

Furrough Cross
United Reformed Church

August/September
2025

The God of Harvest



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REGULAR CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Sunday Services: Sundays at 10.30 am. Communion on the first Sunday of each month.

Midweek Worship: Wednesdays at 2.30 pm.

Messy Church: 2nd Friday of each month (not August) 4 to 6 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.

LETTER FROM HEATHER AND ROY



By the time you read this we will have moved on to the next step of our lives in Plymouth, but we would like to pass on our very grateful thanks to you all for so much, including:-

- for a lovely farewell weekend, including all the hard work in organising the tea party;
- for all who came, including representatives from Friday Coffee, Pre-School, Torbay Hospital Chaplaincy team and our visiting preachers, as well as those who worship at Furrough Cross on Sundays and Wednesdays;
- for all who brought food or helped in any way;
- for all the cards, flowers and thoughtful personal gifts;
- for the amazingly generous garden voucher;
- for the many friendships we have made which we are sure will continue;
- for all who have taken on new responsibilities in the life of the church;

- for the wonderful comments of how we have touched your lives and the life of the church at Furrough Cross;
- for your tolerance, generosity, love and prayers.

Our words can never convey the way in which you have touched our lives, and we will miss you. However we are looking forward to the new chapter in our lives. If you are coming to Plymouth do let us know: we may be able to meet up. We are not far from Derriford Hospital so if you happen to be an inpatient and we know, we may be able to visit if our commitments permit.

We thank God for this wonderful community of Furrough Cross, and for having been a part of it for almost six years, and we pray that you will continue to work together in His name to share His love in the local community.

Love and blessings

Heather and Roy



The Elders would like to thank Heather and Roy for all the work they have done in Furrough Cross Church over the last five years. All the Elders wish Heather and Roy a happy retirement.

God bless them both

from Jenny, Ann, Marilyn, Linda, Herbie and Adrian.



FAREWELL TEA PARTY

A tea party was held in the Church on Saturday, 28th June, to wish Heather and Roy a happy and restful retirement.



A good time was had by all. Well over 50 people attended and a lovely spread was provided.

Thanks to everyone who provided the food and a special thanks to all those who helped set up, provided copious amounts of tea and coffee and helped with the



clearing up, washing up and returning the Church back to normal.

Heather was presented with a beautiful Cliff Richard framed picture from the Furrough Cross Preschool.



On behalf of all the congregation, we wish Heather and Roy a very Happy Retirement, and hope that they will enjoy every moment of this next phase of their lives.

TORQUAY COMMUNITY LARDER



It has been a real encouragement to receive positive feedback from a number of guests recently, hopefully the case studies below give you a real sense of achievement as we make a real

difference in peoples' lives:

J is mum to 5 children and has a partner. She has been coming to us on and off for over a year, firstly referred by the Helpline. We had noticed, over the months that she was becoming more depressed and her partner also seemed the same. On a visit earlier this year her 17 year old son explained that the 2 youngest had been taken into care. We continued to offer food parcels and support as and when she came in. At the end of May, she and her partner came in to say thank you for the support we had provided. They both looked different people! They explained that drink had been a major issue along with mental health breakdowns. They were both clearly in control of their drinking and were getting support from mental health teams. She also explained that they were hoping to regain custody of their children later this year. I emphasised that they would be welcome at the food bank and that if they were in future need they should pop in.

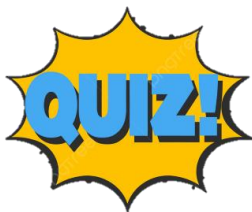
A is a young man who had fallen on hard times, finding it hard to make ends meet, as he was not working. Again, he has been using our food bank for some time and after a while opened up that his main issue had been debt. He explained that he had decided to take the option of paying back large amounts each month which was why he was in difficulties. About a year ago he announced he had got a

permanent job, we were delighted for him and told him to continue using our services until he was financially sound. Today (end of May), he came in and told us that he has just paid off the last part of his debt! We were delighted for him, but again explained that we would be there in future and not to slip back into debt.

