

**Furrouah Cross
United Reformed Church**

**October/November
2026**



"Be glad, people of Zion, rejoice in the Lord your God, for he has given you the autumn rains because he is faithful." (Joel 2:23)

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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.

What does autumn mean to you?

Perhaps it is the crunch of leaves underfoot, the smell of woodsmoke, the leaves turning gold, amber and red. Perhaps it is a favourite jumper brought out of the wardrobe, a childhood memory, or simply the pleasure of coming home to a warm house on a chilly evening.



To me, autumn means cosiness. There is something comforting about being warm and safe in your own home while the wind blows and the rain patters against the windows. I love to sit down with my crochet or a good book, with my spaniel curled up next to me, listening to the rain outside and enjoying the simple pleasure of having nowhere else I need to be.

Autumn seems to bring creativity with it too. Perhaps it is the longer evenings, the beautiful colours, or simply the invitation to slow down that encourages us to start new craft projects and rediscover old hobbies.

Autumn reminds us that there is beauty in change and that every season has its own gifts. As the natural world begins to quieten, perhaps we can do the same — appreciating our homes, our hobbies, the people around us and all those small blessings we can so easily overlook.

And the most reassuring thought of all is that through every season, God remains the same. The world around us changes, and our own lives change with it, but God is faithful and walks with us all the way. Perhaps autumn, with all its beauty and change, is a gentle reminder to be thankful for the season we are in, while trusting God with whatever season comes next.

We said "Until we meet again" to our dear brother Derek Avron, who went to be with Jesus on 2nd August. We had him for such a short time, but who can ever forget how he came out of hospital to Wednesday Worship and, with his voice breaking, sang praises to Jesus with his tambourine!

When he first came to us, he played his piano accordion, shown in the photo kindly sent to us.

In the hospital and then the Hospice, he carried on singing praises to Jesus.

Thank you for lending him to us, Lord, to bless us.



Our precious Beryl who read us a beautiful Christian poem.

Yes, Beryl, having you with us makes life sweeter!

Thanks to God for you.



The handsome and the beautiful!
We were so happy to welcome Geraldine's grandson from the USA. I think Sylvia was not the only one he made a hit with!!



What joy filled our hearts when in walked our beloved Isabelle with her daughter Alison and husband Liam. She has been ill for several months and we have constantly prayed and here is the result!!



We recently welcomed Patricia and Lillie, together with baby William. Patricia and Lillie blessed us with their sweet singing!



WEDNESDAY WORSHIP SPECIAL TREAT

Kathy's daughter and family were visiting and so the Kathy von Trapp family blessed us with their fabulous singing of:

*"Living He loved me, dying He saved me, buried
He carried my sins far away!
Rising He justified, freely forever,
One day He's coming,
O glorious day!!"*



Thanks to God for so many blessings. May He be honoured and glorified in all that is done.

REMEMBRANCE DAY 2026

Margaret B.

On November 11th we think about the members of our family who have fought in various conflicts since war was declared in 1914.

My father was 23 when war broke out in August 1914. He joined up straight away and fought in France until November 5th, 1917. It was his 27th birthday: the day that part of one of his legs was blown off.



My eldest brother was in the army when World War 2 broke out. He was captured by the Japanese, and as a Prisoner of War worked on the Burma Railway.

At the same time Andrew's father was a pilot, flying Dakotas: he supplied the troops in the Far East. His brother was a fighter pilot.

My next brother was called up to do National Service and joined the Royal Navy.

In late 1963, at the time of the Borneo and Indonesian Confrontation (The Undeclared War), Andrew joined the Royal Navy. About 2 years later he spent some time on active service on minesweepers in Borneo and Malaya.

In the mid 1980s, during the war between Iraq and Iran, one of my nephews left school and joined the Army. He ended up spending some time in Iraq on active service.

So again, this year, we shall think of all those who have fought for our country and say:

"THANK YOU FOR WHAT YOU DID."



