

# **THE VOICE**

## **MERROW METHODIST CHURCH MAGAZINE**



**FEBRUARY 2019**

## MESSAGE FROM THE MANSE: FEBRUARY 2019

Dear friends,

The end of one calendar year and beginning a new year usually includes some time of reflection on our lives. As disciples of Jesus it's also a very good time to reflect on how we are progressing in our lives as members of his family of faith.

One potentially helpful way to do this is by focussing on the 'Covenant Prayer' in our Methodist Worship Book (page 290, section 15B). It summarizes both the meaning and practice of discipleship. To be 'covenant people' is a challenging privilege, for it is a commitment to participate in Jesus' mission on God's terms. It is faithfully bearing witness to God's love and grace and promises. Such commitment includes:

- Proclaiming the good news in word and deed.
- Taking part in the common life and worship of a congregation.
- Lifting one another up in prayer, mutual concern, and active support.
- Studying Scripture and the issues of Christian faith and life.
- Supporting the ministry of the church through the offering of money, time, and talents.
- Responding to God's activity in the world through service to others.
- Living responsibly in the personal, family, vocational, political, cultural, and social relationships of life,
- Working in the world for peace, justice, freedom, and human fulfilment,
- Caring for God's creation.
- Participating in the governing responsibilities of the church.
- Reviewing and evaluating regularly the responsibility of our Church membership, and considering ways in which our participation in the worship and service of the church may be made more meaningful.

Finally, at the beginning of this New Year, I want to thank all of you for your Christmas cards and gifts and other expressions of encouragement and support. I also want to say a special word of

thanks to all of our Church Officers, other Volunteers, and Rev. Barrie Tabraham, Rev. Peter Hills and Rev. Allan Taylor for all of their help and support, and for the special way they embody the presence and ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ in their faithful service. May we all have a most blessed New Year! Asif Das

Where are **YOU** on Thursday mornings? This is where we are.

## MERROW METHODIST CHURCH

**1st** Thursday in the month 9.30 am - 10.30 am

Prayer Time - a time of open prayer focusing on the needs of the Church led by different members of the congregation.

**2nd** Thursday in the month 10.30am - 12.30 pm

Charity Coffee Morning - our monthly coffee morning with lots of cake! Proceeds go to a different charity each month.

**3rd** Thursday in the month 9.45 am - 10.15 am

Holy Communion - a short communion service led by Asif or one of our retired ministers. Followed by coffee.

**4th** Thursday in the month 12 noon - 1.15 pm

Soup and Bread Lunch - for those who would welcome a bit of company as they try our homemade soup and bread.

Please do come and join us at our regular Thursday meetings at Merrow everyone is welcome and please feel free to invite friends and family.

**World Day of Prayer  
Friday March 1st**



This year the Service for the World Day of Prayer (WDP) in Guildford will be held at St Pius X, Merrow at 10.30am. Formerly known as Women's World Day of Prayer, the World Day of Prayer (WDP) Committee has decided after national consultation, to revert to its original name and that by which it is known to the rest of the world. This change of name is a welcome reminder that, although the Service is written by women, it is open to all regardless of gender.

The World Day of Prayer is an international, ecumenical and inter-church event that enables us to hear the voices of women from a different part of the world each year. It is an opportunity for those women to express their hopes and concerns and to bring them to the rest of the world in prayer. Those attending the Service will be part of a great wave of prayer encircling the globe - starting as the sun rises over Samoa and ending some 38 hours later back in the Pacific, as the sun sets over American Samoa. In this way we will be praying and sharing with people in over 120 countries and islands around the world.

This year the service has been written by the Christian women of Slovenia. Slovenia is relatively new to the World Day of Prayer movement with the Service being held for the first time there in 2000. We will hear the voices of some Slovenian and Roma women with their stories reflecting the political and economic situation of Slovenia from the time it was a socialist-communist state to the present day. Slovenia is one of the less well-known countries in Europe so for those who have not visited, it may be helpful to know a little more about this country

Slovenia was originally part of Yugoslavia, a Marxist socialist republic. Slovenia became independent on 27th June 1991. It is one of the smallest and newest countries in Europe, roughly the same size as Wales with a population of just under 2 million people. Slovenia is the wealthiest and most politically open of the former Yugoslav republics. It is the third most forested country in Europe, with over 60% of the country covered with deciduous and coniferous trees and the largest population of brown bears in Europe. There are mountains, lakes, rivers and a short coastline.

The majority of the population are Slovnes, but there are also Croats, Serbs, Bosnians, Macedonians, Montenegrins and a small number of Roma, who have their own language and customs. The official language is Slovene, but Hungarian and Italian are co-official languages for those minority communities. The majority religion is Roman Catholic; other religions are Orthodox and Islam and Lutheran. Slovenia joined the EU in 2004 and the currency of the country is the euro. There is some unemployment but this is below the European average. Two thirds of the population are employed in the service sector and one third in industry and construction. The area dedicated to farming is declining.

