

Glenorchy

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
EXETER ROAD - EXMOUTH

THE REVIEW

September 2023



Sunset over Exeter



ARCADIA GARAGE

EST 1927

**NEW AND NEARLY NEW
CAR SPECIALISTS FOR ALL MAKES**

The Parade, Exmouth, Devon, EX8 1RW
Telephone 01395 272258

**For All Car Sales Contact
TIM KIRK
SALES MANAGER**

**Sales, Service and General
Enquires**

Telephone 01395 272258

www.arcadiagarageexmouth.co.uk
email: kirktimkirk@aol.com



Unit 3, Pound Lane
Exmouth EX8 4NP

Carpets : Vinyls : Wood Floors

**Free Furniture Removal
Free Sample Service
Free Uplift and Disposal**

37

Cover picture: Peter Schaessens: Sunset over Exeter

THE REVIEW

Contents

Worship in September.....	4
Church Directory changes.....	4
Minister's letter.....	5
Prayer-ground at home.....	6
Bible Book Group.....	7
Church family news.....	8
Flowers	9
Harvest Festival.....	9
Coffee morning for shoe boxes.....	9
Annual Gift Day.....	10
Mission Committee.....	11
In memoriam: Bill Elliot, Carol Mortimer,	12
Peter Schaessens.....	14
Puzzle Corner	15
Eco Matters.....	16
Walking Group	17
DHCT.....	17
Church Choir.....	17
Parachute jump.....	18
CREE.....	19
CTE Harvest Supper.....	19
URC Finance letter.....	20
Foodbank.....	22
Table Tennis.....	22
Calendar for September.....	23

Editor's note: The next *Review* will be for October 2023. Items for inclusion need to reach me by 24h September

Thank you.

Editor: sheila@sheilabrain.com



Sunday Worship in September

Sunday 3rd	Revd Janine Atkinson (<i>communion</i>) (+ <i>reception of new member</i>)
Sunday 10th	Revd Michael Diffey
Sunday 17th	Revd Janine Atkinson (<i>followed by Church Meeting</i>)
Sunday 24th	Harvest Festival Revd Janine Atkinson

Church Directory 2023

Please make the following changes/corrections in your copy:

John Greenslade: Tel: 741648

Alex Skinner: Tel: 260311

Brian & Shirley Fisher have moved to:

31 Hometor House, Exeter Road, EX8 1UA

Tel unchanged: 271485 (but still waiting to be re-connected!)

Deletions:

Megan Jones and **Edith Walsh** have both moved away, to be nearer to family.

Peter Schaessens following his death

If there are any further corrections or changes please let Sheila know so that they can be included in future issues.

Our church motto:

“Within these walls let no-one be a stranger”

From the minister...

Dear Friends

Moses saw that, although the bush was on fire, it did not burn up. So Moses thought, 'I will go over and see this strange sight – why the bush does not burn up.' (*Exodus 3: 2b – 3*).



Moses was curious. They say that curiosity killed the cat, but in fact, curiosity can lead us on adventures of learning and experience. Curiosity is inquisitiveness which can help us grow wiser.

Children are curious; they are inquisitive, and Jesus told us that if we want to enter the kingdom of heaven we must become like little children. Children are not meek and mild they are curious! Perhaps when Jesus says we should become like children, we should copy them by being inquisitive like them, ask questions about faith and life, as they do. Perhaps he welcomed their imaginativeness, their ability to learn new things, hour after hour, day after day.

Of course, curiosity can take us out of our comfort zone, as it did Moses. But, looked at another way, it can stretch us, challenge us and equip us with insights that will build our understanding and prepare us for future times.

The people of God are called to be curious. We are called to be inquisitive, to investigate, to develop a spirit of inquiry, to see how we can shed Jesus' true light and love onto the things we see, hear and experience.

We are called to be curious about Scripture, to investigate God's Word in our Scriptures, to listen and look out for what God is saying to us through its chapters and verses, to read with a curious and inquisitive disposition, to investigate, to discuss and to share. So, don't let your God-centred curiosity be likened to another meaning of the word 'curious' - something that's interesting because it's rare and unusual, let a God-centred curiosity be a fruit of the Spirit like love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Rev Janine



PRAY-GROUND AT HOME

Mini Prayer Labyrinth

You will need:- The image opposite!

