

**Minister: Rev. Glen Graham 01884 34077 Church Secretary: Marilyn Bidmead 07749 086976**

**Hello and welcome to our magazine. I hope you find something of interest in this issue?**

I take my birthday very seriously. I know what you are thinking? It is the presents he enjoys. Well you would be wrong. The only thing I insist on is a cake.

Three things stand out to me on my birthday.

First, I am always struck by the good wishes of so many people, many of whom pray for me on that day.

Second, it is a chance to be thankful for the year that has just passed and to look forward to the adventure that lies ahead in the year to come.

Finally, I am thankful for God giving me the gift of life.

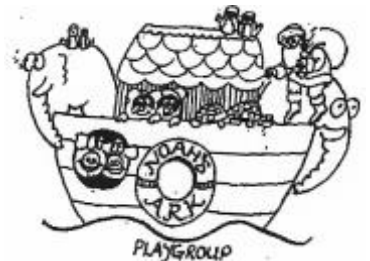
On 15<sup>th</sup> May we are celebrating two birthdays. The first is of our own fellowship which is 316 years old this year. God has been faithful to us in good times and bad. We live in challenging times in our nation: economically, socially and spiritually. The world is changing at a fast pace and we have to find ways of communicating the timeless Gospel in to the world as it is in 2016. The wonderful thing is that God has brought us through challenging times before. So if we are prepared to hear his voice and do as he says, we can weather any storm as Jesus is our anchor. Noel Morgan will be visiting is to lead our day so I hope as many of you as possible will come along and help celebrate.

It is also the birthday of the universal Church as it is the Festival of Pentecost. On this day we remember how the Holy Spirit came down on timid uncertain disciples as they were praying. They know they had a job to do in making Jesus known to their world, but did not know how to do it? They felt helpless and powerless as they looked at the task before them. As the Spirit fell, they were given the same power that raised Jesus from the dead so they were able to speak boldly, powerfully and wisely to the crowd—which had formed representing many nations. The message was clear and direct, they had to come to know Jesus for themselves and were invited to be part of God's new community who were going to turn the world upside down. This is the same invitation each one of us has received. Church has been given enough power to change the world although we may not realise it. All we need to do is ask and receive the power and gifts the Lord wants to give us as we step out in faith to make him known.

So happy birthday Cullompton Baptist Church, and may we know God's richest blessings and guidance for many generations to come. For that to happen we need to: act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God.

Yours in Christ.

**Glen and Rowan Graham.**



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The theme for the children attending Noah's Ark this term is Growing and some exciting things are happening in the garden at the back of the church to help the children learn about growing things. Firstly there is a small area for making mud pies which the children all love! But there are also herbs that the children can pick and taste and the plan is to add more herbs and also some vegetables. The garden is looking very tidy with all the work the staff has been doing to prepare for the new learning experiences for the children. I would encourage you to go out and look at what is being done for this important community group that use our church premises.

Marilyn

### **'Trip to India' evening**

Thank you to all who came and weren't put off by curry! It was mild, as I said. I didn't realise so many people liked rice pudding—sorry it ran out. I'll do better next time.

Freda

### **Homes and Gardens**

I know we don't start until July, but I wondered if anyone has any idea for the summer. Is it time for a change and if you have any ideas for something different it would be helpful? We like to get together

and the amount of money raised helps with our give for Home Mission. Please pass on your ideas to me.

Freda.

DOCTORS MAY BE ON STRIKE—  
BUT WHAT IF GOD DID?

*It's such a good thing God above  
Has never gone on strike.  
Because He wasn't treated fair  
For things He didn't like.  
If He had ever once sat down  
And said: "That's it—I'm  
through,  
I've had enough of those on earth  
So this is what I'll do.  
I'll give my orders to the sun,  
'Cut off you heat supply'*

*And to the moon 'give no more  
light'*

*And run the ocean dry  
Then just to make things really  
tough  
And put the pressure on  
I'll turn off air and oxygen  
Till every breath is gone."  
Do you know He would be justified,  
If fairness was the game,  
For no one has been more abused  
Or made to bear the blame  
Than God. And yet He carries on,*

*Supplying you and me  
With all the favours of His grace  
And everything for free;  
Men say they want a better deal  
And so on strike they go,  
But what a deal we've given to God  
For everything we owe!  
We don't care whom we hurt or  
harm  
To gain the things we like  
But what a mess we'd all be in  
If God should go on strike!*

Two dates for your diary in May. On Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> we will welcome all of you to Sunnymead for a garden day. Plants will be on sale, and tea & coffee will be available all day from about 10-ish. There's no admission charge, but money received for plants bought will be for the Home Mission fund. The garden is of the Topsy variety (it just grew!) but if you see something you would like to try I'll have a trowel handy and there will be no charge! The plants that I have bought and grown on will be 25 p each. Please come—and bring a friend if you wish—you don't have to be a gardener or indeed even own a garden to enjoy a cup of tea & a chat, so put the date in your diary.

The second event is the CLIC-Sergeant walk which supports families whom are experiencing Cancer or Leukaemia in Childhood. I will be walking 10 km along the canal from Tiverton to Sampford Peverel and I would like as many of you who feel able to sponsor me whatever you can. I usually raise about £ 150 for this very important local charity. I will have my sponsor form at church on Sun. 8<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>, and on the garden day. By the way, some of you may not know where Sunnymead is! Do you know where Aldi is? Well, don't turn in their front gate this time! Come past their way in and along until the road turns sharply left, and then turn right, through the gateway (you'll see the name up on the hanging wall). We are right on the bend but (whatever you may have heard to the contrary) not round the bend, or at least we like to think not. Hope to see YOU on May 11<sup>th</sup>.



## Meeting

## **Church Diary Welcome!**

You are welcome to join in any of our activities. Newcomers to the town and holiday visitors are particularly welcome.

### SUNDAY WORSHIP

Services are at 10.30 on a Sunday morning. Evening services are held in the schoolroom at 6.30 pm on the first Sunday of each month. We have a regular Morning Sunday School. Children take part in the 10.30 service before going to their own activity. Please join us after the service for coffee in the Hall.

3<sup>rd</sup> Sat  
of month

1 <sup>st</sup>	am	Rev. Glen Graham	
	pm	<i>Evening service</i>	
8 <sup>th</sup>	am	Rev. Glen Graham	
15 <sup>th</sup>	am	Prof. Noel Morgan— <i>Communion</i> <i>Church Anniversary</i>	
22 <sup>nd</sup>	am	Rev. Glen Graham, Children's talk— Phillip Thompson	
29 <sup>th</sup>	am	Rev. Glen Graham	

Last Fri  
of month

2<sup>nd</sup> Fri  
of month

### Church

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> May 7.30 pm

2<sup>nd</sup> Sat  
of month

**House Group**

Mondays, 10.30 am - 12 noon,  
venues will be announced.

Tuesdays, 7.00 pm,  
at 23 Pear Drive Willand.

**Prayer Meeting**

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May,  
9.30 in vestry.

**Meeting Point  
Coffee Morning**

Fridays 10 to 11.30 am  
in schoolroom. (No coffee  
morning on Good Friday.)  
Pastor Glen will be there to  
listen, advise or discuss any  
problem privately during  
coffee time.

**Computer  
Drop in**

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May during coffee  
morning. For help or advice.  
Bring your laptop or tablet.

**Lunch Club**

12.30 pm Friday 13<sup>th</sup> May  
Book with Joan 32443.  
£ 5 charge to help to purchase  
a new oven/hob.

**Fairtrade**

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May in  
schoolroom, morning.