October: Alice Hilton; Margaret Denbow; Anne Tozer
November: James Banks



SUNDAY SERVICES

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

Date	Preacher	Reader
04 Oct (Comm.)	Rev Robert Jennings	Mariana Wilson
11 Oct	Rev A Millis	Janet Dart
18 Oct	Mr Monty Wills	Jenny Webber
25 Oct	Rev Dick Gray	Malcolm Henshaw
01 Nov (Comm.)	Mr Monty Wills	Bill Becher
08 Nov (Remembrance)	Rev Robert Jennings	Clare Smith
15 Nov	Rev Jerry Cook	Paul Madge
22 Nov	Rev A Millis	Jenny Webber
29 Nov	Mr Jim Collins	Wed Worship Team

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Gift Day Fun Afternoon** – Saturday, 17th October, 2:30pm
- **Clocks go back** – Sunday, 25th October
- **Remembrance Sunday** – 8th November

Please join our Gift Day Fun Afternoon on Saturday 17th October at 2.30 pm, to help raise some much-needed funds for our beautiful Church. Singalong with Raymond, quizzes, games and more...



FURROUGH CROSS CHURCH HARVEST FESTIVAL *Bill Becher*



Following the Church Harvest Festival Sunday on 20th September 2026, I have handed the collection box in to the Salvation Army in Market Street for the funds to go to the Community Larder. They have issued us with a new box and a receipt which I have passed to Agnes, the Treasurer.

Also, 13 boxes of groceries etc have gone to the Home Church in Babbacombe Road for their Food Bank.

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.



On behalf of the Furrough Cross congregation, a big thank you to our organist Raymond L. for resuming his playing at the Sunday services. It's lovely to have live music in our church again.

To all who contribute their news & doings, it helps to make life interesting to others, who may not be so active or able. We both enjoy reading all you have to tell us. Please carry on.

Christine & Adrian Powell





A WONDERFUL VISIT

I had a wonderful visit from my Grandson Noah in July who lives in Scottsdale, Arizona.

At 6'6" he has certainly grown since the last time I saw him 5 years ago.

We had a fabulous week & the weather was wonderful.

Lots of visits around Torbay.

He visited Furrough Cross for Sunday service so was able to meet all the parishioners & of course BoBo came along as well ...

Geraldine M.

CLEANER WANTED

I am looking for a good, reliable cleaner.
If you know someone you would be happy to recommend, please speak to me.

Thank you.

Linda Day



Our Treasurer Agnes transferred the £142.50 we raised for the Venezuela Appeal to International Rescue UK and they tripled our donation to £427.50.

IF WE FORGET

A Remembrance song by Mariana Wilson

1 Fields once so green, now barren and still,
Where dreams lay broken, where blood was spilled.
Names carved in stone, washed by the rain,
Hearts that won't beat ever again.

Chorus

If we forget, the fields will remember,
If we forget, the rivers will pray,
If we forget, the stones won't stay silent,
Calling us back, to honour their name.

2 Crosses like soldiers, row after row,
Each one a story the world will not know
The love of a mother, the tears of a child,
Will carry the echo of what they've left behind.

3 So lift up your anthems, let memory stay,
Usher their stories into a brand new day.
For love is the banner, and life is the price
That purchased our freedom with their sacrifice.

Final Chorus

If we forget, the wind will bear witness,
If we forget, the valleys will weep.
If we remember, their voices are with us,
Guardians of freedom, watching in sleep.



Scan QR code to
listen on YouTube



**"At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
we will remember them."**

HERBIE'S POETRY CORNER

Thank You Lord

Like little drops of rain they fall
those gentle gifts of love
Showering us with blessings
from our heavenly home above!
The gift of love and friendship,
The gift of joy and peace,
The beauty of all creation,
and the pleasure that it brings!

– Herbert J B Doney

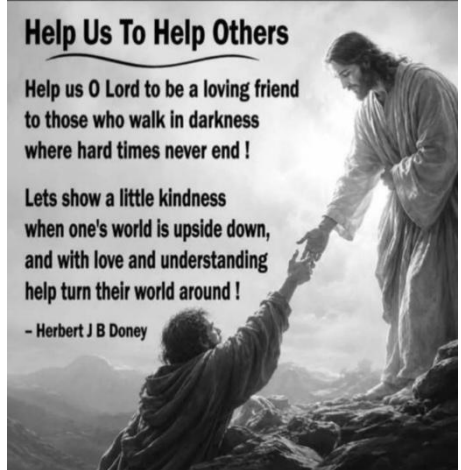


Help Us To Help Others

Help us O Lord to be a loving friend
to those who walk in darkness
where hard times never end !

