

**Furrouah Cross
United Reformed Church**

**August/September
2026**



They will come and shout for joy on the heights of Zion; they will rejoice in the bounty of the LORD.” (Jeremiah 31:12)

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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.

There is much in this edition about funerals and dear friends we have lost. As I reflected on their lives and the joy they brought into the world, I found myself asking: *'What makes a life well lived?'*



The world often measures success by wealth, status or achievements. God measures it by faithfulness. Faithfulness is deeply personal, nurtured in the quiet places of the heart where only God can see. Yet, like rays of sunshine breaking through the clouds, its effects cannot remain hidden. They shine out into the lives of others.

Jesus spoke of a seed hidden in the ground. For a time, nothing can be seen, but in due season it sprouts, grows and bears much fruit. So it is with faithfulness. We rarely know the hidden struggles of those around us—the prayers they have prayed, the tears they have shed, the doubts they have wrestled with, like Jacob wrestling with God. But God is always at work. Through every joy and every trial, He shapes His people until their quiet faithfulness becomes a source of hope, strength and encouragement to others.

This is how Christ makes our lives fruitful. Day by day, He forms us into the people He created us to be. There can be no greater joy than for Him to welcome us at the end of our earthly journey with the words:

"Well done, good and faithful servant... Come and share your Master's happiness." (Matthew 25:23)

What greater reward could there be? May we each live with that hope before us, allowing God to guide our steps so that, when our own journey is complete, we too may hear those wonderful words.

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM...



The past couple of months have brought several sad farewells. Together, we have remembered dear friends, celebrated lives well lived, and entrusted them into God's loving care with gratitude for all they shared with us.

We remember Val Elms...



Born on Valentine's Day, Val brought love, joy and laughter into the lives of everyone who knew her. She was a much-loved member of our church family, serving as a lay preacher and sharing her faith with warmth, wisdom and humour. She was also involved in the Women's Institute and enjoyed amateur dramatics, where her lively personality shone through.

As her health declined in recent years, she remained an inspiration to us all. Determined not to let illness define her, she continued to come to church whenever she could and joined services online when she was no longer able to attend in person.

Val's commitment to the life of our church never wavered. In fact, until just a month before she died, she was still sending me contributions for the church magazine. Her faith, perseverance and quiet dedication will be remembered with great affection, and she will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege of knowing her.



We remember Father Paul Jones...

A tribute by Shirley Leaman

Father Paul came into the lives of several of us at Furrough Cross during Covid. He was determined to reopen his Church - All Saints, Babbacombe - as soon as it was possible. (In fact, All Saints is open all day every day – a rare thing these days.)



So for many months, Beryl, Avril, Agnes and I went to the Thursday evening service at All Saints. Father Paul always made us welcome and affectionately referred to us as “his Calvinists”! He had a great sense of humour and was always ready for a debate on any subject. Even though All Saints was an Anglo Catholic Church, he told us that he had started off in the United Reformed Church. Many times he said he was going to report us for attending his Church instead of

Furrough Cross!

When he was due to retire, I asked if he might occasionally preach at Furrough Cross. He kindly agreed, and quickly endeared himself to our congregation by his wide-ranging knowledge and his engaging sermons delivered without notes. He would stroll around the Church with a smile on his face and a mischievous glint in his eye, always taking the time to chat with everyone after the service.

We're missing you already
Father Paul.



We remember Jasmine...

Jasmine was the precious granddaughter of Mavis and Eric, who went to be with Jesus last month at the age of just 38. We remember her from Messy Church, where her two children used to come. We pray that God will surround her family with His love, comfort, and peace at this difficult time.



We remember Peter Wyles...



Better known to people across Torbay as 'Moses the Waveman', Peter has become a local legend over the years, with his distinctive look and unique way of spreading love and joy through the simple act of waving. Many of us fondly remember our personal encounters with Moses, who

was always happy to offer not only waves, but also a kind word and a warm hand of friendship.

Moses worshipped at Furrough Cross Church for a while, so it was our honour and special privilege to hold his funeral service in our church.

