

**The
Good Shepherd
Fellowship**

Flock News

Teenagers!

Year 13

July 2015

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Special points of interest:

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

HAVING FINISHED STUDIES ON JOSEPH, THE GROUP ARE NOW MAKING THE JOURNEY THROUGH THE BOOK OF ACTS.

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

THE "READ & RETURN" LIBRARY OF LITERATURE AND AUDIO, IS AVAILABLE, EVERY SUNDAY MORNING FOR YOUR PERUSAL. TOM HAYDON IS OUR "LIBRARIAN".

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

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Growing Pains!

Just when we think everything seems to be going swimmingly, God speaks to us! Of course, through various ways, God is regularly communicating with us, either as individuals, or as a Fellowship.

We've just entered our teen-age period of growth at Good Shepherd Fellowship. There have been a few bumps and bruises along our journey, and we have put spiritual "plasters" on the wounds, and moved on. However, those wounds have not always healed, and as they have been kept out of sight, we've allowed them to fester.

As we commenced our annual Easter-bound pilgrimage through Lent, God revealed this issue to us, and has required that

we start removing the plasters in our lives, which have long been hiding unsightly wounds.

"A new Commandment I give unto you, that you love one another as I have loved you". John 13 v 34. In this chapter, Jesus is laying out to His disciples, how He wants us to live out

Sometimes we say we love each other, and we give the impression of a united front, but actually, we *tolerate* rather than *love*. By removing these plasters, we are opening ourselves up to one another, and allowing God's love to bind us together, as He heals.

Jesus prayed to His heavenly Father, in *John 17 v 23*, "May they be brought to complete unity, to let the world know that You sent Me". We're still learning, and we'll continue to fail, but we've received a poignant message, that a plaster will not suffice—we need God's healing.

The Good Shepherd Fellowship, Exeter

Meeting at "Cornerstone"

A non-denominational Christian Fellowship in the heart of Exeter

The St Michael's Fellowship, Paignton

Christian love and unity within the Church. Why? Well there are many good reasons, but Jesus specifies in *v 35*, "By this shall everyone know that you are my disciples—if you have love for one another."

From the Secretary's Minutes

This year, like most, has seen its share of "Ups" & "Downs": earthquakes, floods, disease outbreaks, plane crashes, conflicts and rumours of wars, governments toppled, and new regimes. We hear of terrible atrocities carried out around the world, often in the name of religion (but usually more about greed and selfishness & hunger for power). Without getting political, even within our own nation, we continue to see a chasm between the "haves" & "have nots". We also see the concerns among some of the younger generation as to their future prospects in uncertain times.

So, what about us? How has our year been, both as individuals, and as a Fellowship? Some "Ups"? Some "Downs"? Possibly with poor health, problem relationships, or financial struggles.

As a Fellowship we have enjoyed some good times (often including food!) - Harvest, Christmas, Stoke Canon sing-song suppers, Away-Day at Honiton, and the Vicar's Tea Party hosted by Adrian & Janet. We've received some encouraging talks from a variety of speakers; and had interesting discussions in our weekly Home Group afternoons, as we delve into God's Word.

It seems, in this little corner of God's Kingdom, we've much to be thankful for, as we seek to live lives pleasing to Him, and share His love. No matter what's going on around us, good or bad, we need not fear, for God is on His Throne. He is in control. He is coming again - *"the countdown's getting lower every day!"* Jesus said, in *John 14 v 1-3*, "Do not let your hearts be troubled, trust in God, trust also in Me. In My Father's house there are many mansions; I am going to prepare a place for you. I will come back and take you to be with Me." I leave you with these encouraging words.

Margaret Gardner—Secretary

COMMUNING WITH ONE ANOTHER

Looking through past documents and papers from when our Fellowship first started, I came across a sheet entitled "Holy Communion Policy". We first read **Romans 12 v 9—13** "...be devoted (preferring) to one another in brotherly love..." This is what the Committee agreed upon:

