

# **THE VOICE**

## **MERROW METHODIST CHURCH MAGAZINE**



**MARCH 2019**

## **MESSAGE FROM THE MANSE – MARCH 2019**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This year the month of March marks the beginning of Lent which is a time to think about sinning and how to deal with it in the light of the Scriptures. When people sin against us, we get hurt. (Have we ever been lied to? Been robbed? It hurts.) When we sin against others, we also get hurt: we feel guilty before God, we lose our self-respect, and we feel isolated.

The First Epistle of John, in the New Testament, talks a lot about sin. The Apostle John did not write in anger, but out of deep pastoral concern. His desire was that those who name Jesus as their Lord and Saviour face the reality of sin in their lives. He wanted them to learn to avoid it as a pattern that ruled their lives.

The Apostle John reminded his readers that God is perfect light, holy and the source of all life, truth and beauty. Jesus his Son, the Light of the World, came to redeem us from our separation from him caused by sin, which has marred the human race since the fall of Adam and Eve.

So what is sin? The Bible says that sin includes not only physical indulgences of our selfish appetites, but also our lustful, angry and hateful thoughts, as well as our self-righteousness, self-ambition, divisive spirit and pride. All of the Law of God, Jesus said, is summarized in the Great Commandment to love God with our entire being and our neighbour as ourselves (Mark 12: 29 – 31), and not one of us in the light of these commands can claim to be without sin (Luke 10: 25 – 37).

As the Apostle John makes it clear in his short Epistle, even true believers will be guilty, perhaps even daily, of single acts of sin. Even though true believers have been released from the dominance of the habitual patterns of sinful behavior, and have access to the liberating, victorious power of the Holy Spirit for new life in Jesus, we still, as long as we remain in these sin-prone bodies, we commit sin. Yet this is not to discourage us, but to encourage us to take action. Our Father in heaven is a loving Father, waiting for us to come back to him, confessing each sinful failure, every hour of every day, if necessary. There is no sin so great as to separate us from the Father's mercy, grace, forgiveness and love. And through the Holy Spirit, we can become more Jesus-like in our nature. It is a growth process, and we need to start growing now. This month is the perfect time for us to return to the Father's house, and receive and celebrate his complete forgiveness.

Every blessing in Christ Jesus,

Asif Das

## “The Voice”

It is our practice to publish each edition of “The Voice” on the Merrow Methodist Website. It is an important source of information about church life in Merrow and something we want to share with others.

At the same time we recognise that some contributors may be uncomfortable for their personal details to appear on the internet in this way.

We will be happy to omit names and any other personal details in any future issue if requested to do so.

### **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2019**

**Friday 1st March 2019**

The service this year has been prepared by the Christian Women of Slovenia, and is open to all. Please join us in this ecumenical worldwide event being held locally as below:

**10.30am St Pius X,  
Laustan Close  
Merrow, GU1 2TS**

There is only the one service and no evening service this year.

St Pius can be reached from Horseshoe Lane East on the Epsom Road.

Car Parking is available at the church or unrestricted parking is available in local roads.

Refreshments will be available after the service, with an opportunity to join in warm fellowship with others from churches throughout Guildford.

**Maggie Woolcock & Wendy Rockhill , WWDP Committee members for MMC**

“Thy Kingdom Come” Circuit Service Sunday March 24th.

On Sunday 24th March at 3.00pm we will be hosting a Circuit Service followed by afternoon tea.

The speaker at this service will be Rev Canon Jean Kerr, one of the founding members of the “Thy Kingdom Come” international prayer initiative. Some of the circuit team were privileged to hear Jean speak at District Synod in April 2018 and all agree that she is one of the most inspirational speakers they have heard. An event not to be missed!

If you intend to be there please sign the sheet on the notice board so we can help collate numbers for the team providing the catering.

Thanks.

Hugh Bradley

Annual General Church Meeting.

We are holding our Annual General Church Meeting on Monday March 25th at 6.30pm commencing with a hot supper and dessert.

