

No 837

Glenorchy
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
EXETER ROAD - EXMOUTH

THE REVIEW

May 2021



Pentecost

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THE REVIEW

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Editor's note: The next issue of the *Review* will be for June Please send any items for inclusion by 21st May.

Editor: sheila@sheilabrain.com



Remember our Church motto
“Within these walls, let no-one be a stranger”

Re-opening the Church for Worship Pentecost Sunday, 23rd May,

As announced last month, the Elders have agreed to re-open the church for worship on Pentecost Sunday. We are grateful to Revd Peter Brain for leading worship on that day, which will also include communion.

To begin with we shall need to observe the same rules about social distancing and mask-wearing as before, unless the government guidelines change before then.

***It will therefore still be necessary to reserve your place in advance with Jenny. Please confirm with her by email or telephone if you plan to attend. jhnewman@talktalk.net
Tel: 01395 275457***

<p>Worship in May Sunday 23rd May 10.30am Revd Peter Brain Celebrating Pentecost, with Holy Communion</p> <p>Sunday 30th May 10.30am Revd Jim Thorneycroft Synod Pastoral Advisor</p>	
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The Work Club is now open again on Thursday mornings from 9.15 am



Sunday 2nd May 2021 Reflection



Reading: Acts 8: 26-40

Many things have been written about the meeting between Philip and the Ethiopian official – from the fact of this enquirer’s black African heritage to his position at the Court; from the implication that he followed the Jewish faith to the suggestion that God brought them together. However, there is one part of this passage that leaps out every time I read it. Philip says to him “Do you understand what you are reading” and the Ethiopian says “How can I understand unless someone explains it to me?” So Philip does...

But two things come into mind. The first is that many of us struggle with understanding things we read in our Bibles. (And that includes ministers who, having read the texts and studied for years still wrestle with them!) I have often had difficulties with “doing Bible Study” So many seem reluctant to try – and I have often been told “I am not clever enough” or “I am afraid of seeming stupid” So instead we shared the Word, and said what we felt it was saying to us today. That way there is no wrong way – just a personal interpretation that speaks to us as individuals.

The second thing is the assumption that we have to understand everything to take part. I remember a discussion once about a young woman with Down’s Syndrome who wanted to receive Communion.

The Elders were against it – in case she did not understand what it was really about. The minister responded by saying “Do any of us?” (Grace got Communion!)

The Word of God is for every age and every era. Making sense of Scripture is a wrestling with the help of the Holy Spirit, trying to hear God speaking here and now through words remembered and written down centuries ago. It is a challenge and a privilege to hear and to share in this never-ending story.

When I was at Theological College the then Moderator of the URC, David Jenkins preached in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity on the great shoal of fish. His text was “They called to their partners in the other boat” This, he said, was true ecumenism – not that they all got into one boat, but that they worked together to land the catch. I have never forgotten it – and inspired interpretation is not reserved for theologians like David, but sometimes can be given even to us!

God bless you all.

Revd Barbara Bennett

Most people are bothered by those passages of Scripture they do not understand, but the passages that bother me are those I do understand.”
-Mark Twain

News of the Church Family

Barbara Riley is recovering well with her new knee in place, walking up and down the corridors for her daily exercise. Revd Bob Ellis recently had his cataract removed and is now able to drive again. Eve Conner is waiting for medical procedures for various problems. David Warner is now recovering from falls earlier in the year. If you wish to add names to our Prayer list, or have a copy of the list, which is updated monthly, please contact Jenny 275457.

Fiona and Tony Cotter send their greetings to friends at Glenorchy and would like to thank the fellowship for all the friendship they received during their time in Exmouth. We wish them well in their new home in Dawlish.

Geoff and Jenny Smith have been considering moving to Scotland for some years and with travel restrictions removed will now be spending more time north of the border to help make that happen. It will be some time though before any move is complete. Geoff will be sorely missed and will leave a considerable hole in our church life. He will be passing on the many jobs he's been doing to others, and you will find an appeal for help later in this *Review* .

