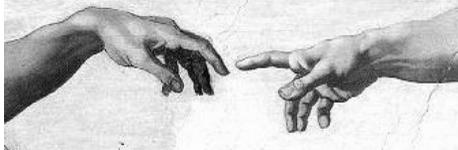


In touch



information from Strand Church

the church at the centre of town

August 2013

FROM THE MINISTER

Recently I had a letter from the Director of the Christian Enquiry Agency which said, among other things, "I am now going to write to a lady who went to church for the very first time last Sunday and has asked (literally), 'What's with the red wine?' It is amazing how we assume people know things that they don't. But even more wonderful that there is now somewhere she can go with her question."

For years we have had surveys that have told us that the general population has little understanding about the events of Christmas and Easter, and many believe the 'Good' in Good Friday is probably to do with the bank holiday and Easter is to do with eggs.

60 years ago when Billy Graham held his successful Haringay Crusade, he was largely re-connecting people to their knowledge of the Gospel stories and God's love for them. Today there is no such residual knowledge to re-connect people with. So our evangelism has to be different. I think this means showing the love of God through our actions - giving glimpses of God's kingdom. This is to be done personally in our attitude to our neighbours, friends and colleagues, and by the church in its good works. Simple acts of kindness and care can be the first encounter for some people of God's loving kindness. And it is not something which only the professionals or the very religious can do.

Everyone one of us can be this sort of evangelist.



As a church we are privileged with our position in the town: we must use it to show Christian love in action.

ROGER WHITEHEAD

ELDERS MEETING REPORT



Financial situation

Geoff Willis reported an expected small surplus at the end of the year, provided there were no unexpected bills. A discussion with Synod officials is to start shortly about the decision to limit the amount of money offered to the national Ministry and Mission Fund in 2013 because of the church's heavy expenses in the last year. It was noted that the church's finances would be in a worse state if the Strand Centre had not taken over the running costs previously borne by the church, and which are considerably more than the church pays in rent.

Protection of children and vulnerable adults

The Elders Meeting wrestled with the new legislation on the protection of children and vulnerable adults. The emphasis has switched from registering all who have contact with children to registering those in charge of children's activities and those who have frequent (more than once a week) contact with children and vulnerable adults. On this basis it was decided that it was not necessary for elders to be registered with the new Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS). It was agreed that those in the church who ought to be registered were the minister (who was registered through Church House), the Church Secretary, Marie Whitehead and Jan Adams.

Snippets

The meeting decided not to put back the **donations box** which used to be by the vestibule door. The Inspire Café has a donations box which gets more money than the old box used to get. However, when the Strand Chapel is complete, there will be a donations box in the chapel wall. The west vestibule will continue to be used as a **temporary chapel** even while it remains the main access route to the auditorium. It is heartening to see the steady, if small, stream of prayer requests pinned up each day.

A **grand piano cradle** has been purchased so that it can be moved round without being damaged. The death of **Peggy Curle** on 16th May was noted. Two regular attenders cannot attend the **Prayer Meeting and Bible Study** on Fridays, so we are looking for an alternative day. If you would like to come but cannot on Friday, please speak to Jean Potter or Roger Whitehead about which day (and time) might suit you.



The elders formally applied for membership of UCADD (details on page 4). It was noted that one of the possible UCADD projects was the establishment of a food bank in Dawlish. Produce and tins etc given at this year's Harvest Festival service will be given to a local food bank.

Photographic record

No further communication had been received from the LBAC about the photographic record of the church, and it was decided to ask for a reply so the work could be finished.

200th Anniversary

We have not begun detailed planning to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the covenanting together which was when the church was formed. However, we have asked the Assembly Moderator to visit Dawlish on one of the first three Sundays in September 2014 as focus of the celebrations of the anniversary. Detailed planning will begin in the autumn.

CAN YOU HELP?

Illustrator needed

When Roger Whitehead was in New Zealand in 2012, he had been given a booklet by a now deceased minister of a United Church in New Zealand which is a series of meditations by the deceased minister's wife as she faced terminal cancer. Roger Whitehead has permission to adapt it for use in England. It would be more attractive if it had some illustrations. Anyone willing to have a go at simple illustrations or who knows someone who might be interested should speak to Roger Whitehead so that he can take production forward.

