

**The
Good Shepherd
Fellowship**

Flock News

One Year On

Year 11

July 2013

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

We're Still Mobile	2
Hitting the Targets of "Church"	2
Do You Still Not Like Change?	2
Syd's Soap-Box - "Work in Progress"	3
Combined Fellowship cont...	3
The Last of the Real Gentlemen	3
Diary Dates	4
Warm Welcome!	4

Special points of interest:

THE GOOD SHEPHERD FELLOWSHIP "HOME GROUP" MEETS EVERY THURSDAY AFTERNOON @ 2PM IN THE GOOD SHEPHERD DRIVE COMMUNAL LOUNGE. ALL ARE WELCOME TO COME ALONG. REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED.

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

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 & Jackie Hughes

GSF Auditor: Kevin Cook

Regd. Address:

6, Good Shepherd Dr, Exeter, EX2 4JE

Since the changes to our structure, 12 months ago, The Good Shepherd Fellowship has been consolidating the Fellowship in, to use a builder's term, "underpinning". On the surface, there are few visible changes, but beneath it we have set in motion various programs.

In all things, we are trying to develop "...a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus;" **Romans 15 v 5—6**, "so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Firstly, we set up a Pastoral Care Team (PCT), to look after all the aspects of the Fellowship, both practical and spiritual. This team meets bi-monthly to pray and dis-

cuss ideas.

Through these meetings we have implemented the Thursday afternoon Home Group meetings; we have chosen to spend some of our GSF money on resources (Bibles, Hymn Books, Study Literature); we are undertaking a task of formulating our GSF State-

edged, in our diversity, that God wants to bring us all into a united obedience to His commands. Baptism, we are learning, is our expression of God's grace, of His redemption, and of our obedience to His will.

On any journey, not all the group will be of the same pace. Some need extra rest-periods, others need more refreshment stops, while others would happily plough ahead. We are one in Him, and we will move forward, together: "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." **Romans 15 v 13.**

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

ment of Faith, document.

Throughout the year the Fellowship has been travelling a spiritual journey, to discover where our spiritual roots lie. We have acknowl-

From the Secretary's Minutes

The past year has seen some new ideas come into play in the Fellowship: the Prayer Diary on the back page of the new, weekly Notice Sheets, to help us in our prayers; Door Stewards to welcome folk on a Sunday morning; and introducing and learning new songs into a dedicated "Worship Time" in our Communion services, to help us focus our thoughts on the Cross as we come around the Lord's Table.

Last Christmas we held three, well-attended services in the GSD

Lounge, using our newly acquired Large-Print Carol Sheets, and our recently acquired piano.

Throughout the year some really good speakers have shared and blessed us with God's Word at Sunday services.

Last October we commenced the Home Group, meeting in the GSD Lounge every Thursday afternoon. We look informally at what God is saying to us in His Word. We are learning and discussing together. We've purchased NIV Bibles and Study books to aid us on our journey.

The PCT, which oversees the Fellowship, meets regularly for planning and prayer—both vital for the spiritual growth of the Fellowship. As we start a new year, we look forward to what God has in store for us as a Fellowship and as His family.

" '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**

Margaret Gardner—Secretary

We're still mobile, when we want to be!

It was a very difficult decision to make, in letting go of our faithful minibus. We had become attached to the idea of having a vehicle on hand for whenever we required it. However, commonsense told us that the expense outweighed the convenience, and that our funds could no longer sustain it, economically.

However, one year on, and we have managed perfectly well to meet all of our busy social calendar. We have not had to cancel a single outing due to lack of transport. God has blessed us with the very kind offer from the Exeter Cathedral School to be able to borrow one of their lovely school buses on the occasions we have needed them.

We have been able to enjoy the "Songs of Praise" evenings at Stoke Canon Chapel; we've been out to Adrian & Janet Magor's home in Winkleigh for our annual Vicar's Tea Party, and our Harvest Supper; and we were able to travel together to Stoke Canon for our

Fellowship Away-Day last November. Plus, we have a few more trips arranged for the coming year.