Love and congratulations to all who celebrate an anniversary or birthday in May





CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

Whilst it is apparently possible to do a house-to-house collection this year I shan't be asking for volunteers to do this because of the age of many of our volunteers. Instead, as has happened in previous years, those who receive a printed copy of the **Review** will find an envelope inserted in this issue, which you are invited to return to the Church with your contribution. In addition, envelopes will be placed on chairs for those attending worship on 23rd May., the first Sunday we are back in Church.

Please give as generously as you can. In common with many other charities, Christian Aid's income is sure to be substantially down this year, with the Week being its main income source. Please therefore don't forget the world's poorest and put whatever you can in the envelope.

You can either bring it to Church on any of the Sundays following 23rd May and place it in the offertory, or there will also be a box available for your offerings on Thursday and Friday mornings when the building is open for Work Club / Country Market. Or give it to someone else to deliver. Thank you.

David Lee

Since God gave us two ears and one mouth, He must have wanted us to do twice as much listening as talking.

Eco Church

You will have seen from the Reflections for 18th April that we would have held an Eco Church service on that day. I thought for this month's Eco Church article I'd use material on the theme of Creation which I would have used had we been able to hold the service.

When we look at a beautiful painting we ask, "Who painted that?" and we praise its creator. In the same way when we look at the universe we ought to want to know and praise its maker. (*Jerram Barrs*) : 'O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth' (Psalm 8:1)

The ladder Jacob saw in his dream – with angels of God 'going up and coming down on it' – is a symbol of prayer, connecting earth and heaven. The Hebrew word for prayer is not 'levakesh – to request', but 'tefilla – to connect'. So in the Jewish mindset, the essence of prayer is about linking creator and creation.

(From online Worship and Teaching Resources provided by Eco Church)

The heavens are telling the glory of God;
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.
Day to day pours forth speech,
and night to night declares knowledge.
There is no speech, nor are there words;
their voice is not heard;
yet their voice goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world. (Psalm 19: 1-4)

For the beauty of the earth, For the beauty of the skies
For the love which from our birth,
Over and around us lies:
*Lord of all to thee we raise
This our joyful hymn of praise*
For the beauty of the hour, Of the day and of the night
Hill and vale and tree and flower,
Sun and moon and stars of light:
*Lord of all to thee we raise
This our joyful hymn of praise (F.S. Pierpoint)*

Creator, make us co-workers with you, that the earth and all who live upon it may reap a full harvest. Show us how to reflect your rhythms in our life and work and to conserve the world's rich resources. Help us to give all creatures their due respect, to tend cattle and crops with care. Guide science along wise and considerate ways, that we may fashion agriculture that truly enhances, and that we may sustain a vibrant environment.

(Ray Simpson, from Prayers of Creation)

All things praise thee, Lord Most High.
Heaven and earth and sea and sky,
all were for thy glory made,
that thy greatness, thus displayed,
should all worship bring to thee;
all things praise thee:- Lord, may we.
(George William Conder)

Geoff Smith

Note from Mission Committee

One of our three charities this year is the Prison Fellowship. Here is a report on one of their imaginative pieces of work with inmates. 'Restorative Justice' is an approach which translates the fine words of 'reconciliation' and 'rehabilitation' into practical case-work. Much more at their website [here](http://prisonfellowship.org.uk). (prisonfellowship.org.uk)

Sycamore Tree is a volunteer-led victim awareness programme that teaches the principles of restorative justice. It is taught in prisons in groups of up to 20 learners, over a 6-week period. Learners on the programme explore the effects of crime on victims, offenders, and the wider community, and discuss what it would mean to take responsibility for their personal actions.

For most learners on Sycamore Tree the most powerful element of the programme is when a victim of crime comes in to talk through how crime has impacted their lives. Learners have an opportunity in the final session to express their remorse – some write letters, poems or create works of art or craft. Members of the community support and bear witness to these symbolic acts of restitution.

