

THE VOICE

MERROW METHODIST CHURCH MAGAZINE



August/September 2023

Message from the Manse.

Dear Church Family

Peace, I leave with you; my peace I give to you; I do not give it to you as the world does. Do not let your hearts be distressed or lacking in courage. (John 14:27)

Two painters each painted a picture to illustrate their conception of rest. The first chose for his scene a still, lone lake among the far-off mountains. The second drew on his canvas a thundering waterfall, with a fragile birch tree bending over the foam; and at the fork of the branch, almost wet with the cataract's spray, sat a robin on its nest. The first was only stagnation; the last was rest.

Christ's life outwardly was one of the most troubled lives that ever lived: tempest and tumult, tumult and tempest, the waves breaking over it all the time until the worn body was laid in the grave. But the inner life was a sea of glass. The great calm was always there.

At any moment you might have gone to Him and found rest. And even when the human bloodhounds were dogging Him in the streets of Jerusalem, He turned to His disciples and offered them, as a last legacy, "My peace."

"Rest is not a hallowed feeling that comes over us in church; it is the repose of a heart set deep in God". *Drummond*

Prayer for all our sisters and brothers who are not well, (Merrow, Stoughton, West Horsley and at Sheerwater) in hospital, care-homes and in their own homes; trusting the Lord for their healing, peace and strength to bear every burden.

Dear God,

We come to you today with heavy hearts, as we lift up [name] in prayer. We ask that you would bring healing and restoration to their body, mind, and spirit.

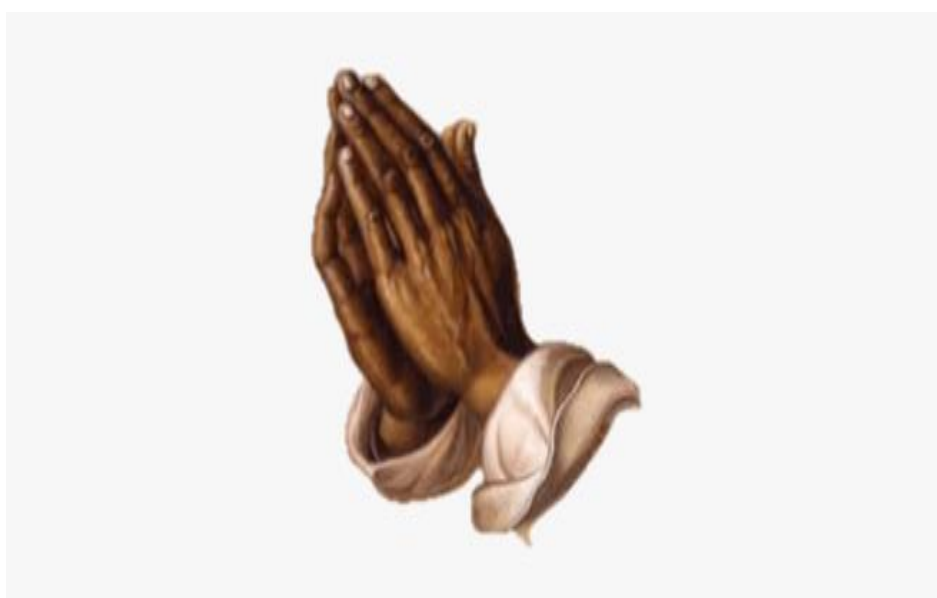
We pray that you would grant them strength and courage as they face this difficult time. May they find comfort in your loving presence, and may they trust in your sovereign plan for their life.

We also pray for their caregivers, that they would be granted wisdom, patience, and compassion as they provide care and support.

**We pray that, through this trial, (name) would come to know you more deeply and experience your love in a profound way.
In your precious name we pray, Amen.**

*"My peace I give in times of deepest grief,
Imparting calm and trust and My relief.
My peace I give when prayer seems lost, unheard;
Know that My promises are ever in My Word.
My peace I give when thou art left alone—
The nightingale at night has the sweetest tone". LSP book*

*Enjoy the season with joy.
Yours Devotedly,
George.*



EDITORIAL NOTE



“Two months in one,” I hear you say,
but Gillian needs a holiday,
at home I think, not far away,
and Julie won’t be here
to send the August issue out,
So that is what it’s all about.

You will survive I have no doubt
and bear it with good cheer.

If, while you’re basking in the sun,
you think of things which might be fun
for next month’s issue, even one
would help me on my way.

Just don’t forget, this is *your* ‘Voice’;
a poem, joke, article; your choice;
send anything and I’ll rejoice,
and it will make my day!