"As a non-denominational Fellowship, our Faith embraces all traditions and teachings within the Body of Christ. We, The Good Shepherd Fellowship, believe in the 'Communion of Saints' (as stated in the Creed), and welcome all to the Lord's Table who love the Lord Jesus Christ, and are at peace with their fellow brothers and sisters. It is encouraged that we each search our own hearts before we partake of the Emblems of Bread & Wine. No one, should ever be prevented from joining in this act of remembrance of Christ's death for us, and the celebration of His victory over sin. However, if for personal reasons, you may wish, on any occasion, to let the Emblems pass you by, then bow your head to receive a blessing, instead. We have carefully prepared a sheet to aid us in this worship, which is a **guide** to lead us through the theme, whilst also allowing for the Holy Spirit to pour Himself freely upon our gathering. The Celebrant will usually be an ordained Minister of the Gospel (however, this is not the Law), mainly for the benefit of those who have been used to this traditional formality. Ultimately, we are gathered together to worship, **John 4 v 23—24** "...true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshippers the Father seeks."

Whether we use bread or wafers, and whether we use one large chalice or individual cups, whether we read our prayers or express ourselves in prayer, extemporarily, the significance of the Emblems is the same—representation of Christ's body broken and His blood shed for each one of us. The whole service, including hymns, prayers, Bible readings, choruses and sermon, will all centre on this main reason for Holy

not to what you want, but to the needs of others...let your attitude be like that of Christ Jesus..."

When I read back through that statement, I was a little saddened. I felt that maybe I have failed. Failed God? Failed the Flock? The times that we come around the Lord's Table in Holy Communion should be precious. Whatever we want to call it—The Lord's Table, The Eucharist, The Mass, or some other variation. It is precious to all of us, not just to those to whom the style suits. Communing with one another. When I attend a big family meal gathering, we all sit around the table and eat together. No one is excluded. No one is made to feel uncomfortable. We all leave at the end, full and satisfied and drawn closer as a family.

We possibly commune in this way, as a Fellowship, about 8 or 9 times each year. These occasions should, therefore, be special, even though they are few and far

between. We are clearly instructed in **1 Thessalonians 5 v 11** to "...encourage one another, and build each other up..." Can we, with a clear conscience, agree with the end of that verse, which finishes, "...just as, indeed, you are already doing."

Will we all make a concerted effort to uphold one another, before ourselves, that the edification (encouragement) of others is shown to be more important than our own? As we pray over the Elements, we usually quote from **1 Corinthians 11 v 23—26**. I challenge you to also, in your

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!

Communion. It is the desire of the leadership of the ECF/GSF that all who come, from whatever tradition and denomination, will feel equally comfortable to commune together. Holy Communion is communion with one another, unto God."

The statement closed with a reading from **Philippians 2 v 1—5** "...be like-minded, having a united love for one another, in spirit and in purpose...in humility, consider one another; look

1st letter of John chapter 4 verses 7 - 12

My dear friends in Christ, let us continue in loving one another, because love emulates from God. Everyone who has this love has been born of God, and therefore knows God personally. By the same rule, whoever does not show love, does not know God in their lives, because God is Love.

This is how God showed his love to us: He sent His one and only Son (Jesus Christ) into the world, that we might have life through Him.

Therefore, this is the definition of Love—it is not that we loved God, but, rather, that He loved us, and sent His Son as an all-sufficient sacrifice for our sins.



So, dear friends, seeing as God has loved us, it should follow that we ought to love one another. You see, because no one has actually seen God, they are dependent, solely on us, to reveal Him living through our lives. In this way, God's love is made complete in us! (Paraphrased)

HE LIVED OUT THE SIMPLE GOSPEL

Why are we always trying to make the simple truths of the Gospel into complicated conundrums? Our dear brother in Christ, Roy Bridle, was a living example of the simplicity of the Gospel message. He lived it day by day

throughout his 80+ years. His passing was a reminder to us all, to have the mindset as that of a little child, in **Luke 18 v 17** Jesus chastised the grown-ups, "If you will not receive the Kingdom of God like a little child,

you shall never enter in". Aptly, we gave Roy a Sunday School style send off, last January, as we gave thanks to God for his life. May Roy's epitaph be a challenge to us to keep the Gospel simple.

Syd's Soap-Box!

A WALK ALONG THE A10

My last placement of work in the London City Mission was at the Turkey Street Mission Hall, in Enfield, where I was "Missioner in Charge". Turkey Street crosses the A10, a main arterial road known as the Great Cambridge Road. Prior to the M11 being built, the A10 was probably the quickest way from London to Cambridge, and even today it is quite a quick route. For my Soap Box this year I thought I would share a bit about this famous road and how it affects the London City Mission.

