



information
from Strand Church
the church at the centre of town
September 2013

FROM THE MINISTER

I take comfort from Paul's words, "God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong" (I Corinthians 1:27), because Paul is affirming that God's power is able to use human inadequacies to achieve the great things God wants us to do. We are a small elderly congregation with the huge vision of using our buildings in their central position in the town to be a shop window for the Kingdom of God. Humanly speaking this seems an impossible task - our resources might be small but our God is strong.

I would like to suggest that there are two small but key steps we should take this autumn towards the fulfilment of the vision.

The first is to pray as a church - individually and in a group. I would like to see a prayer group meeting solely to pray for the implementation of the vision. With this *In Touch* there is a prayer card updating a prayer we used when we started on the journey of fulfilling this vision. Each one of could use this prayer daily. As James writes, "Prayers offered by those who have God's approval are effective." (James 5:16).

The second step is to seek partnerships with others who are also called to demonstrate God's Kingdom in our town. The recent creation of UCADD and its vision (which are detailed on pages 2 and 3) seem to me to show that God has great and exciting plans for the churches in Dawlish, and we are called to offer our building and perhaps to work much more closely with some others than we have done before. Sharing can be costly, but it was only by sharing that Jesus was able to use a small boy's lunch to feed the five thousand.



ROGER WHITEHEAD



UNITED CHRISTIAN ACTION IN DAWLISH AND DISTRICT

UCADD, the charity recently created by Churches Together, has had a summer exploring local needs.

Debt relief

During the recession large numbers of people have got themselves into debt, not only with 'loan sharks' but with unrepayable bank loans and mortgage payments. Christians Against Poverty (CAP) is a well respected charity which negotiates with lenders to prevent bailiffs' action and then to set up realistic debt repayment schemes. This benefits those facing loss of home and possessions as well as the lenders who will see at least some of their money returned. CAP's vision is to have a CAP Debt Centre in every town in the UK so people can be helped speedily. In addition to negotiating sensible debt repayment, CAP runs money courses teaching people to budget, to save and to prevent debt, and CAP Job Clubs to help people find work

A CAP centre has been set up by Mars Hill Church, Teignmouth. UCADD is looking at whether to partner with a church(es) to cover Dawlish as well.

Food Banks

The recession has meant that many people in Britain are hungry because they are unable to pay for food. The response of many churches has been to set up food banks. There are at least three providing free food operating out of Teignmouth which deliver in Dawlish, and there are some food bank parcels stored in offices in Dawlish where food parcels can be given out. UCADD is currently researching who the providers are and what processes they have for identifying people in need. It seems likely that UCADD will recommend to the churches forming a partnership with a group in Teignmouth or Newton Abbot.

Street Pastors

When the police ask the churches for help, it would be unchristian to walk away. Because of the success of Street Pastors in Torbay, the local police have asked UCADD to set up a similar project in Dawlish and Teignmouth. Interestingly there is more trouble on Friday and Saturday nights in Dawlish than in Teignmouth. UCADD is learning from Torbay and from Exmouth where a similar group (called Street Angels) has been operating for **some**. Night time prayer walks have been held round Dawlish seeking the Lord's guidance. Volunteers are needed to walk the streets, to run a drop-in café and to pray. It is hoped to do trial runs during the autumn and to launch officially in January.

UCADD has to decide whether in dealing with the last two needs it is better to become part of a national organisation (eg the Trussell Trust and Street Pastors respectively) or to develop a local d-i-y version.



Other ideas under investigation

Discussions about developing **youth work** to follow up the now closed Teenbridge Youth Project began with a discussion with Jonathan Oliverio from Brixham URC who runs the highly successful Youth Genesis project which the churches in Paignton now want to join. The idea is also being explored of a monthly **Christian rock concert** aimed at the 20s and 30s who are the age-category which the churches are failing to attract or keep.

Who is UCADD?

UCADD is a charitable company owned by the churches in Dawlish. Its directors are currently the ministers or their deputies of St Gregory's, the Methodist Church, Dawlish Christian Fellowship and The Strand Church, together with Dave Finnegan who is an international entrepreneur bringing his huge experience and contacts to the Board as its chair. UCADD has been given money to help it get started, and it is employing two people, each for one day a week. **Rachel Cooper** is research administrator who is discovering which organisations are at work with whom UCADD might partner and she also prepares grant applications. **Kay Partridge** is developing schools work in consultation with the ministers who already go into schools.

