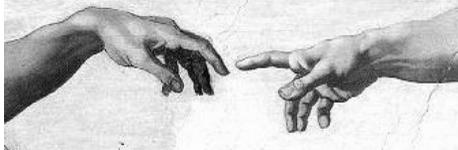


In touch



information from Strand Church

the church at the centre of town

NOVEMBER 2014

FROM THE MINISTER

One of the greatest challenges facing the Christian Church throughout the world is how to live together when we have different opinions on principles which are passionately held. One example is the issue of women bishops in the Church of England; sexuality is an area of major division in the world-wide church.

The way forward seems to be either for the minority to be de-churched by the majority (several ministers have left the Church of Scotland over sexuality) or to take a pragmatic approach, accepting the integrity of the minority and - in the case of the Church of England on women bishops - to provide safeguards for them. The consequence, however, is that the central issue is not resolved which (in the case of women bishops) means that the Church of England has no agreed view on whether women can exercise spiritual oversight of men.

Does it matter? It clearly does to those who are passionate and want their views to become the accepted position of the church because what they believe is the 'true' position. Does it matter to God? For God, is the unity of the church more important than the church's taking an unequivocal position on a controversial issue?

It seems to me that we should realise that these divisive issues are important but they are not basic to our faith - which is belief in the lordship of Jesus Christ who uniquely explained the nature of God and who died and rose again to take away our sins. It is also important to accept the integrity of Christians with whom we disagree. And perhaps we need more thinking on a theology of difference - did the Creator deliberately make us different so that disagreement and arguing are part of the nature which God has given us.



ROGER WHITEHEAD



Relations with Synod

The Chairs of the Synod Building Committee and Trust together with the Synod Property Officer met the minister and Church Secretary to discuss getting retrospective listed building consent for work already done in the auditorium. Various positive suggestions were made and it seems no requirement is insurmountable.

Final documents for the sale of part of the church's interest in the manse have been prepared and this transaction (which will secure the Strand Hall for the church) should be completed this year.

Snippets

It is hoped that the **Moderator of the General Assembly** (who had to postpone his visit to Dawlish because of injury) will now take place on 7th/8th March 2014. As a result of the focus on **Christian giving** at the August Cafe Worship, one new set of envelopes has been asked for, and one member has increased giving. It was agreed that the **bring-and-share Harvest Lunch** was one of the church's few social occasions and it was agreed that a bring-and-share lunch should be held quarterly initially, and more frequently if they seemed to be popular. It was agreed that the Welcome Team members and the elders should wear **name badges** to help visitors get to know other worshippers.

Buildings

All the work on **the organ** has been completed and paid for apart from the pedals which will need to be taken off-site for repair, hopefully before Christmas. The overdue **Quinquennial inspection** of the building will be undertaken this year

UCADD matters

The Elders approved the suggestion that UCADD adopt the 'working title' of 'Inspire' with the second 'I' being in the form of a cross to make it more memorable. The Elders also welcomed the suggestion that there should be a bespoke noticeboard outside the building indicating that the Strand Church was the home of the Strand Church and giving information about the other churches in the town. An additional board giving more information on each church should be placed inside the building

Ceci Kokubu's job description and work

Ceci Kokubu (the wife of Adam Gidney, the Inspire Chef) has started work as UCADD Administrator and giving help to the church. She has been focusing on grant applications for Strand Church work, and £50 per month will be given towards her monthly payment of £500.



CHURCHES TOGETHER IN DAWLISH AND DISTRICT

The **retiring collections** for Churches Together in Dawlish and District have exceeded £500 and several personal gifts for CTDD have also been made. This puts CTDD in a significantly stronger financial position than before.

The Forum has decided to hold a **monthly evening Taizé service** on the fourth Sunday in each church in succession. This will usually coincide with our monthly Iona Service with the Methodist Church and its future will be discussed at the Methodist-URC Liaison Committee meeting on 18th November.

There are difficulties for the Strand Centre in hosting the **Acts of Commendation** on the centenary of the death of each Dawlish combatant in World War because the auditorium is in use every morning except occasional Saturdays. This is being worked on. The **Churches Directory** will be delivered to every house in Dawlish by churches. The Strand Church will not be asked to do this because many Strand Church members volunteer in the Inspire Café. If you live outside Dawlish pick up a copy.