The road begins at the north end of London Bridge in the City of London, and as it progresses through the city it passes Liverpool Street Station where the Mission has a Chaplain to the Railway Workers. Then we continue on to Shoreditch, where we come to the first Mission Hall that was opened by London City Mission, at Hoxton. This area of London was bombed quite heavily in the Blitz, and much of the original buildings were bombed in the war, so now a lot of the housing is in the form of multi-storey blocks of flats. In the early years of the Mission there was a little man who was Chaplain to the Working Narrow-Boats on the canal that passes under the A10 at that point.

As we move into the Kingsland Road the ethnic change in the area is seen by a large minaret alongside the Mosque. Then it moves up the Kingsland Road and into Stoke Newington. As you pass through, there is a Jewish bakery on a corner of a one way system where they bake bagels which are very nice with butter and a piece of cheese. As we carry on through Stoke Newington we may come across a LCM Evangelist who's ministry is to go into coffee shops and speak to men and women about Jesus Christ. Then, as we leave Stoke Newington the road climbs a hill up to a crossroads at Stamford Hill. The change of culture is again evident here as we find an extremely large Jewish population of Hassidic Jews. Another LCM Evangelist is busy working there as a Christian witness to the Jewish population. He is seeing fruit, as Jewish people are accepting Jesus the Messiah as their own personal saviour.

When we cross the lights we move into Tottenham where the City Mission has two Mission Halls; one is on the left and one is on the right near to White Hart Lane (home of Tottenham Hotspurs AFC). When I was in the Mission, one was run by a young guy from Zimbabwe and a female evangelist. The other one was run by a friend of mine from Ghana. The A10 forks out from Tottenham and, going left, it passes by a large cinema that is now a Church! – good to see the transition this way around! The

road continues around Edmonton where a LCM Evangelist is reaching out to Islamic groups with the Gospel. The main A10 crosses the A406, known as the North Circular Road. It then bypasses Ponders End and it joins up with the M25 at Junction 25. Just before then, it crosses Turkey Street which is where the Mission Hall is. This was where I worked until I went to Langley, near Saffron Walden in Essex, to pastor Langley Baptist Church.

The A10 then bids farewell to London, meanders out of Middlesex, and into rural Hertfordshire. It bypasses Waltham Cross, Hertford and Ware, then passes through Royston, and on towards the University City of Cambridge, where it crosses over the M11 into the town. From start to finish, the A10 is almost 100 miles long, and is inhabited by people of many nations and cultures, a true "Harvest Field" for the workers of the London City Mission for the sharing of the Good News of the Gospel of Salvation. The ongoing effects of this then spread around the world, as peoples' lives are changed and they return to their home towns and countries.

Syd Gardner



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The Combined Fellowship.....continued

The Combined Fellowship House-Party has become a bi-annual event, over the years, which means 2015 is our next Weekend. We enjoyed an Away-Day at Honiton Family (Baptist) Church last June, which was a lovely day of fellowship. This coming August, their minister, Pastor Luke Mansfield will be coming to share at our Sunday morning

service.

Chagford Gospel Church for a lovely Sunday service in the Old Village School. We shared a scrumptious fellowship lunch with lots of choices of home-cooked goodies.

Some folk have already started paying by installments for the up-coming, final House-Party at Brunel Manor, this Autumn.

The cost is £125/person (all inclusive).

Combined Fellowship House-Party Brunel Manor Friday 9th - Sunday 11th October '15

Only £125/person - LAST CHANCE!

This April, as we have done annually, we once again joined with

Time has a habit of aging us!

In this same section as last year, we commended our dear friends, Joan Charters and John Thirkettle to God in our Fellowship prayers, as they announced to us their engagement.

Over the past months, they have enjoyed each others company as they have travelled the length and breadth of our beautiful county, courtesy of the OAP free bus pass. Their adventures around Devon have provided the couple with precious memories.



Both have been through some difficult situations these past months—Joan with her hip operation, and John with his extended time in hospital, and now in his new home at Exmouth House.

