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Furrough Cross
United Reformed Church

August / September 2023



Choir 86 gave us an amazing afternoon concert last month, with the church turned sideways

THE £100 GARDEN PARTY THAT WASN'T – see pages 8/9



Website: furroughcross.org Find us on Facebook: furroughcross

Minister: Rev. Heather Cadoux (01803) 310156

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**Church Secretary:** 

Church Treasurer: Mrs Jenny Marshall

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

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Messy Church Leader: Miss Shirley Leaman

# **REGULAR CHURCH ACTIVITIES**

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

Midweek Worship: Wednesdays at 2.30 pm.

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

Friday Coffee: Every Friday 10.00 - 12.00.

First Friday Film: 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of each month 2.30pm (not Jun-Aug)

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

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.

**EDITORIAL** Roy Cadoux

We recently had a very enjoyable visit to Ugbrooke House, which goes back to before the Domesday Book. The Clifford family, who have owned the house since 1604, retained their Catholic faith through the generations, despite it barring them from high office at various points in history.



Like many stately homes, it has a chapel. Designed by Robert Adam, it is very impressive, and is still used weekly for Roman Catholic worship - it



is the oldest Catholic parish church in the South West.

Have you got your own chapel? Maybe if you've got a big enough house you might have a dedicated room, but more likely your 'chapel' could just

be a particular chair, a corner of the bedroom, a favourite spot in the garden or a bench in Tessier Gardens or on Babbacombe Downs. Perhaps rather than a particular location, it's a period of time that you dedicate to prayer and Bible study.

Wherever, whenever, let's commit our entire homes and our entire lives to God, and take every opportunity to listen to Him and to give Him our praise and worship.

On our recent holiday on Jersey we visited the only URC on the island for Sunday worship. The smallish congregation gave us a warm welcome and asked us to pass on their greetings.

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

Roy Cadoux



An unusual perspective of our church building

# COMING UP AT THE ROYAL LYCEUM, ABBEY ROAD, TORQUAY

Saturday 30th September 7.30pm

'If Prison Walls Could Speak' is a piece of live theatre designed to tell the true story of Petr Jasek, a Czech national and Christian Aid worker who was imprisoned in Sudan for his work assisting the persecuted church. The play was developed alongside Release International, and tells Petr's story using innovative multi-media effects. This is a powerful story of hope and features many testimonies of God's love in the midst of persecution, presented by Artless Theatre Company.

Tickets £5 in advance or £8 on the door.

Book online at www.unleashedtheatrecompany.com

# **FROM THE MINISTER** Rev Heather Cadoux

Dear Friends,

Let me share with you some words from the poem "Leisure" by WH Davies:

"What is this life if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare?
No time to stand beneath the boughs
And stare as long as sheep or cows.
No time to see, when woods we pass,
Where squirrels hide their nuts in grass.
No time to see, in broad daylight,
Streams full of stars, like skies at night.
No time to turn at Beauty's glance,
And watch her feet, how they can dance.
No time to wait till her mouth can
Enrich that smile her eyes began.
A poor life this if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare."



These words were written over a hundred years ago, yet, despite the massive shifts in technology and culture, we still cheat ourselves of time to "stop and stare". I can imagine the poet dreaming of a future time when technology might transform our living, slowing us down and offering more leisure, more opportunities to reflect on what it is to be a human, or just to be.

Confounding that dream, technology has done the opposite. Rather than give us more lime for leisure, it has filled our activities even more. We might stop and stare, but we stare at the TV, our laptops or our tablets.

Followers of Jesus are encouraged to stop and stare. Jesus said "And why do you worry and labour? See how the flowers of the field grow.

They do not labour or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these". Take time, stop and stare.



Living in Torquay, most of us are in sight of, or walking distance from the sea. I know that whenever I am up on the Downs, even in the early morning there are folk there walking, sitting, standing and looking, taking the opportunity to stop and stare. To pause and to see creation in all its glory. From upstairs in the manse Roy and I can see glimpses of the sea and the coast on the other side of Lyme Bay as it heads along the Jurassic coast to Portland.

