

The Good Shepherd Fellowship

Flock News

Year 22

July

2024

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Special points of interest:

The Good Shepherd Fellowship meets regularly on the first Sunday of every month (unless otherwise announced) at 4.45pm in St Michael's Chapel, Paignton.

For a full list of services and Socials, see Page 4, or visit our website which is regularly updated.

Pastor: Rev Graham Charters

Elder Emeritus: Frances Steele

Website: Adam Charters

St Michael's Fellowship, Paignton: Dave Hughes

GSF Auditor: Frank Bye

New Registered Address:

38, Edward's Ct, Millbrook Lane, Exeter, EX2 6FU

Our Email Address:

gsl.exeter@gmail.com



Light at the End of the Tunnel!

We have all come through those dark times in our lives when there seems to be no light at the end of the tunnel. On a recent trip to Europe, we experienced, apart from the Euro-Tunnel, many long tunnels through the mountains of Switzerland. These would sometimes go on for miles. As we entered, we had no idea how long we'd be driving through the darkness, but eventually we would see a glimmer of light in front of us; and then, before us, was a beautiful vista of lakes and mountains for us to enjoy.

In these past years, and maybe more recently, life has taken us through some dark tunnels of anxiety, depression, and heaviness. The Psalmist wrote, "Even when I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod

Again, the Psalmist repeats the faithfulness of God through all the oppressive forces of the Enemy, in **Psalm 91 v 4**, "...His faithfulness will be your shield." He concludes, at the end of this Psalm, that "I will be with him [her] in trouble, and I will deliver and honour him [her], and thus reveal My salvation."

Trust the Lord to bring you through those difficult times, and then show to you the glorious vistas of His love and faithfulness - the light at the end of the tunnel!

Graham

*The Good Shepherd Fellowship, Exeter
& The St Michael's Fellowship, Paignton*
A non-denominational Christian Fellowship
serving God in the community

and staff will comfort me." **Psalm 23 v 4**. God has proved Himself to be faithful to us again and again, whatever we may encounter, and however long and winding those tunnels may be.

Pastoral Letter

Over the past 12 months the GSF/SMF have met regularly at St Michael's Court, Paignton, for our monthly services. They have included Special Festival services, Songs of Praise evenings, Presentations, and Holy Communion services. We have also held various social gatherings and celebrations,

including an evening around "Joan's Joanna" in Honiton, and the 100th birthday of our dear sister, Joyce Pearcy, in Exeter.

Our numbers are remaining the same, more or less, depending on sicknesses and holidays, and the Chapel pews in Paignton are usually full for our services.

Financially, we are keeping a

good balance in our accounts, and have increased our giving to the "Haven of Hope" orphanage in Lipova, as well as our regular support to Home Evangelist, Mark Perkins. We also support the monthly Good News Papers, and the quarterly "Our Daily Bread" Bible readings.



RECOGNIZING JESUS

A recurring theme in many of our Sunday service talks, and my Sunday morning texts, have been around the question of - how do we recognize Jesus? And how do we know for sure that God is revealing Himself to us?

The Bible contains many warnings about being led astray or being confused by that which is not of God. In **James 1 v 16** "Don't be deceived, brothers [and sisters] every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from our heavenly Father." God will only give what is good for His children; **Matthew 7 v 11**.

As we are The Good Shepherd Fellowship, we often return to the words in **John 10**, which speaks of a shepherd and his flock. It describes the Good Shepherd as, "the sheep know His voice and follow Him." Jesus said, "I am the Good Shepherd" **v 11** "The Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep."

At Easter-time especially, we read many accounts of the risen Lord Jesus appearing to his disciples at different times, and different locations. The reactions of those who encountered



Him were unanimously of fear; Jesus made a point of saying, "Peace be with you! Do not be afraid!"

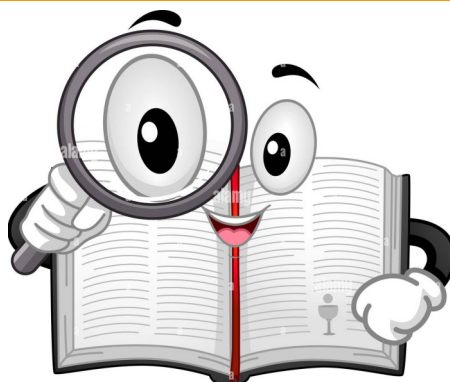
God completely understands our fears, doubts, and confusions. He wants us to know Him better, and to build that relationship with Him. We do this by making time to grow in Him by reading His Word, the Bible, and by communing [praying] with Him, regularly. God is our loving heavenly Father, and He wants us to know Him.

John 17 v 25 - 26 Jesus prays for us, to His Father in heaven: "Father, though the world doesn't know You, I know You, and they [My disciples] know that You have sent Me.

I have made You known to them, and will continue to do so, so that the love You have for Me may be in them, even as I am in them."

By His Holy Spirit, God dwells in each one of us. Let's listen to the Lord's voice as He guides us daily.

Our website is online at:
www.goodshepherdfellowship.co.uk
Contact us by our Email at:
gsgf.exeter@gmail.com
Recommend it to your friends!



Ton Up!

A hundred congratulations go out to our dear sister and friend, Joyce Percy. Last October we celebrated with her and some of the folk from Good Shepherd Drive - Sheltered Housing as Joyce reached her landmark birthday.

The afternoon tea in the Communal Lounge (prepared by Joyce's good friend, Alison) was a lovely opportunity for us to mark this occasion - along with a birthday greeting from King Charles!

