

**The  
Good Shepherd  
Fellowship**

# Flock News

Year **14**  
**July 2016**

## Branding!

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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 THE BOOK OF ACTS, AND STUDIES ON THE LIFE OF DAVID (SHEPHERD & KING), THEY ARE NOW SEARCHING THE BIBLE FOR ANSWERS TO MUCH ASKED QUESTIONS

\*THE SOCIAL PROGRAM FOR THE FELLOWSHIP 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**

**GSF Auditor: Kevin Cook**

**Regd. Address:**

**6, Good Shepherd Dr, Exeter, EX2 4JE**

In the business world there is a lot of emphasis on how a product or service will accentuate its USP. The market-place is crammed with "must have's", which compete for our attention with their own **Unique Selling Point**. We are challenged with veritable reasons why this product or that service is the best thing for us since the invention of Sliced Bread.

I often sit and watch an advert on the telly, and, after the 2 minutes of waffle, turn to my wife and ask, "*What on earth was that trying to say?*" The message is so often lost in the complex story-line, inappropriate music, and dramatic back-drop; not to mention the pretty models! The attempts by advertising agents to convince me to rush out

and purchase have all been in vain.

How do we "sell" the Good News of Jesus Christ? When folk see us, what do they really see? And more importantly, do they want it? Because if we're not proud to shout about it, then why

preach the Gospel." We have a brand. We even have a logo and USP. We are offering God's gift of Everlasting Life—but who knows about it?

The logo which has been displayed on our banner for years (embroidered by Wyn), is now being printed on everything we can find. It's on the 'Welcome' sign on the front door of Cornerstone; it's also on our Letterheads; it's on our Notice-sheets; it's on our website; and, yes, it's on this Flock News, too!

Why? Because we proclaim Jesus Christ as Saviour, who died on a cross for our sin. He is crowned King of kings, and He is our Lord—the loving Good Shepherd, who cares for His flock. **John 10 v 11 & 14** "I am the Good Shepherd. A good shepherd would lay down his life for his sheep...I know My sheep, and My sheep know Me."

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

would anybody else want to have it?

It occurred to me recently, that The Good Shepherd Fellowship needs to "put it out there".

The Apostle Paul wrote in **Romans 15 v 19 – 20** "I have fully proclaimed the Good News of Christ Jesus, It has always been my ambition to

## From the Secretary's Minutes

Fellowship! Fun! Food!(physical and spiritual), three things vital to the ongoing life of our Church, and we have been much blessed in all three during the last year.

We have enjoyed our usual events such as Harvest Lunch, Songs of Praise, Christmas services and lunch, Easter service with hot cross buns and Easter biscuits. Many of us also enjoyed our last House-Party at Brunel Manor, where, as always, the food was amazing (we all went on diets afterwards!). Saturday evening provided the

"fun", and we were blessed through Mini-Workshops which encouraged us to "Read the Bible," "Pray" and "Share our faith." We shared fellowship with folk from other churches, and the message of our "Desired Destiny" was forcefully made by Danny Chipps.

We have also been blessed with a new organ, a PA system that also makes it possible to play music before and during the services, and some new hymn books to enable us to learn some of the new worship songs as well as enjoying the old favourites.

So as we recall the past year and look forward to the next, I am sure "The 3 Fs" will continue to play an important part in the life of the Fellowship, and that God will bless as we meet together each week to worship Him, and learn more of what it means to be a part of God's family.

*"Let us not give up meeting together, but let us encourage one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching."*  
**Hebrews Ch 10 v 25**

# GIVING=ENCOURAGING=BLESSING



This past year we have been setting our thoughts on:

## THE GIFT OF GIVING IS

*"God-Given"*

*Our Gift from God*

## THE GIFT OF GIVING IS

*"God-Giving"*

*Our Gift to God*

We first embarked upon these studies last summer, and they have developed into thought provoking discourses on the ways in which these gifts are manifested.

Clearly, the wonderful gift which God has given us is the gift of His Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life for us, that we might be saved from our sin. God's love is shown to us in **Romans 5 v 8** "God demonstrated His love to us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us".

God has also given us other gifts; not least His Holy Spirit, and through His power, the gifts with which we encourage and bless one another.

Our studies then took us on a journey through the prophesies of Malachi (last book in the O.T.). He starts with this warning regarding how little and meagre are the offerings we actually give to God: **Malachi 1 v 10** "The offerings from your hands bring Me no pleasure, nor will I accept such offerings." Then in chapter **2 v 8** "You have turned aside from My way, and, by corrupting My laws, you have caused many to stumble." We are chastised for causing others to

attitudes toward what we think we should give to God. Then in chapter **4 v 2** he concludes, "Fear My name, and receive the healing of righteousness, and you shall leap for joy!"

