

Exeter Christian
Fellowship
"Umbrella
Ministries"

Flock News

Year 9

July 2011

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Special points of interest:

THE DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL, ONCE AGAIN, CAME UP TRUMPS WITH A GRANT, LAST JULY, FOR £1,500.

WE HAVE NOW GONE ON-LINE WITH THE ECF "UMBRELLA MINISTRIES" WEBSITE, AND DESIGNATED EMAIL ADDRESS.

Chairman:

Rev Adrian Magor

Vice-Chairman &

Good Shepherd Fellowship Minister:

Rev Graham Charters

Secretary:

Mrs Janet Magor

Treasurer & Website Editor:

Mrs Brenda Thomas

GSD Liaison Officer:

Miss Audrey Masters

SMF Liaison Officer:

Mr Dave Hughes

Elders:

Mr Gordon Burd

Miss Frances Steele

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Some of us can still remember a time before our lives were controlled by mobile phones, HD TVs, iPads, and home PCs. We reminisce that those days were so much more simple and uncomplicated. The days of the radiogram, the gramophone, the fountain pen, and the monogrammed stationery.

There was a time, not so long ago, when we would pop around to a neighbour's for a chat, or we would gather the family together for a board game, or, back in the day, we would feed laundry through a mangle, and wash up dishes by hand, in the sink!

"They" call it progress— whoever "they" are. I guess it is a progression of discovery and invention to make our lives more organized. Has it succeeded? Are we happier? Do we have more time on our hands? Are we spending more quality time with our families, and those we love?

On a recent foreign holiday, we attended a city Church with our hosts. I say "Church" - but it was like no other Church I've seen. Everything was computerized. There were CCTV monitors everywhere. The worship was presented with motion pictures and artwork behind a five-piece band. Even the notices were displayed in animated

slip!

Now, don't get me wrong, they were a sincere and genuine Christian community, who were reaching their locality with the Gospel, and with great results. But, how did Jesus ever manage to get His message across on the "Sermon on the Mount".

Matthew 5 v 1 "When Jesus saw the crowds, He climbed a hill, sat down, and started teaching them". What, no singing? No comfy seats? No hi-tech amplification system? Surely some collection plates?

How often do we say that sharing our faith with others is too

difficult? Or maybe we feel we need to work out a strategy, form a committee, book a big-name preacher, and tag on refreshments.

All God requires of us is a desire to

From the Secretary's Minutes...

This year has mainly been dominated by the transference of our accounts onto computerized spreadsheets, with the kind assistance of Kevin Cook. His previous experience in such systems has been a blessing.

Also this year, we have set up our own ECF "Umbrella Ministries" website. Brenda Thomas has been taking a course with Apple Mac, and has been able to produce a clear and punchy website of various pages signposting surfers to applicable information.

mation.

The ECF has taken on the responsibility for a Mobile Baptistery, given in memory of our departed brother, Alan Charters. May this be a blessing to many.

All our services and social functions are now available to view on-line. This past year we have enjoyed all our regular activities—Vicar's Tea Party, Harvest Supper, Fellowship Christmas Dinner (at Fingle Glen Country Club), and various Songs of Praise evenings.

Special thanks to Pam Beale,

who has quietly, behind the scenes, made sure we all receive a card on our birthdays. Thanks, too, to Ben Cook who is now taking over as birthday monitor.

We look forward to our Fellowship House-Party at Brunel Manor in October, and our Christmas Dinner at The Devonshire Dumpling, in December.

We await God's blessings in this year to come. Janet

What's That Red Light For?

As with any vehicle which has been used to ferry passengers around for charity, our newly acquired mini-coach was not without a few teething problems, as far as wear & tear is concerned.

Our main priority was to make sure that we had a safe and reliable vehicle which we could utilize within our Fellowship community, and which we could feel confident to recommend to other groups and organizations.

"What's that red light on the dashboard for?" is a question often asked by borrowers of the bus. To be honest, it had us worried when we first drove it down from Kidderminster. Was it the oil? Was it an electrical fault? Should we just stick some masking tape over it! Then it would click



off! It was the light which signifies that the pneumatic pump was raising the vehicle. Like an arthritic getting up out of an armchair, the mini-coach slowly rises up to reveal the rear wheels, and after about

5 minutes, it's set to go!

So, we live with the red light—now we know what it's for. And many borrowers over the past 12 months have given nothing but positive feedback.

