



NETWORK



Cullompton Baptist Church Magazine for July-Aug 2025

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WELCOME & NOTICES

Dear Everyone,

Welcome to the July & August issue of '*The Network*'. So here we are at the mid summer point of 2025.

When it was decided that *The Network* would go monthly, it was also planned that it would take a break in August & January. This is because these months are often the quietest times in the church calendar. As it happens, 'The Way Ahead' group do have the odd thing up their collective sleeves' that will take our church family through the summer. Starting with the '*Braai In July*' on the 19th, please see below for details.

There will be a *Network* in August after all! However, it will just consist of 'Dates for Your Diary', Home Groups & church service details, etc.

Please do watch out for this, as we hope to bring back 'Homes & Gardens'. The plan is to have one or 2 of these in August. However, dates & venues are yet to be decided. All the information you need to know about 'Homes & Gardens' will be in August's *Network*.

'*The Network*' will be back to normal in September, with all the normal features. In the meantime, I hope you enjoy this issue? Please look out for another interesting article submitted by Marilyn. This time on the subject of her role as a *School Pastor*.

I hope you all have a lovely summer? Feel free to share your individual summers with the readers of this magazine.

God Bless

Rowan

IMPORTANT: There has been, for some time, a problem with the Manse's land line. Therefore, if you need to contact Glen, then please ring his mobile telephone number: **07780 700247**. If you can't get hold of him on his mobile & it is urgent, then please ring Rowan's: **07766 313 400**.

Dates For Your Diaries:

Monday, 7th July @ 2:15pm	The Sanctuary	'The Way Ahead' group meeting.
Thursday, 17th July @ 7pm	The School Room	Church Fellowship Meeting (all are welcome)
Saturday, 19th July @ 12pm	The School Room & outside	'Braai In July' (social Event for all)
Thursday, 24th July @ 10:30am	The Manse	Deacons' Meeting

August's Network

The deadline for dates to go in the August 2025 *Network* will be **Monday, 28th July** & the magazine will be released around the 31st July.

September Network

The deadline for articles to be submitted for the September 2025 *Network* is **Monday, 25th August** & it will be released around the 1st September.

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Braai in July

Saturday, the 19th of July 2025

at 12pm

A braai is a South African term that is similar to our barbeques. This is not just a way to cook food but a cultural tradition of getting together with friends and family for quality time together.

Join us for a afternoon of good fellowship and lovely food!



PASTOR'S PONDERING'S

“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall be shown mercy”.

Matthew 5:7

So it is back to the beattitudes, these statements from Jesus’ sermon on Kingdom life.

Mercy has at least two meanings here.

Firstly it has to do with forgiveness. We as the human race have offended God by rebelling against him.

Thanks to God’s mercy, he does not treat us as our sins deserve. He forgives all who earnestly seek him.

This verse is primarily about us, not God. It invites the question how merciful are we? Given that Jesus is our standard here, the honest answer is not as much as we should be. Like the unforgiving servant in the parable, we forget how much grace has been extended to us when we are dealing with other people.

There is a second meaning of mercy which means charity or kindness. We speak of mercy missions when aid is sent to people or countries in need. Any work a Church does for its community can be described as works of mercy.

God comes to our aid through his forgiveness and merciful people.

Heavenly Father. We thank you that you are merciful to us in that you have forgiven us and given us eternal life. We thank you that you use us in acts of mercy towards our friends, families and community. Help us to extend mercy to all we meet. Amen.

I want to draw your attention to two things

After about a six-year break, we are re-introducing our summer fellowship time called *Homes and Gardens*. We visit someone's home and garden either for morning coffee or a light afternoon tea.

There will be two of these we hope, dates and venues to be confirmed so watch out for notices.

Secondly, our harvest celebrations will be on **Sunday, 28th September** with a service followed by lunch.

Offerings will go to operation Agri. Food donations will go to the Cullompton Matters food bank.

However you are spending it, I hope you have an enjoyable summer.

Yours in Christ.

Rev. Glen Graham.

CHURCH NEWS



*Please keep in mind that the upcoming church 'Fellowship Meeting' will be on **Thursday, 17th July @ 7pm**. As usual it takes place in the church's School Room. N.B. This meeting was originally supposed to take place on the 26th June. All are welcome!*

Braai in July

By Bianca

On **Saturday, 19th of July 2025 at 12pm**, we will be hosting a **"braai"**. A braai is a South African term that is similar to our barbeques. A braai is not just authentic food that is very traditional to the country but also a way of life and a very important aspect of the culture in South Africa. In South Africa, burgers and sausages are not at all something that goes on a braai. Steak, chops, boerewors [a type of sausage meat] and all different kinds of meats are cooked on a braai. Hot and cold salads are served with a braai, mainly depending on the weather, as we braai all year round.

