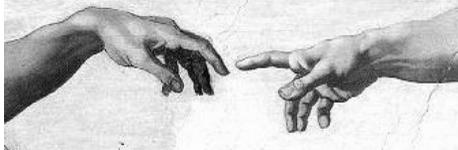


In touch



information from Strand Church

the church at the centre of town

March 2014

FROM THE MINISTER

In the past two decades most institutions have created ways in which external advice can help “to see ourselves as others see us” (to quote Robert Burns). Ofsted is an example of this at its most formal and formidable; at the other end of the scale, the URC asks each minister to have a ‘guided self-assessment’. Most employees have regular appraisals; URC churches have a five year Church Health Check. But there is no process by which groups of churches like Churches Together in Dawlish and District can normally benefit from external advice. This is a pity because an outsider’s view brings attention to opportunities and weaknesses which are often overlooked.

This is why I think the visit of Ram Gidoomal this month, about which there is considerable information in this edition of *In Touch*, is so important. With his business skills and his deep personal faith, combined with his renowned humility, he can help the churches in Dawlish to see opportunities for service which we have probably overlooked, and he can challenge us to deeper commitment to one another and to serve our town in Christ’s name. His personal focus is very much in helping those in need, not because of what we can gain, but because Christ call us to follow his example.

In our thinking about the mission of our church and the future of God’s Kingdom I am increasingly aware that Jesus offered unconditional love and service to those in need; he did not look for personal approval or more followers - indeed he told many of those he healed not to say anything or just to give glory to God. He wanted to demonstrate the nature of God’s love offered freely to all. When people saw what was happening, Jesus invited them to realise that the Kingdom of God was at hand and to alter their lives accordingly. I believe Ram Gidoomal gives us an opportunity to learn that lesson again.



ROGER WHITEHEAD

SERVICES IN MARCH

Morning Services at 10.30 unless otherwise stated

2	St David's tide (H C)	Revd Bryan Corke §
9	Lent 1	United Service in Methodist Church
16	Prayer for Healing	Revd Roger Whitehead §
23	Family Service	Paul Venn -Dunn (ex of Worship Group) §
30	Mothering Sunday	Mrs Kay Partridge §



Other services

Wed	5	10.00	United Ash Wednesday Service §
Fri	7	2.30	Women's World Day of Prayer §
	9	4.00	Prospect Service, Methodist Church
	23	6.30	Iona Service with the Methodists in their church

REGULAR CHURCH EVENTS

Tuesdays	2.00 - 4.00	Knit & Chat (11 th , 18 th & 25 th) §
Thursdays	10.00 - 12.00	Coffee and Kids Morning §
	2.30 - 3.30	Keep Fit §
Fridays	11.30 - 12.30	Prayer Meeting †

§ in the auditorium † in the Strand Hall ⌘ Strand Hall lounge # in the foyer

ADDITIONAL MEETINGS IN MARCH

(on our premises unless otherwise indicated)

Sat	1	10.00	Table Top Sale §
		6.30	St David's Day Concert (Silver Chain Singers) §
Tues	4	12.30	Fairtrade Lunch † (tickets available from café & church)
Sun	9	12.30	CTDD LUNCH PARTY TO RE-LAUNCH INSPIRE CAFE (see p 1)
Fri	14	7.30	Filling Station , Shaldon School (lifts available)
Sat	15	8.30	Men's Breakfast St Mary's Hall, Dawlish Warren
Fri	21	3.30	Messy Church , Methodist Church Hall
		7.30	Life, Love and Praise § (see page 6)
Fri	28	12.00	Christian Aid Lunch †



For the Friday Christian Aid Lent lunches see page 7