But UCADD is all of us – the members of the churches in Dawlish. No action is taken without the agreement of the leadership of each church. And UCADD's success depends on the prayer support of local Christians. It is hoped soon to start a prayer group, and also UCADD Friends who are willing to make a monthly financial contribution.

UCADD sees the Strand Centre as its base, and hopes to use the office space on the top floor of the hall.

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	



STRAND COMMUNITY TRUST

It has been an interesting summer for the Centre. The main focus has been on **The Inspire Café** which is settling down to working efficiently. Many visitors take advantage of the three daily papers available to read (high, middle and low brow).



Our Wi-Fi is very popular, enabling those with laptops and iPhones to access the internet and their emails. Many holiday makers particularly value this – it is free.

However, it requires four volunteers to run the café effectively. It is just possible to cope with three, except when there is a rush of customers. But if a coach party arrives it is intensive work preparing and serving the food and drinks, clearing the tables and snatching a word with regulars and visitors. Sometimes there have been only two people on duty working from around 9.00 am to do the opening up checks to washing the floor and cleaning the toilets, and often not finishing before 3.00 – and in these cases there is no time off for lunch. We have volunteers who are not very mobile and who are invaluable at the till – so we can give a job to everyone who would like to help. Being available to talk to customers is an important aspect of our drop-in café, so perhaps that is something you could do.

The main frustration is having opportunities without the resources to take them. For example a film about Dawlish is being made at the beginning of September and the Café was asked to provide lunches for the about the fifteen folk who will be involved for ten days. With our volunteers so stretched, can we do it?

Other activities

Many of our regular activities closed during the summer but a new painting group enjoyed using the lounge and grew to about 14. Occasional bookings like children's parties have got fewer, probably because the recession is preventing some parents from hiring places for children's parties and the Centre was not used for the Carnival this year. As we are dependant on letting income to meet our bills, this is causing some anxiety.

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.

Changes in the use of the hall

The ballet group is moving from Tuesday to Wednesday afternoon and continuing to meet on Friday evenings and Saturdays mornings. Other groups might also change their meeting days. Please check with the weekly notices sheet before assuming any part of the building is free for use.



Work needing done

Around the building the number of major jobs needing doing seems to increase. Two of the handbasins in the hall toilets are coming off the wall and will need to be replaced by pedestal handbasins to take their weight. We await an estimate for sealing the auditorium floor where there is an increasing number of scuff marks. We could do with someone who would be willing to take on the job of buildings manager getting estimates and arranging for the work to be done.

Can you help?

We also need a Bookings Officer now that the bookings are on the web. Go to http://www.communitybooking.org.uk/public_webpage.php?cl_no=6 for availability.

We are deeply indebted to Anne Pemberton who serves faithfully as administrator. The Centre generates a lot of paper and Anne does the filing, answers questions, gives reminders and generally does whatever is necessary.

The ramp

A donation of £500 and a grant of £600 from the All Churches Trust have started the fund for the new ramp. Getting a ramp has become more pressing after a

very nasty accident to an elderly lady whose leg was severely cut when part of the old temporary ramp broke. She has been very forgiving about it, but the ramp has been withdrawn from use and there is now no access for people in wheelchairs. The first of a round of grant applications has been made and we hope they will be successful before Christmas.

We are still in dispute with the Synod LBAC which wants a stone wall to disguise the ramp. Teignbridge Council has agreed to our proposal for a glass balustrade instead.



NOTICEBOARD

Military Wives Choirs Central Church Torquay Sat 7 Sept 7.30

This renowned choir is holding its local concert in Torquay to support our Forces and their families. Further details on the noticeboard.

Prospect Service Methodist Church Sun 8 Sept 4.00

Prospect services are designed to include physically handicapped people and those with learning difficulties, a wonderful time of praise and sharing, followed by a great afternoon tea. Run by a group of Churches Together.

Messy Church Methodist Hall Fri 13 Sept 3.45

Messy Church is our joint youth venture with the Methodists for families. Crafts, games, fun, worship and cooked tea. Volunteers always welcome.

