

focus



Furrough Cross
United Reformed Church

October / November
2023

Seeing things from a different angle....



**An unusual view of the rear of the church.
Is it just me, or does it look like the roof is missing?!!**

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: Vacant

Church Treasurer: Mrs Jenny Marshall

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

(01803) 324080

email: annclose49@gmail.com

Messy Church Leader: Miss Shirley Leaman

REGULAR 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.

First Friday Film: 1st Friday of each month 2.00pm (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.

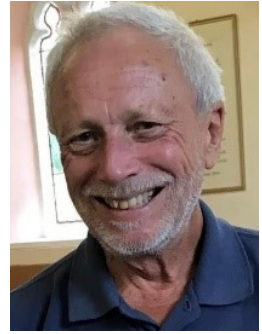
Opinions and views expressed in this magazine may be personal and not necessarily accord with those of the Minister and Elders of Furrough Cross United Reformed Church. Care is taken over the accuracy of the information presented but the Church and Elders cannot accept responsibility for any errors or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

EDITORIAL

Roy Cadoux

We've been privileged to have gone on a number of lovely holidays this summer.

We went to Jersey in June, we had a few days visiting places and friends on the way back from our daughter's wedding in August, and have just come back from a week in Warwickshire. I also had a very active week on my own touring 12 heritage railways all round Wales in 6 days!



On August Bank Holiday Monday we went on the South Devon Railway, and were surprised to see Rev Dick Gray handing over the token to the driver at the passing point – he is a signman at Staverton, and tells us he has been volunteering there for the last 9 years.

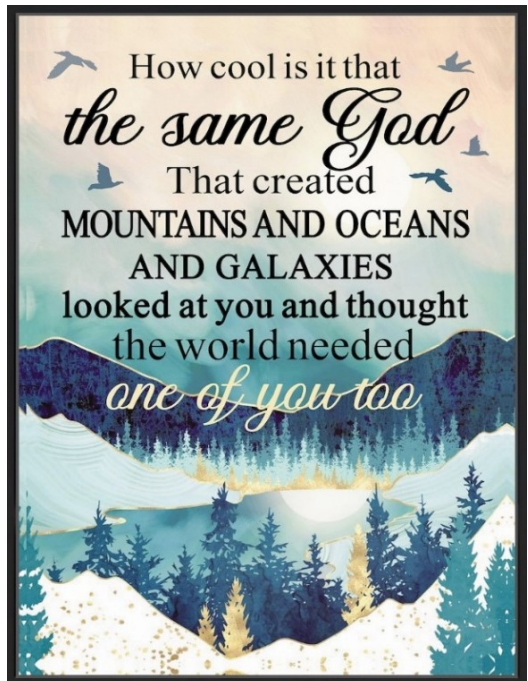
I think it is important to find refreshment in our lives, from change of scenery, meeting new people, or doing different things. I know it's maybe not so easy for everyone to travel, or for some of our readers even to leave home, but we can all try and make the effort to see things from a different perspective or through other people's eyes.

Of course, the best refreshment for our lives is the living water of the Holy Spirit, which heals us and transforms us into new people.

By the way, when we were on Jersey in the summer, I saw several signs saying "WARNING RED SQUIRRELS DRIVE SLOWLY". I didn't even know they could drive!

The deadline for items for the next issue is 15th November.

Roy Cadoux



FROM THE MINISTER

Rev Heather Cadoux



Dear Friends,

October and November are often seen as times of remembering. At the end of October there is All Hallows Eve, the day before All Saints' Day on the 1st November and All Souls' Day on the 2nd November. Both All Saints' and All Souls' celebrate the lives of those who have lived before us. Then of course there is Remembrance Day on the 11th November, when we remember those who gave their lives during the First and Second world wars and the conflicts that have followed. December too has in recent years become a time of remembering, with Longest Night services and Blue Christmas services which remember family members and friends who will not be with us at Christmas.