Lets show a little kindness
when one's world is upside down,
and with love and understanding
help turn their world around !

– Herbert J B Doney



JUST ONE MORE CUP

Wonderful, Wonderful, Wonderful, tea,
Its in every Café and home you see,
So very refreshing and So very nice
Its one of those favourite things in life!
When-ever you're sitting maybe alone
A hot cup of tea always
goes down So well,
And thinking of tea you're never alone
For its better than beer if you want to drive
home!

Herbert J B Doney



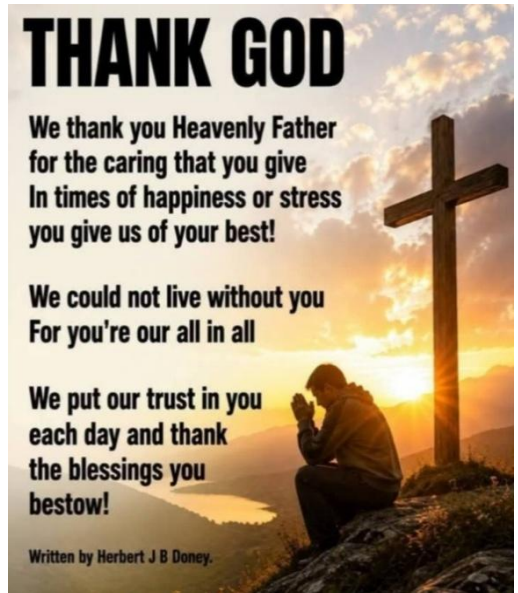
THANK GOD

We thank you Heavenly Father
for the caring that you give
In times of happiness or stress
you give us of your best!

We could not live without you
For you're our all in all

We put our trust in you
each day and thank
the blessings you
bestow!

Written by Herbert J B Doney.





It was our first Messy Church after the summer break - there won't be many there I said, it's always quiet for our first session. Why do I never learn! We were overwhelmed with children and families. They kept on coming through the door which was marvellous.



Our story was about Samson and how he didn't keep his promise to God. We heard how God gave Samson the gift of strength - he could fight armies and fight a lion single handedly. But he told Delilah his secret and when he was asleep, she cut off his hair and his strength disappeared.

Our activities reflected the theme. The children made an edible Samson - marshmallows, spaghetti, edible laces, eyes made from smarties. Paper Samsons with huge muscles. Embroidery threads plaited into hair. Weights to lift (it's amazing what you can make with a cardboard tube and some silver foil!) Lion key rings. Some Samson figures which were painted and adorned with lots and lots of hair. And, of course, the strength challenge - who can hold a bag of flour in each hand for the longest time. Much harder than it sounds!



In our worship time we talked about promises and how important it was to keep them. If we do things that aren't right we can always say sorry to God and start again.

We also learnt a new song:

*"Everyone's different,
No-one's the same,
A different shape,
A different name,
But everyone's precious to Jesus."*



Supper was yummy. Lasagne, garlic bread and, as it had been Jobie's birthday, everyone enjoyed birthday cake and ice cream.

After a lot of tidying up we all tottered wearily home. And, guess what, we can do it all again next month. Come and check us out on Friday, 9th October 3.45 pm to 6 pm. See less

Joby and Eddie are brothers who come to Messy Church. (Everyone knows their lovely Nanny, Carol!). Recently they told our super USA friend, Tanya, of their achievements. This is the fab response she sent to them. (Well done boys. Hope you did indeed go on adventures, play outside and ate ice cream!)

Shirley

Sending you smiles...



Joby and Eddie,

I am so proud of you guys! Your grandmother shared with me photos and news of your accomplishments.

Joby - You raised £788 for charity! Are you kidding me! This is brilliant! You are a STAR! I'm so very proud of you! 50 Park Runs! Amazing.

