

THE VOICE

MERROW METHODIST CHURCH MAGAZINE



SEPTEMBER 2024

MESSAGE FROM THE MANSE - September

Prayer for the month of September.



Heavenly Father,

As we enter the month of September, we thank You for new beginnings and the opportunities they bring. We lift up all students, teachers, and staff as they start a new school term. Grant them wisdom, patience, and enthusiasm. May their classrooms be filled with learning, growth, and mutual respect. We also pray for our Methodist Church community. Guide us in our worship, service, and meetings, please, do help us to be a beacon of Your love and grace, as we begin another connexional year. Strengthen our faith and unity as we journey together in Your name. Bless our efforts, Lord, and fill our hearts with Your peace and joy. May this new season be one of growth, learning, and deepening faith. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Dear Church Family,

As we step into the month of September, a time of new beginnings with the start of the school term and the changing seasons, we are reminded of the importance of welcoming and supporting those around us. I wish to write on a pressing issue that affects not only our community but also the world at large, that is on immigration, especially on recent happenings in the United Kingdom.

The Bible is clear in its call to welcome the stranger and show love to those who are different from us. In Leviticus 19:34, we are instructed, "The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt." This command is echoed throughout Scripture, reminding us that our faith calls us to act with compassion and kindness.

Friends, Immigration is a complex and often contentious issue. Many people flee their homes due to war, persecution, or economic hardship, seeking safety and a better life. As Christians, we are called to respond not with fear or prejudice, but with love and understanding. The Church of England and the Methodist Church both emphasize the importance of treating everyone fairly and compassionately, especially those who have been forcibly displaced.

Understanding the realities of immigration can help dispel myths and reduce prejudice. Engage in conversations, read about the experiences of immigrants, and share this knowledge with others. Many organizations and churches are already doing incredible work to support immigrants and refugees.

Our churches can be sanctuaries of hope and acceptance. Let us make a conscious effort to welcome newcomers, learn their stories, and integrate them into our community. Simple acts of kindness can make a significant difference. Let us use our voices to advocate for fair and humane immigration policies. Let us also support campaigns that promote the rights and dignity of immigrants and

refugees. The Church of England/Methodist Church, provides resources and guidance on how to get involved and help.

A Story of Hope. Let me share a story about a family who left their home country in Congo, now a blessing to many in a small community in Kent.....

The Matondo's fled their home country due to conflict and arrived here with little more than hope. A church in Kent, welcomed them with open arms, providing support and friendship. Today, the Matondos' are thriving members of their community in Kent, contributing their talents and enriching other lives.

.....Their journey reminds us of the transformative power of love and acceptance. As we move forward, let us remember that our faith calls us to love without boundaries. By embracing the stranger and showing compassion, we reflect the love of Christ in our actions. Let us be a beacon of hope and a source of blessing to all, regardless of their background or circumstances. Just say a prayer for England, Wales, Scotland, Ireland and our world at large, wherever you go on your knees.

May God guide us in this mission and fill our hearts with His love and grace. Please, remember my family in your prayers as I start my sabbatical this October. May the Lord guide and guard our circuit and make it a loving and caring place. His banner over us is Love. Thank you and God bless our circuit.

Yours Devotedly,
Rev. U. George

Around the world Lunch



This year's **Harvest lunch** will be a celebration of food from around the world. We are planning to have food from countries including Great Britain, Italy, Africa and India and more!

Offers of help with food, savoury and desserts and setting up the hall on Saturday afternoon and help on the day will be much appreciated. I will put a notice on the board nearer the time. Please sign up if you would like to come and share lunch with us.

All welcome

EDITORIAL NOTE



A New Year poem

A welcome to September, the Methodist New Year;
The Summer, quickly passing and Autumn, almost here.
Each season has its treasures, so look around and see
The changing face of nature in flower, shrub and tree,
New challenges before us, new paths as yet untrod,
So walk each step with Jesus, going hand in hand with God.

