

Glenorchy

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
EXETER ROAD - EXMOUTH

THE REVIEW

June 2023





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THE REVIEW

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Editor's note: The next *Review* will be for July/August 2023. Items for inclusion need to reach me by 25th June.

Thank you.

Editor: sheila@sheilabrain.com



Sunday Worship in June

Sunday 4th	Revd Janine Atkinson (<i>communion</i>)
Sunday 11th	Revd Ruth Dillon
Sunday 18th	Revd Janine Atkinson
Sunday 25th	Revd Janine Atkinson

Church Administrator

We are pleased to confirm that Sarah King has been appointed as our part-time church administrator. Sarah will usually be in the office on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday mornings and will be taking on routine paperwork and computing jobs and handling general enquiries.

PRAYER
changes things

“For prayer is nothing else than being
on terms of friendship with God”

St Teresa of Avila

Our church motto:

“Within these walls let no-one be a stranger”

From the minister...



Do you remember 'The Clangers'? These 1970's children's TV characters were devised, created, animated and narrated by Oliver Postgate.

The Clangers lived on a far-away planet and spoke to each other in a series of whistles and hoots - incomprehensible to us - except for Oliver Postgate's narration. Without the narration, we would not have been able to understand a word the Clangers said.

And without the Holy Spirit, the Jewish visitors from around the known world celebrating the festival of Pentecost would not have been able to understand what the disciples were saying. The Holy Spirit animated and translated their words - brought them to life and made them understandable.

Pentecost was a turning point. The Church looks back on this day as the beginning of its life. It marks the day when Jesus, the bearer of the Spirit, became the 'bestower', the 'giver' of the Spirit. From this point on we realise that the waiting and hiding, the staying indoors in Jerusalem is over, and God's Word is released, so that it can move outwards to all the nations that God had wanted to bless and embrace all along. This is the impact of the Holy Spirit.

The coming of the Holy Spirit draws together some threads from the Old Testament, the Hebrew Scriptures, throughout which the Spirit's story unfolds from humankind's earliest attempts to understand God's activity and nature.

Think about the story of the Tower of Babel. This episode comes from the earliest of human recollection, when those who worshipped the Lord all spoke the same language.

But, Genesis chapter 11 tells us that the Lord confused their language and scattered them 'from there over the face of all the earth'. They had become a 'clique' of worshippers, whom the Lord God never intended to 'huddle' together. Instead, they were intended to broadcast the knowledge of the God they had come to know to be the creator and Lord of all. As a people that had chosen to isolate themselves from the rest of the known world, and become boastful - an obstacle to the possibility of making God known to every nation - which was their God-given purpose in life.

Fast forward a few thousand years - the 'tongues' with which the Apostles spoke sounded clearly in the ears of the hearers gathered from many lands, undoing the confusion of Babel. Through the work of the Holy Spirit new possibilities of understanding are created for a diverse human community. On the face of it we might imagine a 'babble' of sound as they started to speak, an incomprehensible noise. But, the opposite was true. What people heard was utterly 'comprehensible', almost 'overcomprehensible'!

Here was a crowd gathered in Jerusalem from many places, Jewish by race, but cosmopolitan by place, residence and belonging. Within that crowd, many different languages were spoken and people didn't normally understand each other. Yet now they understood clearly what was being said and shown about the Lord God's works of power.

None of them lost the rich diversity and expression of their own background and culture when they came to faith. These people all had the potential, and capacity to carry the Good News of God's power, fresh out of Jerusalem and spread it across the world, in *every* language.

This confident and joyful proclamation of God's power and the deeds concerning Jesus Christ, was made entirely comprehensible to that diverse gathering, through the work of the Holy Spirit. One-and-the-same Spirit alighted on each, enabling those who didn't normally understand each other to understand each other clearly.

So, a Church was born, an identifiable group, who still shared in Israel's Worship, but with a life and loyalty all of its own. Its members believed in baptism to cleanse, renew and proclaim Christ as Lord, and in breaking bread together when they met, just as Jesus had asked them to do. These people of faith had a cheerfully generous spirit as they shared goods and cared for each other. These were the hallmarks of a Church born out of Jesus' example, now empowered and animated by the Spirit.

That particular day of Pentecost brought the past into the present and shaped the future.

Birthdays are times to look back as well as forward, so, on the Church's birthday, I wonder, what hallmarks of the early, Spirit filled and driven Church remain? Will people understand the gospel of Jesus when you or I speak and act? If not, what needs to change?

Although such an event might never be repeated, or directly adopted as our own experience, the promises it alludes to *can* be understood. The promise is, that because of and through the work of the Holy Spirit, despite our diversity and differences, we might just be able to talk about God, and each of us hear and understand the other in comprehensible and unifying ways, from nation to nation and person to person, and that's good news for the world!

Rev Janine

News of the Church Family

Noel Harrower has moved from the Cranford Residential Home to Bronte Care Home, Lower Road, Ebford. He will appreciate visits from the Glenorchy Fellowship. Please remember in your prayers Mell Davis who has been unwell with long Covid, as well as other members of the fellowship who are unwell.

