

**The
Good Shepherd
Fellowship**

Flock News

Easter Special!

Year 19

Easter 2022



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Spring Lambs, Bunny Rabbits & Daffodils

There is always a special 'something' about Easter-time. It is as though nature is breathing a sigh of relief that winter is over, and a new hope of revival is in the air. Lambs are gamboling in the fields (along with the calves, piglets, & chicks). The blossoms are blooming on trees, with the promise of fruits to come. Days are growing longer, and the temperatures are climbing in our thermometers.

Jesus Christ's crucifixion, His sacrifice for the sins of the world. His conquering victory over Death, and then His wonderful resurrection on that first Easter Sunday morning – Hallelujah!

Hope through the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade – kept in heaven for you." **1 Peter 1 v 3 – 4.**

Then, with this affirmation in **v 6**, "In this promise, you must rejoice greatly!".

*The Good Shepherd Fellowship,
Exeter*
Meeting monthly in the Chapel,
St Michael's Court, Paignton.
A non-denominational Christian
Fellowship in the heart of Exeter.
*The St Michael's Fellowship,
Paignton*

People say that Christmas is the greatest Christian festival, but I tend to think it is Easter, because that is when my salvation was purchased; "So be shepherds of the Church of God, which He (Christ Jesus) bought with the shedding of his own blood." **Acts 20 v 28.**

Pastoral Care Team (PCT)

Pastor: *Rev Graham Charters*

Rev Syd Gardner

Joan Charters

Margaret Gardner

Treasurer: *Brenda Thomas*

Elder Emeritus: *Frances Steele*

Website: *Adam Charters*

SMF Paignton: *Dave Hughes*

GSF Auditor: *Frank Bye*

Registered Address:

6, Good Shepherd Dr, Exeter, EX2 4JE

gsh.exeter@gmail.com

www.goodshepherdfellowship.co.uk

Easter is a culmination of all that has gone before. Christmas seems months ago now, and the frosty mornings of January and February are past.

New Beginnings! New Life! New Hope! The Gospel message is all around us. As we journeyed through the contemplative season of Lent, we were always looking forward.

All nature is shouting out to us; "Look, new life is everywhere, spring lambs, bunny rabbits, and daffodils, all proclaiming the new life which we can have in Christ Jesus!"

The Bible puts it like this: "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In His great mercy He has given us New Birth into a Living

Happy Easter!

Graham



"Just as Jesus Christ was raised from the dead, through the glory of the Father, we too may live a New Life."

Romans 6 v 4





WE'RE UP AND RUNNING



Since our Harvest Festival last October in the St. Michael's Chapel in Paignton, we have rolled out a monthly program of services and social events combining the Good Shepherd Fellowship, in Exeter, with the St. Michael's Fellowship, in Paignton.

On the first Sunday in November we celebrated Holy Communion together in the St. Michael's Chapel. This was done conscientiously abiding by the COVID-19 guidelines.

Then it was Christmas-time. On Saturday the 4th of December, twenty of us enjoyed a hearty Christmas Dinner at The Devonshire Dumpling, near Crediton. Then, on Sunday the 19th we held a 'Carols by Candlelight'

service in the St. Michael's Chapel.

After Christmas and New Year we held a 'Winter-time Blues' afternoon in the St. Mark's Church Hall in Exeter.

*Our website is online at:
www.goodshepherdfellowship.co.uk
Contact us by Email at:
gsf.exeter@gmail.com
Recommend it to your friends!*

This was an outreach event to the local neighbourhood. We sang choruses, played Bible Bingo, ate Cream Teas, and watched the Gospel movie "God's NOT Dead!". It was a lovely afternoon.

On the first Sunday in February we had a 'Songs of Praise' evening in St. Michael's Chapel led by our friend, Dave Worrall, from Stoke Canon. Nearly two dozen of us enjoyed singing hymns of praise.

Our March service was the first Sunday in Lent, so we held a Lenten Service followed by a simple Lenten Supper of breads & cheeses.

Earlier this month we held a Palm Sunday Service, at which many of you will have received this edition of Flock News.

We hope to see you all throughout the coming year!