If you are hoping to attend this important meeting please add your name to the list on the Church Notice Board so we can ensure we have cooked enough food to go around!

In addition to the completion of the formal business required at these Annual Meetings we are going to use the opportunity of this time together to discuss where we think Cafe Style Worship best sits at Merrow.

To help prepare for this, hopefully you have had the opportunity to complete a questionnaire we have been handing out on Sunday mornings asking for your views.

If you have not filled one in yet it is not too late....

We will also spend some time reviewing the timing of our Annual Covenant Service. Should this be held at the beginning of our calendar year or the beginning of the Connexional year in September. I am aware that there are strong arguments for both so we look forward to a lively discussion.

See you on the 25th...

Hugh Bradley.

## JOHN WESLEY AND GRACE MURRAY (Part 1)

This is a summary of a series of talks given at Merrow's Women's Fellowship in the Spring of 2019.

### Introduction – Wesley & women

John Wesley was attractive to women – of that there is no doubt. That he married comparatively late in life, and then unhappily (unlike his brother Charles, who had a long and happy marriage to Sally Gwynne), may possibly be due to the influence of his mother, Susanna.

Wesley's relationship with his mother and his seven very gifted sisters is another story of its own, however. Some historians have found it rather strange – even scandalous – that John should have been attracted to various girls as a young man. However, all that he lacked was height! He was gifted, charming and able to put girls at their ease, and engage in easy conversation. He was also quite good-looking, too!

However, John was pretty 'gauche' and tactless when it came to his relationships with his female contemporaries (surprising, when you come to think of it, with so many girls in the family) and, as we all know, he was what we would call a 'control-freak' and quite capable of making decisions in a swift, almost autocratic manner – which helps to explain why he eventually married unwisely, as we shall see.

He found it difficult, as we shall see, to handle the sexual feelings that close company with young women aroused in him, as the following verse from a poem he wrote on Grace Murray a little later on shows:

*Oft as thro' giddy youth I rov'd,  
and danced along the flowery way,  
by chance or thoughtless passion mov'd,  
an easy, unsuspecting prey  
I fell, while Love's envenomed dart  
thrilled thro' my veins, and tore my heart.*

Before John Wesley met Grace Murray, there were early attachments with women 'with whom he showed a guileless simplicity.' (*M. of M.* p.43) – so a word or two about them first, as it helps to explain what happened later.

### **(1) Early female connections:**

The first was with the sister of a friend – **Nancy Griffiths**, and two members of an informal literary circle which he joined – the two Granville sisters: **Mary and Anne**, nieces of Lord Lansdowne. All these arose from his years at Oxford University and the connections & friendships that resulted. Mary became widowed after 'seven unwilling years of marriage to a repulsive old man' (Ayling p. 42) and couldn't face John Wesley's hints of wedlock – fleeing the kitchen in tears.

He actually kept in close touch with Mary until 1734 (when he was 31) – but by this time she had moved to Dublin and was making a new life for herself there.

### **(2) Sally Kirkham:**

JW met her in April 1725. It was common in the tradition of the eighteenth century for correspondents to adopt rather fanciful pen names, and '**Varanese**' was the literary nickname given to Sally Kirkham. The Granville sisters became 'Aspasia' and 'Selima'). Sally was the daughter of the Rector of Stanton in Gloucestershire, with whom he struck up a deep friendship. They corresponded regularly, even after her marriage to Revd John Chapone in December 1725 (with the latter's consent, of course!). In his letters, Wesley refers to Sally Kirkham as his '*religious friend*'.

Despite her marriage, John remained very close to Sally, who proved to be the first of a number of women whom he might have married. In their correspondence, in which Wesley was addressed as '**Cyrus**', Sally had a great influence upon his thinking and faith, and as a consequence he was led to a greater awareness of the inward spiritual life and of the love of God in the heart of the believer.

Stanley Ayling writes: 'Warming his hands by the fire, however, he already, as so often later, feared the flames' (p. 37)

### **(3) Sophie Hopkey:**

[Also in Georgia, John Wesley became involved with a **Mrs Hawkins & Mrs Welch** – the former probably had a fixation on John – and the pair spun a web of lies to General Oglethorpe, alleging adultery etc.]

