

# ***In touch***



## **information from Dawlish URC**

the church at the centre of the town

### **November 2012**

#### **FROM THE MINISTER**

There can never have been such a plunge from fame to disgust as that of the late Sir Jimmy Savile. The man who was honoured and feted for donating millions of his own money and raising even more for the charities for which he worked, is now excoriated for various levels of sexual abuse. As Mark Antony said of Julius Caesar after his assassination,

“The evil that men do lives after them;  
the good is oft interred with their bones.”

There is rightly revulsion at Jimmy Savile’s sexual exploitation of young people, but why is the undoubted good he did now either overlooked or dismissed?

For Christians - and perhaps for many others - it is the uncomfortable realisation that there is good and evil in each of us. The minister who runs off with the Choir mistress is also known as a good pastor; the teacher who steals school funds is nevertheless a good teacher; the woman “caught in the very act of adultery” may well have been a devoted mother (see John 8:1-11). The good that is done is not negated by bad things we also do.

Some years ago a Metropolitan Police Commissioner said of widespread scandal in the Met, “We are rooting out the few bad apples.” How comforting that would be if life were so simple. The frightening truth is that each one of us might, in the wrong circumstances, yield to temptation and take the wrong turning. “Let the one without sin cast the first stone.”

Jesus did not condemn the woman to death by stoning as the law required.

He said, “*Go and sin no more.*” At least before the grave, if not after it,

Christians affirm the possibility of repentance and transformation in Christ. There are many wonderful examples of this for which we thank God and the power of the Holy Spirit. In simple terms, hate the sin, love the sinner, and pray for strength to resist temptation.

ROGER WHITEHEAD



## ELDERS MEETING REPORT



The elders had a special meeting for discussion about worship.

**Café Worship** With experience of four café worship services it has become clear that some members stay away, although the majority seem to welcome a more participative form of worship, at least from time to time. It was decided to move Café Worship to the last Sunday of every other month when the Iona Service provides an alternative, more traditional, service on that day. An introduction to the passage to be studied at Café Worship will be given before the discussion so that the background is understood: this is important if the passage is to be seen in context.

**Intercession** To encourage more participation, it was agreed to ask lay people to lead the Intercessions from time to time. There was an affirmation for the use of **modern songs**, and appreciation of the key role of the Choir in enabling the congregation to get to know them. Rebecca Ramsden and her band will lead worship at a special evening service when the building work is completed.

**Prayer meeting** We welcomed the idea of a Prayer Meeting on Fridays at 11.30 preceding the Bible Study which starts at 12.30.

**Screen** Using the projector can often be very helpful but putting the screen up and down can be disruptive. We are looking into the relative costs, technology and ease of use of an electric screen using a projector or a large TV screen which could be operated by wireless from a laptop.

**Worship in the Chapel** A lot of thinking was done about the daily service which will be held in the Chapel at 10.00 each day, led by lay people. This 15 minute act of worship will have a standard liturgy with different readings, psalms/canticles and intercessions for each day with variations according to the Christian seasons. It will include the prayer requests on the Prayer Tree and the suggestions for daily prayer in the CTDD and Elders Districts' prayer cycle. There will be a particular focus on Prayers for Healing one day each week, and it would be possible for another day to be a Communion service. The daily prayers would begin as soon as possible after the Chapel is opened.

**Worship during the building alterations** in January will be in the Strand Hall.

### CELEBRATIONS

The congregation was formed in 1814, and plans are being made for celebrating **our bicentenary**. We are also discussing how to celebrate the **completion of the building work**.

## STRAND CENTRE NEWS



### Addition Trustees

The Centre wants to recruit more trustees. We would welcome suggestions. Trustees set the policy for the Centre and control the expenditure, but the main work is done by committees. The trustees meet monthly, usually during the day but not always. There will be a meeting for those who might be interested on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> December – supper at 7.00, meeting beginning at 7.30. Let Roger Whitehead or Jean Potter have your ideas.

### Catering

The Kitchenette Group is well advanced in its plans, thanks to the involvement of David Phillips who had wide experience as a chef and in teaching catering. After the alterations, the Inspire Café will be created, aimed at inspiring people in their needs (elderly, unemployed, lonely etc) and being inspiring in its food (healthy, cheap and very tasty). A logo is being designed to give the café its own brand image. David has redesigned the kitchenette layout and recommended appropriate commercial equipment. Under his and his wife Tracey's guidance menus have been prepared, and the Group is looking at appropriate cutlery and crockery as well as uniforms for those who serve.

Much stricter health & safety procedures will be necessary, and Marie Whitehead is working with the Phillips to ensure this. All who serve in the café will need a Level 1 Certificate, which will be arranged by the Centre.

Discussion has begun with those who regularly run coffee mornings about how the transition to a café will take place.

### Help provided and needed

Tracey Phillips has offered administrative help, and she has already researched a new photocopier and other things related to the kitchenette.

We need more people to cook for our two Lunch Clubs: offers to Marie Whitehead.