Any items for inclusion in the **OCTOBER** issue of "The Voice" should be sent

to me by: **SEPTEMBER 20th 2024**

via email: gillianbrierley13@gmail.com

[by hand](#)

or by post: **Gillian Varley; 4, Merrow Croft, GU1 2XH**

**Please ensure that any submissions for "The Voice" are OUT OF COPYRIGHT;
both text and photographs.**

USEFUL ADDRESSES

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PROPERTY LETTINGS

ADMINISTRATOR:

01483 537655

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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 September will be:

DOREEN SIAME

01483 578214

EDITOR – ‘The Voice’

GILLIAN VARLEY

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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, we recognise that some contributors may be uncomfortable with a mention on our web page and we will be happy to omit your name and any other personal details in any future issue if requested to do so.*

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN SEPTEMBER

Stewards for Sunday worship:

Date	Time	Vestry Steward	Worship leader	PA/AV	Door Stewards
Sept 1 st	10.30am HC	Suzanne Burnham	Gillian Varley	Cari Rayner	Jan Marshall Joyce Goodal
Sept 8 th	10.30am	Joan Wells	Doreen Siame	Jane Vinall	Glenys Nagill WendyBradley
Sept 8 th	6.30pm	Hugh Bradley		Glenys Magill	Glenys Magill
Sept.15 th	10.30am	Iris Walker		Glenys Magill	Maggie Woolcock Jan Marshall
Sept.22 nd	10.30amUnited	Service at	Stoughton
Sept.29 th	10.30am Harvest	Helen Belsham		Cari Rayner	Julie Wallis Glenys Magill

Communion stewards:

	Preparation	Assisting
Sept. 1 st 10.30am	Doreen Siame & Suzanne Burnham	
Sept 8 th 8.30pm	Glenys Magill	

Flower Rota:

Suzanne Burnham 8th Sept.
 Sheila Shackleton 15th September
 Pauline Daniels 22nd September
 Iris Walker; Joyce Goodall; Margaret Hills; Margriet Rasker - 29th Sept (Harvest)

Sunday Morning Coffee – Rota

1st Sept Maggie Woolcock and Margaret Hyams.
 8th Sept Ruth McCulloch and Margaret Hills.
 15th Sept Glenys Magill.
 22nd Sept Wendy and Hugh Bradley.
 29th Sept Wendy and Hugh Bradley.

Charity support

Action for Children
 MHA
 Mission Aviation Fellowship
 JMA
 Transform Trade

HARVEST FESTIVAL - 29th September

Gifts of fruit, vegetables, flowers, plants and groceries will be gratefully received during the Sunday morning service, for distribution afterwards to the sick, housebound and to the No.5 and Mulberry House hostels..

Women's Fellowship

Monday 2nd September 2.30pm

Speaker: Gabby North - Community Partnerships Manager for Leprosy Mission.

People with leprosy are ignored and excluded by society, people living in the shadows desperate for care and desperate to belong.

All are welcome to come and hear Gabby

Morning Bible Study

On Tuesday September 10th & 24th

At Lavender Cottage, Marlyns Drive, Burpham

Continuing our study of Paul's letter to the Romans

Details from Gillian Varley

Evening Bible Study

Thursday 12th September

at Merrow Methodist Church

Details from Julie Wallis

The Thursday Coffee Morning

from 10.30-11.45am each week

is open to all.

Come along and enjoy a friendly welcome

and all for free!

Each month, on the second Thursday, there are home-made cakes to enjoy as the Coffee Morning raises money by voluntary donation for a named charity.

Women's Fellowship

are holding the Charity Coffee Morning

on Thursday 12th September from 10.30 - 12 noon

for

Mission Aviation Fellowship.

Please come and support this very worthwhile charity.

Coffee, tea and home-made cakes will be served

Pauline Daniels

Looking back over the summer months

At the July Charity Coffee Morning for Merrow Scouts
which raised £ 141.25

Derek and Keith manned the cake table





On July 28th the sun reflected its glory in our Merrow cross.