His relationship with the eighteen year old Sophia Hopkey was equally disastrous, but for different reasons. The niece of Savannah's chief magistrate, Thomas Causton, Sophie was clever, accomplished, reasonably well-to-do and, by all accounts, a 'bit of a babe'.

On one occasion he described how he found Sophie alone at her home:

*'Her words, her eyes, her air, her every motion and gesture, were full of such softness and sweetness! I know not what might have been the consequence had I then but touched her hand. And how I avoided it I know not. Surely God is over all.'*

Despite falling in love with this charming, seemingly devout young lady, John Wesley's sense of duty caused him to procrastinate for so long that she gave up waiting for his expected proposal.

Her subsequent marriage to another colonist (a William Williamson) provoked a bitter quarrel, resulting in John unwisely refusing her Communion. Significantly, even after her marriage, John Wesley continued to refer to her in his diary as 'Miss Sophy'. It was a sad episode.

#### **We should add 2 things at this point:-**

1. It was probably not until he was over 40 that John Wesley began seriously to question whether he was right to urge his preachers to adopt a celibate life – a possible result of his painful experience with Sophie Hopkey
2. John and his brother Charles reached an agreement, to the effect that neither would marry unless he consulted the other first, and also received his brother's blessing.

As we shall see, when it came to Charles' marriage with Sally Gwynne, things didn't go completely smoothly.

## GRACE MURRAY – THE EARLY YEARS

Grace [Norman] was born in Newcastle (which had a population of around 20,000 in the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> century) on 18 Jan. 1716 – which made her 13 years younger than John. She wasn't wealthy, but her parents were able to afford to pay for her schooling – so she wasn't quite as poor or as lowly as some historians have suggested.

She had four brothers and four sisters, and seems to have been more religious than them because she enjoyed going to church & at the age of seven had a deep personal experience of the presence of God.

In 1732 she started going out with a young man but declined his proposal of marriage two years later (to her parents' frustration!) In the summer of 1734 Grace went to London to live with one of her older sisters, and took up employment as a serving maid in the house of an East India Co. merchant.

In May 1736 married a sailor called **Alexander Murray** – a Scottish sea-captain. They lived in Stepney; he returned to sea & worrying about his safety led her to miscarry. Eventually she had a daughter (Susanna) in 1738 and Grace's devotional life began to deepen at this time – possibly due to the influence of the landlady with whom they lodged for 6 weeks in Portsmouth, whilst Alexander was recovering from an illness.

## GROWING IN FAITH – HER SPIRITUAL JOURNEY 1739-1746

She moved back to Stepney in May 1739 and heard from a friend about the evangelist **George Whitefield**. When Grace went to hear him preach, he made a deep impression on her. Her description of that meeting gives us a good idea as to how devout a Christian Grace Murray was:-

*'My heart was melted down as soon as I heard [his words], and I felt a sweetness I had never felt before. . . . When Mr Whitefield came I thought there was something in his look which I had never seen . . . . He preached on John 3 v. 8. I listened and liked all I heard . . . I found my heart fully drawn towards God, and I began to seek him with all my strength.'*

In August 1739, Whitefield went back to America, and on Sunday 9 September Grace went with a friend to hear **John Wesley** preach in the Moorfields, and from that moment, both their lives were to change dramatically . . . .

*[to be continued]*

Barrie Tabraham February 2019

## **March 14 Coffee Morning - Migraine – not simply a ‘bad headache’**

This month we are supporting The Migraine Trust. A small charity whose only role is to support Migraine sufferers and to fund research into treatments for Migraines.

Did you know that Migraine affects 1 in 7 people in the UK and is more prevalent than diabetes, epilepsy and asthma combined? 25 million School/Work days are lost each year to Migraine in the UK. Despite this, it is one of the most misunderstood and underfunded medical conditions in the country. It is also seriously trivialised as ‘having a migraine’ is often used as an excuse to avoid doing something undesirable!

