

# Flock News

Year 1

July 2002-2003

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Tickling the Ivories	2
God has and will Provide	2
Do This in Remembrance	2
Message from Chairman	3
Notices	4
Invitation	4
Contact Numbers	4

## Our First Anniversary!

With the benefit of hindsight, we are able to appreciate just how perfect, in timing and structure, God's plan is. Looking back, we can see how easily His sheep could have been scattered, as human politics, and bitterness, caused much sorrow and confusion. Yet, God was already preparing a new "fold" for His loved ones. And, where, more appropriate, than the aptly named Good Shepherd Drive, Sheltered Housing complex.

In June, last year, under the Chairmanship of Rev Adrian Magor, the Exeter Christian Fellowship was formalised, as an "Umbrella" group which has served in drawing us together as we all move on in our Faith. The E.C.F. is an Action Group which supports our Community "Faith Bus" ministry, and The Good Shepherd Fellowship. This group continues to bind together friends in the Lord who are now settled into various city Churches, along with new friends at The Good Shepherd Fellowship. We move into the coming year with a desire for the furtherance of the Gospel in our Community.



With cords that cannot be broken.

The E.C.F. embraces all the financial obligations involved within our group. Graham Charters was elected last June to serve the group by way of Treasurer, and, thank God, that task has been made easier by the sacrificial giving of everyone.

## Notes from our Secretary's Minutes

After the difficult times of spiritual upheaval, I like others, really needed stability. Last June, the Exeter Christian Fellowship was formed. I was so pleased. I was nominated as Secretary.

My wife and I, like many others, needed to know where we were going, and needed spiritual guidance; fortunately my true friends at that time, were so kind and thoughtful

towards us as a couple, and this drew us all together, as we started meeting for prayer times. Being there for one another is the essence of Christian life.

Another spiritual milestone was when Graham started the Good Shepherd Fellowship in July 2002; unifying us; then when the minibus was procured, we were able to do more things together.

In December we held our Christmas Dinner at the Cat and Fiddle Inn-great food and enjoyment for all. Holding a Bring and Buy sale, also brought team work and unity, whilst raising minibus funds, as was the Easter Sunday Gift Day.

Our trip to Cardiff this May was yet again, a fabulous day out. We are looking forward to the coming year!

CHAIRMAN:  
Rev Adrian Magor

SECRETARY:  
Mr Terry Pope

TREASURER:  
Mr Graham Charters

## Special points of interest:

- Average Sunday service attendance = 26
- Average Sunday service offering = £41.50
- 1/3 giving to outside ministries = 10%
- G.S.F. contributions to "Faith Bus" = £540 +
- Over 100 years ago a Chapel stood on this site, for "fallen women". The old Chapel bell is mounted in the garden.
- The Devon Community Housing Society opened Good Shepherd Drive (sheltered housing for Senior Citizens) in 1984. It had previously been called The Home of the Good Shepherd. God's seal was always on this place!

## Tickling the Ivories

From our very first service, we have always been blessed with musical accompaniment to our hymn singing. Graham's mother, Mrs Joan Charters has kindly driven over from Crediton at least once a month to help us out. And she has usually sung a solo item for us as well, or a duet with her husband, Alan. Our own Miss Frances Steele has readily stepped into the breach and played whenever required, and has also sung the occasional solo for us. And our special thanks go to Mr Peter Ward, of the Riverside Christian Centre, who, along with his friend June, has committed himself to play at least twice a month, driving the long journey in from South Molton.

May God bless these talented musicians in their ministry. For our Communion services we sing "Karaoke" style to some lovely Gospel tapes.

Periodically, and as an evangelistic tool, we hold a "Songs of Praise" service, where, according to the theme of the Church calendar, we sing some of the old time favourite hymns that we all love so much.

Cliff Richard once sang—"Why should the Devil have all the good music?". Well, he doesn't. Since the time of David, singing praises to the Lord has been the best act of worship we can offer up to our Saviour and Friend.

"Sing to the Lord a new song in the assembly of saints".  
Psalm 149 v 1



At our Fellowship House-Party last October, at Brunel Manor, our theme song was - "Days are filled with gladness, nights are filled with song, Walking in the King's highway." We were all blessed by the insights we received from the studies in the book of Ruth.

