



Furrough Cross
United Reformed Church

April/May 2025

HAPPY EASTER TO ALL OUR READERS!

Christ has died

Christ is risen



Christ will come again

Alleluiah!

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 (until May) 2.00pm

Bereavement and Friendship Group: 4th Thursday of each month
(until May) 10.30 am - 12.00 pm.

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

The next issue of FOCUS (deadline 15th May) will be the last that I will edit, print and distribute. I've really enjoyed producing the magazine for nearly five years, and am so grateful for all the items you have contributed and for all the encouraging comments.

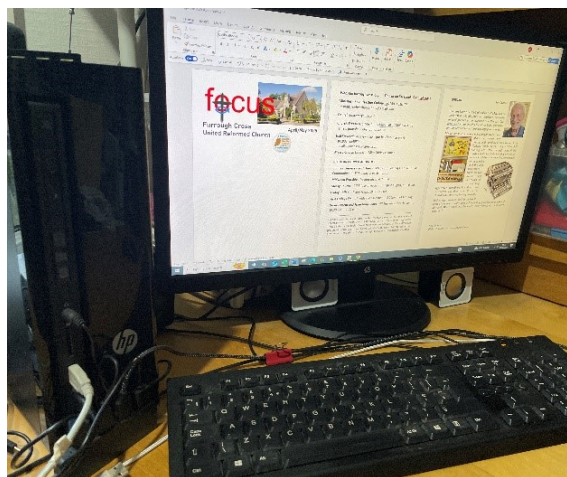
My career as an amateur editor began when I was



about seven, when my brother and I produced a few issues of the 'Cadoux Family News', using a John Bull printing set! Then through most of the 1970s and 80s I edited a monthly newsletter for our Scout Group at Wembley, which went to the families of all the Cubs and Scouts. I typed on wax stencils using a lovely old 'sit

up and beg' typewriter something like this. ➡

The newsletter was then 'run off' on the church's Gestetner duplicating machine.



I also typed the thesis for my degree at Imperial College on the same machine – no corrections were allowed, so if I made a single minor mistake on a page I had to retype the whole page!

Technology moved on, and for the last 25 years I have been mostly using a PC (desktop computer)



and Microsoft Word, which enables me to easily format text and insert pictures. Most importantly, it is easy to insert late material, make changes and correct errors (thanks here to Steve Casselden for all his help as proof reader).

In our lives, how easy is it to make changes and correct our errors? I guess often the hardest part is admitting when we are wrong. Of course, asking for and giving forgiveness is crucial. But if we keep working at it, our journey of faith enables each of us to grow, to try new things, to move forward and produce ever better results for the Kingdom.

And that is my hope and prayer for Furrough Cross in the next few months, that with God's help and guidance we – that's all of us – can think about and plan new ways of working during the interregnum (a time in the church's life when it is without a minister).

In two year's time Furrough Cross will be 175 years old! What part are you going to be playing in the next chapter of the amazing story of this church?



Pre-School made a surprise visit to the Friday Coffee Morning on the day of Heather's birthday in February, and presented her with a lovely card they had made.

FROM THE MINISTER *Rev Heather Cadoux*

Dear Friends,

As I write this we are in the period of Lent, and shortly Easter will be upon us.

Several years ago I read Joanne Harris' book *Chocolat*. It tells the story of a single mum, Vianne Rocher, who arrives in a small French village during Lent and opens a chocolate shop. In this village the strict local Catholic priest, Father Reynaud, is determined to uphold the traditions of Lent. Fr Reynaud sees Vianne's chocolate shop not only as a threat to his authority but also to the village's moral order.



For some, Lent is a time of denial, and there are many who give up something for Lent. At one point Lent was the period when people were prepared for entrance into the family of God by their own confession. This happened on Easter morning, symbolising death and new life and was followed by great celebrations.