This is an accredited programme and is proven to change attitudes that contribute to reoffending. The content of the programme is consistent with the pathways determined by the Her Majesty's Prison and Probation service (HMPPS) to reduce reoffending. The supportive group-based learning environment, connection with the community and highly economic structure, are just a few reasons why ST holds highly favourable endorsements from participants, staff and other stakeholders.

Peter Brain

Open Door News

While Government rules about people meeting together have been in force, the usual work of the Open Door projects has been curtailed. Nevertheless efforts have been made to give continued support to those who depend on Open Door. During recent months, hundreds of telephone calls have been made to lonely or needy people.

The Café in South Street has not been open but it is hoped to re-open on Monday 17th May for “takeaway food”. There will be a normal menu but payment will be using a “pay as you can” system, recognising the financial struggles some customers are having. People can pay the normal menu prices or whatever else they feel able to pay, anonymously. There are also plans to set up a “community ‘fridge’” to provide fresh produce and for “baby supplies”. Stocks may come from supermarkets and allotments, as donations.

A group called Community Crafter Roomers have been meeting in online sessions and have distributed 50 handmade “rays of sunshine” gifts around Exmouth and Budleigh Salterton. It is hoped that “Men’s Shed” will also be able to re-open on 17th May.

The Haven project is up and running, helping support children’s mental health. The “ICE team” are back in the Community College providing mentoring.

The Child Contact Centre will not be continuing. There is less demand for this than when it was set up. Family support will, however, continue through the Parent Hub.

Please pray for the continuing work of the staff and volunteers.

Peter Johnstone

Walking Group Friday May 14th



We shall meet at 10.00 am (but with no coffee served) at the Green in the centre of Otterton for a short walk across the fields and along the riverside when we will discuss the future of the group.

Allotment Diary



April was a sunny month - but very dry. This was like a re-run of June last year - but two months earlier in the growing season. Unlike last June, though, were the very cold nights, including two frosts in the first week. This has meant the early crops have needed extra watering to get them growing.

We are fortunate that our plot is within close hosepipe reach of a tap connected to the mains supply. We also have butts attached to the shed and the polytunnel which were filled by the rain we had in February and March. This saves us having to carry cans up onto our plot which is above the road where the tap is.

We are fortunate to have Ian, Phil, David, Luke and Peter in the team this year.

Our potatoes are in the ground and growing. We have overwintered broad beans which have flowered and are forming pods. Ian's tomato plants are now planted and growing inside the polytunnel. The fruit trees, apple and damson, have flowered and have now come into leaf.

There is more planting still to do and we hope for more sun and some rain – but no more frosts.

Peter Johnstone

Eco Matters

ECO EXTRA: Tesco on Salterton Road have now extended their recycling collections to include “soft plastics - any plastic bag, crisp packets, food and pet pouches, plastic wrappers and any plastic film”. They also have separate boxes for used batteries and printer ink cartridges. These collections are all to the left of the exit door as you leave.

There are also the recycling skips at the other end of the car park for clothes, textiles and shoes. Please do make use of these recycling facilities.

Geoff Smith



***Note:** Geoff has co-ordinated the Eco Group from the beginning and we owe it to his efforts that we have achieved the Eco-Church Silver Award. Peter Johnstone has agreed to take on this role, but the group could really do with one or two new members to strengthen it. If you share the growing concern about the environment, please talk to Peter about it.*

Christian Response to Eastern Europe

I am willing to collect any donations you may have for the charity on Wednesday 5th May or Saturday 16th May. Good quality bedding including synthetic duvets (no pillows) and good quality clothing (women's, men's and all ages of children) will be very welcome, as well as kitchenware and crockery or china sets. Also welcome are saucepans etc and cutlery in good condition.

Jenny Newman (Tel: 275457)



Volunteers Needed Might this be for you??



