

focus



Furrough Cross
United Reformed Church

June/July 2023



Pentecost – Happy Birthday Church!

Below: the beautiful flower arrangements for the Sunday following the Coronation of King Charles III



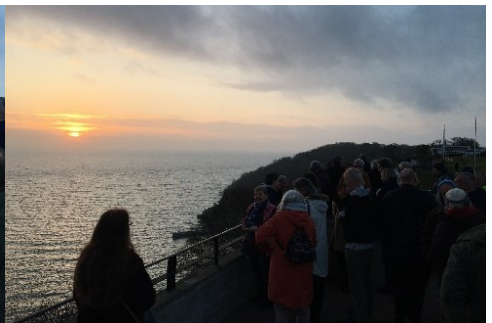
We had a lovely **Maundy Thursday** supper service, and were particularly pleased to welcome four friends who are more involved with our midweek worship and/or Messy Church. It was very moving to re-enact aspects of the Last Supper and Gethsemene in a meaningful way.



Our **Good Friday** coffee morning was very special, as we were able to join the local churches' Walk of Witness when they stopped for a reading and a hymn in our car park. That afternoon we watched the film *The Shack*, a very appropriate Christian film which gave us a completely new perspective on the three persons of the Trinity, and helped us all understand the power of a father, an of a son, being willing to forgive.

Alan Griffey carrying the cross through the Precinct.

On **Easter Sunday** there was a 6.15am service on Babba-combe Downs. We saw the sun rise, and we knew the Son had risen. Alleluia!



EDITORIAL

Roy Cadoux



Last month I completed my Pole to Pole walk – or so my Fitbit told me, having calculated that I had walked 12,430 miles since I got my step counter 5 years ago! However I wouldn't contemplate walking from Kingsbridge to Berwick-upon-Tweed, 627 miles, which is what Harold Fry did with zero preparation and no equipment (according to the novel *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry* and the lovely film of the same name that we saw recently). He was told at the start of his walk "If you have faith you can do anything", and although no religious significance was intended in that comment, we as Christians know that faith (in God) can move mountains.

When Monty preached in April he mentioned the BBC TV series *Pilgrimage*, which Heather and I also very much enjoyed. We saw seven pilgrims, of different faiths and none, journeying with a common purpose. Executive Producer Caroline Matthews said: "You never know what experiences the celebrity pilgrims will have on their journey. They physically dig deep, talk faith and ponder life's big questions. Stripped of their creature comforts, there is strong camaraderie, tears and a healthy dollop of humour to see them through their epic journey."

Whether we are walking any distance or not, the lives of each of us can be a pilgrimage. Share your faith with others along the way, grow your faith with help from others, and keep your eyes on Jesus!

*Who would true valour see,
Let him come hither;
One here will constant be
Come wind, come weather.
There's no discouragement
Shall make him once relent
His first avowed intent
To be a pilgrim.*

John Bunyan

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

Roy Cadoux

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FROM THE MINISTER

Rev Heather Cadoux

Dear Friends,

As I write I'm beginning to think about services for the Church's birthdays. And before the editor makes a change, it is meant to be plural.



Birthday number 1: we often equate Pentecost Sunday as being the church's birthday, as that's when the disciples went out into Jerusalem and told the people about Jesus, and three thousand were added to their number! This year birthday number 1 is on the 28th May.

Birthday number 2: commemorates the day this church began in a temporary chapel on Pentecost Sunday 1850, which that year was the 19th May.

Birthday number 3: 29th July 1852, when this church building was opened.

Birthday number 4: seems to cover quite a period of time when Abbey Road URC joined with Babbacombe URC; the church meeting to agree this in Babbacombe happened in October 1980, with a decision to rename the church to Furrough Cross URC in June 1981, and moving day when some items of furnishings were brought from Abbey Road to Furrough Cross happening on the 4th September 1981. [The dates for birthdays 2 to 4 have been taken from 'A Short History of Furrough Cross Church 1852-2002'].

Birthdays are either milestones that we celebrate with joy, or reminders that we are getting older and days when we'd rather keep a low profile. I suspect that is why some of us have our birthdays celebrated in church and some of us hope that our friends who know the date will not mention it.