Several people gathered along the route to wave to the hearse, honouring the tradition that Moses himself had kept faithfully for so many years. It was a simple but deeply touching tribute to a man whose cheerful waves have become a symbol of kindness and human connection.



"Death is not the end of life; it is only the gateway to eternity." — Billy Graham

We remember Josh...

Josh is Heather and Roy's grandson, who went to be with the Lord at only eight years old. Roy shared this heartfelt message with the church on 4th July 2026:



"Heather and I are so grateful for the beautiful flowers (see picture), the cards from the church, from Pre-School and from individuals, and for your prayers. It has made such a difference to feel such love and support from our dear friends at Furrough Cross, as well as from so many others.

Josh's funeral was yesterday, St Matthew's church at Elburton was packed, and both our son Tim and Josh's brother Sam (12) were able to speak about how much Josh meant to the family. After



a bus trip to the crem, and everyone blowing bubbles as a final goodbye, at the 'wake' we heard from so



many people just how much joy and fun Josh had brought to their lives. It was a wonderful celebration and a day we will never forget."





September: Joyce Neale; Beryl Davies; Elizabeth Collins; Steve Casselden



SUNDAY SERVICES

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

Date	Preacher	Reader
02 Aug (Comm.)	Rev Robert Jennings	Paul Madge
09 Aug	Mr Monty Wills	Janet Dart
16 Aug	Rev Derek Hill	Paul Madge
23 Aug	Rev Dick Gray	Clare Smith
30 Aug	Mr Raymond Luckhurst	Mariana Wilson
06 Sep (Comm.)	Rev Martin Manley	Malcolm Henshaw
13 Sep	Wed Worship Group	Wed Worship Group
20 Sep (Harvest)	Mr Jim Collins	Bill Becher
27 Sep	Mr Jonathan Oliverio	Clare Smith

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Harvest Festival Sunday Service** – 20th September
 - **Church Meeting** – 20th September, following the service
 - **Gift Day Fun Afternoon** – coming soon, date and details to be confirmed
-

REFRESHMENT FOR BODY AND SOUL

Beryl Navarro

"Jesus said, 'If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink.'" (John 7:37)

As we come to Jesus for our spiritual refreshment, those of us at Wednesday Worship have also been making sure to keep physically refreshed during the recent hot weather! We've been drinking plenty of water and doing our best to stay cool.

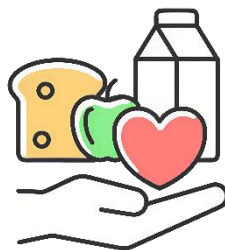
Below are a few photos of us in our long dresses, hats and flowery shirts, doing our best to beat the heat. Even a little fan is better than nothing!



THANK YOU FROM THE COMMUNITY LARDER

Bill Becher

This morning (Monday 20th July) I took the money collection box from the church to the Torquay Community Larder at the Salvation Army in Market street, Torquay and they issued me with a new box to put in the church. They were very grateful for the donations.



I have been requested by Rev Jordan Williams at the Home Church in Babbacombe Road, Torquay to thank everyone at Furrough Cross Church for all the food donations.

VENEZUELA APPEAL



Thank you to everyone who contributed to our appeal following the Venezuelan Earthquake. The Church was able to send £151.30 to Christian Aid following their appeal.

A huge 'Thank you' to everyone who has taken the time to send me articles, ideas, photos and poems for the magazine, or simply let me know that you have enjoyed reading it. Your support means a lot and it makes such a difference. I couldn't have done without you!



THE EDITOR

HERBIE'S POETRY CORNER



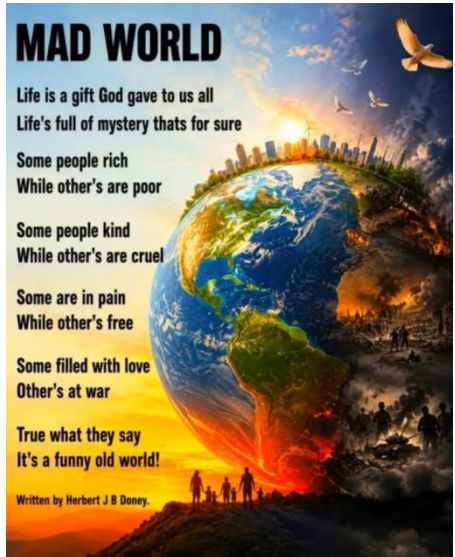
I'LL WAIT FOR YOU

How could I ever forget you
Someone so lovely and true
For each time i hear a small whisper
It reminds me that it could be you!

