

**Furrouah Cross
United Reformed Church**

June/July 2026



“Morning has broken like the first morning,
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird.” (Eleanor Farjeon)

Website: furroughcross.org

Find us on Facebook: facebook.com/furroughcross

Email: furroughx@gmail.com



Minister: Vacant

Church Secretaries: Mrs Janet Dart and Miss Shirley Leaman

Email: janet.dart@outlook.com, shirley.leaman@hotmail.co.uk

Church Treasurer: Mrs Agnes Gwilliam

Email: agnesgwilliam2@gmail.com

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

(01803) 324080 Email: annclose49@gmail.com

Messy Church Leader: Miss Shirley Leaman

Magazine Editor: Mariana Wilson

Email: marianawilson@btinternet.com

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.

MORNING HAS BROKEN

Mariana Wilson

“Morning Has Broken” is one of the most beloved hymns of the twentieth century. The words were written in 1931 by the poet Eleanor Farjeon and set to a traditional Scottish Gaelic melody. Inspired by the wonder of creation and the gift of each new day, the hymn continues to be sung around the world as a joyful expression of gratitude, hope, and praise to God.



On my morning walks with my spaniel, I often find myself thinking of this hymn as I pause to watch the sunrise over Babbacombe Downs and reflect on the beauty of God’s creation. I have seen some breathtaking sunrises over the years, and, while no two sunrises are the same, each one carries something of the freshness and wonder of that first dawn described in Genesis, when God's light first illuminated the world.

As Christians, we see in every sunrise an echo of the Resurrection. Just as the first rays of the sun break through the darkness and fill the world with light, warmth, and beauty, so Christ's Resurrection broke the power of sin and death and flooded a fallen world with hope, grace, and redemption.



Through the gift of the Holy Spirit, His light continues to shine within us, dispelling fear, renewing our hearts, and drawing us ever closer to Him. Every glorious dawn is a reminder that darkness never has the final word, and that beauty is one of the ways God speaks to us, deepening our knowledge of Him and awakening our hearts to His presence.



BABBACOMBE CLIFF RAILWAY CENTENARY



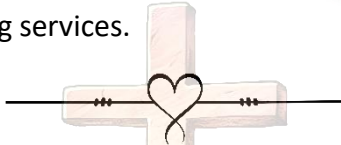
Wednesday 1st April 2026 was the Centenary of the Babbacombe Cliff Railway. There was a re-enactment of the group gathering on the steps for the official opening 100 years previously. Travel was free all day on the railway and 1500 people came to enjoy the opportunity. The Visitors Centre was

open at the beach and the volunteers welcomed 457 visitors to see the exhibits and learn about the history of the railway. Bill and Maralyn were on duty and certainly needed help from other volunteers that day!. Many school and pre-school groups came to join in the celebration, including Furrough Cross Pre-school, as you can see from the pictures"



REST IN PEACE, DEAR VAL

With great sadness in our hearts, we say goodbye to our dear friend Val Elms, who passed away unexpectedly on Thursday, 14th May. Val had been a faithful and much-loved member of our congregation for many years, and a lay preacher who delighted and inspired us with her warm, witty, and thought-provoking services.



Val's funeral will take place on **Wednesday 24th June at 12 noon** at **Furrough Cross Church**, and the wake will be held at the **Waddling Duck at Hamiltons, Babbacombe Downs**.

Please remember Val's husband, Colin, and the family in your prayers.



INDUCTION OF FURROUGH CROSS CHURCH ELDERS

On Sunday 12th April, we had the pleasure of welcoming Rev. Robert Jennings, who led a special service for the induction and ordination of our new Church Elders. A massive ‘thank you’ to **Shirley, Agnes, Janet, Geraldine and Adrian**, who have answered God's call to serve in this important role.



Taking on the responsibilities of eldership requires commitment, wisdom, and a servant heart, and we are grateful for their willingness to support the ministry and mission of our church.



Please keep our elders in your prayers as they undertake this important work. Pray that God will grant them wisdom, strength, and encouragement as they serve the congregation and help guide the life of the church in the months and years ahead. Their faithful service is a vital part of keeping our church community strong and flourishing.

We would also like to say a huge thank you to Agnes Gwilliam, who has taken on the role of Church Treasurer, and to Shirley Leaman and Janet Dart, who have agreed to become our Joint Church Secretaries. We are very grateful for their willingness to serve in these important positions. Please remember them in your prayers as they begin their new responsibilities.