Mulberry House and Number5
are always grateful for your generosity.
Please continue to leave gifts in the foyer
for Ruth to take to them.

July 23rd at Lavender Cottage



A sumptuous repast was provided by Pauline for the morning Bible Study Group as it closed for the Summer break.

Church Anniversary

Our Anniversary service on Sunday July 21st was led by Rev. Nick Holt who preached a sermon with the theme - HOPE



Nick greets Frank and Catherine Winder as Frank comes forward to cut the Anniversary cake. The service was followed by a church family lunch.

Frank also celebrated his 99th birthday on August 5th

Friday August 2nd

BFG – the reading group led by the Rev. J.Allan Taylor
enjoying a summer lunch together under a shady tree in Helen's garden.



Change of Address for Joan Tabraham:

This message comes to us all from Barrie.

As many of you know, Joan has reached the point where she needs full-time residential nursing care. As from July 29th she will be at the following address on a permanent basis:

**Guildford House Care Home; Astolat Way; Peasmarsh
Guildford. GU3 1NE
01483 516065**

She has stayed there three times in the past (a fortnight in February and in April, and a month more recently) and has got to know staff and residents.

I write this with very mixed feelings, of course, but we both know that it is for the best - and the only thing that really matters is Joan's well-being.

Fortunately, Joan is very happy with these new arrangements, and I shall be able to see her and (with our trusty 'WAV') will be able to get her to church, friends etc. as much as her health allows.

Cynthia Winder's final resting place
in St. Luke's churchyard, Burpham.



A short service for the interment of Cynthia's ashes
was led by the Rev James Hanson, new vicar of the Church of the Holy Spirit.

'How does our garden grow?'



No 'silver bells and cockle shells'
but golden sunflowers instead.

On **Thursday 29 August** at 2.15 pm we had the presentation of a 'Love Where
You Live' Award plaque by Chris Price, manager of the West Horsley branch of
Squires Garden Centre.

Anuonyam Asi Kyeremeh,
daughter of Solomon and Judith Asare, was baptised on 23rd June



HYMNAL+

'Hymnal +' is the new addition to our church musical life.

Perhaps you have already attended an evening service where the hymns have been accompanied by 'Hymnal Plus'

A bequest from the estate of Graham Long, an organist with us for many years, has enabled us to invest in this electronic device, already used by many churches, which can provide hymn accompaniment using a variety of instruments; organ, piano, or even full orchestra!

Graham specified that his bequest should be for our church's music, and now organ playing falls solely on Gillian's shoulders and it proves ever more difficult to find substitute organists when she is not available, Hymnal Plus is already proving its worth.

Of course there may be a few teething problems, but please bear with us as we find our way with this new technology.

August 13th - Afternoon Tea

Once again the Afternoon Tea was a great success
The Hall was beautifully set out; a truly welcoming venue.
Every guest was individually greeted and shown to their table
And, when all were assembled, George welcomed everyone and said Grace.

Tea and soft drinks with a choice of sandwiches and cakes, followed by
strawberries, were served on delicate and beautiful china.
This collection of china thanks to Margaret Hills who has collected it
And carefully preserves it from year to year.

Gentle background music was provided by Gillian, but two surprise items were
Derek and Gillian singing the duet from 2Gigi” – ‘Ah yes! I remember it well!’
and Mavis and Gillian playing a sprightly piano duet by Diabelli.



We cannot thank the team enough, which, through hard work, planning and organisation, made this afternoon possible and such a joy to so many.

William Churchill (grandson of Suzanne) is going to Swansea University to study Aerospace Engineering. BENG

Dana (Susanna) Marlow (Gillian's granddaughter) was awarded a BA degree on completion of her 3rd year studying Medicine at Downing College, Cambridge.

Her younger sister, Phoebe, is going to Glasgow University to study Maths.

