

focus



Furrough Cross
United Reformed Church

February / March
2023

Furrough Cross
Pre-School
held their
nativity in the
church hall,
and they were
featured in this
lovely front
page photo!



The story of Christmas with youngsters at Furrough Cross Preschool in Babbarstone Road, Torbay. Singing their nativity play.

Credit: FURROUGH CROSS PRESCCHOOL



CHOIR 86 CONCERT

We were privileged to have the choir (of which Paul Madge is a member) stage a lovely pre-Christmas concert in the church.

KEVIN FOSTER MP VISITED AND WROTE IN HIS WEEKLY EMAIL...



“The start of the Advent Season in local Churches meant many festive events being held last weekend, many returning after a three-year break due to Covid. Saturday saw me attend two. The first was the

Christmas Fayre at St Luke’s Torquay. The second event was at Furrough Cross United Reformed Church where I was joined by Cllr Hazel Foster. It was good to catch up with the team at the church and enjoy a cup of tea and the soup on offer.”

MORE PICTURES FROM THE CHRISTMAS FAYRE...





**CHRISTMAS
FAYRE 2022**

Thanks to
everyone for
your support



**THE TOTAL
AMOUNT
RAISED
WAS OVER
£750!**



*Photos from
Beryl and Roy.
Smiles from
everyone!*

CHRISTMAS AT FURROUGH CROSS



Although our three camels came out of their stable to watch the nativity service, it was the donkey that did all the work, carrying Mary from Nazareth to Bethlehem. It was lovely to have some of the regular Messy Church children taking part.

Roy and Heather had a pre-Christmas manse 'Open House' and were pleased to



welcome around a dozen visitors who dropped in during the morning, and a similar number in the afternoon. It was good to have a relaxing day during the busy runup to Christmas, and a chance to sample lots of different Christmas nibbles.

Website: furroughcross.org **Find us on Facebook:** [furroughcross](https://www.facebook.com/furroughcross)

Minister: Rev. Heather Cadoux (01803) 310156

e-mail: revheathercadoux@gmail.com

Church Secretary: Mr Steve Casselden 07521 313864

Hall Steward: Mrs Ann Close (for hall bookings only)

(01803) 324080

email: annclose49@gmail.com

Junior Church and Messy Church Leader:

Miss Shirley Leaman

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Sunday Services and Junior Church: Sundays at 10.30 am.

Communion on 1st Sunday of each month.

Midweek Worship: Wednesdays at 2.30 pm.

Messy Church: 2nd Friday of each month (not August) 4 to 6 pm.

Friday Coffee: Every Friday 10.00 - 12.00,
followed by **Warm Space** 12.00 - 2.00pm with soup lunch.

Bereavement and Friendship Group: 4th Thursday of each month,
10.30 am - 12.30 pm, in conjunction with the local Community Builders.

First Friday Film Tea: 1st Friday of each month. Film starts at 2.30pm.

Opinions and views expressed in this magazine may be personal and not necessarily accord with those of the Minister and Elders of Furrough Cross United Reformed Church. Care is taken over the accuracy of the information presented but the Church and Elders cannot accept responsibility for any errors or omissions. The Editor reserves the right to edit or omit material submitted.

We've had some freezing weather, some snow and a lot of rain in recent weeks, but the promise of spring is just round the corner - we were amazed to see a white rose blooming in our front garden in early January. But we are still in winter and it's still cold much of the time.

With our Fridays at the church being officially a 'Warm Space' since November, we have been prompted to look at what can be done to help keep the building warm, beginning with small things like temperature monitoring, cleaning the radiator filters, and providing draught excluders for the main door. We are also looking into how we can use energy more efficiently in the building, as our gas and electricity costs are expected to at least double from April.

Our quiz in this issue celebrates Fairtrade Fortnight, which starts on 27th February. When buying food, have a look for special offers on Fairtrade items, and if you enjoy them, keep buying them through the year. Buying Fairtrade items like bananas, coffee, tea, chocolate, wine and flowers makes a tremendous difference to the lives of farmers in some of the poorest parts of the world, their families and their communities.

