

focus



Furrough Cross
United Reformed Church

August / September
2024



Thank you to all who supported our Summer Fair in any way. On a rather wet day we raised a total of £842, so our very grateful thanks!

WE'RE ON A JOURNEY!



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 - 12.00 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



Thanks to Jenny W for her story about her visit to Exeter Cathedral (see page 9). For our holiday in June we spent a week on the beautiful island of Guernsey. There were no cathedrals to see, but we did visit two very contrasting churches. The first was 'The Little Chapel' (see page 12), a miniature church which receives plenty of visitors.

On the Sunday we went to the service at the only URC on the island, small in numbers but strong in spirit and heritage. They were very pleased to welcome us, and sent their greetings to Furrough Cross.

So far I've mentioned four different churches, all very different but all reaching out to visitors with the Good News. Sometimes the beauty of a building can inspire awe; sometimes the warmth of a welcome can make all the difference.

It's wonderful that at Furrough Cross we have a good number of 'repeat visitors', who make a point of returning to our services each time they come back to Torbay. And we are so fortunate that we have a building that feels warm and welcoming and is so well looked after. The care of our premises and grounds, and our welcome to visitors, don't just happen by accident – is there anything more that you could do to help?

I've been visiting some more heritage railways in the Midlands, and Clare writes of her trip on the Gloucestershire/Warwickshire Railway (page 8). I love the summer sight of a steam train going past the beach huts at Goodrington Beach (*front cover*). Like the passengers on the train, we're on a journey! We don't know the route, except we know that Jesus is the Way. Heather writes a bit on the next page about her journey, and the journey that we as a church are on.

PS I wonder if the person who first came up with the phrase 'jumping on the bandwagon' got upset when other people started using it?

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

Roy Cadoux

FROM THE MINISTER

Rev Heather Cadoux



Dear Friends,

I've always had a love of books, both reading and listening to them. My mum used to read to me before bedtime, and *Winnie the Pooh*, *Paddington* and *The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe* became my favourite stories, probably because my mother used to put on different voices for all the characters. Once I was able to read for myself they became my favourite books which I'd often read. I remember being unwell and confined to bed when I was 7 or 8, my mum went to the library and got me some books out on her ticket, and I became hooked on Enid Blyton's *Secret Seven* and *Famous Five*. When I was about 14, I discovered J.R.R. Tolkien by reading *The Lord of the Rings* before the much easier *The Hobbit*.

Recently I was having a conversation with someone about reading and books. In the course of our conversation, we spoke about re-reading books and discovering that we had forgotten about some parts of the plot, even though we were re-reading a book we knew well. That's certainly true for me when I re-read *The Lord of the Rings* I find there are always bits I'd forgotten.

I find the Bible is like that too, even when I think I know the story well – often it's a story that's in more than one Gospel and the details reported differ slightly, and I find something new. Sometimes I'm sure it's because my faith and knowledge have grown that I see things I'd not seen before. Sometimes it's when I read those parts of the Bible that are challenging or difficult to understand that previously I've just passed by as I could not fully accept or grasp the meaning.

I think it's all part of the discipleship journey. We learn as we go and I'm convinced that we only see or understand those parts that we can comprehend at the time. As we grow we discover a greater depth and see what we missed the first time round.

I became a Christian when I was 11. I'd attended Scripture Union's CSSM (Children's Special Service Mission) that came to my town for several years, and I wanted what I saw the leaders had. So I asked Jesus to come into my life in August 1970. It was years before I was fully able to comprehend that it was all because Jesus had died on the cross. Since then, I've discovered a lot more as I've continued along the discipleship journey, learning from God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and those who are walking that path with me at the time.

The journey of a disciple is one we embark upon not knowing what the future will bring. If we did know, we just might not have started the journey! I have to admit that there have been times when I've looked back and thought that if I'd known this would happen then would I have taken the step? There are also times when I've looked back and been amazed at the way I've seen God at work in my own and other people's lives.