SOUL SANCTUARY GOSPEL CHOIR



Friday, 20 September 2024 19:30 21:30

St Saviour's Church, Woodbridge Rd, Guildford GU1 4QD United Kingdom
Formed in 2006 SSGC is one of the UK's foremost gospel choirs and have performed venues like the Jazz Cafe, the Albert Hall, St. Paul's Cathedral, the 606 Club and Cadogan Hall as well as festivals like Big Church Day Out, Greenbelt, Marlborough International Jazz Festival, and Cheltenham Christian Arts Festival.

In December 2023 the Choir once again performed alongside the inimitable Joe Stilgoe for his Christmas Show at the Hammersmith Lyric whilst in November 2023, the choir joined the LSO and LSOCC onstage at the Barbican under the baton of the great André Thomas

"Soul Sanctuary Gospel Choir, one of the very happiest and best sounds in London's musical life made it onto the big stage at a full Barbican Hall last night. And triumphed" – London Jazz News

The choir will be performing with their own fabulous rhythm section so expect joyous gospel, infused with infectious soul and funk – not to be missed!

For more details:

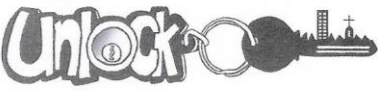
[https:// www.guildfordjazz.org.uk/listings/soul-sanctuary...](https://www.guildfordjazz.org.uk/listings/soul-sanctuary...)Please note there are no physical tickets, book online & just give your name on the door when you arrive. Seating is unreserved. General admission £15

UNLOCK LONDON WALK 27th April 2024

This year's walk raised the fantastic total of £805.00 for Unlock.
Our best ever result.

The following letter was received from Unlock explaining how they plan to use the sponsorship money.

Maggie Woolcock



Mrs Margaret Woolcock

17 June 2024

Dear Mrs Woolcock

Thank you for your support during this year's London Walk. The sponsorship raised by Merrow Methodist Church, Guildford and other donations received are very much appreciated and will help us to:

- **Unlock** real life stories of urban people
- **Reveal** Good News of the Down to Earth Christ
- **Release** life changing skills and confidence - Through


- Developing new Unlock Local partnership Projects in UK cities.
- Developing partnerships with other agencies, which will extend Unlock's reach and frontline impact.
- Providing Unlock training to other agencies working in deprived urban areas.

We rely on the walk to generate around 70% of our running costs each year, so your support is crucial to the work we do in deprived urban areas in the UK.

I acknowledge receipt of the cheques and forms from Merrow Methodist Church. *Totalling £805.00.*

We look forward to seeing you at our next walk **on the 12th April 2025!**

Once again, thank you for all your support.

Yours sincerely,

Nguemo Takon.
(On behalf of the Chief Officer Dawn Lonsdale)

Raise money for Unlock just by shopping online!

Would you like to support Unlock every time you shop online at no cost to you and no cost to us? With Give as You Live, thousands of major brands including Play.com, John Lewis and Expedia have signed up to donate a percentage of every purchase you make online to Unlock. The average shopper will raise £2.10 per month through what they already buy online. Give as You Live is easy to set-up and use. Simply visit Give as You Live at www.giveasyoulive.com/join/unlock for full details, try it today and help raise valuable funds for Unlock.

Have you considered leaving a gift to Unlock in your will?

To find out more about leaving a legacy contact us for a copy of our Legacy Leaflet or visit

UNLOCKING REAL LIFE STORIES OF URBAN PEOPLE es.php
REVEALING GOOD NEWS OF THE DOWN TO EARTH CHRIST
RELEASING LIFE CHANGING SKILLS AND CONFIDENCE