For Christians today Easter is a day of celebration as we remember the resurrection. However you can't have Easter Day without Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. It is an opportunity for us to remind ourselves of the lengths God would go to for us. Part of God's character is justice. That means our actions have a consequence. The apostle Paul writes in his letter to the Romans that "the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23). Thankfully there is an answer, and that is all because the debt owed by us has been paid by the sacrifice Jesus made as He suffered the most horrific death known – on the cross.

With that first Easter morning, as the various characters in the story – Mary, Peter and John – went to the tomb, comes the realisation that death is not the end. Instead, it is the doorway to new life in a deeper relationship with God. That life begins when we say 'Yes' to Jesus and

accept Him as our saviour. What joy to remember that on Easter Sunday!

In the book *Chocolat* Easter is celebrated by some in that French village by purchasing some of Vianne's wonderful chocolate creations. I remember several Easter eggs I received as a child. The most spectacular was from my grandfather's sweet shop. It came in a large basket and was covered with sugar flowers; and then there were eggs from my godparents as well as from various "aunts". However, I was never allowed to eat a whole egg at one go. My mother rationed my brothers and I. She knew too much chocolate at one time was not good for us: our eggs lasted us several weeks.

The wonderful thing is we can never have too much of Jesus, and that's certainly something to celebrate at Easter!

With love to you all.

Heather

MAUNDY THURSDAY SUPPER AND SERVICE

6pm Thursday 17th April

A simple supper followed by communion

If you would like to attend please add your name to the sheet on the side aisle table.



A scene from a brand new film 'The Last Supper'

SOME VACANCIES COMING UP

- Magazine editor; magazine print/collate/staple/distribute
- Organise Friday coffee mornings rota
- Eco Church champion
- Check the Defibrillator occasionally and be point of contact
- Responsible for Torquay Community Larder collecting tin

Please talk to Roy if you'd like to find out what's involved with any of these tasks.

NOTES FROM THE ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING 23rd MARCH 2025

Annual Review and looking forward

The minister summarised the highlights of the previous year, giving thanks to all those who contribute to the work and mission of the church in any way. She also indicated that a card and gift had been sent to Bill Becher thanking him for his work, and that his thanks had been received for such an unexpected gift. Mention was made of members called to a higher service, and of the five people who had come into membership in the past year.

The minister went on to encourage the church for the future, and what would follow after her retirement in June.

The Treasurer noted that the accounts for 2024 were awaiting authorisation, and would be presented to the church meeting in due course. She gave a precis of the 2024 accounts: total income for the year was £51,235 and expenditure £52,969, a difference of £1,733, though we do have reserves to cover this. She mentioned that with the size and age of our premises they need constant care, and she thanked the property committee who ensure that repairs and renewals are taken care of. Jenny also thanked Roy who does many things property-wise and Ann who takes care of the lettings which bring in a substantial amount each month.

Elders election: Mrs Ann Close, Mr Adrian Powell and Mrs Marilyn Smale were elected to serve as elders.

FIVE WAYS TO REFLECT DURING HOLY WEEK

Based on an article from Christ Fellowship Church (S. Florida and online)



1. Reflect on Palm Sunday

In ancient times, palm branches were a symbol of victory and triumph. They were often used to celebrate military victories or to welcome royalty. When Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey (John 12), the crowds saw Him as a king, and they welcomed Him with palm branches as a symbol of His triumphal entry into the city.

As we reflect on Palm Sunday, we can consider the way we welcome Jesus into our own lives. Do we welcome Him as King, or do we sometimes push Him aside in favour of other things? Are we willing to follow Jesus wherever He leads us, or only when it is comfortable or convenient?

2. Reflect on Maundy Thursday

At the Last Supper Jesus celebrated the Passover meal with his twelve closest followers, and gave us a very simple way to help us remember His sacrifice made for us. Through ordinary bread and wine we are reminded of His broken body and His spilled blood, the ultimate gift from God to us.

Do we only think of this wonderful gift to us during a communion service? Why not try and get into the habit, every time we eat or drink something, of remembering what Jesus did for you?

3. Reflect on Good Friday

One of the most significant events of Holy Week is of course the crucifixion of Jesus on Good Friday. We are reminded again of the terrible suffering that Jesus endured for our salvation. Find a way to take time to ponder on the sacrifice Jesus made and His great love for you.