Others have also suffered times of illness: Tom H. has been admitted on more than one occasion with heart complications, and is trusting God for a move down-stairs to a new flat;

Elfrieda H. has suffered seriously debilitating falls at her home, which have caused her to become immobile for some time; Wyn P. is often unable to get out for our Sunday morning services (although she always manages to prepare a lovely vase of flowers for the front-table); Brenda T. is going through some necessary surgical exams at this time; Pam B. has had a couple of bad falls these past months; Brenda B. (wife of Frank) is not well, which causes them to sometimes miss our fellowship; we pay regularly for Cathy D. and Frances L. at GSD who we don't see so often, nowadays; and Jackie H., wife of Dave, in St Michael's Fellowship, Paignton, has not been well with her cancer problems; apologies if I've missed out anybody else's afflictions!



Our Scottish friend, Ina Jordan, who had joined with us in the past, died this spring.

And lastly, but by no means least, our dear sister, Hilda Griffiths (one of our original GSF members) will be celebrating her 100th birthday this October 1st! She is now a resident of Langford Park Nursing Home, just outside Exeter, en-route to Crediton.

We commit all who need the Lord's touch, both named and unnamed, to Him in our prayers.



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THE GOOD SHEPHERD FELLOWSHIP

Serving God in the Community

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

We once again thank God for the faithfulness of Dave & Jackie to the St Michael's Fellowship. It is always a joy to join with them for an evening service in the lovely Chapel. As a couple, they have persevered as a witness to God, and He is blessing them for their faithfulness and service. Thanks also to those from the Good Shepherd Fellowship who come down with us every month to support the Sunday services. It is a source of encouragement to them.



Once again, we continue to be encouraged with the increasing numbers over the past year. Dave & Jackie's grand-daughter, Jess, is still a regular contributor; Su Cang - happy 60th! - from China has been away visiting her family for a few months, but is now back with us (she makes lovely Chinese snacks!); Clive, has continued to be committed to the Fellowship, and has recently made a beautiful mahogany book stand for the organ, and we have a few other folk coming in to join with us, too; Kay, from down the road, and not forgetting dear Rhoda.

Our prayers are continually for Jackie who is bravely dealing with the cancer in her body. God has been faithful to her, and she faithfully perseveres in His work. May He continue to bless this work down in Paignton.

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!



13th Anniversary Celebration - Sunday 5th July @ 10.45am
"Songs of Praise" with Dave Warrell (followed by Buffet Lunch)

GSF AGM - Sunday 12th July (following the Morning Service)

"Songs of Praise" at Stoke Canon - Late Summer (TBA)

GSF Harvest Festival - Sunday 27th September @ 10-45am Followed by a Harvest Lunch @ 12noon. All items to go to the "Haven of Hope" Orphanage, in Lipova, Romania.

SMF Harvest Festival - Sunday 4th October

Fellowship Christmas Dinner - Saturday 19th December
The Waterloo Cross, nr Willand - 1pm - £12 max

GSF Carol Service - Sunday 20th December @ 10-45am

SMF Candle-Light Carols - Sunday 20th December @ 4.45pm

Our final "Combined Fellowship House-Party Weekend" at Brunel Manor Friday 9th—Sunday 11th October 2015 - £125.00/person

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.

Teenagers! We all know it's coming, but we're always caught by surprise when it arrives. Those of us who are, or have been parents or uncles and aunts to kids in their teenage years, will know that all those formative years which came before, were just a preparation for our Junior to enter the world of mini-adulthood.

A 13 year old has stored up information and experiences throughout their childhood, which will now serve them in good stead for their growing-up stage of life. Perhaps, within those life experiences as a child, there have been painful or sad moments, which, at the time they weren't able to cope with. So, they shut them away in a box called "don't go there!"

As a Fellowship, we've been learning that, actually, we do have to "go there". Some things need dealing with. Some hurts need healing. Some relationships need mending. Some bad habits need addressing. God wants us to grow up in Him, and for us to do that, we need to be honest and open—not just with God, but also with one another. **Colossians 1 v 10—14** "Our prayer is this, that you may live a life worthy of the Lord, and may please Him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, and being strengthened by His power as you persevere in patience and joyfulness; always giving thanks to your Father, through Whom you share this inheritance of the saints in His Kingdom of Light. For, He has rescued us from darkness into the Kingdom of His beloved Son (Jesus Christ), in Whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

This, my friends, is The Church!