I've no idea where that journey will now lead me or us as a church. However, wherever that is I know it's likely to be exciting, scary, and we'll learn things we never knew and grow closer to God with each step. And what's more I'm sure we'll discover such joy as we make that journey!

My love to you all

Heather

Harvest: our Harvest Service will take place on Sunday September 15th. We will be collecting items for the food bank including non-perishable food, toiletries, nappies and other baby consumables.

First Friday Film restarts at 2pm on Friday 6th September, followed by a tea. If you would like to suggest a film, whether or not you have a copy of the DVD, please let Roy or Heather know.

Council Tax single person reduction

I picked up via *We are South Devon* on the internet that Torbay Council are writing to those who currently receive the single person discount on Council Tax, to check that the discount is still relevant. If it is, you will need to fill in

a form online. If you do nothing then you will be charged the full rate, which will be backdated to April 2024.


I wrote to the St Marychurch councillors to check if there is a way that those who do not have access to the internet can let the Council know. I've heard from Cllr George Darling, and he has ascertained that "the letter will suggest that the customer seeks support from someone who can assist with the completion of the form online, alternatively for those people who are not able to take up this option they can telephone our Council Tax Helpline 01803 207201 for assistance (which comprises a customer advisor completing the form over the telephone, and making the submission after the customer has made a verbal declaration that the information they have provided is accurate)".

We have access to the internet at church and if you or anyone you know has issues in doing as the letter requests then please let us know, we may be able to help after a service or during coffee morning.

I understand that the letters are being sent out between now and October.

BIRDS AND BATS

We would like to install a few bird boxes and bat boxes around the church grounds, to increase our site's bio-diversity, as recommended during a recent Eco Church visit. Would you be able to donate one? They typically cost between £5 - £10 if you would like to donate the cost – please pass it to Heather or Roy. Thank you!



DISTRICT QUIZ – THURSDAY 12th SEPTEMBER

We are hosting the next Quiz at Furrough Cross in the church, and we are doing a daytime rather than an evening event, starting at 2.00pm.

We hope that our church will be well represented – it's just for fun, no-one takes it too seriously!

If you could contribute any 'afternoon tea' type refreshments we would be very grateful.

THANKS FROM THE URC TREASURERS

Dear Friends,

Firstly, thank you for all your contributions to your local church in 2023. This includes your financial contribution which plays an important part in the life of the whole church through the URC Ministries & Mission (M&M) Fund.

As officers of the denomination, it's good for us to be rooted in a local URC congregation and to work out our faith in the local context, as well as across the entire United Reformed Church. On the other hand, it is good for you in local churches to know that those who serve you nationally understand the local church financial issues as well. And there have been some big issues over the last 12-18 months: inflation, a cost of living crisis for many, with energy costs rising to unprecedented levels etc. Churches and ministers have had the same challenges as so many others.

The M&M Fund pays for ministers' stipends, training and all the central support functions for ministry. The Fund's main income is contributions from churches, with some top-up from synods together with investment income and grants etc. In 2023 the churches continued to support the M&M Fund to a wonderful level. Overall, the giving to M&M Fund was slightly ahead of budget and only 2% down on 2022.

The M&M account for 2023 in summary:

Income £18.2m (£14.4m from churches and £1.9m from synods)
Expenditure £19.3m
Deficit £1.1m

2024 is not going to be an easy year either and we are again budgeting for a deficit. We have a commitment from synods to continue their support on top of church contributions and a plan for balancing the M&M budget over the next 5-7 years, including budget reductions of central costs of 3-5% p.a.

So, thank you to all who continued to contribute to your church, thank you to all those churches who met their commitment for 2023, and thank you to all those who, in adversity, continued to treat the M&M Fund as a priority and paid what they could. Stewardship of our resources, personally, as local churches and as a denomination, is rarely easy, but it is one of the challenges we are called to in making our faith real. As the Spirit directs and as our means allow, can the churches once more continue to respond to the call of our gracious, loving and ever-generous God?