This year, at Haldon Court, our theme will be the well-loved Psalm 23. Our theme song will be - "A pilgrim was I and awand'ring, in the dark paths of sin I did roam; 'til Jesus the kind Shepherd found me, and now I am on my way home. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days, all the days of my life".

Praise ye the Lord!

## God has, and will, Provide

We have always taken a Collection at our Sunday services, And God has been gracious to us in His provision.

Apart from general expenses, such as visiting speakers, the organists, and to Good Shepherd Drive Social Fund for the use of the Hall, this money has gone towards supporting the running of our Minibus, and giving to other missions and ministries.

On Easter Sunday we had a special Gift day envelope scheme. We saw,

on a return of 27 envelopes, a total of £232.00 which has gone into the Minibus Fund.

We are continually raising funds to support the work of our Minibus; such as Bring & Buy Sales, sponsored events, and private donations. Special thanks go to the Exeter & East Devon Sports Association for the Disabled, (especially their chairman, Mr Ian Downs,) who have been so generous in both provi-

sion and upkeep of our "Faith Bus" In March, we held a Bring & Buy Sale at the Sidwell Street Methodist Church Hall. With all hands on deck, and an extra special effort by everyone, we raised £200.00

We plan to hold another such Sale in the Autumn, at the Kalendar Hall at the top of South Street on Saturday 27th September from 10am to 12 noon.

Make a note in your diary, and, if you can help, speak to Terry Pope or Brenda Thomas, and they'll recruit you!

From our annual Sunday Collections totalling £1,200, over 10% has gone out to other ministries & missions

## "Do This in Remembrance of Me"

The last Sunday of each month is our service of Holy Communion. We are thankful to our friend, and E.C.F. Chairman, Rev Adrian Magor, for travelling in from Winkleigh with Janet, his wife, to celebrate the Emblems of Christ's sacrifice for us - His broken body and His shed blood - through the bread and the wine. The format of the service is simple, yet reverent, and we welcome around His Table, all who love the Lord Jesus Christ, and are at peace with their

neighbours. We often sing the words of a well known chorus, - "Bind us together, Lord".

It is at these times when we come together in remembrance of Christ's death for our sins, on the Cross, that we are drawn nearer to each other, as we grow closer to Him.



"Where 2 or 3 are gathered together in My Name, there am I"

Many of the furnishings that we use in The Good Shepherd Fellowship have been provided by our own folk: All the cloths that have been embroidered and our beautiful "banner" (thanks to Wyn Pullen!!). Our hymn books are the product of kind gifts. The large print Bible was donated; and also we already have the money to purchase audio mike & speakers. Thanks to God!



## Message from the Chairman

You know, we are all on a spiritual pilgrimage. The Apostle Paul says that "we are pilgrims and strangers in a foreign land". Walking onward hopefully beaming bright, marching to the Promised Land, just like the Israelites of old.

For myself, my third venture into the wilderness, or spiritual desert (along with others) happened on the 4th March 2002. After the Mothering Sunday Service on that day, I retired from the sheepfold of ChristChurch F.C.E., Exeter. Little did I know at the time, but 15 other sheep were to leave that fold before Easter. Concerned for them, I assisted in finding for them a spiritual oasis to sustain them for the while. After which, I could then take stock of my wanderings.

Meanwhile, unrelated to the situation, our Brother, Graham, had been moved by God to commence a Sunday service ministry at his place of work,

Good Shepherd Drive sheltered housing. After months of preparation, The Good Shepherd Fellowship was up and running on the 7th July last year. Those 15 sheep who, between March and July had lost their "fold", requested that we meet informally, monthly, for prayer and Bible study. This we did, in folks front-rooms. It still continues to be a great time of fellowship and prayer which we all value.

It was then that Graham and I, together with the others, formalised our group, entitled the "Exeter Christian Fellowship". This was open to all friends who wished to enjoy Christian company in homes (just like those first Christians in the Book of Acts). And just as persecution was an issue back then, so Graham and I also suffered harassment from embittered individuals at Christchurch. Rumours quickly spread; previous members received "Pastoral visits"; false allegations were

presented to the Denomination that demanded I should answer to F.C.E. Convocation for "forming another F.C.E. Church". How wrong they were, how wrong their gossips, even twisting truths for the Devil's own purposes. The Apostle Paul, wrote to Timothy, saying, "beware of wagging tongues and itching ears". At the end of July, I felt I had to resign from the F.C.E. rather than continue this bedevilled fighting. There is a saying—He who fights and runs away, lives to fight another day.