unlock-urban.org.uk

Registered Charity No.313454

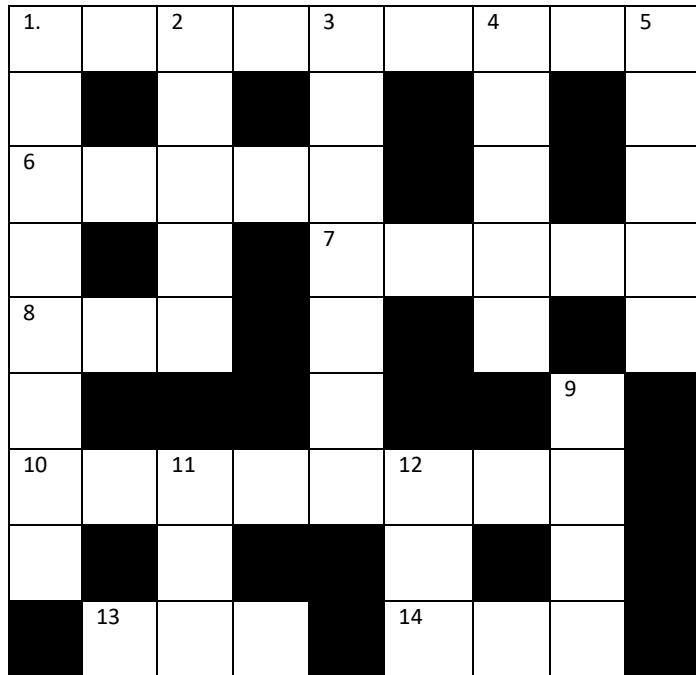
Unlock
15 Station Road
Rotherham
S60 1HN

telephone 01709 380 318

email office@unlock-urban.org.uk

JUNIOR PAGE – for the young and young at heart

An Autumn Crossword



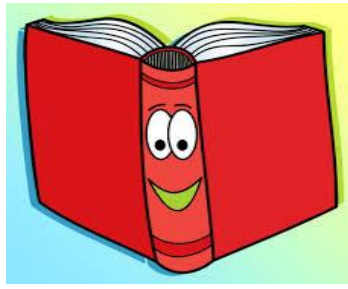
Clues

Across:

1. The present month
5. It is this numbered month of the year
7. A small tree with bright orange berries
8. Cut grass that's been dried.
10. The last month of Autumn
13. A nocturnal flying creature often roosting in a belfry
14. A backward movement of the waves

Down:

2. A flower with a face
3. Joseph's second son whose name means "to be fruitful"
4. In Autumn leaves change from green to ----- .
5. Farmers do not like to harvest when it is ----- .
9. You may catch this rowing or at the seaside
11. A word meaning 'going by way of'
12. This has been busy all summer



Story time

A poor young man traded the family's only cow for a handful of magic beans. When he went home and told his mother what he had done she said "Stupid boy! The cow gave us milk and might have brought us a good price at market, but who can believe that these beans are magic!" She then tossed the beans out of the window.

The next morning, Jack woke up to see a giant beanstalk outside his bedroom window. It stretched right up into the sky. He jumped out of bed, quickly got dressed and ran outside. His mother was still asleep, so he began to climb. Up and up he went and when he got to the top, found himself in the land where the only inhabitant was a giant who had a large store of golden coins. Jack looked around and saw that the giant was fast asleep so he filled his pockets with as many coins as he could and scrambled back down the beanstalk.

The next day, he returned to see what else he could find to take for himself, and his eyes fell on a beautiful golden harp. As he carried it to the top of the beanstalk to make his escape the harp strings made a noise, waking the slumbering giant who leapt up shouting "Fee fie foe fum" and began to give chase. Jack dropped the harp and began to climb hurriedly down the beanstalk. When he reached the bottom he grabbed an axe and chopped the beanstalk down. The giant was thrown off the beanstalk right down to the ground and was killed.

MORAL :

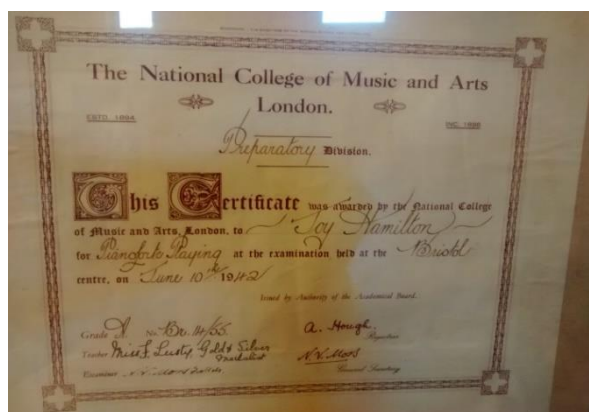
It is good and wise to look out for opportunities in life, but don't be greedy. It is easy to always want more, but stealing from others to get it is both selfish and wrong.