Seeking a correspondent

A holiday maker who attends a URC church in Leeds and who visited our church has written asking for someone to correspond with him. From the writing it seems that he is probably someone with special needs. Is anyone willing to write a letter occasionally?

THE STRAND CHURCH

Minister	Revd Roger Whitehead	28 High Street	889 098
Acting Sec	Mrs Jean Potter	1, Ivy Lane, Teignmouth	773856
Church Phone:	01626 889038	website:	www.StrandChurch.org.uk



RAMPING UP THE PRESSURE

The need for a new and safe ramp is becoming increasingly important. Appeals have gone out for the £18,500 needed. The cost includes rehangng the blue doors to open outwards and installing a sliding glass door inside with an electronic opening mechanism – and improving the look of the east vestibule.



The church's plan, which Teignbridge District Council has approved, is for the sides of the ramp to be made of toughened glass. Unfortunately the Synod's Listed Buildings Advisory Committee wants the ramp to be hidden behind a stone wall going across the whole of the front of the church which the Elders Meeting thinks undermines opening up the front of the church to make the front of the church look more welcoming. A request was been made for an on-site meeting before the end of July but the LBAC could not arrange it.



UNITED CHRISTIAN ACTION IN DAWLISH AND DISTRICT

Churches Together in Dawlish and District has set up this new body (UCADD) and registered it as a company. Charitable status has been applied for. Because its objects are not explicitly Christian it will be able to draw on funding sources which would not normally support church work. The members of the company are the churches. At the moment the directors are the leaders of the local churches, though this will change over time.

UCADD has an 'outward face' and an 'inward face'. Looking outward to the community UCADD is exploring the need for a food bank, a debt relief office and an emergency night time shelter. If any of these needs is seen to exist, UCADD will seek partnership with local organisations which have the same focuses and then apply for funding from a variety of non-church sources. Looking inward, UCADD is exploring whether it is possible to do something which will attract the 20s and 30s with whom churches have little contact.

Although in its early stages, UCADD has plenty of enthusiasm and ideas. Watch this space. It has asked that the Strand Centre becomes its office and base, and the Centre Trustees have agreed.

NEWS FROM THE STRAND CENTRE



The Inspire Café

The Inspire Café is working effectively thanks to a group of volunteers, most of whom are drawn from the Strand Church. We hope that they can cover when several key people are on holiday simultaneously in early August. Special arrangements have been worked out so that different groups can run the café when they have hired the auditorium. During its week long summer Exhibition, the Dawlish Art Group ran the café and served afternoon tea. Their success will be evaluated to see if it would be worth repeating.



Financial situation

The Strand Community Trust is in financial difficulty because its grants for Phase 2 did not cover the £4,000 of professional fees for the building work. Bookings are down, probably because of the recession. Mike Keith, our new Treasurer, has considerable experience in looking at accounts and seeing where any problems are and he will work with the trustees over the summer.

The trustees have agreed to consider appointing a marketing consultant to increase the level of use. He or she would also be asked to make suggestions for improving the marketability of the premises.

Bookings

Roger Whitehead has completed putting the bookings on line, though access to the site by other people has not yet been set up. It is hoped someone will take on the responsibility.

Buildings

The illness of Paul Heighway's wife delayed the **snagging**, which finally took place four months after the work was completed. We are trying to make arrangements with Roger the Cleaner to **clean and seal the auditorium floor** sometime during the summer. Free **Wi-Fi** is available throughout the building – ask for the code.

Would you like to become a Friend of the Strand Centre? Friends make a financial contribution monthly or quarterly and they are kept informed of developments. Speak to anyone associated with the Centre.

NOTICEBOARD

Dawlish Air Show 2013 24th August (Bank holiday weekend)

The Air show is desperate for helpers (training will be given):

Collections/programme sellers - major source of income (for 2014 Air Show)

Marshalls - the eyes and ears of the Air Show

General help - deliveries; setting up and taking down.

Offers to 07846 323957 (or speak to Ali in Presents)

Dawlish Repertory Company special offer

The Rep puts on four productions a year at the Shaftsbury Theatre. It is offering one free seat for every ten seats purchased (price £10). Is there any scope for ten people from The Strand Church to come together to take advantage of this offer. Speak to Roger Whitehead.