There are many different ‘types’ of migraine. The most common types are ‘Migraine with or without aura’. Symptoms will usually consist of a throbbing head (which hurts more when you move), nausea or vomiting and light or sound sensitivity. The aura can consist of flashing lights, tunnel vision, temporary blindness, zig zag lines etc. The aura usually starts 5-20 minutes prior to the migraine.

More unusual types of migraine are ‘Hemiplegic Migraine’ where the sufferer experiences complete weakness down one side of the body. ‘Vestibular Migraine’ – the kind of migraine that I suffered from is where the sufferer is continuously dizzy. The simplest description of this variant is ‘like being on a boat on a storm’.

There are a wide range of treatments available but none have been specifically developed for Migraine. Botox (a treatment which I have found very helpful) was only discovered ‘by chance’. Women going for their regular beauty Botox treatments remarked that they had noticed that their Migraines appeared to have disappeared since starting Botox. Luckily, a Doctor decided to investigate and the rest is history!

Anyway, I hope as many of you as possible will join me on the 14<sup>th</sup> March to enjoy some cakes, coffee and to raise some funds for this very important but small charity.

Julie Wallis

A Poem by W. A. Ward

To laugh is to risk appearing the fool.

To weep is to risk appearing sentimental.

To reach for another is to risk involvement.

To expose your ideas, your dreams, before a crowd is to risk their loss.

To love is to risk not being loved in return.

To live is to risk dying.

To believe is to risk despair.

To try is to risk failure.

But risks must be taken, because the greatest hazard in life is to risk nothing.

The people who risk nothing, do nothing, have nothing, are nothing,

They may avoid suffering and sorrow, but they cannot, learn, feel, change,  
grow, love and live.

Chained by their attitude they are slaves,

They have forfeited their freedom.

Only a person who risks is free.

This was sent to me by Ken Mills

	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> March</b>	<b>10<sup>th</sup> March</b>
<b>Preacher</b> <b>10.30am</b> <b>6.30pm</b>	Rev. Asif Das HC	Mrs. Elizabeth Gurd  Re. Sidney Samuel Lake HC
<b>Vestry</b>	Doreen Siame	Joyce Sturt Jenny Jackson
<b>Organ</b>	Graham Long	Gillian Brierley Joan Tabraham
<b>P/A</b>	Jan Walker	Roy Vinall Wendy Rockhill
<b>A/V</b>	Ruth McCulloch	Cari Rayner Glenys Magill
<b>Door</b>	Derek Varley, Janet Williams	Megan Swayne, Joyce Goodall Glenys Magill
<b>Flowers</b>	Martha Das	Lyn McKay
<b>Coffee</b>	Megan Swayne, Jan Kemp	Wendy Rockhill, Margriet Rasker
<b>Worship Leaders</b>	Doreen Siame	Gillian Brierley
<b>Communion Stewards</b>	Ann Carpenter, John Wallis	Glenys Magill

	<b>17<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>24<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>31<sup>st</sup> March</b>
<b>Preacher</b> <b>10.30am</b> <b>6.30pm</b>	Mr. Dave Paterson	Rev. Paul Hulme <b>Circuit Service@</b> <b>3.00pm</b>	Rev. David Faulkner
<b>Vestry</b>	Suzanne Burnham	Joan Wells Jenny Jackson	Doreen Siame
<b>Organ</b>	Graham Long	Gillian Brierley Joan Tabraham	Graham Long
<b>P/A</b>	Jane Vinall	Roy Vinall Wendy Rockhill	Jan Walker
<b>A/V</b>	John Wallis	Julie Wallis Julie Wallis	John Wallis
<b>Door</b>	Wendy and Hugh Bradley	(am)Gill V and Brenda F (pm)Maggie W and Margaret H	Megan Swayne, Ann Carpenter
<b>Flowers</b>	Joan Wells	Doreen Siame	Margriet Rasker
<b>Coffee</b>	Ruth McCulloch, Margaret Hills	Maggie Woolcock, Margaret Hyam Jenny Jackson	Brenda Fullelove, Janet Williams Doreen Siame
<b>Worship Leaders</b>			
<b>Communion Stewards</b>			

