

**The
Good Shepherd
Fellowship**

Flock News

Happy 10th Anniversary!

Year 10

July 2012

I'm Singing in the

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Time to Let the Minibus Go	2
Folding Down the Umbrella	2
I Don't Like (More) Change!	2
Message from the Chairman "Good-Bye!"	3
Combined Fellowship cont...	3
Age is Creeping Up on All of Us	3
Diary Dates	4
Warm Welcome!	4

Special points of interest:

THE DECISION WAS MADE THIS SPRING TO SELL THE MINIBUS, DUE TO THE ONGOING COSTS AND NEW LEGISLATION.

THE ECF "UMBRELLA MINISTRIES" HAS CEASED TO EXIST SINCE OUR RECENT AGM. WE ARE NOW MOVING FORWARD AS THE GOOD SHEPHERD FELLOWSHIP.

WITH THANKS FOR HIS SERVICE OVER THE LAST DECADE, WE WISH ADRIAN MAGOR & JANET ALL THE BEST IN THEIR RETIREMENT. WE WILL STILL SEE THEM AT VARIOUS EVENTS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

Leadership Support Team:

Rev Syd Gardner

Frances Steele & Joan Charters

Pastoral Care Team:

Pastor: *Rev Graham Charters*

Secretary: *Margaret Gardner*

Treasurer: *Brenda Thomas*

St Michael's Fellowship, Paignton:

Dave Hughes

GSF Auditor: *Kevin Cook*

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6, Good Shepherd Dr, Exeter, EX2 4JE

It's not until you fold down your umbrella, that you get the full effect of the weather it was shielding you from. In the well loved refrain of "Singing in the Rain", the character takes great pleasure in the freedom of expression as he jumps in puddles, spins around lamp-posts, and runs the water off the guttering. He gets soaking wet, but he doesn't care, for he knows the rain can't hurt him.

The time has come, after 10 whole years of being safely sheltered under the "umbrella", for The Good Shepherd Fellowship to let down the shield, and advance into the future. We can take whatever the Devil wants to throw our way, because God is our pro-

sector.

Some may want to put a negative slant on what we've had to come through—losing our original worship-place; letting our minibus go; and bidding farewell to our chairman, Adrian. But these were all

thing I did when I learned to ride a bike was to glide through all the puddles! All fear is gone.

1 Peter 1 v 3—5 "Through Christ's resurrection, we have received His ever-living Hope—imperishable and unsullied, reserved for us; for we are shielded by God's power, through faith."

Sure, it will rain upon us, sometimes. Yes, we'll have to wrap up against the elements, sometimes. But there's no greater feeling than splashing through puddles, and getting

soaked. Here's to our future!

Graham Charters—Pastor

The Good Shepherd Fellowship Exeter

Meeting at "Cornerstone"
A non-denominational Christian
Fellowship in the heart of Exeter

&

The St Michael's Fellowship, Paignton

Saints Departed...

Over the past decade, our Flock has remained at a constant 30 or so members. Once in a while, we still reminisce about those loved ones departed. Here, in no particular order, is our ECF "role of honour":-

Alan Charters, Frances Blakey, Betty East, Max & Rose Carrolle, Sylvia Davies, Phyllis Wills, Yvonne Pope, George & Mary Cook, Phyllis Salter, Mabel Milford, Oscar Gillard.

REST IN PEACE!

This past year has seen the usual seasonal events (Vicar's Tea Party, & Harvest Supper, both at

From the Secretary's Minutes

Winkleigh). Our harvest goods were sent to the "Haven of Hope" Orphanage in Lipova, Romania. We also enjoyed "Songs of Praise" soirees at Stoke Canon & Cheriton Fitzpaine. This spring we joined with Chagford Gospel Church for a joint service and lunch at Endicott House.

A special high-light last October, 16th, was the Christening of baby Chika Cook in Winkleigh Parish Church. It was a lovely day.