I hope and pray someday soon
We'll meet each other again

But until then I'll just
keep living a lie and
pretend that you're
here by my side

Written by
Herbert J B Doney



MAD WORLD

Life is a gift God gave to us all
Life's full of mystery thats for sure

Some people rich
While other's are poor

Some people kind
While other's are cruel

Some are in pain
While other's are free

Some filled with love
Other's at war

True what they say
It's a funny old world!

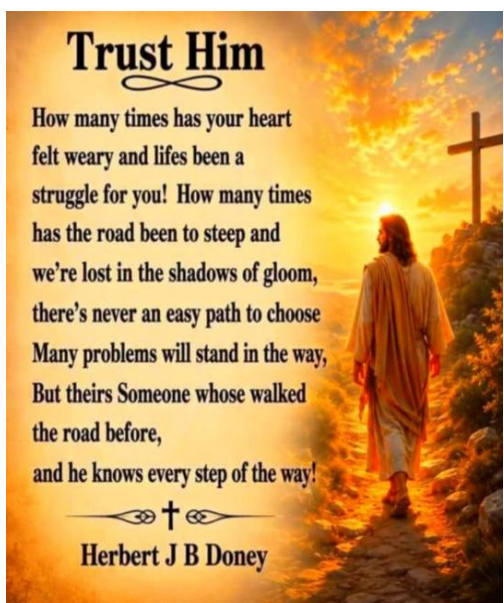
Written by Herbert J B Doney.



Forgiveness

Is it easy to forgive
when someone does us wrong
Some would say it all depends
on the wrong that they have done?
Yet life is short we make mistakes
it's so good to have a heart,
Then to forgive, that's all it takes
To make a brand new start !

Written by
Herbert J B Doney



Trust Him

How many times has your heart
felt weary and lifes been a
struggle for you! How many times
has the road been to steep and
we're lost in the shadows of gloom,
there's never an easy path to choose
Many problems will stand in the way,
But theirs Someone whose walked
the road before,
and he knows every step of the way!

✝

Herbert J B Doney



JUNE MESSY CHURCH

Shirley Leaman

Telling people about Jesus

So many children, so much laughter and shouting! Some new families and baby Lawrence, our youngest member. Today we heard about Jesus' disciple Philip who was told by God to meet an Ethiopian man riding in a chariot. So of course we had to make chariots. Joby made a fab big chariot, and we had a rocking horse pulling it. You can't say we're not inventive in Messy Church.



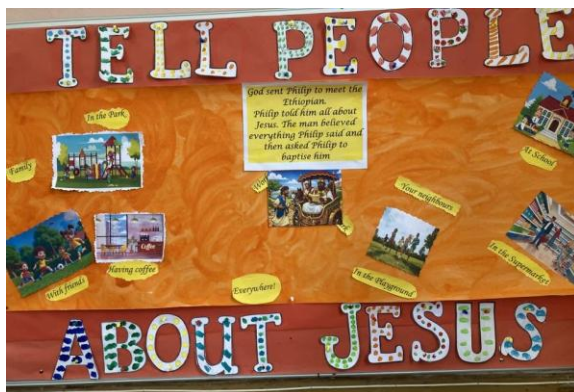
Our activities included chariot cups, scrolls, chariots with Philip and the Ethiopian inside, puzzle makers, paper plate baptism pools, icing cakes with blue icing and a jelly baby to illustrate the man wanting to be baptised. The children made a big picture showing where we could talk to people about Jesus - at school, in the park, playground, supermarket, having a coffee, in fact just about anywhere. During worship time we heard how

Philip climbed into the chariot and explained to the man that the words Isaiah said were referring to Jesus. How much He loves each one of us.

After this we had prayer time, when the children could light a candle and say a prayer, either out loud or in their hearts. However, they said their prayer God would always hear them. The children are amazing, so many of them wanted to pray.