**MERROW**  
**Methodist Church**



**SERVICE OF THE**  
**TENEBRAE**

**Maundy Thursday**  
**8.00 pm, 18<sup>th</sup> April 2019**

## **CHURCH NOTICES**

### **We need your feedback!**

Our Annual General Church Meeting is being held at 6.30pm on Monday 25th March. To help us prepare for a key discussion at this meeting we would greatly welcome your feedback re Cafe Style Worship. Over the past few weeks you should have been handed a questionnaire to complete. Please do find the time to fill this in and return to one of the stewards (even if you are going to be unable to attend the meeting itself). This will greatly help us in our planning.

Thanks for your cooperation with this.

**Hugh Bradley, Joan Tabraham, Julie Wallis, Sheila Shackleton.**

**The Turning Point Trust** are resuming the Bible Holiday Camps this August for children from the Kibera Township. They are fundraising for taking 100 children for five days at the all-in cost of £65 per child. If you can help a child in this way please make a cheque out to Turning Point Trust. If you are a tax payer and can gift aid, I have the necessary form. Many thanks. **Pauline Daniels**

**The Worship Forum at 7.30pm on Monday 4th March** is open to all.

This is an opportunity for you to have a real input into how we worship.

What helps you to worship?

What do you not find helpful?

Do you have any new worship ideas, and how we could implement them?

Please come along and have your say.

**Gillian Brierley – convenor**

**LONDON ANNUAL UNLOCK WALK - SATURDAY 27th APRIL 2019**The route for this year's walk is around the Merton, Morden and Wimbledon area of South West London and is 7.25 miles in length. Full details will be provided in next month's edition of The Voice but please ask if you would like further details before then.

**Maggie Woolcock**

### **Ecumenical Lent Groups**

The TIC ecumenical Lent Groups will begin in the week of March 11th, running for 5 weeks and looking at Bishop Andrew Watson's book "The way of the desert".

There are groups in different homes on Monday afternoons, Tuesday morning and evening and Thursday evening and one at St. John's church at 4pm on Fridays followed by 5pm Evensong.

If you have not already signed up for a group but would like to join one please contact **Gillian Brierley (01483 531191)**

### **MONDAY 11<sup>th</sup> March OUTLET.**

Merrow Methodist Church, Bushy Hill Drive. 'Reminiscences of a Schoolteacher' by Graham Warr

Cost £3.00. Including Coffee and Tea from 7.30pm. Speaker starts at 8.0pm. All are welcome. Further details if required, from Megan 453703.

**Megan Swayne**

## **REGULAR CHURCH ACTIVITIES – March 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 **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March** Rev. Peter Hills

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

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March** Ruth Sorby "World Vision"

**18<sup>th</sup> March** Rev. Barrie Tabraham

OUTLET: Monday 7.30 for 8.00pm. **Monday March 11<sup>th</sup>** Graham Warr  
"Reminiscences of a Schoolteacher"

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

HOUSE GROUP: **Next meeting after Lent groups 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2019**

THURSDAY PRAYER GROUP: **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March**

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

BREAD and SOUP **Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March** 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 March is Ann Carpenter 01483 535282** your request will be passed onto other members of the group, where it will remain confidential

**CHURCH CLEANING:** (Week ending)

**10<sup>th</sup> March Gill and Roy**

**24<sup>th</sup> March Sheila and Glenys**

**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 April 2019 issue of “The Voice” will be in church on **SUNDAY 31<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2019** and the close off date for this **THURSDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2019** any items should be to me by then via my email [royvinall@gmail.com](mailto:royvinall@gmail.com) or in my pigeon hole.

# COFFEE MORNING

14 MARCH 2019

10.30am to 12.30pm

the  
**migraine**  
trust

Come along and bring your  
friends.