If you have a social media account then I suspect like me there will be times when up pops a post to remind you of something that happened in the past. Recently a post came up on mine from four years ago: it said Day One of Three – it was for our move from Hayling to Babbacombe.

A lot has changed over the last four years. Covid radically changed everything, with most activities having to come to a complete stop during the pandemic. Some of the things that happened at church have never recovered, others have decided to end. Some things have restarted – albeit on a different day and have gone from strength to strength, and there have been new activities too.

Times of remembering should not just be a looking back with sadness at what has been lost. There are lots of things to give thanks for with our memories of times past. Things we enjoyed, things we learnt. I find myself being surprised when remembering, as I suddenly realise that a particular memory has enhanced an interest, an activity or a way of doing something today.

As I remembered the journey that had led to Roy and I being here at Furrough Cross, I was reminded of the one thing that has been constant throughout my life on this Christian journey, and that is prayer. One of those things was when the church I attended had an annual '24 hours of prayer', when the church was open for 24 hours with specific people responsible for one or more hours. There were prayer activities that you could come and take part in. The church had a youth group and the teenagers used to be in church overnight with some of the Junior Church leadership. They took it in turns to sleep and pray. One activity they did overnight was to pray through the church directory of members and friends, with their leaders reminding them who the different people were and their involvement with the church.

Perhaps prayer is one of those things which some Christians shy away from. This should not be the case. I see prayer as a conversation with a really good friend. A place where joys, sorrows and concerns can be shared. The psalms are often called the prayer book of the Old Testament. Many of them are songs of lament, a crying out to God asking why something has happened. Of course there are also lots of psalms of praise too!



Prayer has to be at the top of our list. We must commit whatever we do to God in prayer, and that means listening to God as well as asking. I belong to a group that meets weekly over Zoom to pray for the UK. Once we've greeted each other and shared personal news we spend around five minutes in listening prayer. We silently ask God to place on our hearts what he wants us to pray for that week, and then we share what we feel God has said to us. Sometimes people mention things in the

news, someone might have a Bible passage, or a hymn or sacred song. Sometimes someone will bring a picture they have seen in their minds eye and of course there may be some who don't get anything at all and that's fine too. Often we find that some of the things we share after listening connect together, and this is where we begin our praying. By the time our meeting is over, more often than not we have prayed into all the items that were shared in listening prayer.

I would like to encourage each of us to pray not just on your own but to come together in groups, and that can be in person or online, to pray regularly for the church at Furrough Cross, the things that are happening week by week or now and again. In the early part of next year I want to organise some prayer activities and I would ask that you begin to pray about this; and if as you pray to and listen to God you feel that God gives you a message, a passage of scripture, a hymn or song, or a picture, please do share it with me.

May God bless you richly as you connect with Him.

Love and prayers,

Heather

MEN'S BREAKFAST

We've received news from Paul Thompson from Upton Vale Baptist Church of a men's breakfast specifically for those who have learning difficulties, anxiety issues, disabilities or mental health issues, and those who may be lonely or just want a chat.

They meet fortnightly at the Anchorage Hotel at 9am on alternate Tuesdays for an eat as much as you like breakfast, and after fellowship and chat over the breakfast table adjourn to another room for a speaker and testimonies.

The cost is £7 for breakfast, paid as you arrive at the hotel, plus £2 to Paul for the hire of the room. Please contact Paul on 07810 646949 for further details or to book your place. Places need to be booked by the Sunday.

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

This year's Blue Christmas service will take place at 11am on Saturday 2nd December, and will be followed by refreshments.

This service is aimed at all those who find Christmas challenging, whatever the reason.

It's a time to pause and remember. To give our feelings to God and to trust him for whatever the future holds for us.



THE CADOUX WEDDING

Roy and Heather had a very special time at the wedding in August of their daughter Sarah to Chris. It took place at a lovely working farm venue in Essex, and Heather did a blessing after the civil ceremony.