When Jesus hung on the cross, He prayed for His persecutors, *“Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.”* (Luke 23:34). We can use Holy Week as a time to make peace where there is strife, seek to love others like Jesus loves us, and also to reflect on the forgiveness He offers to us.

4. Reflect on Saturday

We may attend services on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday, but we don’t often stop to consider the significance of that silent Saturday. Saturday is that middle day when God occupied a grave in a garden outside of Jerusalem. Saturday is a day to reflect on the in-between moments of our own lives. It’s a day to sit, to wait, to hope, even when we’re unsure of what tomorrow will bring.

We now can look back and know that Easter comes on Sunday, but Jesus’ followers didn’t know that back then. When we feel hopeless, lost, confused, or grieving, we can remember that Jesus’ followers knew exactly how that feels. Saturday is about the hard and uncertain days that God still calls holy.

5. Reflect on Easter Sunday

Holy Week culminates in the celebration of Easter, which commemorates Jesus’ resurrection and the triumph of life over death – a day that changed everything. It is a time to celebrate the hope and joy that comes from knowing that death is not the end and that there is life beyond our earthly existence.

Easter is also a time to celebrate the new life and resurrection power that’s available to all of us, in all of our circumstances. Jesus can turn any impossible situation around, and we can trust that when all seems dead and lost, God is always writing a redemption story.

FAMILY NEWS

It was a delight for the church to welcome **Jenny W** into church membership on 2nd March, and Jenny's friend Fred was able to join us online from Liskeard. We welcomed Fred back in person when he came to help Jenny celebrate her 80th birthday.

Christine and Adrian would like to thank all the kind family church members for their kind thoughts and cards for Christmas and birthdays.



ECUMENICAL PRAYER MEETING

Nearly 30 people from churches all over Torbay visited Furrough Cross one morning last month at 6.30am. We spent a powerful hour in God's presence, sharing news, concerns, sadnesses and joys. There was lots of prayer for us at Furrough Cross, including for the church as it adjusts to a time without a minister, for Heather and the Elders, for Messy Church and all the families involved, for the coffee mornings and other forms of outreach.



A NON-BELIEVER'S TALE

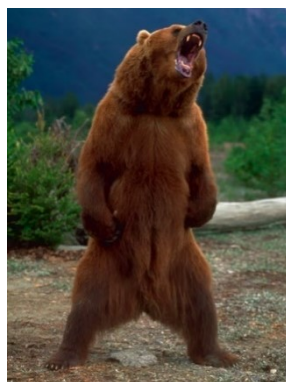
Anon

An atheist was taking a walk through the woods. "What majestic trees! What powerful rivers! What beautiful animals!" he said to himself.

As he was walking alongside the river he heard a rustling in the bushes behind him. He turned to look. He saw a 7-foot grizzly bear charging towards him. He ran as fast as he could up the path; he looked over his shoulder and saw that the bear was closing in on him. He looked over his shoulder again, and the bear was even closer. He tripped and fell over. He began to pick himself up but saw the bear right on top of him, raising his right paw to strike him. At that instant the man cried out, "Oh, my God!"

Time stopped. The bear froze. The forest was silent. As a bright light shone upon the man, a voice came out of the sky: "You have denied my existence for all these years, taught others that I don't exist, and even credited creation to a cosmic accident. Do you expect me to help you out of this predicament? Am I to count you as a believer now?"

The atheist looked directly into the light. "It would be hypocritical of me to suddenly ask you to treat me as a believer now, but perhaps you could make the bear a Christian?"



"Very well," said the voice. The light went out. The sounds of the forest resumed. And then the bear dropped his right paw, brought both paws together and bowed his head and spoke:

"Lord, bless this food, which I am about to receive from thy bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen."

JESUS IS RISEN!

Come and join **Wednesday Worship** at 2.30pm on Wed 16th April to celebrate and worship our Lord Jesus.

Shirley will be leading with help from children and adults.