Instructions:-

A prayer labyrinth path can help us to be still and peaceful whatever else is going on.

So, sit comfortably, be still and gently pray:

I place myself in your presence, O Lord, my God.

Place your finger at the entrance and slowly trace the path to the centre. As you do it let your thoughts wander, or think about those you love, or be thankful for good things in your life.

In the middle, pause for a moment consider your thoughts; stay there a while; then gently trace the path back out again.

If you want to you can talk with others about what you've been thinking about or who you have been remembering as you made your 'walk'.



Pray

Thank you, Lord God,
that you are with me at every end and turn of life
every step of my way through life's journey
in its ordinariness and adventure; its good and its bad. *Amen*

Jesus said "You can be sure that I will be with you always. I will continue with you until the end of time." Matt. 28: 20b

For more Pray Ground Activities, ask Rev Janine for the 'Glenorchy URC Family Pray Ground' Booklet – resources devised for children and their grown-ups

Bible Book Club

The Bible Book Club will resume on
Wednesday 13th September from 2pm to 3.30pm, when we will continue to look at some of Jesus' parables



News of the Church Family

The funeral service for the late Peter Schaessens aged nearly 97 years took place on 15th August. Peter had been much missed in recent years, as he was not able to get to Church due to age and infirmity. He was a keen photographer and took wonderful views of the sunset across the estuary from his garden in Lympstone (*see example on front cover*).

Several members are unwell at the moment. Geoff Wilcox spent nearly two weeks in hospital and David Lee is currently very poorly in Wonford. Others are housebound due to age, health or infirmity. Please remember them in your prayers.

On a more positive note: we look forward to receiving **Mike Atkinson** into membership on 3rd September.



We wish Brian and Shirley Fisher every happiness in their new home at Hometor House (*see p4 - changes to Directory*)

Message from Pam Diffey

Thank you to everyone who has sent cards and messages wishing me well. I feel very blessed to have such a caring church family . I am making a good recovery but I am very aware that it is going to be a slow one . I look forward to the time when I can worship with you again.

Love and congratulations to all who celebrate an anniversary or birthday in September.



Flowers in Church

2nd—9th July: Grateful thanks to Eileen Veale who donated the flowers in loving memory of her husband, Eric, and to Jean who arranged them.

23rd July: Thanks to Jenny who arranged the flowers on behalf of the Schaessens family.

13th August: Thanks to Jean for arranging them on behalf of Christine Stredwick.

Lyn Bellamy



Harvest Festival and Gift Day 23rd—24th September

We will be decorating the church for Harvest on
Saturday 23rd September from 10.00am

Please bring contributions of tins, jars, packets, fruit juice, etc, along with fresh produce for the display. Help with arranging the display will be much appreciated. If you wish to give donations towards the cost of produce and flowers, this will also be welcome - please speak to Lyn.

Following the Service, gifts of food will be taken to the Food Bank, and flowers to the housebound.

Coffee Morning Saturday 9th September



Please come and support this fund-raising effort to raise money to buy items for the Christmas shoe boxes for babies and children in Moldova and Ukraine. There is a box in the vestibule for donations of bric-a-brac, and donations of cakes will be welcome on the day from 9am.

*If you can't come on the day but would like to make a monetary donation or to buy something for a box, please speak to **Sheila Johnstone**.*

Annual Gift Day September 23rd/24th



At Harvest time we celebrate and remember all that God has done for us. So it is our custom to hold our Annual Gift Day at this time, in thanksgiving for the love we receive from God and from each other in fellowship, and to support the work of the church. The reality is that our regular giving falls well short of the full amount needed to maintain our buildings, which includes repairs and running costs, along with our contribution to the United Reformed Church through the Ministry and Mission Fund (*see p 20/21*)

Sadly, during the past two years we have lost several generous members/adherents through death, or by moving to other areas or to other churches. And like everyone else, we also have increased costs for fuel and other items, together with several large bills for repairs. This means that our current monthly expenditure is a lot more than our monthly income. During this year we have relied on our HMRC tax refund and a generous legacy, without which we would be seriously spending beyond our means.

So we are inviting you to call in at the church on Saturday 23rd September to view the Harvest Display and bring an extra gift of money for the ongoing work of the church—or bring it on Sunday to place in the collection. Please put it in an envelope clearly marked “Gift Day”. Gifts can be by cheque or in cash. Or it can be delivered directly to our Treasurer, Jean Curl at her home. Or you can pay by BACS transfer to the bank—but please let Jean know that you have done so. Thank you!