During the Lenten season we faced up to some "?"s. We looked at some of the reasons, purposes and motives behind our giving, and the various ways in which we can give to God in practical ways. We discovered that, however we asked, and whatever we did for God, we must always give **100%**, for anything less is not acceptable to Him. We are reminded of His high expectations on our lives, in **Hebrews 4 v 14 – 5 v 3** "Therefore, we can approach His throne with full confidence, and receive His mercy, for, unlike the High Priests of

*Our website is on line at:*  
[www.thegoodshepherdcornerstone.com](http://www.thegoodshepherdcornerstone.com)  
*Contact us by Email at:*  
[exeterchristianfellows@gmail.com](mailto:exeterchristianfellows@gmail.com)  
*Recommend it to your friends!*

stumble because of our faithlessness.

Then God's rewards for our faithfulness are revealed through **Malachi 3 v 10** "Bring all your offerings to me, and test Me, then you will discover that I will pour out My blessings." These three chapters give lots of warnings to us on our

old, Christ has offered the perfect and complete sacrifice for all our sins. So, ***it shouldn't be too much to ask*** that we should offer ourselves as ***living sacrifices*** to Him."

**So: Give, Encourage and Bless!**

## *2nd Letter to the Corinthians ch 8 v 7 & 12 — The Grace of Giving*

*"...So, just as you aim to excel in everything else – in faith, in testimony, in scriptural knowledge, in complete honesty and in your love for one another – see that you also excel in this grace of giving."*

*"...for if the willingness is there, then the gift is acceptable, according to what each one of you has, and not according to what each one of you does not have." (Paraphrased)*

We have committed ourselves, in a spirit of Out-Giving, to bless other Ministries in financial ways. After much discussion, we are to give this year's Easter Gift Envelope collection of **£160** to the work of the **Exeter Street Pastors**. We are also committing ourselves to supporting our dear brother, **Mark Perkins**, as he is now embarking, independently, in his work of **Home Evangelism**, initially with the sum of **£25/month**.

## Last of the Land-Girls

Surely, Frances Lambert, our own "Lancashire Lass", aged 97, must have been one of the few remaining women to have served her country as a Land-Girl.

Many of us have known Frances over the years, and have enjoyed witnessing her enthusiasm and keenness to be involved in all our Church & social activities. She

has put many younger ones to shame by her energy. Until recently she would always be at Sunday morning services, and would love to come down to The St Michael's Fellowship in Paignton each month, too.

However, life had caught up with her since her last outing to The Waterloo X,

Willand, for our annual Christmas Lunch last December. Throughout the winter she had been failing in health, and needed to go into Respite Care in Tiverton. The Lord took her Home, peacefully, in late April.



## BRIXTON BOYS

Brixton, in South West London, was my first placement with the London City Mission. Since the early 1950s, Brixton has changed a lot. At that time West Indians arrived in this country, and their main areas of settlement were Brixton and Tottenham. Since those days, of course, many areas of London have changed tremendously.

During my time there, the West Indian immigrants and other African migrants had occupied much of the available housing in these areas. The London City Mission had a Mission Hall where I was based in the early years of my work with the Mission. Our weeks were full of activity, starting on a Sunday afternoon with a Gospel Meeting. On Mondays we held our weekly Prayer Meeting. The rest of the week was filled with visitation around the local community housing estates, built in the '60s. One area was known as "Angel Town", a place so-called because, it was said, "the devil feared to tread"!

Angel Town was inhabited by drug addicts and single-parent families. I got to know one family, originally from Ghana; the mother was a Christian

woman who would regularly attend our Sunday Gospel Meetings. On visiting them, her two boys asked me, "Do you play rugby?" I replied, "Yes, when I was younger." So, as a challenge, whenever I visited them, they would rugby-tackle me, and try and get me down on the ground. Although they were big lads, I'm glad to say, they never quite got the technique!

One year I went to a Christian Camp held on a farm just south of Ipswich. The campers under my care on that occasion were - three Kings Cross lads, and one Peckham boy - they were all of West Indian descent. A neighbouring tent's occupants were four African girls. There ensued a lot of verbal shouting from the boys, at the girl's ethnicity. However, as far as I was concerned, they all needed to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ. By the end of the week they had all become best of friends. It was funny to hear the boys exaggerating their west Indian accents...normally they just spoke like Londoners!

Then there was this young Nigerian boy in Brixton. He was intelligent at school, but, as he was from a Muslim family, he knew little about the Bible. Islam taught him that Ishmael was Abraham's promised

son, rather than Isaac—God's true promised son. Nevertheless, he enjoyed our Camps as a youngster. The Koran, he could recite, but he never read the Bible. This was typical of the many Muslims we met on the doorsteps. We always shared with them the truths of the Bible, and some were even converted to Christ.

It is clear that the Islamic Faith is spreading throughout this nation - but we hold the truth within the Bible. So, we must stay true to the Word of God, and let it speak through us. Let us never forget why have the Bible; it is so that we can read and study it to learn more about how God wants us to live our lives in Him.

*Hebrews 4 v 12 "For the Word of God is living and active; sharper than any double-edged sword."*

Keep on reading the Bible and let God lead us into His Eternal Kingdom.

Syd Gardner

## The Combined Fellowship.....continued

It was with mixed feelings that the decision was made that the House-Party 2015 would be our final Weekend away. Leafing through past programs of years gone by, it is amazing the wonderful times we have had, initially just as the Good Shepherd Fellowship, but then, with the addition of friends from Chagford, Honiton and Stoke Canon.