Our lives are busy, frantic and always on the go, but God didn't create us to withstand such a constant tsunami of information, technology and communication. God offered us Sabbath - time, not exclusively a Sunday, when we can contemplate and pray deeply about things. We all need to take time to be still and spend time alone with God. Jesus modelled this for us - in the midst of the business of teaching, preaching and healing, He took time to stop and stare, to reconnect with himself, with God and with creation. If Jesus needed to do that then we must follow His example.

I have to confess I don't stop and stare as often as I should. When I do, I find that whatever has been bothering me and on my mind is pushed aside and I'm able to reconnect with what matters most. When I do get back to whatever has been all-consuming before I stepped away, it now has some perspective. I'm either able to sort the issue quickly, or I've got a different perspective.

I hope that you will find time to make space, grasp the opportunity to just stop and stare, to see and listen for what God can offer you, as well as noticing the beautiful creation that is around you.

Every blessing,

Heather

#### HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICE

This year's service will take place on **Sunday 17**<sup>th</sup> **September**. As we have done for several years, we will be collecting food items for the Torquay Community Larder, which supports those locally who for whatever reason find they are in need. The following items are particularly needed:

- Tinned meat, including pies, ham, corned beef
- Tinned beans, potatoes, veg, tomatoes, spaghetti, ravioli, macaroni cheese
- Biscuits
- Long life milk
- Pasta sauce
- Cereals
- Custard, rice pudding
- Tinned fruit
- Squash, long-life juice
- Coffee
- Children's treats, sweets, chocolates

Please do not bring fresh produce as they are unable to distribute these.

Following the service we will have a **Bring and Share Lunch**. Lists for those who wish to attend and to volunteer to provide the menu will be on the table in the side aisle from the middle of August.



# **TORQUAY COMMUNITY LARDER**

continues to operate at the Salvation Army Corps Headquarters in Market Street, and is open 10.30am – 1pm every Monday and Friday (except public holidays). We usually have about 6 volunteers each session, sorting and packing typically around 12 food parcels, feeding a mixture of families and single men.

# **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

Sat 19<sup>th</sup> August 9.30am Church maintenance morning

Fri 1st September 2.30pm First Friday Film show and tea

Sat 9<sup>th</sup> September 7.00pm Torbay Police Choir concert in church

Sun 17th September 10.30am Harvest Festival and lunch

Sun 24th September 11.45am Church Meeting after the service

# THINKING OF OTHERS Herbie Doney

Sharing and caring for each other
Is what we should do every day.
The rejected face of the beggar man –
Please don't just walk away.
But if there's a kind deed we can offer,
Don't let pride stand in the way.
Let's not wait until tomorrow
What good we can do today!

How can you make God laugh? Tell him your plans.

# **DISTRICT QUIZ**

Three of us (Paul M, Roy and Heather) represented Furrough Cross at the quiz night hosted by Central Church. It was a very enjoyable evening, with some great food at the end of quiz. And we came joint 2nd which we were quite proud of!

#### MANSE GARDEN PARTY

Roy Cadoux

With a wet and windy forecast, and 35 people expected, we regretfully made the decision to hold the party in the church. We brought our garden into the church by having a rolling slide show showing close-up pictures of everything growing in the manse garden earlier in the week [see examples next page]. Heather made a lovely selection of cakes to go with a cream tea, and we also had a garden-themed quiz which showed our collective ignorance! We were able to raise £100 from ticket sales for the defibrillator fund. A big thanks to all who bought tickets.



Some of the July manse garden flower pictures

# Care to Join Us?

The Chaplaincy Team which serves our local hospitals are looking for new volunteers. Could that be you?

