

The
Good Shepherd
Fellowship

Flock News

Year 17
July 2019

What will be my Legacy?

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Special points of interest:

"THE SOCIAL PROGRAM FOR THE FELLOWSHIP CONTINUES TO INCLUDE OUR FAVOURITE ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR—SEE THE DIARY ON PAGE 4.

COME ALONG EARLY ON SUNDAY MORNINGS FROM 10.30AM AND YOU WILL BE SERVED WITH A WELCOMING CUPPA! WE HAVE A GOOD SELECTION OF BOOKS WHICH YOU MAY BORROW AND READ.

Pastoral Care Team (PCT)

Pastor: Rev Graham Charters

Rev Syd Gardner

Joan Charters

Secretary: Margaret Gardner

Treasurer: Brenda Thomas

Elder Emeritus: Frances Steele

St Michael's Fellowship, Paignton:

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Do we sometimes have those thoughts, where we ponder on what we will leave to this world when we eventually exit it? We read in history books how well-known men and women have left their mark on the world, and have caused either good or bad to occur through their legacies. Will my legacy be a good influence? Will I be remembered in a kindly light?

I have had reason, recently, to think on these things, as I have had the responsibility of assessing and organizing all the assets of a dear friend who passed away. There are documents, investments, photographs, trinkets, clothes, and all kinds of artifacts which made up her 87 years of life. This all totals her legacy. But, surely, we leave more than

tangible objects. These things will be distributed to relatives, friends, charities, and, unfortunately in many cases, to the dustbin. But there are more intangibles which will live on, and will make valuable changes to the world we leave behind.

Jesus encourages us to invest in eternity, and not worry so much

steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

Where is my heart? What can I invest for eternity? Luke 12 v 31 "Seek first His Kingdom, then all these other things will be given you, too".

The Bible's message to us is that all our life's work will be tested by holy fire, and that only what has spiritual value will survive the flames. John the Baptist said in Matthew 3 v 12 God will "burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

1 Corinthians 3 v 10—15

warns us that unless we are building our lives on Christ's firm foundation, when tested by His fire, it will all be as nothing.

Remember the Rich Fool? Jesus warns us that all our earthly wealth is worthless in eternity.

What will be my legacy? That God may be glorified through my life.

The Good Shepherd Fellowship, Exeter
Meeting at "Cornerstone"
A non-denominational Christian
Fellowship in the heart of Exeter
The St Michael's Fellowship, Paignton

about this world's clutter.

Matthew 6 v 19 "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust can destroy, or where thieves can break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, or thieves can break in and

From the Secretary's Minutes

As we move "onward and upward" (see my musings) into our 18th year as a fellowship, we can give thanks for the good times we have shared and the knowledge of our love for one another. We have had our usual activities: Paignton BBQ for Exeter Street Pastors, Harvest Lunch, Christmas Lunch and Carol services. We introduced an "Open Mic" service which went very well with many

taking part, and "30 minutes with Jesus" continues after the service most 3rd Sundays of each month; and, of course, our regular Sunday services when we meet to worship God and be fed by His Word. So there is much to give thanks for, but the other side of good is bad, and some of us have had to deal with some very difficult situations, whether with ill health, financial problems, or being challenged verbally and unjustifiably. But

we know that "if God is for us who can be against us?" is a truth that we can rely on daily.

So while we look back to the good things, let us say, with the apostle Paul, "Forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, we press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called us heavenwards in Christ Jesus."

So, in other words, "Onwards and Upwards!"
Margaret Gardner

WHEN YOU PRAY—SAY SOMETHING

When we started our course of teaching on the wonderful Christian tool of PRAYER, it was never really likely to be completed within one year. The topic is vast, and the questions which arise from the aspects of our communication with our heavenly Father are multiple. Over a year ago we looked at some of the reasons that anyone might turn to prayer. Some of these "reasons" were a bit oblique, and were nothing to do with our growing relationship with a loving Father who will hear our prayers and will answer them in His perfect way, and in His perfect timing. 1 John 5 v 14 "This is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything, according to His will, He hears us, and if we know that He hears us we know that we have the petition that we desire of Him."