A Prayer list is sent to members of the congregation who are willing to pray for all those who are unwell. If you would like to join this group or add a name to the list, please contact Jenny (275457)

Flowers in Church

Grateful thanks to Jean Curl who donated and arranged the flowers for 14th May, with thanksgiving.

Please don't forget to let me know if you would like to donate the flowers for a particular date.

Lyn Bellamy



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



Special Notice : Tuesday June 6th/ Wednesday June 7th

Please note that the church room will be closed all day for two days for safety reasons when scaffolding will be erected to enable the overhead lights to be re-aligned. ***Bob Austen***

Bible Book Group

Continuing our look at some of **Jesus' Parables**, join us on **Wednesday 28th June**
- **2pm to 3.30pm**



Whether you've been along before or not, you are more than welcome. You never know what you might learn and what others might learn from you. The Bible is best understood when it's explored by a group of folks. You might be surprised!

Look out for July's meeting date in the July review.

... not to mention there's free tea, coffee and biscuits!

“We ask ourselves, ‘Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous?’

Actually, who are you not to be?

You are a child of God.

Your playing small does not serve the world.

There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you.

We are all meant to shine, as children do.

We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us.

It's not just in some of us, it's in everyone”

Marianne Williamson - courtesy of URC Youth

Mission Committee update



**Favourite Readings Afternoon
for Mission Funds
Wednesday 21st June at 2.30pm**

Following the success of previous years the Mission Committee are holding another afternoon where you can bring along a favourite poem or prose to read and share, on the theme of Summer and/or holidays.

All are welcome to take part
but please keep your reading to 5 minutes.
Please give your name and title of your reading to Angela.
There will be a delicious Cream Tea to enjoy afterwards.
Tickets £5.00 from members of the Mission Committee.



Advance Notice

Anne and Keith Empson are kindly again
inviting us to their home on

Thursday afternoon July 6, 2-5pm.

Fairfield Lodge, EX8 2BL

*[at the Salterton Road end of Fairfield Road, first house along,
handy for the Gussiford Lane bus stop].*

There will be tea and cakes with a bring and buy stall
including some items made by Anne and Janine.
Donation boxes for Mission funds strategically placed!



A message from Christine Stredwick

In August it will be my 90th birthday. Not wanting gifts, I decided to raise money for charity, so I am repeating what I did for my 80th – a parachute jump.

When floating down, the views are incredible – from the hills of South Wales, the Bristol Channel to Start Point. Then eastwards to beyond Portland Bill and the patchwork of fields, towns and villages in between.

As the song says, “What a beautiful world!”

I have paid for the jump and would be very grateful for sponsorship however small. The money will be shared between Hospice and Rehoboth Zimbabwe, where an Exmouth man, Mark and his wife Dorcas support ten boys rescued from the street.

If you would like to sponsor Christine for this remarkable venture, please let her know, so that she has an idea of the support.



Eco Matters

I realise that most current members of Glenorchy, including myself, will not be expecting, themselves, to experience what will be happening in 2050 !

The United Nations, and our own national government, however, are making “promises” about what is to be achieved to protect our younger citizens from, for example, “Climate Disaster”.

Founded 103 years ago, a politically independent “think tank”, Chatham House, makes predictions in order to influence government policy. In a recent report they stated that, because of increasing population, 50% more food will be needed by 2050. In the same report, they predicted that, because of climate change, agricultural yields in Britain will be down 30% by 2050.

When we see our political parties squaring up to each other as the next General Election, probably in 2024, approaches, will we be hearing realistic ideas about how to deal with stark realities such as the above? Most likely, instead, it will be the usual efforts to “score points” by criticising the other parties with suggestions of incompetence, and so on.

As I wrote in the February 2022 ‘Review’, the UN is asking for regular reporting back of progress at a national level.

We have a new King who is known for his previous support for caring for the environment.

Let us pray that our political leaders, and ourselves, will be guided to keep in mind this bigger picture, as well as more immediate concerns, when important decisions have to be made.

Peter Johnstone

Walking Group

Friday 9th June : River Otter

Meet at Lime Kiln car park, Budleigh Salterton
at 10am for a walk along the Otter.

Bob Austen



Saturday Coffee Morning

For over 30 years we have served coffee & tea, with biscuits and other refreshments from 10am 11.45am on a Saturday morning, attracting shoppers and friends.

Support has been sadly lacking in recent months. We don't seem to have gained momentum since the pandemic. Why not come along and meet your friends in a warm space?

Help with serving the tea and coffee will be appreciated on Saturday morning and on Sunday after the morning service. Sign up lists are on the Hall notice board.



*Follow your dreams
They know the way*



Discover the dandelion in yourself

An everyday picture – at the kerbside of an ordinary street, paved and asphalted.

... and yet there is something special to discover in it - a gleam of yellow and green, a dandelion blossoming against the grey of the stone.