#### You would need:

- to enjoy meeting people
- to prefer listening to talking
- to be committed to treating everyone with respect
- to be comfortable in a multi-faith environment
- to be able to work in the very special setting of a hospital ward





There are opportunities at Torbay Hospital and each of our community hospitals. You would receive training and support, and become part of a respected team.

Interested? Then contact our team 01803 654186 email tsdft.chaplains@nhs.net

Watch our short video at https://vimeo.com/835709675/221316e3c4

## WHAT'S IN A NAME?

A burglar breaks into a house. He starts shining his torch around looking for valuables. Some nice things catch his eye, and as he reaches for them, he hears, "Jesus is watching you." Startled, the burglar looks to see who is speaking. Seeing no one, he continues putting things in his bag, but again he hears, "Jesus is watching you." This time, he sees a parrot. "Who are you?" the burglar asks. "Moses," the bird replied. "Whoever would name a bird Moses?" the man laughed. "I don't know," Moses answered, "I guess the same kind of people that would name a Rottweiler Jesus."

ECO CHURCH Roy Cadoux

Church meeting has agreed that we begin the process of becoming an 'Eco church'. This scheme is run by the Christian environmental charity A Rocha (which means "the rock" in Portuguese, where it was founded in 1983). A Rocha is a global family of conservation organizations working together to live out God's calling to care for creation and equip others to do likewise.

There are three levels of awards: Bronze, Silver and Gold.

The first stage is an online exercise to assess where we are at, and on the basis of this it looks like we would already qualify for Bronze. However the results indicate many areas where we could make significant progress in reducing our carbon footprint and becoming greener. Some of these are shown in the box below.

Once we receive the bronze award, the next stage is to obtain an energy audit for the church buildings (which includes the manse). We understand that South West Synod may be able to cover the cost of this. The results will then show us the most cost-effective ways of reducing our energy consumption and making other improvements; the church will then no doubt have some significant decisions to make.

Would you like to be an 'eco champion' for the church to help take this work forward? Please let me know!

# Some areas where the scheme shows we could make improvements:

- Increased emphasis on 'Caring for God's earth' in services and in church communications
- Measure and set targets for year-on-year improvements in the energy efficiency of our buildings
- Obtain energy generated from renewable resources or a 'green tariff'
- Take measures to reduce water usage
- Provide facilities for recycling, and greater usage of recycled materials
   e.g. recycled paper products
- · Make garden and wild areas more wildlife friendly
- Organise environmental awareness-raising events, and get involved in action locally, nationally and internationally (e.g. toilet twinning)



Our theme in **June** was Jesus the Good Shepherd, and all our activities reflected this. The children iced sheep biscuits (with enough finger licking to make a

health inspector's hair curl!); there were cottonwool sheep to make, and have you ever seen a catapult sheep? A big sheep-pen was made and painted, the children rolled marbles in paint to show how sheep wandered all over the place, and beautiful name pictures were decorated to illustrate that God knows every single one of us by name.

Finally we made a big picture of the shepherd with his sheep look out for the pink and blue one (!) where the lost lamb was caught in the thorn bush with a stripy lion nearby licking his lips.





During worship time we watched a video of Jesus telling the story of the Lost Sheep, and then they heard all about Fluffy, the sheep who wandered away. Harry and Jake our shepherds and Sophia our lamb acted out the story marvellously. It doesn't matter how far away from God we wander, He always, always wants us to come back to Him. (And did you know that God even knows how many hairs we have on our head? Amazing!)

We finished the afternoon with delicious lasagne followed by Vienetta, which vanished in record time! What a fabulous sheep-filled afternoon we enjoyed together. Lots of children, lots of grown-ups, even Sammi the rescue dog, and lots of fun!



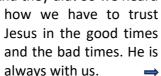
Oh my goodness, what an afternoon we had for our **July** Messy Church! We're meant to finish at 6pm but everyone was still there at 6.45, so I think we can safely say that the children enjoyed themselves.