### OFFERINGS AND OTHER SPECIAL INCOME

#### Sunday Offerings\*    Special Collections and Events

**2012    2011**

September	£1,763	£1,230	<b>Coffee Mornings</b> in Sept (2011 = £179)	£200
Total to date	£13,852	£12,088	<b>Commitment for Life</b>	£287

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



## THE NEXT STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT

### External

The planning authorities have said that the domestic **ramp** offered by Andrew Fuller to provide disabled access is not suitable for entry into a public building. A full sized ramp is needed at a likely additional cost of £5,000. Planning permission has been applied for from Teignbridge Council (8 weeks) and listed building consent has been sought from the Synod Property Committee (at least 13 weeks).

The previous planning applications did not include the **glass doors** inside the blue wooden doors, although these are essential to open up the building. They will involve some additional structural work including extending the top step of the west entrance. This is included in the latest applications.

### Internal

When the Chapel is created in the west vestibule, the east vestibule will be the main entrance to the building, and it will have to be cleared of everything in it. This creates a **huge storage problem**. The trollies for the hymnbooks, folding chairs and tables will go into the corners of the auditorium where the amplifier and prayer corner are now. High quality moveable screens will hide them from public view. The **vestry** will need to be used for storage, and it is hoped to develop it into a Centre and Church Office with new shelving and cupboards. Ideally this would be done before we have to clear out the foyer area.

**The kitchenette** will be larger than discussed previously, and with a special canopy to make the area more attractive. It will be the first sight of the interior of the Centre which visitors will get on entry, and the canopy will also house large noiseless extractor fans.

### Timing

We have permission for the internal work, but it may take some time before the exterior work can be started. So it has been decided to do the work in two contracts – the internal and the external. The former will take six weeks (which has considerable saving on health and safety matters) and the external work will be done as soon after that as possible. During the internal work it will not be possible get access to the auditorium apart from through the hall. The Ugbrooke grant has to be spent by the end of January, so the trustees have decided on a start date of 2<sup>nd</sup> January. Discussions have begun with the users about their meetings during the building work.

## NEW SYNOD MODERATOR



*The Synod's fifth Moderator and first woman Moderator is to be Rev Ruth Whitehead. She will serve from 1<sup>st</sup> July for seven years. She writes of herself:*

I was ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament in the URC in 1993, after four years as a middle school teacher on the Isle of Wight and then four years' education for ministry at Mansfield College in Oxford. I have served pastorates at Woodford Green; North Oxford; Abingdon; and most recently. Whittlesford & Pampisford LEP and Duxford URC in South Cambridgeshire.

I was born in Marsden in West Yorkshire, but when I was 6 years old we moved to Merthyr Tydfil in South Wales, and then my first degree in biological sciences took me to Leicester — so my accent is something of a mixture.

I have a daughter, Ellie, who is 18 and has just started a Natural Sciences degree at Nottingham. I was divorced from her dad, Chris Ball, in 2001 but she has continued to have a good relationship with us both and has chosen to keep his surname. She's a lovely and intelligent young woman and we're both very proud of her.

I am simultaneously thrilled and awed at the start of this new ministry, at the thought of being your moderator.

My own discipleship has been shaped by being part of a number of different fellowships with a variety of theological views and as I travel to the churches, large and small, from Cornwall to Wiltshire I look forward to sharing the joys and challenges of following Christ's path together.

As we meet and talk, I pray we will seek and find the part we are called to play in God's mission to bring love, hope and healing to our world in Christ's name. May the Spirit breathe through all we do and may we be held in the love of God the Father as we strive to be part of Christ's body, the church.

*David Grosh-Miller's valedictory service is likely to be on 15<sup>th</sup> June, and Ruth's Induction on 13<sup>th</sup> July.*

### THE STRAND CHURCH

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

## STRAND CENTRE NOTICEBOARD



### Thank you to the Hibberds

Many years ago Roma Hibberd started the banner group which created our many magnificent banners for the church. Then the group became Knit and Chat, supporting orphans in Malawi. Now Roma has handed over leadership of the group to Pam Green, and the elders have taken responsibility for the banners. Ken and Roma Hibberd have enriched and stimulated many parts of our church life and we are grateful to them for all that they have done for us.

### Charity Christmas Card Sale Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov 10.00 - 12.00 in the Centre

Your chance to support your favourite charities by buying their cards and small Christmas gifts. Details and tables from Marie Whitehead. Can you help with the refreshments?

### Bible Studies in November Fridays 12.30 - 1.00

During November Jean Potter is going to lead the Bible Study group in a series on the Maccabees. Before the Study there will be a prayer meeting from 11.30.

### Men's Breakfast Sat 17<sup>th</sup> Nov Dawlish Warren 8.30 - 10.00 lifts available

Speaker: Nick Hawkins, now Vicar of Starcross and Cofton; was formerly ecumenical officer for Wales and always worth hearing..