"Other sheep, not of this fold" John 10 v 16.

Over the last few editions of Flock News, I have been interviewing various friends of The Good Shepherd Fellowship, who, although not regularly involved in our ministry, have at various times been associated with our work in practical ways, or have prayed for our Fellowship "from a distance", and have been financially supported by us, or have supported our work. It will be interesting to hear what these friends have to say on certain issues of the day, and how they see our Fellowship moving forward in God's will in the coming months:

For our next candidate, I have asked our dear friends, Andrew Crossley and his wife, Lynda, to give us their answers to some of life's questions. As this will be our Easter edition of Flock News, some of the issues will be around that topic. Andrew and Lynda run the Chartered Surveyors & Business Transfer Agency, Cherry & Cherry. They live in Thorverton, and are connected to St. Leonard's Church, in Exeter. Their two children are now grown up. The Gideons UK, now renamed "Good News for Everyone", is an international group of volunteer businessmen and women, whose main aim and purpose is to make the Bible accessible to all, whoever and wherever they may find themselves.



We look forward to them coming to SMF on Sunday 8th May to share with us the work of the Gideons.

**A Praying Church is a Living Church!
&
A Living Church is a Praying Church**

Interview with Andrew & Lynda Crossley

Just to warm you up, here are a few quickfire questions:

You live out in the countryside. Do you consider yourselves as “city” or “country folk”?

Country folk, who also like the city.

On a chilly spring day, do you like a brisk walk in the lanes, or a huddle around the fireplace?

Sitting by the fire, but an occasional brisk walk always makes us feel revived.

When you are not working, what are your hobbies?

Andrew's hobby is Stocks & Shares, but I (Lynda) enjoy knitting for the five grandkids, and researching our family tree.

An evening meal ideally is a home cooked dinner, or a takeaway, or a country pub?

Lynda is a great cook for our healthy diets. But sometimes the village pub steak & kidney pie beckons. With the grandkids, you can't beat a trip to McDonalds, or a fish & chip supper!

TV documentaries, a DVD, trash TV, or a good book?

We both enjoy a good read. Our favourite TV series are “Endeavour” and “Line of Duty”.

Your favourite holiday destinations, and why?

The Isle of Man – not too crowded, and good weather. The area holds childhood memories for Andrew, plus we honeymooned there 38½ years ago.

So, Christmas, and St. Valentine's Day? What did you give each other?

We both try to surprise each other with presents.

And, Lynda, is Andrew a romantic?!

Yes, he tries to be, but just knowing someone loves you is what matters to me.

Your accents are not from Devon. So, where?

We both hail from Southport so we're proud Lancastrians!

What is your preferred Bible version for personal use?

Some passages are deeply felt in the King James Version, but to understand what God is saying to us, the NIV is our go to translation of God's Word.

Now for some more in-depth questions to both challenge and encourage us at this special time of year:

Growing up, was Easter a special time of celebration in your households, as kids?

We liked the idea of Easter Eggs, but we also understood what the real Easter story was about. When we made a personal commitment to follow Jesus, it became more than just a sad story with a happy ending.

When your own family was younger, how was Easter for you and your children? And, did you have any unique family rituals in the Crossley home?

Our children loved hunting for and eating Easter Eggs (Andrew specialised in hiding them!). Lynda would cook a mean roast lamb, and we always went to Church to thank God for what Easter truly means to us.

In 2022, is Easter's message as relevant as ever? And do you think the world still needs to know what it is all about?

Because of Easter Day, we can experience complete forgiveness and, through Jesus, we can feel God's love now, and for eternity. A powerful message! “By His stripes we are healed” – not just spiritual healing (salvation), but also mental, physical and emotional healing.

We all like chocolate eggs and the Easter Bunny, and spring-time daffodils. How do we break through all the accessories, and put the risen Lord back into the forefront?

Easter also reminds us of our mortality. How that death is absolute. The Bible tells us of Jesus' power over death. After His own death, God raised Him up from the dead, breaking the chains – death is no longer the end, it's just the beginning.

Being in business can have dilemmas to face. Is your daily testimony a challenge in the world of commerce?