Little Bobo was recently spotted at church keeping a close eye on the latest edition of Focus. While he may not be able to read every article, he clearly appreciates a good church magazine!

From our collection
“Furrough Cross Furry Friends”

WEDNESDAY WORSHIP EASTER SPECIAL

Our Wednesday Worship Easter Special provided a wonderful opportunity to gather as a church family in worship, reflection, and thanksgiving. As we remembered Christ's sacrifice and rejoiced in the hope of His Resurrection, we were reminded once again that Easter lies at the very heart of our faith. We share below a few photographs from this special and uplifting occasion (kindly taken and shared by Beryl).



Eagerly waiting, even little Bobo – can you spot him?



Our wonderful Easter choir. Our hearts lifted to Jesus as they sang “Up from the grave Jesus arose, with a mighty triumph over His foes”, and we gladly sang with them in our hearts “I lay my life before Him”.



New life in Jesus – we rejoice!



Our wonderful pianist – did you spot him in the choir?



Praising with tambourines



Yes, please, Geraldine, they look good!



Two Easter beauties, precious to us and precious to Jesus



Refreshments – yes, please!



Love from us all – including the back bench!



June: Linda Day; Gordon Latham; Valerie Banks; Isabelle Taggart

July: Adrian Powell; Angela Newman; Marilyn Smale



SUNDAY SERVICES

(*please note that preachers and readers might change at short notice)

Date	Preacher	Reader
07 June (Comm)	Rev Robert Jennings	Malcolm Henshaw
14 June	Mr Monty Wills	Isabelle Taggart
21 June	Rev Jerry Cook	Jenny Webber
28 June	Mr Jim Collins	Paul Madge
05 July (Comm.)	Rev Martin Manley	To be confirmed
12 July	Mr Monty Wills	To be confirmed
19 July	Rev Jerry Cook	To be confirmed
26 July	Miss Catherine Harris	To be confirmed

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **June Messy Church** - Friday, 12th June, 3:45 PM-6 PM
 - **July Messy Church** – Friday, 10th July, 3:45 PM-6 PM
 - **Choir 86 – A Magical Musicals Extravaganza** – Saturday, 11th July, 3 PM, at Furrough Cross Church
 - **Church Meeting** – to be confirmed
-

HERBIE'S POETRY CORNER



JUST A THANK YOU
Lord how can we thank you for
watching over us
You know our selfish being
For it's in you that we should trust!
We live our lives so dangerously
when we go it all alone
But you are always with us guiding
each step that we go!

Written by Herbert J B Doney.



HE WILL NOT FAIL YOU
Loving Father we often let you down
You must be disappointed with the
hurt that is around
You do your best to help us for you
never let us down
Yet whatever wrongs we do in life
you still turn our world around!

Written by Herbert J B Doney.



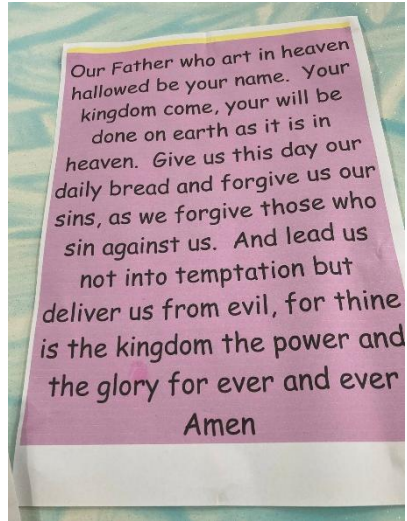
ALWAYS CLOSE
Share your sorrow
Don't feel all alone!
Someone will guide you and lighten
the load
When the world keeps attacking and
the way seems so grim
God knows every heartache
He knows every sin!

Written by Herbert J B Doney.



APRIL MESSY CHURCH *Shirley Leaman*

Unusually, Messy Church fell in the Easter holidays this month. "There won't be that many families this time, they'll all be away" I said to the team. Ha ha, how wrong was I, as the families kept pouring in! Our theme this month was "Prayer" and specifically the Lord's Prayer. We started the afternoon with a video telling us of the gift Jesus gave to His friends. They asked Him to teach them to pray and He taught them and gave them the Lord's Prayer. Then we sang one of our favourite songs "Who put the colours in the rainbow".