In one church where I've been a minister, they always sang a second verse to 'Happy Birthday': *May the Lord God bless you, May the Lord God*

bless you, May the Lord God bless (Name), May the Lord God bless you.
I wonder is this something we might like to take up?

For some, birthdays are a day to take stock, to look back and see what has been achieved over the past year and look forward to the coming year – perhaps with things that are known to be happening, and more often as an opportunity to put something new into your life. Maybe to take up something new? I have several friends who are Christians who look at their spiritual lives and see where they need to spend time working on becoming more Christ-like, or setting themselves a target to read through the Bible before their next birthday.

Jesus spent time away from everything praying – taking himself off somewhere quiet to pray, seeking God and what God’s plans were. No doubt sharing his frustrations, and praying for those close to his heart, whether that was his family or friends, his disciples or someone he’d had a brief encounter with. Seeking always to be in step with what God wanted in his life and the lives of those he encountered.

I feel it is imperative that whatever we do as a church is covered in prayer. We need to be working together and realise that even though our role may only be small it is an important part of the whole and we must be united, or, as the saying goes, ‘divided, we fall’.

I invite you to join me in praying for the work that we do at Furrough Cross. That work is far wider than the services of worship and Messy Church. It includes our Coffee Morning - where we are finding more and more local people and holiday makers joining us - and the Bereavement Drop-in. It includes the events we put on including fundraising events. It includes what those who use our premises see, how welcomed and safe do they feel, are those things they need for their group to function in our space easily accessible, and do they know where to get help if they need it?

With love to you all

Heather

BUZZ!

It's Betty the Bee here. Robbie asked me to do a guest spot this month as he's rather busy with his new family.



I thought I'd start with something about colour. They tell me that flowers come in all sorts of colours, but that's not what we bees see. We have a very short wave length for colour, what we see often bears no relation to the range of colours you humans see. We see colours through ultra-violet light wavelength, which means that if you have purple flowers in your garden we'll make a beeline for them first. We also rely on smell to draw us to the pollen and nectar. Or if we live as part of a hive, the dance that other bees do to show us where to find the best spots so we can make honey and feed the men and young ones. I'm sure you know that it's us female worker bees that do most of the work in and around the hive. Each bee, male or female, have their uses, and we wouldn't be complete unless we were each prepared to do our bit.

Some of us have our preferences and I'm glad to say that the roles do rotate around so that no one gets too fed up with their job. Apart from laying eggs – which is the queen's prerogative – I don't think there's anything I've refused to do. I'm usually one of the first to volunteer to take on something extra. For example, to fan the entrance of the hive to send cool air in when the temperature gets hot. We usually do that in shifts as it's hard work and you need to rest your wing muscles after a while.

Being a bee is all about making sure that the queen is well looked after, because if she is then the hive will survive. We look out for one another and, when necessary, we let our own wants take a back seat for the good of all.

The sun's out again, time for me to be off!

Buzz Buzz

Betty Bee

FAMILY NEWS

Linda Hall and Herbie Doney were elected to serve as Elders at the Annual Church Meeting, and were ordained (in the case of Herbie) and inducted on 6th May. Please note that Linda now has a new address.

Alan Martin, who led services for us quite regularly, sadly died in late March. We send our love and prayers to Rosemary and their family.

Marie Kingdom died on 24th March, and Colin Arthur on 15th April. We remember his wife Joy and their son.

Simon Meaden died on 22nd April. We continue to hold Pam and Marian in our prayers.

Among others we keep in our prayers are Pauline Duke, whose eyesight is causing her difficulties, Val Elms and Margaret Casselden. *Steve and Margaret* said they would like to thank all those who have sent cards and good wishes since Margaret has been in hospital.

A big welcome to Elizabeth who worships with us most Sundays, and is also a regular at Coffee Mornings.

Christine Powell writes: "Thank you to all you kind people who sent me lovely get well cards and good wishes. Progress is slow but I hope to be with you one day soon. With good blessings for all of you. Christine."

And *Avril Lakin* sends "a big thank you to everyone for your cards, gifts and good wishes on the occasion of my 90th birthday. Your friendship and your kindness are very much appreciated. Thank you, with love."

