

## Good Shepherd Fellowship

# Flock News

Year 3

July 2005

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### Special points of interest:

- The Good Shepherd Fellowship is a recognized Christian Church Fellowship within the city and is on the Exeter City Council's web-site database.
- £835 has now been raised from sponsorship in Great West Runs.
- Minibus outside bookings have increased by over 100%, with the new bus.

#### Chairman

**Rev Adrian Magor**

#### Secretary

**Miss Frances Steele**

#### Treasurer

**Mr Graham Charters**

## "Go and buy a field"!

A couple of years ago, I shared a Bible study on the theme from the old testament prophet Jeremiah. In chapter 32 God told Jeremiah to go and buy a field. Read the story for yourselves and you will see that the whole concept was a crazy thing to do, but, being faithful to God's command, Jeremiah proclaimed "Nothing is too difficult for You, O Lord, so, if You say so, I will buy the field." (v 17)

Because of his obedience to God, the Lord told Jeremiah, "I will therefore give you all the prosperity that I have promised to you, and from now on fields will be bought in this land." (v 42). From the beginning, the prophet knew that he should go out and buy a field

(v 8).

One day, out of the blue, a phone call announced, "Would you like to buy our minibus?"

Without a thought, I offered £2,500 for it.

The Fellowship is now blessed with a wonderful 17 seater, diesel, P reg, disabled access minibus. And we thank God for His provision. In reality and all practicality, we really can't afford a new bus, but by faith we have entered into this great challenge, in obedience to Him. Now we must continue faithfully to use the vehicle for

His glory, for, just like any other gift, spiritual or physical, that God deigns upon us, we have to use it for His service in the extension of His Kingdom.

If ever God tells you to do something beyond the norm, do it, and He will bless your obedience. May God make each of us available to Him so as not to be hindrances, but to be wholly willing to go out and buy a field !!

"Nothing is too difficult for God"



## Notes from our Secretary's Minutes

Yet another year has passed, with it's variety of blessings. I took over the dubious task of Secretary at last years AGM from our dear brother, Terry, who felt, for personal reasons, that he needed to step aside. He did a great job, and we all thank him for his service to the Fellowship.

The high-light of this year has

been the purchase of our new Minibus, which is such a boon for our Fellowship, and now we are proud to make it available to outside organizations.

We were saddened by the premature home-calling of our Sister, Sylvia Davis. She was a colourful character who will be missed by us all, and we uphold her family in our

prayers.

Thanks to various members of our Fellowship who, once a month, have opened their homes to our prayer group where we have been enriched by Adrian's exhortations from scripture. Our faith continues to be honoured as we look to the future together.

**Frances Steele**

# “Once in a Life-Time”

A “once-in-a-life-time” experience is the phrase often blurted out after an emotional completion of a task or project. It was much more sincere than that, when, last May I crossed the finishing line having run 13 and a half miles on the 2004 Great West Run.

True to my word, I would not run the race again, “but”, I thought, “what about Adam doing the Fun Run next year.” Adam was only just turned 4 years old at the time, and he said it was “a great idea”.

So, in January, the application form for Master Adam Charters & his Mummy & Daddy, was posted off. A sponsorship form was prepared, and so Adam was ready to compete in the one and a half mile Exeter Great West Run Fun Run, to

raise funds for our newly acquired minibus.

Mummy & Daddy didn’t put a lot of

“Raising £230, his little legs ran the one and a half mile course in just over 20 minutes”

thought into the preparation and exercise needed for the event because we wrongly assumed that Adam would hardly break into a trot

throughout the whole race.

How wrong we were. On Sunday morning, the 1st May 2005, at 10-30am, the horn blared signaling the start of the Fun Run. Mummy & Daddy were chatting with other parents and didn’t notice little Adam charging away from the line with all the bigger boys and girls. I said confidently, “he’ll stop in 20 yards complaining he’s too tired, and we’ll end up dragging him around the course.” But, Adam didn’t stop, and unfit Daddy had to catch up with him and run the race properly. As parents, we have rarely been so proud of our son, as we encouraged him round the streets of Whipton.