Our theme was seasides and the story of Jesus on a boat with His friends. To start we watched a video and sang "Who put the colours in the rainbow?" This was followed by a host of activities - icing

shortbread boats, decorating shells, making and sailing paper boats and bottle boats, a giant picture of Jesus calming the storm, seeing what it was like sitting in a kayak. We rehearsed a drama of the story, complete with sparkling lightning, ribbon rain, shaking blue sheets for the sea and lots of noisy musical instruments including Raymond running across the Church organ peddles to make thunder!

Ali (Isabelle's daughter) led the worship and told how Jesus and his friends sailed across the lake.

Jesus was tired and fell asleep. Suddenly a storm blew up and tossed the boat in every direction. The disciples were scared. They woke Jesus: He stood up, and told the wind and rain to stop. And they did! So we heard









After worship everyone tucked into burgers, salad and hot dogs, followed by choc ices. The fun didn't end there: we thought it would be great to end with a water fight (what was I thinking?) so water pistols and water bombs brought huge

enjoyment. Anyone who escaped a soaking was extremely fortunate. Never mind iPads and iPhones, water pistols brought a smile to everyone's face! I'm sure that Jesus was with us this afternoon as we heard another story from His time on earth.





This was our last Messy Church for the summer, and the children all took home a mini bag of sweets containing a sweet shrimp and a jelly octopus and fish - all in keeping with our theme - together with a postcard telling them when we start again, Friday 8th September.

In the meantime I'll just try and dry out - who would've thought a water pistol could make you soooo wet!

- Bristol Korean church has become the latest new URC church within South Western Synod.
- We had a great team of 14 willing workers at the May maintenance morning – and some lovely doughnuts.
- Bill Becher joined the local section of a special 630-mile walk in May/June to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the South West Coast Path Association.
- June Church Meeting agreed that the church should pursue the installation of a public access defibrillator, and we have subsequently received an amazing donation which covers the cost of the device and the lockable cabinet.
- We have had three serious toilet blockages recently; please ensure that no paper towels, wet wipes or nappies are put in the toilet.
- July Church Meeting agreed to install two new benches, in memory of Maggie Fields and Graham Dart, who did so much for the church.



In the last issue we showed a picture of the lovely new blue paintwork on the main church door. A lady who comes to our bereavement drop-in group got married in our church, and she brought this lovely photo of their wedding, showing the door when it had a varnished wood finish.

# **ENERGY SAVING ON THE MENU**

Like most of us, a Chinese restaurant is trying to cut their energy usage. Someone suggested they turn all the lights off, but they said "We can't, but we do dim sum."

# 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 - <u>NOTE THE NEW VENUE</u> due to increasing numbers!) Food, fellowship, news and prayer.



At the June breakfast we heard a very inspiring talk about Unleashed Theatre Company and the other activities at Royal Lyceum Theatre – a bright beacon of Christian presence in Abbey Road in Torquay town centre.



Bill Becher with fellow Street Pastors Malcolm and Mark, at the Big Help Out volunteering day on Torre Abbey Meadow

"What's wrong, young man?" asked the minister.

"Please, I need you to pray for my hearing", he replied.

The minister put his hands on the young man's ears and prayed. When he had finished, he asked, "So, how's your hearing?"

"I don't know, it's not until next Tuesday."







Peter 'Moses' Wyles has been immortalised by artist Yannis Nicolaou of Sound Communities CIC in a colourful mural on the fence beside the main road at Hollicombe, where he is often seen waving to passing motorists when he's not outside the St Marychurch Co-Op.



We had a very successful day on 8<sup>th</sup> July, raising £1177. Our grateful thanks to everyone who helped in any way, and especially to the non-church members who manned the bric-a-brac stall and Elizabeth who did almost all the washing up. We had good

support from our Friday coffee morning regulars, who donated quite a lot of items for sale, and came in force on the day.

Social media, posters, handbills and bunting all helped to bring in lots of people from outside.

