

In touch



information from Dawlish URC

the church with the spire

July 2012

FROM THE MINISTER

A month or two ago I reflected on how easy it is to become isolated in a small congregation distant from where 'the action' is. The article on page 3 about the churches' involvement in the Olympic Games will perhaps help us to remember that we are part of the large body of believers, some of whom will be very active in offering Christian love and hospitality during the Games. I find it encouraging that Christians will be amongst the volunteers helping wherever they can.

As Christians are often marginalised and faith is discounted as irrelevant to our society, we should celebrate the willingness of Christians to play their full part in the life of the community at every level from the local to the national. As Christian insights on moral issues are regarded as out of date, we should prayerfully support Christian MPs who have difficult decisions to make about forthcoming legislation.

The natural response of some Christians to the weakening of 'Christian understanding' in our society is to withdraw into inward looking groups for mutual encouragement and support. Jesus did not do this: instead he argued his case and sought to persuade people by rigorous debate, story telling and humour. It seems to me that every Christian should be a witness to the values and aims of the Kingdom of God by word as well as action. We should make our views known in every key subject from marriage to debt relief, and from green issues to unemployment. To quote St Paul out of context, "How will they hear unless someone tells them?" The last thing we should do is to abandon the world for the comfort of like-minded people. Jesus' example was to engage with these issues whenever he could in the world in which they live. We need to be more confident in our faith, which has insights our society needs, and in which as Christians we can do such a lot.



ROGER WHITEHEAD

ELDERS MEETING IN MAY



Snippets

The Church Secretary reported that she had signed the **Terms of Settlement** confirming Roger Whitehead's appointment as minister for up to another five years. Jean Potter reported that Robert Kilvington was still interested in **designing sanctuary furnishings**, and he would be in touch when he had more time. The **plaques for the chairs** were being made. Roger Whitehead had asked for advice from the Synod Property Officer about bits of **asbestos** from the re-roofing which had been left in the space above the vestry ceiling. It was decided not to hold a Flower Festival during Carnival Week, but instead to recommend to the Strand Centre having a **Banner Exhibition**, which Roma Hibberd has kindly agreed to. Volunteer stewards will be needed throughout the week (12th to 18th August).

The church's financial position

The Elders Meeting accepted the budget for 2012 and recognised that action will need to be taken to eliminate the debt. Three recommendations will be put to Church Meeting on 24th June.

to seek to increase church offerings by 10% by holding an appropriate occasion in autumn 2012.

to fund raise, though it is recognised that some of the things which the church might do are being done by the Strand Trust to support its income, so there will be discussion about how to maximize the scope which the congregation has to fund raise.

to review expenditure - the elders did not see much scope for the reduction of costs, but they welcomed discussions with the Strand Trust about sharing some of the costs paid by the church to Roger Whitehead

With Church Meeting's agreement the Synod will be asked for the £1,300 in a 'Dawlish Manse Fund' held by the Synod in addition to the Manse Repair Fund which ensures that there is money available to repair the manse. The church has spent £17,500 in legal fees to secure the lease and establish the Strand Centre, and Church Meeting will be asked to request a grant towards the cost.

Review of past events

It was agreed that the **Ascension Day Service** was worth holding, even though it caused some inconvenience to the Coffee & Kids meeting, but that this was unavoidable once a year. We also thought that the **United Jubilee morning service** had been well worthwhile.



More than Gold is the organisation which the churches in the UK have set up to help them to relate to the Olympic Games. Often the churches are seen as out of touch and only interested in themselves. The Olympics Games provides a unique opportunity to be seen for what churches really are by playing their part in the programmes of outreach, hospitality and service.

A million free drinks of water

Volunteers are needed to help distribute a million free drinks of water during the Olympic and Paralympic Games. Christians have done this at every recent Olympics as a way to show God’s love. Volunteers serve at one of over twenty water distribution points in London including transport hubs like St Pancras Station, the pedestrian corridors and key points during the marathon events

Host an Athlete’s Family

During the 2012 games the cost of hotel accommodation will be astronomical. That’s where *More Than God* is helping by arranging for Christians to provide hospitality in their own homes to athlete’s ‘support family’ (family members, key team officials, personal coach and friends critical to their support). It is an expression of the gifts of accommodation and hospitality. Benefiting from the help of a caring host family, enables visitors to make the most of their visit to Britain. *More Than Gold’s* Athlete Family Homestay Programme has been granted the prestigious Inspire mark by the London 2012 Inspire programme, recognising innovative and exceptional projects directly inspired by the Games.

