

# NETWORK

Cullompton Baptist Church Magazine for February 2025

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## WELCOME & NOTICES

Dear Everyone,

Welcome to the first *Network* of 2025. 2025! An important year for **Cullompton Baptist** Church, as we celebrate 325 years of the church's past, while looking to our church's future. Will the church make it to its 650<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2350? Probably not. There again when in 1700 **CBC's** founders started our church, in someone's home, did they think that their vision of a non conformist church would last until now? Well we did. Cullompton's first Baptist chapel was up and running by 1743 – in the very spot we now worship.

While our church may not last another 325 years, we hope & pray that we can keep running for the immediate future. 🙏 We are fortunate to have such an enthusiastic *Way Ahead* group who have lots of ideas for 2025.

Happy 2025 everyone.

God Bless

*Rowan*



### Network Going Monthly:

Starting now, we are going to trial sending out the *Network* monthly, as opposed to bi-monthly. This is mainly to make the information it provides more accurate and more up to date.

The deadline for contributions for the March 2025 *Network* will be **Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> February** & the magazine will be released a week later.

**Dates For Your Diaries:**

I want to flag up here some dates – most of which are in the next 10 days!

Friday, 31 <sup>st</sup> Jan @ 6:30 pm	<b>Prayer Board Evening</b>	This is a social evening at the church, to which anyone can come. Whether you want to join in with the 'prayer board' activity or not. See poster opposite for more information.
Saturday, 1 <sup>st</sup> Feb @ 10:30 am	<b>The Big Church Clean Up</b>	Volunteers needed to give the church a spring clean.
<b>Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> Feb @ 10:30 am</b>	<b>Deacons' Meeting</b>	N.B. please note the change of date.
Thursday, 20 <sup>th</sup> Feb @ 10:30 am	<b>Fellowship Meeting</b>	In the School Room
Sunday, 23 <sup>rd</sup> Feb	<b>Nominations for Deacons opens</b>	Please ask Margaret S. for nomination forms from this date.  Our AGM will be on <b>23<sup>rd</sup> March</b> .  So nominations should ideally be in by the <b>16th March</b> .  Thank You

# ***CBC Prayer Board Evening***

A prayer board is a visual representation of your conversations with the Lord. The aim is to find joy, beauty and focus while speaking to the Lord.

Join us while we intentionally pray for our upcoming year while enjoying fellowship together!

**Friday Evening, the 31st of January at 6:30pm**

**in the School Room of our Church.**

**Drinks and snacks will be provided. *All are welcome!***



# NEWS

**We are now on Social Media!**



Facebook



Instagram



X

To follow us on any of the platforms  
above search our name

Cullompton Baptist Church



For the first time in three years **Cullompton Baptist Church** managed to have a Christmas Day service. And for the first time in who knows when we had a Christmas Eve Service with a midnight communion. Both of which were such a success, with visitors & church folk, that we plan to run them again this year.



Denise has offered the following account of our Christmas services:

“We were so blessed to be able to offer three Christmas services in 2024.

“The traditional Carol Service with the time-honoured readings and songs. This service is so beautiful and unchanging I’ve no doubt it stirred up many memories of our own childhood and Christmas when our own children were young.

“The midnight service at Christmas genuinely encapsulated the ambience of the first Christmas in Bethlehem. Our lovely Church with all its beautiful wood panelling. Zara at the door inviting in people from the Inn - Market House in our case- several of whom joined us for chat and hot chocolate. We even had the modern-day equivalent of stable animals in the form of three dogs! Glen’s message was as simple and free of frippery as the surroundings into which our Saviour was born and much appreciated by all those present.





“The joy of Christmas morning followed all too swiftly for those of us who went to bed at 1 am and were woken at 5 am by over enthusiastic grandchildren!!! But it was worth the effort to join in the celebration at our Church and share the joy of Christ’s birth, a joy we pray will continue into 2025 and beyond.”



Re the Christmas Eve service, those from the church who came would like to start a tradition, where we offer hot chocolate with marshmallows & mince pies to anyone passing by and then people can stay on for the service if they wish.



**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**



## **PASTOR'S PONDERING**

Hello, welcome to our magazine.

The first thing to say is, we are going monthly to see if that works. This means that the information will be fresher, more up to date and less to retain.

As part of my contribution, I will offer a bite sized reflection.

For most of this year, these will be based on "*The Beatitudes*" which are found in **Matthew 5:3-12**. The beatitudes are the attitudes of the citizens of heaven and the blessings that result.

So here is the first:

*"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven."*

***Matthew 5:3***

This is pointing to humility.

Humility is realising who we really are in the light of who God really is.



Spiritual poverty is realising that we are totally dependent on God for everything. We are not even capable of having faith in God. Faith is a gift that God gives us. A lifetime of holiness is a daily realisation that we need his grace and power to function in any meaningful way.

Surrender to him and leaning on him brings assurance of that heavenly life now and for eternity.

Father, thank you for giving me my faith and eternal life. Though my trust is weak, help me to surrender to you and lean on you day by day.

Amen.

Do look at the rest of the material in this magazine, including the information about our **AGM** on **23<sup>rd</sup> March** and the nomination of deacons. Zara and David are due for re-election. We also have room for more deacons.

May God be gracious and empower you in the coming month.

Yours in Christ.

Glen and Rowan Graham.





