



# **information from Strand Church**

**the church at the centre of town**

**AUGUST 2014**

## **FROM THE MINISTER**

Towards the end of May Alethe Virgin indicated that she was resigning as Manager of the Inspire Café. The following Thursday the Inspire Café Joint Committee met to deal with what seemed to threaten the existence of the café. It then took the courageous decision to create a part-time paid post and to seek someone with professional experience who would generate enough extra income to pay the salary. The following Sunday a member of St Gregory's happened be next to Dave Finnegan after the service and confided that he was looking for a job in the Teignmouth-Dawlish area so that he could use his catering skills nearer home and so help more with his newly born twins. Thus two separate encounters came together in the appointment of Adam Gidney as the Inspire Café Manager - and the café has not looked back since.

Although I cannot share the details, it is possible that a conversation during the Elders Meeting Quiet Day will come together with a stray remark between two people who have nothing to do with our church and, I believe, will provide new opportunities for our church.

One can only say that the Lord's timing seems to be tremendous. Uncertainty about what do in one Christian body is sorted out by a conversation elsewhere unrelated to our church. Recognising and accepting God's timing (what William Temple called "God's coincidences") is an antidote to the frustrations we had at the start of July including the demands made by the Synod about what we did when we removed the pews. I don't know what the Lord intends as we respond to this challenge, but I feel more confident that it will be revealed as something to do with God's timing; then we will experience God's grace and we will discern God's purpose for our congregation and the building we have been given.



**ROGER WHITEHEAD**



## ELDERS MEETING REPORT

At the end of June the elders held a conference meeting to look at the congregation as it is and as it might be in ten years' time. It did a SWOT analysis, the results of which were:

Strengths	Weaknesses	Opportunities	Threats
Town centre place	Ageing congregation	Position in town	Minister leaving
Café	Fewer active people	Open 7 days a week	Declining income
Having a minister	Income declining	Café worship	Not enough people to do work
Prayer Board		Street Chapel soon	
Welcoming		Ecumenical hopes	
Choir & organist			

The feeling could have been summed up, "We have a God-given site in the town centre; a large vision; and a small congregation: is there another church which might partner with us?" This is a subject to which the elders will return.

**Snippets** The elders met the Synod Pastoral Advisor after Café Worship to discuss **the Synod review** with her. The main thrust of our comments was that the Synod seemed distant and unrelated to normal congregational life. It was decided to invite Synod officer Heather Whyte to lead worship in 2015 and to give **her assessment of our 'image'** from the look of the outside of the church "welcoming or forbidding?" to the quality of our publications. Favourable comments were made about the hanging baskets and flower troughs which are now at the front of the building.

### Request to extend the kitchenette

The Strand Community Trustees has asked the church to seek listed building consent to extend the kitchenette. After a long discussion it was agreed to recommend asking for listed building consent but to stress that this did not mean that the church would necessarily agree to an extension.

### Administrative help

Concern was expressed about the minister's health and the large amount of work which he was undertaking which could divert him for the primary tasks.

It was reported that UCADD was hoping to employ a part-time administrator and it was suggesting to churches which needed additional administrative help that they might hire the same person so that the job becomes an ecumenical one. The minister explained that he would welcome administrative support in addition to the very valuable work which Anne Pemberton did with the book keeping for the Strand Centre and with the invoices for both the Strand Centre and UCADD. It was decided to respond positively to the idea.

## UCADD REPORT

### **Nightshift**

12 Nightshift volunteers were commissioned at a special service in Teignmouth Baptist Church on 1<sup>st</sup> June in the presence of the Mayors of the two towns and many representatives of the community and the police. The Team alternates between Dawlish and Teignmouth on Saturday nights. In Dawlish the base is the Strand Hall, where a prayer team supports those on the streets and provides support for anyone who needs quiet space and personal help. The Team will be out on other key nights such as Airshow Night and for the Carnival Pram Race.

### **Christians Against Poverty**

UCADD has taken the lead in trying to establish a coalition of churches across Teignbridge District to support a debt advisor. CAP trains the advisors so that they can visit debtors in their homes, understand their problems and, through the central offices, work out a budget which can deal with their debt over a shortish period. Creditors then have to stop pressuring debtors which can be one of the worst aspects of being in debt. CAP also provides befrienders who are alongside the debtors to provide practical support. This caring approach often leads to the debtors wanting to know why people help in this way, and many have become Christians when they see God's love in action.