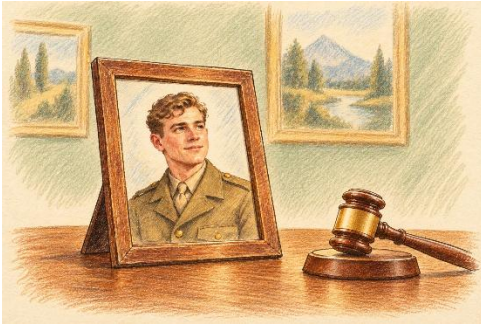
And Eddie - your Assembly was great, you didn't look nervous at all... but you're a stage professional I bet! Just A STAR! ☺

...to let you know I'm thinking of you.

I hope you guys have a restful School break! Eat lots of icecream, play outside, and go on Adventures!

I miss you All!
Ms. Tanya





The story is told of a very wealthy man who loved to collect rare works of art. He had everything in his collection that you could possibly want, from Picasso to Raphael etc. During World War 2 his son died in battle while rescuing another

soldier. His father was devastated and grieved deeply.

One day a young man came to his home with a large package. “I am the soldier for whom your son gave his life,” he said. “I’m not much of an artist, but I think you will want to have this picture”. It was a portrait of his son, and tears filled his eyes at the way his boy’s personality had been captured in the painting. “It is a gift,” said the young man. That painting became his most prized possession.

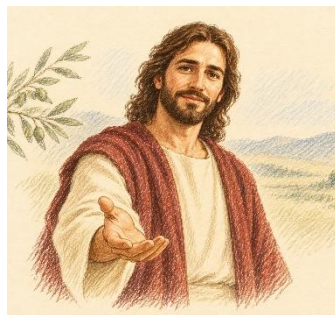
Some months later the old man died. Many influential people gathered at the auction of his famous collection of paintings. “We will start the bidding with this picture,” said the auctioneer, holding up the portrait of the son. “Who will bid for this picture?” There was silence and angry muttering as they waited for the valuable paintings to be auctioned.

Finally, a voice came from the back of the room, it was the family gardener. “I will give £10 for the painting. It’s all I can afford.” “Give it to him for £10,” shouted the crowd. “Let’s get on with the auction.” The auctioneer pounded the gavel. “Going once, going twice, sold for £10.” Then he stood up. “The auction is over,” he announced. “The will stipulated that whoever buys the painting of the son inherits the entire estate. The man who takes the son gets everything!”

God gave His Son, Jesus Christ, 2000 years ago to die on a cruel cross. His message today is the same. Whoever takes the Son gets everything.

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

John 3:16



12 Fruits of the Holy Spirit



Galatians 5:22-23

But the fruit of the Spirit is
love (charity), joy, peace,
patience, kindness, goodness,
generosity, gentleness,
faithfulness, modesty, self-
control, chastity...
against such things
there is no law.

SEVEN LESSONS PEOPLE OFTEN LEARN THE HARD WAY

Life has a way of teaching us lessons we would rather avoid. Sometimes wisdom arrives through disappointment, failure, loss, or regret. Yet God can use even our hardest experiences to shape our character and draw us closer to Him.

Here are seven lessons many people learn the hard way.



1. Time Is More Valuable Than Money

Many people spend years chasing possessions, only to discover that time with loved ones cannot be bought back. *"Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom."* (Psalm 90:12)

2. Worry Solves Very Little

Many of the things we lose sleep over never happen. Anxiety can steal today's peace without changing tomorrow. Jesus said, *"Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to your life?"* (Matthew 6:27)

3. Unforgiveness Hurts the One Carrying It

Holding on to bitterness often causes more damage to us than to the person who hurt us. Forgiveness is rarely easy, but it is always freeing.

4. Health Should Not Be Taken for Granted

Many people only appreciate their health after it has been challenged. Caring for our bodies is part of being good stewards of God's gifts.

5. Faith Must Be Practised, Not Just Admired

It is easy to appreciate Christian values in theory. The challenge comes when we must live them out—loving difficult people, serving sacrificially, and trusting God in uncertainty.

