

# Furrough Cross United Reformed Church



**The URC is 50 years old!**

August / September 2022



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

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**Junior Church and Messy Church Leader:**

Miss Shirley Leaman

## **CHURCH ACTIVITIES**

**Sunday Services and Junior Church:** Sundays at 10.30 am. Communion on 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month.

**Prayer and Praise:** 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday at 10.30am (not 22<sup>nd</sup> August)

**Midweek Worship:** Wednesdays at 2.30 pm.

**Messy Church:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of each month (not August) 4 to 6 pm.

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

**First Friday Film:** 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of each month 2.30pm

## EDITORIAL

We had a lovely holiday in Scotland in early July. We decided to take the minimum baggage and be backpackers! We had to surmount a few hurdles – EasyJet cancelled our return flight so we had to come back a day early; our train from Glasgow to Fort William was cancelled, but there was a coach replacement to meet a train halfway there; and our ferry to Skye was cancelled, so we had to drive the long way round to get to the bridge. Apart from that, our plans worked out well, including exploring the heritage of Charles Rennie Mackintosh in Glasgow, a boat trip from Fort William on the Loch watching seals enjoying life, a steam train trip to Mallaig and back (with a “Scottish high tea” which included Cornish clotted cream and jam from Essex!), and two days exploring Skye. The mountains, lochs and rivers everywhere north of Glasgow were amazing (and would no doubt have been even better if there had been more blue skies), and reminded us once again of the beauty of God’s creation.

Holidays can give us a chance to reset (apart from the pile of washing when we get back!) At the service last month led by some of the elders, we thought about the Biblical meaning of Jubilee, in view of the Queen’s Platinum and the URC’s 50th. Jubilees are a time for celebrating achievements, but also a time for reflection, for releasing people from debts and obligations, and to seek God and his desires.

Many electronic products these days have a “Factory Reset” button, which (if you can find it) will return the item to “as it was originally” condition. We might be a bit reluctant to press it though, as it will remove all the settings and things we are used to.

Can we be bold enough to press the Reset button and begin the next 50 years in total alignment with God – as a denomination, as a local church, and as individuals?



The next magazine will be in October, with a deadline for items of 15<sup>th</sup> September. Please let me have your news, thoughts, views, anything!

Dear Friends,

As I sit writing to you we have recently returned from holiday in Scotland where the weather was varied and when the sun did appear temperatures reached a pleasant 22-23 degrees. According to the BBC, Torbay may well reach the heights of 31C today. The contrast between the temperatures on our Scotland trip and today is very marked. There was one day when we were going on a boat trip and I was very thankful for my raincoat as the liquid sunshine was rather wet as we walked beside the loch on the way to the pier. I was pleased to discover that our boat had an inside where you could sit – though the weather did improve and by the time we reached the places where the seals lived, we could see them basking in the sun. I then had a very pleasant slow walk through the main street of Fort William looking in all the gift shops on the way back to the hotel, whilst hubby went by bus to Inverness to pick up our hire car for the next leg of our holiday, over the sea to Skye.

I don't know about you, but sometimes the Christian life feels like I'm struggling through cold and wet weather, or it seems that wherever I think I'm going to is a long way off. There are times too when life seems very hot with the challenges before me and I feel out of my comfort zone. The good thing is that in all of these situations, God is there for us and will give us relief, the Holy Spirit will be our comfort and guide.

In the hot weather we have discovered that if we prop open both the kitchen door and the veranda door there is a lovely cool breeze that runs through the house, and if the room we are in gets too hot, standing in the hall or sitting on the bottom of the stairs for a few minutes brings cooling wafts of air and before long we're ready to go again.

It's good to know that as we travel the way of faith there are places where we can be refreshed, whether that comes in the form of our own prayer and Bible study, or with others in church or a conversation with a Christian friend we trust.

I hope that you will feel that there is someone within the church family you can connect with when the rain or the hot sun of faith comes to support you.

