

## Good Shepherd Fellowship

# Flock News

Year 2

July 2004

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Our very own "Charabanc"	2
Running, Walking or Crawling	2
Message from the Chairman	3
What is "Fellowship"	3
Diary Dates	4
A Warm Welcome to All	4
Contact Numbers	4

### Special points of interest:

- The Good Shepherd Fellowship is now a recognized Christian Church Fellowship within the city and is on the Exeter City Council's web-site database.
- £170 of E.C.F. funds have been donated to other Christian ministries
- The E.C.F. minibus has now transported over 1,500 passengers.

#### Chairman

**Rev Adrian Magor**

#### Secretary

**Mr Terry Pope**

#### Treasurer

**Mr Graham Charters**

## One Foot in Eternity

About ten years ago, I was involved in the Youth Ministry at my local Church. Young people have a very "here and now", and, "must have it" mentality. All of life is before them, eternity and it's consequences are not relevant to their plans.

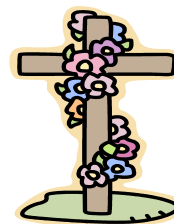
Here, every Sunday at The Good Shepherd Fellowship, we are facing an ever-growing list of infirmities and struggles as life is referred to as "The Autumnal Years". As a Fellowship, we have been brought to an awareness that God's promised reward of Everlasting Life is but a step away, and 'though we may worship together one week, the next week we may be resting in those blessed arms of our Loving Heavenly Father, in Paradise, where we shall praise Him forever with the angels.

This past year we have wept tears of sadness, and joy, as two of our beloved sisters in Christ have "crossed the Jordan", to meet their Saviour

in eternity. In human terms, this loss has been immense to us, but in spiritual terms we rejoice and give thanks to God for their lives and testimonies.

In January we bade farewell to Yvonne Pope, wife of our dear brother, Terry. For many years Yvonne had borne relentless pain in her body, yet, until the end, she brought happiness to us all. Her strength and fortitude have left their mark on the Fellowship, and we will always give thanks for her.

Then, suddenly, in May, after much suffering from her medical conditions, our sister Mabel Milford, stepped into eternity to receive her reward for a life of selfless giving and Christ-like kindness. Mabel, in only a few brief years, has touched so many people by her charitable outlook on life.



Funerals are sad and personal occasions which give us vent to our sorrow and allow us to say "Good-bye". But, just as Mabel had sung on that final Sunday service, "Blessed Assurance, Jesus is mine", we look forward to being again reunited with our two sisters as we enter those "visions of rapture" while we are "watching and waiting" for our Lord to call us home.

So, this is not a sad heading for us to enter our 3rd year, but a triumphant one. For we shall pass from death into life. Even in this coming year, there shall surely be others of us who will be called home—well, praise the Lord, and, as the old chorus goes -

"If you get there before I do, Look out for me, for I'm coming too!"

**"Even so, come Lord Jesus"**

Revelations 22 v 20

## Notes from our Secretary's Minutes

This past year has had it's highs and it's lows. We have been blessed once again by the teaching at Haldon Court House Party. We received lovely insights into Psalm 23. Christmas time was great for the Fellowship, with the meal out at Cat & Fiddle, and our Christmas Carol service.

Sadly, it had been a difficult

period for our Secretary at this time, as Yvonne became more and more dependent on Terry's support. However, the Fellowship's love and prayer support gave them a sense of Communion with the group, as the time came for us to bid that final farewell to our dear Sister.

Annual events such as our

Harvest Supper at Winkleigh, a Garden Party at Warkleigh (the home of June's), and our monthly home meetings in various locations, have all nurtured the Fellowship. And this year's outing to Lanhydrock in Cornwall was also a great success.

May the next 12 months be equally rewarding.

# Our very own “Charabanc”

It seems a very long time ago now, that a small group of Christians who were meeting together in a front room, decided that we could afford to run a Minibus which would serve to bringing our elderly folk back and forth to Sunday services, and to drive them to outings, shopping trips, and hymn singing evenings. If we knew then, what we know now about the cost of such a venture, then our Community Faith Bus may never have materialized.

Thank God that the Exeter & East Devon Sports Association for the Disabled (E&EDSAD) were just renewing their minibus at the time we were considering options. So, for £500, we had our very own “Charabanc” (see photo). It may be old, but it’s ours, and as long as it works, we will use it to God’s glory. After the initial expenses of getting it road-worthy in the first year, the

costs of maintaining the vehicle, plus keeping the fuel tank full, has cost us roughly £2,300 in the past 12 months.