If you have any questions or comments arising from this letter, please speak to your church treasurer who has been provided with more detailed information. If they are not able to help directly then they can get in touch with the finance team at Church House.

Yours in Christ,

Alan Yates (Treasurer), Vaughan Griffiths (Deputy Treasurer)

FAMILY NEWS

Our thoughts and prayers are with many of our members and friends who have particular health needs, including Alice, Margaret, Avril, Mary, Val, Lesley, David, Beryl, Pauline, Phyl, Monica, Gordon, Mavis and Eric.

BIRTHDAYS: **September** Steve Casselden

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 6th Sep 2.00pm **First Friday Film**

Thursday 12th Sep 2.00pm **DISTRICT QUIZ at Furrough Cross**

Sunday 15th Sep 10.30am **Harvest Festival**

Friday 27th Sep 10.00-12.00 **Macmillan coffee morning**

Sunday 29th Sep 11.30 **Church Meeting after service**

HIDDEN TREASURES OF GOD'S CREATIVITY

Clare Smith

Last month we stayed in the Cotswolds and visited several of the beautiful villages. On one day we took the steam train from Cheltenham Racecourse to Broadway, and whilst we were travelling along, a thought came to us about all the hidden treasures of God's creativity.

We often think of the birds, flowers and trees when we consider God's visible creation, but don't often think about the hidden gifts which He has provided, which are essential for life as we know it. The water and coal which powered the steam engine come from the elements and minerals below the soil, as does so much of the sources of our electricity and gas.

From their roots deep in the soil, plants ultimately provide all we need to eat. And without the bees, we wouldn't have flowers or fruit trees – or honey on our toast!

The journey reminded us how much God cares for us as He continually provides everything we need.

MY VISIT TO EXETER CATHEDRAL

Jenny Webber

I hadn't been inside the Cathedral Church of St Peters for many years, when I had been on a guided tour with a group of friends. As I was staying in Exeter for a few days at the end of May, I took the opportunity to visit the Cathedral again. So it was on a Sunday, after going to the friendly Methodist Church in St Thomas, that I caught a bus up to High Street.

I should have had more sense – the Cathedral was closed throughout the day for services. So I tried again on Monday morning, and I am so pleased that I did.

Someone had told me that it was expensive to go inside, but I saw that the cost for someone of my age was £6. It was 12:10 when I went in, and I noticed that there was a prayer service at 12:30. I told the gentleman at the desk that I would like to attend and he said in that case I didn't need to pay. So I went to the sacristy, a small chapel where the service was held.



There were nine people there already who were regulars every Monday at 12:30, and me. Howard who was leading the service explained that 56 prayer requests had been received by the Cathedral that week and they would be read in turn by the group, each person reading from a printed list. Other prayers were then read out, including two from the Dean.

When the service ended Howard invited me to join them for coffee and biscuits. We went to a room in the old cloisters area and it was a 'do-it-yourself' informal affair lasting until 2pm. The room we used was also the meeting place of the 'Company of Tapisers'. [There is a prize for the first person to tell Roy what these people do!]

So I had a most unexpected and enjoyable time on that special Monday morning visit.

A CADOUX ON TV



Heather and Roy's son Tim appeared on the BBC Songs of Praise programme on Father's Day. He was talking in a section about support for fathers of children with special needs, and the difference that having a faith can make.

Incidentally, following a number of years of study in his 'spare time', Tim has recently completed his Masters degree, an MA in Theological Education. All four of us have Bachelors degrees (a

BSc(Eng), a BTh, a BA and a BEd), but Tim has become the first in the family to gain a higher degree.

TEAMS REPLACES ZOOM

Thanks to a lot of work by Mariana, we have transitioned our online service provision to Microsoft Teams. We were having problems with the music on Zoom, and it was going to cost us around £150 a year for a suitable licence, so it made sense for us to change to Teams which is free. Anyone can make use of this if you're not able to attend church in person.

We started using Zoom during lockdown when the church was not allowed to be open, and for some it has continued to be their main link with Furrough Cross over the last four years.