On July 7th 2002, the Exeter Christian Fellowship were invited to support The Good Shepherd Fellowship at its inaugural service. Many have become faithful and regular members ever since. In their first year they have seen growth from 15 folk to anything up to 30 worshippers each Sunday morning. The work Graham started has certainly been blessed by God's Spirit, and long may it continue to be so.

## Moving on—in a "Faith Bus"

With much animosity, the minibus and documents were handed back to Christchurch in April, and many false accusations were cast at Graham regarding disabled badges etc., contrary to witnesses. However, our group decided we must move on and purchase our own minibus, but, thus far, we had no funds. Graham's good detective work and useful contacts, soon came up trumps (thanks to Tony Proverbs, our

"Faith Bus"  
Serving God in the  
Community  
Transporting Senior Citizens  
& the Disabled  
07786 846044

## Look up, not down

And so, I draw this Epistle to a close: "Seek first the Kingdom of God and all else shall be given unto you"

Christian friend, look up to Heaven, not downward to earthly things. The phrase which kept me going through the first part of the year, was the Ascension statement from Jesus: "Lo! I am with you always". On the occasions that I manage to attend our local village Church, I picture in one of the stained-glass windows these very same words of encouragement.



My sheep, beware for the devil prowls around, but we are protected, safe in the arms of our Saviour, Jesus Christ our Lord. Please commit everything to God in prayer, and may your light shine in Exeter and beyond, so that people may see your good works and glorify our Father in Heaven.

Rev. Adrian Magor

## Contacts

For Sunday Services  
Graham: 07786 846044  
For Other Enquiries  
Terry: 01392 257847

For Exeter Christian Fellowship  
Adrian: 01837 83799  
Minibus Enquiries  
Email: amppc@bushinternet.com

## GOOD SHEPHERD FELLOWSHIP

Serving God in the  
Community

## NOTICES



Exeter Christian Fellowship A.G.M. Thursday 31st July @7pm

Harvest Festival - Sunday 12th October @11am

Bring & Buy Sale, Kalendar Hall - Saturday 27th September @10am

House-Party at Haldon Court, Exmouth - 21st-23rd November

Bible Society presentation - Sunday 7th December @11am

Carols by Candle-Light - Sunday 21st December @10-4.5am

Bank Holiday Outing - Lanhydrock - Monday 3rd May '04

Sponsored "Great West Run" by Graham & Mark for Minibus-May'04

## A Warm Welcome to All

The Good Shepherd Fellowship meets every Sunday from 11am—11.45am with tea/coffee & biscuits to follow.

The first Sunday of every month we invite a guest speaker to come and share with us.

On the last Sunday of each month we celebrate Holy Communion together.

Rev Adrian Magor serves us for these services.

We are a non-denominational Fellowship which welcomes those who seek to worship God through praise, prayer and the reading and study of His Word—the Holy Bible. Our service format includes forms of worship from all aspects of the Christian traditions. All who love the Lord Jesus are welcome to participate in our Holy Communion service. Contributions to our services are always welcome—a favourite Psalm, Hymn, Poem or Solo, for the encouragement of the Fellowship. Just pass suggestions to Graham, beforehand.



In our closing of the last year, and moving into a new stage of growth, we have seen the dispersed sheep brought home to His Fold. Now that flock needs structure and nourishment to produce growth and advancement. Our Fellowship must now move on in God's Will, because His people cannot stand still. We are His sheep, safe in the Fold of His care. There are lost sheep out there, and Jesus wants to bring them in:

Transport can be arranged for any who need help getting to our Fellowship.

The Exeter Christian Fellowship, who have also just completed their first anniversary, in June, wish a very "Happy Anniversary" to all involved in the work of The Good Shepherd Fellowship. May this celebration be the first of many more to come. Through this ministry, many lives have been touched, and a needy area of God's Work has been, and is being met.

"The Lord is my Shepherd, nothing shall I lack,.....He restores my weary soul"

Psalm 23

This, my friends, is The Good Shepherd!