Mission Committee update:

A couple of fund-raising activities over the summer:
Keith and Anne Empson kindly held an 'open afternoon' at their home in July which raised £165.

And Christine Stredwick raised over £2,200 with her parachute jump on August 9; this will be divided between Rehoboth and Hospiscare, both supported by the Mission Committee. Many thanks for both these splendid efforts.

Our autumn Mission Sunday will be on October 22 when we shall learn more about 'Smile Train', the organisation which deals with people here and around the world born with cleft palates.

Please bring your Mission box (or its contents in a bag) on that Sunday. We appreciate that less cash is being used now, but it is still legal tender (!) so do set aside your 'loose change'.

If you have not got a box at home, please take one from the vestibule; it is a simple way to give your spare coins to some very worthwhile good causes.

Peter Brain



Please note the Church bank account details

For either regular Direct Debit payments or for one-off gifts

Account name: Glenorchy URC

Sort code: 52-10-26 account no: 12052671

In Memoriam

We have lost several members through death this year and we remember them with thanksgiving.

Bill Elliot

Bill was a beloved husband to Sheila for 32 years, and a caring father to Ian and Duncan and step-children Liz and Margaret, as well as a loving grandad to his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He is much missed.

He was also a talented wordsmith and musician and left a remarkable legacy, a treasure trove of poetry and lyrics and music through which his memory lives on, leaving happiness in his wake. Sheila says she is blessed by them as she reads his words, through which she can hear his voice speaking again.

As a teacher his talents also included inventing games to help children learn and he was innovative with his use of computers in school as an early exponent of the technology. His son Iain worked with him to create an IT programme, for which they won an award. Iain was so proud of his dad for that.

He was a keen sportsman who had to be persuaded by Sheila to dress in anything other than his tracksuit which he found so comfortable and convenient as a Primary School teacher, specialising in Sports, Maths and History.

Bill was a talented and thoughtful man who enriched the lives of all who knew him.

Carol Mortimer

Born in Plymouth, Carol started work there in an office, where Wendy Marshall also happened to work – they recognised each other years later, here at Glenorchy! In 1981 she moved to Exmouth, and worked in care homes, really loving her work and enjoying good times. Carol and David met and married in 1992 and spent 31 happy years together. She was the love and sunshine of David's life. Martin and Kirsty loved their precious mum, as she loved them, as well as her grandchildren and great grandchildren

Carol would talk to anyone, whether she knew you or not, and for that very reason she often staffed the meet and greet table at our Job Café here at Glenorchy. She had a smile that lit up a room and a twinkle in her eye. Always upbeat, Carol would say 'Never mind, there's always tomorrow' if today hadn't been good. Carol was always up for a trip out for tea and cake, which she loved, especially to the Donkey Sanctuary which was her 'happy place'. Kirsty adopted a Donkey called Ruby for Carol as a gift and she loved to pay Ruby a visit.

When Carol moved into a Care Home she settled well and happily popped into people's rooms for a chat. It's possible that she thought she was back at work, the environment would have seemed familiar to her and she liked to help the staff, such as delivering Easter eggs, pushing the laden trolley down corridors as the staff distributed the eggs to residents. Carol was still able to be useful, feeling involved and happy.

Carol's was a life well lived, shedding smiles wherever she went.