Easter refreshments to follow!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Fri 4th April** 2.00pm First Friday Film: *Testament of Youth*
- Sun 13th April** 6.30pm Christians Together in Torquay Palm Sunday service at St Matthias Church, guest preacher Rev Simon Clay from Upton Vale Baptist Church
- Wed 16th April** 2.30pm Wednesday Worship Easter Special
- Thur 17th April** 6.00pm Maundy Thursday supper and communion
- Fri 18th April** 10.00am Good Friday Coffee Morning
- Sun 20th April** 10.30am Easter Sunday (includes Communion)
- Thur 24th April** 10.30am Bereavement Drop In
- Fri 2nd May** 2.00pm First Friday Film
- Thur 22nd May** 10.30am Bereavement Drop In (final session)
- Sun 25th May** 11.45am Church Meeting
- Sat 28th June** 3.00pm Farewell Tea for Rev Heather and Roy

Christians Together in Torquay **Prayer Breakfasts** continue on the first Saturday of each month at 8am at The Church of the Assumption, Abbey Road.

A LENTEN FAST AND FEAST *(adapted from A Lenten Prayer by William Arthur Ward)*

Fast from fear;	Feast on faith.
Fast from despair;	Feast on hope.
Fast from depressing news;	Feast on prayer.
Fast from discontent;	Feast on gratitude.
Fast from anger and worry;	Feast on patience.
Fast from negative thinking;	Feast on positive thinking.
Fast from bitterness;	Feast on love and forgiveness.
Fast from words that wound;	Feast on words that heal.
Fast from gravity;	Feast on joy and humour.

THE LOOM OF TIME

This poem was written by an unknown poet. Possibly he or she lived in a northern English town where there was a lot of mills or cottage workers employed as weavers.

Val Elms

Our lives are laid in the loom of time
to a pattern we do not see,
while the weavers work and the shuttles fly
till the dawn of eternity.

Some shuttles are filled with silver threads
and some with threads of gold
while often but the darker hues
are all that they may hold.

But the weaver watches with skilful eye
each shuttle fly to and fro,
and sees the pattern so deftly wrought
as the loom moves sure and slow.

God surely planned the pattern:
each thread, the dark and fair
is chosen by His master skill
and placed in the web with care.

He only knows its beauty,
and guides the shuttles which hold
the threads so unattractive,
as well as the threads of gold.

Not till each loom is silent
and the shuttles cease to fly,
shall God reveal the pattern
and explain the reason why.

The dark threads were as needful
in the weaver's skilful hand
as the threads of gold and silver
for the pattern which He planned.



HERBIE'S POETRY CORNER

Herbert Doney

BLESS THIS DAY

Never waste one precious moment,
Let's do what good we can today,
For tomorrow offers nothing,
All our plans could fade away.
So let's enjoy this life we're given,
Helping others on the way.
Give our love and show our kindness
As we live from day to day.

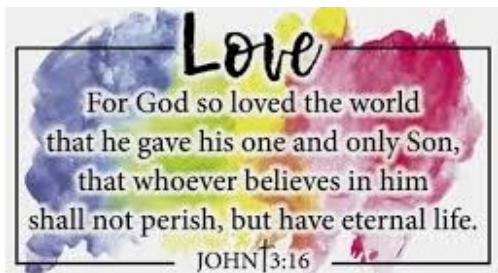


THANK YOU

In the midst of my darkness
I have found light,
For only the good things
Bring warmth and delight!
It gives joy to others,
Makes dreams to come true;
And that is because
Lord I trusted in you!

REPENTANCE

What did I do to deserve your love
Shining your light on me?
Had You forgotten, O Lord, it was me
Who sent You to Calvary?
For I was the sinner that You had set
free,
You found new hope in me!
But I already knew, Lord,
Deep down in my heart,
That the one on the cross
Should be me.