Love and prayers

Heather

## **THE VIEW FROM THE MANSE GARDEN**

Tweets,

Robbie here. Life in the manse garden is hotting up – much like the weather. The male human has been making sure the bird feeders are topped up. This is just as well as us robins have been joined by tits, finches, thrushes and blackbirds too. The pigeons and seagulls try and get a look in but they are too heavy for the feeders. It's quite amusing to watch them try and fail, wings and squawks going everywhere with an occasional thud to the ground as larger wings don't always manage take off when upside down. We may have lost the resident cat but there is an interloper who walks around the perimeter of the garden at various times of the day. Fortunately, that cat is not so clever and keeps to the same timetable, and us birds have got together for the morning chorus and sing in the trees just out of reach. I've watched the cat try and figure out how to reach us – but we are far too ingenious, there's no way that cat is going to get us. We may taunt the poor animal by being almost in reach, but we're well out of the way should a black ball of fur decide to leap through the air!

The female human is not impressed with some of the larger birds that frequent the garden: they have taken a liking to the raspberries and keep getting to them before she can. The male human has put a cage over some of the raspberries so that helps, but there is still quite a lot of fruit outside the tent. Elsewhere in the garden the strawberries have been



growing like wildfire, all sorts of beans and peas are in abundance as are the blackberries. He has recently begun to dig up potatoes too so it looks as if they'll be fairly self-sufficient in at least some vegetables for a while. Well, it's getting hotter, so I'm off to find a nice cool spot. Hope you managed to keep out of the heat.

Chirrs, Robbie

### **FIRST FRIDAY FILMS**

Our film show on July 1<sup>st</sup> saw six people enjoy the first of the Exotic Marigold Hotel movies. Afterwards we shared refreshments whilst Mavis and Eric told us stories of the time they spent in India.



On 5<sup>th</sup> August at 2.30pm we will be showing 'Les Misérables'. Everyone is welcome, there is no charge but donations for refreshments are welcome.

If you have a favourite film that you'd like to see on the big screen do let us know.

### **DE-CLUTTERING AND WORK MORNINGS**

A huge thank you to the intrepid seven who worked in the heat of the recent work morning on the 10<sup>th</sup> July. Bravely they entered the (no doubt hot) depths of one of the sheds, cleared it, built and put in shelves to help keep the shed tidy and make it easier to find the smaller items. Some of them made valiant attempts to chase the shade around the church building so they could work in cooler conditions. Their reward was paid in doughnuts during a refreshment break (though if this reporter may say so, they deserve more than doughnuts).

Further work needs to be done and more sessions will be arranged. It's hoped that some of them can be arranged for during the week so that those who have indicated their willingness to help, but find weekends challenge, can help. Rewards will be paid in doughnuts. There is still much to do. However, it is important that nothing is

removed or disposed of without reference to the elders first so that we can ensure that nothing that is of value, has been given as a gift or is of historical value is removed or put elsewhere by accident. One of the pictures currently in the vestry has been discovered to be of the first minister of Furrough Cross back in 1852 [see page 16]. Thankfully we have been rather slow at disposing of the pictures and one treasure at least can still find its home at Furrough Cross.

## **SOCIAL ACTIVITIES AT FURROUGH CROSS**

With the closure of the Women's Friendship Circle [see page 10], apart from First Friday Films there are few opportunities for us to get together as a church and get to know one another. Would you be prepared to organise a social event? Maybe a beetle drive or quiz evening? Perhaps you are good at amusing anecdotes, connected to an event you've attended. Perhaps you have been somewhere for a holiday and could share a taste of your trip. There is a list in church where you can sign up with what you can offer. Once we have a few things the plan is to get together and agree some dates when we can share together.

## **KITCHEN HYGIENE AND SAFETY SIGNPOSTS FROM THE ELDERS**

The elders are aware that there are several things which we need to have in place because we serve refreshments, so that due diligence is carried out and that the regulations for establishments that serve food and drink are adhered to. We are required to be a part of the food safety rating system. Before COVID for the most part this was kept an eye on by the catering team, several of whom had experience in this area due to their previous work experience. The elders hope that the "Working Together" document [see page 10] will enable some of the catering roles once covered by the catering team might be picked up, as well as finding someone prepared to take on a role which, at the moment, we are calling "Hospitality Lead", who will help the elders keep an eye out for us in this area.