Our activities reflected the theme. The children could make a "glory" box reflecting the power and the glory of God. (We'll still be picking up the glitter this time next year). Beautiful pipe cleaner people were made - an adult giving a gift to a child - showing how we are God's children and how many good gifts He gives to us. Next there were gratitude jars.

The children wrote

on lolly pop sticks things they were grateful for then put them in the jar. They decorated the jars and were asked to take them home and every night before they go to sleep





to pull out one of the sticks and then to thank God for whatever they had written. Cakes were iced and decorated with the child's initial, showing how God knows each of us by name. Lines from the Lord's Prayer were hidden round the Church for the children to find, with a chocolate bunny prize when they found them all. A beautiful model of heaven was made with Jesus in control. And finally a big poster of the Lord's Prayer with pictures to illustrate the lines in the prayer.

During our worship time we heard about TSP prayers. Thank you, sorry and please prayers. And we heard how God hears all our prayers and sometimes He says "Yes", sometimes He says "No" and sometimes He says "Wait". The children could light a candle and say a prayer in their heart - God hears every prayer.



It was amazing how many children wanted to do that.



Supper was macaroni cheese, salad, and extra cheese. The mac and cheese were home made by friends of our Messy Church, and this was followed by cake and custard. After this no one seemed to want to go home!



MAY MESSY CHURCH

Shirley Leaman

What better theme for May's Messy Church than Jesus and the children. We started our session with a video showing Mums taking their children to see Jesus. They were excited but when they came near to Jesus His friends came and tried to send them away. Jesus was tired and didn't have time to see them. As they turned sadly away Jesus' gentle voice could be heard calling them back. He always had time to talk and listen to children and said that the Kingdom of Heaven was also for them.



Our supper was lasagne, cheese, vegetables and salad, followed by a cornetto ice cream. The ice creams were thoroughly enjoyed as can be seen by many of the photos!

We had great fun with our activities. It was important to listen to people the way that Jesus did. Sometimes people hide the way they're feeling so the children made masks. It's important to co-operate with each

other, so towers were made out of cocktail sticks and jelly babies. It's important to be grateful for things, so we made a gratitude tree and wrote on leaves things we were grateful for. It's important to help each other, so we had an obstacle course which each child had to navigate blindfolded, with help from a friend. And, one of the



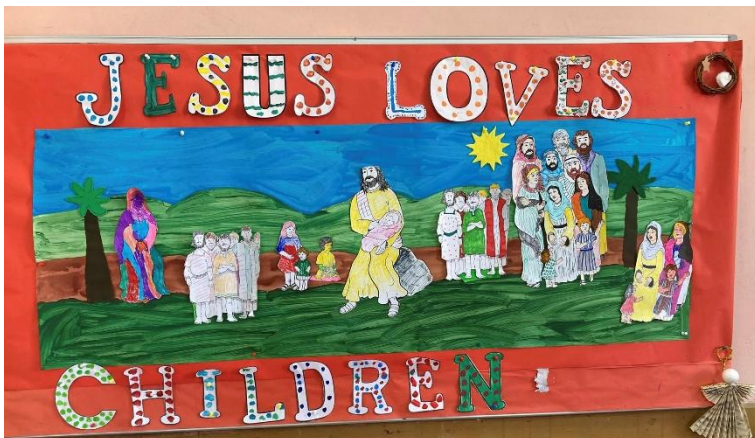


most popular activities, butterflies were made from pretzels and crackers. Who knew.

In our worship time we acted out the story of Jesus with the children and thought about how the mums would have felt being

turned away by the disciples. Children sure do love a bit of drama. The blessing of the children by Harry our “Jesus” was pretty impressive! To conclude our worship time, we had night lights and the children were asked if they’d like to light one and say a prayer - either out loud or in their hearts. God would hear them whichever way they chose to pray. Amazingly so many children wanted to do this. I’m sure it must have warmed God’s heart - it certainly warmed mine.

Our next Messy Church is Friday 12th June, 2026. Come and check us out.



A YORKSHIRE ADVENTURE

Mariana Wilson

At the beginning of May, Linda and I enjoyed a wonderful coach holiday to Yorkshire, a county rich in history, culture, and beautiful scenery.

One of our first stops was the historic city of York. We spent time exploring its charming streets and visiting the magnificent York Minster, whose stunning architecture and centuries of history never fail to impress. During our wanderings, we also found time to sit on a bench with Paddington Bear and have a friendly chat while he enjoyed one of his famous sandwiches!



