

**Exeter Christian  
Fellowship  
"Umbrella  
Ministries"**

# Flock News

**Year 8**

**July 2010**

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...and it goes up and down!	2	There was a pop song in the '70's which referred to the frustrations and lamentations of trying to see out of a steamed-up window (Tina Turner, I believe). In fact, many of the "sad" music videos portray a young woman peering listlessly through a cloudy or rain splattered window pane. This image of yearning, of wanting to reach beyond, has been a theme tackled by many poets, bards, artists and musicians alike.
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### Special points of interest:

OUR MINIBUS WAS A £100 RECIPIENT OF THE EXPRESS & ECHO £1K GIVEAWAY THIS YEAR.

DESPITE THE RECESSION, GIFTS AND DONATIONS HAVE INCREASED OVER THE PAST YEAR.

#### Chairman:

**Rev Adrian Magor**

#### Vice-Chairman &

**Good Shepherd Fellowship Minister:**

**Rev Graham Charters**

#### Secretary:

**Mrs Janet Magor**

#### Treasurer:

**Mrs Brenda Thomas**

**GSD Liaison Officer:**

**Miss Audrey Masters**

**SMF Liaison Officer:**

**Mr Dave Hughes**

#### Elders:

**Mr Gordon Burd**

**Miss Frances Steele**

#### Regd. Address:

19, Tarbet Avenue, Exeter, EX1 2UE

## Misty Windows

long will the chicken wait to cross the road? And, how long can we remain unfulfilled and wanting, on the windowsill of our lives?

We've all, at some time, have sat on a bus or train on a long journey, and watched the world go by, and then breathed on the glass to form

it's gone. Life can feel that way, too, sometimes....

**1 Corinthians 13 v 12** "For now we see things through an unclear glass, with a distorted view; but soon we shall see Him face to face. Now we know in part, but then we shall know fully."

This verse is preceded by the best known prose in the Bible—The Love Chapter—it's as though the

writer realizes that we don't really get it, and appreciates that we don't live in a perfect world where love conquers all. He is saying to us, "look, your view may well be clouded just now, but nevertheless, God will reveal

the full wonders of His love in due time"

**1 John 3 v 2** "What's to become of us has not been made known, but

Why is the grass, supposedly, greener on the other side? We have invented many jokes asking the question—"Why did the chicken cross the road?..." Our desire is always to go further than the boundaries put before us. There is something inside all of us which reaches out for that which appears unattainable.

How long can the young woman sit staring out of the window? How

*Exeter Christian Fellowship  
"Umbrella Ministries"*

Incorporating

The Good Shepherd Fellowship, Exeter

&

The St Michael's Fellowship, Paignton

a blank screen to doodle our aimless thoughts. As we admire our artistry, so we watch the borders of our screen gradually encroach and wipe away our images. And then,

## From the Secretary's Minutes...

The move to Cornerstone has proved successful, with many folk enjoying continued fellowship each Sunday morning. Many thanks to all those who, behind the scenes, help to make the meetings run smoothly throughout the year.

We are thankful to Isca Christian Fellowship for use of Cornerstone, and thanks to all who make our Sunday service pleasurable.

Many of us enjoyed our Weekend House-Party at Brunel Manor last November,

along with groups from Honiton and Chagford. In faith we have booked for a return in 2011 DV. This summer Danny Chipps' Church in Chagford will host our Away-Day.

Our "new" minibis is now in service and being enjoyed by ourselves and many other outside groups. We've had trips to Winkleigh (Vicar's tea Party & Harvest Supper) as well as our Christmas Dinner down in King'swell at The Barn Owl, plus many other inter-Church visits for "Songs of Praise".

**Janet Magor—Secretary**

*A Thought for the coming year...*

**John Chapter 14 v 1** "Let not your hearts be troubled..." Sometimes, in our busy lives, we stop and reflect on the world and personal events, and become very troubled.