We are also most grateful to Ant of Riviera Events who provided a bouncy castle for free. This attracted a lot of families and fifty 5-minute sessions were recorded. Thank you so much to the Pre-School team who looked after the bouncy castle operation.

Malcolm and Veronica braved rain and shine to run the plant stall at the front, which not only did very well but it attracted a lot of people who were passing.



# The totals raised by each stall were:

+ jigsaws	£138	TOTAL	£1177
Tombola		Craft	£52
Donations	£140	Bouncy castle	£50
Plants	£158	Bric-a-brac	£70
Cakes	£147	Jewellery	£115
Raffle	£161	Refreshments	£137



The team folding hundreds of raffle tickets for the tombola.

Looks like Heather has dropped one!



Jaime welcomes some of our coffee morning regulars to the fair

Adam bit the apple and, feeling great shame, covered himself with a fig leaf. Eve, too, felt shame and covered herself with a fig leaf.

Then she went behind a bush to try on a maple leaf, a sycamore leaf, and then an oak leaf.

## ORDNANCE SURVEY BENCHMARK



I'm so glad I was taught to play the recorder at school



It has really come in handy during my adult life. I've lost count of the times I've resolved a difficult situation with a quick blast of three blind mice Did you know that we have this brass benchmark attached to our building? It is by the bench at the front, on the outside wall of the porch.

It was used as a location where the height above mean sea level at Newlyn was defined. There are actually around 500,000 of these benchmarks around the country, but they have not been maintained for the past 30 years as more accurate GPS technology is now used.

## IT'S A MIRACLE!

A police officer stops a priest driving on the motorway and immediately smells alcohol on his breath. The next thing he notices is an empty wine bottle lying on the passenger seat.

"Have you been drinking?" the officer asks. "Just water," says the priest. "Then why do I smell wine?" The priest looks at the bottle and shouts, "Good Lord! He's done it again!"

# **INDUCTION INVITATION** Catherine Harris, Secretary Kingsteignton URC



"On behalf of the Kingsteignton and Dawlish Churches I extend а warm invitation to your members to join us for the Induction Service of our new Minister. Rev Jessica Ashcroft-Townsley.

The service is to be held at Kingsteignton URC (Church Street

TQ12 3BQ) on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September at 3.00pm, with refreshments in the hall afterwards."

There will be a sign-up sheet on the side aisle table. Please make sure you complete it if you wish to come by Wed 30<sup>th</sup> August.

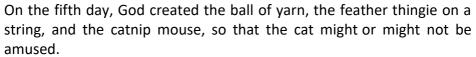
#### AN ALTERNATIVE CREATION STORY

On the first day, God created the cat.

On the second day, God created man to serve the cat.

On the third day, God created tuna, mice, and all the animals of the earth to serve as potential food for the cat.

On the fourth day, God created honest toil so that man could labour for the good of the cat.



On the sixth day, God created veterinary science to keep the cat healthy and the man broke.

On the seventh day, God tried to rest, but the cat woke him up at 5am.



# PROVERBIAL QUESTIONS: ANSWERS TO LAST ISSUE'S PUZZLE

- 1 Go to the ant you sluggard, **consider his ways and be wise.** Proverbs 6 v 6
- 2 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge. Proverbs 1 v 7
- 3 Pride comes before a fall; with humility comes wisdom. Proverbs 11 v 2
- 4 Wisdom is more precious than rubies. Proverbs 8 v 11
- 5 A gossip betrays confidence, but a trustworthy person keeps a secret. Proverbs 11 v 13
- 6 He who spares the rod spoils the child. Proverbs 13 v 21
- 7 A gentle answer turns away wrath. Proverbs 15 v 1
- 8 A happy heart makes the face cheerful. Proverbs 15 v 13
- 9 Better a dry crust with peace than a house full of feasting and strife. Proverbs 17 v 1
- 10 Better to live on the corner of the roof than to share a house with a quarrelsome partner. Proverbs 21 v 19

# WHERE ARE YOU LOOKING?

Author unknown

A lady had driven her car into a ditch, and there she sat. When the police arrived, they asked her what had happened. "I was looking in the rearview mirror, instead of looking at the road ahead", she explained.