The next magazine will be in April, with a deadline for items of 15th March. Please let me have your news, thoughts, views, anything!

Roy Cadoux

roy.cadoux@gmail.com

VOTING AT LOCAL AND GENERAL ELECTIONS

From 4th May (when local elections will be held in Torbay) you will need to take photo ID if you vote in person (such as a UK passport, driving licence, Older Person's Bus Pass or Blue Badge). You can still use your photo ID if it's out of date, as long as it looks like you.

If you don't have an accepted form of photo ID, you can apply for a free voter ID document, known as a Voter Authority Certificate. This will require that you provide a passport-style photo. Heather and Roy are prepared to provide any help you may require to get and fill in the form.

FROM THE MINISTER

Rev Heather Cadoux

Dear Friends,

Are you sitting comfortably? Then I'll begin – if I remember rightly, that was how the reader started the stories on Listen with Mother on the radio. I wonder, do we sit comfortably on a Sunday, looking forward to a good story? The story of Jesus is a good story but it's not always a



comfortable story. There are times, particularly when we look deeper than just the words on the page, when the story becomes rather challenging and might even make us feel uncomfortable.

If you were in church or with us on Zoom on 15th January you will remember that Martin Manley who was leading worship used the passage from John about the day after Jesus' baptism. John the Baptist points to Jesus as the Lamb of God to some of his disciples. John's disciples ask Jesus where he is going and Jesus replies "come and see".

Martin reminded us that the disciples received that call to come and see before Jesus had begun his ministry. That they were called into a partnership with Jesus, even though they had no idea where that partnership might lead. Martin wondered, if the disciples knew how it was all going to turn out, would they have followed Jesus? We were also reminded us that the Holy Spirit will equip us for the work we are called into and that we'll discover that we can be far more than we ever thought we could.

I first met Martin before he went to college to train for ministry, and from knowing him then I never imagined that we'd be sharing in ministry in Devon a few years down the line.

My experience as I've trodden the path of faith has certainly been one of come and see. Jesus has extended the invitation time and time again to come and see. Some I've been happy to accept, as I've taken on leading a youth group and holiday clubs; others I've needed encouragement from others, like becoming an elder or beginning

training as a lay preacher. Some take far longer, like my willingness to explore training as a minister – that took years of me trying to find all sorts of excuses, only to find doors I thought would close were opened, and obstacles that felt like high brick walls melting like snow or popped as if they were balloons, clearing the path that led to training at Westminster College and a call to a pastorate. I for one can certainly attest to the fact that yes the Holy Spirit has equipped me, and indeed I have done far more than I ever thought. And I know God is not finished with me yet!

Each time I've felt comfortable where I am, it's as if Jesus has stretched out an arm and said come and see what it's like here. Some steps I've taken in fear – not knowing what to expect, if I'll be good enough, but each time I've known that I'm not alone, and if Jesus is calling me to come over to where he is then he knows far better than I how my particular skills and gifts will fit in, as I partner with him in the place he has called me to be. Usually too I find there are already others on that step who have been able to guide me and who I've learnt loads from as I've partnered with them in the work we've been called to do.

The members of Furrough Cross Church are currently in the process of discerning who the right people are to be in partnership with the elders and minister, as new or returning elders are elected. If you have yet to nominate – nominations close on Saturday 11th February – I invite you to look at the list and pray with the list in your hands and ask God who is it that he wants to fill this role, and then circle those names and return the form either by post or to the box in church, or email either the form or names to the Secretary and Minister.

If you are approached as having received sufficient nominations, please take time to consider if it is right for you to accept this call and step into this new role and partnership. I can assure you, you won't be on your own, the current elders and I will support you.