Peter Schaessens

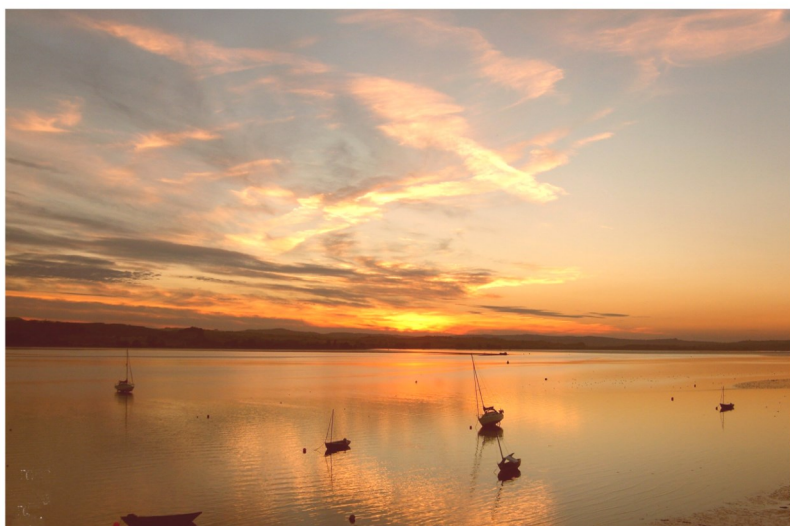
Growing up in south west London, his Belgian father, Valentine and mother Emily instilled values and skills that carried Peter through his life. Peter went to the Naval College in Dartmouth and was commissioned as a junior officer at the end of the war. Having qualified as a civil engineer, his working life encompassed many post war major infrastructure projects, including a large hydroelectric scheme in the Scottish Highlands and as lead engineer on the water intake works of Hinkley Point B nuclear power station.

It was through his future wife, Shirley, that he discovered the world of music. Shirley sang in a choir and Peter much enjoyed attending their concerts in Exeter and Bath Abbey. Peter and Shirley chose Exmouth to live after having a lovely caravan holiday here. They found the perfect house in Lypstone which enabled them to attend the Northcott Theatre and concerts at Exeter Cathedral. After Shirley died, Peter continued to attend the lunchtime concerts at Glenorchy, which became a major feature of his week. He was also a keen sailor and raced his dinghy at Sevenoaks, later buying a tiny cabin cruiser which he sailed on the Exe. He sailed well into his 70s.

Peter painted and sketched from an early age and had a naturally strong artistic streak. He continued to paint and take striking photos throughout his life. His photography, the Lypstone sailing club, Probus Club and Glenorchy Church kept him busy and gave him a good social life. Peter cared devotedly for Shirley, as she became increasingly ill with dementia, enabling her to remain in the home they loved for as long as absolutely possible.

After her death, Peter did a lot of photography, making a calendar of the many sunsets that he captured so well, which he sold for the benefit of Glenorchy Church.

When his son Bill and his daughter Heather died at relatively young ages, Peter was devastated. As his health deteriorated, carers were brought in, and their diligence, kindness and consideration meant that he was able to stay at home for 6 years longer than would otherwise have been possible.



*Peter
Schaessens:*

*Cross over
the Exe*

Puzzle Corner

Where on earth am I driving?

GBZ; LV; E; N; OM; RO; CH; HR; YV.

July theatres: Globe, Lyceum, Edward, National, Old Vic, Regents Park, Criterion, Haymarket, Young Vic.

August cities with rivers: Gloucester (Severn); Liverpool (Mersey); Ely (Cam); Newcastle (Tyne); Oxford (Isis); Ripon (Ure); Chester (Dee); Hereford (Wye); York (Ouse).



Eco Matters

A Dilemma

I wonder how many citizens think that global warming is serious enough for them to take any action at all. We've seen climate change activists on the News protesting against the continued use of fossil fuels by blocking highways. They feel they need to do this to get public attention. The Government has brought in legislation so that those who block roads face prosecution – and this appears to have large public support. Most people see blocked roads, but not global warming, as the threat to their way of life. The protesters are much in the minority. We still love using our “gas guzzling” cars and living in cosy homes.

The Government has just granted about 100 licences for gas and oil exploration - a prelude to more production. It is also encouraging the continued use of a number of coal mines.

At the same time it is requiring some gas fired power stations to fit expensive “carbon capture technology” to remove carbon dioxide from the gases they discharge to the air, in order to lock it up underground.

These seemingly contradictory actions are justified as “protecting the Economy” (which could be read as “protecting our settled way of life”) while trying to reduce our impact on the climate. It seems almost absurd – though, without more engagement of citizens with the issue of global warming, politicians will not be persuaded into more effective action.

Should we be facing up to the need for greater change or is it alright to “carry on as we are” ?

Peter Johnstone

Walking Group
Friday 8th September

Woodland Walk (third time lucky?)



Meet at 10am at the end of Castle Lane just before the Salterton Road almost opposite the recycling centre. There is ample room to park on the lane. Most of the walk is on tracks through the woods so good shoes and possibly walking poles are recommended.

Hope to see you there.