Our long-planned Combined Fellowship House-Party at Brunel Manor on

the weekend of 28th—30th October '11, was a great success, with over 30 of us from Exeter, Honiton & Chagford. Danny Chipps theme was "Things that are Precious".

We are all aware of the economical climate. And so, with regret, we have had to let our minibus go. But this will not deter us from this coming years outings. Where there's a will—there's a way!

Pam Wilson—Secretary

Time To Let The Minibus Go!

As with any other organization, in this economic climate, sometimes we have to cut our cloth according to our means. Owning a vehicle over the past decade has been a privilege and a big responsibility. Many groups and individuals have been blessed by it. We, as a Fellowship have appreciated the convenience of knowing we have our own transport.

However, after prayerful consideration, and much discussion, we have looked at the financial situation, and sadly, have had to acknowledge that the minibus has become a luxury we can no longer afford.

The Minibus Fund will continue to serve us as the Transport Fund, and whenever the need arises for us to want to make a trip out to Winkleigh for a Tea Party; or maybe to join with another Church for a "Songs of Praise"; or to ferry us all on an Away-Day or House-Party, then the funds are there for us to utilize in the hiring of a vehicle.



There are also many technical and bureaucratic problems which have come to light recently. We have had to apply for a Section 19 document (allowing a driver to transport more than 8 passen-

gers); a 12wk Inspection (Mini-MOT); and also the need for in-house CRB check certificates. These we will continue to apply for, as they will serve us in the future.

We all thank Ian Downs of the E.&E.D.S.A.D. very much for his invaluable help in shuttling folk to Pinhoe Sainsbury's every Thursday afternoon, and taking them Out for Lunch each month. We appreciate his fellowship with us.

Our revised web-site is on line at:
www.thegoodshepherd-cornerstone.co.uk
Contact us by Email at:
exeterchristianfellows@gmail.com

Folding Down the "Umbrella" - a Potted History

- The Exeter Christian Fellowship was formed in 2002. We were a group of Christians bound by a desire to wait on God for His plans to be revealed. We prayed, read the Bible, and fellowshiped in one another's homes. The Good Shepherd Fellowship was started in July 2002 (then meeting in the Communal Lounge of Good Shepherd Drive). Then a minibus was acquired for use for the Fellowship, and to be lent out.
- The Exeter Christian Fellowship brought these ministries under one "Umbrella". Rev Adrian Magor was our ECF chairman, and Graham Charters was our GSF Pastor. We later revamped the name to—The ECF "Umbrella Ministries", and in 2007 we planted The St Michael's Fellowship in Paignton, at St Michael's Court sheltered housing, in their old Chapel.
- Our ministry expanded to incorporate a Mobile Baptistry, a Welsh holiday cottage and our minibus. All have been, along with our Sunday services and other events, on our Fellowship

web-site, now at www.thegoodshepherd-cornerstone.co.uk

This year, July 2012, we celebrate our 10th anniversary of the Good Shepherd Fellowship. On Sunday 8th July we commence a new chapter in our journey. For it is now time to fold down the "Umbrella". Adrian feels it is also now time to bow out from the chairmanship of the ECF, and so, with much prayer, the decision has been made to close the ECF and to march on as The Good Shepherd Fellowship—with no umbrellas!

1 Corinthians 3 v 10—11 "By God's grace, I laid a foundation which now someone else must build upon. Be careful, then, how you build. But no-one can lay a different foundation than that which is Jesus Christ."

There will obviously be some structural changes, initially, but we intend to build on the solid foundation of the past decade.

I DON'T LIKE (MORE) CHANGE!

I kept this title from last year, "I Don't Like Change". Why? Because, yet again, we are going through changes. And it hurts. It takes us out of our comfort zone. Why couldn't we go on as before? Why get rid of the minibus? Why did Adrian retire? Why fold the umbrella down?
 Last year we were entering into the cyberspace era, and setting up a web-site. We were computerising all our finances onto spreadsheets. Whatever's next? You asked. I quoted a comforting text from the Bible: He-

brews 13 v 8 "Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever"

Do you sometimes think that the current is washing you along so fast, and that you can't settle yourself. "I, the Lord, do not change!" **Malachi 3 v 6.**

God never changes in a world of change, and God promises, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." **Deuteronomy 31 v 6**

When you read a good book, you read a chapter at a time. You take in the story thread

and prepare for a new adventure at each turn of the page.