We had a wonderful “heart filled” Messy Church in February. Of course, being Valentine’s Day we had a love theme: love between two sisters, Mary and Martha, and their love for Jesus. We watched a video telling how Mary sat with Jesus as he told wonderful stories whilst Martha got crosser and crosser because she was doing all the work. We talked about how often many of us say “it’s not fair” - just as Martha thought! One of our children told us how her friend went to bed a lot later than she did and she thought that wasn’t fair!

Message received from Carol Sandford during the week before February Messy Church:-

‘We will be there. The boys both have discos at school. When I said “so what are you going to do?” they both said “Messy Church!”’



which broke His heart (cyber bullying (!), rudeness, wars). Aren’t children just amazing in their ideas. Those who come to Messy Church are brilliant.

Very popular were the heart-shaped lollies made from Rice

Our activities reflected our theme. The children decorated heart-shaped boxes and had heart-shaped chocolates to put inside. How many of these were actually given away is anyone’s guess! There were also two big heart pictures - one of the hearts was broken. We asked the children to write on heart shaped post-its things which made God’s heart happy (being friends, hugging, kindness) and things



Crispies and marshmallows, decorated with chocolate and sprinkles, and the heart shaped bird feeders with threaded on hooped cereals (I think more may have been eaten by the children than made it to the birds).

Then there was making slime. There were always a lot of children wanting to do that. Not sure about the child who was about to lick it off their hands though. Finally there was the volcano, where the children made a mini volcano with play dough, food colouring, vinegar and bicarbonate of soda. Sometimes we are so angry we feel like volcanoes about to erupt. In our Bible story Martha was angry with her sister and wisely she chose to erupt on Jesus, who knew exactly how to make the situation better.

As well as talking again about Mary and Martha and how much Mary liked listening to the stories Jesus told, our worship time also included talking about prayers. We arranged tea lights in the shape of a heart and asked the children if they would like to come and light a candle and say a prayer, either out loud or in their heart. God would hear their prayers whichever way they said them. It was amazing how many actually came and did that. I'm sure that would have made God's heart happy - it certainly did mine.



Our meal was jacket potatoes with a choice of fillings (cheese, beans or tuna) and salad, followed by a decorate-it-yourself cup-cake. Our catering team is amazing, as is the whole Messy Church team - simply the best (better than all the rest!)

What a busy **March Messy Church** we had! With Lent as our theme, we started our afternoon by watching a video of Jesus in the desert being tempted by the devil. Jesus had been fasting for 40 days before He started His ministry and was really hungry. The devil tempted Him to turn stones into bread. But Jesus said no. Then He was taken to a high place and the devil tempted Him to throw Himself off, saying that God would send angels to rescue Him. But Jesus said no. Then He was taken to the top of the world and the Devil offered Him everything He saw if Jesus would just bow down and worship him. But again Jesus said no. How strong Jesus was to resist all those temptations.



All our activities reflected our theme. The children could put rainbow coloured “sand” into bottles to remind them of Jesus in the desert; they undertook an obstacle race against the clock; decorated cross-shaped biscuits, and made parachute people and floated them down over a wall. They also made and decorated a purse and put some sweets inside - then they were asked to take it home and see if they could



keep the purse and not eat the sweets until Easter Day - they could see then what it was like to be tempted.

One of the more popular activities was cooking pancakes on top of a coke tin - tiny



pancakes which represented the stones in the story. Finally the children helped with a big Lent picture. Christians often say that life is like a journey, so there were two road pictures. On one we saw people like all of us who laughed, cried, were happy, naughty, sad, angry or grieving. On the other road we stuck pictures of Jesus on His life's journey: when He was happy talking to children, or glad when He made people better, or sad when He knew what was going to happen on Good Friday.



Our worship time retold the story of Jesus' temptations, and Heather asked what everyone was thankful for or frightened of. After that we all tucked into lasagne, vegetables, salad and grated cheese, followed by homemade trifle, jelly or Swiss roll and squirty cream. Absolutely delish. This all vanished in record time! Lots of tired children (and adults too!) at the end of the afternoon.

I'm not at all sure how many of those sweets in purses will make it to Easter - or even made it to the church door! We might find out at our Easter Messy Church on Friday 11th April from 3.45 pm.