Games Pastors

are volunteers who will play a lead role in responding to the practical and spiritual needs of thousands of visitors coming for the Games. Every day of the Games, St Pancras International Station will receive around 100,000 extra travellers and up to 800,000 extra people will come to London, spilling onto streets around Games venues, official big screen Live Sites and other venues. From transport terminals to games venues – Games Pastors will be there. They are volunteers trained, equipped and supported to assist travellers, sightseers and spectators with practical advice and help. They will have an eye open for those in special need. Effectively, they will demonstrate the love of Christ on the streets and at transport terminals to those visiting London for the Games. Each one will be part of a small and mutually supportive team and serve in two 4-hour shifts for a minimum of seven days, with one of those as a day off.

STRAND CENTRE UPDATE

A Business Plan

The trustees have been working on a three year Business Plan for the Centre. They have adopted four key aims around which the Plan has been developed.

1. To expand the Centre's catering based on the temporary kitchenette

It is clear that the enlarged kitchenette mean a large increase in the amount of food sold on the premises and so it could generate significant income. The Board agreed to appoint a Catering Manager to manage the current ad hoc arrangements for Coffee Mornings, and to establish a brand for all catering in the Centre. It will initially be a quarter-time post

2. To undertake a professional quality marketing programme

There is considerable room to increase the number of bookings, particularly the auditorium in the evenings and the rooms above the hall. The new toilets and ramp will make the Centre an even more desirable venue, but a marketing plan is necessary.

There was discussion about the dilemma the Board faces in wanting to provide cheap facilities for local groups, but having to generate income to run the building and its administration, and that this was especially acute in the difficult financial situation that many local groups faced. It was agreed that the responsible thing for a community organisation to do would be to explain the dilemma to the users and engage in discussion about what was reasonable for both parties.

3. To take responsibility for more activities

The Centre gets more money from running an activity than it does getting room rental from someone else running the same activity. It was agreed that that in principle the Centre should aim to run more of the activities in the Centre, though we will need more volunteers.

4. To appoint a Development Manager

Recognising their own commitments and the pressure on the Centre's volunteers, the trustees agreed that it is necessary to appoint a Development Manager, but this cannot be funded from revenue and grant support is being sought.

Paying for the 'temporary work'

The basic cost of the temporary work is about £35,000, but about £59,000 is needed to equip the kitchenette and the toilets and do other important work. We will be launching an appeal and making grant applications to raise the

necessary money. It will be possible for individuals to pay for particular equipment (eg a fridge) or furnishings (eg crockery) and a list will be available by mid-July. A distinctive leaflet will be circulated shortly about what is planned and the need for help.

Other matters

Thanks to those who helped with the Silver Chain's Concert, *A Handful of Songs*. 26 people enjoyed a two course meal before the Concert which delighted with Songs from the Fifties, which suited most people there. £292 was raised for the temporary work project.

We were disappointed not to be chosen by Sainsbury's as its Charity of the Year, though we did get to the last third. It seems that the Devon Air Ambulance has more immediate appeal than our plans to develop the Centre as a community resource.

PROPERTY UPDATE

Short and long term alterations

A formal application has now been made which was considered by the LBAC at its meeting on 6th July, and it is hoped that it will report to the Synod Property Committee in mid-September. The only thing which could not be done is the removal of the stairs to the gallery, which is a sad because they take up a lot of space in what will be the main entrance when the ramp is put in.

The Synod Property Officer has also suggested that we ask for permission to phase the work in the original application. This would not be regarded a completely new application and the argument might be that the financial situation had changed significantly since the original application was made. We will explore this once the appeal is underway.

Work needing to be done now

If the Centre can pay for it, a new roof will be installed over the stairs between the hall and the church. In wet weather it is both a danger and a health hazard. It is hoped to fit a sliding door in the hall to block the kitchen from view.

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



STRAND CHURCH NOTICE BOARD

Dawlish Home Aid's charity on 10th July is **Christian Response to Eastern Europe** In 1990 that Gary Taverner had a vision to help in the hideous orphanages in Romania and he began to get involved.

Over the years, the situation in Romania improved so CR22EE expanded activities to Albania and some of the areas devastated by the nuclear disaster in Chernobyl. Whilst working in Romania reports were heard about the neighbouring country of Moldova and how appalling levels of poverty abound there. One fleeting visit and Moldova became the focus of CR22EE's work. It is Europe's poorest country and the situation there is really dreadful.

The Olympics We plan to project TV pictures of the key events of the Games in the auditorium with suitable refreshments. At the time of going to press we do not know which events these will be—they will be in the weekly sheet and on posters outside the church. Watching these events with others in a friendly environment enhances the enjoyment.

The next **Café Worship** is being held on 29th July instead of in August. This bimonthly form of worship is being found to be increasingly helpful as there is an opportunity to share views and learn from one another. At each one so far someone who had no intention of coming has somehow arrived and found their spiritual needs met in a deep and helpful way.

Advance notice On Sunday 5th August at 6.30, Alethe Virgin (who is taking our service on 8th July) will be formally licensed as a Methodist local preacher in the Methodist Church. She has invited members of our church to share in this special occasion.