Our supper was jacket potatoes with cheese or tuna or beans - or if you're particularly hungry all three! This was followed by ice lollies - very welcome in the warm weather.



JULY MESSY CHURCH

Shirley Leaman

Our final Messy Church before we broke up for the summer had water as its theme. Our families heard the story of Jesus getting into a boat to sail across the lake. He was so tired that He fell asleep and didn't wake even when a storm came and tossed the little boat up and down in the huge waves. His disciples were so frightened that they woke Him. Immediately Jesus hushed the wind and the waves - and they obeyed Him. Amazing! The children watched a video of the story and told us of times when they had sailed on a boat.



We sang the song we all love “Who put the colours in the rainbow?” Who doesn’t love “cats and rats and bats” and “dogs and hogs and frogs”, not to mention “whales, snails and quails”.

It was a really hot summer’s day so all our activities took place outside. With three paddling pools, all our activities reflected the theme. Karen made boats which shot across the water, Carol made tinfoil boats with a tiny Jesus to put on board, Erica did edible fruit boats, Veronica produced egg box boats, Avril made a story puzzle, Malcolm made paper boats and Carolyn and Adrian constructed a big boat out of cardboard, which you might have seen on display in the Church. There was also a big picture of the story. There were figures to be glued on showing Jesus and His friends on the boat, with the huge waves and lightning all around them.



Before supper, in our worship time, we again heard the story - this time with some of the children inside the cardboard boat acting out the story as it was told to them. Never was there more noise illustrating the wind blowing and the waves roaring. Henri was Jesus and when he said “peace be still” all the noise the children were making stopped at once. Incredible. After the story we had a quiet time when the children were able to light a candle and say a prayer, either out loud or in their hearts - God would hear it either way.

Then it was time for hot dogs, burgers, onions, cheese and salad, followed by ice lollies and squash. Our catering team, led by Agnes, are wonderful. How to produce a meal for everyone when you’ve no idea

how many people will turn up is a miracle in itself. After all of that, the moment they had all been waiting for, the water fight. Oh my goodness water from the water pistols and water balls flew everywhere. The children were soaked, some of the adults were soaked (Ahem, Karen and Raymond) and all were running in every direction. At ages past our finishing time we finally shooed out the last of our families, tidied up, cleared up, locked up and tottered home.



And, finally, just to emphasise that much as we love our families and the fun we have, Messy Church isn't a club it is Church, but in a friendly and easy to understand way, where we hope the children (and adults) will encounter Jesus and build a relationship with Him. And, how wonderful, in August three of our Messy Church children are being Christened at Furrough Cross on a Sunday morning.

So, at the end of another year, can I say a massive thank you to the Messy Church team for sharing the message of Jesus faithfully every month. Thank you to those who play the music, cook the food, buy the food, wash up, order the stuff up, clear up, cut things up, glue things up, pick stuff up off the floor, tot the money up, pick the helpers up, and so much more. You are loved, valued and appreciated. And what did Jesus say, anything you do for others you do for Me. So thank you. And, hey, we can do it all again starting in September!



Revelation 1 v 3 says: *“Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things that are written therein: for the time is at hand.”*

The best way I find to read this book, is not to look at what other commentators have written, but to ask God to reveal to you personally what He wants to say to you. A commentary is useful; but it is much better to ask God to show us what He wants us to see: direct communication with the author is better than second hand opinion. God will reveal to us in a way we can understand, what the wonders of Heaven are.



We will only be able to describe our view of what we see, in relation to our experiences; just as John could only describe what Heaven was like in relation to his experience. I had difficulty understanding how he could describe certain things in the way that he did. For example look at Revelation 21 v 18-21: how did he know the colours of all those stones? Then, as I was reading through Exodus about all the fittings and fixings in the tabernacle, and the priestly garments I realised that he would have seen some of these jewels in the temple, and every time the High Priest spoke to the people on behalf of God. If you read the Bible through you begin to realise that genealogies and descriptions are all in the Bible for a purpose.