T is a young lady who we have served on and off for years. When she first came to us she was homeless and obviously under the influence of something. Her appearance was always ragged, grubby and vacant. We have seen a change in this young lady over several months. She now has a small flat and is more in control of her life - she looks completely different. We still help her from time to time with food - occasionally providing her with a Tesco Voucher so that she can top up her utilities or phone. She is always helpful and considerate whenever she visits now.



KINGSTEIGNTON DISTRICT QUIZ



Furrough Cross was able to field seven of us at Kingsteignton URC for a very enjoyable evening of quizzing and food. As there were so many of us it was suggested we split into two teams. Linda, David, Jenny W and Heather ended up as the winning team, and Steve, Margaret and Roy did very well too. The questions were asked in an American accent by Rev Jessica, and really tested our grey matter!

BIRTHDAYS

September: Joyce Neale; Elizabeth Collins; Steve Casselden

BIRTHDAYS ARE GOOD FOR YOU!

Statistics show that people who have the most birthdays live longer than the average!

UPCOMING EVENTS

The next Church Meeting will take place on Sunday 17th August following the service.

The Harvest Festival this year falls on Sunday, the 5th of October.

WEDNESDAY WORSHIP COMES TO SUNDAY SERVICE!

August 10th 2025



“I was glad when they said to me Let us go to the House of the Lord.”

**Come and share our joy as we worship the Lord with hearts and voices.
Expect surprises and blessings.**

SUNDAY SERVICES

Date	Preacher	Reader
03 August	Rev Derek Hill	Mariana Wilson
10 August	Wed Worship Group	Wed Worship Group
17 August	Monty Wills	Paul Madge
24 August	Fr Paul Jones	Clare Smith
31 August	Rev Jerry Cook	Jenny Webber
07 September	Miss Catherine Harris	Janet Dart
14 September	The SW Moderator	Mariana Wilson
21 September	Mr Jim Collins	Paul Madge
28 September	Rev Dick Gray	Clare Smith



With sadness in our hearts we say good bye to our dear friend Lesley Proctor. A wonderful lady who cared about everyone and whom many people will remember for her thoughtful cards and heartfelt words.

Lesley's funeral service will take place on Tuesday, 26th August at 11:30am at Furrough Cross Church, followed by refreshments at the Livermead Cliff Hotel.

All those who attend are asked to wear something pink.

The funeral of John Earwood, husband of Gill Earwood will take place on 19th August in the church. Time to be confirmed.

LADIES LOUNGE FUNDRAISER

An incredible £5,122 was raised in a single day when Torbay charity Ladies Lounge held a fund-raiser at the home of David and Valerie Scott in Wellswood.

The registered charity supports vulnerable women who have been affected by domestic abuse/violence and as a consequence have mental health problems and addictions. Meetings are held in Upton Vale Baptist Church's Youth Basement every Monday and Wednesday where snacks and refreshments are available as well as professional support.



A craft table helps the women to relax and open up and share their experiences. There is also a separate area where they can simply relax and chat. All volunteers are trained and DBS checked.



Ladies Lounge totally depends on donations. The fund-raiser had an initial target of £1,000 but a team of ladies from several Torbay churches came together to make some beautiful crafts of their own which proved highly popular. More than 100 jigsaws and 200 pristine condition novels were sold along with plants and other items. Complimentary tea/coffee and cake were available to everyone on a glorious day weather-wise.

Suzanne Wesley, on behalf of Ladies Lounge, said she was staggered by the amount raised and the generosity and support of people from many Bay churches who turned up on the day.

More info on Ladies Lounge on their website: <https://ladies-lounge.co.uk/>

1st COMMUNION

Bill and Maralyn Becher attended their grandchildren's first communion in a Polish Roman Catholic Church in Brussels, Belgium on June 21st.

