



DAWLISH UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

ANNUAL CHURCH REPORTS ABOUT THE YEAR 2010

THE CHURCH SECRETARY'S REPORT

2010 has been a busy year. It started with very bad snowy weather, but things still carried on in the church as usual. The only thing that was cancelled was the Chinese Auction. All the weekly coffee mornings, mid-day prayers for Christian Unity and the Burns Night Dinner all go ahead.

February also seemed a very busy month with meetings (most months are busy with meetings!). It was the start of Christian Aid Hunger lunches. The Rev. Alan Willcocks came to take our St. David's Day service, after the St. David's Day dinner on evening before.

In March there was a concert for Friends of Dawlish Garden Trust. April was a quieter month because the foyer was repainted and a new carpet laid. May started with a concert on the 1st by Dawlish Choral Society, which was followed by Christian Aid Week with its usual activities. On the 27th we had a Tea Party to discuss the new Church plans.

Early in June there was a Photo Exhibition and a concert by the Exeter Recorder Group for church funds followed by a Master Class concert Dawlish Art Festival also used the church for one of their concerts in.

July opened with our Church Anniversary, and at the end of the month Dawlish Art Group held its summer exhibition. August is dominated by Carnival week. This year we kept the church open, and carnival night, we once again we served free drinks and-biscuits for spectators of the Carnival Procession – and offered the use of our loo which was much appreciated. There was also an outing to Ugbrooke House for the URC churches in the Torbay area.

September was busy as usual with a Stamp Exhibition and Concert for Rowcroft Hospice. In October there was another Recorder Concert, and we were honoured to hold the Civic Service followed by a tea in the hall. For One World Week the Dawlish Fairtrade Group put on a tea party with Fairtrade goods in the hall. The elders had a quiet day at Holcombe Village hall.

In November there was a tribute concert for Wynford Evans. He used to take the Master Classes in our church and there was a Remembrance Commemoration as well.

With Christians Together we took part in the Switching on of the Christmas Lights with a short Nativity Play enhanced by the presence of a school choir. WE enjoyed an outing to Carols Down the Line, when a steam train took us from Buckfastleigh to Totnes stopping at stations to sing carols. Our usual Christmas services were well attended, including a united service with the Methodist on Christmas Day. A band of volunteers served Christmas Day lunch to 40 guests in our hall.

What a wonderful year, and that's not all.

There were three Baptisms, three Weddings and four Funerals. One was celebration of the life of one of our members, Min Holt, who will be remembered by her ready smile, her quiet way and her enjoyment of a good giggle.

All in all a very busy year, especially with all the meetings we had with planning what we were going to do with the church and the hall in the future.

So we look forward to using the church and hall to its capacity, and a growth in fellowship, people and faith.

Rosemary Holmes

Church Secretary

STRAND HALL

For those who do not know, the hall is quite well used. We have a Tap and Ballet group who use it six times a week. The Third Age Project use it once a week for their general meeting on a Thursday morning and they hold several other social meetings in the ancillary rooms. Keep Fit use it on Thursday afternoon. Once a month on the first Wednesday The Stroke Club meets for a cup of tea, talk and get together. This year we were pleased to start a Monday Luncheon Club which has 30 members who appreciate the good food cooked by volunteers and the company.

It is also used for Birthday parties and meetings.

We hope to resume Boccia - I noticed while watching the Paralympics they were playing Boccia, and England won. It is a great game in which able-bodied and disabled people are on equal terms because it is played seated.

The hope is that we get the Hall let out every morning, afternoon and evening. I take the bookings, so please let me know if it is needed.

Rosemary Holmes
Bookings Secretary

COFFEE MORNING

The Coffee Mornings are still going ahead, though the band of helpers seems very small. One attraction is that Pat Willis has a card stall once a month with her beautiful hand made cards. June Wilson has a cake stall once a month, which is very much appreciated by regulars and visitors.

People come in not just for coffee, but to see the church, as it is open, to place a prayer on the prayer board, or just sit quiet. It is nice to talk to all the different people who come here on holiday.

I would love some more help, even if it was just once a month or so. Please let me know if you can. It is a worthwhile job.

Thank you to all those who have helped me over the last year.

Rosemary Holmes
Organiser

PARENT AND TODDLERS CLUB

It was decided with great reluctance and sadness not to continue after Christmas with "Toddlers" in its current form. June Makey, the helper-in-charge felt that she had to leave after many years of service. She had always enjoyed her time with the children but her health issues made it increasingly difficult for her to continue.

Numbers, dwindled and fluctuated so much since we returned to the hall after its refurbishment and. so after much discussion, thought and prayer it was decided that Marie. Whitehead with help from Jan Adams would start a new venture - "Coffee with Kids" This will be held at our Church coffee morning on Thursdays at 10 am until noon.

Please pray that this will be a success and serve a need in Dawlish.

Jan Adams
Coordinator

MISSION AND OUTREACH

Changes to the way of working

As the majority of people on the Mission and Outreach Committee were also Elders, and all matters concerning M & O were automatically taken to Elders' Meetings, it was felt at the beginning of 2010 that, in order to cut down on the number of meetings some of us had to attend, the M & O Committee could be made temporarily redundant, providing the items/events with which it dealt were brought regularly to Elders' meetings, which I have tried to do. I would, however, like to thank Joan Jones and Margaret Bagley for the many years faithful service which they gave to M & O, and hope that they have not felt in any way deprived by not attending any meetings during 2010
Commitment for Life

The Church has continued to support Zimbabwe through Commitment for Life, both by our annual giving in envelopes and in boxes which some people keep in their homes. At the special Service in June, Mary Jeremiah came from South Wales to share with us some of the experiences of her visit to Zimbabwe, and assured us of the help which Commitment for Life gives to the rural communities of that country in a time when things are so difficult for some of the poorest people. As a result £221 was sent to Commitment for Life. this year.