6. God Is Often Enough

When life's comforts are removed, many believers discover something remarkable: God's presence is more sustaining than they ever imagined. *"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."* (2 Corinthians 12:9)

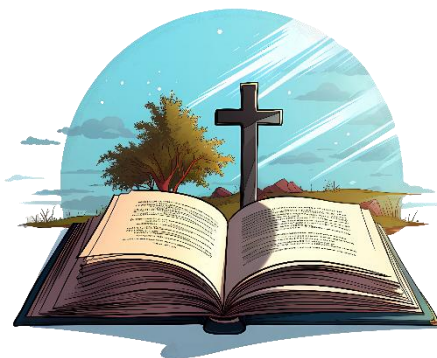
7. Every Day Is a Gift

We often live as though tomorrow is guaranteed. It is not. Each sunrise is an opportunity to love, serve, forgive, and give thanks.

Final Thoughts

The good news of the Christian faith is that we do not have to learn every lesson through painful experience. God has given us His Word, the wisdom of those who have gone before us, and the guidance of His Spirit.

The wise person learns from their own mistakes. The wiser person learns from the mistakes of others. But the wisest person learns from God before the lesson becomes painful.



"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding." (Proverbs 3:5)

CHOIR 86 FUNDRAISER



Choir 86’s two performances of *A Magical Musicals Extravaganza*, celebrating the choir’s 40th anniversary, raised £610.89 for Rowcroft Hospice.

The choir says a big ‘thank you’ to everyone who came along, bought raffle tickets or made a donation. The money will help Rowcroft provide much needed care and support for people across South Devon and their loved ones.

What a lovely way to mark 40 years of music!



An elderly priest was pulled over for speeding. The officer saw an empty wine bottle on the seat and smelled alcohol. “Father, have you been drinking?”

“Just water, officer,” the priest replied.

“Then why do I smell wine?”

The priest looked at the bottle, then at the sky, and shouted, “Good heavens! He’s done it again!”

Can you spot anyone familiar in this picture?

Belgium has a wonderful tradition of comic strip art, and on a recent visit to family in Brussels, Bill saw a photo opportunity.



A bus driver and a priest both arrive at the Pearly Gates. St. Peter gives the bus driver a golden robe and a mansion but gives the priest a cotton robe and a small hut.

The priest says, "Wait, I spent 50 years preaching! Why does he get more?"

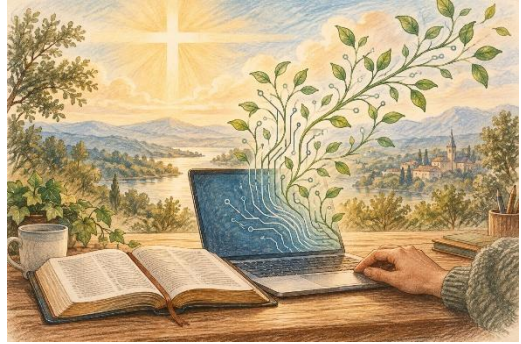
St. Peter says, "When you preached, people slept. When he drove, people prayed!"

DIGITAL COPIES

If you would like to receive a digital copy of the 'Focus' magazine, please contact Mariana with your email address and it will be added to the mailing list.



Artificial intelligence has become the subject of heated debates. Some love it, others hate it. Some warn that it could bring about the apocalypse, while others hail it as the best thing since sliced bread. Whatever our position, perhaps we can agree on one



thing: AI raises as many questions as it answers. As Christians, perhaps the most important question should be: *How does AI fit into God’s story?*

The Bible begins with creation. Human beings are made in the image of God, which includes the ability to create and imagine. Throughout history, we have used that creativity to develop tools—from the plough and the printing press to computers and modern medicine. Artificial intelligence belongs within that long history of human invention.

Like every powerful tool, AI reflects both our gifts and our weaknesses. It can help doctors, support people with disabilities, make knowledge more accessible and give someone the confidence to express an idea. It can also spread false information, imitate people without their consent, and facilitate immoral acts. In the wrong hands, it can produce much evil. In the right hands, it can be a tremendous force for good.

AI forces us to think more deeply about what makes us human. Western society has often viewed intelligence as our greatest quality. We admire knowledge, efficiency, and problem solving. When a machine begins to perform those tasks faster and better than we can, it is natural to feel threatened.