Our plan was to move on to dissecting the Lord's Prayer, phrase by phrase, and try to

understand how prayer can become a valuable tool in our daily Christian lives as we strive to walk with Him and become more Christ-like.

In Matthew chapter 5 and 6, Jesus is giving teaching on all manner of things, from murder to adultery to divorce to oaths to loving enemies to charitable giving. It's all there!

The disciples didn't question any

of Jesus had that inner need to communicate with their heavenly Father. And so, we too should want to know, understand, and appreciate the value of PRAYER.

These thoughts became interwoven with our desire to become more Christ-like. Jesus told His disciples in John 14 v 21 "If you really love Me, you will keep My Word, and obey My teachings..." And in Philippians 2 v 5, we are told, "Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus."

In appreciating what PRAYER is, we then need to understand what PRAYER is not. Jesus told His disciples to look at the way the Pharisee was praying in public with great showiness. He said, in Matthew 6 v 5 "...for they pray out loud on street corners, to be seen by others." God is more interested in what is in our hearts. We can come to Him in sincerity and communicate with our heavenly Father.

Our website is on line at:
www.thegoodshepherdcornerstone.com
Contact us by Email at:
exeterchristianfellows@gmail.com
Recommend it to your friends!

of these things, but as soon as Jesus mentions prayer, they have issues. It's recorded in Luke's Gospel 11 v 1 "Lord, teach us to pray..." The early followers

The Prayer our Saviour taught us.

"Our Father, Who art in Heaven, Hallowed be Thy name.
Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespassers, as we forgive them that trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory.

For ever and ever,
Amen

Being Born Again & Baptism

You well might question, "But surely these are two completely separate issues, aren't they? Well, yes, they are two distinct steps on our road to faith in God, but they should not be totally separated. Peter preached in Act 2 v 38 "Repent and be baptized, everyone of you, in the name of Jesus Christ, for the forgiveness of your sins."

And throughout the Apostles ministry, Acts 18 v 8 "Many who heard and believed in the Lord Jesus, were baptized."

We have been running a Course on Baptism since the Spring. Those attending the informal classes have been learning, not only about Baptism, but about the faith-journey which leads us to

accepting Jesus Christ as our personal Saviour and then making Him the Lord of our life.

When he is Lord, then we should want to be OBEDIENT to what He requires of us.

We hope to be celebrating another Baptismal Service in the future.

SYD'S SOAP-BOX!

Working for God at His Call.

I began working for God in the church where Margaret and I were converted. I began visiting 200 homes around the Church which was in a road named Lock Road in Upper Parkstone, Poole in Dorset.

I had been a Christian about six months and I visited my Pastor the Rev. Arthur Mitson. He had contacted a local Evangelist who worked with Home Mission and he arranged a meeting so that he could teach me how to visit people by knocking on their doors. The Pastor sent a letter to all the homes before we started to visit.

As I was continuing with this, there was an evening meeting held at the Church. We had as a speaker (a Missioner) from London City Mission talking about his work in South London. That evening God spoke to me and showed me what he wanted me to do.

Then began a period of training. I went to Moorlands Bible College where I studied the Old and New Testaments, Evangelism and Hermeneutics. While in my 2nd year I saw a notice advertising for someone to train as a City Missioner in Exeter.

Margaret and I moved to Exeter with our daughter Lisa and our son Paul, and I worked

with the Mission for 7 years. I learned a lot about evangelism visitation and church planting.

There were many young, struggling families on the estate where I worked, two of which come to mind as I write this—

First family: Rodney and Tommi who had 4 children, 2 at school, a toddler and a baby. They also had a huge Rottweiler dog who Tommi was holding with a choke chain when she opened the door. He looked very aggressive but I told her to let him go and he stopped barking, came over to me and I stroked him. Tommi was amazed, she said most people were afraid of him so I told her we used to have German Shepherds so were ok with big dogs. Rod was on probation for dealing drugs, and they were living on benefits. We helped them with food and clothes for the children, who started attending the Mission Sunday School. Later on Tommi was converted, but Rod went to prison and the marriage broke up. Tommi continued to worship with us until she moved to Warrington and we lost touch.