Pam Meaden writes: "Thank you to all my friends at Furrough Cross for your cards, kind thoughts and prayers at the sad loss of my dear son Simon. We as a family are finding it hard to come to terms with his passing, so your thoughts and prayers have been a great comfort."

Congratulations to John Deakin and Viv Simpson, who were married in the church on 20th May. We wish them every blessing for their future.

ITEMS WHICH WERE ON THE AGENDA OF THE CHURCH MEETING ON 21st MAY, BUT TIME PREVENTED DISCUSSION

Eco Church: We were inspired at the last SW Synod to look into our carbon footprint, which could have the additional benefit of reducing our energy bills. The suggested first step would be to sign up to the Eco Church scheme (run by respected Christian environmental charity A Rocha). This provides guidance and incentives to move forward. There is no charge but a small annual donation towards their costs is welcomed. The second step would be to organise an energy audit of our premises - it was indicated that Synod would pay the cost of that. Roy indicated to Elders that he is happy to take this forward if Church Meeting agree to pursue it, but someone will need to work alongside him.

Defibrillator: The last Church Meeting suggested that we should look into getting one, and Elders agreed that we should pursue this. The typical cost of a suitable automatic machine with a cabinet with a digital lock is £1700-£2000. The cabinet needs a power supply. There will be some additional costs for fitting, and for ongoing maintenance. Some charities such as British Heart Foundation can supply defibrillators and provide a small grant, e.g. £400. If we decide to go ahead we may be able to seek a grant from a local source and/or Synod (although the fact that the nearest one is less than 500ft away at Chilcote Surgery may count against it). The best place to mount it would probably be on the Furrrough Room wall, which is visible from the street; this would also avoid complications with the listed building status of the church and hall.

Christian Aid Earthquake Appeal: We raised £285 for the relief efforts in Turkey and Syria.



NEWS FROM CHRISTIAN AID

A Russian missile recently destroyed a Christian Aid food warehouse in **Ukraine**. It happened in Ternopil - the hometown of Ukraine's Eurovision entrant Tvorchi, who were just about to perform in Liverpool when the attack happened on the Saturday evening. Nearly £13,000 worth of food parcels were destroyed.

SUMMER FAIR SATURDAY 8th JULY

The date of the Summer Fair has been confirmed as Saturday 8th July 10.30am - 2pm.

The fair will take place in the hall, although the choir

area of the church will be used for a bouncy castle. (One of the suppliers of bouncy castles to children's parties in the hall have offered us a free bouncy castle session, this will be set up in the choir area and the Preschool staff have kindly agreed to manage this for us.)

Donation boxes are available in church for:

- a) Tombola and Raffle prizes – bottles of any sort, other new items or unwanted gifts.
- b) Jewellery, Bric-a-brac and craft items you have made.
- c) A collection tin if you wish to contribute towards a larger raffle prize.

There will also be a plant stall thanks to Malcolm and Veronica, and of course a cake and produce stall; we will need people to supply items for these two stalls.

There will be a sign-up sheet to offer your assistance on the day by taking care of a stall.

The hall will be open on Friday 7th July so that the stalls can be got ready for the following day.

PLEASE NOTE THAT BOOKS ARE NOT NEEDED FOR THIS FAIR.



Two poems from Herbie Doney

OLD FRIENDS

It's nice to meet old friends again
And chat of things long past,
When we were little children
Who was in our class?
It's nice to meet old friends again
Although all in the past.
However many years go by
It's a friendship that will last!

LIVING OUR LIFE

Life, it can be long or short,
No-one really knows.
On this fair earth there is a
choice
On the way that we should go.
Some people give us Joy and
Peace,
Some people give us Hope.
So what have we in life to give?
Let's give our heart and soul!

FAITH IN THE CITY

While out one day an oldish lady came across a new Christian bookshop, and bought a lovely big sticker for her little car - it said "Honk your horn if you love Jesus". She stuck it on her bumper and set off for home.