In the absence of a Hospitality Lead and following an ant infestation in church, the elders wish to reinforce what used to be church policy that only items required for making drinks are to be kept on the premises. These must be kept in a closed container. No biscuits, cakes or snacks are to be left on the premises, even if they are in sealed containers. Those tasked with making refreshments are asked to bring biscuits etc with them and remove any leftovers from the premises afterwards.

In order to comply with Food Hygiene Regulations any items placed into either of the fridges or freezer in the church or hall must be labelled with the event for which it is needed and, if part used, the date it was opened. Even though an item might be in date, the length of time the food is designated as being safe to eat may be shorter once opened, so such labelling will help us to keep everyone safe. This is particularly important if something is used irregularly, for example for a monthly meeting. Sticky labels and pens are in the drawer nearest to the fridge.

## **HARVEST FESTIVAL**

The Harvest service will take place on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> September. Flowers and items for display should be brought to the church on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> September by 10.30 am.



Following the success of the bring and share Jubilee lunch, and the request to do something similar again, we will have a bring and share ploughman's type Harvest Lunch. Last time we had a surfeit of sausage rolls, so in order to ensure we have a varied selection, nearer the date a list with the items required will be published for those attending to select which items they are happy to supply.

**Linda's** 15-mile sponsored walk in May in aid of Young Lives vs Cancer raised almost £400. Linda would like to thank all who contributed so generously.



## **NEWS FROM THE CHURCH MEETING HELD ON 17<sup>TH</sup> JULY**

### St Marychurch Scarecrow Festival 5<sup>th</sup> -17<sup>th</sup> August

The meeting agreed that Furrough Cross should have an entry in the St Marychurch Scarecrow Festival. Our entry will be called “Fabulous Faith”, and if anyone would like to be a part of the team putting Faith together, please let Roy know.

### Updating the projector

After obtaining advice and two quotes and speaking to other churches with a similar set up to the one proposed, the elders recommended accepting the quote from AVD to site a projector on one of the wooden brace stuts in front of the screen (with horizontal keystone adjustment to take account of the angle) at a cost of £4,586. Church Meeting agreed to this.

### Women’s Friendship Circle

Six ladies met for the Friendship Circle AGM and it was with great sadness that after 63 years the group decided to close, following the death of Wendy the Treasurer, Beryl having only taken on the role of Secretary for a year, and there not being anyone offering to take on these roles. There are some funds remaining and these would be used to replace some of the artificial flowers that were past their best, and to purchase some 10-inch plates for the church kitchen. Rev Heather said the group has contributed so much to the life of the church over the years.

The group hoped that there would be scope for a variety of social events that the whole church could take part in.

### Furrough Cross Working Together

The elders had agreed a questionnaire that would go out with this magazine, giving an opportunity for people to be able to share some of their skills and gifts, and a chance to volunteer regularly or occasionally. Hard copies of the document would be made available in church for

those unable to print off or needing a second copy if there are two in the household. Please consider carefully how you might help if you are able to. As already mentioned, one urgent need is for a Hospitality Lead.

### Autumn/Christmas Fair

Unfortunately time ran out for the organising of a summer fair. However if you would be willing to help to plan or be a part on the day of a fair later in the year please let Heather or Steve know. Heather is going to find a suitable time when those offering their help can meet to organise the day.

Next Church Meeting: after the service on Sunday 11th September.



Roy was recently presented with one of Scouting's top awards, the Silver Acorn, after over 50 years service to the movement. For 21 years he was Assistant Scout Leader then Leader of his Troop at Wembley, and since 1988 he has served on the committee of the URC Guide and Scout Fellowship in various capacities, including camp organiser, vice-chairman, magazine editor, and Treasurer since 2005, which includes managing sales of Fellowship items such as badges and books.

*Roy with URC National Scout Chaplain Rev Keith Morrison*

A Vicar, a Rabbi and a Priest walk into a bar. The barmaid says: 'Is this some kind of joke?'

## MANSE GARDEN PARTY

Thirty of us had a lovely time in the manse garden on 23rd July. *Here's a picture of a similar event at the manse, back in Rev Robert Jennings' time.*



*A similar view in 2022*



## NEW ANGLICAN PRIEST IN CHARGE AT ST MARYCHURCH

We offer a warm welcome to Rev Nick Debney, who as well as St Mary's also has responsibility for St Martin's at Barton.