My idea of Heaven is that it will be a place of perfect peace; where we will all sing from the same hymn sheet in perfect harmony, there will be no more war, no more corruption of any sort, no lie, deceit, animosity, disease, famine, drug abuse, people abuse, slavery, depravity, cancer,

blindness, lameness, deafness or fear, nothing that is bad or that will disrupt our complete peace. Everything will be perfect in the presence of Jesus. Heaven is a place we can look forward to with absolute faith that all of God's promises will be fulfilled, and all who have put their trust in Jesus will be there forever, and ever, and ever. Amen.

Just one question: Are you sure of your salvation, and sure that Heaven is your final destination? If not I urge you to make sure that you book your place today, by seeking God's forgiveness and putting your faith in the saving grace of Jesus.



“For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.”

1 Corinthians 13:12

I CAN SEE THE HAND OF GOD

Author Unknown

In the stillness of a summer night,
In the vastness of the sea,
In the splendour of a mountain's height,
In the beauty of a tree,
In the lovely notes the songbird sings,
In the woodland paths I've trod,
In the many wonders of creation,
I can see the hand of God.

In the love that drew redemption's plan
There in past eternity,
In the One who brought it down to man
That the sinner might be free,
In the bitter shame He bore that day
When Golgotha's path He trod,
In the finished work of Christ on Calv'ry,
I can see the hand of God.

In the strength He gives me on the way
When upon His name I call,
In the grace that meets my need each day -
Grace that lifts me when I fall,
In the promised glory waiting me
When my earthly path I've trod,
In the miracle of my salvation,
I can see the hand of God.



YOUR BILL –
ALL PAID IN ADVANCE FOR YOU

SALVATION

JESUS PAID IT ALL

SIN	PAID
SHAME	PAID
REGRET	PAID
PAST MISTAKES	PAID
UNFORGIVENESS	PAID
HURT	PAID
ANGER	PAID

=====

DEBT	PAID
CHANGE	0.00

=====

Subtotal	0.00
GRAND TOTAL	0.00

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FOR THE WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH, BUT THE
FREE GIFT OF GOD IS ETERNAL LIFE IN
CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD
ROMANS 6:23

I have held many things in my hands, and I have lost them all; but whatever
I have placed in God's hands, that I still possess."

– Martin Luther

40 YEARS OF MUSIC FOR THE COMMUNITY

Furrough Cross Church was delighted to host Choir 86 as part of the choir's 40th anniversary celebrations. Their *Magical Musicals Extravaganza* entertained the audience with favourites from the world of musical theatre, celebrating four decades of music, friendship and community spirit.

The concert raised funds for Rowcroft Hospice, a charity that provides outstanding care and support to people with life-limiting illnesses and their families. It was a fitting reminder that music has the power not only to bring people together but also to make a real difference in the lives of others.



We were also honoured to welcome several distinguished guests, including the Mayor of Torbay, Councillor Hazel Foster, Kevin Foster, and Kate Holmes from Rowcroft Hospice, whose presence added to the occasion.

We are pleased to include photographs of the choir now and then. Though much has changed over the years, you can clearly see their enthusiasm has remained the same.



"If I were not a physicist, I would probably be a musician. I often think in music. I live my daydreams in music. I see my life in terms of music."

— Albert Einstein



Peter and I recently spent a glorious six-day stay in Minehead, situated on the Exmoor coast.

We stayed in delightful Victorian accommodation called The Foxes Hotel on the seafront. This is the UK's only fully operating training hotel for young people with learning difficulties, developing their self-confidence. It was lovely for us to see how well this was working, and how happy and content the students were, with continued guidance and support from the friendly and very patient staff.



On one of our days there, we rode on The West Somerset railway, just prior to the steam ban coming into place, owing to the continued extremely dry weather.

On another day, we visited Dunster castle, which has sat at its commanding location since the Middle Ages. It was good, too, to wander around the beautiful gardens, leading into the medieval village, where a group of visiting children were sitting having their lunch in the famous Yarn market; a cooler place for them out of the hot sunshine.

After our return, we were able to enjoy the beauty of Exmoor, as shown in an old BBC production of the film of Lorna Doone, which was indeed a very happy reminder of our time there.



