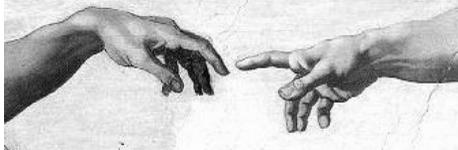


# ***In touch***



## ***information from Strand Church***

***the church at the centre of town***

***May 2014***

### **FROM THE MINISTER**

I met a group representing another Christian body in the Strand Church last month. Only the leader of the group spoke to me and none of the group asked about what we were doing or how successful we were at it. The attitude was, "We have a job to do and we will get on with it." I was so angry at what I saw as their rudeness that I made a complaint about their behaviour.

It was a salutary experience in one way. It brought home to me how we judge people by their behaviour, and people particularly judge us as Christians in this way. I have been a visitor to churches in which no one spoke to me, though they had plenty to say to their friends and said that they were "a friendly church". Christians can be rude to others, particularly to volunteers who work with them or people who irritate them. There is no excuse for this in a Christian community - it destroys fellowship and creates offence. Everyone of us (including me) can be tired and therefore short tempered, or too busy to treat someone else as a fellow believer. But that does not make it acceptable within the church.

There is also no excuse for Christians to behave like that to others. We should be on the lookout for those who are overlooked - the bus driver, the shop assistant, the receptionist - the people with jobs who deal with an endless stream of people only wanting something from them before moving on to something else. "Love your enemies" is not only about loving those who have

hurt us in a serious way; it is about loving everyone around us. A recent director of the Tate Gallery was renowned for knowing by name the ticket inspectors at the exit of his local tube station, and enquiring after their families as well. That is the sort of witness to God's unending love for us that is a powerful Gospel message.



ROGER WHITEHEAD

## ELDERS MEETING REPORT



### Visit from the Assembly Moderator

John Ellis, the Moderator of the General Assembly is to visit Dawlish on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2014 to make the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the congregation. An evening event is planned on 13<sup>th</sup> for the URC churches of the Torbay area and there will be a meeting for CTDD churches.

### Synod Review

The Synod Moderator is reviewing of the working of the Synod. She is speaking to every minister about “What resources do you need to enable discipleship and mission to flourish in your locality?”, and the Synod Pastoral Advisors are visiting every Church Meeting to discuss “What resources do you need from the Synod to enable your ministry to flourish?” Our SPA will attend the church’s Annual General Meeting on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> June. The service would be café style, with the reports as part of the worship. UCADD will also speak then.

### Snippets

**The Burns Night** attracted fewer people than normal, but it had been an enjoyable social occasion. **St David’s tide** concert and service went well and ideas are being explored for a St Patrick’s tide weekend. A donation of £20 had been received from a fund operated by the local police to help any elderly person with problems in home protection. If you know anyone who would benefit from this, please let one of the elders know.

### Finance

The Treasurer commented that the congregation’s giving was declining and it was agreed to focus on this at a service in the summer. The congregation is very generous in its giving for special things such as the recent appeal for the flood victims in Dawlish which had raised nearly £1,000 and a special appeal will be launched in connection with the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

A meeting has been held with Synod officers about the church’s contribution to the M&M Fund and its general finances. As a result this year’s and next year’s M&M target will remain at the 2013 figure of £13,000. The Moderator is talking about a “guided M&M target figure” rather than an “assessment” which is helpful.

### **The Strand Church's property responsibilities**

Work has been held up on **the organ** by a delay in receiving an estimate for the cost of the repair of the west wall of the organ chamber. Grant applications towards this work are being made to finish the work for the visit of the Assembly Moderator in September.

Anti-pigeon spikes have been installed to prevent soiling the emergency external steps from the gallery and the cost has been met by a member of the congregation. The upright pianos in the auditorium and hall have been fitted with safety wheels to make them easier to move. Preparatory work on the ramp and Chapel has been held up by the illness of the architect.