Rev Nick was previously Team Vicar in the Newton Abbot Team Ministry and was the Vicar of St Luke, Milber and Interim Priest in Charge of St John with Heathfield, Bovey Tracey.

Rev Heather was pleased to be at the licensing ceremony at St Mary's on 18<sup>th</sup> July.



*Shirley*

So I just want to say a great big thank you to all the fab Messy Church team for all their hard work. When we re-started last September, post-Covid, there was no promise that we would be able to keep going. But God had other ideas. So with some new helpers we took a deep breath and went for it. And now having waded through lots of painting, glueing, cooking, drawing, making and shaking and laughing we finally broke up for the summer. It's been up and down, but with God's help we've battled through and have shared the story of Jesus with our lovely families.

So thank you to all who have helped in any way - you have been wonderful. And do you know what, we can do it all again in September! Woohoo!



## **GARDEN PARTY FUNDRAISER FOR TORBAY HOSPITAL**

*Lesley*

I would like to sincerely thank all my lovely friends at Furrough Cross who so kindly supported this event in July at Torquay and District Soroptimist International. I am delighted to tell you that £1000 was raised for the Ricky Grant Day Unit and Turner Ward in memory of my husband John Joseph Proctor. This was a wonderful result – amazing!

Including donations from John's Freemason brothers and donations in his memory from friends, the grand total is £2000, which is incredible. At the suggestion of Shelley Weston at Torbay Hospital, a chemotherapy couch was purchased and the cost was exactly £2000! My grateful thanks to you all for your wonderful support for this very worthy cause. My love and every blessing, Lesley.

## **PRIME MINISTER'S COUSIN AT FURROUGH CROSS**

***No, nothing to do with Boris!***

*historywebsite.co.uk*

The Reverend John Eddowes Gladstone (JEG) was a cousin of the Prime Minister William Ewart Gladstone. He was born in 1814, and his father, a Liverpool merchant, died when JEG was 18. His older brother thought that JEG should join other members of the family in the merchant business and JEG, very much against his will, was apprenticed to the business. JEG's daughter, Laura Gladstone, later wrote that her father loathed his work as a business apprentice and longed to serve as a clergyman. JEG's grandson, Gerald Gladstone, speculated that JEG's calling to ordained ministry may have reflected 'his very strong sense of right and wrong, his conscience and his revulsion at a prosperous family business thriving on slaves'.

A letter to his MP cousin in 1839 showed that JEG was planning to seek university admission so that he could train for the priesthood. He entered Magdalene College Oxford in 1840 but struggled financially and had to ask his cousin for support. He gained his BA degree in 1845, having eloped and married his niece's governess Sarah Giles in 1843.

JEG's time at Oxford coincided with the founding of the 'Oxford Movement', based on the views of John Henry Newman and others. As a red-hot and uncompromising Evangelical Protestant, JEG very strongly opposed them and, in particular, their claims that the Roman church was a truer apostolic community than the established Church of England.

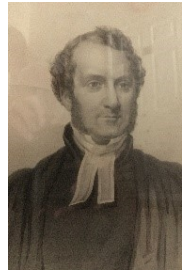
He was ordained as curate at St. Clement's, Norwich, where 'the population are for the most part in a most degraded condition, and where consequently there is much to be done'. His congregation was mostly drawn from the local tenements and slums that housed industrial workers.

Financial difficulties continued to strain him. By the end of 1846, JEG and his wife had three very young children to support on a curate's stipend. He was appointed to the Perpetual Curacy of St. Mark's, New Lakenham, Norwich in August 1846. The church had been only consecrated a year earlier, and it too had money problems.

