

**The
Good Shepherd
Fellowship**

Flock News

Year 20
July
2022

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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.

Our regular social program is now up and running with services and socials monthly.

Please note, those of you whom are tech savvy, our new email address and revamped website are up and running.

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:

gsh.exeter@gmail.com

Our 20th Anniversary!

Somehow, through all the changes that life has thrown at us, through all the hurdles, all the seemingly insurmountable difficulties, "God is [and has been] a sure and present help, our refuge and our strength in times of trouble." **Psalm 46 v 1**

Our ministry has definitely changed over the last couple of years, but still our main purpose is to serve God among those who would otherwise have no Christian support, especially in the Autumnal years of their lives.

Thanks to the Fellowship's sacrificial giving over the past months, we have been able to continue supporting various ministries, as before, and have increased our support in some cases (see page 3).

Although only meeting on a monthly basis, at the St Michael's Court Chapel,

Paignton, these gatherings have been really special and heart-warming. Each month we have held a service (see inside page 2 for more details) of praise and worship, always followed by some hearty refreshments in the Communal Lounge.

On occasions, we have met for social events at the St Mark's

to more of His goodness in the coming year.

"Let's hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for He Who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. And let us not give up meeting together..." **Hebrews 10 v 23-25.**

Thank you to all our friends and partners in prayer, for your continued support for our Work. Even if you have been unable to be with us physically, we appreciate your friendship in Jesus Christ's bonds of love. Please keep in touch, and use our website to get up-to-date information.

Graham



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

Church Hall, in Exeter. We have had film shows, quizzes and sing-songs together. Our latest event was our 20th Anniversary Celebration on the afternoon of Sunday 10th July, when we will have had an informal AGM type meeting, followed by refreshments.

We shall have, as we regularly do, given thanks to God for His faithfulness over the past months. And we look forward

Pastoral Care Team

It has been proposed that it is now time to disband our PCT. As a group, we are now in a situation where formal meetings are not so necessary for the general running of the GSF/SMF. Those of us who are involved in practical ways, will continue to serve the

Lord as we have been doing.

We wholeheartedly thank those who have held positions on the PCT, and sincerely recognise that personal circumstances have meant that they have needed to step back from the 'front-line'.

Many of our folk have given of their time and efforts to ensure the smooth running of events, and, we trust, will continue to do so.

This item was formally addressed on 10th July at the AGM.



A YEAR OF ACTIVITY - AND THEN SOME!

Throughout the past year, the Fellowship has been getting on with the ministry of sharing the Gospel message, and enabling folk to join together in fellowshiping and praising God. We have been doing this by meeting monthly at our 'spiritual home' at St Michael's Court, Paignton, in the Chapel.

Philippians 2 v 1—2 "If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness or compassion,, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose."

Since last October, we have held

our Harvest Festival, we've celebrated Holy Communion, we've had a Songs of Praise evening, and we've received a Gideons (Good News for Everyone) presentation. Plus, of course, at Christmas, our Carols by Candle-

Our website is on line at:
www.goodshepherdfellowship.co.uk
*Contact us by our *NEW* Email at:*
gsf.exeter@gmail.com
Recommend it to your friends!

light service..

We have also joined for a Christmas Dinner at The Devonshire Dumpling, then a January Post-Christmas Party, and

an Easter Party (both in the St Mark's Church Hall, Exeter). We have, on both occasions, shown the Gospel films, "God's NOT Dead", and "God's NOT Dead 2".

After all these services and socials, we have always enjoyed a hearty table of refreshments, as we have valued these times of fellowship together.

Hebrews 10 v 25 "Let us not give up the habit of meeting together, as some have done, but let us encourage one another all the more so."

And so, moving forward, we hope to continue our program of activities, and pray that God will guide us in his will and purposes.

Psalm 37 v 23 - 25 (paraphrased)

" The steps of a righteous man are guided by the Lord. He will delight in every step of their journey. If they fall, it isn't the end of the world, for the Lord will hold them up with His hand"

"I have been young, and I have been old, But in all my years, I have never known the Lord to forsake anyone who loves Him, or for their offspring to go hungry. Rather, that they prosper and give generously, and their children are a blessing."

THE WEDDING!

On mid-Summer's Day, Friday 24th June 2022, at 3pm in St Mark's Church, Pinhoe Road, Exeter, Adam Ellis Charters married his bride, Loxley Charity Hope Foster. It was a wonderful day of celebration. You can see a small selection of the

photographs on our website, www.goodshepherdfellowship.co.uk, by clicking on 'Gallery' and then on 'A&L wedding'.

Our love and prayers are with them as they enter this new chapter in their lives.



Unending Oil

2 Kings 4:1-7



“Tell Me, What Have You Got Left In Your House!”



