

## The Good Shepherd Fellowship

# Flock News

Year 19  
July  
2021

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Love Thy Neighbour	2
The GSF Journey	2
Where's all our Money gone?	3
Testimonials	3
In Remembrance	3
Diary Dates	4
Warm Welcome to All	4

### Special points of interest:

The Good Shepherd Fellowship is still very much alive and active. We do not meet as a "congregation", but we continue to minister to those who need God's love in practical ways.

We hope that our regular social programme will also kick-in by Christmas-time, God willing.

Please note, those of you whom are tech savvy, our new email address and revamped website (coming soon)!

### 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

**St Michael's Fellowship, Paignton:** Dave Hughes

**GSF Auditor:** Frank Bye

**Registered Address:**

6, Good Shepherd Dr, Exeter, EX2 4JE

**Our \*NEW\* Email Address:**

[gsf.exeter@gmail.com](mailto:gsf.exeter@gmail.com)

Nineteen years ago we were all a lot younger and fitter and healthier than we are now. I remember taking baby Adam in a carry-seat down to the basement flat of 1 Bishop Pasterfield House, the home of Wyn. She had summoned me to make a request; that the Good Shepherd Drive community could do with a Church service, on-site. I sketched a logo on a scrap piece of paper (see top right corner □), and told Wyn to embroider a banner; but I warned her, "It probably won't last long, as the congregation will all be Senior Citizens." She retorted, "Yes, but right now we need a spiritual influence for our old folk. So, can you do it?"

On the first Sunday in July 2002, the Good Shepherd Fellowship held its inaugural service in the Communal Lounge of Good Shepherd Drive. That initial service confirmed in us that God was totally with us in this

new venture.

In our last service before "lockdown" Margaret quoted a verse in the Sunday 15th March 2020 news-sheet: **Psalm 33 v 1 & 4 – 5** "Sing joyfully to the Lord, you righteous; it is fitting for the upright to praise Him. For the word of the Lord is right and true; He is faithful in all

(including Wyn) have passed into eternity with a re-ignited spark of faith in their hearts.

King David told his son Solomon to rebuild the temple: **1 Chronicles 28 v 20**, "Be strong and courageous, and do the work. Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord God, my God, is with you. **He will not fail you or forsake you** until all the work for the service of the temple of the Lord is finished."

Our future as the Good Shepherd Fellowship is not clear, but we know we have been faithful to God in the works we have achieved by His grace. The ministry may evolve and become more personal and home-oriented, but nevertheless, our Fellowship will continue to serve.

*Graham*

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

**He does. The Lord loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of His unfailing love."**

We have remained faithful to the Lord over the past two decades, and He has shown His unfailing love to us. If we could count all the folk who have passed through the Fellowship, they would number in excess of 50. Some have moved away, but many

## Some Encouraging Musings from Margaret

What a difference a year makes! It has been quite a year for all of us, hasn't it? I'm wondering how it has been for everyone, and how much has God done for us these past months. I am reminded of Jesus' words to His disciples, in **Luke 12 v 22 – 32 (The Message)** "Do not worry about your life; what you will eat or what you will wear, for there is more to life; live like the birds, free and unfet-

tered—**CAREFREE IN THE CARE OF GOD.**" What a wonderful phrase for us in these strange times. Jesus ends with the words: **"Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has given you the Kingdom."** v 32.

I can not say we have totally managed to live in that way, this past year, but we have known God's loving care and He has blessed us in so many ways.

Some of you may know that last year Syd was very ill with a heart problem which has left him less mobile, and our stairs up to our flat became a real struggle.

However, we have been truly blessed to have gained a transfer to a ground-floor flat in the Good Shepherd Drive gardens. This has made so much difference to our lives. *(Continued on Page 3)*



# LOVE THY NEIGHBOUR

You might be surprised to see this title on the top of the page. After all, 2020 has past, and 2021 is passing us by, too. What vision can we have for "Loving our Neighbour"? We had originally hoped to have a special campaign of reaching out to our friends, local community, and neighbourhood. In a strange way, I think many of us have been doing just that over the past months.

I have listened to many of you telling me how you've been able to share a practical Gospel with those around you; either by baking a cake, having a cuppa, sending a gift, or just "being there" as a listening ear to the difficulties and trials that others may be experiencing. Spontaneity is one of the best and most effective ways of showing the love of Jesus in and through our lives.

As we read from Paul's letter,

**Colossians 4 v 2 – 3** "Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God would open up doors for our Message, so we may proclaim the wonder of Christ..." **v 5 – 6** "...and make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation (life-style) be always full of grace, and seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to respond

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

to everyone."

Maybe we never actually needed a programmed campaign. We just needed to open our eyes, our spiritual eyes, to the world around us and to our neighbours.

The Good Shepherd Fellowship may not be meeting every Sunday morning, but we are still going to be very much an active Fellowship. We will put more emphasis on meeting one another in our homes and on a social level. We can celebrate Holy Communion together, and we can reach out spontaneously to friends and family.