MUSICAL HARMONY

The Torbay Police and Community Choir and the Torfaen male voice choir from Wales put on a lovely concert in the church last month. They also had *Britain's Got Talent* finalist Travis George as a guest soloist.

Altogether the event raised £265, which was generously donated to the church.

Our very grateful thanks to the choir, and especially to Herbie and Bill who enabled the event to happen.

TORBAY CHRISTIAN YOUTH WORK CELEBRATES!

LiNX Christian Youth Trust invite you to their free 25th Anniversary Event on 6th October at 7pm at the Royal Lyceum Theatre, Abbey Road. Refreshments will be provided.

HEAVEN IN DEVON

Thanks to Clare for sharing this beautiful celebration of Devon written by Patricia K S Johnson, which we sung to the tune of 'Morning Has Broken' at a recent Wednesday service.



*Celebrate Devon, embracing Heaven,
Green fields and pastures, seaside and moor,
All that the Lord gives throughout the ages,
Is ours to treasure from shore to shore.*

*Give God the glory! Sing Devon's story,
Our ancient homeland, we do adore.
Poets and painters, seamen and farmers,
All these enrich us for evermore.*

*Traverse the highways, stroll down the byways,
Swim from the gold sands, cycle the lanes.
Cherish the red lands, nurtured by His hands,
Churches and chapels, all God's domain.*

*Heaven in Devon! Praise the Creator,
For all the past years and those to come.
Bells shall ring out all over God's kingdom,
Here we shall praise him, 'til time is done.*

FAMILY NEWS

Pam Symes (who lived in Homecombe House) sadly died in late July.

TURKEY AND SYRIA EARTHQUAKES - SIX MONTHS ON



As Turkey and Syria rebuild after the devastating earthquakes that struck 6 months ago, stories of support from community organisations demonstrate the power of compassion and solidarity during times of crisis.

The two earthquakes that hit southern Turkey and northern Syria in February caused widespread devastation. At least 58,000 men, women and children have died. Homes, hospitals and schools have been destroyed. Lives are changed forever.

In the days that followed, Christian Aid local partners were on the ground in Syria supporting relief efforts. As six months have gone by, our partners have continued their work to support communities as they begin the long road to recovery.

The situation was particularly grim in northwest Syria. Only 5% of reported sites were reached by search and rescue operations in the first 72 hours after the earthquake. There was, and continues to be, a lack of heavy machinery to remove rubble.

Christian Aid has reached more than 60,000 people in NW Syria in the weeks and months that followed. Winter kits, emergency kits for children and cash for essentials have been distributed to vulnerable families. Another 5,000 people have been helped in Southern Turkey.

Christian Aid has been working with local partners in Syria for decades. But recent continued efforts are made possible by the generosity of our Christian Aid supporters. Over £3.4 million was donated – thank you!

STOP PRESS

Following the devastating earthquake in Morocco and the flooding in Libya in September, we are now collecting for Christian Aid's appeal to provide relief. In Libya they are providing medical assistance, supplies and pharmaceuticals; emergency shelter; sanitation and hygiene kits, and food.

The plate will be out until Sunday 8th October for any donations you can make. To start it off we donated the proceeds from our Harvest Lunch.



Shirley Leaman

We had a great return to Messy Church following our summer break. With the theme of God's Creation, the children (and adults too) enjoyed an afternoon full of activities. One of the favourite crafts of course was making slime. You have never seen such a (glorious) mess! Some of the adults I noticed were not quite so enthusiastic, but hey what's a bit of slime on your new school uniform. Gulp! So there was no life on earth until God made things live - maybe there was just gloopy slime all over the place?

Other activities included making thank you cards to send to someone to remind them about the beauty of the world and the loving care of God; decorating earth balloons (thinking about the fragile nature of the earth



and how we should look after it); creating pipe cleaner bugs and balloon people and animals; and we also had a cocktail bar (strictly non-alcoholic!) A huge thank you to Beryl for standing in at the last minute to help the children decorate home-made biscuit animals - the eating crafts always go down well! There was also gluing and colouring pictures of some of the things God

made on each day of the week. And of course on the last day God rested.