### **Life, Love and Praise**

There has been celebratory worship on three monthly Friday evenings in the auditorium supported by Churches Together with the name Love, Life and Praise. These are an hour of Pentecostal-style worship. The one on Good Friday was particularly powerful in its focus on the cross expressing the love of God for all. The elders believe that there is a core of people for whom this was their way of coming into God's presence for praise, and this has the potential to be very significant in the life of the congregation.

## **STRAND CENTRE MATTERS**



### **Grant applications**

Grants are being sought for the new boiler and the ramp. A grant has been received for the curtains which will be put around the storage areas in the auditorium. We hope these will be fitted this month.

It has been agreed that the Vestry/Office should not be used as a meeting room but as the office of the Centre and the Church. It is hoped to purchase screens to provide private space in the auditorium for those wanting it.

### **Trustees**

Alethe Virgin has resigned after four years as Chair of the Strand Community Trust and also as Manager of the Cafe. We are grateful for the caring and energetic way in which she has steered the Trust in its development of the Centre, overseen the expansion of the Cafe as the Manager and for a time been the cleaner. Alethe will be focussing on new work within the Methodist Church.

## UNITED CHRISTIAN ACTION IN DAWLISH & DISTRICT

### PROJECTS



#### Advice Centre

UCADD representatives have been invited to the Chamber of Trade meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> May to outline ideas for the Advice Centre. This will be held monthly for traders and small businesses offering professional advice on many aspects of their work, including one-to-one free consultations and help to apply for the considerable number of government grants available to them.

#### Jeffersonian Dinners

The Board was so impressed with the format of the Jeffersonian Dinner which Ram Gidoomal attended that it is arranging three more. (A Jeffersonian Dinner is a good meal with a business agenda agreed in advance). These are for

**Church elders/stewards and equivalents:** this is a key way to consult with churches to develop the sense of ownership of UCADD and its projects;

**Regional church leaders:** to share UCADD's development with the regional church leaders for Devon. The URC Moderator has promised to support the idea with the Devon Church Leaders meeting.

**Local community leaders:** on the same basis as that held with Ram Gidoomal. Each time a key person from outside Dawlish will be invited.

#### Christians Against Poverty

Following two exploratory meetings with churches across Teignbridge, UCADD is taking the initiative in forming a Teignbridge coalition of local churches to support one or two CAP debt advisors. The key work of devising a manageable debt repayment for debtors is done by the national organisation; this is expensive, about £3,000 for servicing each local debt advisor. It is clear two debt advisors are needed to cope with the demand throughout the district.

#### Nightshift

Teignmouth & Dawlish Nightshift Initiative (TADNI) will have its first volunteers on the streets of Teignmouth on the May bank holiday weekend (23/24 May). By then all the necessary training will be completed. To mark this there will be a Service of Commitment for those actively involved in Nightshift in Teignmouth Baptist Church at 3 pm on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> June. Please give this your support.

## Snippets

The trustees are conscious of the good work done by Open Daw and they hope to arrange a joint trustees meeting to discuss cooperation. Barrie Cooper of Dawlish Christian Fellowship has agreed to be UCADD's webmaster, and it is expected that the website will soon be revamped ([www.ucadd.org](http://www.ucadd.org)). Barrie has been key to the development of Nightshift. The trustees recognise that one of its strengths is that the ministers are Board members, but because they are so busy, it is important to have additional members. Each church has been asked to nominate an elder or other lay leader to the Board. (Our Elders Meeting has nominated Jean Potter.) With the possible closure of the Red Rock Centre by the County Council for financial reasons, UCADD is developing a Youth Strategy to see if the churches can offer any help. The trustees have agreed to meet monthly for breakfast and praying together, and the first meeting will be on 8<sup>th</sup> May from 8.00 – 10.00 in the Strand Centre.