**I have a simple faith.
I don't understand the
half of it, but I always
trust, I know that all will
be well.**

Contributed by Ken Harris

TO ALL MY CHURCH FAMILY

Val Elms

I am so grateful for all of my church family who continue to bless me with prayers and kind messages. My memory has dimmed because of my stroke so I'm rereading some very short poems, so I share this with you and hope you enjoy it.

A MEMORY

Four ducks on a pond,
A grass bank beyond.
A blue sky of Spring,
White clouds on the wing:
What a little thing
To remember for years-
To remember with tears!

William Allingham 1828-1889



IT'S A MOGGY MIRACLE!

After his cat got stuck up a tree, a minister from South Africa mounted a rescue operation. He climbed a ladder as far as he could and attached a rope to the narrow trunk, then tied the other end to his car towbar.

As he drove forward, the inevitable happened – the rope broke and the moggy was catapulted into space.

Two weeks later the minister was in the supermarket when he saw one of his newer church members buying cat food. "I didn't know you had a cat", he said enquiringly.

"I didn't. It's a funny story, quite a miracle really. About two weeks ago my daughter and I were having a picnic in the garden. 'I'd love to have a cat, Mummy', she said. 'You'll have to ask Jesus for one', I replied."

"At that very moment a cat came flying through the air and landed safely on the lawn, and she's stayed with us ever since!"

THE LITTLE CHAPEL ON GUERNSEY

Roy Cadoux

The Little Chapel was a work of art and labour of love built by Brother Déodat, who started work in March 1914. His plan was to create a miniature version of the famous grotto and basilica at Lourdes in France. Today's chapel is actually the third version of the building.

The first, measuring a tiny 9ft long by 4.5ft wide, was criticised for its size, so Brother Deodat spent the following night demolishing the building. He set to work again and, in July 1914, the grotto and chapel were completed and officially blessed. This survived until September 1923; Brother Deodat demolished it in that month because the Bishop of Portsmouth had not been able to fit through the doorway!

He soon set about the construction of a third chapel, this time a magnificent 16 ft x 9ft. The building operation was laborious, collecting pebbles, shells and broken china to decorate the shrine.

Then the Little Chapel became famous, thanks to an illustrated article in the Daily Mirror. Presents poured in from around the world and Islanders brought coloured china, shells and mother-of-pearl. Wedgwood also provided many broken pieces. Major repairs have been made in the last few years funded by islanders and visitor donations.

We visited last month, and although beautiful and intriguing, I'm not sure how much of a spiritual experience it was, though maybe we rushed it a bit too much. But clearly it was all built to glorify God, and provides a vivid illustration of the Kendrick worship song '*Beauty for brokenness*'.



AUGUST: Assist local wildlife

during very hot weather. Provide hedgehogs with hedgehog biscuits (available at many pet stores and online) or dog biscuits (small/crumbed) as their prey of slugs, snails and worms diminishes, and ensure a safe exit for them and other small mammals if you have a garden pond. Help garden birds by maintaining a filled bird bath and supplying supplementary food including black sunflower seeds, pinhead oatmeal, soaked sultanas, raisins, currants, mealworms, waxworms, and a nutritious seed mixture, when natural supplies become scarce.

SEPTEMBER: ‘Step outside this Season of Creation’ (1 September - 4 October). Connect with nature and dedicate this time to God as the Creator and sustainer of all life. Choose an idea or two from our resource and encourage your church family to take part too! Free to download at <https://arocha.org.uk/step-outside-this-season-of-creation-resource/>.

BATS AT THE MANSE

In the last issue we mentioned the bat survey in the manse rear garden.

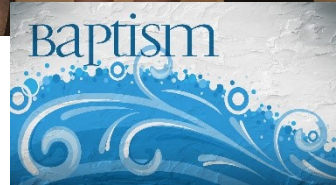


The results showed that there were over 3000 detections of the Common Pipistrelle, and small numbers of other species including 18 Serotine, 7 Soprano Pipistrelle and 3 Lesser Horseshoe Bat.