The early Church, in The Book of Acts, met regularly in each other's homes. They ate together, prayed together, and praised God together; and God blessed them!

So don't be discouraged, or think in your hearts that this is the end. God doesn't do failure! If this chapter has been completed, then we will seek Him for the next chapter.

**Matthew 6 v 33 – 34** "Seek first the Kingdom of God, and all these other things will be given unto you as well. Do

## "Love Thy Neighbour" - It's the law!

**Romans 13 v 9 – 10** "The law is summed up in this one rule: Love your neighbour as yourself. Love does no harm to its neighbour; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law."

Just how many times do we need to be encouraged to "**LOVE THY NEIGHBOUR**"? To set our eyes on the **20/20 VISION**, every day!

## THE GSF JOURNEY

From the early days of meeting together in the Communal Lounge of the Good Shepherd Drive sheltered housing community, our Fellowship has so-journed over the years.

After my employment with the Guinness Trust came to an end, it was not tenable to continue meeting in the Communal Lounge, and so we sought other premises which would be suitable and close-by. We secured the Cornerstone building, just across the road from Good Shepherd Drive, and

continued there for many more wonderful years.

Recently, the Cornerstone was sold, and yet again, a new venue was sought. We found in the gardens of the Hotel du Vin (just next-door to GSD) a small conference room, "The Potting Shed". That was in early 2020. Then came COVID-19!

We have not met as a Fellowship since March 2020, and in the meantime, the Hotel has decided to turn the Room into an extension of their Spa.

God is good, **Hebrews 13 v 5** "Never will I leave you, never will I forsake you.", and so we say in confidence, "The Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?".

Throughout our journey we have benefited from owning 3 consecutive minibuses, and many biannual Fellowship house-parties, which have all enhanced the spirit of unity amongst us.



# Where's all our money gone ?



It's a fair question. When any organization or business ceases trading or operating, there has to be accountability for all the assets. Over the years The Good Shepherd Fellowship has been blessed by the generosity of its Flock towards the ministry of reaching out to, and serving, the folk in our community. God has been ever faithful, and we have always had funds in the kitty to cover all our costs and purchases. We give thanks to God for His provision — and as a PCT (Pastoral Care Team), we want to thank everyone for your commitment to the Work.

Even after a year of stagnated fairly healthy and so we look forward ministries that have been close to our Perkins with £30/month as he papers and holds conversations with put aside £20/month, which we send orphanage in Lipova, Romania. We want to continue supporting the Exeter Street Pastors in the great work they do on the streets of our city. And we want to help with the costs of the Good News papers and Our Daily Bread devotional booklets.

**A Giving Church is a Living Church!  
A Living Church is a Giving Church!**

income, the books are still looking to continuing to support the various heart. We regularly support Mark faithfully distributes the Good News people he meets on the doorsteps. We in lump sums to the "Haven of Hope"

Don't worry if you don't fully understand the "Sudoku" of figures below. They are basically showing where your money has been spent this past year. There has not been a lot of movement because of the obvious restrictions.

## GSF Financial over-view of Accounts at End-of-Year 30/06/21:

Fund	b/f 2020	Income	Expenses	c/f 2021
Transport	£395.38	£0.00	-£0.00	£395.38
Holding	£1,646.10	£720.00	-£250.00	£2,116.10
GSF	£710.07	£760.00	-£1,031.31	£438.76
SMF	£158.73	£0.00	-£0.00	£158.73
Baptistry	£625.00	£0.00	-£0.00	£625.00
Savings	£550.00	£0.00	-£0.00	£550.00
Total	£4,085.28	£1,480.00	-£1,281.31	£4,283.97

## More of Your Personal "Lock-Down" Testimonies

*"I wasn't too sure about the 'jab', at first, but since a dear friend caught the Virus, God prompted me to have it."*

*"The Sunday morning texts from Graham have always cheered me. They seem to hit the right note for my situation."*

*"At times, I have really missed having my family around me, but I know that they love me when I receive phone calls and cards."*

*"My fridge-door is now plastered with drawings and photos from my grand-children and nephews and nieces."*

*"I now know my next-door neighbours, and have coffee with them, and I chat with them about our Church."*

*"Although my health has deteriorated, I thank God for all the good things I have—my friends and family."*

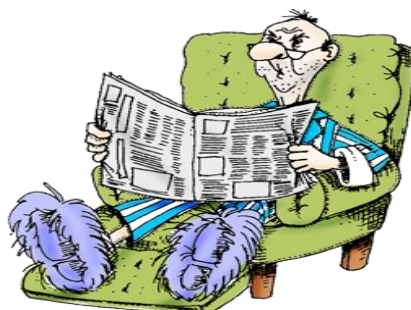
*"Just like Graham says, I try to make my Sundays that little bit more special. I am an avid 'Songs of Praise' fan, now."*

*"I can now knit; I can make a dress; and I can (kind of) bake a sponge!"*

## In Remembrance

Sadly, through all this time, there have been casualties to the Coronavirus. Most of us will know of someone who has suffered, and possibly died because of it. Many are frail and weak due to the various difficulties of the past months.