Having personally known Joyce for nearly 25 years, I recall how her late husband, Alf, and her, would be at the centre of all the GSD social activities. They were both very well travelled and took many photos of their adventures around Europe.

Joyce has, since our first service in 2002, been a regular member of the Good Shepherd Fellowship, and although she is now unable to attend our services for mobility reasons, she is still very much a part of our Fellowship.

Joyce is not in the best of health, but, for a centenarian, she is doing extraordinarily well. May God bless her in her future!





“Excelling in your Enthusiasm of Giving”

2 Corinthians 8 v 7



In this passage from the Apostle Paul's letter to the Church in Corinth, he was upholding the Churches of Macedonia for their overwhelming enthusiasm, as believers, in their **“richness of generosity” v 2**, and their **“privilege of sharing” v 4**. He shared this testimony to encourage the Church in Corinth to excel in this same act of love **v 7**.

It is a beautiful thing that we, small as we are, are able to share through God's grace what we have with those who may benefit, in His service. While we are able, we are supporting many other ministries, both financially and through donations of practical items. We pray that these gifts may continue to be given with **“overflowing joy” v 2**. As God has continued to bless us, so we continue to reach out to bless others, in Jesus name.

A Giving Church is a Living Church!

A Living Church is a Giving Church!

** My apologies for the numerical discrepancies on last years “Flock News” accounts table. I assure you that the correct accounts were Audited with the appropriate figures - the fault occurred during the printing process! The following is the correct Summary for this year .*

Summary of The Good Shepherd Fellowship accounts for '23 - '24

Fund	b/f '23-'24	Income	Expenses	c/f '24-'25
Transport	£425.38	£10.00	-£300.00	£135.38
Holding	£2,605.25	£1052.50	-£772.00	£2,885.75
GSF	£252.61	£977.56	-£1,157.06	£73.11
SMF	£334.75	£200.00	-£110.99	£423.76
Baptistry	£625.00	£0.00	-£0.00	£625.00
Savings	£0.00	£0.00	-£0.00	£0.00
Total	£4,242.99	£2,240.06	-£2,340.05	£4,143.00

Florica -Haven of Hope

As the photo portrays, Florica is very happy with the support that we at the Good Shepherd Fellowship are giving her by way of Matthew Jackson, who has come to our service at St Michael's Fellowship to share pictures and video of what God is doing in Lipova and further afield in the land of Romania.



We are making regular financial donations to the “Haven of Hope” orphanage, and have also sent suitcases of goods, including many knitted and crocheted items (via Matthew). We pray for Florica and all

the other children, that they may grow in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus. We will be receiving more updates at our next Harvest Festival on Sunday 6th October, when we hope that Matthew will bring us more news from Lipova!

We continue to support “Haven of Hope” financially to the tune of £30/month, sent at Harvest & Christmastime.

Pray for our World

We continue to remember in our prayers all our more “mature” members and friends at this time; with age, comes various other health and mobility issues. We especially wish Syd & Margaret Gardner every blessing in their new home in Edward's Court - sheltered housing. They would love to see anyone who is passing.

Congratulations to Adam & Loxley, who are expecting their firstborn this coming November. Aura Marina & I are looking forward to being Grandparents, [Abuelitos]! Our prayers are with them both.



Pray for our world, for governments, for relief from natural disasters, and the aggression of tyrants who

would want to dominate their neighbours; then there are the knock-on effects which can 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.”

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Contacts

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The Good Shepherd
Fellowship

Serving God in the
Community

The St Michael's Fellowship
(St Michael's Court, 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. We continue to pray that we may see more St Michael's Court folk, and others, coming along in future months.

The Good Shepherd Fellowship

The Good Shepherd Fellowship is moving in this revised format of 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.

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



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.

Sunday 4th August @ 4.45pm at St Michael's Chapel, Paignton

Service of Traditional Even-Song

followed by a GSF/SMF "Annual Review"

Sunday 1st September @ 4.45pm at St Michael's Chapel, Paignton

Olde-Tyme Gospel Service with Mark Perkins

Sunday 6th October @ 4.45pm at St Michael's Chapel, Paignton

Harvest Festival - bring items for the "Haven of Hope"

Sunday 10th November @ 4.30pm at Gittisham, Honiton

A birthday soiree around "Joan's Joanna"

N.B. This December, we are going to try something a bit different: our Fellowship Lunch *and* our Carol Service will follow on from each other on the same Sunday. All transport will be provided

Sunday 15th December @ 1pm at The Oceanic Restaurant,

Livermead Cliff Hotel, Torquay Sea Front, Torbay Road TQ2 6RQ

Fellowship Christmas Dinner - £15

Followed by - @ 4.45pm at St Michael's Chapel, Paignton

'Carols by Candlelight' Service (plus Christmas raffle)

A Warm Welcome to All!

We thank God that we are able to hold our regular monthly services in the St Michael's Chapel down in Paignton. Everyone looks forward to our trip down to the Fellowship on the 1st Sunday of each month. There is always a warm welcome to any visitors. A Notice Sheet is always posted on the Chapel door to advertise the date and theme of the next service. Keep the above list of "Important Dates" at hand so you may join us, or to pray for us. Thanks!

2nd John v 6 "This is love, that we walk in obedience to His commands. Just as you have been instructed from the beginning: His command is that you walk continually in His love."

Romans 12 v 11 "Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervour in serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, be patient in affliction, and be faithful in prayer. Share generously with God's people. And practice hospitality."

Isaiah 40 v 31 "They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength;

they shall rise up with wings like eagles.

They shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint."

"This, my friends, is The Church!"