Adam stopped just once, about 500 yards before the end, to pick some wild flowers for his Mummy who, he sympathized, “will be very tired.” He crossed the finish line in just over 20 minutes, received his GWR medal,

## Publicity!

Okay, we are hardly “A list” celebrity status, but it was nice to make page 19 in a recent edition of the local rag—The Express & Echo, 18/05/05. A photographer turned up one Thursday afternoon just as we were preparing for the weekly Good Shepherd Drive, Shopping Shuttle to Pinhoe’s Sainsbury’s superstore. He really wanted a shot of Adam and his medal, but we made for a good background!

Some enquiries regarding the “borrowing” of our minibus have since come through because of this article.



## TSUNAMI

All of us have been affected by the news reel reports over the past 6 months from South East Asia. The question often comes to mind at times like these—what on earth can we do to help in these times of disaster. There have been many Appeals and Projects set up nationally and internationally, but, as a small Fellowship, we didn’t want our small gifts to get swallowed up in the anonymity of these agencies.

A letter, via my parents, arrived in the form of faxed Emails, from a middle-

aged (60-something) Christian lady, who has given her life, for a quarter of a century, to helping orphaned children in the southern Tamil Nadu State of India. This states coastal area was totally destroyed in that awful week just after Christmas last year. The lady is Mrs Colleen Redit, who set up the Christian Missions Charitable Trust.

Since the initial catastrophe of the Tsunamis, Colleen, with her team of volunteer mission workers, has elected to sponsor a whole village in the region-

Chinnakuppam. With the governments blessing, they have taken over all the relief aid, rebuilding, social welfare, and financing for this community.

As we receive regular updates, we, as a Fellowship, are joined with them, in prayer.

From— The Christian Missions

Charitable Trust

# Message from the Chairman

## “Lo, I am with you always.”

These six words have been a source of sustenance to me, especially during the difficulties from March—June 2002. However, I am able to use these same words as I reflect on God's guidance on our spiritual journey within The Good Shepherd Fellowship. And I have been both privileged and blessed to have been a servant to you all.

Over the past 18 months we have seen four of our Sisters in Christ “called home”. All of whom have left special impressions on our lives. These words of scripture are again called to mind in my ministry to you, most particularly as we have celebrated their passing with Services of Thanksgiving (for which I give grateful thanks to Graham for his preparation of the special Service Sheets on his computer). These times of thanksgiving have brought a spirit of new light and fel-

lowship to us all.

We continue to meet as the Exeter Christian Fellowship “umbrella group”, once a month for Bible study, prayer and fellowship, in one another's homes. Our thanks to all who have offered their hospitality for this purpose. We have recently been studying the Book of Revelations—being challenged, as were the early Christian Churches. In prayer, the Lord has always been faithful to us and in accordance to His will. Much of our prayer is ongoing for those who require God's healing hand.

This small group of the Flock are at the “engine room” of all the Good Shepherd Fellowship operations. And, with His guidance, we are able to steer the course that brings glory to Him alone. Any of you who can give just

one evening a month to joining with us for these meetings would be more than welcome. Our prayer is that we should see a growth in attendance to our relaxed, family atmosphere on a Sunday morning at the Good Shepherd Fellowship. We are grateful for the facilities there.

On a personal note, Janet & I will miss you all next winter for the February & March Communion Services, as we fly to New Zealand to celebrate our delayed Ruby Honeymoon with family over there. We'll perhaps have a Cheese & Wine evening with a slide show on our return.

I end, as I started—as God is with us, so I also, in spirit am with you all, just as I am now, in windy Winkleigh!