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

via email: gillianbrierley13@gmail.com

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

USEFUL ADDRESSES

SUPERINTENDENT MINISTER:

REV. DR. PAUL GLASS **01483 575667**
revpaulglass@gmail.com

MINISTER:

REV. GEORGE QUARM **01483 575432**
unclegeorge.quarm@gmail.com

CHURCH OFFICE:

Bushy Hill Drive, Guildford, GU1 2SH. **01483 537655**
office@merrowmethodistchurch.org.uk

PROPERTY LETTINGS

ADMINISTRATOR: **01483 537655**
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 AUGUST will be:

PAULINE DANIELS **01483 958905**

and for SEPTEMBER

ANN CARPENTER **01483 535282**

EDITOR – ‘The Voice’

GILLIAN VARLEY **01483 495567**
gillianbrierley13@gmail.com

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 August & September

Stewards for Sunday worship:

| Aug/Sept | Time | Vestry Steward | Worship leader | P/A; A/V | Door Stewards |
|----------------------------|-------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|------------------------------------|
| Aug. 6 th HC | 10.30 | Joan Wells | Gillian Varley | Cari Rayner | Maggie Woolcock & Margaret Hyam |
| Aug. 13 th | 10.30 | Suzanne Burnham | | Julie Wallis | Wendy Bradley & Joyce Goodall |
| | 6.30 | Hugh Bradley | | Glenys Magill | |
| Aug. 20 th | 10.30 | Iris Walker | Doreen Siame | Glenys Magill | Sheila Shackleton & Ruth McCulloch |
| | 6.30 | Joan Wells | | Glenys Magill | |
| Aug 27 th | 10.30 | Suzanne Burnham | | Jane Vinall | Maggie Woolcock & Margaret Hyam |

Communion stewards:

| | <u>Preparation -</u> | <u>Assistant</u> |
|-----------|----------------------------------|------------------|
| Aug 6 am | Suzanne Burnham and Doreen Siame | Julie Wallis |
| Aug 20 pm | Glenys Magill | Glenys Magill |

Flower Rota:

| | |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| August 6 th | Glenys Magill |
| 13 th | Joan Wells |
| 20 th | Suzanne Burnham |
| 27 th | Jan Kemp |

Organ Rota:

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Gillian Varley: | August 6 th ; 13 th ; 20 th ; 27 th - 10.30am |
| Joan Tabraham: | August 13 th & 23 rd - 6.30pm |
| Mark Hargreaves | September 3 rd 10.30am |

Apologies that some of the details for September are unavailable at the time of going to print

Women's Fellowship

Will resume in October

Church Bible Studies

Our morning and evening Church Bible Study groups
will re-start in September
The morning study is fortnightly and the evening one, monthly.

Morning Bible Study

the September bible studies
will be held at

4, Merrow Croft, Merrow; GU1 2XH

on

Tuesday September 6th at 11.00am

and

Tuesday September 25th

Evening Bible Study

at Merrow Methodist Church

on September 21st at 7.30pm.

Outlet

Last year we listened to some very interesting speakers and hope you will come along this coming year as once again, we have a good variety of speakers!

**Outlet starts again on
September 11th when**

Kathy Atherton will speak on the

**Fight for the vote for Women
in the Surrey Hills**

All welcome 7.30 for refreshments and 8pm start. £3

Holiday at Home



The Holiday at Home Afternoon Tea
will be held on
Tuesday 22nd August
2.30-4.30

We look forward to seeing you at our afternoon tea and places are limited so please let one of the team know as soon as possible if you haven't booked your place!

Joan G.503737
Maggie G.502942

Ruth G.570824
Margaret G.576192

Harvest Festival
10.30am 17th September
followed by a 'bring and share' lunch



Gifts of plants, fruit, vegetables and groceries
will be gratefully received at the morning service
for distribution to
the sick, housebound, & Number Five and Mulberry House Hostels

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 2nd Thursday each month

You are invited to a

COFFEE MORNING

on

14 September 2023

in aid of

The Church Taxi Fund



Bring your family and friends

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

Church Anniversary Lunch

Due to a traffic accident on the A3, the road was closed and our visiting preacher, Rev. Nick Holt, and his wife Linda were trapped there for 2 hours, thereby missing the service. However Hugh Bradley stepped into the breach and ably led us in a special time of worship.

Nick and Linda arrived in time to join us all for an excellent lunch.



more photos on the next page



Nick, aided by Linda, took the opportunity to address a very attentive audience about all the twists and turns of their busy preaching and speaking life since leaving Nick's ministry with us. Retirement certainly hasn't been a restful time for either of them

Nick and Linda cut the '68 years of MMC' celebration cake



and then for the young at heart.....