Before I write again we will have had Fairtrade Fortnight. Roy has written a bit about Fairtrade in his letter and there is a quiz later in the magazine. Earlier I said that the Gospel of Jesus is good news, but also

one of challenge. We are called to care for all of creation as well as our brothers and sisters. Fairtrade has come a long way. When I first tasted Fairtrade tea and coffee it was not the nicest of things to drink, and the cost was higher too. I suspect the Fairtrade premium (that little bit more that is given to fairtrade co-operatives above the price for the produce), has been put into improving farming methods as well as supporting education and community projects to enhance the life of workers. Today Fairtrade options are available in even the cut price supermarkets, and if we purchase them they will enhance the lives of those who work hard to grow and harvest them for us to enjoy. Maybe we should challenge ourselves as a church this year, so that wherever and whenever possible the tea and coffee we provide are fairly traded.

Love to you all

Heather

NIGHT SHELTER

This year the night shelter is happening in Torquay from 23rd January to the morning of Monday 6th March at the ROC centre in Old Mill Road, Chelston. New Footings ministries – who are seeking to help those who find themselves on the streets to get back on their feet – and ToWNS are partnering in this provision. As the shelter is in one place rather than moving from church to church, the beds can be left up and those who are guests for more than one night will be able to have the same bed space. Some Covid procedures still need to be in place.

Volunteers are needed to help provide a safe space for those seeking refuge from the streets. There are three shifts: evening 6.45 until 10pm, overnight to arrive by 10pm, and morning 7.15-9am to help with breakfast and see the guests off the premises. If you can help please contact Mark Gridley on

LOVE AND KINDNESS

Herbie Doney

There are so many lovely ways
To show kindness and affection,
Those little things we say and do
You'll find make all the difference.
Love can't be bought with money
For it's priceless from the start,
And you'll be someone special
When it lives within your heart!

newfootingsministries@gmail.com or see Roy who has his telephone number.

It has been the practice at Furrough Cross to provide Socks and Chocs for the guests at the Night Shelter. Heather and Roy are volunteering at the shelter on different days and can take any socks and chocs you wish to supply when they are on duty. There is a box by the church door for your contributions which will be gratefully received.

FROM THE MANSE GARDEN

Hi, Robbie here,

I've noticed as I've been flying around that you humans need more layers when it's cold. Whereas us birds just fluff out feathers – it makes us look fatter, but really it's just air that we trap between the layers of our feathers. It keeps us toasty warm.

Us birds are grateful to those of you who put out food for us, particularly when the ground has been solid with frost. Spring is in the air though: there are signs all over the garden of buds on the shrubs and the green shoots of the spring bulbs beginning to push through. Having said that, even when there was snow the other week there was one brave rose and a few plucky wallflowers showing their faces. I've not seen the bees yet – I suspect it will be a few weeks before it's warm enough for them to venture out.

I must admit I can't wait for the warmer weather to arrive, mainly so I can enjoy my favourite snack of aphids. I don't mind if they are the green ones on the roses or the black ones on the beans and elderflowers. Not only are they tasty, but they make me popular with the humans too!

Time I was off to find the best place to raise my family this year. I need to tour the area and see where best to hide our nest that's within reach of plenty of food for any forthcoming brood.

Tweets, Robbie

SUMMER FAIR

Following the success of the Christmas Fayre, we are hoping to have a Summer Fair. Our chosen date is **17th June 2023**, subject to confirmation. The fair will be held in the hall with some things happening outside, weather permitting. Should the weather be inclement the outside elements will be moved inside and the church utilised for some things.

The stalls we are currently planning are:

Cakes and Produce: Needs cakes and home-made produce.

Raffle: Needs significant prizes (with a value above £10).

Tombola: Needs prizes with a value up to £10 including bottles of any kind, tins and other new items.

Bric a Brac: Needs various items – nothing broken or that does not work.

Jigsaws: Suitable for a variety of ages. Complete jigsaws only.

Plant stall: Needs cuttings and the spares from your sowings of flowers and vegetables, etc.

Jewellery: Your unwanted earrings, broaches, necklaces, watches etc. No broken jewellery.

Games: Treasure map and Guess the....