Slovenia has free compulsory education for six to fifteen year-olds with a focus for post 15 year olds on vocational, technical or specialised education. There are 40 higher educational institutions and five universities. There is a Welfare system which provides access to health services, social assistance and benefits. Most healthcare is provided by public institutions although not everything is totally free. There are free outpatient services, funded by donations, for those without insurance. Unemployment, homelessness and alcohol abuse are growing problems.

Women make up just over half of the population of Slovenia with those born after 2000 having an average life expectancy of 82 years. Women have the same access to education as men with similar numbers of women and men attending universities. 65% of women work with the majority of these being in full time employment. Women on average earn 7% less than men, except in construction where women's wages are higher. Child care and housework is still mainly seen as women's role.

The theme of the Service this year is about opening our hearts with God's help, to compassion and understanding. If you can, please do come along and take part in the Service on 1st March at St Pius at 10.30am. ALL ARE WELCOME. Please note this year there will be no evening service. If you would like any further information please talk to me, Maggie Woolcock, or Wendy Rockhill, of the Guildford WDP Committee.

Maggie Woolcock

## A service to celebrate the contribution of Christians in the Middle East

At the beginning of November Roy received an E-mail from Embrace asking if we would like tickets for the above service which was to be held in Westminster Abbey, on December 4<sup>th</sup> 2018 at 5pm. We had been to the Abbey many times and felt we would like to go. The tickets came through by E-mail and we were looking forward to going. About 10 days before the service we had an e-mail to say His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales was going to attend so we would need to have some identity on us.

On the day we went by train up to London and as we were early went into Central Hall and had a coffee & cake. Then made our way to the Abbey, where security was everywhere.

We took our seats and waited for the service to begin. The Coptic Diocesan Choir led all of the singing, during The Introit the clergy process in to the Sacrament. There were 13 clergy representing churches of the Middle East and North Africa. The service was conducted by Dean of Westminster.

His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales spoke first, telling us how he has paid close attention to the challenges faced by Christians in parts of the Middle East, he told us of a visit many years ago to a convent of Dominican Sisters of St Catherine of Sienna, Iraq and how he had worried about them during the war, he was pleased one of the Sisters was here to tell us her story.

After the octet sang, Sister Nazek Matty told us her story of how when things became very bad the head of the convent got hold of a mini bus told them all to get in taking as much as possible they must leave, some felt they should stay but she said they would be needed more when the war was over. She said this had proved very true when they returned. There was so much to do to try and get the convent running again and helping the people at the same time. There was still much to do but with the help of the Christians still there and other helpers they were getting there.

There were Reflection from others telling it did not matter what different religions they were from the help of contribution from the Christians in the Middle East needed to be celebrated.

The Address was given by The Most Revered and Right Honourable Justin Welby, The Archbishop of Canterbury, Primate of All England and Metropolitan.

He spoke about the work that many Christians do working together to get a better understanding of different religions. There is a lot going on that we never hear about but they carry on trying their best in many challenging situations. They need our support and prayers in all they do.

The prayers were led by different clergy.

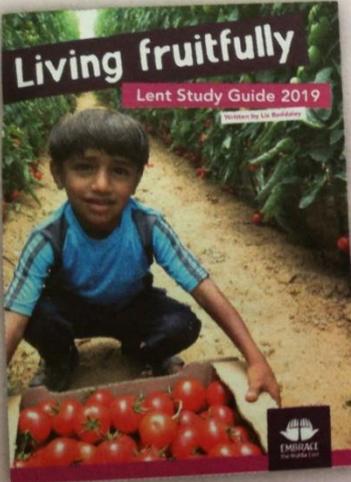
The only hymn that we sang was The Church's one foundation.

After the blessing the Abbey bells rang out.

It was a very moving service, realising what other Christians do for others whoever they are. I came away thinking how easy it is for us to put our hand in our pocket or say a prayer when others have it so hard but carry on in hope and faith.

Gillian Vinall

Julie and John Wallis also attended this service and following are Julie's thoughts on the service, thanks to both of you for sharing these with us.