During our worship time we heard about the different things God created, thought about what small things we can do to look after our world and prayed "Lord thank you for the gift of your world. Help us to live as one family and care for everything you have made. Amen." We also watched a video about The Creation and looked at some amazing things in our world, including a bridge in Vietnam held up by two hands, an upside-down house and a factory in the shape of a picnic basket.

*And then, with a smile God said "Women and Men.
Made in my image, made to be friends.
Made to make babies, sweet boys and girls.
Made to take care of my beautiful world."*

(From the Rhyming Bible by Bob Hartman)



Our catering team did an amazing job serving cheesy chips, followed by ice cream, choc ices or lollies – it was soooo hot that these were much appreciated. It was Joby's birthday so everyone tucked into his birthday cake.

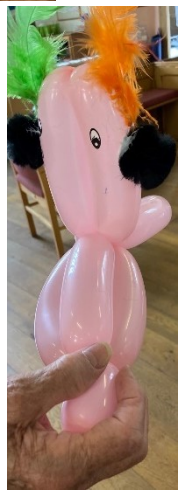
And we remember, amongst everything we said and did, that God holds this wonderful earth of ours in His loving hands.

P.S. We also had a four-legged visitor, Tess, a rescued street puppy from Romania, who the children loved and who behaved impeccably!



SITS VAC: Our September Messy Church went really well, with around 40 people enjoying cheesy chips and beans. But (there's always a but!) there are sooo many dishes at the end of our meal that we're really in need of a volunteer to help us wash up and clear up. If anyone could spare an hour (around 5.30 to 6.30 p.m.) to help us once a month, we'd be so grateful. The pay is out of this world! Our next Messy Church is Friday 13th October.





A STILL SMALL VOICE

Author unknown

There once was a man for whom everything went wrong. The last straw was when he lost his job. He was desperate and didn't know which way to turn. So he went to see an old priest.

Pacing about the priest's study, waving his arms about, the man ranted about his many problems. Finally, he clenched his fist and shouted, "I've begged God to say something to help me. Tell me, why doesn't God answer?"

The old priest, who sat across the room, spoke something in reply — something so hushed it could hardly be heard. The man stepped across the room. "What did you say?" he asked.

The priest repeated himself, but again in a tone as soft as a whisper. So, the man moved closer again. With their heads bent together, the old priest spoke once more.

"God sometimes whispers", he said, "so we need to move closer to Him to hear." This time the young man heard, and he understood.

We all want God's voice to thunder through the air with the answer to our problem. But God's is the still, small voice... the gentle whisper. God's whisper means we must stop our ranting and move closer to Him. And then, as we listen, we will find our answer. Better still, we find ourselves closer to God.

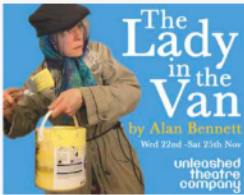
BIRTHDAYS

October: Alice Hilton, Anne Tozer.

November: James Banks, David Parrott, Mary Mason.

THE POUND IN YOUR POCKET

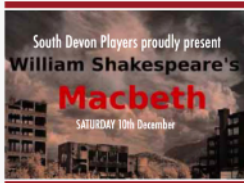
The current high rate of inflation affects us all, and of course it affects the church's expenses too. And it's not only the higher costs we are having to pay (especially for energy), but the offerings are not keeping up with inflation. For example, if you were donating £10 in 2008, that now only buys 58% of what it did then: one would need to donate £17 now to achieve the same effect. Over just the last 2 years the 'value' of £10 has reduced to £8.13, and an equivalent donation would be £12.30.



