

Cullompton Baptist Church

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The Network

Hello, and welcome to the August & September issue of "The Network".

"This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all."

1 John 1: 5

So, we have had the Euros and soon we will have the Olympics. However I have another event on my mind which you will not be aware of but it is significant in world mission terms.

From the 22nd till 28th September in Seoul, South Korea, the 4th congress of the Lausanne movement for World Evangelisation will take place. This congress will shape the way world Evangelisation will happen in the next 25 years. BMS will be watching with interest.

The first Lausanne congress took place in Lausanne in 1974 and was groundbreaking in that it shaped how Churches did Evangelism up till now. The founder, an Evangelical Anglican vicar called John Stott laid out his vision for the dream Church. His dream had 5 points:

- A Biblical Church where the Bible is the rule and authority for the life of the Church.
- A worshipping Church.
- A caring Church.
- A serving Church reaching out in Evangelism and social action.
- An expectant Church where we expect to encounter God in everything we do.

I have included the full dream in a separate article because I love it so much and I want you to catch the vision of it. I unashamedly adopt this dream for me, this Church and any Church I will find myself in until I die.

Looking ahead, the way ahead group will have its first meeting before the end of July. Please pray this is creative and fruitful.

Over the next couple of months on Sundays we will have a short series called "Holidays and Holy days" and then start a series on 1 John. Our harvest celebrations will be on 22nd September including a bring and share lunch.

Whether you are working, resting or playing this summer, do it all for the glory of God.

In Christ.

Glen and Rowan Graham

John Stott's Dream Church

In 1974, John Stott laid out his fivefold dream for the church. In a time of upheaval and distress, it's good to remind ourselves what a vibrant, faithful Christian fellowship can look like.

In 1974, on the 150th anniversary of the dedication of All Souls Church in London, John Stott shared his dream for the church, focusing on five elements of faithfulness that would be for the glory of God and the good of the world. Riffing on Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech directed to the injustices of American society, Stott painted an inspiring picture of the church at its best.

In a time of upheaval, when the church's weaknesses and sins have been exposed, it's good to remind ourselves what the church has been and can still be when we're marked by faith, hope, and love. Here is Stott's fivefold dream for the church, as later published in [*The Living Church*](#).

Biblical Church

I have a dream of a church which is a biblical church—
which is loyal in every particular to the revelation of God in Scripture,
whose pastors expound Scripture with integrity and relevance,
and so seek to present every member mature in Christ,
whose people love the word of God,
and adorn it with an obedient and Christ-like life,
which is preserved from all unbiblical emphases,
whose whole life manifests the health and beauty of biblical balance.

I have a dream of a biblical church.

Worshipping Church

I have a dream of a church which is a worshipping church—
whose people come together to meet God and worship him,
who know God is always in their midst
and who bow down before him in great humility,
who regularly frequent the table of the Lord Jesus,
to celebrate his mighty act of redemption on the cross,
who enrich the worship with their musical skills,
who believe in prayer and lay hold of God in prayer,
whose worship is expressed not in Sunday services and prayer gatherings only
but also in their homes, their weekday work and the common things of life.

I have a dream of a worshipping church.

Caring Church

I have a dream of a church which is a caring church—
whose congregation is drawn from many races, nations, ages and social backgrounds,
and exhibits the unity and diversity of the family of God,

whose fellowship is warm and welcoming,
and never marred by anger, selfishness, jealousy or pride,
whose members love one another with a pure heart fervently,
forbearing one another, forgiving one another, and bearing one another's burdens,
which offers friendship to the lonely, support to the weak,
and acceptance to those who are despised and rejected by society,
whose love spills over to the world outside—
attractive, infectious, irresistible, the love of God himself.

I have a dream of a caring church.

Serving Church

I have a dream of a church which is a serving church—
which has seen Christ as the Servant
and has heard his call to be a servant too,
which is delivered from self-interest, turned inside out,
and giving itself selflessly to the service of others,
whose members obey Christ's command to live in the world,
to permeate secular society, to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world,
whose people share the good news of Jesus
simply, naturally and enthusiastically with their friends,
which diligently serves its own parish, residents and workers,
families and single people, nationals and immigrants, old folk and little children,
which is alert to the changing needs of society,
sensitive and flexible enough to keep adapting its program to serve more usefully,
which has a global vision
and is constantly challenging its young people to give their lives in service,
and constantly sending its people out to serve.

I have a dream of a serving church.

Expectant Church

I have a dream of a church which is an expectant church —
whose members can never settle down in material affluence or comfort,
because they remember that they are strangers and pilgrims on earth,
which is all the more faithful and active
because it is waiting and looking for its Lord to return,
which keeps the flame of the Christian hope burning brightly
in a dark, despairing world,
which on the day of Christ will not shrink from him in shame,
but rise up joyfully to greet him.

I have a dream of an expectant church.

Such is my dream of a living church. May all of us share this dream, and under God
may the dream come true!

Home groups

We are hoping to restart homegroups. Initially these will be fortnightly, and there will be two groups, a daytime one and an evening one.
Everyone is welcome to join either or both.

The daytime group will have its first meeting on Monday 9th September at 10.30am at Bianca's home. This will be led by me, with current thought about going through the Fruit of the Spirit.

The evening group will begin on Thursday 12th September at 7.30pm at Antony's home.

Please register your interest with myself, Antony or Bianca.

Rev. Glen Graham

Sunday Services

4th August - Sunday Morning Service - Rev. Glen Graham

11th August - Sunday Morning Service - Rev. Glen Graham

18th August - Communion Service - Rev. Glen Graham

25th August - Sunday Morning Service - Rev. Glen Graham

1st September - Sunday Morning Service - Rev. Glen Graham

8th September - Sunday Morning Service - Mrs. Anne Kidner

15th September - Communion Service - Rev. Glen Graham

22nd September - Harvest Service - Rev. Glen Graham

29th September - Sunday Morning Service - Rev. Glen Graham

Other dates and thoughts for your diaries

2nd September - Deacons' meeting - time to be confirmed.

22nd September - Bring and Share Lunch after the service

Finally if anyone has any books or jigsaw puzzles they no longer want, Denise would be happy to take them and sell them on her book stall. She is hoping to have her book stall out on Farmers' market days with all proceeds going to the Church. Tea and coffee will also be available on those days. If anyone is available and happy to help with serving tea and coffee, do reach out to one of the Deacons.

Any contributions for the next "Network" need to be with Camille by 22nd September; email at mrs.camille.harrison@gmail.com or pass them on at Church on Sunday.