The highlight of the holiday, however, was our visit to Haworth and the Brontë Parsonage Museum. As devoted Brontë enthusiasts, Linda and I had been looking forward to this part of the trip more than anything else.

It was a special experience to walk through the rooms where Charlotte, Emily, and Anne lived and wrote their famous novels. Seeing their writing desks, personal belongings, and the surroundings that inspired their work brought their stories vividly to life. We also visited the church

where their father, Patrick Brontë, preached and served the parish for many years. Among the many fascinating exhibits, we were especially interested to see a dress made by Charlotte herself, which offered a glimpse of her creativity beyond her writing. The visit made the Brontës seem wonderfully real and was undoubtedly the highlight of a memorable trip.



I would like to thank Mariana very much for arranging our lovely holiday in Yorkshire. We met three lovely ladies, two of whom we are still in touch with. As this was Mariana's first time organising a holiday like this, she did a wonderful job. A big well done, Mariana, and thank you.

With love, from Linda xx

A NEW CREATION IN CHRIST

Andrew B.

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold all things have become new.” 2 Corinthians 5 v 17

Charles Duke walked on the moon; he had done most things that a man could wish for in life. First of all, he was selected to be a fighter pilot; then he was chosen out of the squadron of fighter pilots to be a test pilot. After that he was selected to be an astronaut. He flew to the moon in one of the most powerful machines ever created. When he landed on the moon he drove the most expensive four-wheel buggy ever built by man!!



BUT, he said: the day that he gave his life to the Lord Jesus Christ, all of those experiences paled into insignificance. When he met the Man from Galilee, the creator of heaven, earth and the moon; and accepted Jesus Christ as his personal Lord and Saviour, it was the most awesome experience he had ever had in his life!

Have YOU had that experience? Have you ever asked Jesus Christ to be your Lord and Saviour? If not; why not do it to-day? Just pray this prayer:

“Dear Lord Jesus, I repent of all my sin. I acknowledge that I can do nothing without You and today I commit my life to You as my Lord and Saviour. I will serve no other god but You, and I thank You for dying on the cross of Calvary for a sinner like me. I thank You, Lord, that after three days You were raised from the dead and are seated in heavenly places. I believe that though I die, I too will live for ever. Thank you for saving my soul; Amen”.

Tell the first three people that you meet what you have done, because the Bible says that: *“If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.”* Romans 10 v 9

FAREWELL AND GOD BLESS, TANYA

Recently, members of our church gathered to say goodbye to Tanya as she prepared to return to the United States to continue serving the Lord in a teaching role. While we are excited for this new chapter in her life, it was difficult to say farewell to someone who has become such a valued part of our church family.



To mark the occasion, we enjoyed a wonderful meal at The Zoo Cafe, kindly organised by Beryl. It was a lovely opportunity to spend time together, share memories, and celebrate Tanya's time with us. There were more than a few tears, reflecting just how much she means to us all.

Tanya has contributed so much to the life of our church through her friendship, encouragement, faith, and willingness to serve. She was truly a God-send, arriving at just the right time and blessing our fellowship in countless ways.

Tanya, thank you for everything you have done for our church. We pray that God will richly bless you as you begin this new adventure, and we know that He will continue to use your gifts to touch the lives of many others. You will be greatly missed, but you will always remain part of the Furrough Cross family.





A little girl asked her mother, "How did the human race appear?" The mother answered, "God made Adam and Eve, and so all mankind was made."

A few days later, the girl went and asked her father. He answered, "We evolved from monkeys."

Confused, she went back to her mother. "Mom, you told me God created us, but Dad says we come from monkeys!"

The mother smiled and answered, "Well, it's very simple. I was telling you about my side of the family, and your father was telling you about his!"





We have recently had our OFSTED inspection under the new framework and regulations. We achieved a good outcome and had a positive experience.

'What it is like to be a child at this setting:

Children confidently enter the pre-school, where they are welcomed by friendly staff. They independently look for their name on coat pegs, recognising the letters that are familiar to them. Children hang up their belongings and join their friends to play. They settle quickly and feel safe. Children have formed positive relationships with staff and their peers. In the main room, they play cooperatively, enjoy learning and feel included. Staff ask children for their opinions, which help children to feel listened to.