The children have been taking classes for some time in preparation for this rite of passage in the Catholic Church. There were 42 children taking the 1st Communion that day.

Bill and Maralyn have shared these lovely photos from the occasion.



HERBIE'S POETRY CORNER



A SIMPLE PRAYER

Lord when our strength is failing and
our time is almost done
Will you still walk beside us and
grace us with your love?
Yet Lord how could we doubt you
knowing you'll see this journey
through and that is why dear Lord we
put our trust in you!

Written by Herbert J B Doney.



WAY BACK

There's a way to God's Kingdom
But not as we plan
It's a road rough and narrow and it
needs guiding hands!
But it's well worth the journey if you
try it you'll see
For God in his wisdom has chose you
and me!

Written by Herbert J B Doney.



NEVER ALONE

I will walk beside you throughout life's
troubled sea
When storms arise and hopes are dashed take
my hand
Just trust in me!
No matter what life may throw at us
However dark the way
There's someone who still cares for you
throughout each troubled day!

Written by Herbert J B Doney.



JUNE MESSY CHURCH

Shirley Leaman

The Holy Spirit is a difficult enough story for adults to understand let alone children. But this was our theme for June's Messy Church. On arrival the children enjoyed their usual chat and laughter playing games together. This was followed by a little video illustrating the story of the first



Pentecost - showing the disciples gathered together waiting for the present Jesus said he would send to them after He went back to heaven to be with His Father. We saw the disciples waiting, when a sound like a rushing wind blew through the room and flames, which didn't burn, rested on all of their heads. God had sent His Holy Spirit and it made all of Jesus' friends feel brave and strong.

Our activities reflected our theme. Like the Holy Spirit, we can't see the wind but we can see what it does, so the children made windmills, paper aeroplane prayers, stained glass kites, flame headbands, iced "all sorts" biscuits and painted pictures of trees blowing in the wind, kites, balloons and hot air balloons. They also helped with a picture of the disciples receiving the Holy Spirit. Most popular craft of the afternoon was making popcorn - watch how it changed and jumped and popped.





During worship time we heard again how the Holy Spirit rested on Jesus' friends and how it changed them into brave followers of Jesus who wanted to tell everyone about Him. We saw how an hairdryer made ribbons move - without seeing how it happened and bubbles were blown out to float away without seeing the air which made them

move. All the children were given a handful of corn to put into the popcorn making machine and whoosh popcorn went everywhere followed by shrieking children trying to catch it! We talked to God and prayed for everyone we knew who wasn't well. Following this Doris presented Roy and Heather, who are retiring shortly, with a beautiful rose for the garden in their new home.

Everyone enjoyed supper - jacket potatoes with tuna, beans and salad, followed by ice cream and sweeties. How do our kitchen team do it every time.



Roy and Heather were presented with a beautiful scented rose for their new garden from Messy Church, together with a card signed by all the helpers.



This was our last Messy Church before we broke up for the summer. With a watery theme we heard about Jesus going out in a boat with his friends. He had walked many miles and healed many people so he was very weary. He got into the boat to go to



the other side of the lake. Jesus was so tired that he fell asleep with his head on a cushion. As he and his disciples sailed towards the centre of the lake a storm blew up. The boat was tossed

around and began to fill with water. All of Jesus' friends were frightened and woke Jesus up. Calmly Jesus stood up in the boat and with authority told the wind and the waves to be quiet - and they were.



We then all watched a video which illustrated the story and saw how wonderful and powerful Jesus is.



As it was a very hot day, we were all outside in the sunshine. With many activities the children were able to choose from painting a boat on to a stone, icing biscuits with a boat picture, making paper boats, rain sticks, a giant Jesus in the boat picture and, the hit of the afternoon, a balloon propelled boat. There was also a giant boat to paint which we used to dramatise our story.