The **Prospect Services** have been discontinued, at least for the time being, because it has proved impossible to get care homes to bring residents to the services. Instead Debbi Starling is seeking to build up a team which would go into the care homes to conduct services along the Prospect lines. Offers of help to Roger Whitehead, please.

OFFERINGS AND OTHER SPECIAL INCOME IN SEPTEMBER

Sunday Offerings*

Special Collections and Events

	2014	2013		
September	£4,101	£1,653	Donations for outside causes	£10
Year (so far)	£19,871	£11,802	Sunday coffee money now goes to the Centre which provides the coffee	

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



BUILDINGS

Work done

It has been a busy autumn with **cleaning the gutterings** and further anti-pigeon spikes to prevent fouling the top step of the external stairs from the gallery. The flood damage to **the vestry ceiling** has been repaired and the toilet given a complete makeover. **A storage cupboard** has been made where the handbasin used to be. **A gate** between the two buildings has made it easier to move equipment and tables from one building to the other. The rails for **the new curtains** at the south end of the auditorium had been put in place, but there had been several delays on the delivery of the material, which was not expected until mid-December

Being planned

An electrician had been commissioned to put right the **incoming electric three phase supply** and to tidy up the electricity cupboard. The report of the lighting consultant for **new lighting in the auditorium** was enthusiastically received and the proposal moved on to the drawing stage. The likely cost is £10,000; the result will transform the auditorium at night. A quality second hand **carpet** is needed for the office/vestry and a new floor covering outside that room and the toilet. A large old fashioned desk with more drawers is urgently needed for this room.

The ramp

The Secretary explained the continued illness of the Strand Church's architect meant that there was no progress on the ramp.

Blocked sewer drains

Two further blockages sewer in the sewer have been dealt and the situation is being monitored to try to discern the cause.



WW1 COMMEMORATING THE CENTENARY



OF THE DEATH OF DAWLISH COMBATANTS IN NOVEMBER 1914

Saturday 1 1.00 Arthur Henry Bearne HMS Good Hope Strand Church
Frederick Albert Davis HMS Monmouth

Saturday 8 12.30 Samuel Pillar Coldstream Guards Methodist Ch



STRAND CENTRE NEWS



Once again the Strand Community Trust is looking for a new Treasurer, and at the time of writing there is no one in mind to be approached. Meanwhile Ceci Kokubu is keeping the income and expenditure accounts up to date. The trustees are helped considerably by a generous benefactor who has postponed repayments on loans given to complete the kitchenette work. This has allowed the Trust to pay £3,000 to the URC Synod for the 'Sinking Fund' which builds up a reserve which can be used in due course to pay for any structural work which is the responsibility of the Strand Church.

The Inspire Café

Under the leadership of Adam Gidney the Inspire Café had a good summer season and the Board gave him a bonus to express its thanks. The winter menu was introduced at the end of October, including pies and a vegetarian lasagne, and initial reaction from customers has been very positive. The number of volunteers seems at last to be increasing, and this had led to the extension of the café hours from 10.00 to 2.00. Consideration is being given to Saturday opening though several of the external groups which use the Centre want to have their own refreshments to make money which helps them with the rent.

A gift to the churches

The Board considered a proposal from UCADD to make a gift to each church of (perhaps) £100 from the Strand Community Trust and UCADD as a visible sign and challenge that the Inspire Café was a joint venture and the Strand Centre was a base for all the churches. The trustees doubted whether such a gift would have the effect of stimulating more volunteering and it decided not to support the idea. Dave and Patricia Mackie are now doing a good job cleaning the whole building and Dave does odd jobs including helping set out the building for week-day evening users and he undertakes some handyman work around the building.

New noticeboards

UCADD has asked to replace one of the external permanent noticeboards with one which explains that the Centre belongs to all the churches, and inside to have information about the churches, their contact details, and their major services and activities. It is hoped to progress this before Christmas.



CLEARING UP SOME MISCONCEPTIONS

The Church and the Inspire Café

The Inspire Café is owned by the Strand Community Trust and its management is shared with UCADD, which is owned by the churches in Dawlish. It differs from other cafés in Dawlish by being a community café run by volunteers from the community and the churches. It is the only drop-in café where people can stay as long as they like. There is someone around to speak to anyone who is lonely or in difficulties. All the café's profits are used for community work in the churches and in the town - none of it comes to the Strand Church.

The Church and the building

The church building has been leased to the Strand Community Trust to be developed as a community centre. The URC congregation hires the building for worship, paying the same rate as other users for Sunday worship and all its all midweek meetings. URC trustees are in a minority among the SCT trustees.

