

In touch



information from Dawlish URC

the church at the centre of the town

October 2012

FROM THE MINISTER

Although it is over twenty years since the Hillsborough football disaster, it comes as a chilling shock to learn that people in positions of great responsibility lied and manipulated facts to protect themselves. In many areas of life there is an attitude of avoiding facing up to the truth and taking the blame. This is even required by my car insurance policy which says that I must not admit liability after an accident even if I have caused it. This IS partly caused by the blame/claim culture of seeking compensation for anything that goes wrong.

However, the underlying problem, it seems to me, is the lack of a sense of morality in many people. This is seen from lack of care by speculative bankers gambling with other people's money to MPs (and many others) claiming expenses they are not entitled to.

Our morality - how we behave in relation to others - arises from our understanding of the world. As Christians we understand the world was created for us by God, and so it not ours to exploit and destroy: we should be keen ecologists. We believe that self-denial for the sake of others is the clue to a harmonious society. This is rooted in our conviction that there is a Creator whose model of human life is that of Jesus Christ, who gives us strength in our lives. So much in the letters in the New Testament is about Christian behaviour within the church fellowship and how we live in our society because God calls us to imitate the example of Jesus.

Of course many people seek the good of others without being Christians, but I think it is very hard to promote a public morality without some underlying principles. Otherwise we are always more likely to seek out own good than that of others, even if it means blaming others for what is our fault. It is ever more important that as Christians we live lives of honesty and integrity, because deeds shout louder than words.

ROGER WHITEHEAD



ELDERS MEETING REPORT



Manse

Our manse is currently let, but last month there were considerable problems associated with damp and inadequate work commissioned by the letting agents. It is hoped that some of the cost of repairs can be reclaimed from the building firm. New letting agents have been appointed, and by agreeing that the church would supervise any repair work etc, it is hoped to reduce this cost. The manse rental provides about £4,000 pa to the church, so it is a good source of income but it does need supervision.

Snippets

We are continuing to try to sort out the **acoustics difficulties** in hearing at our services. Leading the service from outside the apse seems to be more helpful. Following the resignation of Sandra Lloydlangston. our new **Synod Pastoral Advisor** is Gwen Jennings, the wife of Robert Jennings who moved recently from Furrough Cross. The elders would like suggestions for which charities should receive the **Christmas offerings**. The Smile Train is the only one suggested so far.

Donation for the proposed work

A donation of £2,000 had been received with the comment, "It is high time there were toilets at the Strand end of the church – and I do like the idea of the devotional chapel on the other side." This will probably be allocated to the Strand Chapel which we hope can be set up as part of the 'temporary' works. Plans for the Chapel should be available this month.

KEYS

This month we will complete some changes to the locks in the building. The mortice lock on the upper door of the Strand Hall will be replaced with a yale lock with the same key that works the front door. This provides an easy escape route in the event of a fire. The vestry key left near the vestry will be removed; all elders will have vestry keys to facilitate access, and most elders will have safe keys. Money should be left in the drawer in the safe, and not in drawers in the vestry desk. Those needing access who do not have a key should ask Janet Garland or one of the elders to give them access.

THE STRAND CHURCH

Minister	Revd Roger Whitehead	28 High Street	889 098
Acting Sec	Mrs Jean Potter	1, Ivy Lane, Teignmouth	773856
Bookings	Mrs Janet Garland	10, Luscombe Terrace	888312

NEWS FROM THE STRAND CENTRE



Changes can go ahead

The Synod Property Committee has given planning permission for the 'temporary' work with conditions which can be met. A grant of £12,000 has been offered by the Community Council of Devon. This means that there is enough money for all the structural work to be done, and the architect will be commissioned early this month to prepare detailed drawings. It is essential that the advisory groups thinking about how to get the best out of the changes complete their work quickly so their ideas can be incorporated into the plans. After mid-October it will be too late! We hope work will start this year.

Appeal progress

We cannot think of a special event around which to launch the Appeal, though one exciting idea is being explored. Local organisations will be asked to donate towards equipping the new areas, and individual donations are always welcome.

Who does what

Concern has been raised about the repetition of items on the Committee's agenda and the Board's agenda, and church elders have the same items often discussed at their meeting. A paper is being prepared suggesting the areas of responsibility of the Board, the Executive Committee and Elders Meeting in relation to the buildings, development and work of the Centre

Quick news

The **annual report and accounts** are available on request. We want to **increase the number of trustees** and to broaden their representation. Later this month there will be a meeting with prospective trustees to explain the work of the Centre. Suggestions of people to be approached would be very welcome. Martin Charlesworth is the new **Strand Centre Treasurer**. Thanks were expressed to **Geoff Willis** for the hard work which he has done to establish the company and to guide it through the recovery of VAT.