Christian Aid

We have continued to support Christian Aid, especially during the annual Week in May when some members continue to help with the House to House collections and through the Wednesday cream tea. The Annual Commissioning Service was held at Holcombe Village Hall. Special offerings are also earmarked for this cause at different times during the year. As a result we contributed nearly f & w to the total sent by Dawlish to Christian Aid.

Fairtrade

The Church continues to support Fairtrade by insisting that tea, coffee and sugar from these sources are always available to be served at any event on our premises. During Fairtrade Fortnight there were the usual stalls both outside and inside the Church, and a tea party in the Hamilton Hall when participants were encouraged to wear original hats. We were thrilled that the Mayor of Dawlish, Helen Humphries, won the Jig-Saw Puzzle competition held during One World Week, by visiting all the premises in Dawlish which serve or stock Fairtrade goods, and the tea in the Hamilton Hall.

FOMO (Friends of Mulanje Orphanages)

The Knit and Chat Group have continued to produce quantities of larger jumpers, knitted dolls and some blankets for the orphans in Malawi. As none of the Potter family visited Mulanje this year, we have had no up-to-date pictures or reports as in previous years.

Christians Together in Dawlish

Christians Together

Members of our Church supported the various Services and events organised by Christians Together in Dawlish and District. During this year these have included the Service in the Methodist Church for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity; the Women's World Day of Prayer Service; the Good Friday Service on The Lawn; the Service in the marquee during Carnival Week; the Advent Service in our Church; and a presentation of the Christmas Story in the bandstand for the Switching on of the Christmas Lights.

In liaison with the Methodist Church the Iona Services have continued on the last Sunday of the month. They joined us for the Tenebrae Service on Maundy Thursday, the Ascension Day Service in May, and on Christmas Day. We then joined them for Service on Boxing Day. We continue to co-operate for Messy Church in their Hall, while the joint Music Group leads our Service on occasions.

Torbay Mission Team

Some members have managed to take part in some of the events such as the New Year Party held at Teignmouth, the Ash Wednesday Service at Central and the Quiz evenings held in different Churches.

We have also been represented at trainings put on by the Synod in our area for Elders and those approved to Preside at the Sacraments.

Church Representatives

It is recommended that Pat, Geoff and Rosemary continue to represent us on the Christian Aid Committee; Rosemary and Jean on the Fairtrade Committee; Roger, Rosemary and Jean on Christians Together; Roger and Rosemary on the Torquay Mission Team and Stella on the Women's World Day of Prayer Committee.

Jean Potter
Convener

KEEP FIT

We still have an active group of mature ladies who meet in Strand Hall each Thursday afternoon, though we lost two members at the beginning of the year due to ill health, but recently have had four new ones join us.

We exercise for approximately an hour and end our session with a cup of tea and a lively chat.

June Wilson
Leader

FRIENDSHIP HOUR

This is still a small group- averaging five members — but we enjoy our meetings mostly providing our own speakers. With the help of Eric and a few others we are happy to listen to readings or talks and discuss' various topics. We enjoyed our New Year's lunch at the Witches' Bowl when we invited three guests to share with us. We are currently discussing the possibility of changing our meeting day from Wednesday to Thursday, still at 2.30 pm to 3.30 pm. We live in hope that more members will come and help to build up the group. If anyone of you could come and join with us or talk to us you would be welcomed with open arms and of course a cup of tea!

Jan Adams
Leader

CHOIR REPORT

2010 has followed the usual pattern for the Choir so there is nothing special to report this year. Practices of hymns and anthems have been held on most Fridays from 6 pm to 7 pm.

We are sorry that Maggie Ashton has had to leave us, because of health problems, but we hope that maybe she can join with us again sometime.

"Thank you" once more to Elwyn our organist and Rosemary for all that they do.

Joan Jones
Secretary

KNIT and CHAT

2010 was another good year for Knit and Chat. We sent 165 assorted jumpers to the Friends of Mulanji Orphans (FOMO) with Jean Potter's help.

Our numbers remain fairly constant, people come and go but everyone knows they are very welcome whenever they come. We have knitters in Dawlish, in London, at home and away.

We also sent another cheque for £50 to FOMO. This sum came from our member's fortnightly contributions of 50p each. We buy wool with this 50p but we are very lucky because many people are kind enough to pass on their spare wool on to us. Double knitting in bright colours is very acceptable.

We received a letter of thanks for this £50. Our jumpers are always very welcome but FOMO activities on behalf of the children is very wide ranging. The letter spoke of a Health Clinic and an ambulance. A Fund that is set up to build a Secondary School in phases in order to provide further education for those who pass their Junior Certificate of Education. They also hope to have a Workshop/Skills Centre as a follow on.

"FOMO cares for over 5,500 children all of whom attend school. FOMO's first student has graduated and five more children could get places at University". A marvellous achievement.

"There are thirteen care centres covering 100 villages in and around Mulanje. These continue to be a refuge for children after school. Here they have food and activities and learn new skills".

Knit and Chat thanks anyone who helps FOMO in any way to make these children's lives happier now and then offers them a chance for a promising future.

And they really do wear our jumpers! - at night.

Roma Hibberd

Organiser