A long root gives it a firm hold. The dandelion draws strength from it to make its way to the surface, forcing a path through the stone and mortar out into the open air, where it opens first its leaves and then its radiant flowerhead.

An image for our own everyday life, too. So often we seem to be imprisoned by our anxieties and fears; our opportunities in life hemmed in by feelings of doubt and helplessness. Many of us ask ourselves: will I be anything like equal to the challenges which I face in my life?

So here is an image for our own everyday life, too.

The dandelion that clears a path for itself. Just as often we can have the experience of finding a strength living within us that we have received as a gift from God, of discovering that we are rooted in the love of God, that from God's love we can draw courage, strength, zest for life, enabling us to withstand life with all its challenges. In the midst of all that seems to be unavoidable and unyielding – there is still this creative breakthrough. The dandelion at the kerbside – growing in an inhospitable place. But it grows and blossoms – like a small miracle.

An everyday picture – telling of the strength of love in an unaccustomed place. An everyday picture – waiting to be discovered in our own everyday life as well.

Source, German Protestant Church of the Palatinate, twinned with the URC



Christian Response to Eastern Europe

Thank you for your support over the last few months. Two trucks were sent in March/April to Ukraine and Moldova. The next truck will be going in the next few weeks. Thank you for your donations of good quality clothing, bedding, kitchenware, toiletries etc, all in good condition or brand new.

The Warehouse will be open on Wednesday 7th June 10am-3pm and Saturday 17th June 10am-1pm. The Warehouse is in Spiders Lane, just off Marley Road. I will be able to pick up on Monday 5th or Tuesday 6th, please let me know if you need help to get your donations to the Warehouse.

Jenny Newman

Bible Society- Exmouth Action Group



Summer Concert
Saturday 17th June at 7pm
Holy Trinity Church

Exeter Salvation Army Band and Songsters

Tickets price £8.00 are available from Jenny.
If you are registered disabled and need a parking place,
please contact the Parish Office on 263681



Supporting our local community



We are keen to support local community fridges and avoid food waste. After our sessions on Tuesday and Friday, Littleham Community Fridge and Open Door regularly receive our excess stock and fresh items that are about to go out of date.

A Friday delivery to Littleham Community Fridge

In addition, we are about to pilot providing fresh fruit, vegetables and eggs to Brixington Community Church. Each week the Church supplies a few basic food items to up to thirty local families who are just above the threshold of seeking support from the Food Bank. Many are struggling to access affordable food due to lack of transport and the cost of shopping locally.

Training provided by Pete's Dragons

The focus of our work is providing emergency food to those in need. However, the fallout from the pandemic plus the cost-of-living crisis have affected the mental wellbeing of many of the clients who turn to us for help. Some mention that they can't see a way forward and are having suicidal thoughts. Not an easy conversation for anyone to have and one that we don't want to shy away from – so we sought help from a local charity called Pete's Dragons. Pete's Dragons excel in providing support to families bereaved by suicide and also offer preventative training.

On 26th April a team of Food Bank volunteers who work face to face with clients completed a three-hour suicide prevention awareness session. The training was tough but invaluable. We now have the tools to



help those with suicidal thoughts stay safe and can assist individuals to access appropriate professional support. Thank you Pete's Dragons - the training was inspiring!

Puzzle Corner

So you think you know Devon?

Boat-building on the Dart

Wotton Brook meets the Exe

Former mental hospital near Exeter

Origin of the King Alfred daffodil

Settled in 980AD by the river Ockment

Site of Marley House, aka Syon Abbey

Pre-1980 tram terminus

Lace made here for Victoria's wedding dress

Famous for Roborough Rock



Last month's coronation answers:

Gustav 1st; Louis 14th; Edmund; Nebuchadnezzar;

Ozymandias; Richard 2nd; Charles 3rd; Herod; Yohannis.



June Calendar

Thursday 1st

9.15am Job Café

Saturday 2nd

10am Coffee Morning

Sunday 4th

10.30am Family Service
with Holy Communion
Revd Janine Atkinson

Tuesday 6th

2pm Elders Meeting

Wednesday 7th

10am Art Group

Thursday 8th

9.15am Job Café

Friday 9th

10am Walking Group (see p13)

Saturday 10th

10am Coffee Morning

Sunday 11th

10.30am Family Service
Revd Ruth Dillon

Wednesday 14th

10am Art Group

Thursday 15th

9.15am Job Café

Saturday 17th

10am Coffee Morning

7pm Bible Society Concert at Holy
Trinity Church (see p15)

Sunday 18th

10.30am Family Service
Revd Janine Atkinson

Wednesday 21st

10am Art Group

2.30pm Prose & Poetry (see p10)

Thursday 22nd

9.15am Job Café

Saturday 24th

10am Coffee Morning

Sunday 25th

10.30am Family Service
Revd Janine Atkinson

Tuesday 27th

2pm Craft Group

Wednesday 28th

10am Art Group

Thursday 29th

9.15am Job Café

Saturday 1st July

10am Coffee Morning

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