At the next junction the lights just turned red as she arrived, and she stopped at the line. She was thinking how pleased she was to be able to show her love for Jesus, and was beginning to wonder if any other drivers had spotted her sticker yet. Just then the car behind gave a honk. Oh lovely, she thought, that driver knows Jesus too. Then he gave several more honks, so he obviously loved Jesus a lot. Then longer honks came from the car behind that – how much that driver must love the Lord, she thought.

Honks came from several more cars in the growing queue behind her, and then she heard a man shout 'Jesus Christ!' What a wonderful faith-filled town we live in, she thought.

Then she noticed the traffic light was green, and she happily tootled across the junction just as they turned to red again.

STREET PASTORS

Bill Becher

Torbay and Newton Abbot Street Pastors are hoping to find some extra volunteers. They are currently out in the Torquay harbourside area every Saturday night until 2am, although we would like to go back to doing Friday nights as well. After full training, Street Pastors help out in all sorts of situations, from giving out flipflops, water or space blankets, calling an ambulance or just giving someone a chance to talk. Their aim is to care, listen and help.

We have a 'Safe Place' vehicle where hot drinks can be provided, and Prayer Pastors who cover the teams in prayer and respond to any prayer requests phoned in by the teams on the streets.

Street Pastors work closely with the Police, NHS, the Council and all involved in the night-time economy, all endeavouring to keep our town centres safe.

Of course as a local charity we have to raise all the funds needed, so maybe you could support us financially?

Please do contact me if you are interested in finding out more or would like to be an 'Observer' on one of our patrols.

OUR CORE VALUES

As a Christian charity, we are dedicated to improving the quality of life for people of all ages. We will bear witness to the Gospel remembering Jesus' words: 'Do unto others as you would have them do to you.'

Our mission is to express our faith in action, so that Torbay Street Pastors are recognised as Christians, noted for treating all with dignity and respect, sought after for our responsiveness, and acknowledged for the benefits we provide. We will continue to work to establish a legacy of befriending and caring for people, in God's way.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 27th May 9.30am Maintenance morning

Tuesday 13th June 10.00am Summer Fair final planning meeting

Saturday 8th July 10.30am - 2.00pm Summer Fair

Saturday 15th July 3.00pm Choir 86 Concert

Sunday 16th July 11.45am Church Meeting

Wednesday 19th July 7.00pm TBC District Quiz at Central Church

Saturday 22nd July 2.00pm Manse Garden Party – tickets £3 from Roy

SHARING IS CARING

There was a farmer who grew excellent quality corn. Every year he won the award for the best corn.

One year a newspaper reporter interviewed him and learned something interesting about how he grew it. The reporter discovered that the farmer shared his seed corn with his neighbours.

“How can you afford to share your best seed corn with your neighbours when they are entering corn in competition with yours each year?” the reporter asked.

“Why sir,” said the farmer, “Didn’t you know? The wind picks up pollen from the ripening corn and swirls it from field to field. If my neighbours grow inferior corn, cross-pollination will steadily degrade the quality of my corn. If I am to grow good corn, I must help my neighbours grow good corn too.”

So it is with our lives... Those who want to live meaningfully and well must help enrich the lives of others, for the value of a life is measured by the lives it touches. And those who choose to be happy must help others find happiness, for the welfare of each is bound up with the welfare of all...

I've noticed on some of my walks that lots of sheep and lambs have a number marked on them. Apparently they are baah codes.

Sorry, Roy



Although we prefer to see the church door open rather than closed, it's great to have had the rather tatty paintwork redone around the exterior of the building. Many thanks to Ann Close for arranging this work.

AVRIL'S 90th

Avril had an amazing 90th birthday party in our hall, hosted by her family. So many of her friends, old and new, were able to come and join in the fun and share lots of cake!

And it was good to be using the church hall again for a social event after so long.



BILL STARS ON BBC RADIO DEVON

Bill Becher was invited onto the 8am Sunday 'Faith in Action' slot on 23rd April, and spoke about his work with Torbay Street Pastors and much more besides. He told of his background in a Congregational church, living in Ohio, and how he became involved with the Quaker church as well as the URC.

Bill chose 'Dear Lord and Father of mankind' to be played (which is based on part of a long poem by American Quaker poet John Greenleaf Whittier and adapted by William Horder, a Congregational minister who lived in Torquay for four years).

