

# **THE VOICE**

## **MERROW METHODIST CHURCH MAGAZINE**



**June 2023**

## June REFLECTION from the Manse.

I was touched by the Archbishop's last words before the body of the late Queen Elizabeth II was lowered into the grave.

He said: "Now let us remove all symbols of power from the coffin so that our sister Elizabeth Regina can be committed to the grave as a simple Christian".

Immediately:

1. The staff of the office was removed
2. The sceptre
3. Followed by the crown and all valuables

Elizabeth Regina was buried with "NOTHING". Notice at this point that the Archbishop did not include "Queen" to her name.

Life is indeed vanity. It is transient and that teaches about humility.

1. Humility in power
2. Humility in relating with others
3. Humility in acquisition of wealth
4. Humility in all our endeavours

The "Queen's funeral service was a very formal, somewhat impersonal funeral which is fitting. It was very much a "state" funeral. A strict order of business, no family members giving a eulogy, few personal flourishes beyond the hymns and readings chosen. In a way that made sense OF who the Queen was.

Lesson learnt:

There is a saying that life is a patient teacher. With the Queen's passing, there are many lessons one could learn. For instance no matter how powerful one could be, how popular, how loved, how needed, yet one day we will leave this world. It is therefore vital to love and be kind . "For we brought nothing into this world, and certainly we shall take nothing out." Job 1:21.

May this article sink into our hearts that we may be humble through life.

God bless the soul of Her Majesty. May the blessings of God be with King Charles III, Queen Camilla, the entire Commonwealth and the world.

Thank you

Yours devotedly,

George.



## EDITORIAL NOTE



### Looking back

May the 6th! What celebration!  
Such a buzz throughout the nation;  
This historic coronation  
Brings an end to past frustration,  
Tinged with some anticipation,  
**Charles 111 our king is crowned.**



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Any items for inclusion in the **July** issue of “The Voice” should be sent to me  
by: **June 22nd 2023**

via email: [gillianbrierley13@gmail.com](mailto:gillianbrierley13@gmail.com)

or by post to: **Gillian Varley - 4, Merrow Croft, Guildford. GU1 2XH**

## **USEFUL ADDRESSES**

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### **PROPERTY LETTINGS**

**ADMINISTRATOR:** **01483 537655**  
[lettings@merrowmethodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:lettings@merrowmethodistchurch.org.uk)

### **PRAYER SUPPORT GROUP:**

This is a small group willing to put time aside for praying each day for special needs within the Church community. Your request will be passed on to other members of the group, where it will remain confidential.

The prayer contact for MAY will be:

HELEN BELSHAM **01483 823742**

### **EDITOR – ‘The Voice’**

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**Important:** It is our practice at Merrow to publish THE VOICE on the website. This is an important source of information about the life of our church and we want to share it with others. However, if you feel uncomfortable with a mention on our web page we will be happy to omit your name and any other personal details in any future issue if requested to do so. Please advise at the time of submitting the copy.

# WHAT'S HAPPENING IN JUNE

## Stewards for Sunday worship:

June	Time	Vestry Steward	Worship leader	P/A; A/V	Door Stewards
June 4 HC/AGM	10.30	Helen Belsham	Doreen Siame	Cari Rayner	Sheila Shackleton Ruth McCulloch
June 11	10.30	Iris Walker		Jane Vinnall	Julie Wallis Sheila Shackleton
	6.30	Joan Wells		Cari Rayner	
June 18	10.30	Suzanne Burnham		Julie and John Wallis	Margaret Hyam
June 25 Church Anniv.	10.30	Hugh Bradley	Gillian Varley	Glenys Magill Wendy Bradley	Glenys Magill

## Communion stewards:

June 4 am	Suzanne Burnham and Doreen Siame	Helen Belsham
July 16 am	Suzanne Burnham and Doreen Siame	Julie Wallis

## Flower Rota:

June 4<sup>th</sup> – Glenys Magill

June 11<sup>th</sup> – Jan Kemp

June 18<sup>th</sup> – Cari Rayner June

June 25<sup>th</sup> – Sheila Shackleton



## Organ Rota:

Gillian Varley: June 4<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> 10.30am

Joan Tabraham: June 11<sup>th</sup> 6.30pm; June 18<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> 10.30am

# Women's Fellowship

Monday 5th June 2.30 pm  
the speaker will be Cari Rayner on 'School Memories'  
All are welcome

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## Church Bible Study

We have two Church Bible Study groups  
One is held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday mornings of each month  
at the home of Pauline Daniels home  
The other is in the evening and held once a month in the church.  
In June both groups will continue studies on 'The Holy Spirit'.