We are living in difficult financial times, and the Church is not immune to the pressures of world economic upheaval. As Christians, we are stewards of the resources with which God has blessed us. It is not a surprise that

our weekly income from the Sunday offerings has gone down. That is understandable, as we all need to stretch our money that bit further. No one should feel guilty, or pressured regarding their personal giving unto God. "Jesus said to His disciples, 'I tell you the truth,...she, out of her poverty, has given more than all these rich men, for she has given all that she has.'" **Mark 12 v 43—44.**

As a Fellowship, God has blessed us in the past, and he continues to bless us. He will never forsake His people if we are faithful to Him..

Read **Psalm 50** and be encouraged that our God is a great God!

Our web-site is on line at:
www.thegoodshepherd-cornerstone.co.uk
Contact us by Email at:
exeterchristianfellows@gmail.com
Recommend it to your friends!

Hitting the Targets of "Church"

The Good Shepherd Fellowship has come through its first year unscathed—thank God!. As we advanced forward from last years AGM, it was very much into the unknown. For a decade we had been under the Umbrella Ministry of the Exeter Christian Fellowship, and much of that time had been about finding our spiritual feet. Under Rev Adrian Magor's leadership we had developed and grown, in Adrian's words, as "a happy band of pilgrims!" And, I trust, we still are. However, it was the right time to re-assess our direction, and therefore adjust our strategies.

This past year we have targeted certain areas of our Church life. Our ministry could be divided into specific targets (notwithstanding that they are, of course, all inter-linked). These are in no particular order of importance.

We have been looking at our FELLOWSHIP. How are we encouraging and supporting one another? There needed to be more than just an hour on Sunday mornings. Through Syd & Margaret Gardner, we have set up the Thursday afternoon Home Group; we now issue a weekly Notice-Sheet to keep everyone informed, and the back page is dedicated to prayer requests; we are making sure that "visitation" actually happens, and that nobody should be left out if a visit is asked for; after-service refreshments has become an integral part of the Sunday morning service (sometimes incorporated into the actual program).

We have been looking at our LEADERSHIP. Many Church-groups prefer a "Dictatorship" approach. We felt it healthy to have a Team Ministry. Our Leadership Support Team (LST) consists of Syd Gardner, Joan Charters & Frances Steele. I have 24/7 access to any of these three, for my own spiritual support needs. The Pastoral Care Team, (PCT) comprising of the LST plus Margaret Gardner (Secretary), Brenda Thomas (Treasurer) and myself, is responsible to all the Fellowships practical and spiritual needs. We meet bi-monthly to pray for you all, and our ongoing work in the Fellowship.

We have been looking at our BELIEFS. It has been a challenging time, as the PCT has sat together and prayerfully considered putting down in writing what it is (in plain English) that binds us together in the unity of Christ. We are a diverse Christian community, yet with so much common ground on which to base our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Sometime in the next few months, this Statement will be completed and available to all.

We have been looking at our WORSHIP. God has blessed our Fellowship with many styles, preferences and traditions. We want to incorporate all of these, to the glory of God, in the way we praise and worship Him., while always trying to be sensitive to all. You will have noticed the different styles we use in our Holy Communion services; and once in a while we introduce new hymns and choruses.

We have been looking at our INTER-CHURCH. As a numerically small Fellowship it would be detrimental to be insular. We aim to continue uniting with other church groups whenever we can, in order to broaden our Christian horizons. Away-Days, House-Parties & Joint Church services are all to be promoted; as, also are the variety of guest speakers we invite to come and speak to us.

We have been looking at our STEWARDSHIP. It was a concern to us that we had a lot of funds in the GSF and felt we should use them to purchase resources to aid our spiritual growth. We also want to continue giving to other Ministries.

1 John 1 v 7 "If we walk in His light, having fellowship one with another, then the blood of Jesus Christ purifies us from all sin."

DO YOU STILL NOT LIKE CHANGE?

• Change!—That's all we seem to be
• doing recently! Thank you all for your
• wonderful and loyal support for our
• Fellowship as we have passed through
• a state of transition and upheaval.
• God has been gracious to us, and

His reward will be in heaven for those good and faithful servants.
Colossians 2 v 2 "Be encouraged, united in love, receiving His riches of full understanding to know the mysteries of God."

I know that some changes have been uncomfortable, and not all the changes have suited everybody. We're getting there—and we'll get there together!

Syd's Soap-Box!