UNLEASHED THEATRE COMPANY PRESENT:

the lady in the van

WEDNESDAY 22ND – SATURDAY 25TH NOVEMBER
@ 7.30PM (MATINEE SATURDAY @ 2.30PM)
TICKETS £8 IN ADVANCE OR £10 ON THE DOOR



SOUTH DEVON PLAYERS PRESENT:

shakespeare's macbeth

SATURDAY, 2ND DECEMBER, @ 7.30PM
TICKETS £10 (ADULTS) £8 (CHILDREN/MEANS TESTED BENEFITS)



UNLEASHED COMMUNITY CHOIR PRESENTS

christmas @ unleashed

SATURDAY 9TH DECEMBER @ 4PM & 7PM
TICKETS £3 IN ADVANCE OR £5 ON THE DOOR

'The Lady in the Van' by Alan Bennett: when Miss Shepherd moved her van onto Alan Bennett's drive, little did he know that she would stay there for 15 years! Unleashed Theatre Company, our local Christian theatre, are very pleased to be presenting their very first major theatrical production at their new home at The Royal Lyceum.

HARVEST LUNCH

Almost three quarters of our in-person* congregation (29 out of 40) stayed for our Harvest Lunch following the festival service. Grateful thanks to those who brought so much wonderful food, and to those who helped set up and clear up. It was a lovely time together, and we were glad to have David and Shirley with us (on their third visit to us from Bournville), and several others who joined us for their first time at a Furrough Cross social occasion.

* Another six people who joined us on Zoom for the service, which is fairly normal.

HARVEST LUNCH



MY HARVEST SUNDAY

Lesley Proctor

A beautiful service, thank you, Heather gave us all "food for thought" - it was uplifting, encouraging and thought provoking. The lunch was excellent too, a real bonus and so good to be all together again - our Church Family. Thank you for all the lovely dishespies, puddings, all wonderful!! It has been a lovely day and has left me with a real "feel good factor" for which I am truly grateful.

WARMEST CONGRATULATIONS

to Bill and Maralyn Becher who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 25th September! They are pictured (centre) on a recent South West Coast Path Association walk, when they were accompanied by the deputy Lord Lieutenant of Devon (right).



WINTER NIGHT SHELTER

Volunteers are needed to support this winter's shelter, which is planned to run from 20th December to 6th March. Details, including the location, are still being sorted out by New Footings Ministries, who ran the shelter last year at Chelston. More information can be obtained by emailing info@newfootings.org.

EASY SEASONAL ECO TIPS

OCTOBER: Provide food and shelter for wildlife, now and in preparation for next year. Clean all your bird feeders to avoid the spread of disease to winter migrants and put up a nest box well in advance of breeding season. A nest box could also prove a cosy spot for small birds to spend the night on particularly cold winter evenings ahead.

NOVEMBER: Have yourself a Greener Christmas. What ways can you make sure your Christmas is both a celebration of Christ's coming and better for His creation? Check out A Rocha UK's twelve tips for a greener Christmas: arocha.org.uk/our-twelve-tips-for-a-greener-christmas