Gill's trills

Well! Would you have believed it? Only at Joy's funeral was the truth revealed: Joy Kendal had been a pianist and organist! She sang in our church choir back in the early 2000s, but kept her 'all round' musicianship a closely guarded secret.

Joy's son, Graham, found this certificate amongst her possessions and brought it along to her Thanksgiving Service for me to see.



The National College of Music & Arts, founded in 1894, offered graded examinations in the performance of a range of classical and popular music, as well as in music theory, composition and speech.

Moral: Don't hide **your** light under a bushel. Matthew 5:15-16

Ken's Pen

I suppose, at the age of 92, I could be called old, or even very old. I do try to live a day at a time, enjoying life, and thinking of the varied things I have done, or not done.

I came across this anonymous poem, which might make us all think.

Supposing today were your last day on earth,
The last mile of the journey you've trod,
After all of your struggles, how much are you worth?
How much could you take home to God?
Don't count your possessions your silver and gold,
For tomorrow you leave them behind.
And all that is yours to have and to hold
Are the blessings you gave to mankind.
Just what have you done as you've journeyed along,
That was really and truly worthwhile?
Do you feel you've done good and returned it for wrong?
Could you look o'er your life with a smile?
Until moving to the village of Puddletown, Dorset, I have always lived in towns. Here most people smile and greet each other as we pass in the street.

Only rarely in towns. If you are a driver, have you noticed that, if you slow down to allow a driver to enter from a side-road, fairly soon that driver will do the same to another?

I once went to a service where we all were handed a candle. In turn we used the flame from a candle on the altar table, passing on that flame to the next person, until all were lit. No candle lost anything by passing on its flame.

It costs us nothing, and we gain so much, if we are kind and understanding, and smile more. Surely, as Christians, we have so much to smile about.

.....

A man decided to go fishing in the Winter. He pitched his tent, got out his rod and started chipping away at the ice. Suddenly a booming voice rang out, "THERE ARE NO FISH UNDER THE ICE" . Startled, the man looked round, saw nobody, then started to chip at the ice again. The voice came again, "THERE ARE NO FISH UNDER THE ICE." The man, now scared, called out "God, is it you?"

The voice responded "NO, I AM THE MANAGER OF THIS ICE RINK, SPEAKING ON THE PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM."

.....

The family had been by the sea, and were ready to go home, when Mum saw Dad searching the beach, "What are you looking for?" she said. "I'm looking for a lump of toffee" Dad replied. "A piece of toffee? We can't waste time doing that." "We'll have to" he said "My false teeth are in it."

.....

Agatha Christie, who was married to an archaeologist, once said "An archaeologist is the best husband a woman can have. The older she gets, the more interesting her husband finds her."

.....

During a discussion on public speaking, one wife confessed that the finest after-dinner speech she ever heard consisted of four words "I'll wash up dear."

.....

With greetings from Puddletown to all my Merrow friends, and, of course,
KEEP SMILING
Keep smiling. Ken Mills

Pete's tweet

The Hare & the Tortoise

No this is not the name of a pub in Essex, rather a famous Aesop fable recorded around 600 BC.

The narration containing a strong moral philosophy is well known but Jane Briggs recently used it as a base for her Sunday School talk - we are all children of God (!) - followed by references to it in her later sermon. Advance another 200 years and we are in the great age of Greek mathematicians and philosophers. Pythagoras,

Euclid, Aristotle, Pericles etc. A long debate about this story and one or two others puzzled the hierarchy and was only solved when giants, not Goliath, such as Newton, Leibniz and Descartes came along during late 16th and 17th century.