Page 3

Since moving into GSD, you and Margaret have become very involved in the GSF. A long, long time ago you used to run a Centre near the Clock Tower, called The Lighthouse Centre. What kind of work was it you did there? Margaret & I ran the Lighthouse Centre for several years. Our mission began by feeding upwards of 60 homeless folk on Sunday lunchtimes, followed by a Gospel meeting and afternoon tea. On Wednesdays we cooked tea for about 20. Eventually we opened 6-days-a-wk (9.30am-10pm) giving or selling meals. We presented the Gospel to homeless, unemployed, families in need. Some came to a faith in the Lord Jesus. Our committee of various Christians were a great help—one of them being Alan Charters (especially at Christmas).

What have you been doing in the interim years? Since its close, I have worked with the London City Mission, run a Centre in Enfield, and pastored Langley Baptist Church. After a cancer operation in '07 we moved to Exeter, then to GSD in '09 when we joined the GSF.

You've revealed snippets of your life during your sermons, and how you came to know the Lord in your life. Did you ever think that you would, one day, be involved in a Fellowship like ours? In short—

No! But God knows what and where He wants us to be.

What areas would you like to see developed? I would like to encourage personal Bible Study, with daily reading notes, and for more folk to join us on Thursday afternoons (or any other suitable day). I believe prayer and Bible study are essential to the growth of any Church, both individually and corporately.

You make no secret of your dogmatic approach to the understanding of the Scriptures re: doctrinal issues. In a non-denominational set-up, do you struggle with some things? Yes, I am dogmatic about my faith, because I believe the Bible is the Word of God, and as believers we should do our best to live by what it says. In a non-denominational Fellowship there will always be differences, but as long as those differences don't in any way compromise our basic beliefs, we can become more adaptable and accepting of one another.

I suppose, having worked alongside a variety of Christians, you have come across all sorts of viewpoints. Of all the principal beliefs we embrace in our Faith, what is the one fundamental doctrine which should bind Believers together? I believe the one

most fundamental doctrine which should bind us together is belief in the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I have entitled this section of Flock News as "Syd's Soap-Box", because we know, in the past, you've had opportunities to preach the Gospel, while standing on a soap-box! In the past, this section always contained a word of encouragement from our ex-chairman, Rev Adrian Magor. What is your message of encouragement to the flock at Good Shepherd Fellowship, for this coming year? As we meet Sunday by Sunday, and the Word is preached, we learn that we are a "Work In Progress", both as individuals, and as a Fellowship. I would encourage you all to share the love that God has given to each one of you with those you meet day by day. Remember our Lord's command in **Matthew 28 v 19 - 20** "...to go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit." We're all His witnesses, not just by our words, but by how we live our lives.

Syd Gardner interviewed by Graham

The Combined Fellowship.....continued

Last November, one of our faithful Key-board players, Joan Charters, joined the Octogenarian Club (along with our other faithful Key-board player!). Mum's 80th coincided with our 6 monthly visit to Stoke Canon, for a Songs of Praise evening. On this occasion, we also incorporated a Combined Fellowship Away-Day for the Friday 9th November '12.

About 25 folk from GSF, Honiton Baptist,

Chagford Evangelical Church, and our

ered for the afternoon to have a "fellowship lunch" of thick broth, a couple of encouraging talks from Danny Chipps, a game of "Krystion Factor", and culminated in a big "Songs of Praise" evening followed by a big supper!

We are all looking forward to this autumn when we will, once again, join together for

our Combined Fellowship House-Party at Brunel Manor. **Friday 11th—Sunday 13th**

**Combined Fellowship House—Party
Brunel Manor
Friday 11th—Sunday 13th October '13**

Theme: "Who is God?"

THE LAST OF THE REAL GENTLEMEN!

It was with great sadness, that on 17th December '12, our dear and faithful friend, Gordon Burd, passed away at The Old Rectory Nursing Home, in Old Tiverton Road. Over the past months, Gordon's health had been fading fast, and he had become a shadow of the stalwart gentleman we had all grown to know and love.

Since our Fellowship's inauguration, Gordon has been a faithful servant to our ministry. He will be greatly missed, and there will never be another in his mould.