At worship time the children re-enacted the story, with Eddie playing Jesus and some of the other children playing his disciples. We saw them



sail out on to the lake. When the storm blew up everyone did the sound effects - the noise of the wind blowing, banging drums for the thunder and shaking the rain sticks for the rain. When Eddie, our Jesus, stood up and said "Be Still" everyone was instantly quiet. Amazing. Then we prayed together thinking of

things we might be afraid of and thinking of people in our Messy Church families who weren't very well. God hears our prayers whether we say them out loud or in our hearts.

After worship time, there were hot dogs, burgers, cheese and salad to be enjoyed, followed by ice creams and ice lollies. Very welcome on such a super warm day, and expertly delivered by our catering team.



And, of course, finally, we had our traditional water fight. Oh my goodness, water pistols, cannons and water bombs. It was chaos. All the children were wet and Karen and Raymond soaked to the skin. What were we thinking. But amidst all the fun, we pray that one day our families will look back at the time they spent at Messy Church and

remember the welcome they received, the fun they had, but most of all of the God who loves each one of them.

All our wonderful Messy Church team, including our new American volunteer, then tottered home to lie down in a dark room until September! (And what a wonderful team they are).

No Messy Church in August but we meet again on Friday, 12th September. Come and join us. We may have recovered by then.



MESSY CHURCH - A MASSIVE THANK YOU

We have the best Messy Church team, so I'd just like to say a huge thank you to each and everyone for all their hard work this past year. We've laughed, chatted, encouraged and tried to support everyone who has come through our Church doors. There are nearly 25 in our team, all of whom are brilliant. I'd just like to particularly celebrate three - Beryl who greets every person with a smile or hug and knows all the names; Agnes who shops and caters for everyone and never knows how many will turn up; and Raymond who sorts out the videos, plays the piano and, best of all, tells those of us at the end of the evening who are on our knees, to go home because he'll sweep and clean up. And he does!

God has been so good to us. When I've worried that we don't have enough helpers on the day, nearly always someone comes to help. For our last MC we even had Tanya from Texas who has pitched in to help us and says she'll come again. Now that's what I call a commute.

Thank you. And, if you're up for it, we'll do it all again next year.

Shirley

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

The Synod sometimes in conjunction with the national church organises foundation, intermediate and advanced training.



Who needs to do training?

Foundation training:

The URC suggests that it would be beneficial for all church members to take this course which is available online. The intermediate and advance training build on this course and it is a requirement that you have done this course before continuing.

Intermediate training:

The following are amongst those who need to have it: Elders, Ministers, Worship leaders and anyone providing craft activities for children e.g. for Messy Church. You will need to have completed this course before taking the advanced course.

Advanced training:

Church Safeguarding Coordinators, Ministers.

We have been advised that the following training opportunities are available. **Foundation training** Available on line any time from the URC learning hub <https://www.urclearninghub.org.uk/> scroll down to the course and log in using Guest access. Takes around an hour.

Intermediate training – Zoom

Saturday 13th September 10:30-1pm (provisional date dependent on uptake)

Wednesday 1st October 6:30-9pm

Thursday 20th November 1pm-3:30

Please make sure that you have completed a Foundation course before booking this

Advanced training – Zoom

Thursdays 9th and 16th October 2025 at 6:30pm - both dates must be attended

The next course will be in March 2026

To book a place on either the Intermediate or advanced course please email: secretary@urcsouthwest.org.uk and give your name, church and role.

A zoom link will be sent out about a week before the course is due to start.

SAM'S STORY

Sam Cadoux (grandson of Roy & Heather)

Roy and Heather's 11-year-old grandson Sam successfully completed his bike ride from Barnstaple to Plymouth, and raised over £1100 for Children's Hospice South West. He sends very grateful thanks to all at Furrough Cross who supported his effort.