Easter Sunrise Service - Sunday 20th April at 6am

Why not begin this Easter Day by celebrating Jesus' resurrection together with other local Christians?

Gather at the viewing point halfway along Babbacombe Downs.

We will be led by folk from St Mary Magdalene Church.

*"Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise,
they went to the tomb..."*

QUIZ ANSWERS: Some test questions for GCSE Religious Studies

- 1 Which event came immediately after the Last Supper? *The betrayal and arrest*
- 2 Who were the first people reported to have seen Jesus after his resurrection? *Jesus' female followers*
- 3 What are the two types of sin in Christianity? *Original and personal sin*
- 4 What is meant by atonement? *The idea that, through Jesus, God and humanity are reconciled and their relationship is healed*
- 5 Which of these places do only Catholics believe in? *Purgatory*
- 6 Who do Christians believe will decide what happens in a person's afterlife? *God*

QUIZ: IT HAPPENED IN APRIL

After two rather theological quizzes, this one tests your memory and historical knowledge.

April 4, 1581 - Which English sailor, privateer and explorer was knighted by Queen Elizabeth I following his circumnavigation of the world?

April 9, 1585 - Which English explorer set out to establish the Roanoke colony in modern-day North Carolina?

April 5, 1614 - Which Native American, Powhattan woman married John Rolfe of the Virginia colony?

April 29, 1770 - Which captain landed in eastern Australia, naming the inlet Botany Bay?

April 28, 1789 - An infamous mutiny took place on which merchant vessel in the South Pacific, casting adrift their captain, William Bligh, and other loyal crewmembers?

April 6, 1830 - The first church of which quasi-Christian denomination was founded by Joseph Smith in upstate New York?

April 10, 1858 Which bell, which still resides in the Clock Tower at the Palace of Westminster, was cast in its current form in Whitechapel Bell Foundry?

April 6, 1896 - The first modern Olympic Games opened in which city?

April 20, 1902 - Which Polish-French couple, pioneers in both physics and chemistry, refined Radium Chloride for the first time?

April 18, 1909 - Which 15th-century female French warrior - a leading figure and martyr during the Hundred Years War - was beatified by Pope Pius X?

April 24, 1916 - Which Atlantic explorer, along with five of his crew, launched a lifeboat from Elephant Island in the Southern Ocean, hoping to organise a rescue for the stranded survivors of his sunken ship, Endurance?

April 1, 1918 - Which branch of the British armed forces was formed from the merger of the Royal Flying Corps and Royal Naval Air Service?

April 14, 1929 - The inaugural Grand Prix in which small European principality was won by William Grover-Williams?

April 15, 1942 - King George VI awarded the George Cross to the "people and defenders" of which Mediterranean island, to reflect their sacrifice and resilience during the siege by Axis forces?

April 19, 1956 - Which American actress became royalty after marrying Prince Rainier III of Monaco?

April 9, 1957 - Which canal reopened to shipping following the "crisis" of the previous year?

April 12, 1961 - Which Russian cosmonaut became the first human to ever reach outer space, aboard the satellite Vostok 1?

April 26, 1964 - The newly-independent nations of Tanganyika and Zanzibar merged to form which modern-day state?

April 17, 1970 - Which ill-fated NASA mission returned to Earth safely after an incident on-board?

April 22, 1970 - Which day, dedicated to environmental protection around the world, was celebrated for the first time?

April 17, 1971 - After a brief war of independence, which country was officially formed from the territory formerly known as East Pakistan?

April 8, 1973 - Which revolutionary Spanish painter, whose work included Guernica, died aged 91?

April 27, 1981 - Xerox released which rodent-named computer accessory, the idea of which would be taken over by Apple?

April 26, 1986 - A meltdown at which Ukrainian (then in the USSR) power station was responsible for the largest nuclear disaster in history?

April 13, 1997 - Who, aged 21, became the youngest golfer to ever win the US Masters tournament?

April 15, 2019 - Which famous cathedral in Paris was devastated by a large fire?