**Living fruitfully**  
Lent Study Guide 2019  
Written by Dr. Rosalind

**Lent Study Guide 2019**  
**Living Fruitfully** **Exclusive**

For churches, small groups and individuals  
Our 2019 Study Guide contains six sessions of creative reflections using the Fruit of the Spirit and other key New Testament passages to explore the transformational nature of a Christ-like character.  
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Download for free at [embraceme.org/Lent](http://embraceme.org/Lent)

Thank you for encouraging Christians in the Middle East

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## **Westminster Abbey Service**

On Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2018, the Embrace the Middle East charity held a special service at Westminster Abbey to celebrate the contribution of Christians in the Middle East. The service was to be led by the Archbishop of Canterbury. The tickets for the service were free and were advertised both by Embrace and Westminster Abbey. A week prior to the Service, it was announced that the Prince of Wales would also attend and speak at the Service.

The Service included clergy representing churches of the Middle East and North Africa. Examples of those represented are the Anglican Archbishop of Jerusalem, Archbishop of Mosul, Greek Orthodox, Armenian Orthodox, Coptic Orthodox. Witnessing the robes of all the Middle Eastern Churches was fascinating.

John and I were lucky enough to arrive early enough at Westminster Abbey to get front row seats in the nave. The Abbey was full for the Service. The Service began by the Clergy processing to their seats whilst a Coptic choir sung an 'Introit'. It was extremely moving hearing this Introit in the Coptic language, and interesting as Coptic is the final form of the language of the Pharaohs. During the service, there were short reflections by the Prince of Wales, a Nun who lives in Iraq, an Imam who works in Palestine, and the Archbishop. The Prince of Wales spoke about how the three faiths have previously lived together and should be able to live together peacefully. The Imam stated that Christians must have a role in any Middle East peace process whilst the Archbishop of Canterbury stated that Christians in the West have no real understanding of persecution and do not really know or understand what the Middle East Christians are going through.

The Service continued with a 'Middle Eastern' flavour as the gospel reading was read in Aramaic. It was the first time that John and I had heard the language that Jesus spoke, and it was really thought-provoking. The Service finished by everyone having a candle lit in order to show the light of the world. Although the Service only lasted an hour – it was an amazing hour and well worth attending!

Julie Wallis

## Childish Behaviour

When my grandson, Jack, was between one and two years old, we had frequent short visits with his mum, Sarah. One such occasion was exceptionally short. On arrival, Jack went into the back garden and found some fallen plums. He then proceeded to lob these onto the patio where he found a watering can containing some water which he poured over the steps leading into the conservatory. He then stamped in the puddles and walked into the conservatory making dirty footmarks on the floor. His mother took his shoes off and proceeded to clean up the mess while Jack went back outside in his socks and stamped in the puddles again. He was brought inside, socks removed, and the door to the patio was shut. Jack then raced into the living room where Grandma Anne was watching TV and he swiftly dismantled the companion set on the wall, swept the carpet and grabbed a few ornaments off the window sill.

Sarah decided to change his nappy but, in the middle of this procedure, he leapt up, climbed on to a chair and did an impersonation of one of the fountains in Trafalgar Square. Whilst Sarah was mopping up, Jack switched on the radio full volume, making Anne almost leap out of her chair with fright. The next minute, Jack was being whisked out under Sarah's arm and straight back home. The whole visit probably lasted no more than ten minutes!

When he was a bit older, one Friday evening, Jack and Sarah joined Anne and me for a meal at the Harvester Inn where his dad worked. We sat near the grill so that Jack and his dad could have some banter. After a while, Jack turned round and was quietly watching two little girls on the next table and some bigger ones going past to the salad trolley. Sarah said: "What are you doing, Jack?" The reply was "I'm watching the girls!" a bit tetchily, as if to say "What do you think I'm doing?" Sarah's comment was "Like Father, like son"!

Soon after Jack had started school, Sarah went to a parents' evening. The form teacher referred to a day in the previous week when Jack arrived at school wearing a baseball cap. Sarah normally checked to make sure he had not hidden anything in his satchel but his dad took him that day and had not checked Jack's bag. The teacher said she was calling the register and looked up to see Jack wearing his cap. She asked him to put it away, which he did, but then later noticed that he was wearing it again during assembly. During a lesson in mid-morning, Jack was suddenly there with his hat on again, so she confiscated it. He must have seen where she put it because he was seen wearing it in the hall during lunch. That afternoon, she walked past the

classroom while another teacher was taking the class and looked in through the window to see Jack was sitting there with his cap on!

Many years earlier, Anne used to drive Sarah to school with another little girl called Cathy who lived just down the road. These two five-year olds were having a conversation in the back of the car. Cathy's family called everything by its proper name. Sarah said she had seen her Grandmother over the weekend and that, when she was older, she would have big nibbles like her Grandma. Cathy's response was to say that, when she was older, she would have furry bits like her mother. Anne only just avoided driving into a ditch!

Ian Prosser

Don't let Brexit and all that jazz get you down. Be optimistic and don't worry because:

There are only two things to worry about – either you are well or you are sick. If you are well, then there is nothing to worry about. But, if you are sick, there are two things to worry about - either you will get well, or you will die.