The Promise Auction

We had decided to host a Promise Auction as a part of the above event. However, due to un-for-seen circumstances, it is unlikely that this will

happen at this time. A final decision will be made at the 'Way Ahead' group meeting on Monday, 7th July. Please listen out in church at the notices for more information.



By Rowan

The children have begun studying the Lord's Prayer. Bianca has broken it down into 6 parts. Over the coming weeks, instead of a Memory Verse, the children will be memorising a couple of lines each week until they know it all off by heart. It should be pointed out that some of the children already know it.

Leading into the Summer Holiday's, the children will be also looking at:

- Forgiveness: The Unforgiving Servant
- Kindness: The Good Samaritan
- The Wheat & the Weeds
- The Treasurer & the Pearl

BELOW IS A PHOTO OF BIANCA'S NOTES REGARDING HER TEACHINGS ON THE LORD'S PRAYER:



The Lord's Prayer

① Our Father who art ^(is) in heaven, ^{We honour God's name to show He is important to us.}
^(holy or special) hallowed be ^(your) thy name.

② Thy kingdom come. ^{We want God's plans for this world to happen, because God is loving, kind & fair.}
^(your) Thy will be done ^(your) on earth as it is in heaven.

③ - Give us this day our **daily** bread,
and forgive us our trespasses, ^{This reminds us to ask God for what we need every day. Also to show gratitude & trust that God will provide.}

④ as we forgive those who trespass ^{We repent of our sins by saying sorry. It is also important for us to forgive others that hurt us like God does with us.}
against us,

⑤ and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil. ^{We ask God to help us stay away from bad things and it reminds us that God always guides and protects us.}

⑥ For thine ^(yours) is the kingdom and the
power, and the glory,
forever and ever. ^{The final part shows us it is important to praise God & to know God has control over everything, so we can always feel safe & loved by Him.}

Amen.

The Life of A School Pastor

By Marilyn

Having recently been involved in some additional work at the Cullompton Community College I thought our congregation might like to know a little about School Pastors and what we are doing in the local senior school. For those who don't know about school pastors - each school pastor comes from one of the local churches and they are all volunteers who have to undergo training and wear uniforms. There is a committee which Rev. Glen and I are both part of. Glen is also a prayer pastor for us and I am a school pastor and treasurer of the charity. As a committee we raise funds for the quarterly Ascension Trust payment, training, uniforms and other items which we need from time to time. Each week during term time we run a breakfast club on Mondays, serving toast, toppings and fruit as the children arrive for school and on Fridays we run a games club in the school canteen during the lunch break. We get to have conversations with the young people through these activities and it gives them the option to open their hearts to us on whatever troubles them as well as asking questions about all sorts of things and just chatting generally.

The head, James Loten, and the rest of the staff welcome us in and really appreciate the help we give. We are sometimes asked to get involved and help at other events like Carol Services, School Plays, Assemblies and School Fayres. Just recently we have been going in and helping out in Religious Education lessons. The young people are learning about Christianity and how there are many different churches who are all Christians. We have been invited in to share something about our churches, how they differ, and also to try and answer questions the young people ask. Each lesson has two church leaders and two church pastors present as well as the class teacher. The church leaders do

presentations about their churches and what they do and the school pastors share something that differs in how their particular church does things. Then the floor is opened up for the children to ask their questions. I have shared below some of the questions they have asked us so far:

- Why does God allow evil in the world?
- Why do you pray?
- Where, when and how did you come to believe in God and Jesus?
- How does God talk to you?
- Do animals go to heaven?
- Why is there sometimes a donkey at St Andrew's church services?
- Why do some churches baptise babies and others only adults?

We have now also been asked if some of us who were Street Pastors could go into Year 9 lessons next year and talk and answer questions about that. Prayers are being answered and we are becoming more and more visible in the school. They have learnt to trust and value us and the contribution we can make to the school and its young people and are asking us to help out in different ways to enhance the learning experiences by giving personal testimony in lessons. What a blessing this is for our work. Praise God.

If anyone has any questions about school pastors and their work I am always happy to help.

Marilyn 29th June 2025

HOME GROUPS

These will normally be held on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month. Next dates as follows:

8th July
(7pm only)

22nd July
(7pm only)

12th August
(7pm only)

26th August
(7pm only)

N.B. You are very welcome to attend either/or both
AM or PM groups.