FIRST FRIDAY FILMS

We enjoyed 'The King and I' on the Coronation weekend.

There will be NO Film afternoons in June, July or August. We resume on Fri 1st Sept at 2.30pm.

A BELOVED FRIEND – THAT WAS COLIN

Jaime and Beryl Navarro

A friend to so many people:

To lots of us here in the church;
To people he met on the buses;
To people he met walking up
Totnes high street, where he
went most Saturdays;
To others he met walking in the
Precinct, or on The Downs.



There was always a joke on Colin's lips but, most of all, he would take every opportunity to talk about his best friend – Jesus.

Yes, Colin had led a chequered life but, many years ago, when an alcoholic, he met Jesus. God delivered him miraculously from alcoholism, forgave all his sins, and started to change Colin into the wonderful person we all knew and loved.

Recently Colin had been suffering a lot of pain and on the Friday evening said to his beloved wife Joy "I wish the Lord would take me." The following morning the Lord answered his prayer and took him into His presence, where there is fulness of joy. "Absent from the body, present with the Lord."

*Face to face with Christ my Saviour,
Face to face, what will it be?
When with rapture I behold Him,
Jesus Christ, who died for me.*

See you soon, dear friend and brother.



*Linda was given a very special
send-off when she left H Samuel's
Torquay shop on its sad closure.
She is pleased to have
subsequently been offered a part-
time post at Newton Abbot.*



Shirley Leaman

Did you know we had monkeys and elephants at **April Messy Church**? No, we weren't at the zoo, but we heard all about Noah and his ark! God was very sad at the way people were behaving and the bad choices they were making, so he sent a flood to cover the earth. Noah had to build an ark and fill it with two of every kind of animal, bird and insect. Then he and his family were safe when the flood came. When it finally stopped raining God promised that there would never be another flood that would cover the whole earth. As a sign of his promise he put a rainbow in the sky.

All our activities reflected the theme of Noah and God's promises to us. The children made the ark and painted the waves; they made it rain with shaving foam and blue food colouring; did you know that you can make a fab rainbow with a bag of Skittles sweets and some water! There were animal biscuits to ice, bees to make, animal coasters to construct, masks to decorate and wear, and animal sun catchers to colour. Our big picture showed the ark with all the animals marching in to it and finally a huge rainbow to paint. The children heard about the promise Jesus has made to us that He will always be with us wherever we are and whatever we're doing.



During our worship time we also watched a video of Noah building his ark and sang a song about all the animals. Finally we thought about anyone we needed to pray for or anything we wanted to say thank you to God for, and we then lit a nightlight and floated it on the water.

All this was followed by a yummy meal of lasagne, vegetables and salad and ice cream and cake. Woohoo!



Our Messy Church team are the best! Month after month they turn up, lead crafts, cook meals, play games, sing songs and best of all laugh and chat with our families. Just four special thank you's this time – to our Chef extraordinaire, Agnes, who manages to produce tasty meals for everyone (never knowing how many people there will be); to Beryl who never lets anyone come in or leave without speaking and finding out all about them and making them feel super welcome. And to Karen and Raymond who stay to the bitter end clearing up, sweeping up and checking up - making sure there's not so much as a grain of sugar or a squashed chip on the floor! Thank you to them and every one of the team. Didn't someone once say "Whatever you do for others you do for Me." Now, who was that.....? Hmmm

MOTHERING SUNDAY

Shirley Leaman

Thank you to lovely Joyce Peters who ransacked her garden and together with Isabelle and I and the daffodils we bought, made beautiful posies to be given out to the ladies in the Church. Thank you too to the generous person who donated the money to buy the daffodils. I think most people were so grateful to receive them.

MONEY MATTERS

Roy Cadoux

I'm sure Jenny our Treasurer would want me thank all who contribute to the church. We have recently been able to reclaim £9600 from HMRC for Gift Aid for the last three tax years. We could significantly increase the amount for the current year if a few more people were to sign up for Gift Aid. You can do this so long as you are a taxpayer, and once you've signed the simple form I can give you, there's nothing else you need to do, but we can claim an extra 25% for everything you donate to the church. You would need to use the weekly envelopes, or pay by bank standing order, so that we can report the amount donated to HMRC. Please have a word with me if you would like any more information.