..... an impromptu game of Orange Box Skittles

.....go on Mum.....

.... No! Do it like this!...

...a good result...



Action for Children

On Action for Children Gift Day Sunday held on Sunday 9th July Merrow raised the fantastic sum of £300 which included Gift Aid.



The AFC celebration cake

with Hannah, Heinrich, Arpi, Pearce and Rev. Peter Hills

Many thanks to all who support this very worthwhile Methodist children's charity

Suzanne

We extend our warmest good wishes to Ken & Rosemary Mills
on the occasion of their
70th wedding anniversary



ROSEMARY and Ken Mills have recently celebrated their platinum (70th) wedding anniversary. The couple met on a youth holiday to Germany in 1949; a holiday romance that lasted.

They married in Reading in 1953 and have lived in Kidlington, Shrewsbury, Sutton Coldfield, Guildford and now in Puddletown, Dorset. They have two chil-

dren, two granddaughters and two great-granddaughters.

They have served in many church "jobs" and Ken received a certificate for 70 years as a local preacher last year (**Recorder**, November 11, 2022).

Now aged 92 and 91, the couple both enjoy retirement, with help from their family.



Oh no! Not that wall again!



And A Change Of Name!

Earlier this month our Junior School, formerly Bushy Hill, officially became Merrow Junior School. It's an exciting milestone for the Federation and demonstrates our commitment to a joined-up, unified approach between our two schools, Merrow Infant CofE and Merrow Junior.

We're also delighted to introduce our new school logo and vision statement, "Together We Grow". This statement was chosen by staff and governors as a vision that all stakeholders can understand, own, and talk about. We're confident it represents the needs of our school community and will help children and the wider community to flourish.

Over the next few months the Federation will start to make changes to the school's exterior, signage and electronic presence. New uniforms will be transitioned over the next couple of years. This is a very exciting time for our schools and we look forward to the opportunities that will arise now that we are a Federation.

A recent example of this took place last May, when the Junior School grounds were transformed into an exciting Obstacle Course for all children from Reception to Year 6. The children enjoyed climbing, crawling and balancing over an inventive obstacle course created by the PTA. The Junior school is fortunate to have amazing grounds and facilities, perfect for such an event! Infant children were welcomed and helped around the course by the older children in the school.

Executive Head Teacher Louisa Dormer said, "It was great to see the collaboration between our two schools and I was very proud of the support our older children provided to the infants. They really showed our school values throughout."

Joint events such as these are perfect opportunities to bring our community closer and to ensure transition is even better for our infant children.

Merrow Schools Federation *Together we grow*

At Merrow Schools, we build a warm and caring environment to nurture our young children, encourage their independence and foster resilience as they grow and develop. We equip our children with the skills to be motivated and confident learners.

We'd love for you to visit our schools to sample the wonderful atmosphere and to see the opportunities we offer.

Open Day 4th October 2023



Merrow Infant CofE School
Kingfisher Dr, Merrow
GU4 7EA

Merrow Junior School
Sheeplands Av, Merrow
GU1 2SG



JUNIOR PAGE – for the young and young at heart

A word square for the school holidays.

Find the following words in the square below. They can run horizontally, vertically, diagonally, backwards or forwards:

Cloudy; Coke

Hat; Heatwave; Hot

Kew

Net

Pier; Punt

Rain; Rock

Sea; Sand; Sandwich; Ski; Storm; Sunshine; Sunburn; Swim

Tan; Tennis;- Tent; Thunder; Tide

Wave; Wind

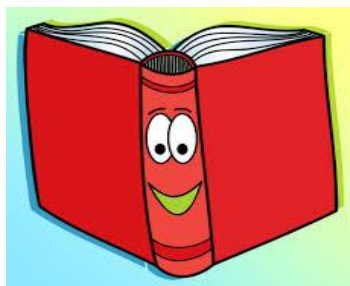
Yacht



| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | S | I | N | N | E | T | C | R | P |
| R | G | S | T | O | R | M | I | U | B |
| E | E | U | G | S | W | I | N | D | V |
| D | V | N | D | K | N | T | C | M | E |
| N | A | B | I | I | E | D | I | K | T |
| U | W | U | A | H | N | W | P | C | H |
| H | T | R | E | A | S | E | K | O | C |
| T | A | N | S | T | E | N | T | R | A |
| R | E | I | P | C | L | O | U | D | Y |
| W | H | C | I | W | D | N | A | S | V |

A few seaside facts:

- It can take thousands of years for a natural beach to be created. ...
- Sand comes from broken down minerals and rocks! Formed because of the constantly moving water.
- Sand comes in lots of different colours including including red, brown, pink, orange, gold, purple, green, and black, depending on the minerals and rocks which have formed the sand.
- The sand of the Canary Island's black beaches comes from volcanic minerals.