### Advent Quiet Day Buckfast Abbey 5<sup>th</sup> Dec 10.00 - 4.00 See noticeboard

### Remembrance Commemoration Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> Nov 3.00-5.00 Strand Centre

What is now a traditional time of music and verse commemorating the fallen, ending with an Act of Remembrance and tea. Proceeds to the Poppy Appeal.

### MEETING FOR CANDIDATES FOR POLICE COMMISSIONER IN CENTRE

12th Nov 7.30 - 9.00 (three days before polling)

An open meeting to questions the candidates - all have been invited.



### A POT-POURRI OF MUSIC & WORDS

Fri 2 November at 7.30

Hand Bells New Quorum Group



**Tickets £5**

(including wine and nibbles)



Proceeds for Strand  
Ramp Appeal



## FOR YOUR PRAYERS

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

### ARCHBISHOP MICHAEL RAMSEY ON PRAYER

When you have a great friend you may plan to spend a time with them and you will be careful not to miss it. The use of the time is unlikely to be planned, but within the time, news may be shared, requests may be made, regrets or gratitude may be spoken, and minds may be exchanged sometimes by talking and listening, and sometimes with a little word or gesture. Might not our prayer be rather like that?

#### COMMITMENT FOR LIFE PRAYER

##### Prayer for November

As we look at all we possess,  
we see your words  
in the lives of the poor:  
“Do justly, love mercy,  
walk humbly with your God”.

May we never be found wanting  
as we pass by on the other side.

May we never be found wanting  
as we live our secure lives.

May we never be found wanting  
as we live by the faith we inherit.

May we never be found wanting  
because we put our trust in you.

#### A PRAYER FOR ZIMBABWE

##### We help through Commitment for Life

Most gracious and loving God,  
We are sorry for being part of a world  
that is capable of hate and destruction.  
We want to stand by our fellow Christians  
but often we fail them.

Give us understanding to appreciate  
what is happening in your world.

Strengthen and comfort

those in Zimbabwe  
who suffer daily because of the words  
and actions of a few.

Living God, we ask for them  
courage.

clear vision.

and stamina to do your will.

#### The Strand Centre seeks prayer support

- \* We are probably some £10,000 to £15,000 short on what we need for the building work - please pray the money may be found.
- \* We desperately need more volunteers to help with the cleaning and catering - please pray that they may be found.

## SERVICES IN NOVEMBER



4	10.30	<b>Holy Communion</b>	Revd Roger Whitehead
11	10.30	<b>Remembrance Service</b>	Revd Roger Whitehead
18	10.30	<b>Prayers for Healing</b>	Revd Roger Whitehead *
25	10.30	<b>Family Service</b>	Worship Team

### Other Services

25 6.30 **Iona Service** in the URC

\* followed at 11.15 by a **Church Meeting about** the building work and changes which will follow from them.

### CHURCH EVENTS IN NOVEMBER

<b>Tuesdays</b>	2.00 - 4.00	<b>Knit &amp; Chat</b> (6 <sup>th</sup> & 20 <sup>th</sup> ) #
<b>Thursdays</b>	10.00 - 12.00	<b>Coffee Morning</b> (Kids & Coffee: songs at 11.00) §
<b>Fridays</b>	11.30 - 12.30	<b>Prayer Meeting #</b>
	12.30 - 2.00	<b>Bible Study Group #</b>

### ADDITIONAL MEETINGS IN NOVEMBER

(on our premises unless otherwise indicated)

Fri	2	7.30	<b>Pot Pourri</b> for refurbishment funds ( <i>see page 6</i> ) §
Sat	3	10.00	<b>Charity Christmas Card Sale</b> ( <i>see page 6</i> ) §
Mon	12	7.30	<b>Meet the candidates for Police Commissioner</b> ( <i>see p 6</i> ) §
Tues	13	10.00	<b>Home Aid Coffee Morning</b> for Barnardo's §
Fri	16	9.00	<b>Christmas Fayre</b> by Cancer Research
		3.45	<b>Messy Church</b> (in the Methodist Hall)
Sat	17	8.30	<b>Men's Breakfast, Dawlish Warren</b> <i>lifts available</i> ( <i>see p 6</i> )
		7.30	<b>Queen of Smoke Concert</b> for refurbishment §
Sun	18	3.00	<b>Remembrance Commemoration</b> ( <i>see page 6</i> ) §
Sat	24	10.00	<b>Christmas Craft Fayre</b>
Mon	16	6.30	<b>Elders Meeting #</b>

auditorium §    Strand Hall †    lounge x    in the foyer #

#### For further details about -

the church: see *In Touch* or [www.StrandChurch.org.uk](http://www.StrandChurch.org.uk)

Jesus: visit [www.rejesus.co.uk](http://www.rejesus.co.uk)

Christianity: visit [www.christianity.org.uk](http://www.christianity.org.uk)

The Strand Centre: visit [www.strandcentre.org.uk](http://www.strandcentre.org.uk)

Church & Centre phone number: 01626 889 038