

NETWORK

Cullompton Baptist Church

February & March 2019

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

Hello, and welcome to our magazine. I hope you find something to encourage and inspire you in this issue?

"I know your deeds, your faith and love, your service and perseverance" (Revelation 2:19).

These words are spoken to a whole church. A church in need of encouragement in a time of trial in the world around them. As I think about this church, I know these words are true of this church too as we seek to serve the community around us in a time of change and uncertainty. As we pray for the future of our nation, the work of making known the love of God through words and deeds must continue if our town and nation is going to experience any hope at all.

The words in this verse certainly apply to our dear friend and sister Gladys Davies. Faith, love, service and perseverance were part of her godly character. I don't think it is going too far to say that Gladys was the nearest thing to a true saint any of us will ever see. As a community, we gather on **Friday 1st February at 4 P.M.** for a memorial service for Gladys. We will remember her life and give testimony to her strong faith. Please tell others who you think may want to come. Following the service, a tea will be served in the school room and all are welcome.

Some other things I need to make you aware of.

On Friday 15th February, we are going to have a film night in the school room. We are hoping to show the critically acclaimed '*The Finest Hour*'. We are also hoping that 'Film Nights' will be a regular event. Please come along at 7 p.m.

Another plan we have is to hold a monthly afternoon tea in the church from April to September. In order for these to work, we need plenty of volunteers to make the food and serve it and clear up. It is hoped to have a number of teams to do this so that it isn't the same folk doing it all the time. Please see Marilyn if you can help.

Finally, 'Christians Together in Cullompton' need your help. On Good Friday (which this year is 19th April), we will hold our Annual Walk of Witness from Tesco's car park to Saint Andrews Church. Our church is on route. The readings this year are going to come from the dramatized Bible so will require a number of readers to read the parts of each reading. If you don't mind reading in public, could you let me know that you would like to take part? It would be good to have a few of our congregation doing the reading outside our church.

May the God of power stimulate your faith, hope and love in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Glen and Rowan Graham.

Step by step

I was born in Cullompton on 29th June 1921. How the years have flown and what a lot has happened since then.

Looking back I can thank God for godly parents. From my earliest days I was taught about God's love, and that he was watching over us. I can still remember the scripture texts on our bedroom wall which we could read every day. Because of being taught in my early days I always felt God was near.

We lived in a little cottage 2½ miles outside of Cullompton. It was a tied cottage, and my father helped on the farm after his work at the Forge, in Middle Mill Lane Cullompton. Wages were very poor so my father worked all the hours he could.

I spent my school days in the old school in Cullompton which I loved and enjoyed. At first my father used to take me on his bicycle to the Forge and Mr. Dreive, who owned the Forge, had a daughter who used to take me to school.

When I was older I walked with other children who lived in the other cottages.

When I was seven my father became very ill. This was in 1929 when it was a very hard Winter, when everything froze and the farmer had a water wheel which worked their electricity. He came down to see if my father could come up and get it working. My father went up and sat on the wheel and chipped off the ice. He

caught a bad chill and went into consumption. He died on 6th June. The farmer took my mother to Exeter hospital the night he died. When she came home in the morning to fetch us from the neighbour who had looked after us, she told us that our dad had gone to be with Jesus. I thought that was lovely, he'll see us grow up.

We had to move from the cottage and my mother managed to get a little cottage in Cullompton. It was then I started going to Sunday School in Oct. 1930. The Rev. Noel Ives was the minister and he had been so good to us and helped mother, and that is how I became a Baptist: my mother was Church of England.

I can remember my Sunday School teachers and how they taught us, showed us that they cared for us and that they loved us. The Church was the centre of our life with Endeavour in the morning and the Girls' Guild in the afternoon, plus the Summer outings and Christmas parties. All those little class rooms upstairs in the Baptist Church were filled. We even had one class in the gallery. There were over 50 children. How things have changed.

In those days I used to think if you believed, you were alright. I also thought you had to be really good to be baptised, and I couldn't live up to it.

In Sept. 1939 when the war started, I was 18 and worked at Fox Brothers factory doing invisible mending. I left school at 14 and had to get a job quickly because the five shillings in mothers widows pension for me was stopped.

On April the first 1942 there was a mission at the Methodist Church in Cullompton to which our Girls' Guild went. I knew that, after hearing the message, and the call to come forward, to those who wished to commit their life to the Lord, that I should go forward.

Then in June 1942 I received my call up papers and went into Exeter for my medical. In November I went to Wrexham to join the A.T.S. and after the basic training of 6 weeks I chose to be a cook.

There is a lot more I could tell; but I have since thought how God guides us, and how I could have got into bad ways in the Forces as I was pretty naive.

After 3½ years I was demobbed and came home, and got a job as housekeeper for a business family.

In 1947 I was baptised when the Rev. G. Sterry was our minister. I never asked to, but two of the Sunday School teachers talked to me, and thought I should. I was very nervous but felt on top of the world afterwards. My mother died in 1951 of Cancer. That really shook me, after all she went through. I went to pieces as I thought it was so unfair. She had worked so hard and did all she could for us. I nearly lost my faith and for 3 years was full of doubts, although I knew I was wrong. Now I can look back and know that God knows best.

Gladys Davies

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.

February

3 rd	am	Rev. Glen Graham
10 th	am	Rev. Glen Graham
17 th	am	Rev. Glen Graham— <i>Communion</i>
24 th	am	Rev. Glen Graham

March

3 rd	am	Rev. Glen Graham
10 th	am	Rev. Glen Graham
17 th	am	T.B.A.— <i>Communion</i>
24 th	am	Rev. Glen Graham
31 st	am	Rev. Glen Graham—(<i>Mothers' Day</i>)

House Group

Every Monday—venue announced in notices previous Sunday.

Prayer Meeting

Sat. 16th Feb. and 16th Mar.
9.30 a.m. in vestry.

A.G.M.

Tue. 26th March 7 p.m.

Deacons' meeting

Wed. 27th February

Funeral of Gladys Davies

Memorial service 4 p.m.
Friday 1st February

Trial Social Film Night

Friday 15th February 7 p.m.
in the schoolroom

Sacred Harp Singing Day

Saturday 2nd February
10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.

3rd Sat
of month