Second family: a single mother with three daughters again

Reaching Beyond our Borders!

We may only be a small Fellowship in comparison with other city Churches, but we believe it is an important mission that we give what we can to encourage other Ministries both in prayer and in financial giving. Since our early years, it has always been our target to give out a Tithe (one tenth) of our income to support selected ministries.

We support Mark Perkins and his family with £30/mth as he works with various local Churches in encouraging them to evangelize (share the Good News of Salvation). Mark has recently been diagnosed with Prostate Cancer, so he is very much in our prayers at this time.

We also support with £20/mth, the "Haven of Hope" orphanage in Lipova, Romania. We used to send items for the children, but times have changed, and it is more economical to send the money that they can shop locally.

A Giving Church is a Living Church!
&
A Living Church is a Giving Church

We hold an annual BBQ down on the Goodrington sea-front, in Kay's Cabin, in aid of the Exeter Street Pastors. This has proved a very popular event every August.

Edelweiss

Born in Austria, and spending the last half-century in Exeter, Elfriede Hussey ended up for the last 17 years, in our family of The Good Shepherd Fellowship. She has been a joy to know, and she will be greatly missed by all of us. Two years ago, she was diagnosed with Colon Cancer. This disease gradually took a hold, and her health deteriorated especially since New Year.

Her passing was peaceful, on 25th March 2019, in Sidmouth Victoria Hospital. Her ashes have been laid to rest with her mother's in Pottendorf, Austria. She will always be remembered.

I love travelling by train. Between the age of 6 and 12 I travelled each term to and from my boarding school by steam trains. They were the type with no corridors and no toilets, but you could put your face out of the window and get it blackened by the steam! I used to love sitting watching the telephone lines go past as they went up and down between the poles, and often birds would be sitting on them. Sometimes we were passing fields with cows or sheep, other times we were so close to the backs of houses you could see through the windows.

However there was one thing to notice; I could see alongside the train and I could see where we had been, but I couldn't see where we were going. Although I knew my expected destination, I had to trust the driver to get me there. Sometimes there would be a delay or a detour and I would worry where I would end up!

This reminds me of the Israelites when they left Egypt; they knew they were heading for the promised land, but they didn't know the way, and sometimes they were diverted, like at the Red Sea when they were chased by the Egyptians. Yet God was in that situation, he rescued them and never left them alone, because he had a plan for

struggling on benefits. I visited her many times and had the joy and privilege of leading her to the Lord, and later we baptised her at the Mission. She continued worshipping with us until I left. I know that since then she has married a Christian man and is now living in Kings Lynn. She is happy in a Pentecostal Church and continues to grow, in the Lord.

I believe that God called me to be an evangelist, and have served him for over 30 years, always seeking to bring souls to Christ.

When we follow His lead it can be daunting, exciting, difficult and challenging, but always joyful knowing that we serve a living Saviour. One of the many things I have learned over the years is the importance of communication with God, listening to God and obeying His call on our lives. His plans are always for the best, and our service is always for His glory.

"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you; plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29 v 11

2 Corinthians 8 v 7 "Just as you already excel in the acts of faithfulness, encouraging conversation, knowledge of the Word, earnestness, and love—see that you also excel in this grace of GIVING."

God has been good to us as a Church Fellowship, and it is a blessing that we are able to bless others in these practical ways. We were never meant to store up our money, but that we can give out to God's Work. We have, as a Fellowship, never needed for anything, and so we want that others may also be full of God's bounteous supply.

them and they had to trust him to get them to their destination.

Do we know where our destination is and do we trust God to take us there? We can often see things as they pass us by, and we can look back and see where we have been, but how often do we "look upward" to see where we are going? We may look "onward" to what we think is coming, but the truth is we don't know. This could be our last day or we could have years ahead of us. The only thing we do know is our final destination: Jesus said "Trust in God, trust also in me. I am going to prepare a place for you and I will come back and take you to be with me" John 14 v 1-3.