## Finance

An anonymous donation has given UCADD security for the foreseeable future. However, it is important for people to feel a part of UCADD and to support some projects, so Cofton Community Choir is giving a Concert for UCADD's Nightshift project on 10<sup>th</sup> May (see page 6). Please give it your support.

## The Inspire Community Cafe

There is now an Agreement between the Strand Community Trust and UCADD (on behalf of all the Dawlish Churches) for the Inspire Café to be a joint venture. This has led to forming a Joint Management Group for the Café of three persons appointed by each of UCADD and the Strand Community Trust. This Group has produced some ideas for immediately revamping the café and it is also working towards more significant changes in 2015. It is also looking into the potential of a Fairtrade Shop as suggested by Ram Gidoomal during this recent visit. Meanwhile a source which is thrilled by the potential for the café has given an anonymous donation. It is hoped that additional volunteers from the other churches will join the existing café volunteers.

Will you become a UCADD supporter to help forward Christ's ministry of caring for the poor by praying and give a small amount regularly to UCADD?  
Ask for a leaflet.

## NOTICEBOARD



### Needed: a Noticeboard Steward

Would someone take on the job of looking after the noticeboards in the foyer and the hall. This means removing the out-of-date notice, asking for tatty ones to be reprinted, and separating church & centre notices from other community notices in the foyer. Offers to Roger Whitehead.

### The Church Annual General Meeting is on 29th June

Will those responsible please give their reports to Roger Whitehead as soon as possible, preferably electronically or typewritten, though this is not essential.

### Quiz Night - 14th May, 7.30 Furrough Cross

We want to continue our winning streak. Ask Marie Whitehead for a lift: have fun!

### “Let’s all go down the Strand” 24th May - entertainment in the town

We would like to open the café all day for this, but we need helpers. Offers please.

### Cockwood Community Choir Concert on 10<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30 in the auditorium

This very popular choir is giving a concert for Nightshift. Come for an enjoyable evening and support a project which is important for the town. It’s motto is “we put a smile on people’s faces and make them come back for more”.

### An invitation from St Gregory’s Mothers’ Union Tuesday 6th May at 2..00

This is an open meeting at which the Diocesan President, Bridget Vinton, will speak.



Did you know that the Inspire Community Café now has free Wi-Fi for phones and laptops, and also a free computer for internet access. It also has a jigsaw puzzle to tease you once you have read the (free) daily papers. And small children can enjoy our new play area. Come and bring friends.



## COCKWOOD COMMUNITY CHOIR

### Saturday 10th at 7.30 in the Centre



## MODERN SONGS YOU WILL REMEMBER

from the 60’s to now

tickets £7 inc nibbles and wine



for Nightshift

have a smile and ask for more

## PRAYERS FOR CHRISTIAN AID WEEK AND ASCENSION

### A prayer for Christian Aid Week

Transforming Spirit,  
 You hovered over the face of the waters  
 And breathed life into creation;  
 You continue to hover over the world,  
 Nourishing and brooding, bearing our pain,  
 Bringing life where there is brokenness and  
 despair.

May we cherish all that brings life,  
 And enter into the dance of your creation,  
 So that the pastures of the wilderness will  
 overflow,

### Ascension Day 29th May

*They looked up as he was taken from them*  
 And yet we often shuffle through life,  
 shuffle through work,  
 shuffle through worship  
 with our eyes fixed on the ground.  
 Lift our eyes, Lord, to see you ahead of us.  
 Lift our hearts, Lord, to find you among us.  
 Lift our feet, Lord, to follow where you went.  
 Show us where the action is,  
 where your news is happening,  
 where you are going now,  
 and send us in that direction. Lord, send us.



Hail the day that sees him rise,  
 taken from our wondering eyes,  
 Christ, awhile to mortals given,  
 reascends his native heaven!

Though returning to his throne,  
 still he calls the world his own;  
 him through highest heaven  
 receives,  
 still he loves the world he leaves.

See! he lifts his hands above;  
 See! he shows the prints of love:  
 Hark! his gracious lips bestow,  
 blessings on his Church below.