His wife Sarah died in 1851, and shortly afterwards JEG moved to a new appointment at Long Acre Episcopal Chapel in the Diocese of London (a church which had long been appreciative of evangelical sermons). Here he wrote, spoke and preached forcefully and fluently against 'Tractarianism' and the Romanising influence of the Oxford Movement. His grandson wrote that JEG was 'a very determined person ... not to say bigoted, who saw life as black and white, and said so, out loud. He found himself in the Church of England at a time of some strain, with Darwin preaching evolution on one side, and Newman preaching return to Rome and tradition on the other... Grandfather's views on a move towards Rome was that Rome was worse than Hell'

One particular sermon caught the ear of the Bishop of London. JEG accused bishops and others in high places of 'flirting with the Vatican', and denounced the conduct of the Bishop of London in respect of the Tractarians as being 'vascillating and treacherous'. JEG was summoned to appear before his Bishop and was duly unlicensed and forbidden from officiating in the diocese.

In July 1852, the 'Exeter Flying Post' reported that JEG had accepted the freehold charge of the new Furrough Cross Free Church at St. Marychurch, described as 'a village about a mile and a half from Torquay with a population in 1851 of 2293'. The church, described as 'a modern building built in the Gothic style of architecture' was without endowment and was supported entirely by voluntary contributions and pew rents. The expense of church building had been borne principally by Sir Culling E. Eardley and several gentlemen in the neighbourhood. The church had been provided by them for the use of 'those of St. Marychurch who, two or three years previously, had discontinued worshipping in the parish church on account of the ritualistic doctrine and worship that had been introduced there'. The congregation was described as being 'in connection with no sect or Dissenting denomination; but in every respect except that of not being licensed by the bishop, in conformity and communion with the Church of England'.



- *Did JEG marry again?*
  - *What happened to him after Furrough Cross?*
- To be concluded in the next issue of the magazine*

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> August 2.30pm First Friday Film

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> August There will be no Zoom for this service.

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2.30pm First Friday Film

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> September Church Meeting after service

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> September Harvest Festival, with Bring and Share Lunch



**JUST A SMILE**      *Herbert*

The world should be  
a better place  
When there's someone  
like you around,  
Just to see a smiling face  
Instead of all those frowns.  
For when you smile  
the world lights up,  
There's sunshine all around.  
For the joy you bring  
to others  
Is a world without the clouds.

**END OF AN ERA**      *Posted on  
social media by David Crawford*

All good things must come to an end – but why must they? After 34 years of supplying pet food and accessories to Torbay's wide range of birds and animals, the Legend that is 'Herbie' is retiring from running his tiny shop in Princes Road, Babbacombe.

The shop always reminds me of 'Open All Hours', stacked to the ceiling with every conceivable product known to pets. From the entrance there is no way of knowing if anybody is being served. Herbie is hidden behind a central storage arrangement filled floor to ceiling with pet foods.

**BIBLE CAKE**      *Clare*

The ingredients are taken from verses in the Old Testament.

In a large saucepan add 8oz butter, 1 cup of water, 1 cup of dark brown sugar, 1lb of mixed fruit and 1 carton of cherries.

Melt the ingredients and simmer for 5 mins, add 1 teaspoon of Bicarbonate of Soda, stir slightly, then leave to go cold.

Mix in 2 beaten eggs with 3 cups of self-raising flour.

Add to a 7in cake tin lined with grease-proof double paper, and cook on the middle shelf at Gas no. 2 for 3 hours.



Herbie has a stock store down the rear lane, and a couple of times a day he pops down there to replenish the shop, leaving a note on the door.

Herbie was never going to make his fortune from his very fair and popular pet shop, he is a true Gent - sadly in decline in our selfish world - whose prices rarely reflected his true costs.

God bless you Herbie, enjoy a long and happy retirement.

## THE GARDENER'S HYMN

All things bright and beautiful  
All creatures great and small  
All things wise and wonderful  
The Lord God made them all.

But what we never mention  
Though gardeners know it's true  
Is when he made the goodies  
He made the baddies too.

All things spray and squattable  
Disasters great and small  
All things paraquatable  
The Lord God made them all.

The greenfly on the roses  
The maggots in the peas  
Manure that fills our noses  
He also gave us these.



The fungus on the goose-gogs  
The clubroot on the greens  
The slugs that eat the lettuce  
And chew the aubergines.

The drought that kills the fuchsias  
The frost that nips the buds  
The rain that drowns the seedlings  
The blight that hits the spuds.

The midges and mosquitoes  
The nettles and the weeds  
The pigeons in the green stuff  
The sparrows on the seeds.

