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

I want to begin by thanking you all for making our anniversary event so memorable. Jonathan Edwards wrote to me thanking us all for the welcome he received and the way we engaged with what he said.

Jonathan reminded us about how we need to proclaim the Gospel, explain the story of Jesus and be open to being changed by the Holy Spirit. Jesus through his death and resurrection made a way for us to be forgiven from our sins and enjoy life forever with him. This message is the foundation for all we do. But we live in an age when the Church is declining, and it is tempting to lose our faith in what we believe in, or in the power of God to change the situation. It is tempting to adopt the methods of salesmen to stem the decline. At best you may get short term results. At worst you lose all sense of integrity.

Whilst I was preparing for the A.G.M., I was reminded of some values I laid down while I was in Plymouth concerning how I and the Church should conduct ministry today and they will help to build a healthy Church. I think these values are transferable and so I list them below:

1. Reliable, biblical teaching.

Studying the word helps us to know what God wants us to do and how to do it. It lays a strong foundation for life and faith.

2. Renewed by the Spirit.

We need to pray and seek the Spirit's power to achieve anything.

3. Relevant language.

The Gospel and Bible truth never changes, but the language we use to explain it does. People don't know what the Bible teaches anymore so we need to find ways to tell that story in ways people can understand.

4. Relational ethos.

Faith is about our relationship with God. Church life is about love for one another and deep friendships. We need ways to continue to foster this great gift we already have.

5. Finally, Reaching out.

I believe we can no longer expect folks to just come to us. We need to be at work in our communities, getting connected with the life of the town and bringing something of the presence of God to life here.

I intend to expand on these more in a teaching series in the autumn so watch this space.

Here are the dates as I know them for *Homes and Gardens* in aid of 'Home Mission'. You will notice that the dates are more spread out in response to feedback.

23 rd June	—3 p.m. to 5 p.m.	at the home of Laurie and Angie Reed.
18 th July	—3 p.m. to 5 p.m.	at Freda and Norman Wellard's.
1 st August	—3 p.m. to 5 p.m.	at David and Ruth Alder's.
1 st September	—time T.B.A.	at Laurie and Angie Reed's.

There may be a few more but they will be arranged at the Deacons' Meeting on 7th June.

May the Holy Spirit empower you as you seek to serve and follow our Lord.

Glen and Rowan Graham.

Depression

Sometimes words cannot explain the pain of depression. Days of suffering and trying really hard can go by without anyone noticing. The illness is so invisible and complicated and difficult to express only Jesus really knows how it is, and fellow sufferers can know a bit too. Carers get glimpses but must find it so hard to

understand. Yet I believe it is part of God's mysterious purpose. "Out of the ashes of despair grow the roses of success." One day we will see the full picture and it will be glorious.

by Helen Sarran

The next **South West Sacred Harp All-Day Singing** takes place on Saturday 9 June 2018 in Cullompton Baptist Church, 10.30 a.m. - 4.30 p.m. If you are visiting the Fairtrade stall or the Farmers' Market, do drop in and listen to the singing for a while—or stay and join in!

We sing *a capella* from an American hymn book called The Sacred Harp, which is popularly used in the southern States and has now spread to almost every continent. We have been singing in the U.K. since the early 1990s; for many of us, once hooked, there is no escape!

Nor for you! Glen has graciously invited a group of regular Sacred Harp singers, him included, to

sing a song appropriate to the theme of the day on the Sunday morning as part of the service.

For more details contact Steve Fletcher & Martin Williams on 01884 563138.



JOIN THE CLUB

*Just a line to say I'm living,
That I'm not amongst the dead
Though I'm getting more forgetful
And mixed up in the head.*

*I've got used to my arthritis
To my dentures I'm resigned
I can cope with my Di-focals
But—ye gods—miss my mind.*



*Sometimes I can't remember
When I'm standing by the stairs,
If I'm going up for something,
Or have just come down from there.*

*And before the fridge so often
My mind is full of doubts;
Now, did I put some food away,
Or come to take some out?*

*If it's not my turn to write dear
I hope you won't get sore.
I may think I have written
And don't want to be a bore.*

*So remember I do love you,
And wished that you lived near
But now it's time to mail this
And say "Goodbye my dear."*

*I'm standing beside the mail box,
And my face—it sure is red.
Instead of posting this to you
I've opened it instead.*

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.

June		
3 rd	am	Rev. Glen Graham
10 th	am	Rev. Glen Graham— <i>Family Service</i>
17 th	am	Rev. Glen Graham— <i>Communion</i>
24 th	am	Rev. Glen Graham
July		
1 st	am	Rev. Glen Graham
8 th	am	Rev. Glen Graham
15 th	am	Rev. Glen Graham— <i>Communion</i>
22 th	am	Rev. Glen Graham
29 th	am	Rev. Glen Graham

House Group

Monday, bi-weekly, to be advised at Sunday services.

Prayer Meeting

Sat. 16th June and 21st July
9.30 am in vestry.

Coffee Mornings

Sat. 9th June and 14th July
10-12 in the schoolroom.

Lunch Club

Friday 1st June and 10th Aug.
12.30 in schoolroom.

Fairtrade

Sat. 9th June and 14th July
a.m., in schoolroom or outside.

Noah's Ark

4th June, 1st day after half term.
Fri. 20th June,
end of Summer term.

Church BBQ

7-9 pm Friday 15th June

Fellowship meeting

Tuesday 26th June 7.30 pm

Deacons meeting

7 pm Thursday 7th June

Shape Note Singing Group

In church,
all day Saturday 9th June