If you get well, then there is nothing to worry about. But, if you die, there are only two things to worry about – either you will go to Heaven or you will go to Hell.

If you go to Heaven, then there is nothing to worry about. And, if you go to Hell, you will be so busy shaking hands with old friends, you will not have time to worry!

Ian

## Church News

### **Action for Children - the children's charity of the Methodist Church**

Were raised £1365.70 in the year 2018. In 2017 - £1261.88.

Many thanks to everyone who contributes to this very worthwhile cause. Helping the disadvantage children and young people of our country. Many Thanks Suzanne

### **Women's Fellowship Monday 4th February 2.30 pm - Claire Cobbett life in the Territorial Army - open meeting**

Claire is a chartered civil engineer. Most of her experience has been in ground or river engineering. She also lectured for 2 years at Kingston University in Construction Management, just before she joined Highways England over 2 years ago.

In addition to 'normal work', Claire spent over 15 years in the Territorial Army (TA) with the Royal Engineers and Civil Affairs Units. The TA opened some great travel opportunities, which included Cyprus, Nepal, America, Ascension Island, Iraq, Falklands, Uganda, Afghanistan, Botswana, and Zambia. She'll summarise some of the work she did (mostly water supply / storage for army bases, or advising other governments on flood risk), and delve slightly deeper into what she did in Iraq, when she worked as part of a small 4 man team tasked with getting the water back on to the citizens in Basra.

Everyone is most welcome to join us to hear Claire

**Women's Fellowship** are holding a Bring and Buy on Monday 18th February. If anyone has any spare Christmas presents, including chocolates etc., they wish to donate please give them to myself or Gill Suzanne.

**Congratulations** to Frank and Cynthia Winder who celebrated their 72<sup>nd</sup> Wedding Anniversary on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> January

**Congratulations** to Jan and Maurice Kemp on the birth of their great grandson Jacob Easter 8lb 5oz. Born on Christmas Day in London to their granddaughter Kerry

## **Outlet Monday Feb 11th 2019.**

**We shall welcome Heather Oliver to talk about 'All Glass Art' .** This lady is a very good speaker who talks in depth about her subject of glass art. She will bring, for sale on the night, some small glass items that she has made. We look forward to listening to Heather and hope that there will be a good turnout on the night. Usual time 7.30pm for Refreshments. Prompt start at 8pm. Cost £3.00 per person

## **Stop Press**

The Merrow Church Quiz is back by popular demand.

Please diarise the date. Saturday 16th November. Details to follow.

Hugh, Wendy, Neill and Suzanne

## **An important date for your diary.**

Our Annual General Church Meeting will take place on Monday March 25th and as last year will be preceded at 6.30 pm by a scrumptious cooked meal. More details will follow in next month's magazine but please make a note in your diary now.

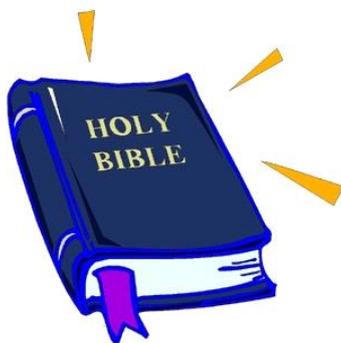
Hugh Bradley

**ADVERTISEMENTS IN “THE VOICE”** during the past few months we have lost 5 advertisements and we are looking for replacements. If you know of anyone, preferably you have had experience of, that we might use please ask them to contact us so we can talk the matter over with a view to include their advertisement. Thanks Gill and Roy Vinall on 01483 222071 or email [royvinall@gmail.com](mailto:royvinall@gmail.com)

	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> February</b>	<b>10<sup>th</sup> February</b>
<b>Preacher</b> <b>10.30am</b> <b>6.30pm</b>	Rev. Asif Das HC	Mr. Philip Beastall Rev. Allan Taylor ATS
<b>Vestry</b>	Doreen Siame	Suzanne Burnham Jenny Jackson
<b>Organ</b>	Graham Long	Joan Tabraham Gillian Brierley
<b>P/A</b>	Roy Vinall	Jan Walker Wendy Rockhill
<b>A/V</b>	Glenys Magill	Cari Rayner Glenys Magill
<b>Door</b>	Gill Vinall and Brenda Fullelove	Wendy and Hugh Bradley Glenys Magill
<b>Flowers</b>	Glenys Magill	Janice Brownlee
<b>Coffee</b>	Maureen and Eric Lupton	Brenda Fullelove and Janet Williams
<b>Worship Leaders</b>	Doreen Siame	
<b>Communion Stewards</b>	Ann Carpenter and Glenys Magill	