Story time

The Clever Monkey

Once upon a time, a clever monkey lived in a tree that bore fresh, luscious berries.

One day a crocodile swam up to the tree saying that he had travelled a very long distance and was extremely exhausted from his journey. The crocodile had been in search of food and was very hungry. On hearing this, the kind monkey offered him a few berries for which the crocodile was very thankful. He asked the monkey if he could visit him again soon for some fruit. The monkey happily agreed.

The crocodile came back the next day, and the day after that and it soon became a daily ritual and they grew to become good friends. As all friends do, they discussed the goings-on of their lives and confided in each other. The crocodile told the monkey about his wife who lived on the other side of the river. So, the generous monkey offered the crocodile some extra berries to take home for her.

The crocodile and the monkey continued to grow closer as friends and eat berries together. The monkey would often give the crocodiles extra berries for his wife. The crocodile's wife started to grow jealous of how close the two friends had become and decided to put an end to their friendship. She thought to herself that if the monkey survived on a diet of the tasty berries, his flesh must be really sweet. So, she asked the crocodile to invite his friend to dinner. The crocodile refused because he knew that his wife was up to some nasty trick. However, she was determined to eat the monkey's flesh.

The crocodile's wife pretended to fall ill and told the crocodile that her doctor said that only eating a monkey's heart would keep her from dying. On hearing this, the crocodile rushed to the monkey's tree and lied to him saying that his wife had prepared them a delicious dinner. The monkey happily agreed to come and climbed onto the crocodile's back.

Halfway there, the monkey noticed that the crocodile had begun to sink. Frightened, the monkey asked his friend why he was doing that. The crocodile explained the situation truthfully.

The clever monkey told him that this was an unfortunate situation because he had left his heart at home. If the crocodile took him back, he would gladly give his heart away to nurse the crocodile's wife back to health.

The silly crocodile fell for the monkey's clever lie and rushed back to the tree so that he could take the monkey's heart. As soon as they reached it the monkey quickly scampered up to safety and called down to the crocodile to tell his wife that she had married a fool!

Moral:

Remain calm and use your presence of mind to get out of adverse situations.





Gill's trills

A poem about nothing much

Whilst waiting for a Guildford bus which didn't come on time,
I tried to neither fret nor fuss, but pondered on a rhyme.
With notebook open in my hand and pencil poised to write,
I hope that you will understand this waiting was all right.
It gave me time to pen this verse; a poem as yet unseen,
"Gill's Trill" –for better or for worse –
In next month's magazine.

When I wrote 'next month's magazine'
It's now 'this month's' you see,
'Cos last month, this month was next month!
They're all the same to me!!

24th September: **Car Free Day**, Guildford Town Centre *but does this mean no cars in central Guildford, or that all cars can park free?*

Ken's Pen

Sir Walter Scott, the great writer, was, it seems, poor at learning. He often had to stand in "dunce's corner". When he was about 13, he was in a house where many famous literary guests were being entertained. They were looking at a picture, under which were a couple of verses from a poem. Robbie Burns asked if anyone knew the poet, but no-one knew who had written it. Timidly Walter crept up to Burns and not only gave the poet's name, but also recited the whole poem.

Burns was amazed, put his hand on Walter's shoulder and said "Ah, bairnie, ye will be a great man in Scotland one day". From then on Walter was a changed lad. One word of encouragement set him on the road to greatness.

Jesus always encouraged folk to be and do better. If we all give encouragement to those around us, in church and beyond, maybe someone who thought themselves a failure might do well.

Ken's Pen continued

A chap aged 19 had a reputation for drinking heavily. One day he and his father went to church. The vicar hopefully asked him if he had given up the booze.

"I never drink anything stronger than pop; but pop will drink almost anything" he replied.

.....

A security guard, on night duty, couldn't stay awake for 8 hours. His head dropped. His supervisor spotted him. Waking suddenly, the guard saw his boss, dropped his head again, and said loudly " Amen".

With more greetings from Puddletown, Ken Mills

Pete's tweet

Recently I came across a couple of quotes from USA presidents. I thought it might be interesting to collate a few renderings from perhaps forgotten as well as popular dignitaries. Readers can draw their own conclusions.