The amazing thing is that, for the most part, this money has come from the pockets of a couple of dozen Senior Citizens, who have faithfully supported the running costs through sacrificial and regular giving.

We are very grateful to the E&EDSAD for providing our Tax-disc, and MOT, and our Disabled Parking Badge. Also, for including our minibus on their minibus insurance policy to

keep the premium low (low means £1,500 per annum!).

The Good Shepherd Fellowship gives a regular £5 a week, plus the Good Shepherd Drive weekly shopping trip gives about £10 a week, and various

events throughout the year, plus the special Easter Day Gift Envelopes have all helped to bolster funds. We have held Bring & Buy Sales, Music Evenings, and June has even brought in fresh picked vegetables and

apples from her husband, Terry’s, garden, to sell. Roll on another year of Charabanc-ing!



# Running, Walking or Crawling!

Sometime I get home from our ECF meetings and think—“Why did I open my big, fat gob?”. On one such occasion, I volunteered myself, and my Squash playing partner, and good friend, Mark Perkins (Local Home Evangelism Missionary), to attempt the Great West Run around Exeter. It seemed a good idea at the time. And May seemed a long way off!

Armed with sponsorship forms, the 13½ mile race loomed

closer and closer. I commenced my mild (and totally inadequate) training regime in the deep mid-winter. The sponsorship towards the minibus grew by the month (special thanks to The Mobile Motor Clinic [T.M.M.C.] for the shirts). My target was to raise £500 between us. As for running-time targets, well we weren’t out to break any records!

Just to complete the arduous course

would be a victory in itself.

Sunday 2nd May, at 10 o’clock, I stood on the starting line alongside athletes who ate, slept, and talked “jogging”. The starters hooter blasted, and for three brief seconds, I was in the lead! From then on I was first running, then walking, and, if I had needed to, I had the ability to crawl, in my armoury of tactics to finish this marathon.

Mark and I trotted over the finishing line in 3 hours, received our medals, and hobbled home to enjoy some TLC. Now that all the money is in, we’re chuffed to announce—we’ve raised £600! So, who’s up for it, next

So, let’s all run the race with perseverance, laying aside all hindrances.

# We did It!



# Message from the Chairman

I used to assist with the Special Needs Service in my Christ Church days, and a favourite chorus was "The wise man built his house upon the rock". Well, our second year has past with the fulfilling of that sentiment—we have continued to build on Christ's firm foundation. His Church has been supported here by a community of active Christians using their talents to the glory of God in His work here in our little flock in Exeter. Although we all have our physical limitations, we are committed to God's tasks for us to do.

As well as The Good Shepherd Fellowship services, which are held regularly every Sunday at 11am, led by Graham, in the communal lounge at the Good Shepherd Drive (sheltered housing), we, as the Exeter Christian Fellowship core-group, meet faithfully, once a month at the home of one or other of our members, just as the early Christians in the Book of Acts.

We spend a short time reading and studying the Bible together, and then come before God's throne of grace with petitions pertaining to the Flock, which have been ever on the increase as infirmities of old age set in with many of us. But, of course, fellowship over a cuppa is also very important for us afterwards.

However, praise God, we have seen some answers to prayer which have been an encouragement to the families and individuals concerned. May God continue the work He is doing in the life of B, who, through our friend in the Gideons, is finding his way through a mire of

hopelessness; and of I, who, despite causing his young family breakdown, is still reachable and redeemable in God's timing.

Through the continuing work of our Minibus, we are able to join in with other Church groups at "Songs of Praise" gatherings where we always enjoy a rousing, hymn singing evening. We are now accustomed to the applause which follows our renditions!

Summer trips to Winkleigh for the "Vicar's Tea Party", and our "Harvest Supper", plus June's "Garden Party in the Sticks", have all

been great fun, too!

Rev. Adrian Magor



## Fellowship House-Party Weekends

In 2002 we held our first Autumn Fellowship House-Party at Brunel Manor, near Torquay. It was a great success, and so it was straight-away decided that this should be an annual event. Graham had some work on his hands to book venues, themes and speakers for future years—in fact he has had to book up to five years in advance with the venues, and they even demanded

He restores my soul, and guides me in the paths of righteousness.

deposits to confirm for 2007! However, Graham secured Haldon Court, in Exmouth for last year's on the weekend of November 21st—23rd. Our speakers were the same as last year, but the theme this time was Psalm 23, divided into 6 sessions. We were all spiritually fed with some lovely insights into those well known words of scripture.