What a thought! That is no way to move forward, if your eyes are focused on what's behind – either in driving, or in life. A lot of people 'ditch' themselves because they can't take their eyes off the past, can't focus on the future and move ahead, with faith and hope in God.

Give up all hope for a better yesterday! You can't change the past. It is dangerous to obsess over it. Instead, consider that there are over 500 verses in the Bible that tell us that God is merciful and longing to forgive us and restore us, if only we would turn to Him. As Isaiah wrote, "Do not remember the former things, neither consider the things of old. For behold, I am doing a new thing... (Isa 43:18-19).

So why let the past ruin your present and your future? Let God begin to do that 'new thing' in your life!

# **HIDDEN BIBLE BOOK NAMES**

There are 30 books of the Bible hidden in the following paragraphs (if you ignore spaces, punctuation and line breaks). Can you find them all? Answers in the next issue.

This is a most remarkable puzzle. It was found by a gentleman in an airplane seat pocket on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu, keeping him occupied for hours. He enjoyed it so much, he passed it on to some friends.

One friend from Illinois worked on this while fishing from his john boat. Another friend studied it while playing his banjo. Elaine Taylor, a columnist friend, was so intrigued by it she mentioned it in her weekly newspaper column. Another friend judges the job of solving this puzzle so involving, she brews a cup of tea to help her nerves.

There will be some names that are really easy to spot. That's a fact. Some people, however, will soon find themselves in a jam, especially since the book names are not necessarily capitalized.

Truthfully, from answers we get, we are forced to admit it usually takes a minister or a scholar to see some of them at the worst.

Research has shown that something in our genes is responsible for the difficulty we have in seeing the books in this paragraph. During a recent fundraising event, which featured this puzzle, the Alpha Delta Phi lemonade booth set a new record. The local paper, The Chronicle, surveyed over 200 patrons who reported that this puzzle was one of the most difficult they had ever seen. As Daniel Humana humbly puts it, "The books are all right here in plain view hidden from sight." Those able to find all of them will hear great lamentations from those who have to be shown.

One revelation that may help is that books like Timothy and Samuel may occur without their numbers. Also, keep in mind, that punctuation and spaces in the middle are normal. A chipper attitude will help you compete really well against those who claim to know the answers. Remember, there is no need for a mad exodus. There really are 30 books of the Bible lurking somewhere in these paragraphs waiting to be found!

## Author unknown

#### IF GOD SHOULD GO ON STRIKE

How good it is that God above has never gone on strike Because He wasn't treated fairly in things He didn't like; If only once He had sat down, and said "That's it! I'm through: I've had enough of them on earth, so this is what I'll do — I'll give my orders to the sun: "Cut off the heat supply"; And to the moon: "Give no more light, And run the oceans dry." Then just to make things really tough, and put the pressure on, "Turn off the vital oxygen till every breath is gone."

You know, He would be justified, if fairness was the game, For no-one has been more abused or met with such disdain Than God, and yet He carries on, supplying you and me With all the favours of His grace, and everything for free! Men say they want a better deal, and so 'on strike' they go; But what a deal we've given God, to Whom all things we owe, We don't care who we hurt or harm to gain the things WE like; But what a mess we'd all be in IF GOD SHOULD GO ON STRIKE!

### **FREE TO GIVE**

Herbie Doney

There is one contribution that man can still afford.

No price tag rests upon it, it's free to all the world.

Some people try to show it;

The lonely seem deprived.

The broken-hearted cry in vain

For this gift that they're denied.

You'll find it on Christ's nailed, pierced hands,

Or in dear mother's eyes.

It speaks a little word called "Love",

Let's share it with mankind.