Contact **Peter Street** (266005) or **Bob Austen** (269942)

Devon Historic Churches Trust
Saturday 9th September

This is the annual fund-raising day for the Charity, which makes grants to local churches when repairs are needed.

I am seeking sponsorship to stay in the Church building from 9am-1pm to welcome any visitors. Half the money I collect will be received back to the Church. Sponsor form on the noticeboard and in the Church entrance. **Jenny Newman**

*Come and support the coffee morning that day - see p 9.
There will be a range of stalls, including cakes and "Cookie's Corner" with jams and marmalade.*

Church Choir

There will be choir practices at 3.30 p.m. on **Fridays 8th, 15th and 22nd September**. This is to prepare for Harvest Sunday 24th September. Please come and join us if you enjoy singing.



Peter Johnstone

Mission accomplished!

Christine Stredwick reports on her parachute jump



After a cloudy start, the day was fine, so the jump was on. After dressing in a vivid black and yellow all-in-one, we ascended to 15,000 ft, during which my parachutist attached himself to my straps. Five free fallers jumped, then it was my turn. I admit I was scared. However, I was edged to the door by Lex, to whom I was well strapped, and out we fell. Falling through the air it's hard to realise one is falling at 120mph! After about 1 minute there is a slight jerk and the parachute opens. The beauty of the world around can be appreciated, Dartmoor in the distance, Honiton and villages around, with various coloured fields. The motorway looks almost pretty—a small brown path with coloured dots moving along it. That was it! Everyone's generosity has been extraordinary. I am completely overwhelmed. Money is still being collected but at the moment it is over £2,000. My very grateful thanks to you all for such strong support and interest.





Christian Response to Eastern Europe

The Warehouse will be open on Wednesday 6th September and 10am-3pm and on Saturday 16th September 10am-1pm. I can pick up donations on Tuesday 5th after 4.30pm and on Friday 15th from 3pm onwards. All your donations of good quality clothing and bedding is much appreciated. Copies of the latest newsletter will be available shortly. Ordinary and large print version will be available.



URC Finance Department
Ministry And Mission Fund
Annual Letter To Local Churches

Dear Friends,

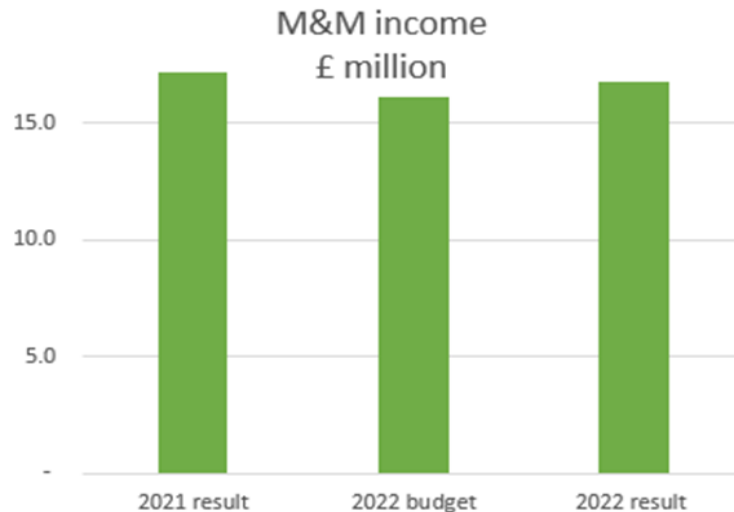
When will normal service be resumed?

As we are writing this letter and closing off the URC's accounts for 2022, the country is still torn with industrial disputes, mostly notably with Health Service workers, rail industry workers, teachers etc. etc. Whatever your view as to the wisdom or justice of such action, we suspect all of us are affected by the disruption to some degree.

In church life too, are we back to "normal life"? Some churches no doubt have returned to something like their pre-Covid level of activity and attendance numbers. Quite a few have recommenced their activity but find their numbers have reduced. Some churches have found re-opening too difficult and have decided to close. Whatever the "new normal" was to be, we suggest its arrival has (like many trains) been disrupted, delayed, or cancelled all together.

The URC's finance officers had concerns that the late arrival of the return to normality would impact very significantly on the giving to the M&M Fund in 2022. However, the churches responded magnificently and the giving to M&M was £600,000 ahead of budget. It was also only 2.5% down on 2021's result.

