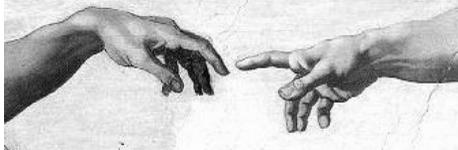


In touch



information from Strand Church

the church at the centre of town

June 2014

FROM THE MINISTER

As I have read the gospels recently what strikes me is how Jesus accepts everyone who comes to him without imposing conditions. He does not ask those whom he heals to follow him. He accepts those who have been rejected by others - including foreigners, women and tax collectors - and addresses their needs. His parables reflect this approach. The waster young son is received back unconditionally in the Parable of the Prodigal Son; and those who have worked for only an hour are paid the full wage in the Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard. Even on the cross Jesus accepts the cry of the penitent thief who is crucified beside him; ignoring his criminality, Jesus says, "Today you will be with me in Paradise."

Jesus' attitude is a demonstration of the unconditional love which God offers to us all. Criminals and respectable Pharisees, foreigners and Jewish nationalists all are welcome because the Kingdom of God is open to all who want to be in it, whatever the wishes of those who believe they are already inside the Kingdom.

Churches may be very good at welcoming strangers and helping those in need whoever they are and that is good. But churches can also find it hard to accept those with whom they disagree. This is seen in protests against different forms of worship; inability to accept those of different sexual orientation or life style; suspicion of other denominations; and so on.

The unconditional love which Jesus offers should be echoed in our lives.

We must respect the integrity of fellow Christians even if we disagree with them for each of us will in the end have to give an account to God of our actions and not theirs. And we must see in our neighbours and work mates people to whom Jesus offers God's unconditional love and let that form our attitude to them.



ROGER WHITEHEAD

STRAND CENTRE MATTERS



Resignation and election

Alethe Virgin has resigned as the Chair of the Trust, Manager of the Café and as a trustee. In these roles she had been a wise and visionary contributor during the formative period in the development of the Trust and its work. She is going to continue to work as a volunteer in the Inspire Café for one day a week. Lawson Spiller and Lesley Spiller have been co-opted as trustees and Lawson Spiller has been elected Chair of the Trust.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported that the 2013 accounts would soon be ready, and he was working on a 2014 budget. The Board noted with gratitude an anonymous donation of £7,000 for the Inspire Café. Although the Ballet Group has closed, there is a balance of income with the weekly meeting of Slimming World and six Saturday Craft Fairs. A new ballet group may be established.

Buildings

Cleaning David and Patricia MacKie are cleaning the 1871 building and Ade Sasi is cleaning the hall. The Treasurer's son James Baker who removed the growth from the north boundary wall is going **to clean the gutters**. After three months delay South West Water has changed the stopcock in the road; a church stopcock will be fitted inside the premises. Because the water can now be turned off **loose handbasins** in the hall toilets can finally be fixed.

A donation has enabled the **ordering of curtains** to hide the two storage areas at the road end of the auditorium. **A protective railing** will be built this month so that the space in front of the 1871 building can be used as a café area. **A gate** will replace some of the railings between the old building and the kitchen area to make it much easier to move heavy and large furniture from the 1871 building to the hall building. Professional advice is being sought about the **Carey Room damp ceilings**. In response from a request from the café committee the advice of **a lighting expert** is being sought on the auditorium lights after one burnt out because of the strength of the existing bulbs. Finally, a third estimate is still being sought for the **repair of the ceiling** outside the old toilet which had been damaged by the ingress of rain water.

The electricity supply into the building is a mess, and estimates are being sought for completely redoing this area. This work will involve at least three separate companies in the supply chain, and getting them all to agree is proving difficult. It is recognised that the vestry/office needed some loving care but the Board regretfully decided that there was not money available for this.

ELDERS MEETING REPORT



Visit of the Assembly Moderator

We are inviting the other Torbay URC churches to meet the Assembly Moderator on 13th September. The topic might be the Micah Challenge, the campaign which seeks to shine a light on worldwide corruption. We are also considering whether we can have an occasion for local churches to meet the Moderator.

Property Matters

It has been decided to **commission a new Communion Table and lectern** to be used on the floor instead of the ordinary folding table which is now used. The lectern will be a memorial for Revd Maurice Bennett. The Communion Table will be made with folding legs so it is not in the way during the week. It is hoped that the work on the wall of the **organ chamber** will start soon and the work on the organ done in the summer. Work will also be done on the banner store and the repair of the floor in the reprographic room. We await the final approval of the LBAC before seeking tenders for the ramp and chapel.