Catering

We are delighted to have David and Tracey Phillips join us at a crucial time for our catering. David has wide catering experience (including as chief chef in the Langstone Cliff Hotel) and he lectured at South Devon College and latterly at Exeter College, where he was the deputy head of the department. Tracey Phillips has wide administrative experience and "loves baking bread and cakes". They have already transformed thinking about the new kitchenette and exciting ideas are being discussed about major developments in catering. We are very fortunate to have their experience



PROPERTY

The Strand Centre has carried out a lot of property maintenance over the summer, much of it catching up with work not done by the Strand Church. Further work was necessary on the **lightning conductors** which failed the annual test. This cost around £500. The **electrical wiring** in the 1871 building failed the hard wire test and a considerable number of alterations had been necessary. While it was being put right, a number of **emergency and exit lights** etc were installed to bring the building up to a reasonable safety standard. The total cost was around £2,000.

Further work at a cost of £500 will be needed to eradicate the **dry rot** in the hall once the affected area has dried out. In the hall loft space, **pigeons** have been living and dying, causing infestation of flies among other things. The area has been cleared of debris (12 sacks) and the two apertures secured against further intrusion. The cost of this had been over £300.

NEWS FROM CHURCHES TOGETHER IN DAWLISH AND DISTRICT



During the past year Churches Together has had separate working parties on its three major public events – The Christmas Lights event, The Good Friday Act of Witness on The Lawn and the Carnival Service. This has worked well; it is hoped that one person from each church will share in this work! Roger

Whitehead will be pleased to pass on names.

We **welcome** the increased involvement of Dawlish Christian Fellowship. It has considerable resources which we hope will enhance some of our public events, and we are pleased that they are taking part in the annual **pulpit exchange** in February.

We are looking for a new **Moderator** and offers will be welcome.

The launch of our **CTDD website** has been delayed for months by the failure of the ministers to provide information about their churches. Now they have a deadline, we hope to see the site up and running soon.

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

CHURCH NOTICEBOARD



Bible Studies in October

During October Jean Potter is going to lead the Bible Study group in a series on the Maccabees. There are two of the books in the Apocrypha, which is a series of books leading up to the time of Jesus' birth which were not included in the Old Testament scriptures because they were written originally in Greek and not Hebrew - though the books are in the Roman Catholic Bibles. The books tell the exciting story of the war of Jewish independence around 160 BC. The stories would have been known by Jesus, though he never quotes from them.

Synod Day - 27th October

We have one spare ticket if anyone would like it. Information about this gathering of all the churches in the South Western Synod makes it clear it is going to be an enriching day, with a vast variety of things for people to do, and ending with a service of praise. If you would like to come, please speak to Jean.

STRAND CENTRE NOTICEBOARD



Police Commissioner Question Time Exeter University 16th Oct 6.15 - 8.30

Next month we will be voting for a Police Commissioner for Devon and Cornwall, who will have an influence on the lives of every one of us. This public meeting is a chance to hear the candidates and, as it is likely to be very popular, advanced booking is essential.

Exeter Police and Community Choir Thursday 18th October 7.30

We are very privileged to have the Exeter Police Choir who are well known throughout the area for the quality of their singing. Because this is going to be a very popular event, tickets will be sold in advance from 6th October.

Charity Concert for Sand Dams clean water project in Africa by **Pembroke Male Voice Choir**, Sat 20th October, 8 pm, Langstone Cliff Hotel.

OFFERINGS AND OTHER SPECIAL INCOME

Sunday Offerings* Special Collections and Events

2012 2011

August	£1,417	£1,025	Coffee Mornings in Aug (2011 = £62)	£73
Total to date	£12,089	£10,858	Fund raising	£0

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

A TRIBUTE TO HELEN HUMPHRIES

Helen's final ambition was to be at her grandson Charlie's 13th birthday. She achieved this, but she died five days later. When Charlie heard the news he went to his room and wrote this tribute.

What a Wonderful Grandma I had.
 When I saw her smile I was glad.
 She made me feel happy when I felt sad -
 she was the BEST Grandma I could ever have had.
 What a clever Grandma she'd be.
 All the wonderful things I wish she could see,
 she made me smile with glee –
 what a wonderful Grandma she was to me.

Grandma always made me laugh
 when she tickled me in the bath!!
 with soap and a load of hope
 she made many a joke.
 When she taught me things I didn't learn at school
 I thought 'Grandma you rule'.
 When I scored my first goal
 she was so happy she nearly did a forward roll!
 No-one's better than My Grandma
 she was the Greatest Grandma I could ever dream for.