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## Morning Bible Study

On Tuesdays June 11<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> at 11.00am

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## Evening Bible Study

for June -  
15th June 2023 at 7.30pm.

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## Outlet

Please come to our Outlet AGM. We, the committee, need to know your thoughts and suggestions in order to plan for the year ahead. We encourage you to come and enjoy the short business part and then plenty of time for chat and company - with scones, strawberries and cream!

Monday June 12<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm

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## Number 5 and Mulberry House

Thank you for all your generous donations for Number 5 and Mulberry house.  
They are very appreciative of the support we give to them.

Number 5 specifically asked for Biological washing powder  
when I dropped donations off this week  
so please leave any donations in the foyer as usual and I can pass them on.

Thank you  
Ruth McCulloch

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## New Weekly Coffee Morning

on Thursdays from 10.30 - 11.45

If you are free, do drop in for a drink and a chat with others from the church and local community.

A Charity Coffee Morning will supersede the weekly coffee morning, usually on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday each month but, in June, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday

You are invited to a

# COFFEE MORNING

in aid of **Action for Children**



on **Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> June**  
**10.30am to 12.00noon**  
at Merrow Methodist Church



Coffee and home-made cakes  
Bring your family and friends





**On May 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
Ken and Rosemary Mills celebrated their  
70<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary  
Here are two photographs of this very happy occasion



Ken and Rosemary  
surrounded by their family



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## **New job role for Merrow?**

The puritans of New England had a mechanism to ensure that no one slept during the sermon which could be rather long in those days (not that anyone would drop off during any sermon at Merrow off course!). They appointed ‘tithingmen’ to stroll among the pews alert for anyone who appeared to be (or had) nodded off during the sermon. They carried long poles – one end had feathers attached, the other end had a knob or thorn. It was up to the ‘tithingman’ to decide whether to tickle or prod the said person awake!

On one occasion, it was reported that one ‘tithingman’ spied a parishioner who was well and truly ‘out for the count’. The use of feathers was not going to be sufficient so it had to be the thorn! It certainly worked but the Church got a surprise when he jumped up suddenly yelling ‘Curse ye Woodchucks’ (an American bird) .

**JUNIOR PAGE** – for the young and young at heart

A favourite game for car journeys and long walks was making up simple rhymes.

One person would begin and then the others add a line each in turn. Each ‘poem’ would have as many lines as we could find rhymes for and when no more rhymes could be found the next person could end it by repeating line 1.

Here is an example:

*Little sparrow in the tree.  
Come and perch upon my knee.  
Do not be afraid of me,  
Little sparrow in the tree*

Here are a few first lines for you to complete.

Line 1        *Little sparrow in the tree*  
Line 2  
Line 3  
etc.....  
Last line    *Little sparrow in the tree*  
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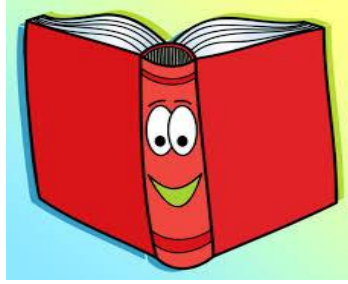
Line 1        *Little sparrow on a twig*  
Line 2  
Line 3  
etc.....  
Last line    *Little sparrow on a twig*  
-----

Line 1        *Little robin on the ground*  
Line 2  
Line 3  
etc .....

Last line    *Little robin on the ground*  
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Line 1        *Little robin by my feet*  
Line 2  
Line 3  
etc.....  
Last line    *Little robin by my feet*

(Send in your completed verses for inclusion in the next issue)