There will also be refreshments available including tea coffee etc and simple lunches

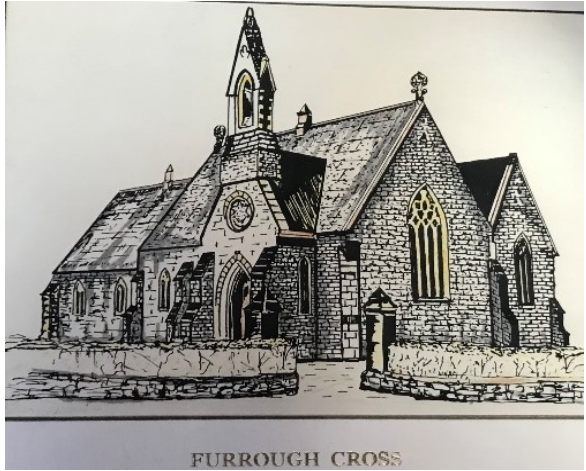
Please note we are NOT having a bookstall at the summer fair so we do not want books this time.

There will be a planning meeting on **Tuesday 14th March** in the Furrough Room at 10.00am, to which everyone is invited if you might be able to help in any way.

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Can you see what has changed to the church's exterior since the time of this old drawing? (It might help to compare it with the picture on the front page.)

Does anybody know any more about the changes and when they happened?



FAMILY NEWS

Peggy Fletcher died at her home on 19th December aged 102. The funeral service for our oldest member was on 30th January.

After a prolonged stay in Derriford then Newton Abbot Hospitals, Betty is now recovering at home.

TEACH US GOOD LORD

Herbie Doney

Lord in Your mercy help us to find
the peace in our heart that will help all mankind.

Lord teach us the lesson we all need to learn,
of love and forgiveness that everyone yearns.

Lord in Your mercy help us to find
the joy in our heart that takes over our lives!

**Jesus is your
elder brother,
but with Jesus
you are always
the heir and
never the spare.**

Greg Downes

DATES

Friday 3 rd February	2.30pm	First Friday Film and Tea
Friday 10 th February	3.30pm	Messy Church
Saturday 11 th February		Deadline for nominations for Elders
Wed 22 nd February		ASH WEDNESDAY
Saturday 25 th Feb	10.00am	Maintenance morning
Friday 3 rd Mar	2.30pm	First Friday Film and Tea
Wed 8 th March	7.30pm	District Quiz at Furrough Cross
Friday 10 th March	3.30pm	Messy Church
Tuesday 14 th March	10.00am	Summer Fair planning meeting
Sunday 19 th March	11.45am	Church Annual Meeting
Sunday 2 nd April	6.30pm	CTT Palm Sunday united service, at Central Church

Further maintenance mornings are arranged for Saturdays 27th May, 19th August and 25th November.

TELL IT LIKE IT IS....

- During a drought, all the villagers decided to pray for rain. On the day of prayer all the people gathered, but only one boy came with an umbrella. That is **Faith**.
- When you throw babies into the air, they laugh because they know that you will catch them. That is **Trust**.
- Every night we go to bed without the assurance of being alive in the morning. But we still set the alarm to wake us up. That is **Hope**.
- We plan big things for tomorrow, despite zero knowledge of the future. That is **Confidence**.
- We see the world suffering, but still, we get married and have children. That is **Love**.
- On an old man's shirt was written, 'I am not 80 years old: I am sweet sixteen with 64 years of experience. That is **Attitude**.

WARM SPACES

Torbay Council are providing funding for 23 venues across the Bay to host warm spaces – free, welcoming safe spaces where visitors can get a hot drink and more.



The voluntary and community sector and social enterprises, including faith groups, were invited to bid for funding to run warm spaces and food clubs. The Council are using £75,000 from their £1.2m allocation of the current round of the Household Support Fund to support warm spaces. Five other local organisations will receive funding to run affordable food clubs, also known as social supermarkets, which are a more sustainable alternative to traditional food banks.

Heather and Roy (on behalf of the Elders) had a marathon form-filling session and the church was awarded £2500 to cover the costs of our Warm Space sessions, for which we are very grateful.

We restarted Friday coffee mornings at the beginning of October, then in November we extended the time we are open to 2pm and became a Warm Space each Friday. Since then, each week we have welcomed an average of 14 people and have typically had at least one or two 'new' people drop in, almost all of whom have remarked on the welcoming atmosphere in the church. Some are returning and becoming regulars. Most of our visitors live very locally, but we've had a few passing holidaymakers come in too, and they are often very interested in the heritage of the church.

