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## Special points of interest:

- The Good Shepherd Fellowship, Exeter, & The St Michael's Fellowship, Paignton, are both under the ECF Umbrella Ministries.
- Minibus outside bookings continue to raise much needed income.

### Chairman:

**Rev Adrian Magor**

### Secretary:

**Miss Frances Steele**

### Treasurer:

**Mr Graham Charters**

**GSD Liaison Officer:**

**Mrs Brenda Thomas**

**Ephesians 4 v 14—15** "For we are no longer infants, having our grip on faith tossed about by the wind and waves of erroneous teachings. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up in Christ our Head."

If we've succeeded in getting our earthly bodies through life thus far, with no major hiccups, then we might count ourselves very fortunate. Because the odd bandage, or the timely Paracetamol, never mind the injections, X-rays, and surgeons scalpel, have all gone towards patching us up to navigate life's journey. A few scars, aches 'n' pains, and replacement parts along the way, are testimony to the fact that "three score years and ten" were never going to be an easy ride.

Who we are now, was deter-

mined by how strong the foundations of our formative years were embedded—and into what. The building above the ground may look impressive, weatherworn, but nevertheless, impressive, but it's what is under the ground that holds it up.

The well-known parable of

In January, we celebrated our childhood by holding, what I hope will become, an annual, **Good Shepherd Fellowship Sunday School**. We sung old choruses; we played quizzes; we learnt a Bible Memory Verse; but, most importantly, we reclaimed the fundamental faith of our youth. We may have all traveled various degrees of obstacle

courses through life, but, by the grace of God, we are all grounded in the faith we have in the Lord Jesus Christ. So, we had great fun celebrating that fact.

Coincidentally, our minibus was also treated to a well-needed face-lift—thanks to a £2,000 grant from the Devon County Council's Com-

*Exeter Christian Fellowship  
"Umbrella Ministries"*

Incorporating

**The Good Shepherd Fellowship, Exeter  
&  
The St Michael's Fellowship, Paignton**

Jesus, says, "Anyone who both hears, and puts into practice, My words, is like a wise man who built his house upon a rock...." **Matthew 7 v 24—27**

## In the Chairman's absence...

*Because of his increasing commitments in the Anglican ministry around Winkleigh, especially while the local Vicar has been layed up infirm, our Chairman, Rev Adrian Magor has not been with us as often as he would like. He & Janet also have some pressing family issues both here in the UK, and in New Zealand which are pulling at their diaries.*

*Nevertheless, the activities of the Fellowship have continued unabated, and many of our annual 'favourites' are still going ahead.*

*So, the following, although not necessarily minuted, are high-lights of Fellowship life, through the eyes of our Secretary, Frances.....*

### Time passes—Love endures!

How often now-a-days do we hear the comment: "I don't know where the time goes."

Once again, looking back over a year which has flown by—so much has been accomplished in our Fellowship, together with our friends at St Michael's in Paignton.

Each month, visiting speakers have blessed us with their messages of encouragement. One such high-light was the visit by John & Dorcas Sumner with news of the "Haven of Hope" Orphanage in Lipova, Romania. We were able to see in photos the results of our giving from our last Harvest Festival; so, once again we collected lots of items for the children which will be going out on their next trip.

Graham continues, faithfully, to exhort and encourage us from week to week, and we thank God for the support of his wife, Aura

Marina—not forgetting Adam.

Events of the Fellowship throughout the year have included—the Vicar's Tea Party and the Harvest Supper, both hosted by Adrian & Janet Magor at Winkleigh. The Christmas Lunch at The Pen Inn, Newton Abbot was a success, with a group coming up from St Michael's Fellowship too. Plus, thanks to the minibus, we have gone to various concerts and meetings around the area.

**so, Love endures—Jeremiah 31 v 3** "I have loved you with an everlasting love." How reassured we are by these words of our Lord, of His everlasting love to uphold us in our daily life and beyond.

**Frances Steele—Secretary**

# Thanks to the D.C.C.!

Ever since we were blessed with our minibus, 3 years ago, we have been ever conscious of the fact that it will always be a financial burden. It is not just the everyday running costs which delve deep into our coffers month after month, but those major maintenance issues which come up and bite you unawares, and suddenly the Minibus Fund looks very underweight.