USA President Quotes

Quote 1: I have noticed that nothing I never said has ever done me any harm. [Calvin Coolidge](#)

Quote 2: When the president does it that means it is not illegal. [Richard Nixon](#)

Quote 3: Nothing was ever done so systematically as nothing is being done now. [Woodrow Wilson](#)

Quote 4: Whenever a man has cast a longing eye on office a rottenness begins in his conduct [Thomas Jefferson](#)

Quote 5: Few men have virtue to withstand the highest bidder. [George Washington](#)

Quote 6: This is the last of earth but I am composed. [John Quincy Adams \(on his death bed\)](#)

Quote:7: I know only two tunes, one of them is 'Yankee Doodle', and the other isn't. [Ulysses S Grant](#)

Quote 8: No President who performs his duties faithfully and conscientiously can have any leisure. [James K Polk](#)

Quote 9: The point is that you can't be too greedy. [Donald Trump](#)

POETRY CORNER

The final hymn of Fred Pratt Green

‘For a Church Anniversary’

There’s joy in remembrance this notable day.
When, one in the Spirit, we gather to pray;
Lord, strengthen and guide us, today as of old;
As a new age confronts us, new ventures unfold.

There’s joy in salvation, God’s on-going grace;
Some know they received it, the time and the place;
Some know they possess it, but cannot say when;
Blow, wind of the Spirit, revive us again!

There’s joy in commitment to Christ and his Church,
In learning that faith’s not an end, but a search;
In strangers made welcome and talents well used,
Where no-one who needs us is shunned or refused.

Lord, grant as we work for your Kingdom’s increase,
In a world that is groping for freedom and peace,
Such joy in the Gospel, such trust in your word,
Our deeds shall proclaim you Redeemer and Lord.

Over two decades Pratt Green wrote around 300 hymns and songs which found their way across theological, denominational and national boundaries, his work gaining particularly wide use in the USA.

In 1995, Frederick Pratt Green was honoured by the Queen with the award of an MBE for services to hymnwriting. Fred died quietly in his sleep at Cromwell House, Methodist Home, on Sunday 22nd October 2000.

With this hymn, Fred, at eighty five years of age, finished his twenty years of hymn writing.

A Child’s Grace

Thank you for the world so sweet
Thank you for the food we eat;
Thank you for the birds that sing,
Thank you God for everything.

(by E. Rutter Leatham)

SCAMS

ADVERTS

Fraudsters are buying up adverts that appear at the top of search results when shoppers look up popular retailers on Google. Recently 'Which' magazine has reported 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 BILL SCAMS

According to experts at secure card payments provider, **Dojo**, legitimate-looking communications through email, text and social media, notify 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. **DO NOT GIVE THEM** as scammers may make lavish online purchases and empty bank accounts!!

Netflix impersonation emails

A scam email purporting to be from Netflix claims your payment couldn't be authorised, or that your account has been blocked will try to get you to click on a link to restore the payment or access.

DON'T

Summer of SMS scams

As teens venture away from home this summer for festivals, holidays and school trips, we are warning parents and youngsters to be on guard against a new spate of messaging scams. They purport to be from the recipient's child claiming a new number, or a broken/lost phone.

DO NOT BELIEVE IT

Microsoft fake pop-ups claiming your computer has been infected with spyware. If a pop-up appears on your screen, **don't call any phone numbers or click on any links.**

Prayers worth sharing



A Summer Prayer

*May we breathe in the beauty of summer with its power of transformation.
May this beauty permeate all that feels un-beautiful in us.*

May the God of summer give us beauty.

*May you seek and find spaces of repose during these summer months.
May these moments refresh and restore the tired places within you.*

May the God of summer give us rest.

*May you be open to times of celebration and recreation that are so much a part of summer.
May you find happiness in these times of play and leisure.*

May the God of summer give us joy.

*May your eyes see the wonders of summer's colours.
May these colours delight you and entice you into contemplation of all the wonders of nature
around you.*

May the God of summer give us inner light.

*May you feel energy of summer rains penetrating thirsty gardens, golf courses, lawns and
farmlands.*

*May these rains remind you that your inner thirst needs quenching.
May your inner self be refreshed, restored, and renewed.*

May the God of summer give us what we need for healing.

*May you savour fresh produce that comes to your table and enjoy the fruits of summer's bounty.
May the God of summer give us a sense of satisfaction in the works of our hands.
May you find shelter when the stormy skies of summer threaten your safety.
May the God of summer give us shelter when inner storms threaten our peace of mind and heart.
May you enjoy the unexpected, finding surprises of beauty and happiness wherever you travel this
summer.*

May the God of summer lead us, guard us and guide us as we journey on with him.