ECO CHURCH
AN A ROCHA UK PROJECT

MARY JONES

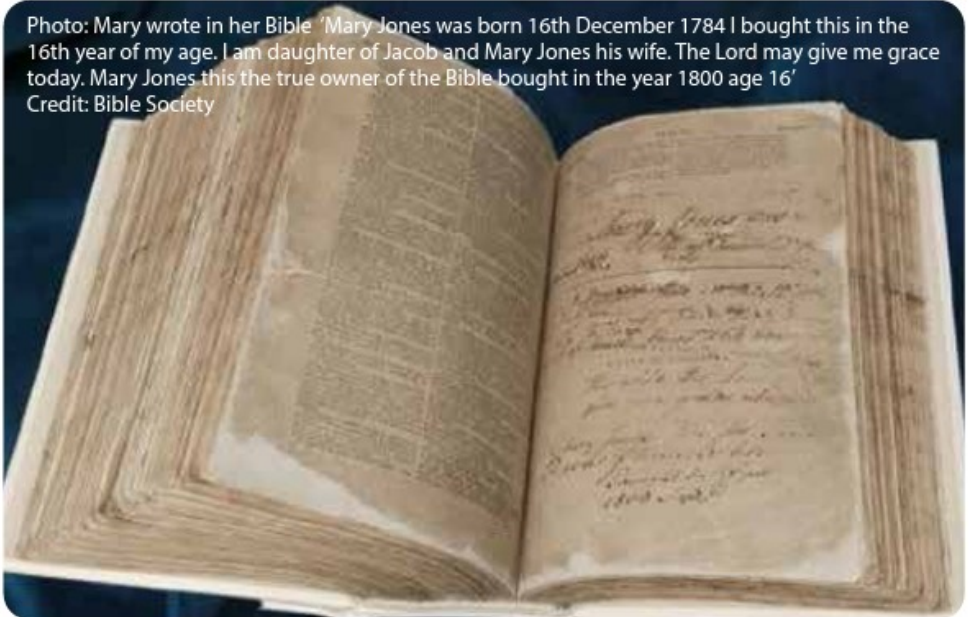
Roy Cadoux

Last time I went to Wales I visited Mary's home and the monument there. This time I stopped off at the Bible Society's 'Mary Jones World' on the shore of Lake Bala. It's not exactly Disney World, but the award-winning visitor centre in a redeveloped historic church building tells the story of Mary Jones and Rev Thomas Charles (the minister in Bala who provided Mary with her Bible after her famous 26-mile walk, and whose grave is in the churchyard) – and the impact of the world's best-selling book on Wales and beyond. It was Mary's walk that inspired the formation of the forerunner of the Bible Society, which more than 200 years later is working in over 200 countries, translating, producing and distributing Bibles, with a focus on China, Africa and the Middle East.



It was a very interesting visit, and there's a good cafe, picnic area and children's playground.

Photo: Mary wrote in her Bible 'Mary Jones was born 16th December 1784 I bought this in the 16th year of my age. I am daughter of Jacob and Mary Jones his wife. The Lord may give me grace today. Mary Jones this the true owner of the Bible bought in the year 1800 age 16'
Credit: Bible Society



HIDDEN BIBLE BOOK NAMES – ANSWERS FROM THE LAST QUIZ

Highlighted are the 30 hidden books of the Bible. Did you find them all?

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.

A SWEET QUIZ

Here are clues (some simple and some cryptic) to 20 sweets that we probably all remember from days gone by, although some are still with us. For example, given 'Wobbly Children' you should soon come up with 'Jelly Babies' (or maybe 'Jelly Tots' – but there are no other 'twin' answers as far as I know!). Answers in the next issue of FOCUS.

- 1. Reward money.**
- 2. Alien spacecraft.**
- 3. Say it quietly**
- 4. Outdoor meal.**
- 5. Red capital transport.**
- 6. Mixed-up witches.**
- 7. A heavy blow or drink.**
- 8. Can be found in the prologue.**
- 9. Dating agencies.**
- 10. Big cat's pub?**
- 11. Street disturbance.**
- 12. Sport that's only played right-handedly!**
- 13. Nine, ten, eleven, twelve, etc.**
- 14. A vehicle with a raincoat!**
- 15. Royal herb.**
- 16. Member of 'Under the Boardwalk' hit song singers.**
- 17. Very dark non-royal playing cards.**
- 18. Mediterranean island residents?**
- 19. A good road**
- 20. 100% Au**

INDUCTION AT KINGSTEIGNTON

Five of us were pleased to represent Furrough Cross at the Induction of Rev Jessica Ashcroft-Townsley to Kingsteignton and Dawlish URCs and to work with South Western Synod.

Jessica, ordained in 2020 as a minister in the United Church of Christ, has come with her two children from Manchester, Maryland, USA, and with her wife Donna who is from Plymouth (Devon).