Most weeks Heather has been demonstrating how to 'Knit and Natter' simultaneously, while Roy is developing new skills as a 'barista' – we are now able to serve Costa Americanos, Lattes and Cappuccinos and a frothy Cadbury's hot chocolate, as well as the usual range of hot drinks (including decaf coffee and tea). From 12.00 we also serve soup and a roll to whoever is around.

We have had some lovely conversations with people who were glad of some company, or to get out of the cold or rain, or wanted to see the inside of the church. Do come along for a drink and a chat!





A New Year message from *Lee Bray, CTT Secretary:*

One of the characteristics of the pandemic lockdowns which occupied so much of 2020 and 2021 was the way in which, separated by the restrictions, people found new ways to unite - on doorsteps where we clapped for carers, online in newly discovered Zoom rooms, and in volunteering to help those whose well-being was particularly threatened by Covid limitations.

The Church was an enthusiastic participant in all of this, with online prayer and worship and volunteer efforts marking a new energy and commitment to the gospel call on our lives. Strangely, through 2022, as churches have cautiously resumed gathered worship and other activities, it has been harder to raise volunteers across the churches and ministries have struggled to sustain their work.

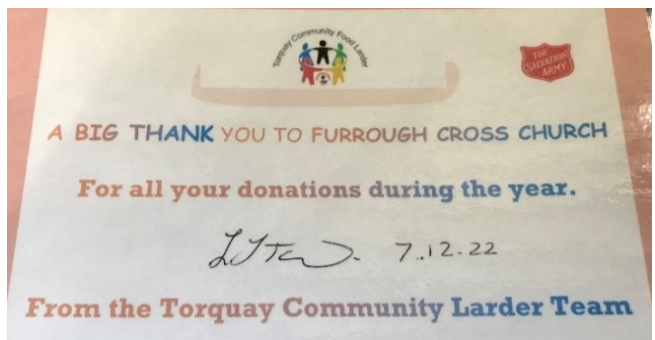
As 2023 begins, let's resolve to refresh and reaffirm our unity in Christ and in his service, to look out for opportunities to serve and give, and to join our efforts across the churches, achieving together things we couldn't do alone.

"Therefore if you have any encouragement in Christ, if any comfort from His love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being united in spirit and purpose." (Philippians 2. 1-2)

Prayer Breakfast - the first Saturday of each month, 8.00 am at Central Church. Food, fellowship, news and prayer.

Please remember and continue to pray for **Torbay Street Pastors**.

Torquay Community Larder have sent us their thanks for all the food and financial donations we have provided. Demand has steadily increased in recent months, so please keep filling the box.



QUESTIONS ABOUT HEAVEN

On their way to get married, a young couple were involved in a fatal car accident. The couple found themselves sitting outside the Pearly Gates waiting for St Peter to process them into Heaven. While waiting they began to wonder; could they possibly get married in Heaven?

When St Peter arrived they asked him if they could get married in Heaven. St Peter said, "I don't know. This is the first time anyone has asked. Let me go find out," and he left.

The couple sat and waited for an answer.... for a couple of months.

While they waited, they discussed the pros and cons. Even if they were allowed to get married in Heaven, should they get married, what with the eternal aspect of it all? What if it doesn't work? Are we stuck in Heaven together forever?

Another month passed. St Peter finally returned, looking somewhat bedraggled. "Yes," he informed the couple, "You can get married in Heaven."

"Great!" said the couple. "But we were just wondering; what if things don't work out? Could we also get a divorce in Heaven?"

St Peter, red-faced with anger, slammed his clipboard on the ground.

"What's wrong?" asked the frightened couple.

"OH, COME ON!!!" St Peter shouted. "It took me 3 months to find a priest up here! Do you have ANY idea how long it'll take to find a lawyer?"