To appreciate thanksgiving, the thanks must come first, followed by the giving.

I was born in Torquay, in St Marychurch Road over my gran's baker's shop. Then we went to live in Bury in Lancashire when I was about 4, until I was 13. It was where my Dad came from, and we lived near his parents' home. Every year the church had a Whit Walk on Whit Sunday. When I was nine I was asked to be the Whit Walk Queen for our church. Most churches in Bury joined in the procession down through the main streets – it was about a mile to the town centre, where we had an open air service with a band playing.

Carole at the head of the procession



- Any fool can criticize, condemn and complain – and most fools do.
- Experience is the name people often give to their mistakes.
- Volunteers are unpaid, not because they are useless, but because they are priceless.
- You must be at your strongest when you are feeling at your weakest.
- If you can't sleep, don't count sheep, talk to the Shepherd.

DID YOU KNOW OUR HALL IS ALSO A GRADE II LISTED BUILDING?

Official List Entry by Historic England

Schoolroom. 1853 (Pevsner).

Local grey limestone rubble; slate roof; stacks with paired, rendered gable and shafts with arched gap between.

PLAN: 3-bay schoolroom, at right-angles.

EXTERIOR: 2 storeys. Set-back buttresses. Entrance elevation facing north west. Shallow central gabled porch with a 3-centred arched doorway with moulded dripstone with carved terminals with a C20 recessed front door. Above the porch a shallow projecting shouldered stack pierced by a 1-light window. Long sides with tall triple windows with transoms and trefoil-headed lights; south-west side rendered.

On the north-east side the basement level has a blocked doorway with a segmental-headed brick arch, a doorway to right of centre and a window with a similar brick arch.

INTERIOR: Not inspected.



CHRISTIANS TOGETHER IN TORQUAY

Prayer Breakfast - the first Saturday of each month (not January) at 8.00 am at the Church of the Assumption in Abbey Road - NOTE THE NEW VENUE due to increasing numbers!)
Food, fellowship, news and prayer.



MORE ON CORRIE TEN BOOM

Roy Cadoux

One or two observant readers worked out that I must have written last issue's piece on Corrie Ten Boom before I actually went to Holland! But what I wrote was valid, and it really was amazing to see the tiny hiding space where six people stayed hidden under the noses of German guards. The false wall was built using bricks which had been brought into the house in a grandfather clock case, to avoid suspicion.

The tour guide emphasised Corrie's faith story, continuing right up to her death in 1983 and including work with Billy Graham. We were shown this jumble of threads, which was the reverse of a beautiful embroidery work done by Corrie, and this accompanying poem:



My life is but a weaving
between my God and me,
I do not choose the colours,
He works so steady,
Oft times He weaves in sorrow,
and I in foolish pride,
Forget He sees the upper,
and I the underside.

Will God unroll the canvas,
and explain the reason why.
The dark threads are as needful
in the Weavers skillful hand,
As the threads of gold and silver
in the pattern He has planned.



Poem *The Weaver*: Grant Colfax Tullar
Embroidery: Corrie ten Boom

ANSWERS TO 'DROP ME A LETTER' PUZZLE IN LAST ISSUE

Bath, York, Chard, Derby, Olney, Alton, Poole, Dover, Truro, Leeds, Redcar, Arundel, Chester, Reading, Preston, Andover, Burnley, Staines, Brighton.

PROVERBIAL QUESTIONS

The Book of Proverbs contains many witty sayings, some of which have been taken into our own language. Can you complete the following?

1. Go to the ant you sluggard, -----
2. The fear of the Lord is -----
3. Pride comes before a fall -----
4. Wisdom is more precious -----
5. A gossip betrays confidence, but -----
6. He who spares the rod -----
7. A gentle answer -----
8. A happy heart -----
9. Better a dry crust with peace -----
10. Better to live on the corner of the roof -----

DOGGY VISITORS AT COFFEE MORNING

At one coffee morning in March we had no less than three (very well behaved) canine visitors!