Providing overnight accommodation

After an unpleasant experience of allowing someone to sleep overnight in the hall, the church and the Strand Centre have agreed that no one should be allowed to sleep overnight on the premises. When there are valuable items in the auditorium (eg exhibition work) access to the auditorium from the Strand Hall will be blocked by bolts.

Snippets The **Annual General Meeting** will be held as part of Café Worship on 29th June. Papers will be available at least a week beforehand. We will be joined by our Synod Pastoral Advisor, Gwen Jennings, who will afterwards have a discussion-meal with the elders. The Treasurer reported a **projected overspend** by £1,600 at the end of 2014. The **Holy Week** and **Easter Services** seem to have gone well, though attendance was a little down on previous years.



THE INSPIRE COMMUNITY CAFÉ

Following the resignation of Alethe Virgin as Café Manager, a meeting of volunteers was called and they committed themselves to support. This enabled the café to continue on a daily basis from 10.00 – 12.00. The Strand Trustees considered a request from the Joint Management Committee to employ a professional manager if the café was to be more than a glorified coffee morning. The Board agreed to make available up to £3,000 for six months for a manager and the Management Committee appointed Adam Gidney who has considerable catering experience. He starts on 3rd June, following a training day on 2nd June when he will introduce volunteers to the new menus and other improvements. If you know anyone who would be interested, tell them of the meeting or speak to Marie or Roger Whitehead. The trustees also asked the Management Committee to explore the possibility of a Fairtrade mini-shop.

The outside of the building will soon be more attractive with flowers and tables for eating at, as well as photographs to show how nice it is inside the building.



TORBAY URC CHURCHES ANNUAL OUTING to Luscombe Castle Thursday 5th June

2.00 - 5.00

by kind permission of Sir David Hoare



**Stroll around the magnificent grounds
enjoy a cream tea attend our annual service**

Refreshments by Cancer Research for its funds

OFFERINGS AND OTHER SPECIAL INCOME

Sunday Offerings*

Special Collections and Events

2014 2013

April	£1,327	£815 †	Sunday coffee money now goes to the Centre which provides the coffee
Year (so far)	£6,226	£2,887	

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

UNITED CHRISTIAN ACTION IN DAWLISH AND DISTRICT

Christians Against Poverty



UCADD is in the process of establishing a Teignbridge Christians Against Poverty group of churches to provide the money for an additional CAP debt advisor within the district council area. One is urgently needed. Churches are being asked to indicate how much per month they would be willing to give. Our elders have agreed to offer £25 per month for one year.

Nightshift

TADNI (Teignbridge And Dawlish Nightshift Initiative), a joint venture by UCADD and Teignmouth Baptist Church, has completed the training of volunteers to be a peaceful presence on the streets when needed. The first group will be on the streets on 30th/31st May. A Commissioning Service for them will be held on Sunday 1st June at 3 pm in Teignmouth Baptist Church.

Working dinners

One feature of the developing work of UCADD is holding Jeffersonian Dinners, an idea initiated by an early American president, and described as a seminar with a good meal. In this way UCADD trustees can engage with local church leaders, with community and town leaders and hopefully with the regional church leaders. These are held in the Strand Centre and the food is provided by Adam Gidney of the Inspire Café.

THE BIG LUNCH - 8th JUNE 12.30 CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

The Big Lunch is a very simple idea from the Eden Project. The aim is to get as many people as possible across the whole of the UK to have lunch with their neighbours annually in June in a simple act of community, friendship and fun.



Since starting in 2009, thousands of Big Lunches have taken place in all types of communities across the UK. Last year 3.65 million people took to their streets, gardens and community spaces for the fifth annual Big Lunch. This year's Big Lunch is on Sunday 8 June. It is sponsored by Churches Together and arranged by teams from each church led by the Christian Fellowship.

Come along after morning service to enjoy the food, the company and the entertainment. It is on Pentecost Sunday, and we are celebrating the birthday of the church of Jesus Christ.

NOTICEBOARD

Congratulations

to Marie Whitehead who was named the Dawlish Citizen of the Year at the Annual General Meeting of the Town Council last month. The Award is for the citizen who contributed most to the life of the town. In making the presentation the Mayor, Cllr Terry Lowther, spoke of Marie's work in the annual Christmas Day Lunch, the Prospect Service, two Lunch Clubs, Messy Church and the Toddlers Group, as well as supporting her husband in the outgoing work of the church. A much deserved award.

to our Quiz Team who again won the URC Torbay churches quiz night, knowing the answer to the tie-breaking question, "What was the capital of Scotland before Edinburgh?"

Churches Together in Dawlish and District

CTDD arranges united services, provides books to every pupil moving from primary to secondary school, represents the churches at many meetings and generally encourages united witness. Large churches pay £100 pa and smaller churches £50, but this does not cover the whole cost. For the first time all the churches are invited to have a Retiring Collection on 1st June to supplement income. Christians are also being invited to make a small contribution each month or quarter to CTDD via their own church. Please give generously.