Civic Service St Agatha's Sun 22 Sept 3.00

The annual Civic Service is a good opportunity to support the work of our Town Council and in particular our Mayor. As Christians who believe in supporting and working with the civic authorities, this is a service to attend.

For more details of any of the above events contact Roger Whitehead

CHRISTIANS IN THE WORLD

Organ donations A recent survey showed that whilst 31% of the UK population overall have joined the NHS Organ Donor Register, 48% Christians said they had signed up.

The Sabbath Nearly two thirds of the British population say they have busier schedules on a Sunday than a weekday - losing out on time to recover from a tiring week at work. Half believe that Sunday is a day 'for getting things done'. But cooking lunch and seeing wider family still forms the mainstay of Sundays for the vast majority of British adults.

OFFERINGS AND OTHER SPECIAL INCOME IN JUNE

	Sunday Offerings*		Special Collections and Events	
	2013	2012		
July	£990	£1,794	Coffee Mornings (July 2012 = £145)	£31
Year so far	£5,206	£10,762	Gifts/fund raising (July 2012 = £0)	£0

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



FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Only the Holy Spirit can guide us to pray as we should. Just as a child learns to walk by walking, we learn to pray by praying and trusting in the help of God. Put your whole soul into your prayer.



COMMITMENT FOR LIFE

We pray for those

who face injustice because of ruling parties who do not live in a democracy;
 who have no land rights such as the Adivasi people in Bangladesh or the
 Palestinians whose land is now on the other side of the separation barriers.

We are committed to life.

Action:

Take a piece of paper and draw an 'X' in the middle of it.

It is such a simple action but one that is packed full of meaning and importance.

People have fought and died for your opportunity to have your vote.

Across the world millions still do not have that human right -
 and even when allowed to vote, cannot do so safely.

Thank God for your voice

and pray for people who are still waiting for their voice to be heard.

HARVEST FESTIVAL

This month we celebrate Harvest. In our global world the seasons seem to have less significance - strawberries in January and winter fruits in June. In a way we need to think of every day as a day of harvesting. These prayers may help.

God of great generosity
 you created with reckless bounty
 you poured blessings into our lives:
 may we respond bountifully.
 With a spirit of generosity
 and wisdom to share wisely
 may we serve those in need.

God of harvest,
 you feed, equip and provide for us.
 Help us to be fruitful in service
 to you and others.
 Feed us, prune us and harvest us
 that our lives
 might bring glory to you.

PRAYER BOARD

The west vestibule remains open as a temporary chapel until the permanent ramp is in place. Please use its prayer board for prayer requests. Prayer requests by lunch time on Friday will be included in the weekly sheet.

SERVICES IN SEPTEMBER



Sunday Morning Services at 10.30 unless otherwise stated

1	Holy Communion	Revd Eric Carless §
8	Family Service	Revd Peter Killick §
15	Prayers for Healing	Revd Roger Whitehead §
22	Family Service	Mrs Val Elms §
29	Harvest Thanksgiving	Revd Roger Whitehead §

Other services

8	4.00	Prospect Service (inclusive worship) in Dawlish Methodist Church
22	3.00	Civic Service (St Agatha's)
29	6.30	Iona Service United with Methodist Church (in our church)

CHURCH EVENTS IN SEPTEMBER

Tuesdays	2.00 - 4.00	Knit & Chat (resumes 10 th Sept) §
Thursdays	10.00 - 12.00	Coffee Morning (Kids & Coffee resumes 12 th Sept) §
Fridays	11.30 - 12.15	Prayer Meeting #
	12.30 - 2.00	Bible Study Group (resumes 6 th) #
	5.45 - 6.45	Choir Practice §

ADDITIONAL MEETINGS IN SEPTEMBER

(on our premises unless otherwise indicated)

Sat	7	10.00	Table Top Sale §
Thurs	12	7.30	Synod meeting for Treasurers & Trustees Exeter
Fri	13	3.45	Messy Church (in the Methodist Hall)
Sat	21	8.30	Men's Breakfast , Dawlish Warren (lifts available)

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

NOTE ABOUT THE STRAND CENTRE BOOKINGS

Some of the Strand Centre regulars have changed their meeting days with the new term. Check the weekly sheet before presuming a space is free.

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