## Story time

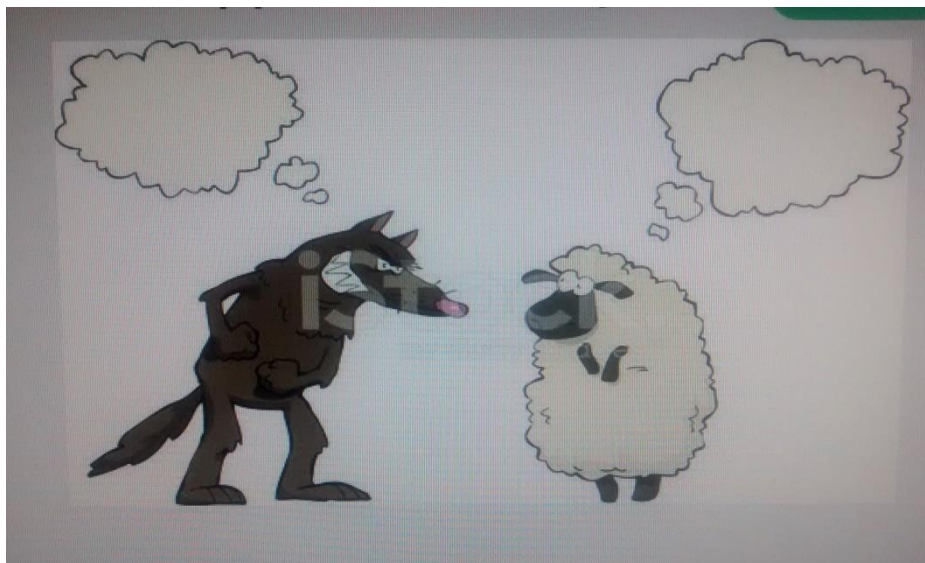
### The Wolf and the Sheep

A wolf and a bear got into a fight

A wolf had been seriously hurt during a fight with a bear. He wasn't able to move, and so, could not satisfy his thirst or hunger.

One day, a sheep passed by his hiding place, and so the wolf decided to call out to him.

"Please fetch me some water," said the wolf. "That might give me some strength to get some solid food."



"Solid food!" the sheep said. "I suppose that means me. If I brought you something to drink, it would merely be to wash me down. Don't speak to me about fetching a drink."

The Moral

A person's ulterior motives are easy to spot if someone is paying attention



# Hugh's views

“ One of the joys of Spring is to sit in the garden watching all the birds hard at work collecting nesting materials and working out where their new homes are going to be for this year.

We have a nesting box with a camera on the side of our house and we have been very fortunate to have blue tits move in for the last few years.

I was disappointed that every time I checked this spring there was no sign of action and I had given up hope that the box was going to be used this year.

THEN I was in the garden one Wednesday morning ( May 17th) when I spotted a blue tit flying straight in through the hole at the front of the box. I hurried indoors and turned on the monitor and lo and behold there were about ten eggs ( they are very difficult to count exactly!) with two just hatching there and then.



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Read next month's Voice to find out what happened next.....”



## Gill's trills

### A poem for June

Farewell to Spring's sharp winds and April showers.  
Welcome the rainbow hues of Summer flowers,  
The scent of roses, wafting on the breeze,  
The verdant opulence of leafy trees,  
The hum of bees, the lengthening of days,  
Music of birdsong, sunshine's warming rays.  
Each season brings its gifts for us to treasure,  
God's bounteous off'ring - love beyond all measure.

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### Musical quotes

*from a German Opera House:*

Bach gave us God's word.  
Mozart gave us God's laughter.  
Beethoven gave us God's fire.  
God gave us music that we might pray without words.

*Luciano Pavarotti:*

You don't need any brains to listen to music.

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## Ken's Pen

A certain fellow in America seems unable to accept election results, Juries' decisions, and the opinions of others. A governor of Texas was speaking to a group of prisoners. He invited anyone to talk with him afterwards. Several came to him, telling him how they had been wrongly convicted, false evidence, a frame-up etc, and asking to be freed. One, however, admitted he had done wrong, deserved his punishment, but said he realised his wrongdoing, and would like a fresh start. The governor granted his release.

When we pray to ask forgiveness for our mistakes in life, there is no need to find excuses. If we are sincere in our regret and want to do better, our God is willing to forgive us.

## Ken's Pen cont.....

A minister answered the door, to find a man outside, who told him "Along the road there is a family where the father has died, the widow has seven young children. They are almost starving, and cannot pay their rent. They are over £500 in arrears. I know you have a special fund to help such people." "That's true" the minister replied, "but who are you?" "Their landlord" was the answer.

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Words seldom, if ever, heard in church:-

1. I get here early so I can sit near the front.
2. I was so interested, I never noticed your sermon went on for 45 minutes.
3. I much prefer your sermons to playing golf.
4. I love it when we have hymns we have never sung before.
5. The church is full, so let's start the service early.

With greetings from Puddletown, Dorset. Ken Mills.

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## Walker's talk

My wife wanted to go somewhere expensive for her birthday so I took her to a petrol station.

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As we all relax and enjoy summer, the gardens and the countryside are glorious.