The first Wedding since we removed the pews will be held on Saturday 23rd July when Mark Forrow and Julie Corcoran get married. They are Morris Dancers and morris dancers will lead the to them church and from it, and we hope some might take part in the service.

Changes On 28th & 29th July we welcome Revds Philip and Lythan Nevard to Kingsteignton URC & Newton Abbot united church and Furrough Cross & Brixham URCs respectively. Mark Jones begins his work as Pastor of Dawlish Christian Fellowship. Each of them would value your prayers this month.

for information on Jesus visit: www.rejesus.co.uk
for information about Christianity visit: www.christianity.org.uk



FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Pray unceasingly

It would be good if everyone of us prayed daily **for Helen and for Ray**, as Helen's physical situation gets no better.



PRAYING FOR THE OLYMPICS

The Bible has some perspectives which are helpful as we consider how to pray for the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

1. A nation in celebration

Leviticus 23, 2 Chronicles 15:10-15, Ezra 6:16-22, Joel 2:12-18, John 7:37-39

God instructed his people to hold national gatherings. They were times of worship, prayer and sacrifice. The 2012 Games will be a time when the whole nation has its gaze on one particular event. We get to shape this celebration in prayer, so let's be expectant in our faith and specific in our requests.

2. The kind of winning that matters

1 Corinth. 9:24-27, Galatians 5:7-10, Philippians 3:12-16, 1 Tim 4:7-8, 2 Tim 4:7-8

Paul uses the illustration of sport to teach on discipline and stamina and about persevering to win. He speaks of prizes and trophies. What prize do they most want to win? Is it man's or is it God's? The Church has the responsibility of challenging people to think about the eternal score-board and praying that the Games will cause people to ask deeper questions about their lives.

3. Welcoming visitors from other nations

Genesis 12:1-3, Deuteronomy 10:14-21, Isaiah 60:1-7, Matthew 25:31-46, Acts 2:5-12, Hebrews 13:1-3

Thousands will visit our shores for the Games and not just the competitors. The Israelites were commanded to extend God's welcome and kindness to those around them. Jesus made clear we are to welcome foreigners, feed the hungry, shelter strangers, clothe the naked—all as if we were welcoming Christ himself.

4. A global perspective

Psalms 24:1-2, Joel 2:20-32, Matthew 24:13-14, Acts 1:6-8, Revelation 7:9-12

We should never shrink our world view down to our own interests and borders. God the Father created the world, God the Son died and was raised to life to redeem the world, and God the Holy Spirit is pouring himself out across the whole world. The Church gets to share in the work of bringing freedom, justice and hope to the whole of creation. Let's pray for the Games, that they will be a global event and have a long-lasting legacy of blessing for the whole world.

SERVICES IN JULY



1	10.30	Holy Communion	Revd Roger Whitehead
8	10.30	Family Service	Alethe Virgin (Methodist lay preacher)
15	10.30	Prayer for Healing	Revd Roger Whitehead
22	10.30	Family Service	Revd Roger Whitehead
29	10.30	Café Worship	Revd Roger Whitehead

Other Services

15	3.00	Songs of Praise on the Lawn led by Dawlish Christian Fellowship
29	6.30	Iona Service united the Methodists in our Church

REGULAR CHURCH EVENTS

Tuesdays	2.00 - 4.00	Knit & Chat (10 th , only this month) #
Thursdays	10.00 - 12.00	Coffee Morning (with a children's play area: not 27 th) §
	2.30 - 3.30	Friendship Hour #
Fridays	12.30 - 2.00	Bible Study Group (not 27 th) #
	5.45 - 6.45	Choir Practice #

ADDITIONAL MEETINGS IN JULY

(on our premises unless otherwise indicated)

Mon	2	1.30	Meeting of Synod officers with the elders §
Sat	7	10.00	Table Top Sale §
Tues	10	10.00	Home Aid Coffee Morning for CR22EE § (see page 6)
Fri	20	3.45	Messy Church meets in the Methodist Church Hall
Sat	21	8.30	Men's Breakfast (<i>St Mary's Church Hall Dawlish Warren</i>)
		3.00	Wedding of Mark Forrow and Julie Corcoran § (see page 6)
Sat	28	3.00	Induction of Revd Lythan Nevard at Furrough Cross (p 6)
Sun	29	3.00	Induction of Revd Philip Nevard at Kingsteignton URC
			auditorium § Strand Hall † lounge x in the foyer #

OFFERINGS AND OTHER SPECIAL INCOME

Sunday Offerings* Special Collections and Events

	2012	2011		
May	£1,155	£1,107	Coffee Mornings in May (2011 = £116)	£62
Total to date	£6,843	£7,323	Fund raising	£0

*includes standing orders etc but not Gift Aid rebates