In the words of the hymn-writer: *(Mission Praise 269)* "We do not know what lies ahead, the way we can not see; but One stands near to be our Guide, He'll show the way to me...with God things don't just happen—everything by Him is planned. So as we face tomorrow, with its problems, large and small, we'll trust the God of Miracles, give to Him our all!"

Onward Christian Soldiers!

A Farewell Message from the Chairman

I leave you to ponder on a quote from "Alice in Wonderland" (though the world lives in a utopian Wonderland, we Christians are just passing through on our pilgrimage to the Promised Land). *"The Walrus said, the time has come to speak of many things..."*

It has been 10 years full of privilege to both serve and lead our Christian Group. From its inception, there have been many highs and lows on our roller-coaster pilgrimage. This has come about due to the Holy Spirit's guidance as we meet, worship and work together. Everyone of us has contributed to the successful growth of our united faith. And, for that, I thank you all. We have overcome many trials, and have grown from a dozen, to 20 and now over 30 members. Of course, due to illness, holidays, and those called home to Eternal Rest, numbers have

fluctuated.

Graham has been a brick, along with the support of Syd & Margaret Gardner who have recently joined us, and other senior Fellowship members. Although eclectic in our Christian backgrounds, the spiritual richness is a testimony to other groups.

The minibus history is well documented, and we have all had our say in deciding the Fellowship's future, and moving on to other challenges.

After a decade, it is time for changes in the leadership style; as also was the case with the early Christian Church. Read **Acts 6 v 1—7** to understand how the Apostles sorted their leadership issues.

So, I step down, in Walrus's words *"the time has come..."*. Change should never be feared for Believers. **Psalm 124 v 2** "If the Lord had not been on our side..." nothing will overcome us.

I close with a line from an old hymn: *Brother clasps the hand of brother, marching to the Promised Land.*

There's always a welcome at Winkleigh, be it "Vicar's Tea Party" or "Harvest Supper" (at lunch-time!). And Janet's Marmalade Train will stop off at GSF now and again. We're both looking forward to seeing you all from time to time for Holy Communion, and, especially in October 2013 at Brunel Manor (our room's booked!). **FAREWELL!**

Adrian Magor

The Combined Fellowship...continued

Our Combined Autumn House-Party last October, at Brunel Manor was a great success. We numbered over 30 attendees, representing the Good Shepherd Fellowship, Exeter, Honiton Baptist Church, and Chagford Gospel Church. The fellowship we enjoyed was wonderful. The sessions on "Things that are Precious", by Danny Chipps, were inspirational. There was a real sense of Christian unity throughout.

It was decided that we convene again, this

**Combined Fellowship
Away-Day
Stoke Canon Gospel Hall
Friday 10th November '12
Culminating with "Songs of praise"**

Autumn, for a Combined Fellowship Away-Day. Stoke Canon Gospel Hall have agreed to host us all on Friday 10th November '12. In the evening

we will be joined by other Church groups for a "Songs of Praise" celebration.

Just after Easter, the Good Shepherd Fellowship went out to Chagford for a combined service and lunch at Endicott House. This proved very successful, and worth repeating. In the future.

We have booked our next Combined Fellowship House-Party at Brunel Manor on the **weekend of 11th—13th October '13**. We will keep the cost to last year's

AGE IS CREEPING UP ON ALL OF US!

I was reminded, as I held Chika in my arms, the other day, just how quickly life ticks by. My own son, Adam is already into his high-school education, and thinking about universities!

This year, both of our organists are joining the octogenarian club—a club which has a growing membership within our ranks.