By ending these Weekends, we don't

see it as failure, but as the end of a chapter, and the opportunity for God to continue to minister to us

In the Autumn (School half-term), 28th October, we will be having a Combined Fellowship Away-Day. Our hosts will be the Stoke Canon Christian Fellowship. It will culminate with a "Songs of Praise" evening. We hope to renew

**Combined Fellowship Away-Day  
Stoke Canon Christian Fellowship  
Friday 28th October '16**

in other ways. Many inter-Church relationships have been forged, and we will endeavour to strengthen these ties with our friends.

fellowship with many dear friends from House-Parties gone by. We hope you can join us.

## Why Me, Lord?!

With an ever ageing Fellowship of "Recycled Teenagers", we are sure to have a few thrills and spills along the way! If it isn't some-one going for a tumble down the stairs, or knocking themselves against protruding obstacles in their homes, then it's being issued with a speeding ticket for racing along Topsham Road in a blue Nissan Micra!



But, seriously, accidents do happen, it seems, more frequently, when we get a little less steady on our feet, and sometimes our reactions are not quite so quick.

And then there are illnesses which are not just about our mishaps,

but are sicknesses which attack our bodies internally. They are not always age related, but often our ages are a factor in the healing processes.

We uphold in our prayers those within our Fellowship who have this past year been afflicted with various such illnesses. We pray for Pam, who is slowly recovering from her stroke; and for John, in care, who is facing debilitating symptoms affecting his independence. And our prayers are with Joyce as her wrist regains it's strength; and with Wyn who is not always able to get to the services. We give



thanks to God for the ground floor flats which, first Tom, then Evelyn, are enjoying as answered prayers.

The health of our Fellowship is ever changing, and names and sicknesses are also ever changing but, rather than wallowing in self-pity, we rejoice in the God of our Salvation, who promises, in **Psalm 103 v 3—4** that He "...forgives all your sins, and heals all your diseases; Who redeems your life from the Pit, and crowns you with love and compassion".

Thank goodness we don't have to trust in the NHS alone (God bless them), but we can put our trust in the Lord!



## Contacts

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## THE GOOD SHEPHERD FELLOWSHIP

## Serving God in the Community

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

Every year that passes, we thank God for the faithfulness of Dave & Jackie Hughes, without whom, the St Michael's Fellowship would not be. It is always a joy to join them each month for an evening service in their lovely Chapel. The St Michael's Fellowship has been a constant witness to God's faithfulness, and He is blessing them for their efforts 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 the Paignton folk.



We continue to be encouraged with the numbers over the past year. Sadly, we bade farewell to dear Rhoda, who was an ever-present each month. She passed away in the Autumn. Dave & Jackie's grand-daughter, Jess, is still a regular contributor; Su Cang - from China, still blesses us with lovely Chinese snacks! Clive has continued to be committed to the Fellowship, and has recently been undergoing major eye surgery which will eventually improve his sight significantly. Kay, who joined us for our House-Party, brought a crowd of friends to our Carol Service in December. There were so many folk, that we had to hold it in the community Lounge!

May God continue to bless this work down in Paignton.

# Important DATE!



**14th Anniversary Celebration Sunday 10th July @ 10.45am**

**(Holy Communion followed by GSF AGM & a Buffet Lunch)**

**"Songs of Praise" at Stoke Canon - Friday 15th July**

**GSF Harvest Festival - Sunday 25th 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 2nd October**

**Fellowship Christmas Dinner - Saturday 17th December  
The Red Lion, Broadclyst - 1pm - £12 max**

**GSF Carol Service - Sunday 18th December @ 10-45am**

**SMF Candle-Light Carols - Sunday 18th December @ 4.45pm**

**"Combined Fellowship Away-Day" at Stoke Canon: Christian Fellowship  
Friday 28th October 2016 - £5.00/person**

**Culminating in a "Songs of Praise" evening**

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

## A Warm Welcome to All!

We are now moving into that stage of life when changes are taking place both internally and externally. We are starting to see the world around us in a way that may not have been possible before. As a 14 year old finds his or her place within their social and educational structure, so we also, are becoming more outward looking and more appreciative of those relationships formed beyond the confines of The Good Shepherd Fellowship.

A teenager realises that childhood is now past, and that the growing -up process now has to react to and embrace needs and situations which may require more of an effort. These efforts are no longer self-satisfying because, now, we want to encourage and bless others who we may be have considered previously outside our remit.

God is revealing to us that His blessings to us are now something to be shared out. What we have received from Him, we now want to give out. The extension of His Kingdom (as we pray over the weekly Offering bag) is not just about us, but about His Church. As we have been blessed, so we now want to bless and encourage others.

**Matthew 25 v 34 & 40** "...Come, you who are blessed by My Father; take your inheritance, the Kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry, and you fed me; I was thirsty, and you gave Me to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; I needed clothes, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you looked after Me; I was imprisoned and you visited Me...I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these, you did it for Me!"

**This, my friends, is The Church!**

The Good Shepherd Fellowship continues to meet every Sunday from 11am—12noon with refreshments to follow. 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.