Within our Fellowship, we said 'farewell' to a dear friend, Tom Haydon in April. He was suffering with Cancer, but, while in hospital, he contracted the Virus. He is now at peace with His Lord.



## ...Continued Musings from Margaret

His Word, and praise Him—even in the hard times. God is good all the time! Why? Because He loves us, and "He has plans to take care of us, not to abandon us, and to give us hope and a future." **Jeremiah 29 v 11 (The Message).**

May you all know God's presence going forward.

Margaret Gardner

**P.S. Please remember all our more "mature" members and friends in your prayers at this time, as the last year has weighed heavy on those with underlying health conditions.**

*(Continued from Page 1)* God has helped us cope through Syd's illness, and now he is much more able to get out into the garden. We have received lots of practical support, including the gift of an electric recliner armchair for Syd. We just have to trust Him, stay close to Him, read

## Contacts

For GSF ministries  
Graham: 07786 846044  
Other Enquires  
[www.thegoodshepherdcornerstone.com](http://www.thegoodshepherdcornerstone.com)

\*NEW\* Email: [gsf.exeter@gmail.com](mailto:gsf.exeter@gmail.com)

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

The Good Shepherd  
Fellowship

Serving God in the  
Community

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

We must not forget our beloved sister Fellowship down in Paignton; Dave Hughes has been awaiting news from Guinness and the ILA as to when we may resume services in the Chapel there.



It is quite likely that, when things return to some kind of normal, we at GSF will put much more effort into the monthly support of the work in Paignton. Hopefully we can use that monthly get-together as a time of fellowship and encouragement for many of us who do not get to see each other.

### The Good Shepherd Fellowship,

The Good Shepherd Fellowship is now beginning a new chapter in its ministry. This does not include the regular Sunday morning services we have enjoyed over the years, but it will involve much more hands-on and home-to-home emphasis. Just how this will formulate and develop is not yet clear, but rest assured that the Good Shepherd Fellowship is still here for you!

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. We exclude none, and welcome all who need Christ's love, in both a practical and spiritual way.

**Answers to the Easter conundrums:**

**HORSE ENGAGEMENT FAD -**



The last thing we want to do at this time is to ostracise those who are not computer savvy. We will do all we can to communicate with everyone through a medium that you can access.

However, our to-be improved website:

[www.thegoodshapherdcornestone.com](http://www.thegoodshapherdcornestone.com) is going to be the "go to" place to keep updated with all the future activities of the Good Shepherd Fellowship.

There will be a few interim (black & white) Flock News editions with information regarding GSF and SMF in the coming months.

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

## A Warm Welcome to All!

A young adult moves out into the world and believes himself to be fully equipped to face whatever the world has to throw at him. At nineteen, the future looks rosy. Friends tell you "The world is your oyster", but to be honest, we all know from experience that it's a scary place; a place where roses have thorns, and not all oysters contain pearls.

A young adult is barely grown-up before the knocks and buffetings of life shake the core of all they were taught. It is at that time that we draw on the faithful promises that we have learnt and quoted so often in the security of childhood and youth.

Open your Bible to some of God's Promises:

Matthew 11 v 28 – 30 >>> 1 John 5 v 14 – 15 >>> 2 Peter 3 v 9 >>> Revelations 3 v 20 >>> Hebrews 13 v 5 >>> 1 Kings 8 v 23 >>> Revelations 3 v 5 >>> Psalm 18 v 13 >>> 1 Samuel 12 v 22 >>> Revelations 22 v 12 >>> 2 Chronicles 7 v 14 >>> and:

**Psalm 119 v 162** "I rejoice in Your promises just as someone who has found a great bounty."

I close this 19th edition of Flock News with the same Bible text as last year; It is very poignant to the road we are all travelling. God's Holy Spirit equips us, as Paul tells us:

**Colossians 1 v 9 – 10** "We ask that God will fill you with the knowledge of His will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding, in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord, and that you may please Him in every way; bearing fruit in every good work, and growing in the knowledge of God."

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

**GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE**

**LEGENDARY MAMA - MARY MAGDALENE**

**NEIGHBORLY TEETH - THINE BE THE GLORY**

**P.S.** As a final word, just as last year, so as not to leave you in a state of worry or concern for the future, we want you all to be encouraged as we enter our 20th year. God has been faithful through trials and difficulties, and He will continue to be so. We can only trust Him more and more, as we look forward to what is now called "the New Normal". Some things may never return to how they were, but, **Hebrews 13 v 5** "Never will I leave you, and never will I forsake you." and **v 8**, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today, and forever."

**Amen!**