So as we travel "onward" into our 18th year, may we continue to look "upward" as we trust God to lead us to our destination.

"Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith." Hebrews 12 v 2

Do not grow weary and lose heart." Hebrews 12 v 2,3

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Contacts

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THE GOOD SHEPHERD FELLOWSHIP

Serving God in the Community

The St Michael's Fellowship (St Michael's Ct., Paignton)

For various reasons, the numbers in attendance at St Michael's Fellowship have dropped off over the past months. Our dear friend, Su Cann, has been going through some family situations this past year, and we have not seen so much of her. She may be moving permanently in the future, either to Cambridge, or back to China. She will be greatly missed. Our prayers are with her.

Our dear friend, Kay Grover, has recently moved into an apartment near the sea-front. Although she is keeping well, her mobility and her eye-sight are deteriorating. She is no longer able to join us physically, but is very much a part of the Paignton ministry. Thanks to Kay, we still have use of Kay's Cabin at Goodrington, for our annual BBQ in aid of the Exeter Street Pastors.

Dave faithfully keeps the Chapel at St Michael's Court, in a lovely condition for our monthly services, and we always enjoy our meetings with him and any who might join with us. We recently did an "Invitation Leaflet" drop around the compound. We pray that God will increase our numbers this coming year.

Thanks to all the Good Shepherd Fellowship folk who come down with us to encourage Dave each month.

Important DATE!



17th Anniversary Celebration Sunday 7th July @ 10.45am
(followed by a Bring & Share Lunch)

GSF AGM on Sunday 21st July at 11.45am following short Service of Praise

Vicar's Tea Party at Winkleigh on Saturday 27th July

BBQ in aid of the Exeter Street Pastors on Sunday 4th August to be held at Kay's Cabin by the seaside nr. Goodrington @ 5pm

Songs of Praise (Sankey's Evening) at Stoke Canon Gospel Hall on Friday 16th August @ 7pm

GSF Harvest Festival - Sunday 6th October @ 10.45am
Followed by a Harvest Lunch @ 12noon.

All items to go to local Christian Community projects

SMF Harvest Festival - Sunday 6th October @ 4.45pm

Fellowship Christmas Dinner - Saturday 21st December
Venue to be confirmed - 1pm - £12 max

GSF Carol Service - Sunday 22nd December @ 10.45am

SMF Candle-Light Carols - Sunday 22nd December @ 4.45pm

A Warm Welcome to All!

The Good Shepherd Fellowship continues to meet every Sunday from 10.45am—12noon with refreshments on arrival. We meet at our adopted home, The Cornerstone, Bull Meadow Rd (just across the road from Good Shepherd Drive).

The 1st Sunday of every month we invite a guest speaker to come and share. On the 2nd Sunday of each month we celebrate Holy Communion together.

The GSF & SMF, are non-denominational Fellowships, which welcome those who seek to worship God through praise, prayer and the reading and study of His Word—the Holy Bible. Our service formats include 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.

If you need a lift in, just ask and we'll arrange it for you.

Many young people, at the age of 17, have either chosen to move straight into a working environment, or to continue in further education at a University or college. It can be a major crossroads in the life of a teenager, and one which can not be embarked upon to lightly. Advice is willingly offered by friends, family and peers alike, but that final decision is left to the individual.

Possibly, up to that point, such major decisions and pathways have been left to those who have led us and guided us, to the best of their ability, using their wisdom and experience. But a life choice which could decide the future career path of a young man or woman has to be a personal one. It has to be the choice of the individual, and they have to stand by their own decision. This demands an element of commitment and soul-searching.

Possibly, some of us have grown up in a family or community where serious, life-changing decisions have been made for us, or the responsibility has laid at the feet of others who have been more spiritually aware and wizened by life. We have received their teachings and their guidance in deference to personal commitment.

Matthew 16 v 24 "If anyone would come after Me, he must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Me." The Bible clearly explains to us that our decision to follow Jesus Christ is a personal one. This decision can not be made by anyone else on our behalf. We have to stand by our decision and be counted.

This, my friends, is The Church!