### **OFFERINGS AND OTHER SPECIAL INCOME**

<b>Sunday Offerings*</b>	<b>Special Collections and Events</b>
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<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>
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June	£2,389	£634	<b>Sunday coffee money</b> now goes to
Year (so far)	£10,353	£4,126	the Centre which provides the coffee

\* includes standing orders etc but not Gift Aid rebates



## STRAND CENTRE MATTERS

**Bookings** There has been a significant increase in both regular and occasional bookings for the Centre in the past six months, which has more than made up for the two groups which were no longer using the Centre.

**Cleaning** Dave and Patricia Mackie have been cleaning the 1871 building and they have also taken over cleaning the hall and top floor on a temporary basis.

**Building work** It is hoped over the summer to complete the replacement of the ceiling outside the old toilet and to have the curtains hung in the auditorium. Consultants have been asked for advice on altering the lighting in the auditorium which is very expensive to run. The ramp has been delayed by the illness of the architect, which has meant that there had been no progress in producing the drawings which are required for listed building consent. It is hoped to place an order for the new boiler this month. Discussions have started about whether and how there might be an extension to the kitchenette to increase the range of meals served and to make it easier for the volunteers preparing the orders. Proposals to replace part of the wall between the east vestibule and the foyer with a large window and/or glass door are being explored; it is hoped that this will be done when the ramp is fitted.

### The Café

The Inspire Community Café appointed Adam Gidney as Manager/Chef from 1<sup>st</sup> June. He is a worshipper at St Gregory's and is exploring whether he has a call to the ministry. Under his leadership and with a stress on locally sourced, home-cooked food, takings are up from about 60% to 80%, a regular clientele is being built up and lunches are becoming increasingly popular. Ice cream is now added to the list of goodies available. Most of the churches have invited Adam to speak about the café at their main service, and the number of volunteers is slowly but steadily growing.



**The Annual General Meeting** was pleased that the Synod (which is the sole member of the company) was represented in person by Ian Harrison, the Secretary of the Synod Trust. He stayed for the following Board meeting and gained a lot of information about the work of the Centre.

## COMMEMORATING WORLD WAR 1

A number of events are being planned in Dawlish overseen by a committee set up by the Town Council. The churches are playing a part in the plans in two ways.



### **Events to prepare for the start of the war**

**On Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> August at 4 pm** a quiet devotional service in St Gregory's

**On Monday 4<sup>th</sup> August at 10.00** a simple Eucharist

**On Monday 4<sup>th</sup> August a vigil** on The Lawn ending at the hour when war was declared (23.00). This will seek to reflect on the atmosphere of the country 100 years ago, which was of celebration, hope and national enthusiasm. The Vigil has been designed to be suitable for people of no faith or religion.

### **Marking the Declaration of War**

War was declared at 11 pm on 4<sup>th</sup> August 1914. To mark this the Shaftesbury Theatre is having its first night of *Oh What A Lovely War* and to be followed by a Vigil at the bandstand on The Lawn. This will seek to reflect the mood of the country, unaware of the horrors which lay ahead. In many places war was welcomed amidst an outburst of national confidence and pride. It will end at 11 pm with the extinguishing of the light on the bandstand, resonating with Earl Grey's view, "The lights are going out all over Europe."

### **Marking the death of Dawlish people**

The History Society and the Museum have done an enormous job in researching information about Dawlish people who were killed on active service. (Dawlish is defined as associated with the town and not necessarily living in Dawlish in 1914 or having been born in the town.) Over 400 people have been identified, and their dates of death and their personal circumstances have been recorded. On the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the day of death of each person there will be a special Act of Commemoration, probably held at noon. There will be the same liturgy and personal information about the person. Wherever possible an invitation will be sent to known relatives. It will last about 15/20 minutes and not all be held in the same building each time. The first will be William Criddle who was killed when his Royal Navy ship was torpedoed on 6<sup>th</sup> August 1914; his family is supplying considerable information about him.

## NOTICEBOARD

### **Overnight emergency accommodation**

Information about emergency overnight accommodation is available and is on the noticeboard in the office, should anyone be approached by someone in need.

### **The Café Worship on 31<sup>st</sup> August**

will include information and a discussion on the church finances.

### **Gerald's Charity**

Geralds has two convenience stores in Dawlish and one in Dawlish Warren, and it has made The Strand Centre its charity of the year. Boxes are on display - ideal for your small change after a purchase!

### **Locking the auditorium**

when there are valuable goods in it will mean access to the 1871 building will not be possible from the hall. *On these occasions only* the outside door opposite the old toilet and the door from the east vestibule to the foyer will be locked when no one is in the 1871 building. This means that the fire escape along the outside passage from the kitchen to the east vestibule via the gallery stairs will still be available in an emergency.