The fly that gets the carrots  
The wasp that eats the plums  
How black the gardener's outlook  
Though green may be his thumbs.

But still we gardeners labour  
Midst vegetables and flowers  
And pray what hits the neighbours  
Will somehow bypass ours!

## GLADYS DUNN VISITS HER LOCAL CHURCH

*From the magazine  
of St Mary the Virgin, Davyhulme, Manchester*

Gladys was new to the area and decided to visit the church nearest her new home. She had enjoyed the service so far, the fine church and the lovely music by the choir, but the sermon went on, and on, and on. Worse, it wasn't even very interesting. Glancing round, she saw more than one person in the congregation nodding off. Finally it was over.

After the service, she turned to a still sleepy-looking gentleman next to her, extended her hand, and said, 'I'm Gladys Dunn.'

'Me too!' he replied.

## TOWN CENTRE QUIZ ANSWERS (there are no doubt other correct solutions as well!)

Maidstone,  
High Wycombe,  
Newhaven,  
Buckingham,  
Newmarket,  
Shanklin,  
Grimsby,  
Dunstable,  
Daventry,

Canterbury,  
Inverness,  
Chelmsford,  
Blackpool,  
Nuneaton,  
Brackley,  
Warrington,  
Southend,  
Lowestoft,

Doncaster,  
Stevenage,  
Leicester,  
Darlington,  
Coventry,  
Preston,  
Basingstoke,  
Worthing,  
Swindon.

## THE FIFTY YEAR QUIZ 1972 – 2022: Celebrating 50 years of the URC

1. The United Reformed Church was created in 1972. Which one of these also happened in 1972?
  - a) Decimalisation of UK currency
  - b) The Beatles split up
  - c) The West End debut of 'Jesus Christ Superstar'
2. In which year was the Band Aid single 'Feed the World' released?
3. The UK's best selling car model ever was launched in 1976. What was it?
4. In what year did Rosalind Goodfellow become the first female Moderator of the URC's General Assembly?
5. In what year did Libby Lane become the first female Bishop in the Church of England?
6. The best picture Oscar winner of 1981 told the true story of a Congregational missionary. What was the film?
7. Put these soap operas in the order in which they started:
  - a) Brookside
  - b) Eastenders
  - c) Emmerdale Farm
  - d) Hollyoaks
8. Which British runner won the 10,000m on 'Super Saturday' at the London 2012 Olympics?

9. How old was the Queen when the URC was formed in October 1972?
10. Each year the Oxford English Dictionary chooses a word of the year. Put these four 21<sup>st</sup> century words of the year in chronological order:
  - a) Post-truth
  - b) Selfie
  - c) Simplex
  - d) Sudoku
11. Solve these anagrams of UK Prime Ministers since 1972:
  - a) Hollow drains
  - b) Rainy blot
  - c) Carve diamond
12. In which year did the King James version of the Bible celebrate its 400<sup>th</sup> birthday?
13. Which country hosted the 1990 soccer world cup?
14. Which saint did Margaret Thatcher quote as she entered 10 Downing Street for the first time in 1979?
15. Of which parish is the Revd Geraldine Grainger the most famous incumbent?
16. Which UK newspaper was launched in 1986 and ceased publication in 1995?
17. Which hymn of Swedish origin won the Songs of Praise viewers' favourite vote in 2013 and came second in 2019?

**HE WILL NOT FAIL YOU**      *Herbert*

Lord, you're everywhere I go,  
 Sometimes I feel you haunt me!  
 Sitting, standing, all alone,  
 You're always there beside me.  
 When I'm afraid, or in great pain,  
 I know you won't forsake me.  
 For there never could be such a friend  
 Than the One who loves and guides me.



**Prayer Breakfast** - the first Saturday of each month (not January), 8.00 am at Central Church. Food, fellowship, news and prayer.

## JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

We had a lovely bring and share lunch in the church after the service on 5<sup>th</sup> June. Raymond played some wonderful music (and won the prize for the best fancy dress!), and we had a slideshow of the amazing knitted decorations in St Marychurch precinct. There was more than enough food for everyone, and it was great to be able to sit down and enjoy our first social event in the church since lockdown.