The weekend was not all Study Sessions, though. We had a Gospel movie on the Friday evening;

we had a party with Graham's crazy games on the Saturday evening, and there was time for swimming in the hotel pool, and we were all treated to excellent food.

For 2004 we return to Brunel Manor on the weekend of 21st—23rd July (it should be summer!), with guest speaker, Graham's uncle, Rev David Ellis (ex -OMF missionary). His theme will be "Nothing Else To Fear", Our AGM will be on the Saturday afternoon of that weekend.

Next year, for a change, we're having a Fellowship Away-Day. Await details.

## What is "Fellowship"?

It's a good word to describe what we have every Sunday morning—togetherness, thanking God for His goodness, praying for peace & goodwill worldwide; Fellowship is also about meeting friends for a chat, to sing hymns, and to listen to good messages from the Bible. Our Fellowship is an informal gathering of friends in God's family—love and pleasantness abound. We each have our roles to play; Peter, Graham's parents, and Frances S. all give us pleasure through their musical talents; June hosts won-

derful Garden Parties; Adrian & Janet feed us all spiritually (at Holy Communion) and bodily at "Vicar's Tea Party" and Harvest Supper events. There are those who give the Bible readings, drive folk in, take up the collection, arrange activities; and I count it a personal privilege that God has given me



a gift of flower arranging for our Services. I trust that these give pleasure and assist in our worship. Not least, I give thanks to God for Graham, who works hard for us, week in and week out, to the glory of God—long may our Fellowship continue.

Wyn Pullen



## Contacts

For Sunday Services  
**Graham: 07786 846044**  
 Other Enquires  
**Terry: 01392 257847**

For Exeter Christian Fellowship  
**Adrian: 01837 83799**  
 Minibus Enquires  
**E-mail: amppc@bushinternet.com**

## GOOD SHEPHERD FELLOWSHIP

**Serving God in the  
Community**



## Diary Dates!

*House Party at Brunel Manor, Torquay—23rd-25th July*

*E.C.F. A.G.M.—Saturday 24th July at Brunel Manor @ 5pm*

*Vicar's Tea Party—Saturday 21st August at Winkleigh*

*Harvest Supper - Saturday 9th October at Winkleigh*

*Harvest Festival—Sunday 10th October at G.S.F. @ 11am*

*Compass Braille Presentation—"Bible Sunday" 5th December at G.S.F.*

*Carols by Candlelight—Sunday 19th December at G.S.F. @ 10-45am*

*Bank Holiday Outing—Windsor Castle on Saturday 31st April*

*Fellowship Away-Day—Ashbury, Wilts. on Saturday 27th August*

# A Warm Welcome to All

The Good Shepherd Fellowship meets every Sunday from 11am—11.45am with tea/coffee & biscuits to follow.

The first Sunday of every month we invite a guest speaker to come and share with us.

On the last Sunday of each month we celebrate Holy Communion together. The Rev Adrian Magor serves us for these services.

We are a non-denominational Fellowship which welcomes those who seek to worship God through praise, prayer and the reading and study of His Word— the Holy Bible. Our service format includes 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. Contributions to our services are always welcome—a favourite Psalm, Hymn, Poem or Solo, for the encouragement of the Fellowship. Just pass suggestions to Graham beforehand.



Transport can be arranged for any who need help getting to our Fellowship. We have our Minibus, and some of our members drive in with spare seats.

The Exeter Christian Fellowship, who have also just completed their second anniversary, in June, wish a very "Happy Anniversary" to all involved in the work of The Good Shepherd Fellowship. Roll on the next year. Through this ministry, many lives have been touched, and a needy, sometimes forgotten, area of God's Work has been, and is being met.

In our first year, we were concentrating on establishing a solid Flock of folk who wanted to worship together. Many wounds needed healing. We have now come through our second year, in which we have concreted our commitment to one another and set our eyes forward to God's will, no longer looking back at what has passed. We move into our third year, building on what God has built—a people to glorify Him.

Jesus said, in the **Gospel of John chapter 10 verses 11—30** (paraphrased) "I am the Good Shepherd who lays down His life for His sheep....I know My sheep, and they know me....and there shall be one flock and one Shepherd....My sheep listen to My voice. I know them, and they follow Me. I give them eternal Life and they shall never perish....no one will snatch them from My Father's hand".

**This, my friends,  
is The Good Shepherd**