**Rev Adrian Magor**

## Fellowship House-Party Weekends

It has become an annual event for us to get away for a Weekend of good food, good accommodation, and good fellowship. The Exeter Christian Fellowship House-Party is a high-light in the calendar, and those of us who have experienced the occasions will testify to the blessing we have received from them.

Although it's only one weekend, there is an awful lot of preparation and ad-

ministration behind the smooth running of a House-Party. Our first year, '02, was at Brunel Manor, Torquay, with studies from the Book of Ruth from guest speakers. In '03 we were guests at Haldon Court, Exmouth, where we received thoughts on the

23rd Psalm from visiting speakers. Last summer we returned to Brunel Manor

and were treated to some ministry from Rev David Ellis (OMF), on putting our trust in God.

This year, for a change, we are having an Away Day. We are driving up to the village of Ashbury, near Swindon for a joint Fellowship Day with the small village Church. Make a note in your diaries—Saturday 27th August. Let's make it a really successful time. The cost is £20 each (discretionary) to cover fuel, food, etc.

**Graham**

“There am I, in the  
midst of You”

## On the Outside, Looking In

As an outsider looking in, I am so warmed to the atmosphere of Christian love and fellowship which I feel on my frequent visits to, either the lovely Sunday morning services, or to one of the numerous social events that seem to jump into my diary. I really don't know how they all find the time to enjoy themselves so much! But, I wish some of the more stayed Churches would take a leaf from their book.

I have always found the format of the services to be informal yet respectful,

to be structured yet flexible. The hymns are always the good old well known ones I used to sing as a girl, and the sermons are never more than quarters of an hour long, but full of good stuff for the week ahead. They seem to follow the Christian Church calendar, but only as a tool—not an obligation.

For a more senior age group they certainly know how to have fun. Food is so often the hidden excuse for a party, outing, sing-song, or a fund-

raiser for their wonderful minibus. I am pleased that such a bus is made available for outside groups. I have personally recommended it's use to groups I am involved with.

Long may the Good Shepherd Fellowship continue to bless those of us who enjoy it's outreaching ministry.

I would not hesitate to recommend it to anyone looking for a friendly Christian community.

**A Sister in Christ**



## Contacts

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## GOOD SHEPHERD FELLOWSHIP

**Serving God in the  
Community**



## Diary Dates!

*ECF AGM— Sunday 9th July 11-4.5am following GSF Holy Comm.*

*Vicar's Tea Party—Saturday 13th August at Winkleigh*

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

*Harvest Supper - Saturday 15th October at Winkleigh*

*Harvest Festival—Sunday 16th October at G.S.F. @ 11am*

*Wesley Owen's "Presentation—"Bible Sunday" 4th December at G.S.F.*

*Christmas Dinner—Saturday 10th December :3 Little Pigs, Crediton*

*Carols by Candlelight—Sunday 18th December at G.S.F. @ 10-4.5am*

*Fellowship May B/H Outing—Saturday 6th May to Bristol Zoo*

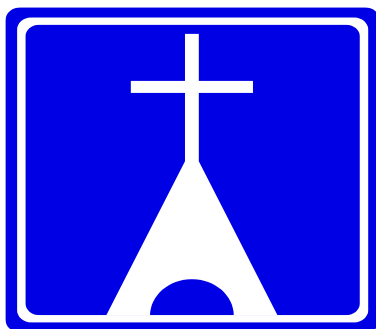
# A Warm Welcome to All

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 second Sunday of each month (changed from the last Sunday of the 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 a third 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 neglected 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. Through our second year, 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 moved into our third year, building on what God had built, now we enter our fourth year with a maturing desire to glorify Him.

Jesus said, in the **Gospel of Matthew chapter 16 verse 18-19**—"You are little pebbles, but I will build my Church upon the Rock, which is Christ, and no way will the gates of evil overcome it. I have given you the keys to enter into the Kingdom of Heaven, so, in the meantime, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

(Graham's own paraphrase)

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