## **Brazilian Update – The Bentlin Family**

Hi all

As promised, here is an update on Gabriel, Karen and Milli – they are updating us on their travels since leaving Cullompton to go to Scotland and what else has happen in their lives up until now.

The Bentlin Family absolutely loved being in Scotland from the time they first arrived. The company that they went to work for, for two weeks, was great and everyone working there were so lovely and welcoming too. They did however battle a bit with the Scottish accent and it took some getting used to. However, their manager happened to be a South African with a clear accent that they were had gotten used to from me so that did help them a lot with communication.

They all thought Scotland was a beautiful country and took some stunning pictures of the views they were blessed with where they were staying.



As most of you know, the Bentlins left Scotland just before Christmas and spent Christmas and New Year in London house sitting before leaving for Portugal where they are now, until April.

In next month's Network Magazine, I will give a further update on their adventures in London and Portugal.

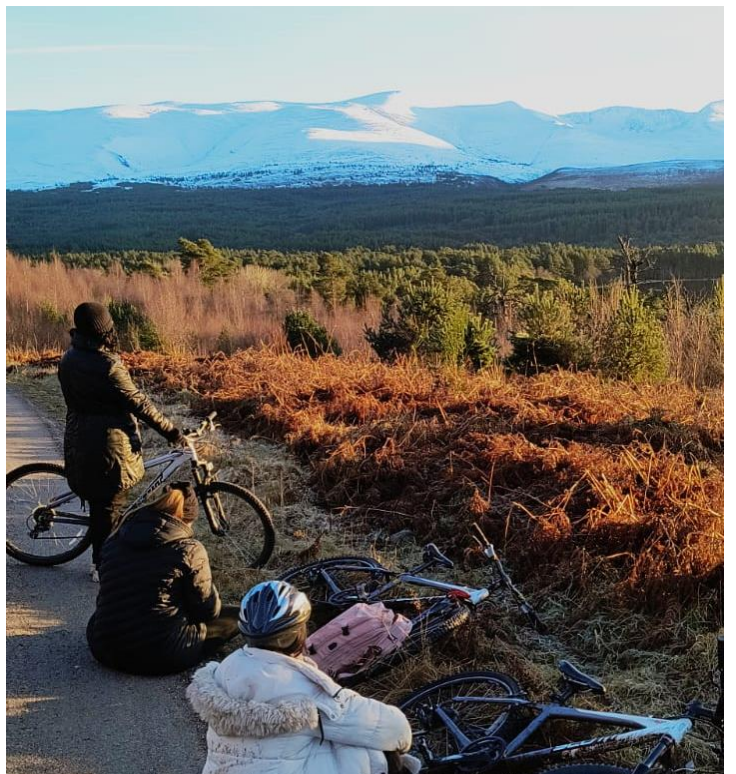
Should anyone know of any live in working options for them from April, please speak to Bianca, as the Bentlin family would love to be able to come back to England - especially to Devon to be with us all again.

We certainly miss them at church every Sunday but it is such a blessing to be kept up to date on all their adventures! Please continue to keep them in your prayers.

God bless

Bianca

**Here are some images from their time in Scotland:**







## **BIBLE STUDY – HOME GROUPS INFO**

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

**28<sup>th</sup> January 2025**  
10:30am & 7:30pm

**11<sup>th</sup> February 2025**  
10:30am & 7:30pm)

**25<sup>th</sup> February 2025**  
10:30am & 7:30pm)

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

For location information please email:  
[cullomptonbaptists@gmail.com](mailto:cullomptonbaptists@gmail.com)

## UPCOMING SERVICES

<b>Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> February @ 10:30am</b>	Normal Sunday Worship	led by Rev Glen Graham
<b>Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> February @ 10:30am</b>	Normal Sunday Worship	led by Rev Glen Graham
<b>Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup> February @ 10:30am</b>	Communion Service	led by TBC
<b>Sunday, 23<sup>rd</sup> February @ 10:30am</b>	Normal Sunday Worship	led by TBC



## THIS MONTH'S PUZZLE – 3 ANAGRAMS

Apologies, I do not have the answers for the Christmas Crossword.

This month I have 3 anagrams for you – varying in difficulty level. They are books of the bible. Answers in the March magazine.


- 1. Cats**
- 2. no Oslo fogs on 'M'**
- 3. shines on a salt**



## AND FINALLY

**What would you like for your Church?**

Please place any **suggestions**, as well as **bible verses** that have spoken to you or any **prayer requests** you may have - in the box at the back of the Church.

The church has a 'WhatsApp' group.  Please speak to **Bianca** if you would like to be added to it or email the church at: [cullomptonbaptists@gmail.com](mailto:cullomptonbaptists@gmail.com) .

### 'The Way Forward' group

**Is a working group for outreach and social events. If you would like to be a part of it, please let Rev. Glen Graham know.**

**Next Meeting Date:**  
**TBC**

**Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> February 2025**

**Is the closing date for contributions towards the next "Network" Church magazine.**

**If you would like to receive email updates or online content from the church:**

**Please email all enquiries to:**  
**[cullomptonbaptists@gmail.com](mailto:cullomptonbaptists@gmail.com)**



Don't Forget that the  
Cullompton Baptist Church Youtube channel can be found  
here: [https://www.youtube.com/@cullompton\\_baptistchurch3193](https://www.youtube.com/@cullompton_baptistchurch3193)