Sorry I've been a bit absent lately, but we're in the middle of the summer agility season, which means lots of outdoor competitions. We missed a show in Cornwall because it was just too hot (Mum said it was in the thirties, whatever that means!), and she decided it wasn't safe to go.

At the end of June we competed at the Mid Cornwall Agility Show in St Austell, where we



stayed at a lovely campsite next to some friendly ponies. I won first place in both Small Jumping and Small Agility, and my agility win moved me up to Grade 4. Mum was so pleased she made me sit on a box while she took lots of photos with my trophies!

Then, on 25th–26th July, we went to the Lapford Agility Show near Barnstaple and I got my first Grade 4 agility win. I just need one more agility win and two more wins in either agility or jumping to reach Grade 5. The higher the grade, the harder it gets, so I do expect better treats!

Mum had a few moments she'd rather forget—she was a bit late telling me where to go on one course, and then forgot another course completely, so we were eliminated. But we finished the weekend with that Grade 4 win, so I've forgiven her.

Our next competition is on 1st and 2nd August... unless the weather reaches those mysterious "thirties" again!



CHURCH NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



The sermon this morning:
'Jesus Walks on the Water.'
The sermon tonight:
'Searching for Jesus.'



Ladies, don't forget the
rummage sale. It's a chance to
get rid of those things not
worth keeping around the
house. Bring your husbands.



Don't let worry kill you off –
let the Church help.



Miss Charlene Mason
sang 'I will not pass this way
again', giving obvious
pleasure to the congregation.



For those of you who have
children and don't know it,
we have a nursery
downstairs.



The Rector will preach his
farewell message, after which
the choir will sing 'Break Forth
Into Joy'.



Irving Benson and Jessie
Carter were married on
October 24 in the church.
So ends a friendship that
began in their school days.



Potluck supper Sunday
at 5pm – prayer and
meditation to follow.



The church will host an evening of
fine dining, super entertainment and
gracious hostility.



At the evening service tonight, the
sermon topic will be 'What is Hell?'
Come early and listen to our choir
practice.



The ladies of the Church have cast
off clothing of every kind. They may
be seen in the basement on Friday
afternoon.



This evening at 7pm there will be
hymn singing in the park across
from the Church. Bring a blanket
and come prepared to sin.



Low Self-Esteem Support Group
will meet Thursday at 7pm. Please
use the back door.



The Associate Minister unveiled
the church's new tithing
campaign slogan last Sunday:
'I Upped My Pledge – Up Yours.'



This being Easter Sunday, we
will ask Mrs Lewis to come
forward and lay an egg on
the altar.



GUESS THE MUSICAL QUIZ



Can you guess the musical from one sentence?

1. A governess cares for a group of children in the early days of WWII.
2. A good girl and a bad boy fall for each other over the summer, but things get complicated when school starts.
3. A young prince fights to take his rightful place on the throne.
4. A group of struggling artists try to keep the bills paid in New York's East Village at the dawn of the 90s.
5. A teen girl fights segregation while showing the world her far-out dancing skills.
6. A wrongly-convicted barber takes revenge by murdering his customers.
7. An English professor is sure he can transform a Cockney flower girl into a woman of high society.
8. An English widow heads to the Far East to work as a tutor.
9. A thief turns his life around, but his former prison officer just won't leave him alone.
10. A modern tale that uses hip-hop to tell the story of an American Founding Father before, during and after the American Revolution.

ANSWERS TO LAST EDITION'S CROSSWORD

Across

3. I've got a BONE to pick
4. Break the CYCLE
6. DEJA vu
7. Wait for the DUST to settle
9. Out of the SHADOWS
13. On thin ICE
14. UNDER the weather
16. Caught in a RAIN
17. Make hay while the SUN shines

Down

1. A change in the WEATHER
2. In the dead of WINTER
4. The CALM before the storm
5. COLD comfort
8. Every cloud has a SILVER lining
10. Rise and SHINE
11. A STORM is brewing
12. Throw CAUTION to the wind
15. Without a shadow of a DOUBT

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, 20th September**

✍ *In person to Mariana Wilson*

✍ *By email to furroughx@gmail.com*

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