The common pipistrelle is one of the commonest British bats, weighing around 5 grams (the same as a 20p piece). A single pipistrelle can eat thousands of tiny insects in just one night!

BAPTISM 23rd JUNE

We were delighted to welcome **Harleigh and Nevaeh** with their mum Angelina and family and friends, to a lovely baptism service which included two dramatized readings from The Storyteller Bible, and a requested hymn we haven't sung for a long time, *All things bright and beautiful*.



The family have become regular members of Messy Church, and after the service Shirley presented each of the children with a suitably inscribed children's Bible.

CORRECTION TO JUNE ISSUE

The caption to the Pam Meaden photo on page 15 wrongly stated Pat Latham, when of course it was Pat Beauchamp. Apologies to both Pats!

WELCOME TO Fr KENNY

On 23rd June Fr Kenny Wickens was ordained as Priest at St Mary's Anglican church at St Marychurch. We welcome him to our local community.



Shirley Leaman

Oh my days, what a wonderful Messy Church we had in June! So many families, so many lovely, noisy smiley children and a band of helpers second to none. Our

theme was Jesus separating the goats from the sheep: how the sheep obediently followed the Shepherd, whilst the goats were more independent and disobedient. We talked about how in helping and serving others it was like helping and serving Jesus.

So in our activities we wrote thank



you cards to the Police, the Fire service, Ambulance Service and Torbay Hospital thanking them for looking after us all. We made sheep and goat masks, played sheep and goats with balloons, made gooey gloopy slime, designed sheep biscuits with a whole lot of marshmallows and made a goat and sheep picture.



During worship time we watched a clip from “Finding Nemo”, where the pelicans rescued two of the fish to save them from being eaten by the seagulls. When the seagulls chased the pelicans, all they were shouting was “mine, mine, mine”! We heard that Jesus wants us to say “ours” not “mine”. And that everything we do for other people is serving Him. We finished our worship time by thanking God for all He has given us.

For supper we enjoyed jacket potatoes, with fillings of beans, tuna and cheese, followed by apple strudel and custard or an ice cream cornet with strawberry or chocolate sauce. One of our Mums said she loved coming to Messy Church because it gave her quality time to spend with her children.

A RATHER WET JULY!

Well what a blast we had at our last Messy Church before we broke up for the summer, with 28 children! Water was very much a big part of our afternoon. Our theme was “Jesus calms the storm”. We started the afternoon watching a video which told how Jesus was in a boat with His friends and that He was so tired He went to sleep. Suddenly a storm blew up and the boat nearly sank. Then His friends woke Jesus, who stood up in the boat and told the wind and waves to be quiet – and they were!

How amazing is Jesus? Then the children painted a big boat and put up a sail; they made boats and floated them on a paddling pool, made a windsock, did a science experiment, coloured in a mini moving picture of the story, created a hovercraft from a CD and a ballon and helped with a big picture of Jesus and the disciples on the boat.



During the worship time, Heather told the story using a parachute with the children – shaking the parachute to show how the waves moved the boat which Jesus was in. Then she reminded the children that any time they were in trouble they could talk to Jesus about it and He would always listen.

After worship we planned to eat outside but the weather had other ideas. It absolutely poured with rain, so the children devoured burgers, sausages and salad, followed by ice lollies and choc ices.

And then (what was I thinking)

we had a water fight! Water pistols of all sizes and water balloons – screams of excitement, lots of running and hiding and laughing, soaking wet children, not to mention adults. (Raymond (Paddington) Bear had a label which said “Keep me dry at all times”!)

There was lots and lots of love and joy, something which I think Jesus would love.

We start Messy Church again on Friday 13th September. Come and check us out. We’d love to welcome you.