DON'T FORGET:

1. You can get a set of weekly offering envelopes from Ron or Val Ebrey if you would like to join the Freewill Offering scheme. Please also let them know if you were expecting a set for 2023 and haven't received them.
2. You can set up a Standing Order for your offering from your bank account – see Roy for details.
3. You can sign up for Gift Aid if you're a taxpayer.



THE FAIRTRADE BANANA QUIZ

- 1 A banana is a....
 - Fruit
 - Fruit and tree
 - Alien object
 - Herb and fruit
- 2 Banana skins can be used to calm itchy mosquito bites....
 - True
 - False
- 3 Which of these African countries produces Fairtrade bananas?
 - Ghana
 - Madagascar
 - South Africa
 - Ethiopia
- 4 What can cause havoc for banana farmers?
 - Spiders
 - Panama disease
 - Monkeys
 - Fruit flies
- 5 Which country eats their fries with banana ketchup?
 - Hawaii
 - Brazil
 - The Philippines
 - Colombia
- 6 Fairtrade is supporting over 36,480 farmers and workers to receive a fairer wage and decent working conditions....
 - True OR False

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT

is

27th February to 12th March

- 7 Conditions on many banana plantations are dire, with workers living in poverty....
 - True
 - False
- 8 47% of bananas grown worldwide are.....
 - Lady fingers
 - Cavendish
 - Plantain
 - The wrong shape
- 9 In the UK, how many bananas on average do we eat per year?
 - 150 million
 - 880 million
 - 3 billion
 - 5 billion
- 10 The word 'banana' derives from the Arabic word for....
 - Oar
 - Caterpillar
 - Crab
 - Finger
- 11 For every banana sold, how much does the farmer typically receive?
 - 50 - 54%
 - 36 - 40%
 - 21 - 25%
 - 5 - 9%

- 12 Which of these is NOT a type of wild banana?
- Gold-tiger bananas
 - striped bananas
 - Bubblegum-pink bananas
- 13 Green-and-white According to a new 2022 study, the additional benefits generated through Fairtrade Premium are equal to how many dollars (USD) per person per month for workers on the Ghanaian banana plantations in the study?
- \$25
 - \$50
 - \$75
 - \$100
- 14 On April 24, 2016, a UK athlete named Andrew Lawrence set what 'dressed as a banana' record?
- Longest yoga session
 - Fastest swim on the English Channel
 - First professional tennis game won
 - Fastest marathon time
- 15 According to a 2022 report, on what did Colombian banana producer organisations choose to invest 1/3 of their Fairtrade Premium?
- Public Healthcare
 - Extra cash payments to workers
 - Interest-free loans
 - Educational support

[Answers in next issue]





What a great Christmas Messy Church we enjoyed! There was lots of fun, laughter and glitter. There were lots of activities - Christmas tree decorations to make, a shepherd and a lamb, angels, a teeny TV nativity and yummy eating crafts too. There was even a chance to track on an iPad the journey Mary and Joseph took going to Bethlehem.

Every child had a chance to enjoy decorating a Christingle - an orange circled by a red ribbon, with candles and sweets. The orange symbolises the world, the red ribbon shows God's love and the blood of Jesus, the sweets represent God's creation, the four cocktail sticks represent the four seasons and the candle represents Jesus being the light of the world bringing hope to those in darkness. We also made a giant picture showing the nativity story with Mary and Joseph, the wise men, shepherds and angels.

During our worship Val Price told us about the camels, donkey and sheep who all wanted to see Jesus. The children then had a lighted Christingle to hold whilst singing Away in a Manger. Truly magical.

After this there was a yummy Christmas buffet, followed by jelly and ice cream. As one Mum said, "I don't have to think about getting the children a meal when I get home".

A lovely happy afternoon concluded with a comic book telling the story of Christmas for each child to take home, together with a bag of chocolate coins.

In January the team treated themselves to a New Year Meal at Babbacombe Inn. It was good to celebrate all that our amazing helpers have done through 2022. Sorry we couldn't squeeze everyone in the photos here!





Did you know that there used to be a petrol station next door to the church (now the site of the funeral directors)? The former manager (*in the picture*) came in to a recent coffee morning, and told us some interesting tales from the past.