So, thank you to all who continued to contribute to your local church, thank you to all those churches who met their commitment for 2022 in full, and thank you to all those who, in adversity, continued to treat the M&M Fund as the first priority and paid what they could.



With normal service not yet resumed, 2023 is not going to be an easy year either. We now have the added disruption of high inflation, pushing up wages and overhead costs. As the Spirit directs and as our means allow, can the churches once more respond to the call of our gracious, loving and ever-generous God? Again, thank you all!

Yours in Christ,

Ian Hardie (Immediate Past Treasurer)

Vaughan Griffiths (Deputy Treasurer)

What is the Ministry & Mission Fund?

The bottom line is that the M&M provides ministry for the church, as the name suggests. By paying our contribution into the common fund, it means that ministers can be paid centrally, without individual churches having to worry about whether they can afford a minister. It also covers all kinds of other support costs and mission projects. That is why it continues to be the main priority for churches and the first call on our financial resources.



We have received this request from the Foodbank



Harvest Festival is approaching and if you are kind enough to be planning to donate to the Exmouth Food Bank this autumn, please could you focus your contribution on the following items:

- ◆ Tins of soup
- ◆ Tinned tomatoes
- ◆ Tinned baked beans and spaghetti
- ◆ Tinned meat meals such as stews, meatballs or curry
- ◆ Tinned cold meats such as ham, chicken or corned beef
- ◆ Tinned tuna
- ◆ Tinned fruit, rice pudding or custard
- ◆ Bottles of squash
- ◆ Treats such as chocolate, crisps and sweets

Thank you so much for your generosity

Table Tennis Club Mark 2.0

It's been brought to our attention that there's some interest in restarting a Table Tennis Club

If you are interested, a few folk will be at Glenorchy on **Friday 15th September at 6pm** to knock a Table Tennis ball around.

No experience necessary, just yourself and a bat and ball (if you have them) We'll get some snacks in and maybe some Pizza and think about how we want to proceed from then on

Looking forward to ping and ponging again!

Sarah King and Mike Atkinson



September Calendar

Saturday 2nd

10am Coffee Morning

Sunday 3rd

10.30am Family Service
with Holy Communion
Revd Janine Atkinson

Tuesday 5th

2.00pm Elders Meeting

Wednesday 6th

10.00am Art Group

Thursday 7th

9.15am Job Café

Friday 8th

10am Walking Group (see p17)
3.30pm Church choir

Saturday 9th

10am Coffee Morning with stalls
for shoe box appeal (see p9)
Church open for DCHT (see p17)

Sunday 10th

10.30am Family Service
Revd Michael Diffey

Wednesday 13th

10.00am Art Group
2.00pm Bible Book Group

Thursday 14th

9.15am Job Café

Friday 15th

3.30pm Church choir
6.00pm Table Tennis

Saturday 16th

10am Coffee Morning

Sunday 17th

10.30am Family Service
Revd Janine Atkinson
11.30am Church Meeting

Wednesday 20th

10.00am Art Group

Thursday 21st

9.15am Job Café

Friday 22nd

3.30pm Church choir

Saturday 23rd

10am Coffee Morning
Gift Day
Decorate Church for Harvest

Sunday 24th

10.30am Harvest Thanksgiving
Revd Janine Atkinson

Tuesday 26th

2.00pm Craft Group

Wednesday 27th

10.00am Art Group

Thursday 28th

9.15am Job Café

Saturday 30th

10am Coffee Morning

Sunday 1st October

10.30am Family Service
with Holy Communion
Revd Janine Atkinson
6.00pm Ecumenical Bring &
Share Harvest Supper

Glenorchy United Reformed Church

Minister

Revd Janine Atkinson
24 Halsdon Avenue
Exmouth
EX8 3DL

Tel: **07549 162 015**

minister.glenorchyurc@gmail.com

Church Secretary:

Mrs Jenny Newman BEM
6 Adelaide Court
Louisa Place
Exmouth EX8 2AL

Tel: 01395 275457

jhnewman1943@gmail.com

Review Magazine:

Mrs Sheila Brain
42 Lovelace Crescent
Exmouth EX8 3PR
Tel: 01395 279937

sheila@sheilabrain.com

Church Website:

www.glenorchychurch.org.uk

Contact: info@glenorchychurch.org.uk