**The AM group will resume again on
9th September.**

For location information please email:
cullomptonbaptists@gmail.com

UPCOMING SERVICES

Sunday, 6th July @ 10:30am	Normal Sunday Worship	Led by: Rev. Glen Graham
Sunday, 13th July @ 10:30am	Normal Sunday Worship	Led by: Rev. John Sanderson
Sunday, 20th July @ 10:30am	Communion Service	Led by: Rev. Glen Graham
Sunday, 27th July @ 10:30am	Normal Sunday Worship	Led by: Rev. Glen Graham
Sunday, 3rd August @ 10:30am	Normal Sunday Worship	Led by: Rev. Glen Graham
Sunday, 10th August @ 10:30am	Normal Sunday Worship	Led by: Rev. Glen Graham
Sunday, 17th August @ 10:30am	Communion Service	Led by: Rev. Glen Graham
Sunday, 24th August @ 10:30am	Normal Sunday Worship	Led by: Rev. Glen Graham
Sunday, 31st August @ 10:30am	Normal Sunday Worship	Led by: Rev. Glen Graham

Cullompton Baptist Church History

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Chapter 5 – Into the Twenty First Century: Building in Faith

When David Luce resigned his ministry in 1998 the church was already embarked on a major programme of rebuilding of the scale reminiscent of that which occurred in the late nineteenth century. The work involved the construction of a new modern kitchen, a new vestry and for the first time some new toilets within the main body of the building, as the previous ones were outside in the back courtyard. The project was largely the idea of David Luce although the late Rev Matthew Francis had earlier thoughts on changing the entrance between the church and schoolroom and some of these designs were incorporated into the rebuilding. The idea was to provide more modern facilities both for the members of the church as well as the various groups that use the schoolroom, especially the play group. This has been a major undertaking and involved a range of money raising schemes including a sale of promises, coffee mornings, second hand book sales, antiques evenings and even Burns Night Suppers courtesy of our exiled Scots! These and many other events together with generous help from the Chapel Case Appeal which the church gained in 1999, has enabled some £40,000 to be raised toward the cost of the redevelopment. This period was also marked by the loss of a number of members from our fellowship, including Mrs Lyn Edwards, a long time Sunday School teacher and pianist , along with our long serving organist Mr Eric Batten; both are greatly missed .

Other activities arose or were rekindled in David Luce's ministry, especially the formation of a choir (see chapter 8), the formation of a

church bookstall thanks to the efforts of Joan and Gilmour Jenkins. There has also been considerable work done on the fabric of the schoolroom and the new buildings by Joan and Gil along with Norman Wellard. We have also been fortunate in having an experienced and dedicated church treasurer, Norman Lindsell, who has guided the finances for the new building. All of this effort resulted in the completion and dedication of the new building at a special service in May 2000.

The church has also had the confidence in its future to call a new minister, the Rev David Evans and his wife who came to us from Bath in 1998. As I write this church history David and other church members are busy organising a major programme of outreach to the new housing areas of Cullompton. Yet again we can see echoes of Miller's work in the nineteenth century and the efforts of the 1970s. These new attempts are taking an approach of visiting some 600 houses in the town and giving out copies of the Jesus video. Only history will record whether we meet with success, but whatever happens our past history strongly suggests that with the Lords help the Baptist church will be witnessing in Cullompton for many years to come. We also hope to provide many more activities in the new premises that will add to our outreach within the community.

Serving God and the Community; a history of Cullompton Baptist Church

1700-2000

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Come back in September for Chapter 6 - The Sunday School and Youth Activities.

Proceeds from the sale of this book (published circa 2000) were given to the Church Building Fund.

AND FINALLY

Please email all enquiries to:
cullomptonbaptists@gmail.com

A gentle reminder that smoking is prohibited on the church premises. This includes leaving cigarette butts in church bins.

Thank you.




Sermons On YouTube:

A *2025 Sermon archive* is gradually growing & can be found at:

https://www.youtube.com/@cullompton_baptistchurch3193

Each video will contain that week's reading, the sermon & previews of the hymns/worship songs sung during the service (YouTube will generate direct links to where you can hear versions of the whole musical pieces).

The church has a 'WhatsApp' group.  Please speak to **Bianca** if you would like to be added to it or email the church



Our Mission is to:

- Bring others to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour
- Deepen our knowledge of God through worship and Bible teaching
- Lovingly support each other through fellowship
- Encourage each other in practical Christianity

So that we may reach our full spiritual potential through His spirit living in us.