Fuel costs have risen by 100% in the last five years, and that means that where a full tank of diesel used to cost under £60, it now costs over £100! A replacement set of tyres can cost over £300 for the complete set of six. And the fitting of two new, front brake discs recently, came to nearly £150.

But the above costs are all routine service issues related to safe motor-ing. However, a vehicle depreciates in value year on year. That means it is

worth less this year than it was this time last year. We try to counteract this by taking care of the minibus with touches of TLC whenever funds allow.

Every time our minibus is borrowed, 100% of receipts are ploughed back into its upkeep.  
**MINIBUS FOR "HIRE"**  
Contact: - 07786 846044  
Recommend it to your friends!

Just like us, the buffetings of life start to show, in forms of rust, dents, cracked bumpers, and general wear 'n' tear.

And so it was a wonderful opportunity for us to be able to bid for a portion of a Community Fund being offered by the Devon County Council to such projects which benefited the local community. Councillor Phil Brock advised me to apply for some on behalf of our minibus.

I added up all our expenses of the year '06-'07 and added 10% (inflation), and presented an application for a grant of **£2,106-17**, hoping we might get half of it. We duly received a cheque in the Autumn for the **whole amount!**

The minibus was immediately booked in for it's Nip 'n'Tuck treatment. Now all the rust patches have gone, we have new bumper sets, front and rear, and we have a sky-light fitted in the roof for summer ventila-tion.

Of course, such TLC will be on-going,

## "Mother, your children—children, your mother"

While enduring the pain and agony of suffering crucifixion, our Lord Jesus took time to give clear instruction to His disciples; and this was a message to the Christian Church. **John 19 v 26—27** "When Jesus saw His mother standing with His disciples, He said, 'Mother, these are your sons'; and then to His disciples, 'This is your mother.' Jesus was preparing His follow-ers, even in that time of grief, for the true family responsibility of Fellowship.

Jesus had hinted at this embracing family ethic back in **Matthew 12 v 46—50**. Jesus was talking to a crowd when someone in-formed Him that His family were waiting for Him. His response was, **v 48** "Who is my mother or my brothers?" and in answer-ing them, he pointed to His followers, and answered, "Here are my mother and my brothers. For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven, is my brother and my sister and my mother."

During this past year, sadly, some within our Fellowship have been bearing heavy burdens of family responsibility. How much it hurts when one of your own flesh and blood is in pain? We

would never stand back and allow our family members to go through such acheings alone; and yet, as a Fellowship, some-times we have stood back and whispered a prayer to God, "Thank God it's not one of mine!" But, dear friends, it **is** one of mine, and it **is** one of yours. We are brothers and sisters and parents to one another.

**1 Corinthians 12 v 25—26** "...have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, all the other parts suffer with it; and if one part is honoured, then all the others rejoice with it." The Apostle Paul was writing about the Church being a Body, and that although some appear to have greater tasks or recog-nition, in fact, all the parts of the body are equally important to the functioning of the whole. Christ is the head of the Body and **v 20** "...there are many parts, but just the one body."

So, when we know that someone is hurting, be a brother to them, be a sister to them, be a parent to them, for, says Paul in **v 27**, "Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it."

## BAGS OF BLESSINGS

We've all seen the advert where the woman demands to know why commis-sion has been taken from her account while on holiday. The Bank Manager sug-gests that "tipping" is an acceptable ded-uction, so why is she complaining. She walks out in a huff!

A part of being a Fellowship, is supporting one another, both in good times and in bad. I used to love the '80's sitcom, "Bread"; the archetypal, Scouse family unit. Their faults aside, they stood by the Family, and when that mealtime ritual was observed, they all gave to the pot.

Jesus taught us so much about the joy of giving, and about the rewards that the act bestows. We are actually bless-ing one another. The "collection" or "offering", is not a "tip" for the vicar, nor is it a guilt trip on us. We give back to God what, in fact, is already His.