Yet the Christian understanding of humanity has always been richer than that. Our value does not depend on how intelligent we are, but on how

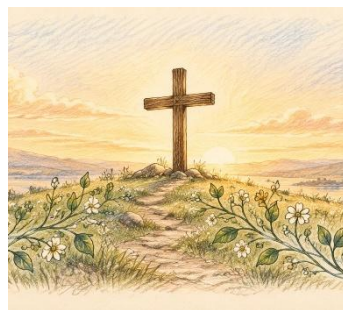
much God loves us. We are valuable because each and every one of us is known and loved by God, regardless of how high (or low) our IQ is.

Perhaps how threatened we feel by AI depends in part on where we locate our human worth. When intelligence is our highest measure, AI can indeed look like a rival. When we value love, meaning, conscience and inner life more deeply, AI remains a tool.

AI can write about love, but it cannot feel love. It can describe forgiveness, but it has never known the struggle and relief of forgiving. It can produce a prayer in seconds, but it cannot know what it is to wait, hope or recognise an answer from God. It can give us the words, but the meaning can only come alive within our own hearts.

Perhaps AI's place in God's story is to be a double mirror. On one hand, it learns from us and reflects back what we taught it. But more importantly, it forces us to have a good look at ourselves, at who we are and what we truly value. Do we define a person by their intelligence and efficiency? Or do we recognise God's image in the elderly person with dementia, in the person with profound learning disabilities, in the helpless baby who is still learning?

Artificial intelligence may become part of our work and daily lives. But it cannot take our place in God's story. How could it, when at the heart of that story stands Jesus and His cross? Paul wrote that "God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise." We serve a God who does not measure worth by intelligence, power or achievement. His wisdom is revealed in humility, mercy, sacrifice and self-giving love. And those are the very things no intelligent machine could ever rival, replicate or take away from us.



Fall Leaf Quiz

How many fall leaves can you identify?

1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.



7.



8.



9.



10.



11.



12.



a. Poplar

b. Mulberry

c. Maple

d. Walnut

e. Sycamore

f. Common Hazel

g. Oak

h. Japanese Maple

i. Birch

j. Chestnut

k. Copper Beech

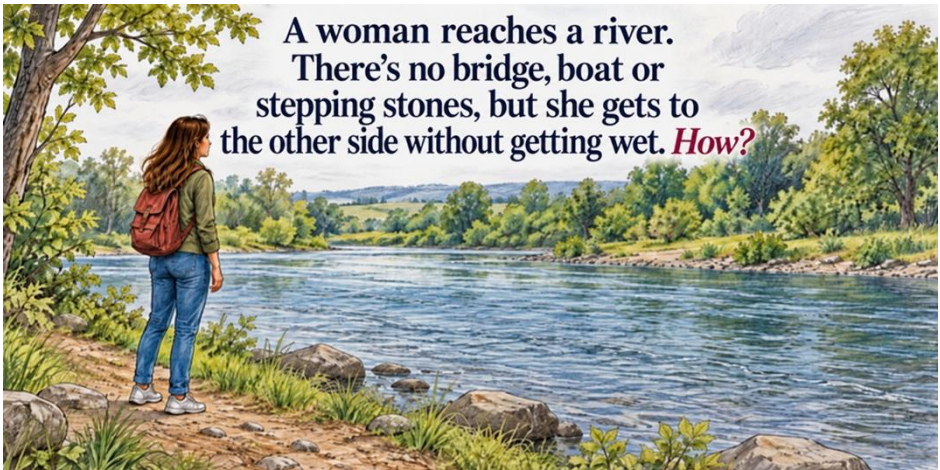
l. Japanese Snowball

ANSWERS TO THE MUSICALS QUIZ

1. The Sound of Music
2. Grease
3. The Lion King
4. Rent
5. Hairspray

6. Sweeney Todd
7. My Fair Lady
8. The King and I
9. Les Miserables
10. Hamilton

RIDDLE † Which nut does not have a shell?



A woman reaches a river.
There's no bridge, boat or
stepping stones, but she gets to
the other side without getting wet. *How?*

(Check our next edition for the answers!)

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, 22nd November**

 *In person to Mariana Wilson*

 *By email to furroughx@gmail.com*

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