As we reach the end of yet another year of Messy Church, I just want to say a humongous thank you to all the Messy Church team. There are so many involved: those who do the catering, buy the food, cook the food, clear away the food; those who do the craft and lead the



activities; that person who welcomes our lovely families every month and does their best to learn all the names; those who lead the worship; those who prepare, carry out and clear away afterwards; those who put up the banner every month; that person who looks after the money; that person who donates all the food so that we can hand out 'cost of living' bags; that person who puts all the photos and write-ups on our Messy Church Facebook page, and that person who operates the sound and vision equipment and who is on his hands and knees making sure the floors are clean, the chairs are put back in the right order and that everything is locked up after we've all finally tottered home. Thank you!

And this is what Messy Church is for – to introduce people to the living Jesus. He is there in it with us, amongst all the laughing, chatting, banging, clattering, singing, people on their phones, people not on their phones, people getting a chance to relax and talk with old friends or new ones, Jesus is there. And that's why we do it.

Jesus said “Whatever you do for the least of these my children you do for Me.”

Please have a think about whether you could give us a hand now and then. Age need be no barrier – we have three people in their 90s helping us. (Go them!) And it would be great if everyone could pray really hard for people to offer to help. And actually, believe it or not, it really is quite a lot of fun!

Shirley

HERBIE'S POETRY CORNER

Herbert Doney



TIME

The clock on the wall
What a wonderful sight,
And it's never forgotten
As it ticks day and night.
It's our constant companion
Like a friend by our side.
For it shares every moment
Throughout our lifetime!



SO EASY

Life is never easy
When we know we're in the wrong
Life is never easy
To explain the wrong we've done!
For life can be a battle
Knowing right from wrong.
Yet life can be so easy
When we put to right what's wrong!

PENTECOST QUIZ ANSWERS

1. What language does the word 'Pentecost' come from? GREEK
2. What does the word Pentecost mean and refer to? FIFTIETH – THE 50TH DAY AFTER PASSOVER
3. How many weeks after Easter does Pentecost come? 7
4. In which book and chapter do we find the account of the celebration of Pentecost? ACTS 2
5. Where did this celebration of Pentecost happen? JERUSALEM
6. How many days after Jesus ascended in heaven did this occur? 10
7. What did the disciples hear all around them? SOUND OF RUSHING WIND
8. What did the disciples do when the Holy Spirit entered them? SPOKE IN LANGUAGES THEY DIDN'T KNOW.
9. What did some witnesses accuse them of? BEING DRUNK
10. Which disciple spoke to the crowd? PETER
11. What Old Testament prophecy did he declare was being fulfilled? JOEL (2:28) SAID THAT GOD WOULD POUR OUT HIS SPIRIT ON ALL HUMANKIND.
12. How many people believed the disciples' message about Christ and were baptised on this day of Pentecost? ABOUT 3000.

SUMMER QUIZ (answers in the next issue of FOCUS)

1. Which British seaside attraction is 158m tall?
2. At 1.34 miles, where is the longest pleasure pier in the UK?
3. What was the name of the ITV holiday show fronted by Judith Chalmers which ran from 1994 to 2003?
4. When does summer officially start?
5. The month of July is named after which famous person?
6. 'The First Day of Summer' is an annual public holiday celebrated in which European country in April?
7. Can you give the first line of Grease's '*Summer Nights*' lyrics?
8. Which feast day falls on July 15 every year?
9. Who was credited with saving 77 lives during seven summers working as a lifeguard at Lowell Park, Illinois, starting in 1926?
10. Which singer was known as the 'Queen of Disco'?
11. Who met and fell in love with Marge Bouvier in a 1974 summer camp?
12. Which novel is told partly by its heroine Esther Summerson?
13. The "dog days of summer" are named after the Dog Star; what is the better known name of this star?
14. What term is often given to a period of dry hot weather that occurs in the autumn?
15. What was the first name of Clegg in the sitcom *Last of the Summer Wine*?
16. The summer solstice occurs in the Southern Hemisphere during which month?
17. '*In the Summertime*' was a debut single and big hit for which British rock band?
18. Name the fictional seaside town in the sitcom *Home and Away*?
19. By what name is the character Puck also known in the play *A Midsummer Night's Dream*?
20. Castel Gandolfo is famous for being whose summer residence?