	<b>17<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>24<sup>th</sup> February</b> <b>Quiet Prayer 10.00am</b>
<b>Preacher</b> <b>10.30am</b> <b>6.30pm</b>	Mrs Thelma Roberts	Rev. David Faulkner Rev. Peter Hills HC
<b>Vestry</b>	Suzanne Burnham	Joyce Sturt Joan Wells
<b>Organ</b>	Joan Tabraham	Graham Long Joan Tabraham
<b>P/A</b>	Roy Vinall	Jane Vinall Glenys Magill
<b>A/V</b>	Julie Wallis	John Wallis Glenys Magill
<b>Door</b>	Gill Vinall and Megan Swayne	Joyce Goodall and Maggie Woolcock Janet Williams
<b>Flowers</b>	John Heath	Brenda Fullelove
<b>Coffee</b>	Wendy and Hugh Bradley	Glenys Magill
<b>Worship Leaders</b>	Gillian Brierley	
<b>Communion Stewards</b>		Glenys Magill

# MERROW METHODIST CHURCH HOUSE-GROUP



**The house group meets on Thursday 21 February 2019 at the home of Megan Swayne. Rev Allan Taylor has been invited to speak to us and the choice of topic has been left entirely up to him! Come and be surprised – we would love to see you.**

**The meeting begins at 7.30 pm with coffee/tea and the formal meeting begins at 8.00 pm**

\* \* \* \* \*

**The West Surrey Palestine Solidarity Campaign meeting - St Pius Church,  
7.30pm Friday February 15**

**HAPPY, HEALTHY, AT HOME?** The Experience of Palestinians under Occupation.

The West Surrey Palestine Solidarity Campaign and the Catholic Parish of Guildford Justice & Peace Group invite you to an open meeting. Tim and Mayonne Coldicott describe what they have discovered about the state of mental health of Palestinians coping with the effects of occupation on their children, their family cohesion and communal identity. They invite us to consider how civil society in Britain can support the human rights of all peoples of Palestine. Bring your friends and family - all are welcome.

**February 14 Coffee Morning. The Traidcraft 'Big Brew - the special 40'**

This month we are supporting Traidcraft Exchange. Imagine if no matter how hard you worked today, you couldn't afford to put food on the table. For millions of people around the world, that's the reality they face. A fair income gives you freedom, security and hope for the future. It allows you to feed your family and educate your children. That is the power of trade done well. But unfair trade amplifies poverty. It makes the rich richer and leaves the poor behind.

Traidcraft was founded in 1979 and is 40 this year. Traidcraft Exchange was founded in 1986 as the sister charity to Traidcraft plc and exists to do two things...

- To support people to harness the benefits of trade
- To fight against injustice in global trade.
- To advocate for better trade policies and better business practices in the UK. For example, did you know that the determination of the Traidcraft campaigns team in 2013 resulted in the government setting up an official Supermarket Watchdog, with the legal power to fine supermarkets who pressured their suppliers into unethical or harmful situations?

It's a simple mission, but it is changing lives all over the world and they need our help to continue. There will be the usual selection of cakes, fairly traded tea and coffee to drink and goods from the Traidcraft plc catalogue for

## **Traidcraft – its history and its future**

Traidcraft is now 40 years old – it grew out of a response by the world development charity Tearfund to give relief to the Bangladeshi people by importing and selling some of their craft products to their church friends. Traidcraft's founder, Richard Adams, gathered six radical free-thinkers on the top floor of a 1920s warehouse in Newcastle upon Tyne in 1979 to launch his new vision – the beginnings of what would become a world-changing fair trade organisation. Their first handicrafts catalogue was hand-drawn, and featured a selection of what we'd think of today as rather retro jute plant hangers, baskets, and rugs, all sourced from small co-operatives across Bangladesh. Soon, the team started importing the world's first fair trade tea, coffee, sugar, and chocolate, too. Traidcraft's future was set.

By founding their own trading company, this movement of radical, church based individuals had committed themselves to proving that fair trade could work professionally. Their plan was simple – they would import goods directly from artisans and growers and distribute them directly to regular people in the UK, cutting out the middlemen. They would start by selling on church stalls and at markets, where they thought that buyers would be interested in the stories behind their purchases. At the time this was revolutionary thinking, and just the beginning of the incredible changes ahead.

World trade has always been dominated by a handful of huge global companies whose names rarely appear on packaging. Today, just five companies control about 85% of the world's cocoa trade, and the same sort of percentages exist in most of the everyday commodities we enjoy. So as you can imagine, options for the honest small-scale coffee bean grower were incredibly limited. Traidcraft provided the growers with the opportunity to sell their beans to the retailer directly, whilst paying more than the usual market price. They sought out small-scale and community growers and traditional craftspeople whose lives depended on their skills, and who struggled to match what the big companies demanded. Their partnership with Traidcraft was going to be life-changing.