*Isn't it a comfort to know that our Lord spoke these words, and so lifts our hearts as we also bring to mind that — Deuteronomy 33 v 27 "...underneath are the everlasting arms."*

**Frances Steele**

## It's bigger, it's brighter—and it goes up & down!

Last June, too late to be recorded in the Flock News '09, Our new Treasurer, Brenda, our Good Shepherd Drive driver/friend, Brian, and I, drove up to Halesowen, in the West Midlands, in search of a replacement minibus.

Although not yet dead, our faithful LDV was coming to the end of its service. We would keep her on through the summer to honour the Devon Christian Youth Camp's bookings, but then she would be sold on to a group of ecological hippies from a Somerset commune!

Arriving at Halesowen, we were astonished at the size of the mini-coach before us. We'd never seen a bus like it, and borrowers have said it's "one of a kind". The S reg Peugeot



Boxer conversion had spent her days with the Age Concern, Halesowen & Kidderminster. For £1,250 she was ours. The hippies gave us £1,750 for the LDV, so we were able to invest some money into getting the new mini-

coach into serviceable condition. There have been, and still are, various maintenance issues with the bus, but slowly she's being sorted. A major problem is the pneumatic suspension which operates to lower the vehicle for disabled access. It tends to "deflate" whenever the engine is turned off, due to various leaking joints. We have learned not to load on board until she's had 5 minutes to pump herself up!

Apart from the regular "borrowings" throughout the year, and gifts etc, we have also been awarded £100 from the Express & Echo's £1,000 Giveaway. We're still waiting on the DCC to award us with a grant this year.

### MINIBUS FOR "HIRE"

Contact: - 07786 846044

Recommend it to your friends!

## We Will Remember Them

Apart from anniversary commemorations, and Remembrance Services, and possibly family times when we reminisce about our parents and grandparents, the great wars of history are slowly but surely passing backward through the mists of time—something to be taught to a younger generation through text books and old black & white film-shows. Of course, Wootton Bassett, pay tribute on the nations behalf, as fallen soldiers are brought home from modern day conflicts.

The likelihood is, that when one of our own senior friends passes away, they were probably somehow involved in the conflicts of the 40's, whether in combat or in munitions, or in medical corps. We all have our own special memories and stories of



either firsthand or anecdotal accounts of those "good old days".

My dear, late grandpa used to recite wonderful stories of his wartime adventures. My older brother and I would sit spell-bound as he related how he had defeated Hitler! Quite often, and I'll never know to this day if it was true, the Three Bears seemed to play a major role in the plot to

bring down the Nazis. It all made for a memorable tale!

This June we bid farewell to our dear sister, Phyllis Wills, who went to be with her Lord as she passed away peacefully, at her Care Home in St Thomas. Our sympathies are with her family at this time. She will be greatly missed by us all; she was a very special lady. Graham conducted her funeral.

## CONFUSED ELECTORATE!!

You might have noticed that there has been a General Election this spring. Many of us claimed our democratic right to go into a polling booth and place our cross against the name of a prospective member of parliament.

What a privilege we have in this country of ours, to be able to freely express our preference for a democratic government, with no fear of abuse, recrimination, or castigation. We are at liberty to vote for whom we wish, and to accept the decision of the majority.

This all sounds fairly ok for our western society, yet, even from within our own Fellowship, there are at least a couple of nations (Zimbabwe and Venezuela) who once had this same freedom, but

through greed and oppression, it has been eroded from the statutes, and now that which was taken for granted, has been taken away.

The outcome on this particular occasion, was not as straight-forward as we might have wished, but, nonetheless, the democratic process was in action. We may not always like or agree with the political decisions made in Westminster, but our general freedom of speech and self-expression remains a value which we can, and must, hold on to.

It was poignant to witness, on the following Saturday morning, at the Cenotaph, the commemoration of 65 years since VE day. Many of you will well

remember the sacrifices made, that we can enjoy political, social, and religious freedom.

Thank God for what we have here in the UK. It might not be perfect, but many around the world would love to have it. There are many in this world who can not choose to join together in worship and Fellowship without prosecution or imprisonment. May God give them the courage to practice their Faith and grow in Him.