Generally speaking most folk have been honest and decent, and hard working. All we can do is try to do the best we can for them.

Do you sometimes have to deal with client situations where your faith is questioned?

Sometimes one's integrity comes at a price. In my (Andrew's) late 20s, working for a large PLC company with a blossoming career, I tactfully told the MD that what he had asked of me was not right or honest. Because of this, a month later I was made redundant. Out of work and financially stretched, our young family put our trust in our faithful God – and I wouldn't have had it any other way!

What is more important, your business or your work with The Gideons? And does a conflict of interests ever cloud your priorities?

Cherry & Cherry is our meeting point with, and testimony to, people. In the Gideons role, we are known already to be Christians, as we distribute Bibles. We do experience confrontation, and we ask for your prayers as we encounter such opposition.

Many people in the world have lifestyles and ethics which don't include reading a Bible. Why do you think that the Bible is so important, and why should everyone have access to it?

90% of the UK don't have any Christian input, heritage or background. You and I have our work cut out; however, God has promised us His Holy Spirit to guide and encourage us, that when a Bible is read, He will reveal Himself through the words. This is what “Good News for Everyone” is all about.

When you retire, what will end first, Cherry & Cherry or your Gideons work?

Christians never really retire from doing God's work. We hope to spend more time with family and more time with our ministry.

Finally, what are you both reading at the moment, or have just recently read?

Andrew: “Inside Out” by John Lord;

Lynda: “Lost Innocence” by Elissa Wall.

Thanks Andrew & Lynda, for being so candid and honest with us. God bless you, and may we wish you and your family a very happy Easter. We'll see you in May!



Contacts

For GSF Sunday Services
Graham: 07786 846044
Other Enquires
www.thegoodshepherdfellowship.co.uk

E-mail: gsf.exeter@gmail.com

c/o 6, Good Shepherd Drive, Exeter, EX2 4JE

THE GOOD SHEPHERD FELLOWSHIP

Serving God in the Community



Future Dates!

Easter Sunday – Resurrection Day! Sunday 17th April
Hoping that you will all find an opportunity to celebrate either at a local Church or on television.

Sunday 24th April @ 2-30pm: Our post-Easter Party at the **St. Mark’s Church Hall**, Pinhoe Road. Including a sing-song, quiz, hot cross buns and a cup of tea, plus the movie “God’s NOT Dead 2”.

Sunday 8th May @ 4.45pm: at St Michael’s Fellowship
A presentation of the work of The Gideons by Andrew Crossley. Followed by refreshments in the Lounge.

Sunday 5th June @ 4.45pm: at St Michael’s Fellowship
Royal Evening Celebration! Commemorating Queen Elizabeth II’s Platinum Jubilee Followed by regal refreshments in the Lounge.

Friday 24th June @ 3pm: Adam & Loxley’s Wedding in **St Mark’s Church**, Pinhoe Road

Sunday 3rd July – GSF 20th Anniversary Party!
In St Mark’s Church Hall @ 2-30pm:
To include a “Big Screen” presentation of our GSF website, plus a presentation of our Fellowship’s funds.

Make use of your telephones, letter writing, and other social media, to keep in touch, and “...strengthening one another and encouraging each other to remain true to the Faith.”
Acts 14 v 22



“This, my friends, is the Church”



The Good Shepherd Fellowship has had to adjust over the past months to a different way of doing things. I know many of us miss not meeting every Sunday. Our St. Michael’s Fellowship services each month have been a Godsend, and have been well attended. Also the social gatherings at St. Mark’s Church have been well received, and we look forward to arranging more in the future. Financially, we have been able to continue supporting various ministries, including Mark Perkins (Home Evangelism), “Haven of Hope” orphanage (Lipova, Romania), The Gideons, and Our Daily Bread and the Good News newspapers. The Sunday morning texts are a regular “wake-up” call each week. And our website contains everything you need to know, and is updated weekly – it is receiving about 10 visits/wk.



Now TRY THESE EASTER–THEMED CONUNDRUMS:

NO RECRUITERS

DRASTIC OUIJAS

FEW JOKE THINGS

ATHLETE LOCKUP SHELF

ALOHA IONISABLE MALACHITE