NOTICEBOARD

Christmas Offerings We normally give our Christmas offerings at the services on the Sunday before Christmas tea time service and the two on Christmas Eve to local charities. Suggestions for Charities to Roger Whitehead by 20th November.

Advent As usual we will have an Advent theme at our morning services, starting on 30th November when there will also be a United Evening Service at 6.30 in the Methodist Church

URC Torbay Churches' Quiz Night - Thursday 6th November in Brixham

Brixham URC is always welcoming even to the Strand Church team which has won so many Quiz Nights recently. Join the winning team; lifts are available.

Church Family We remember particularly **Olive Carless** who is very frail and **Ann Fewings** who is mobile after a long time being unable to walk. Jean Baker of Central Church Torquay (former District Secretary) has had a stroke which has affected her speech and who is in the Newton Abbot Stroke Unit. We send all these our best wishes and assurance of our prayers.

for information on Jesus visit: www.rejesus.co.uk
for information about Christianity visit: www.christianity.org.uk

HALLOWE'EN AND ALL SAINTS DAY

This is a time when Christians pray for protection from evil (31st October) and give thanks to God for loved ones and friends who have died but remain close to us (1st November)



7

HALLOWE'EN

From ghoulies and ghosties
And long-leggedy beasties
And things that go bump in the night,
Good Lord, deliver us!
Scottish traditional prayer

Father,
All-Powerful and Ever-Living God,
Today we rejoice
in the holy men and women
of every time and place
May their prayers
bring us your forgiveness and love
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
From the Liturgy of the Hours

ALL SAINTS

Almighty God,
you have knit together your people
in one holy fellowship:
Give us grace so to follow your saints
in all virtuous and godly living,
that we may come to those joys
that you have prepared
for those who truly love you;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you
now and for ever.
Amen

Church of England Prayer Book

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

There was a time, Lord,
when an eye for an eye
and a tooth for a tooth,
though brutal,
limited the damage.
Now nations can maim or kill
those they do not see;
technology has made war so
impersonal and people so cheap.
In the face of this
I sense my inestimable weakness
and rely on your inestimable strength.



O Lord, our hiding place,
give us wisdom, we pray,
to look for no hiding place
apart from you
in life or death.
Now hide us
in your own presence
from the provoking of others
and keep us
from the strife of tongues.
Teach us to seek peace
and follow the example of Jesus
Amen

From 'Pray Now',

Church of Scotland Panel on Worship

Christina Rossetti

SERVICES IN NOVEMBER



Sunday Morning Services at 10.30 unless otherwise stated

2	Holy Communion	Revd Roger Whitehead §
9	Remembrance Service	Revd Roger Whitehead) §
16	Prayers for Healing	Revd Roger Whitehead §
23	Family Service	Mr Andrew Rose §
30	Advent Sunday Service	Revd Roger Whitehead §

Other services

- 9 3.00 **Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial**
 3.30 **United Remembrance Service, St Gregory's**

30 6.30 **United Advent Service, Methodists Church**

REGULAR CHURCH EVENTS IN NOVEMBER

- Tuesdays** 2.00 - 4.00 **Knit & Chat** (4th and 18th) §
Thursdays 10.00 - 12.00 **Coffee and Kids Morning** (Café with Toddler Group) §
 2.30 - 3.30 **Keep Fit** §
Fridays 11.30 - 12.15 **Prayer Meeting** †

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

ADDITIONAL MEETINGS IN NOVEMBER

(in the Strand Centre unless otherwise indicated)

- Saturday 1** 10.00 **Charity Christmas Card Sale** §
Tuesday 4 6.00 **Elders Meeting** ¨
Thursday 6 7.30 **Torbay URC Churches Quiz Night**, Brixham
Friday 14 7.30 **Filling Station**, Shaldon School (lifts available)
Thursday 11 12.30 **CTDD Forum** ¨
Tuesday 18 10.30 **Methodist-URC Liaison Committee** (at Methodist Church)
 12.30 **CTDD Ministers Meeting** §
Wednes 19 12.30 **Torbay URC Ministers Meeting** §
Friday 21 3.45 **Messy Church**, Methodist Church Hall
 6.30 **Life, Love and Praise** §

Don't forget the prayer board in the Chapel

Prayer requests left there by Saturday morning will be printed in the weekly notices sheet. Thoughts can also be left in the book which is in the Chapel.