6.00 **Elders Meeting** #
Fri 8 7.30 **New Century Singers Concert** for new toilets § (see page 6)
Sun 10 12.30 **Church Lunch** to celebrate Eric Carless' Diamond Jubilee †
Tues 12 10.00 **Home Aid Coffee Morning** for St Petrock's § (see p 6)
Fri 15 3.45 **Messy Church** (Methodist Church Hall)
Sat 16 8.30 **Men's Breakfast** (*St Mary's Church Hall Dawlish Warren*)
 6.30 **Supper & Concert** for church funds § (see page 6)
Mon 25 6.00 **Elders Meeting** #
Tues 26 12.30 **CTDD Meeting** ȡ
 auditorium § Strand Hall † lounge ȡ 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