BOOK AHEAD - further details on the noticeboard or ask for literature

Synod Women's Conference 15th to 17th October Brunel Manor

Subject: Just ordinary women in extraordinary situations

Day visitors welcome

Musicians Guild "Assist our Song" 6th October at Carrs Lane, Birmingham

Exciting worship, stimulating multi-cultural workshops and thought-provoking presentations

The Monday Lunch Club

The weekly Monday Lunch Club was started by church members three years ago and provides a very good two course lunch for only £5. There is a choice of main course and sweet as well as tea or coffee. Why not become a regular, meet new people and have a good meal. Further details from Pat Willis or Marie Whitehead.

OFFERINGS AND OTHER SPECIAL INCOME IN JUNE

	Sunday Offerings*		Special Collections and Events	
	2013	2012		
June	£634	£2,035	Coffee Mornings (June 2012 = £296)	£47
Year so far	£4,126	£8.878	Gifts/fund raising (June 2012 = £0)	£0

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



FOR YOUR PRAYERS

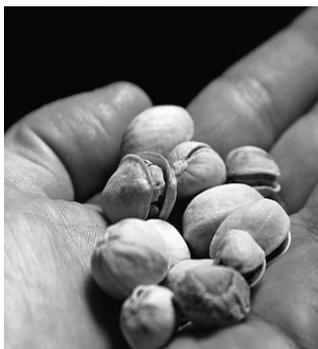


Prayer is the practice of the presence of God. It is the place where pride is abandoned, hope is lifted, and supplication is made. Prayer is the place of admitting our need, of adopting humility, and claiming dependence upon God.

COMMITMENT FOR LIFE

*We pray for those who are experiencing the effects of changes in climate those whose crops yield less because of salination, those whose homes are destroyed by floods and cyclones and those whose livelihoods are lost.
We are committed to life.*

Action:



Hold a handful of grain in your palm.
Look at each wonderful nourishing grain.
We may take such a thing for granted but crops such as these are vital to billions across the globe for food and livelihood.
As you run the grains through your fingers, pray for those facing poverty and hunger due to a failed crop caused by climate change and farmers across the world whose livings have been destroyed.

MEDITATION ON GOD'S PRESENCE

I look up to the mountains;
does my strength come from mountains?
No, my strength comes from God,
who made heaven, and earth, and mountains.
He won't let you stumble,
your Guardian God won't fall asleep.
Not on your life! Israel's
Guardian will never doze or sleep.
God's your Guardian,
right at your side to protect you-
GOD guards you from every evil,
he guards your very life.
He guards you when you leave and when you return
he guards you now, he guards you always.

DURING THIS MONTH

Pray for those
waiting for **exam results** which
will shape their future
on **holiday**
that they will be refreshed
waiting for an operation
that they may be at peace
youngsters at Christian camps
that they respond to the Gospel.

Psalm 121 (The Message)

SERVICES IN AUGUST



Sunday Morning Services at 10.30 unless otherwise stated

4	Holy Communion	Revd Eric Carless §
11	Family Service	Sally Sargeant (Methodist Preacher) §
18	Family Service	Mrs Alethe Virgin §
25	Café Worship	Revd Roger Whitehead §

Other services

11	6.45	Carnival Songs of Praise	Marquee on The Lawn
25	6.30	Iona Service	United with Methodist Church (in Methodist church)

CHURCH EVENTS IN AUGUST

Thursdays	10.00 - 12.00	Coffee Morning §
Fridays	11.30 - 12.15	Prayer Meeting #
	5.45 - 6.45	Choir Practice §

ADDITIONAL MEETINGS IN AUGUST

(on our premises unless otherwise indicated)

Sat	3	10.00	Table Top Sale §
Sat	17	8.30	Men's Breakfast , Dawlish Warren (lifts available)

CHURCH EVENTS RESUMING IN SEPTEMBER

Tuesdays	2.00 - 4.00	Knit & Chat (resumes 10 th Sept) §
Thursdays	10.00 - 12.00	Coffee Morning (Kids & Coffee resumes 5 th Sept) §
Fridays	12.30 - 2.00	Bible Study Group (resumes 6 th) #
	3.45 - 6.00	Messy Church (in the Methodist Hall—20 th Sept)

§ in the auditorium † in the Strand Hall ✕ Strand Hall lounge # in Carey Room

FOR MORE INFORMATION



Jesus	www.rejesus.co.uk
Christianity:	www.christianity.org.uk
The Strand Church:	www.strandchurch.org.uk
The Strand Centre:	www.strandcentre.org.uk