The idea was that assuming the hare effectively ran at a constant speed over a known distance it would cover half the race in a specific time. It would then cover half the remaining distance in a commensurate, uniform calculation. This process was argued for each and every half the distance left. It sounds simple but the hare never reaches the finish line. It inevitably approaches nearer and nearer to it. This is all now obvious to us but the Greeks could not resolve a contradiction based on mathematics versus completed physical energy.

Without plunging into advanced applied sciences, the race conundrum provided the beginnings of mathematical calculus developed during the great Reformation. It broadly concerned the problem of an infinite solution within a confined space. We owe a lot to those heady days of Greek expansion.

Quote: *The simplest questions are the hardest to answer.* Northrop Frye
Aesop: *Greek author of fables.* Ref: **Mathematics for the Million.** Lancelot Hogben 1968, (Copyright free)

JULIE'S NEWS



POETRY CORNER

Tempest by Peter Youngs

The sky had been blue on a fine summer day
But the sun hid its face as black clouds rose
Ever higher in the west like anvils which may
Be beaten in a gathering storm. Thunder's blows
Reverberated across the sky.

Ragged clouds were driven across the tortured sky
As lighting flashed from cloud to cloud or struck
The ground; trees were hit and torn apart showing why
It is dangerous to stand beneath a tree and bad luck
To do so in a storm.

Then the clouds were free to release the torrents of rain
They had been holding. It fell incessantly mixed with hail,
Flooding the gardens and roads where an occasional drain
Was overwhelmed. The clouds passed over, and without fail
The rain stopped.

It was
Enough
That the tempest passed over
And did not linger
Until it's thunderous
Echoes
Died away.

2.8.24

SCAMS

We all want to give and receive love, unfortunately scammers understand this
Only too well

Holiday scams - book through known agencies.

Bookings for private accommodation may be suspect, such as Air B&B
bookings and villas. Thesesometimes do not actually exist.

Scam texts & Emails from criminals often claim they need money for
emergency medical care, or to pay for transport costs to get home if they are
overseas.

These can claim to be from relatives or close friends whose phones are stolen or
broken. These SCAMS are getting more common.

Fraudsters are also likely to exploit the concerns around gas prices in various
ways, eg.

- Knocking on your door offering scam deals,
- phone calls around new gas takeovers or
- phishing emails and texts asking you to update personal and/or financial
information.

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

If you are asked for personal details, especially bank details, DO NOT give
them.

Lloyds Bank estimates that more than £1 million could have been lost in the UK
to fraudsters selling fake Taylor Swift tickets.

The warning comes after the bank received over 600 scam reports from its
customers.

To avoid ticket scams:

Stick to official retailers and competitions.

Be wary of buying tickets from sellers on social media as many ticket scams
begin on these platforms.

Be suspicious of too good to be true prices.

Don't pay via bank transfer as you'll have a hard time being reimbursed if you
do.

Prayers worth sharing



Dear Lord

Thank you for this new month and all you have seen us through so far this year.

We ask for your blessing on this month.

May we feel your nearness, joy, and peace in all that lies ahead.

May we walk gently on the earth and be a channel for nurture and healing.

We thank you in advance for meeting our needs
and for your strength that will sustain us.

We commit this new month to you and ask you to lead and guide us
that we may glorify you.

We ask these things in Jesus' name.

Amen

Lord of the *Harvest*, thank you for your generosity to us.

As we celebrate this season of thanksgiving we give thanks for all your
blessings of food, provision and nourishment.

Please grow in us a harvest for the world.

Sow a seed of hope within our souls Lord, that we might yield goodness,
patience and kindness in abundance.

Sow a seed of peace in our lives Lord, that we might bear the fruits of
forgiveness, compassion and righteousness.

Sow a seed of love in our hearts Lord, that others would reap the blessings of
family, friendship and community.

May each seed of hope, peace and love grow within us into a harvest
that can be feasted on by all.

Amen.