Typically, children gain the knowledge and skills expected. All children are helped to make progress from their starting points. This includes children who need additional support, and who enjoy participating in the mostly well-planned curriculum. Staff play games with children, which help them forge friendships and develop their social skills. Additionally, staff help children to focus their attention and develop their listening skills. For instance, they help children to play, 'What's in the bucket?' and to identify specific items. Children anticipate what item staff will take out of the bucket next. They remain engaged and excitedly wait for their turn.

Staff value children's uniqueness and invite families into the setting to share their home background and to help broaden all the children's experiences. For instance, children learn about different communities, types of cultural dress and jewellery. Staff take children to visit places of interest within the area. They take trips on the cable railway down to the beach, ride on the bus and visit local cafes. This helps them to understand about the community they live in.'

Part Two: Hampton House becomes a school

During the 1920's Hampton House became Hampton Court School. During the 1930's and 40's it took girls up to the age of 18 and boys up to the age of 10, pupils being able to board.



During the Second World War several of the pupils had escaped from Europe and some of the children who died in the bombing of St Marychurch were pupils from the school.

Also, during this war each senior girl was delegated to look after a kindergarten child in the event of air raids. When the siren sounded, the senior girl would collect her charge from the classroom, pick up gas masks from the cloakroom and lead them down to the cellar.

In 1935 the headmistress of the school was Miss Strickland and she was succeeded by Miss James.

Mr and Mrs Greening bought the school in 1979 and have owned it ever since. Mrs Greening became the headmistress for many years until her daughter Fleur took over in 2019.

The Abbey School can take nursery school children from the age of 3 months until 4 years old, the school being open from 8am to 5:30 pm. The children can move on into the main school until they go to secondary school.

The school has recently gained 100% success in the 11+ examinations, so if you have a grandchild or great-grandchild who needs a nursery or school place then do take a look.

ANSWERS TO LAST EDITION'S QUIZ

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| 1. B. Mark | 6. C. An earthquake |
| 2. A. King of the Jews | 7. B. The disciples stole it |
| 3. B. Joseph of Arimathea | 8. A. Emmaus |
| 4. D. The curtain of the temple was torn in two | 9. D. Both B and C |
| 5. B. Two | 10. D. 40 |

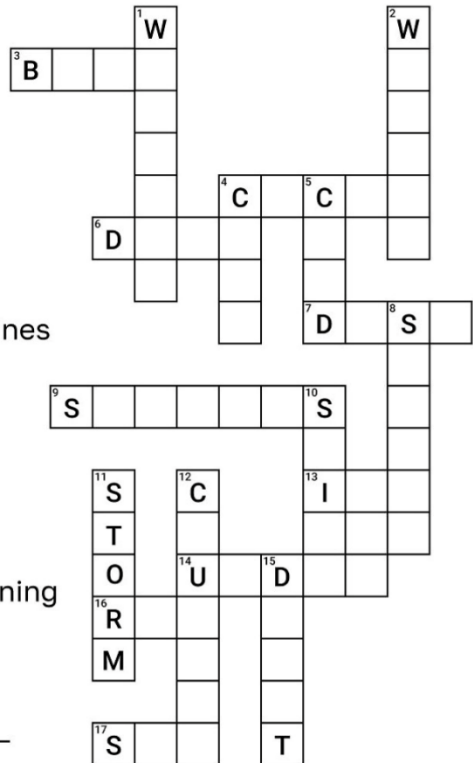


Across

3. I've got a ____ to pick
4. Break the ____
6. ____ vu
7. Wait for the ____ to settle
9. Out of the ____
13. On thin ____
14. ____ the weather
16. Caught in a ____
17. Make hay while the ____ shines

Down

1. A change in the ____
2. In the dead of ____
4. The ____ before the storm
5. ____ comfort
8. Every cloud has a ____ lining
10. Rise and ____
11. A ____ is brewing
12. Throw ____ to the wind
15. Without a shadow of a ____



CHOIR 86

*f*orte at 40

Saturday 11th July - 15:00hrs

Furrough Cross URC, Babbacombe
Torquay, TQ1 3SB

Advance Ticket Price:

Adults £8.00
Concessions £7.00

On the Door Price:

Adults £11.00
Concessions £10.00

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Join us as we mark this special milestone with a spectacular concert showcasing the talent, passion, and musical journey that have defined Choir 86 for four decades.



Choir 86 are delighted to be supporting Rowcroft Hospice through our concerts and are proud to help raise awareness and funds for the wonderful work they do in our community.

contact@choir86.co.uk



Fabulous at Forty