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

### Joy.

I suspect that Joy is the most misunderstood of all the fruit of the Holy Spirit. We may think that Joy is a feeling of ecstasy or happiness but is that really what it is?

As I read the Bible, I have come to the conclusion that Joy is an inner confidence, a calm serenity or deep strength. Nehemiah states that: “*The joy of the Lord is our strength.*” The writer to the Hebrews when talking of Jesus said that “*Jesus’ joy was to endure the pain and shame of the cross on our behalf.*” There is nothing happy about that. What the writer is saying is that the desire to unite us with God was the strength Jesus needed to get him through the one thing that was needed to enable that to happen.

Jesus’ example offers us hope. When things get tough we can still have Joy. Joy is not dependent on our mood but is the confidence and calmness that comes from gaining our strength from God and not from other means. It is also wonderful to know that God is the one to develop this fruit in us. There is nothing we can do, he enables the fruit to grow.

The day of ultimate Joy is Easter Sunday. The disciples thought that their hopes and dreams had been shattered for good. When they met the risen Jesus however, they knew that whatever happened next to them, there was hope, power and strength available to them to help them. As you celebrate Easter this year, may you know the same strength and power flowing into your lives.

We would love to see you at one of our services during this Easter period. You will find details of these elsewhere in the magazine.

May the Risen Lord inspire you to love and serve him as you live your lives in the world.

Yours in Christ.

### **Glen and Rowan Graham.**

The beauty of getting older is the surprise of what you can do to make the world a better place with the wisdom you have acquired.

We have had two 80<sup>th</sup> birthdays in our fellowship recently but this is for us all.

*Five Little Pebbles, by S.J.B. Carter.  
(1 Samuel 17.v.40)*

*Five little pebbles lay in a brook;  
Five little pebbles hid in a nook.  
“What are we good for?” one said to the other,  
“Little or nothing I’m thinking, my brother.”  
Wearing away, day after day,  
It seemed that for ever those pebbles might stay.*

*If they were flowers ever so gay  
Doubtless someone would take them away.  
Or if they were big stones that someone could use,  
Perhaps then some builder those stones would choose.  
Wait, little pebbles rounded and clean  
Long in your loneliness lying unseen,  
God has a future waiting for you—*

*Five little pebbles sturdy and true.*

*Five little pebbles hid in a brook,  
David came down and gave them a look.  
Picked them up carefully out of the sand.  
Five little pebbles,—great in his hand.  
Hark, there is shouting, there’s fighting today  
Boldly those pebbles are borne to the fray.  
One of them chosen and put in a sling—  
Could we have thought that a stone could thus wing?*

*Onward it sped with a might not its own.  
Onward it sped by the shepherd boy thrown.  
Swift as an arrow, straight as a dart.  
For the whole nation that stone played its part.  
Striking the giant’s great terrible head.  
Slaying him low—a mighty man dead.*

*Five little pebbles lay in a brook  
Mentioned with honour in God’s Holy Book.  
Be thou a pebble contented and low,  
Ever kept clean by His mercy’s pure flow.  
Hidden and ready till Jesus shall look*

**Homes and Gardens**

I know it is a long way away, but I would like some comments. Do we continue with it and which day is best suited?

Please give me some help!

Freda

**Cuban evening.**

We hope you enjoyed the evening. We made £ 90 for Tools with a Mission from your kind donation. The money will go to provide school packs for children in D.R. Congo. T.W.A.M. hope to send out 800 scholar packs in 2017. What excitement there must be when the children are presented with a pack. Thank you again for your support.

Freda and Norman

It was a joy to join in the 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations at Rehoboth at the end of October. A group of 12 from the U.K. were there with a great many others at the celebration event and over the weekend. The staff, youngsters and members of the R.C.H.I. Board all took part. Also present were the Mayor, representatives of Tarlac Agricultural University and members of the local community who support Rehoboth, together with a number of previous residents, some with their families. It was also very special to have lunch on the Sunday after church with many of the alumni and to hear their stories.

Philip Thompson (chair of R.C.H.T.)



Rehoboth Spring Newsletter 2017

**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. 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.

April		
2 <sup>nd</sup>	am	Rev. Glen Graham
9 <sup>th</sup>	am	Rev. Glen Graham
16 <sup>th</sup>	am	Rev. Glen Graham— <i>Communion</i>
23 <sup>rd</sup>	am	Dr. Adrian Bailey
30 <sup>th</sup>	am	Ray Ursell
May		
7 <sup>th</sup>	am	Rev. Glen Graham
14 <sup>th</sup>	am	Rev. Glen Graham
21 <sup>st</sup>	am	Rev. Glen Graham— <i>Communion</i>
28 <sup>th</sup>	am	Rev. Glen Graham

**Cullompton Art House**

Art gallery in the schoolroom 4<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> Apr.; opening hours will be shown outside the church.

**Culm Valley Crusade Choir concert**

7 p.m. Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> April

**House Group**

Mondays, 10.30  
Tuesday, 19.30  
venues to be given on Sunday previous.



**Prayer Meeting**

Sat. 19<sup>th</sup> Apr. and 20<sup>th</sup> May  
9.30 am in vestry.



**Coffee Morning**

Sat. 8<sup>th</sup> Apr. and 12<sup>th</sup> May

**Lunch Club**

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> Apr. and 12<sup>th</sup> May,  
12.30.



**Fairtrade**

Sat. 8<sup>th</sup> Apr. and 12<sup>th</sup> May  
a.m., in schoolroom or outside.

**Beetle Drive**

7-9 p.m. Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April

**Exeter Oddfellows service**

2 p.m. Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March  
followed by refreshments in the schoolroom. All welcome.

**Maundy Thursday Supper**

7 p.m. Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> April

**Fellowship meeting**

7.30 p.m. Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April

**Cullompton Springfest**

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> April. Art display, biscuit decorating and card making. Refreshments available all day.  
Why not pop in?