Elisha was an Old Testament prophet. He was travelling through a town, and was feeling hungry and tired. A widow came crying to him with her woes. Elisha replied, “How can I help you, and, by the way, what have you got in your house, ‘cause I’m famished?” What a cheek! “All I’ve got is a last drop of oil to bake our last bread.” “Well anyway, bake me a meal,” responds Elisha.

When we looked at our Fellowship finances, last year, we thought we would just use it all up, and then fold up. And so we increased our giving to support other ministries, and bless others. Now, 12 months later, and our finances are even more healthy than they were before! God has blessed us in abundance, as we have blessed others.

Because of the widow’s willingness to do as Elisha had instructed, so God blessed her, and blessed her, in abundance—the more she made, the more she had.

A Giving Church is a Living Church!

A Living Church is a Giving Church!

God is faithful! Jehovah Jirah—God my Provider!

And so, we continue to support: Mark Perkins (Home Evangelism); The Haven of Hope orphanage (Lipova, Romania); The Gideons (Good News for Everyone); The Good News newspapers & Our Daily Bread (daily readings); plus any other ministries that need our support.

GSF Financial over-view of Accounts at End-of-Year 30/06/22:

Fund	b/f 2021	Income	Expenses	c/f 2022
Transport	£395.38	£550.00	-£260.00	£685.38
Holding	£2,116.10	£887.50	-£588.05	£2,415.55
GSF	£438.76	£1,980.58	-£1,858.28	£561.06
SMF	£158.73	£160.00	-£60.00	£258.73
Baptistry	£625.00	£0.00	-£0.00	£625.00
Savings	£550.00	£0.00	-£550.00	£0.00
Total	£4,283.97	£3,578.08	-£3,316.33	£4,545.72

In Remembrance

COVID—Still a health threat!

We have said “Farewell” to two of our lovely ladies, both of whom were committed to praying for the work of the Good Shepherd Fellowship.

Janet Magor, wife of the Rev Adrian Magor, passed away after a prolonged fight with cancer. We continue to pray for Adrian.

Kay Grover of Paignton, a wonderful ‘prayer warrior’, passed away peacefully, after her deterioration of her bodily health.

Please remember all our more “mature” members and friends in your prayers at this time, as the last years have weighed heavy on those with underlying health conditions.

Just when we think it’s all over, it comes back in force, and the more vulnerable are always the first to suffer. Sometimes it is the underlying effects of such illnesses which can be the worst—the emotional and psychological issues, post infection; and often the loneliness and isolation that comes with it.

Our world is in a right mess on all fronts. On top of COVID, we are facing the aggression of tyrants who would want to dominate their neighbours; then there

are the knock-on effects which bring economic hardship and enforced personal financial stress within our homes, families, and our Churches.

We oftentimes run out of words to pray, as we sense a never-ending torrent of “bad stuff”. It is at these times that, “I lift up my eyes to the hills—where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.....The Lord will keep you from harm—He will watch over your life; the Lord will watch over your comings and goings, both now and forevermore.” **Psalm 120 v 1—2 & 7—8 .**



Contacts

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NEW Email: 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 thank God that we planted our 'sister' Church in St Michael's Court, Paignton, many years ago. And we thank God for our dear brother, Dave Hughes, for faithfully hosting us as we bring the GSF down to Paignton each month. We do value this venue that we can all meet together.



The Good Shepherd Fellowship,
The Good Shepherd Fellowship is now in a new chapter of its ministry. This does not include the regular Sunday morning services we have enjoyed over the years, but it involves much more hands-on and home-to-home emphasis. So, 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 no-one, and welcome all who need Christ's love, in both a practical and spiritual way.

See our regular dates for our services and social events. Contact us if you need a lift to any of them.



Important DATE!



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.

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

Sunday 7th August @ 4.45pm at St Michael's Chapel, Paignton
Service of Holy Communion

Sunday 4th September @ 4.45pm at St Michael's Chapel, Paignton
"Songs of Praise" Service

Saturday 1st October @ 3.30pm in "Heatherbanks" Garden, Gittisham
Jan & Helen's Garden Party!

Sunday 2nd October @ 4.45pm at St Michael's Chapel, Paignton
Harvest Festival

Sunday 30th October @ 4.45pm at St Michael's Chapel, Paignton
Traditional Evensong Service

Thursday 10th November @ 6.30pm at Gainsborough House, Exeter
An evening around "Joan's Joanna"
A 90th Birthday Celebration!

A Warm Welcome to All!

Each year, I have drawn comparisons with a young child, then an adolescent, then a young man, as they grow up in the world around them, and how that we, as a Church Fellowship have also gone through those stages of growing up.

I suppose, just like a youngster, we, the Good Shepherd Fellowship, have also arrived at our 20th birthday, somewhat affected by the world around us. We have been buffeted. We have been shaken. And we have had to ask difficult questions of ourselves, and our place in this crazy world.

Jeremiah 29 v 11 " '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.' "

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

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!