Nightshift Commissioning Service: 3 pm Sunday 1st June at Teignmouth Baptist Church The volunteers who will be on the streets on Fridays and Saturdays from 31st May will be commissioned at a special service. We hope that many will support this commitment to community service.

Open Daw Annual General Meeting - Monday 9th June 10.00-12.00

All are welcome to learn more about the supportive work of Open Daw.

Concerts Galore

This June the Dawlish Arts Festival is holding three concerts and a craft fair in the Strand Centre. Pick up a leaflet for details.

Tues 17 th	The Silver Chain Singers	Saturday 21 st	Craft Fair
Wednesday 18 th	The Entertainers	Wednesday 25 th	Community College

PRAYERS FOR THE SEASON OF PENTECOST AND TRINITY



SUNDAY 8 JUNE IS PENTECOST

What was it like for the person
who first felt the excitement of being
blown along by the wind?

We do not need to know all about it;
we know that however much we know,
we know but little.

Pentecost asks the one question that
God asks each one of us;

"Will you allow the wind of my spirit
to fill your sails
and take you to the edge of your courage?"

"Will you allow me to propel you in safety
across depths you cannot imagine?"

Will you lose control of your own destiny,
trusting that I can take you there?"
Nothing less than everything will do.

The price is total love.

The reward is freedom unimagined.

With him then,
we dare to answer the questions
Pentecost asks of us;

with him we can dare to say:

"Into your hands I commend my spirit."



SUNDAY 15 IS TRINITY SUNDAY

A few men said
that God was dead
and some men started weeping.

A number hoped -
that God was doped
and started celebrating.

But many fear
the day is near
when God will be forgotten.

And so it's time again, God,
great and good and one God,
to show yourself again.

Expose yourself in Jesus Christ,
and show yourself
in the heaven above,
in the earth below,
and deep in us.

Show yourself
in the Word of God,
in your sons we meet,
and deep in us.

Show yourself
as you have done before.

Show us enough
to strengthen our faith,
our jittery hearts,
our searching minds
our buckling knees
and make your promise sure.

Be God, God.

Be God

SERVICES IN JUNE

Sunday Morning Services at 10.30 unless otherwise stated

- | | | |
|-----------|---|------------------------|
| 1 | Holy Communion | Revd Roger Whitehead § |
| 8 | Pentecost | Guest: Kay Partridge § |
| 15 | Trinity Sunday | Worship Group § |
| 22 | Family Service | Revd Roger Whitehead § |
| 29 | Café Worship & Church Annual General Meeting § (see page 3) | |



Other services

- | | | |
|-----------|-------------|---|
| 1 | 2.00 | Nightshift Commissioning Service , Teignmouth Baptist Church ¥ |
| 29 | 6.30 | Iona Service United with the Methodists in our Church § |

REGULAR CHURCH EVENTS

- | | | |
|------------------|----------------------|--|
| Tuesdays | 2.00 - 4.00 | Knit & Chat (3 rd and 17 th) § |
| Thursdays | 10.00 - 12.00 | Coffee & Kids § |
| | 2.30 - 3.30 | Keep Fit § |
| Fridays | 11.30 - 12.15 | Prayer Meeting Carey Room |
| | 5.45 - 6.45 | Choir practice § |

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

ADDITIONAL MEETINGS IN JUNE

(in the Strand Centre unless otherwise indicated)

- | | | | |
|---------------|-----------|--------------|---|
| Wed | 4 | 6.00 | Elders Meeting ¤ |
| Thurs | 5 | 2.00 | Torbay URC Churches Annual Outing , Luscombe Castle ¥ |
| Friday | 6 | 7.00 | Private dinner § |
| Sat | 7 | 10.00 | Table Top Sale § ¥ lifts available, ask Marie Whitehead |
| Sun | 8 | 12,30 | The Big Lunch , Dawlish Christian Fellowship (see page 5) |
| Mon | 9 | 10.00 | Open Daw Annual General Meeting , Methodist Church |
| Fri | 13 | 7.30 | Filling Station , Shaldon School ¥ |
| Fri | 20 | 3.45 | Messy Church , Methodist Church Hall |
| | | 7.00 | Life, Love and Praise § |
| Sat | 21 | 8.30 | Men's Breakfast Dawlish Warren ¥ |
| Thurs | 27 | 10.00 | Elders Quiet Day § |



for UCADD visit
for the church visit
for the centre visit

www.ucadd.org
www.StrandChurch.org.uk
www.StrandCentre.org.uk