My Grandma always made me happy
 even when I was back in nappies!!!
 She had great faith in me
 in talent I didn't know or see.
 She brought out my best,
 so I could be better than the rest.
 Even though she's now gone
 She will still look on
 as I spread the legend of My Grandma
 Helen Humphries to you.

LOVE CHARLIE

for information on Jesus visit: www.rejesus.co.uk

for information about Christianity visit: www.christianity.org.uk



FOR YOUR PRAYERS

“The prayer of a good person has a powerful effect.”
James 5:16



ROWAN WILLIAMS ON PRAYER

A friend of mine said, “I’m going to spend ten minutes just thinking about you and Jesus”, and I think that’s a brilliant definition of intercessory prayer. You don’t send in your list of requests or bombard God with your demands. You just hold the image and sense of a person or situation in the presence of God as if you want to let the one seep into the other. The bringing together of those two realities in your mind and heart is very much how I find intercession works.

COMMITMENT FOR LIFE PRAYER

Prayer for Jamaica AIDS Support (JAS)

To you, whose touch brings healing
we pray, touch those with HIV/AIDS
and through the work of JAS,
bring healing.

Healing from bigotry and hatred
healing from fear and pain,
healing from isolation and loneliness

But we ask, touch us too,
so we may be moved with compassion
healed of our prejudices and
freed to respond in love. Amen

IN THE HARVEST SEASON

God, whose farm is all creation,
take the gratitude we give.

Take the finest of our harvest,
crops we grow that all may live.

Take our ploughing, seeding, reaping,
hopes and fears of sun and rain,
all our thinking, planning, waiting,
ripened in this fruit and grain.

All our labour, all our watching,
all our calendar of care
in these crops of your creation,
take, O God; they are our prayer.

TINS FROM OUR HARVEST WENT TO THE FOOD BANK IN TEIGNMOUTH

13 million people live below the poverty line in the UK. Every day people in the UK go hungry for reasons ranging from redundancy to receiving an unexpected bill on a low income. Food banks provide a minimum of three days emergency food and support to people experiencing crisis in the UK.

In 2011-12 food banks fed 128,687 people nationwide, 100% more than the previous year. Rising costs of food and fuel combined with static income, high unemployment and changes to benefits are causing more and more people to come to food banks for help.

Let us act to meet the needs; we agitate for changes so people are lifted out of poverty; we pray for compassion for ourselves and in our society.

SERVICES IN OCTOBER



7	10.30	Holy Communion	Revd Adrian Phippen (Kingskerswell)
14	10.30	Family Service	Revd Roger Whitehead
21	10.30	Café Worship	Revd Roger Whitehead
28	10.30	Family Service	Revd Vincent Canning (retired Methodist)

Other Services

28	6.30	Iona Service in the Methodist Church
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CHURCH EVENTS IN OCTOBER

Tuesdays	2.00 - 4.00	Knit & Chat (9 th & 23 rd) #
Thursdays	10.00 - 12.00	Coffee Morning (Kids & Coffee: songs at 11.00) §
	2.30 - 3.30	Friendship Hour #
Fridays	12.30 - 2.00	Bible Study Group #
	5.45 - 6.45	Choir Practice #

ADDITIONAL MEETINGS IN OCTOBER

(on our premises unless otherwise indicated)

Sat	6	10.00	Table Top Sale §
Mon	8	6.30	Elders Meeting # (<i>provisional date</i>)
Tues	9	10.00	Home Aid Coffee Morning for Mission Aviation Fellowship §
Thurs	18	7.30	Exeter Police Choir for our Ramp & Toilets Appeal §
Fri	19	3.45	Messy Church (in the Methodist Hall)
Sat	20	8.30	Men's Breakfast , Dawlish Warren (lifts available)
Sat	27	10.00	Synod Day , Taunton
			auditorium § Strand Hall † lounge ¶ in the foyer #

For diaries: Torbay URC churches dates

Tues	4 th Dec	12.30	Advent Study Group 1	Newton Abbot , Avenue
Wed	5 th Dec	7.00	Carols Down the Line	South Devon Railway
Tues	4 th Dec	12.30	Advent Study Group 2	Torquay , Central
Sat	12 th Jan	3.00	Soirée	Teignmouth
Wed	13 th Feb	7.00	Ash Wednesday Service	Newton Abbot , Avenue
Date to be arranged			Outing to Killerton House	Exeter

For more up-to-date information about the church visit
www.StrandChurch.org.uk—it's got photographs too!