**2 Thessalonians 1 v 4 "We are proud of your faithfulness in all the persecutions, and trial you are enduring...for through this you will be counted worthy of the Kingdom of God."**



# Message from the Chairman

*"One more trip along the road we go!"*

**Luke 1 v 79** "...to guide our feet into the way of peace."

Thankfully, for the last year, we, as a Fellowship, have enjoyed a bit of peace from the secular harassment from the Guinness Trust, and all that it entailed during the previous years. We are, against all odds(!), continuing, successfully to "Walk across the Road" to the Cornerstone. Rental increase apart, we have been able to enjoy our peaceful walk together.

Good fellowship and continued prayer support for one another both within and outside our Fellowship, in our individual needs, has bound us together. Remember Pilgrim in Pilgrim's Progress—he never had it so good!

I've been reminded also of some meaningful hymn lyrics over the last year: "And did those feet in ancient times"; "God is working His purpose out, as year succeeds to year";

and, "Peace, perfect peace, in this dark world of sin."

It may be true that our new minibus has increased the burden upon us of financial responsibility, but it's blessing to us and to others has outweighed in value. With prayer and resourcefulness, together with the patience and guidance of Graham, this has been peacefully obtained. Last years grant from the DCC was a grateful answer to our prayers. Thank God for working out His purposes through us, to maintain our outward-looking Christian presence against an otherwise oppressive, secular society. Just as those feet trod in ancient times, in the paths of righteousness, so too, I look forward to this vision in all of us in the year to come.

**Rev Adrian Magor (Chairman)**

## A House-Party View from my Armchair...

Definitely a Weekend of Spiritual Stimulation & Physical Relaxation, Danny Chipps, our guest speaker encouraged us with thoughts on "Grey Matters", both from a biblical and a physical perspective. The 6 sessions were spread throughout the weekend with scattered activities to fulfill all needs both physical and spiritual. The whole experience was wonderfully put together.

Combining, this year, with friends from Honiton Baptist Church and Chagford (Danny's Church), was an added blessing. A discussion unanimously agreed that this Combined format was something to be continued, so an Away-Day 2010 at Chagford, followed by a House-Party 2011 back at Brunel Manor, were put in our future diaries.

**Adrian**

## The Combined Fellowship...continued

After a wonderfully successful Combined House-Party at Brunel Manor last November, the unanimous opinion of everyone was that we should hold on to this special relationship and plan to continue our inter-church gatherings into the future.

After a lot of "gentle persuasion/encouragement", we eventually turned up at Brunel Manor with a combined number of 27 folk. We were blessed by the inspirational teachings from

**Combined Fellowship  
House-Party Weekend  
28th—30th October 2011  
at Brunel Manor**

Danny Chipps on the topic of "The Bible" - Grey Matters. The weekend of fellowship, prayer, praise and relaxation,

was a lovely experience.

It was decided to have a Reunion Away-Day on Saturday 3rd July '10 at Danny Chipps' Church in Chagford. By the time you read this, we will have had it, and 30 of us will have been involved.

Book now for next October. Danny Chipps will, once again, be our guest speaker. The cost should be no more than last year—£110/person! Start saving now, or pay as you go—see

## "Haven of Hope" – God Bless the Children

In August, Graham, Aura Marina & Adam, were able to go over to Romania to take our fund-raising moneys to the "Haven of Hope" Orphanage at Lipova. Money had been raised by Raffles, Private Gifts, the School Run kids, Bring 'n' Buy sale, and, of course, Graham & Mark's 5 hour sponsored Squash Marathon.

"We set off to Budapest, in Hungary, for a weeks sight-seeing holiday, before catching the train for a 5 hour journey, across the border, into Romania, where we were met by Pastor Moise and family, in Arad, and driven 30 km to the village of Lipova. We had no idea what to expect. Lipova

could have been anywhere, and any type of town. In fact, it is a very historic, small, rural community. The Betleem Mission, is probably the largest activity in the area. On-site is the "Haven of Hope" Church, with the orphanage adjacent. The compound is about the size of two football pitches.