The Old Testament law required "tithing" (10%) to God. In truth 100% is God's—and we're not just talking money; our



time, our possessions, our abilities, and our finances. What we give to God is as a love offering to our Christian fami-ly. We pray after the collection, "...use it for Your glory, and the extension of Your Kingdom".

Out of love, not just duty - for God, and for one another, we give, we re-ceive, we bless, and we are blessed. So, may the collection bag be filled only with sincere, heartfelt gifts unto the Lord, as we give thanks to Him.

# Message from the Chairman

*A rose by any other name!*

**Matthew 10 v 41—42** “Whoever gives even a cup of water...”.

There is a saying: *Don't shoot the messenger who brings bad news.* Jesus sent out the Twelve Disciples on a mission, as His representatives, saying, “Whoever welcomes you, welcomes Me”. In other words, if you give a welcome to the messengers of Jesus, you're showing your love to God. If you praise a preacher, it's not because he or she speaks well, rather, it's because they are a messenger of Jesus.

In New Testament terminology, “prophet” and “preacher” are interchangeable. They will be rewarded in heaven for what they have done. But so, also, will those who don't have that gift of preaching, but, nevertheless have been kind to the preacher because they are Christ's special messengers and ambassadors.

Any kindnesses shown to Christian broth-

ers and sisters out of respect for their ministry, will bring you it's rightful reward in heaven; even a cup of water on a hot day.

The words used in the Gospels for Christian ministers are not necessarily the norm today; rarely are preachers referred to as prophets, but that, actually, is what they are. The Twelve are thus called, but later given the title, “Apostles” - meaning Missionaries. The body of the Church, apart from the ministers are called laity. Jesus calls us disciples or learners/students. The Apostle Paul gives us a list of such ministries in **1 Corinthians**. God appointed in the Church, Apostles, Prophets, then Teachers, but why not Priests? There is no mention of Christian priests in the New Testament, for



Jesus was hailed with the title “Our Great High Priest” The Apostle Peter says in **1 Peter chapter 2**, “Like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God”.

So, to acknowledge your ministers as priests, is fine, for they lead you in your priesthood—they care and pastor you, and you them. Remember, even a cup of water, offered in Jesus' name, earns you your reward in heaven.

So, call me what you will; for I rejoice in our Fellowship's first 6 years. I've received many a “cup of water” from you all—and you have not yet Shot the Messenger!

**Rev Adrian Magor (Chairman)**

## Our Final(?) Fellowship House—Party

Because of the difficulties in generating the numbers to justify a whole weekend away, 2007 was to be our last House-Party. We returned to our favourite venue, Brunel Manor, for Friday 19th—Sunday 21st October, to hear ministry from Mark Perkins (Home Evangelism UK) on the subject of Prayer, entitled “Talking To a Brick Wall?” We were all blessed and encouraged, and wished it wasn't to be our last Weekend.

However, my brother, Ian and his wife Helen, who joined us from Honiton Baptist Church, threw a life-line. Their Church had been considering a similar style Weekend, and would I organize something for 2009.

So, November '09 will be the Combined Fellowship House-Party on the weekend of Friday 6th—Sunday 8th, at a subsidized cost of £110/person. Our guest speaker will be Mr Danni Chippis (Zimbabwe) now ministering at Chagford Evangelical Church.

This year, for a change, we will be going

on a Fellowship Away-Day, hosted by the Polzeath Methodist Church (The Tube Station) on Saturday 13th September. We are looking to enjoy a day by the Cornish sea-side. The cost will be £10 (including a Fish 'n' Chip Supper). Mark the date in your diary.

Over the years we have enjoyed some great House-Parties, plus the Away-Day to Ashbury in '05. If you've not joined us for any of the previous, get on board for this next one. You'll

**Fellowship Away-Day  
Saturday 13th September '08  
Polzeath Methodist Church**

## Celebrating our Salvation

Over the past years, different ones have approached me regarding the Fellowship's “rules” for the receiving of Holy Communion. As a non-denominational body, we do not fall under any legislation or council—except for that which is written in the Holy Scriptures.

We both acknowledge and respect the traditions and teachings of the established Church, and indeed incorporate much of their customs into our own service. But we are all-embracing of anyone who would come into God's presence to remember Christ's sacrificial death on the cross, and His victory over sin through the

shedding of His blood, redeeming us back to fellowship with God.