Our senior Elder, Gordon Burd, who, next year, will join the 90's club, has recently retired from work! Due to debilitating wear on his spinal column, he is now suffering a lot of discomfort, and has recently moved into The Old Rectory Nursing Home, Old

Tiverton Rd.. Our prayers are with him as he adjusts to his new surroundings.

Our prayer list each Sunday morning seems to regularly include names of our folk who are competing with various challenges of the aging process.

In the words of **Job 12 v 12** "Is not wisdom found among the aged? And doesn't long-life bring understanding?"

Our prayers are with Tony Proverbs as he fights the cancerous cells in his body. How he longs to be back with us again soon.

We continue to pray for Peter

Ward as he suffers with Parkinson's Disease; and for Terry & June in Scotland.

Thanks to Syd & Margaret Gardner, if you are ever feeling alone, or unable to get out to Church, or just would love a visit, then they will arrange to come and see you, and pray with you.



Contacts

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THE GOOD SHEPHERD FELLOWSHIP

Serving God in the Community

The St Michael's Fellowship

(St Michael's Ct., Paignton)

We thank God continually for the faithfulness of Dave & Jackie to the St Michael's Fellowship. Many would have thrown in the towel, but they have persevered month by month to make the on-site Chapel available for residents to come along and join in the Christian service. Thanks also to those from the Good Shepherd Fellowship, not least, Frances Steele and Joan Charters for coming down with me to play the organ.

Thanks, too, to John Thirkettle and Frances Lambert for joining with us regularly, and increasing the congregation.

However, sadly, due to situations beyond our control, we have to cease the ministry, until further notice

We pray for Joyce, a very elderly lady who has recently moved into Residential Care. We welcome Su Kann from China who has recently moved on-site. And various others who appear from time to time. We continue to uphold Jackie in our prayers as the cancer has returned.

Until we meet again—God bless all from the St Michael's Fellowship. They are continually in our prayers.

The Good Shepherd Fellowship continues to meet every Sunday from 11am—11-45am with refreshments to follow. We meet at our new home, **The Cornerstone**, Bull Meadow Rd (just across the road from Good Shepherd Drive).



Important DATE!



ECF AGM—Sunday 10th June (following service)

Vicar's Tea Party at Winkleigh—Saturday 23rd June 3pm

"Songs of Praise" at Stoke Canon—Friday 6th July

10th Anniversary Celebration Service & Lunch—Sunday 8th July

Harvest Supper—Saturday 24th September at Winkleigh 1pm

G S Fellowship Harvest Festival—Sunday 25th September 10-45am

Combined Fellowship Away-Day at Stoke Canon—Friday 9th November

Fellowship Christmas Dinner—Saturday 8th December

The Devonshire Dumpling—1pm - £15

Fellowship Candlelight Carols—Sunday 9th December at 10-45am

St Michael's Fellowship Candle-light Carols—Sunday 9th December @ 5pm

Future Diary Date:

Combined Fellowship House-Party — Fri 11th - Sun 13th October 2013

@ Brunel Manor, Torquay

A Warm Welcome to All!

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 Rev Adrian Magor has served us for these services. We trust he will do so still, on some occasions.

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.

Remember your 10th birthday? It was the Big One – you reached double-figures! You didn't want to hold mummy & daddy's hand any more. If they said, "wear a coat out", you chose not to. Girls experiment with make-up, and boys stop combing their hair.

A lot of the natural, parental protection and "mothering" starts to wane, as a 10 yr old is trusted to make important decisions - not life changing - but nevertheless, real. Because, after all, mum & dad still know best.

As a Fellowship, we've, up 'til now, been umbrella'd. Now, we are a significant member of the Body of Christ in Exeter. Still young, but growing in God's grace. We'll make mistakes, but He will guide us by His Spirit in His ways.

"My child, do not forget My instructions, but keep them in your heart.....do not rely on your own understandings, but, rather, acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight." **Proverbs 3 v 1 & 5—6**

This, my friends, is The Church!