Our plan was to help with the re-decoration program, but it quickly became apparent that the best use of our funds was in the purchasing and fitting of new uPVC windows in all the bedrooms. So, while the

kids were away at a camp, all the helpers got to replacing the windows and returning the bedrooms to readiness.

There are up to a dozen children at the Orphanage, from all sorts of difficult backgrounds and home-lives. They live in an extended-family style Christian community, with Pastor Moise and his wife Nutzi as adoptive parents.

A great experience—and Adam learned to ride a bike!"





## Contacts

For Sunday Services  
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 Other Enquires  
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## EXETER CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP "UMBRELLA MINISTRIES"

## Serving God in the Community

## The St Michael's Fellowship

(St Michael's Ct., Paignton)

Our sister Fellowship down in Paignton has not been having an easy time of it over the past 18 months. Since Jenny left Guinness to pursue her career, the numbers at the St Michael's Fellowship have remained at about half a dozen (on a good count).

We thank God for the continued faithfulness of Dave & Jackie, who have tirelessly extended their hands of friendship to the residents of St Michael's Court. As an "Umbrella" we have made every effort to encourage them from month to month.



Dave is now formally on the ECF "Umbrella Ministries" committee. We remember Jackie in our prayers as she deals with her illness at this time.

Our prayers are also with Rita, who lost her husband, Laurence, to cancer recently.

Nevertheless, the St Michael's Fellowship continues, usually on the 1st Sunday of the month, to hold an Evening Worship service in the Chapel from 5—5.45pm, followed by refreshments.

May we continue to uphold this work in our prayers.

The Good Shepherd Fellowship continues to meet every Sunday from 11am—11.45am with refreshments to follow. We meet at our new home, **The Cornerstone** (just across the road from Good Shepherd

## Important DATE!



ECF AGM—Sunday 8th August (following Holy Communion service)

Harvest Supper—Saturday 25th September at Winkleigh 1pm

G S Fellowship Harvest Festival—Sunday 3rd October 10-4.5am in the  
 Good Shepherd Drive, Communal Lounge

St Michael's Fellowship Harvest Festival—Sunday 3rd October 5pm

E.C. Fellowship Christmas Dinner—Saturday 11th December

The Fingle Glen Golf & Country Club—1pm probably about £15

G S Fellowship Candlelight Carols—Sunday 19th December at 10-4.5am in  
 Good Shepherd Drive, Communal Lounge

St Michael's Fellowship Candle-light Carols—Sunday 19th December @ 5pm

### Future Diary Date:

Combined Fellowship House-Party — Fri 28th – Sun 30th October '2011

@ Brunel Manor, Torquay

Special '09 rate of only £110 - Book now & start paying monthly.

See Brenda Thomas for details

## A Warm Welcome to All!

Drive).

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, under the banner of the ECF "Umbrella Ministries", 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.

If you need a lift in, just ask and we'll arrange it for you.

As an 8yr old child, growing up into a new and exciting world, we often suffer those restless nights when "growing pains" cause us discomfort. Limbs stretch out and clothes need replacing more frequently, as we develop into miniatures of our parents. Facial features are distinguishable—the bat-like ears, the pug nose, the big feet—the family traits that connect us to our ancestry. They say, "Isn't he like his father", or "I can see her mother in her". It's at this stage in a child's life that, more than ever before, "Who am I?" is a relevant question which seeks assurance—belonging.

God, our heavenly Father, looks upon us as His own special children, in His own Family. He sees in us the image of Himself. So, we also, should see in ourselves, something of the likeness of Jesus Christ, God's Son, our perfect example (which we will never attain in this life) Yet, by God's wonderful grace (undeserved love), we have been made ...  
**"...God's children, and if that's the case, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ", Romans 8 v 17, "if indeed we share in His suffering, in order that we may also share in His glory."**

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