We have recently gone very "21st Century", and can now be found on our own Web-site. The mini-coach has its own page with details of costs. See more about our [www dot just below](http://www.ecfministries.co.uk), with information about all the other pages you can find, plus our new Email address.

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ECF "Umbrella Ministries" - On-Line

- Having just written the Flock News front page, I now have to admit that, even if we don't want to conform, the internet is a necessary means of communication in this day and age of "instant access". Our Treasurer, Brenda Thomas, has become a bit of a whiz-kid, "Silver Surfer", and has put her abilities to good use by setting up our own ECF "Umbrella Ministries" web-site. She has done a wonderful job, and many visitors to the site have commented on how clear and succinct and easy to understand, it is.
- For those who are computer literate, and have internet access, log onto www.ecfministries.co.uk and enter the Home Page.
- You will then have a choice of the other pages available to you.
- Our designated Email address, to be used for Fellowship correspondence is: exeterchristianfellows@gmail.com.

Page 1 - Home Page

Page 2 - Good Shepherd Fellowship, Exeter

Page 3 - St Michael's Fellowship, Paignton

Page 4 - Minibus ("borrowing" details)

Page 5 - The "**Alan Charters**" Memorial
Mobile Baptistry

Page 6 - Flock News (edited edition)

Page 7 - Events Diary (Fellowship activities)

Page 8 - Holiday Cottage to Let (mid-Wales)

I DON'T LIKE CHANGE!

For some of you reading this, it might as well be in a foreign language. "I don't even have a computer!" you may say. Well think of the website as a bill-board or advertising hoarding. Except, instead of being discarded like a newspaper, it is always available and accessible, and always up-to-date (thanks to Brenda).

You may never use it, but you may know of others who could benefit. We all have friends, family or acquaintances who may need to hire a minibus, find a Church, make friends through

Church activities, or relax in Wales. It's all there at the click of a mouse. Next time you're visiting your family, get them to log-on, for you.

Like it or loathe it, the world around us is changing, and at a mind-blowing pace. What was the latest gadget last year, is now fit only for the museum!

Hebrews 13 v 8 "Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever"

Change can often cause insecurity, wariness, and confusion. We feel like we're left behind

with the technology of the 21st century dictating so many areas of our life.

It is a wonderful promise to cling to, that in all the whirl of "progress", good and bad, "I, the Lord, do not change!" **Malachi 3 v 6**.

We can't depend on much these days, but we are assured that God never changes in a world of change, and God promises, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." **Deuteronomy 31 v 6**

Message from the Chairman

"Suddenly from heaven, there came a sound like a rush of violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting." **Acts 2 v 2**. Just imagine if that happened today—someone would shout, "Shut that door!"

This past year there have been many strong winds; more often from politicians. But hardly a breeze from the Christian community, while our Faith is being attacked and the Bible is being diluted.

In the era of the great sailing ships, they would often stand idle waiting for the gust of wind. The tide was right; the sails unfurled; the crew ready. And then—come the wind, and they set sail. If not prepared, the wind would have gone to waste.

The Holy Spirit is often compared to a mighty, rushing wind—without His power, we can do nothing. But He can only move if we are ready to receive Him.

The benefits of Wind Farms have been extolled to us in the media, only now to realize they're not as efficient as first thought. But the Holy Spirit, represented by a mighty wind, brings dynamic power to those ready to receive; without which, we are powerless.

Do we sometimes feel powerless to do or say what we ought? Have you ever prayed, asking God for His Holy Spirit's power.

Temptations to sin are difficult to resist. Why? Because we lack the

strength of will. Then, my friends, pray for His power to aid you.

Without the Holy Spirit we will never bear the fruits listed by Paul in **Galatians 5 v 22-26**. We'll be like the becalmed ships—never getting anywhere. By prayerful submission to His Spirit, we can harness the wind of God to be more Christ-like.

A while ago we trusted God as we were blown across the road to our new "home". Perhaps, now, after nine years together, we should seek Him anew to waft the winds of His Spirit upon us, that we may more productively witness for Him as His "Happy Band of Pilgrims". *With every blessing for the coming year*

Adrian

The Combined Fellowship...continued

To keep up the momentum of the Combined Fellowship House-Party, in autumn '10 we all gathered together in the picturesque Devon town of Chagford, on the edge of Dartmoor, for an Away-Day hosted by our friends at the Chagford Evangelical Church (home Church of Danny & Pat Chipps). A great day of renewing of friendships from the House-Party was had as folk from Honiton Baptist Church, Good Shepherd Fellowship, and

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

Chagford spent the day together. We had some times of Praise and community singing in the Chapel, we explored the

Party.