But Traidcraft wanted to do even more. The team wanted to get to know the farmers, understand their needs, their dreams, and their ambitions. What we understand today as the principles of fair trade all started with pioneers like Traidcraft – who dared to travel around the world and listen to the people

whose products we all take for granted. As time went by, Traidcraft focused on working with their producers to improve the quality of their products. The artisans and farmers could now be even more proud of what they've made and grown. Fair trade is no longer about aid – it's about respecting the artisan and the consumer together.

In 1992, Traidcraft jointly founded the Fairtrade Foundation and helped establish the standards that underpin today's well-known Fairtrade Mark. Getting big companies to adapt to the principles of fair trade hasn't been easy, but Traidcraft has been instrumental in making this happen.

Over the past 40 years Traidcraft has pioneered the introduction of fair trade chocolate, coffee, tea, fruit juice, wine, rice, honey, charcoal, rubber... Even sustainably-grown fair trade palm oil! Believe it or not, but almost everything that we know today as being fair trade began with Traidcraft.

Being the pioneer is hard work, and with many global companies now having some 'fairly traded' items in their range, in 2018 the future of Traidcraft plc became very precarious and it was not certain if it would continue trading in 2019. Thanks to increased sales in the second half of the year, it now looks as though a much smaller company will be sustainable but sadly, this has resulted in a drastic reduction in staff at their Newcastle headquarters and warehouse. A new team is working on a catalogue which is expected in March and the role of people like me, who are fair traders within churches, is likely to be even more crucial to the success of the new business model. If you believe in the principle of fairtrade and partnership with growers and producers, please continue to support my stall, check the catalogue for gift ideas and let's keep the ideas of the pioneers going for another 40 years.