Our celebration of the **Eucharist/Breaking of Bread/Holy Communion/Lord's Table**, through sharing the emblems of Bread and Wine, is in obedience to Jesus' command, “This bread is My body, broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me.” **Luke 22 v 19—20.** “This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is poured out for you.”

So, on the 2nd Sunday of each month, as a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, and with an attitude of

reverence and humility, you are welcome to join us at The Good Shepherd Fellowship, and, **John 4 v 24**, “Worship God in spirit and in truth.” Being clear in our hearts that we are at peace with God and with our neighbours. The Apostle Paul warns, “Let us each examine our own hearts.” **1 Corinthians 11 v 28.** This is an act of celebration, for, “...we proclaim the Lord's death, until He comes!” **v 26**

## Contacts

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## EXETER CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP "UMBRELLA MINISTRIES"

## Serving God in the Community

## The St Michael's Fellowship

(St Michael's Ct., Paignton)

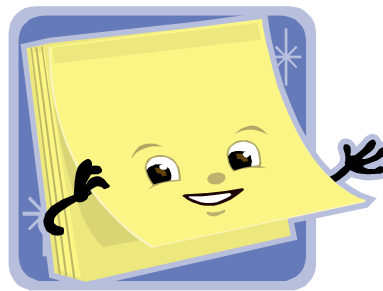
It was a great joy to celebrate our first anniversary of the Fellowship down in Paignton. It's success has come from a desire by the folk at St Michael's Court to want to utilize the small Chapel for the purpose for which it was built, hundreds of years ago. To hear once again the melodic praises to God, echoing from the gathered congregation is a wonderful feeling.

Rev Adrian Magor celebrated Holy Communion on Epiphany Sunday, to announce the St Michael's Fellowship's first birthday.



Every 1st Sunday of the month, between a dozen and 20 folk meet at 5pm for a service according to the Christian calendar. We have had visiting speakers on occasions, special feast day services; and the Carols by Candle-light service encapsulated the true spirit of Christmas.

Thanks to all at Good Shepherd, who have come down to support the Fellowship, and to our organists.



*Vicar's Tea Party—Saturday 2nd August at Winkleigh 3pm*

*Fellowship Away-Day—Polzeath Methodist Church*

*Saturday 13th September - £10*

*Harvest Supper—Saturday 27th September at Winkleigh 1pm*

*G S Fellowship Harvest Festival—Sunday 28th September 11am*

*St Michael's Fellowship Harvest Festival—Sunday 5th October 5pm*

*St Michael's Fellowship Candle-light Carols—Sunday 7th December at 5pm*

*E.C. Fellowship Christmas Dinner—Saturday 13th December*

*The Barn Owl, Kingskeswell, Nr Newton Abbot @ 1pm — £19*

*G S Fellowship Candlelight Carols—Sunday 21st December at 10-4.5am*

*St Michael's Fellowship 2nd Anniversary- Service*

*Sunday 4th January '09 at 5pm*

## A Warm Welcome to All!

The Good Shepherd Fellowship continues to meet every Sunday from 11am—11.45am with refreshments to follow.

The 1st Sunday of every month we invite a guest speaker to come and share.

On the 2nd Sunday of each month we celebrate Holy Communion together. The Rev Adrian Magor usually serves us for these services.

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. Our service formats include 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.

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

Six year olds, although confident in their own abilities, are not always as good at things as they think they are. They run fast—but they fall over; they attack a task with zeal, but soon realise it's harder than they first thought; and they experiment with hobbies, discovering their strengths and weaknesses.

They'll often run to mummy crying that they've grazed their knee; or to daddy with a complicated challenge; or they'll seek parental, and peer approval for achievements and credit.

Accepting our limitations allows us to be humble before God and ask His help in the tasks that He has set for us. As our Father, He knows what we are and aren't capable of doing, but He wills us on to take leaps of faith as we grow in confidence in His faithfulness.

*"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. For it is the Lord Jesus Christ you are serving." Colossians 3 v 23—24.*

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