Still for us he intercedes,  
 his prevailing death he pleads,  
 near himself prepares our place,  
 first-fruits of our human race.

*Charles Wesley*

### OFFERINGS AND OTHER SPECIAL INCOME

#### Sunday Offerings\*

**2014      2013**

March	£1,970	£973 ¥
Year (so far)	£4,899	£2,074

#### Special Collections and Events

**Sunday coffee money** now goes to  
 the Centre which provides the coffee

\* includes standing orders etc but not Gift Aid rebates      ¥ services in the hall

**SERVICES IN MAY**

**Sunday Morning Services at 10.30** unless otherwise stated

- |           |                    |  |
|-----------|--------------------|--|
| <b>4</b>  | Holy Communion     | Revd Roger Whitehead §                     |
| <b>11</b> | Christian Aid Week | Margaret Noel (Anglican lay reader) §      |
| <b>18</b> | Family Service     | Alethe Virgin (Methodist local preacher §) |
| <b>25</b> | Prayer for Healing | Revd Roger Whitehead §                     |

**Other services**

- |           |       |  |
|-----------|-------|--|
| <b>11</b> | 4.00  | Christian Aid United Service, Holcombe Village Hall                    |
| <b>25</b> | 6.30  | <b>Iona Service</b> United with the Methodists in the Methodist Church |
| <b>29</b> | 10.00 | <b>Ascension Day</b> United Service with Methodists §                  |

**REGULAR CHURCH EVENTS**

- |                  |               |  |
|------------------|---------------|--|
| <b>Tuesdays</b>  | 2.00 - 4.00   | <b>Knit &amp; Chat</b> (6 <sup>th</sup> and 20 <sup>th</sup> ) §           |
| <b>Thursdays</b> | 10.00 - 12.00 | <b>Coffee &amp; Kids</b> (with play area for children: 29 <sup>th</sup> †) |
|                  | 2.30 - 3.30   | <b>Keep Fit</b> §  |
| <b>Fridays</b>   | 11.30 - 12.15 | <b>Prayer Meeting</b> Carey Room   |
|                  | 5.45 - 6.45   | <b>Choir practice</b> §  |

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

**ADDITIONAL MEETINGS IN MAY**

(in the Strand Centre unless otherwise indicated)

- |              |           |             |  |
|--------------|-----------|-------------|--|
| <b>Sat</b>   | <b>3</b>  | 10.00       | <b>Table Top Sale</b> §                                      |
| <b>Wed</b>   | <b>7</b>  | 10.30       | <b>Methodist-URC Liaison Committee</b> ¨                     |
| <b>Thurs</b> | <b>8</b>  | 12.30       | <b>Churches Together Forum</b> ¨                             |
| <b>Fri</b>   | <b>9</b>  | 7.30        | <b>Filling Station</b> (Shaldon School - lifts available)    |
| <b>Sat</b>   | <b>10</b> | 7.30        | <b>Cockwood Community Concert</b> § (see page 6)             |
| <b>Wed</b>   | <b>14</b> | 7.30        | <b>Torbay URC Churches Quiz Night</b> Furrough Cross (lifts) |
| <b>Fri</b>   | <b>16</b> | <b>2.00</b> | <b>Christian Aid Week Cream Teas</b> §                       |
|              |           | 3.45        | <b>Messy Church</b> , Methodist Church Hall                  |
|              | <b>16</b> | 7.00        | <b>Life, Love and Praise</b> §                               |
| <b>Sat</b>   | <b>17</b> | 8.30        | <b>Men's Breakfast</b> Dawlish Warren, lifts available       |



for UCADD visit  
for the church visit  
for the centre visit

[www.ucadd.org](http://www.ucadd.org)  
[www.StrandChurch.org.uk](http://www.StrandChurch.org.uk)  
[www.StrandCentre.org.uk](http://www.StrandCentre.org.uk)