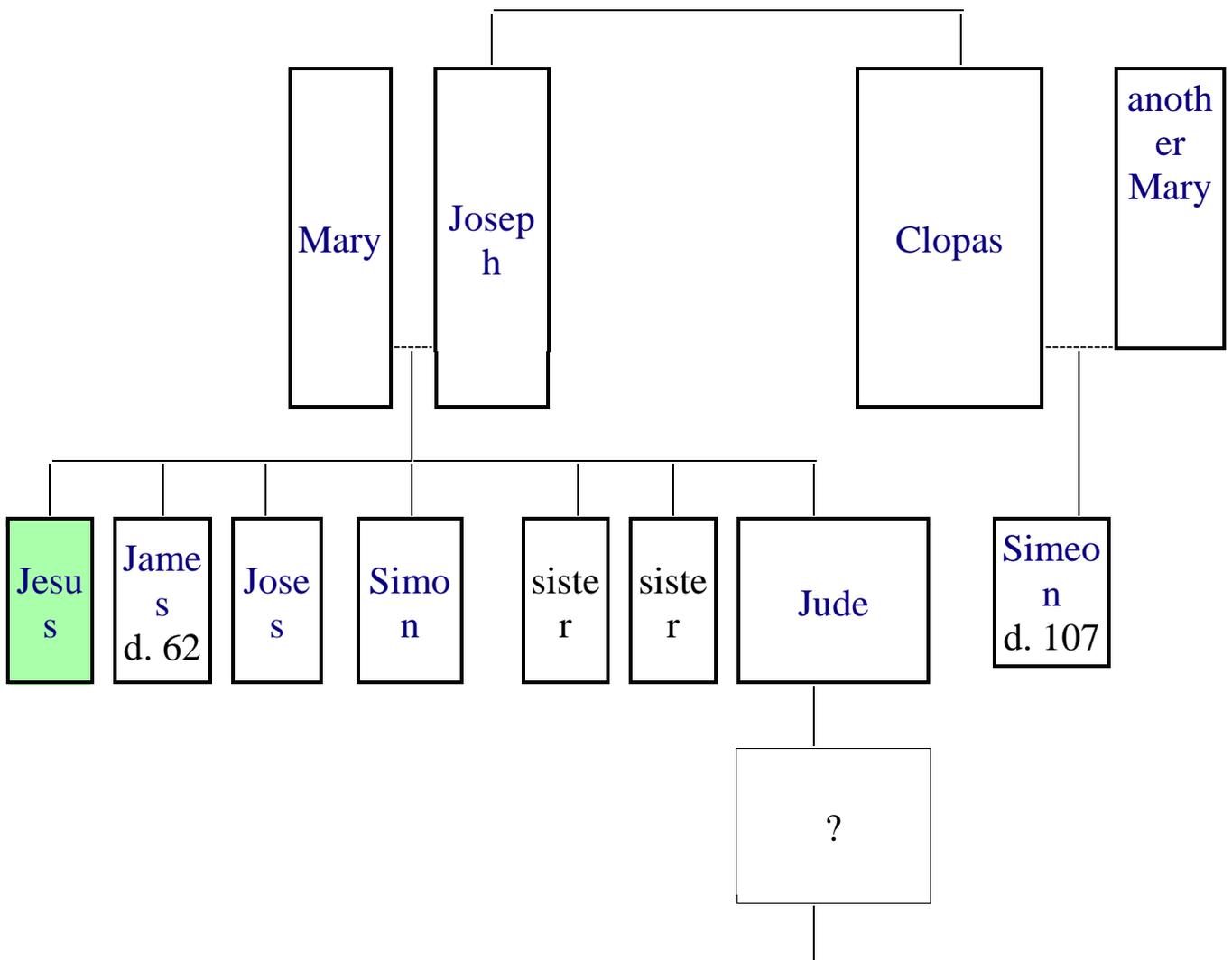
Glenys Magill

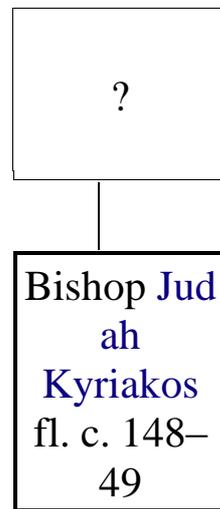
## FAMILY OF JESUS

Knowing my interest in the family of Jesus, a good friend passed on to me the charts (below) of the family of Jesus (source: Family Trees in Wikipedia). They are from various sources including the New Testament and it is not easy to ascertain the accuracy of whole information. Despite this, I thought it's worth sharing, hoping you may find this interesting and informative.

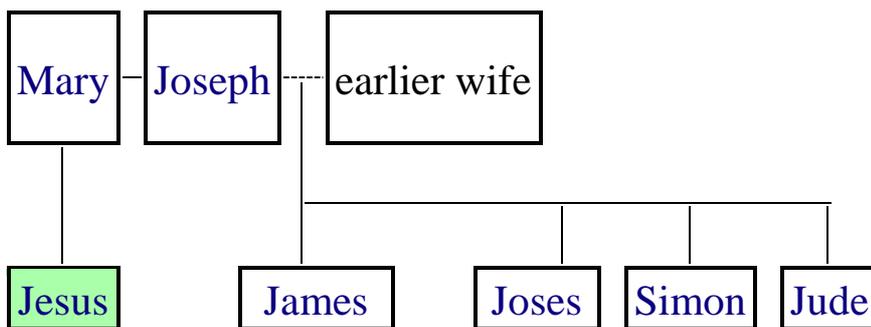
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Explanations of the true relationship of the 'brothers' of Jesus within his immediate nuclear family fall primarily into three categories. The first, called "the most natural inference" of the Gospel text by the *Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church*, is that the brothers of Jesus were the children of his parents, Joseph and Mary:

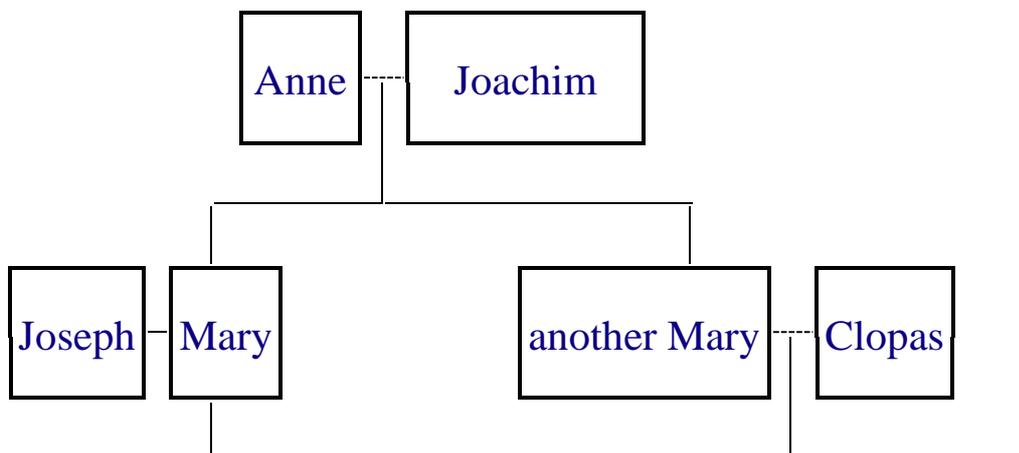




Because of the conflict of this reconstruction with the doctrine of the perpetual virginity of Mary, several alternatives are common. Epiphanius made them children of Joseph by a former marriage:

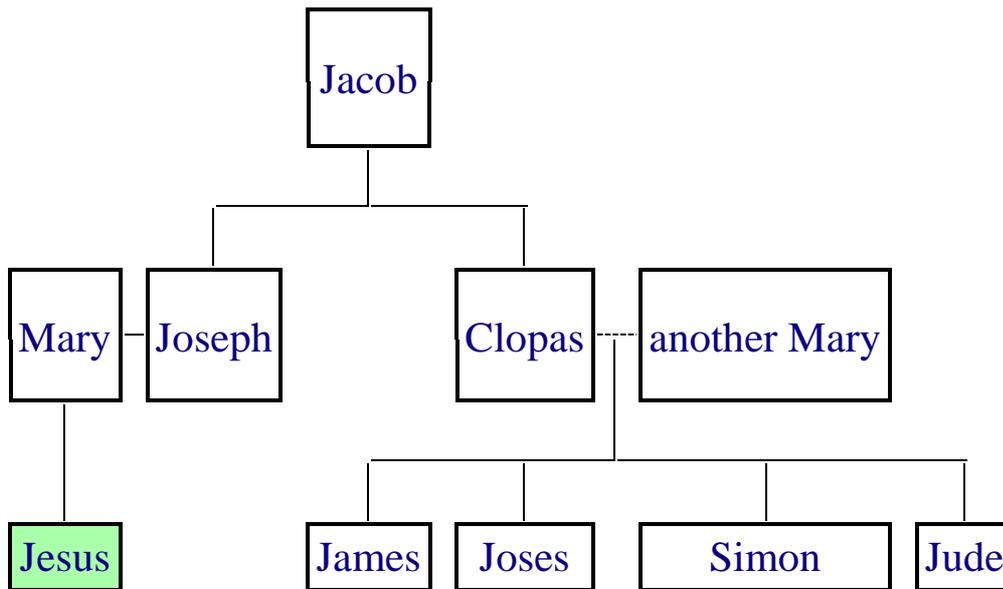


Other reconstructions would make them more distant relatives, the children of 'Mary, mother of James and Joses' by Clophas, though these are linked to Mary and Joseph in different ways. St. Jerome would have this Mary be a sister of the Virgin Mary:





A modern reconstruction would likewise make them cousins, but rather than having the two Marys be siblings, it would follow Hegesippus in making Clophas brother of Joseph:



Submitted by: Asif Das  
February 2019

## **REGULAR CHURCH ACTIVITIES – February 2019**

COMMUNITY LUNCH CLUB: Tuesdays (by invitation).

TUESDAY CLUB for parents and under-fives from 1.45pm to 3.15pm in term time.

LADIES' BADMINTON CLUB: On Wednesdays. 1.30pm to 3.30pm.

THURSDAY BADMINTON CLUB: Adults: 8.15pm to 10.15pm.

MERROW METHODIST SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB: Fridays from 7.30pm.

HOLY COMMUNION: Thursday @ 9.45am 21<sup>st</sup> February @ 9.45am led by Rev.Asif Das

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP: Mondays at 2.pm. for 2.30pm

4<sup>th</sup> February Mrs Claire Cobbett "Life in the Territorial Army"

18<sup>th</sup> February Members afternoon and Bring and Buy

OUTLET: Monday 7.30 for 8.00 Monday 11<sup>th</sup> February Heather Oliver " All Glass Art"

COFFEE MORNINGS: Thursday,.10.30-12.30pm. See Notice Board

HOUSE GROUP: Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> February @Megan and John's 7.30 for 8.00pm led by Rev. Allan Taylor

THURSDAY PRAYER GROUP: Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> February in the Church @ 9.30am

QUIET PRAYER SUNDAY: Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> February @ 10.00 am

BREAD and SOUP Lunch:Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> February from 12.00pm

### **PRAYER SUPPORT GROUP**

This is a small group willing to put time aside for praying each day for special needs within the Church community. The contact for February is Pauline Daniels 01483 578315 your request will be passed onto other members of the group, where it will remain confidential

### **CHURCH CLEANING: (Week ending)**

10<sup>th</sup> February Suzanne and Joan W

24<sup>TH</sup> Maggie and Joan T

**MINISTER:** REV.ASIF DAS 01483 575432 [asifdas@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:asifdas@hotmail.co.uk)

### **CHURCH OFFICE AND PROPERTY LETTINGS ADMINISTRATOR**

Bushy Hill Drive, Guildford, GU1 2SH. 01483 537655

[office@merrowmethodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:office@merrowmethodistchurch.org.uk)

The March 2019 issue of "The Voice" will be in church on **SUNDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2019** and the close off date for this **THURSDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2019** any items should be to me by then via my email [royvinall@gmail.com](mailto:royvinall@gmail.com) or in my pigeon hole.