The day was a great success. The Baptist

nearby reservoir, and we received both physical and spiritual food from our hosts.

It was agreed that we would have an Away-Day in Honiton, on Sunday 26th June '11. This was to be a final opportunity to encourage folk to join us, once again, at Brunel Manor this autumn for our Combined Fellowship House-

Arrivals & Departures

As is the cycle of life, so we as a Fellowship have had our fair share of folk setting off from the "Departure Platform" of life.

This past year, however, we have only had to attend the Crematorium on the one occasion— for the passing of our friend and neighbour, Max Carrolle. Two years before, we had laid his dear wife, Rose, to rest, just months after they had both renewed their Marriage Vows before the congregation. Max had been regressing both physically and mentally, ever since, and after a long stay in hospital, he went into The Dales Nursing Home, where he eventually passed away on 18th

March. As a Fellowship, we took on the responsibility for his wishes to be honoured (contrary to Guinness's protests!). We gave him a good send-off. His possessions were "redistributed" to raise funds.

It won't be often that a Fellowship like ours will celebrate a new birth in their midst! But, we now have a new youngest member of the Flock (sorry Adam).

On Thursday 23rd June '11 Kevin & Pauline Cook celebrated the birth of their baby daughter, Chika. It's not been the easiest of pregnancies, plus having to deal with the frailty of Mary Cook who is now totally bed-ridden living in

the same flat.

Our prayers have been with them constantly, and for Ben. We look forward to welcoming Chika officially into our Fold in the next weeks - and then to celebrate her Christening in the autumn, hopefully in Winkleigh Church.

Contacts

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For ECF information
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**EXETER CHRISTIAN
 FELLOWSHIP
 "UMBRELLA MINISTRIES"**

**Serving God in the
 Community**

The St Michael's Fellowship

(St Michael's Ct., Paignton)

We thank God continually for the faithfulness of Dave & Jackie to the St Michael's Fellowship. Many would have thrown in the towel, but they have persevered month by month to make the on-site Chapel available for residents to come along and join in the Christian service. Thanks also to those from the Good Shepherd Fellowship, not least, Frances Steele and Joan Charters for coming down with me to play the organ.

Thanks, too, to Roy Bridle, John Thirkettle and Frances Lambert for joining with us and increasing the congregation.



We pray for Joyce, a very elderly resident at St Michael's Court, who, when she can remember, comes along faithfully. Unfortunately, another stalwart, Rita, has recently moved back up north to be closer to her family since the passing of her husband.

We continue to uphold Jackie in our prayers as the cancer is at present in Remission. May God bless the work of the St Michael's Fellowship. 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 Drive).

Important DATE!



ECF AGM—Sunday 11th September (following Holy Communion service)

Harvest Supper—Saturday 24th September at Winkleigh 1pm

*G S Fellowship Harvest Festival—Sunday 25th September 10-45am in the
 Good Shepherd Drive, Communal Lounge*

St Michael's Fellowship Harvest Festival—Sunday 2nd October 5pm

*E.C. Fellowship Christmas Dinner—Saturday 10th December
 The Devonshire Dumpling—1pm - £15*

*G S Fellowship Candlelight Carols—Sunday 18th December at 10-45am
 in Good Shepherd Drive, Communal Lounge*

*St Michael's Fellowship Candle-light Carols—Sunday 18th 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!

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 we've touched on, a few times in this edition of Flock News, the younger generation are growing up in a world that we can find difficult to relate to. A nine year old child automatically expects that they should be well versed in the use of a PC, a 3D HDTV, a DVD, a smartphone, and maybe a Kindle and iPad as well! These items we consider luxuries, are, to a child, an integral part of their growing up.

God shows us, reveals to us, and teaches us, many things through His Word. We understand some of it, we accept a lot of it by faith, and other things we just haven't got a clue about. But, nevertheless, by His grace, our loving Father allows us to experience Him in ways which we can handle, and are comfortable with. We are His children, and He knows each one of us. Discover something new each day, in your relationship with the Lord.

**"He will teach us His Ways, so that we may better be equipped to walk in His Paths".
 Micah 4 v 2.**

This, my friends, is The Church!