In early January, Gordon's body was laid to rest in Crediton Cemetery, next to his beloved wife, Dorothy. A Service of Thanksgiving was later held at The Good Shepherd Fellowship.

Over the years, we have been blessed with, and have seen go to be with their Saviour, a handful of life's gentlemen:-

My own father, Alan Charters; Kevin's dad, George Cook; and our cheerful neighbour, Oscar Gillard; to name a few.

Our thoughts are also with our dear sister, Pam Beal. Her husband, Alan, passed away after a long period of illness. Many of us remember Alan from our social events (Christmas Dinners, Harvest Suppers, etc.). We celebrated their Marriage Blessing Service back in 2005.

Our dear friend, Peter Ward, who had been living in South Molton, had been suffering with Parkinson's Disease. On Saturday 11th May, he passed away in a Care Home in



Ilfracombe. Peter was our regular keyboard player in the Fellowship's early years. A few of us attended his funeral on Friday 7th June at South Molton Baptist Church.

2 Timothy 4 v 7-8 "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me, a Crown of Righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but to all who have longed for His appearing."

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THE GOOD SHEPHERD FELLOWSHIP

Serving God in the Community

The St Michael's Fellowship

(St Michael's Ct., Paignton)

We continue to thank God for the faithfulness of Dave & Jackie to the St Michael's Fellowship. As a couple, they have had a lot to deal with this last year. But they have been faithful to the cause of the Gospel, and God has blessed them. Jackie's cancer is now in remission, and Dave has now made her his blushing bride! It was a joy to celebrate

a Marriage Blessing Service for the couple, at St Michael's Chapel, with so many friends from Exeter and Paignton. We wish them every blessing in Jesus Christ's love.

Thanks also to those from the Good Shepherd Fellowship who come down with us every month to support the Sunday services.

We have been encouraged with the small increase in numbers over the past year. Dave & Jackie's grand-daughter, Jess, is a regular contributor; Su Cann, from China, is a great help to Jackie, and makes a nice cup of tea; Clive, a new resident at St Michael's Ct, has fitted into the Fellowship recently; and Rhoda enjoys the lovely hymn-singing.

After an enforced break over last summer, it is a joy to see the work in Paignton grow and develop. Please continue to pray.

The Good Shepherd Fellowship continues to meet every Sunday from 11am—11.45am with refreshments to follow. We meet at our adopted home, **The Cornerstone**, Bull Meadow Rd (just across the road from Good Shepherd Drive).



Important DATE!



NB: Our Annual Vicar's Tea Party on 22nd June had to be cancelled due to Janet's father's ill health

11th Anniversary Celebration - Sunday 7th July @ 10.45am (including buffet lunch)

GSF AGM - Sunday 16th July (following morning service)

"Songs of Praise" at Stoke Canon - Friday 19th July @ 7.15pm

Harvest Supper - Saturday 21st September at Winkleigh @ 1pm

GSF Harvest Festival - Sunday 22nd September @ 10.45am

SMF Harvest Festival - Sunday 6th October

Combined Fellowship House-Party at Brunel Manor

Friday 11th — Sunday 13th October

**Fellowship Christmas Dinner—Saturday 21st December
The Devonshire Dumpling—1pm - £15**

GSF Candlelight Carols—Sunday 22nd December @ 10.45am

SMF Candle-light Carols—Sunday 22nd December @ 4.45pm

NB: GSF - Good Shepherd Fellowship, Exeter SMF - St Michael's Fellowship, Paignton

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 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.

When a child turns 11 yrs old, there are suddenly, thrust upon them, grown up choices, decisions which their parents might previously have made. Responsibilities about pocket-money budgeting, diary planning, and serious friendships, are all part and parcel of the growing adolescent.

It can be a time in a child's life when the bedroom needs redecorating from the childish styles, and the toy-box is cleared of inappropriate playthings. The kiddies comics and story-books are replaced with a more studious library.

It is an age of self-reassessment, of how I'm growing up, and how I want to be seen by others. As a Fellowship, we have now moved on into a time of self-evaluation of our beliefs and principals. We are centring our thoughts on what really matters in our walk of Faith. It's a time of changes, with more changes still to come.

2 Thessalonians 1 v 3 "We thank God, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and your love for one another is increasing."

This, my friends, is The Church!