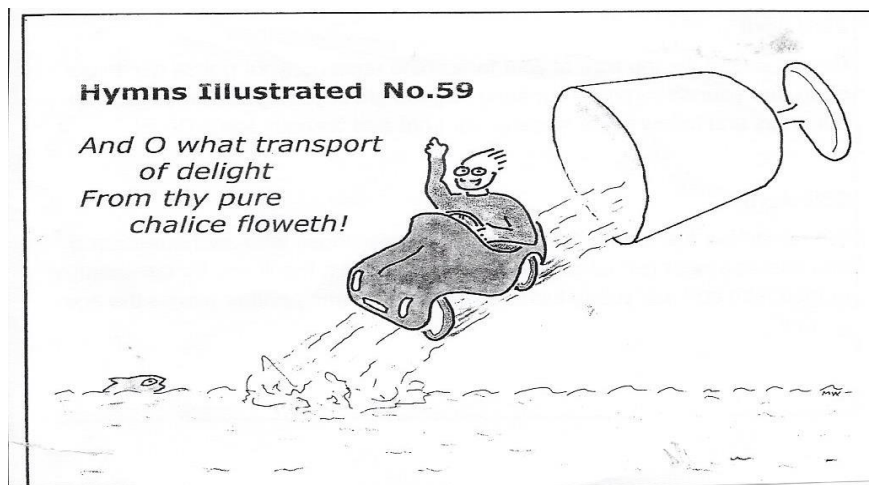
The hymn writer, William Waltham How, captured the mood of summer in his well known hymn, 361 in Hymns and Psalms.

Summer suns are glowing  
Over land and sea,  
Happy light is flowing  
Bountiful and free.  
Everything rejoices  
In the mellow rays,  
All earth's thousand voices  
Swell the psalm of praise.

God's free mercy streameth  
Over all the world,  
And his banner gleameth  
Everywhere unfurled.  
Broad and deep and glorious  
As the heaven above,  
Shines in might victorious  
His eternal love.



# Pete's tweet



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And some summer fun:

**Where do sharks go on vacation?**

Finland!

**What kind of water cannot freeze?**

Hot water.

**Why are mountains the funniest place to take a holiday?**

They are hill-arious.

**How does a cucumber become a pickle?**

It goes through a jarring experience.

**What did the ocean say to the lifeguard?**

Nothing, it just waved.

# POETRY CORNER

## **The Trees** - Philip Larkin

The trees are coming into leaf  
Like something almost being said;  
The recent buds relax and spread,  
Their greenness is a kind of grief.

Is it that they are born again  
And we grow old? No, they die too.  
Their yearly trick of looking new  
Is written down in rings of grain.

Yet still the unresting castles thresh  
In fullgrown thickness every May.  
Last year is dead, they seem to say,  
Begin afresh, afresh, afresh.



## **My Garden** - *Thomas Edward Brown*

A GARDEN is a lovesome thing, God wot!  
Rose plot,  
Fringed pool,  
Ferned grot --  
The veriest school  
Of peace; and yet the fool  
Contends that God is not --  
Not God! in gardens! when the eve is cool?  
Nay, but I have a sign:  
'Tis very sure God walks in mine.

# SCAMS

## ADVERTS

Fraudsters are buying up adverts that appear at the top of search results when shoppers look up popular retailers on Google.

Recently there have been reported in Which magazine examples of dodgy ads when searching for Next, TK Maxx and Zara.

## Loft insulation scam calls

We've had more reports of someone claiming to be from Surrey County Council. They say that they are a conservation officer and try to sell you loft insulation. Local Authorities do not do this, please hang up!

## PHONE COMPANIES

According to experts at secure card payments provider, [Dojo](#), the most recent phone bill scam includes a range of legitimate-looking communications through email, text and social media, notifying consumers and businesses that they can benefit from reduced phone bill charges as part of a monthly contract. The scam will then ask for card details to receive the discounted phone bill. "Having acquired the stolen card details, scammers are then using them to make lavish online purchases, and empty bank accounts, causing a huge financial and psychological impact on victims.

**NB**

**If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is!!**

Prayers worth sharing



We praise you, creator God,  
and thank you for all the blessings  
which you daily pour upon us.

As your Spirit moved over the face of the waters  
bringing light and life to your creation,  
pour out your Spirit on us today  
that we may walk as children of light.

May we, by your grace,  
reveal your presence  
to all around us.

Amen

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In weakness, O Lord, be our strength;  
In our sinfulness, pardoning love;  
In our need, all-sufficient grace,  
In our anxiety, be to us both stillness and rest  
and at all times be to us the fullness of blessing;  
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen

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