1) **Elders:** We normally hold our Annual Church Meeting in May, which would include the election of Elders. We were not able to do this last year because of the lockdown, and the current elders agreed to continue to serve for a further year. However, this year Geoff Smith will be leaving to move to Scotland, and Ian White is also standing down. We therefore need to find at least two people willing to serve as Elders. We are hoping that the relaxation of Covid restrictions may mean that we can hold a Church Meeting in July, in which case that is when elections will be held. Please give serious thought about whether you might be willing to offer yourself as a candidate to take on this role, or whether you would like to nominate someone else you feel to be suitable. More information next month about the nominations procedure.

2) **Other tasks:** In the light of Geoff's departure, there are a number of jobs that need to be filled.

(i) operating the **PA system** for Sunday worship (on a rota basis—training can be given); (ii) **e-mailing** out the Review, Reflections and Church Meeting minutes; (iii) taking the **Church Meeting minutes**. Might you consider offering for any one of these tasks? They are not as daunting as may appear! Geoff will be happy to give more information.

God doesn't call the qualified. He qualifies the called.



The
United
Reformed
Church

Congratulations to Lythan Nevard

It has just been announced that Lythan Nevard has been appointed Moderator of Eastern Synod. Lythan is currently minister at Cranbrook, but as that is an ecumenical project, she needed her membership to be in a URC Church and so has been a member of Glenorchy during that time. Her husband Philip, who is minister at Kingsteignton, will move with her to be minister at a church near Cambridge - where Sheila Johnstone's mother attends!

Puzzle Corner

Back with our familiar 9-letter framework.

How many of these capital cities can you name:
Botswana; Zambia; Scotland; Kenya; Norway; Italy;
Egypt; Finland; Armenia.



Last month's quiz – no chance of 'cheating' as no hymn books were available!

- (237) God came in Jesus
- (241) Led like a Lamb to the slaughter
- (-) Easter
- (243) Now the green blade rises
- (220) O Sacred Head, sore wounded
- (209) Ride on, ride on in majesty
- (232) Christ the Lord is risen today
- (252) Hail the day that sees him rise
- (242) Ye humble souls that seek the Lord.



Our Food Bank relies on the goodwill and support of local people. We can't do this without you! Over 80 per cent of food distributed by us is donated by the public. That is why your food donations are absolutely vital to our ability to give everyone referred to us a balanced and nutritious supply of food. Help us to balance our stock by donating the foods listed on our priority list:

- Tinned Rice Pudding
- Long- Life Juice or Bottles of Squash
- Long-Life Milk
- Tinned Vegetables (eg. Carrots, Peas, Sweetcorn, Mushrooms)
- Packets of Custard
- Boxed, Tinned or Packet Potatoes
- Tinned Fruit (eg. Fruit Cocktail, Pineapple, Peaches)
- Toilet Rolls

We have just started sending out fresh fruit and vegetables and we will see what people like and adapt this over time. We also send out fresh bread with every parcel. Toiletries, feminine hygiene products, nappies, baby formula, cleaning products and pet food are also provided upon request and subject to availability. Just recently we have adapted our family parcels to incorporate a wider choice of foods to allow for making a more varied selection of meals.

One of our regular donors has made up bags with everything needed in them to make a meal, for example macaroni cheese. This has been a brilliant initiative and seems to be going down well with clients

Over the past few weeks we have seen a marked increase in people needing our support, saying the familiar words, “I never imagined I’d need a Food Bank.” First time clients have included those made newly redundant in the hospitality sector and awaiting their first universal credit payment. We have seen more families with children needing our help, parents facing increased food bills due to loss of free school meals; families with both parents furloughed and unable to meet their living costs on their reduced income.

In March we delivered parcels to 219 families and fed 506 people. Now with the lockdown lifting and children back to school hope is on the horizon. We are so grateful to the local community and to our volunteers for their support. It has been humbling to see so many people working together to serve their neighbours in need. While this has been a terrible time in many ways, the kindness and generosity of the human spirit has been much in evidence - and we have been genuinely moved by your support.

Elizabeth Reed

How we know Jesus was a woman:

He kept trying to get a message across to a bunch of men who just didn't get it.

He fed a crowd at a moment's notice when there was no food.

Even after he died, he had to rise because there was work to do.

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