## **THE MILLENNIALS ARE DIFFERENT**

Millennials (those ages 18 to 29) stand apart in their unsurpassed digital savvy. They are also in a class of their own when it comes to faith experience and practice.

The most common way Millennials blend their faith and technology is through digital reading of Scripture. 70% of Christian Millennials (33% of all Millennials) read Scripture on a screen. Millennials are also heavy users of online videos on faith—54% of practicing Christian Millennials (31% of all Millennials) engage in this activity.

About one-third of all Millennials (56% of practicing Christian Millennials) are using online to search out a church. Whether it's curiosity about a new restaurant or matters of faith, Millennials are taking their inquiries to the search bar. 59% practicing Christians (33% of all Millennials) say they search for spiritual content online, which may open up a new field of opportunity for churches hoping to understand and connect with these souls in cyberspace.



## FOR YOUR PRAYERS

The beginning of this month sees the start of the commemoration of the First World War

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***This prayer was written by a soldier  
in the trenches in the First World War.***

Almighty and everlasting God,  
by whose grace thy servants are enabled  
to fight the good fight of faith  
and ever prove victorious:

We humbly beseech thee to inspire us,  
that we may  
yield our hearts to thine obedience  
and exercise our wills on thy behalf.

Help us to think wisely,  
to speak rightly,  
to resolve bravely,  
to act kindly  
and to live purely.

Bless us in body and in soul, and  
make us a blessing to our comrades.

Whether, at home or abroad,  
may we ever seek the extension of Thy  
Kingdom.

Let the assurance of Thy presence save  
us from sinning;  
support us in life,  
and comfort us in death.

Amen.



**War broke**

War broke:  
and now the Winter of the world  
with perishing great darkness closes in.  
The foul tornado, centred at Berlin,  
Is over all the width of Europe whirled,  
rending the sails of progress.  
Rent or furled are all Art's ensigns.  
Verse wails.

Now begin  
famines of thought and feeling.  
Love's wine's thin.  
The grain of human Autumn rots,  
down-hurled.

For after Spring had bloomed in early  
Greece,  
and Summer blazed her glory out with  
Rome,  
an Autumn softly fell, a harvest home,  
a slow grand age,  
and rich with all increase.

But now, for us, wild Winter,  
and the need of sowings for new Spring,  
and blood for seed.

*Wilfred Owen*

Don't forget the prayer board in the Chapel. Prayer requests left there by  
Saturday morning will be printed in the weekly notices sheet.

## SERVICES IN AUGUST



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

<b>3</b>	Holy Communion	†	Revd Roger Whitehead	§
<b>10</b>	Carnival Service`		Revd Roger Whitehead	§
<b>17</b>	Family Service		Mrs June Wilson	§
<b>24</b>	Adult Baptism Service		Revd Roger Whitehead	§
<b>31</b>	Café Worship		Revd Roger Whitehead	§

† This service will reflect on the start of World War 1

### **Other services**

<b>10</b>	6.45	<b>Churches Together Carnival Service</b>	in the Marquee on The Lawn
<b>31</b>	6.30	<b>Iona Service</b>	United with the Methodists in our Church §

**For Service to make the start of World War 1 see page 5.**

### **REGULAR CHURCH EVENTS IN AUGUST**

**Thursdays**    10.00 - 12.00   **Coffee Morning** §  
                    2.30 - 3.30   **Keep Fit** §

**Fridays**        11.30 - 12.15   **Prayer Meeting** †  
                    5.30 - 6.30   **Choir practice** §

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

### **ADDITIONAL MEETINGS IN AUGUST**

(in the Strand Centre unless otherwise indicated)

**Sat**     **2**    10.00   **Table Top Sale** §

**Fri**      **8**    7.30   **Filling Station**, Shaldon School (lifts available )

**Fri**      **15**   6.30   **Life, Love and Praise** §

**Sat**      **16**   6.45   BIDE Jeffersonian Dinner §

**Tues**     **26**   6.00   **Elders Meeting** ✕

### **CHURCH EVENTS RESUMING IN SEPTEMBER**

**Tuesdays**    2.00 - 4.00   **Knit & Chat** (resumes 9<sup>th</sup> then 23<sup>rd</sup> Sept) §

**Thursdays**   10.00 - 12.00   **Coffee Morning** (Kids & Coffee resumes 4<sup>th</sup> Sept) §

**Fridays**       3.45 - 6.00   **Messy Church** (in the Methodist Hall—19<sup>th</sup> Sept)

**Holidays** If during the holiday period you need something and cannot get a response, email: [enquiries@strandchurch.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@strandchurch.org.uk)