

# Cullompton Baptist Church

Minister: Rev. Glen Graham - [revglengraham@aol.com](mailto:revglengraham@aol.com) - 01884 34077

## The Network

Hello, and welcome to the October & November issue of "The Network".

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*"For the Spirit God gave us does make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline."*

**2 Timothy 1: 7**

I am writing this on the day after our harvest celebrations. What a great day it was topped off by a superb Harvest lunch made by Margaret and Gareth.

Harvest festival is always a special time of year for me. It has a long and rich history in the Bible. The Israelites entered the promised land with instructions to hold three harvest festivals two of which lasted a week! These festivals were not just focused on harvest, they were to remember what God had done for them. The harvest offerings were a reminder of what God was still doing for them, he had acted in the past to set them free, he was acting in the present to sustain them.

The first festival was the festival of unleavened bread. This took place at the end of the barley harvest. The festival began with passover.

Next comes the festival of harvest which comes 50 days after unleavened bread. It falls at the end of the wheat harvest. Each person brings 2 loaves as a wave offering. We know this festival as Pentecost when we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit.

The third festival is the feast of tabernacles which comes at the end of the grape harvest. We could be in tabernacle season as I write. This is when they remember that God dwells with them. We know God dwells with us as his Spirit lives in us. At Christmas we remember God coming to dwell in this world in human form.

Easter, Pentecost, Christmas and all of creation point to God's faithfulness, saving power and loving care of us and the whole world. I know after learning all this, I won't see harvest in the same light.

Speaking of celebrations. On 27<sup>th</sup> of October, we will be dedicating Margaret's and Gareth's granddaughter. This is now going to be a family service.

Next year our Church is 325 years old. It would be great if folk could think of ways we might celebrate this significant milestone to God's love and faithfulness.

God is not just with us in the joys of life, he is with us amid the pain and grief of life as well. The Sunday of Remembrance is a great reminder that there is a time to lament as well as a time to rejoice, and we should be okay with that.

Whatever season of life you are in, the Church is here for you. More importantly God is here for you. The Psalms invite us to realise that we don't need to pretend with God. There is a prayer in them for every season in life. A mature fellowship realises that if we don't need to pretend to God, we don't need to pretend to each other either. May God shape us into such a people.

May God bless you and keep you, whatever season you are in.

Yours in Christ.

Glen and Rowan Graham

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## End2End Rugby Relay – John O'Groats to Land's End 2024 ([www.end2end.org.uk](http://www.end2end.org.uk))

*The article below has been shared by Marilyn*

**Who is Lexi Chambers?** Lexi Chambers is an army veteran, an ex-NHS nurse and a below-knee amputee facing three chronic pain conditions – CRPS, Fibromyalgia and nerve issues. Lexi had her leg amputated approx. 4 years ago in the hope that it would help with the CRPS and she would be able to walk again with a prosthetic leg. Sadly, this did not work and Lexi is now wheelchair bound.

**What is she doing?** Lexi began this year's challenge of wheeling in an ordinary wheelchair from John O'Groats to Land's End on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> August. She is doing the equivalent of a marathon every wheeling day and will be covering a total of over 1500kms in all. The whole challenge is expected to take 45 days that is 36 wheeling days and 9 rest days.

It all began when, in her kitchen, Lexi said to her partner "do you think I could wheel this chair from John O'Groats to Land's End?" That was the beginning of a dream for Lexi. It is just one of the challenges to raise funds for charity she has set herself since she has been in a wheelchair but it is the most challenging so far.

Lexi says her goal is to Inspire by demonstrating that despite adversity, achieving dreams is possible.

A team of people set up a group to organise, publicise and manage this epic challenge. My eldest daughter and her husband are part of that team. My daughter is the treasurer for the event and her husband is driving the support van which carries all the spare equipment Lexi may need along the journey like spare gloves and spare tyres for the wheelchair as well as all the supplements and equipment Lexi needs along the route.

**Why is she doing this?** She is raising funds for two charities which are close to her heart. The Aaron Lewis Foundation and the Exeter Chiefs Foundation.

**Aaron Lewis Foundation** was set up in 2010 by a volunteer team of family and friends in memory of Lieutenant Aaron Lewis who was killed in Afghanistan. They help individuals, groups and causes close to his heart, particularly through access to sport and wellbeing nationally for service and ex service personnel.

**Exeter Chiefs Foundation** is the charitable arm of Exeter Chiefs Rugby Club, committed to making a positive impact in the community. It focuses on health, education, inclusion and improving the lives of people across the region supporting numerous charitable causes including youth development, grassroots rugby and community-based projects.

**How can you help?** If all goes to plan, as part of this challenge, on October 3<sup>rd</sup> Lexi will be wheeling her way from Wellington to Exeter and will be coming right through Cullompton town centre at some time during the day.

I will be kept updated on her progress and if you are interested I can update you on the time she is likely to be coming through. Just let me have a mobile number and I will send a text. It would be great if people who see her toot, wave, and shout to keep her motivated and let her know she has local support.

If you wish to donate for the two charities you can do so on the event website [www.end2end.org.uk](http://www.end2end.org.uk) or if you prefer directly into the bank account for End2End (which I can let you have the details of), or through me, or by throwing money into the support car if you are able to be there and see Lexi wheeling the route.

Marilyn

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## Sunday Services

6<sup>th</sup> October - Sunday Morning Service - Rev. Glen Graham

13<sup>th</sup> October - Sunday Morning Service - Rev. Glen Graham

20<sup>th</sup> October - Communion Service - Rev. Glen Graham

27<sup>th</sup> October - Family Service - Rev. Glen Graham

3<sup>rd</sup> November - Sunday Morning Service - Rev. Glen Graham

10<sup>th</sup> November - Remembrance Service - Rev. Glen Graham - **10 am**

17<sup>th</sup> November - Sunday Morning Service - Dr. Adrian Bailey

24<sup>th</sup> November - Communion Service - Rev. Glen Graham

## Other dates and thoughts for your diaries

7<sup>th</sup> October at 2.30pm - Deacon's meeting

31<sup>st</sup> October at 10.30am - Church meeting, in the School room

House groups: 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> October and 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> November, either in the morning (10.30am) or evening (7.30pm) .

## Autumn Festival - 12<sup>th</sup> October

From 10am, the School room is open for Childrens' craft activities and refreshments.

Soup will be served from 12 noon.

The sanctuary will be open throughout and from 11.30am for half an hour, folks are welcome to come along and sing harvest hymns..

New volunteer to take on producing the "Network" is sought, please make yourself known to one of the Deacons.

Any contributions for the next "Network" should be emailed before the end of November to [cullomptonbaptists@gmail.com](mailto:cullomptonbaptists@gmail.com).