ANSWERS TO LAST WEEK'S QUIZ

- | | |
|--|--------------|
| 1. A large expanse of water (1) | C (sea) |
| 2. A part of the body (1) | I (eye) |
| 3. A drink with jam and bread (1) | T (tea) |
| 4. A climbing creeping vine (2) | IV (ivy) |
| 5. A colourful bird (1) | J (jay) |
| 6. A vegetable (1) | P (pea) |
| 7. An insect (1) | B (bee) |
| 8. Animal at a racecourse (2) | GG (sorry!) |
| 9. A line of people (1) | Q (queue) |
| 10. A sheep (1) | U (ewe) |
| 11. Content all gone (2) | MT (empty) |
| 12. A type of jealousy (2) | NV (envy) |
| 13. Slippery pavement in winter (2) | IC (icy) |
| 14. An English county (2) | SX (Essex) |
| 15. Foe in battle (3) | NME (enemy) |
| 16. Too much (2) | XS (excess) |
| 17. Do exceedingly well (2) | XL (excel) |
| 18. Kind of pepper (2) | KN (Cayenne) |
| 19. Whichever you like (2) | NE (any) |
| 20. A river bordering two UK countries (1) | Y (Wye) |
| 21. A written composition (2) | SA (essay) |



FRUIT & VEGGIE QUIZ

How well do you know your **greens** (and **reds** and **oranges**)?

1. What is the only fruit that has its seeds on the outside?

A) Dragon fruit B) Raspberry C) Strawberry D) Passionfruit

2. Which of the following is actually a fruit, even though we cook it like a vegetable?

A) Carrot B) Spinach C) Tomato D) Celery

3. What fruit has a crown and is covered in spiky skin?

A) Coconut B) Durian C) Pineapple D) Papaya

4. Which fruit contains an enzyme that can be used to tenderise meat?

A) Apple B) Pineapple C) Banana D) Orange

5. What is the name of the pigment that gives carrots their orange colour?

A) Lycopene B) Beta-carotene C) Anthocyanin D) Chlorophyll

6. Which fruit is a natural hybrid of a pomelo and an orange?

A) Grapefruit B) Tangerine C) Clementine D) Lemon

7. The durian fruit is banned from many public places in Southeast Asia. Why?

A) It's too large B) It attracts monkeys C) It smells terrible D) It's highly toxic

8. Which vitamin do sweet potatoes provide in abundance?

A) Vitamin K B) Vitamin B6 C) Vitamin A D) Vitamin D

9. Which fruit contains latex and can cause allergic reactions in people sensitive to rubber?

A) Mango B) Papaya C) Banana D) All of the above

12. Romanesco is a striking vegetable known for what unusual feature?

A) It glows faintly in the dark B) It smells like liquorice C) It forms a natural fractal pattern D) It grows underground



Why didn't they play cards on the Ark?
Because Noah was always standing on the deck!

Why did Adam and Eve do math every day?
Because they were told to be fruitful and multiply.

What's a missionary's favourite type of car?
A convertible—so they can go out into all the world!

Why did the pastor bring a ladder to church?
Because he was preaching on going to new heights in faith!

What did Jonah's family say when he told them about the big fish?
"Sounds fishy to me!"

Why are churches so full of people who love coffee?
Because Hebrews!

How do angels greet one another?
"Halo there!"

What kind of lights did Noah use on the Ark?
Floodlights.

Why couldn't Cain please God with his offering?
Because he just wasn't "Abel."

What do you call a sleepwalking nun?
A roamin' Catholic.

YOUR MAGAZINE NEEDS YOU



Got a story to share? A poem? A testimony? A word of encouragement? A funny moment that made you laugh?

We'd love to hear from you!

*Our church magazine is a reflection of **you**—your faith, your journey, your voice.*

Your contribution can bless and inspire others in ways you may never imagine.

No professional writing skills needed—just a willing heart and a few words (or pictures!) from the soul.

**Please share your contribution for the next magazine
by Sunday, 21st September**

👉 *In person to Mariana Wilson*

👉 *By email to furroughx@gmail.com*

👉 *By Facebook Messenger to
<https://www.facebook.com/furroughcross>*