

THE VOICE

MERROW METHODIST CHURCH MAGAZINE



OCTOBER 2024

MESSAGE FROM THE MANSE - October

An open letter from our minister the Rev. George Quarm

My Sabbatical Announcement and Plans

Dear Beloved Congregation,

I greet you with joy and gratitude as we approach the final months of this year. It is with a mix of anticipation and reflection that I share the news of my sabbatical.

From October to the end of December 2024, I will step away from my pastoral duties to embark on a season of rest, renewal, and deeper exploration. I would be travelling to Ghana, and be in Ghana 80% of my time and **probably after my return**, travel to Belfast, and The Netherlands.

Purpose of the Sabbatical:

During this sacred time, I seek to recharge my spirit, reconnect with God, and gain fresh insights. It is not merely a leave of absence but an intentional journey toward greater alignment with God's purposes for our church family.

What I would be Doing:

Spiritual Renewal: I plan to engage in prayer, meditation, and study. My heart longs to draw closer to the Source of my calling.

Family and Friends: I will spend quality time with loved ones, cherishing moments that often elude our busy lives.

Exploration: Together with you, I invite exploration. Let us delve into the richness of Sabbath-keeping, seeking wisdom from Scripture and shared experiences.

Church Benefits: My sabbatical is not only for personal growth but also for our collective well-being. I hope to return with fresh insights to enrich our worship, teaching, and community life.

How You Can Participate:

Prayer: Please uphold me and family in your prayers during this dispensation. Pray for my discernment, rest, and encounters with God.

Engagement: Attend worship services led by guest preachers. Our church life continues, and your presence matters. Last not the least, kindly pray for my family especially Ama, as she would also be busy with her own activities and connecting with our young men.

Expectation: Anticipate my return, when I will share discoveries, sermons, and renewed energy

May this three months' time of being away be a time of grace, both for me and for our congregations. As we journey together, let us embrace the gift of Sabbath—a rhythm woven into creation by our loving God.

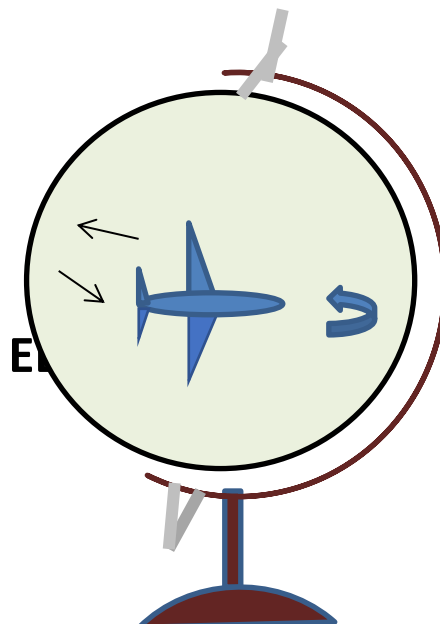
Sabbatical is a gift. I wish to use it wisely! Till we meet again, doing what I love to do, to serve and lead you in worship with you.

God bless. Thank you.

With love and anticipation,

Yours Devotedly,

Rev U. George Quarm.





Autumn.

The sounds of Autumn linger in our ears;
The crunching underfoot of fallen leaves,
Geese, flying south, loud honking overhead,
Though bats hang silently in cooling eaves;
The last sweet chirruping of Cricket's song,
As rising winds blow whistling through the trees,
Long gone the gentle rustling as we pass
Of leaves a-tremble in the Summer breeze.
All these are music to the listening ear;
The harmonies of nature ebb and flow,
To make a symphony of God's design;
Music of heav'n, as seasons come and go.

Any items for inclusion in the **NOVEMBER** issue of "The Voice" should be sent to me by: **OCTOBER 22nd 2024**

via email: gillianbrierley13@gmail.com

by hand

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

USEFUL ADDRESSES

SUPERINTENDENT MINISTER

REV. DR. PAUL GLASS

01483 575667

revpaulglass@gmail.com

MINISTER: (on Sabbatical for 3 months from 1st October)

REV. GEORGE QUARM

01483 575432

quarmenchill@btinternet.com (please note new email address)

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 September will be:

ANN CARPENTER

01483 535282

EDITOR – ‘The Voice’

GILLIAN BRIERLEY

01483 531191

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, 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.*

Please ensure that any submissions for “The Voice” are OUT OF COPYRIGHT; text and photographs.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OCTOBER

Stewards for Sunday worship:

Date	Time	Vestry Steward	Worship leader	PA/AV	Door Stewards
Oct. 6 th	10.30 HC	Hugh Bradley		Jane Vinall	Wendy Bradley Jan Marshall
Oct.13 th	10.30 Bible Sunday	Joan Wells	Doreen Siame	Glenys Magill	Julie Wallis Ruth McCulloch
Oct 20 th	10.30	Suzanne Burnham	Gillian Varley	Jane Vinall	Wendy Bradley Maggie Woolcock
Oct.27 th	10.30	Iris Walker		Cari Rayner	Joyce Goodall Maggie Woolcock

Communion stewards:

October 6 th 10.30am	<u>Preparation</u> Doreen Siame & Suzanne Burnham	<u>Assisting</u> Julie Wallis
------------------------------------	--	----------------------------------

Flower Rota:

October 6 th	Jan Kemp
October 13 th	Cari Rayner
October 20 th	Doreen Siame
October 27 th	Ruth McCulloch

Sunday Morning Coffee – Rota

Pauline Daniels and Sheila Shackleton	6 th Oct
Joan Wells and Jan Walker.	13 th Oct
Julie Wallis and Helen Belsham	20 th Oct
Gill Vinall and Jan Kemp.	27 th Oct

Charity Support

6th Oct	MHA
13th Oct	Action For Children
20th Oct	Bible Society.
27th Oct.	Embrace the Middle East.

Women's Fellowship

Monday 7th October 2.30pm

AGM

Bring & Buy with tea and cake

Morning Bible Study

On Tuesdays October 1st & 29th

At Lavender Cottage,

Marlyns Drive, Burpham

Details from Gillian Varley

Continuing our study of Paul's letter to the Romans from Ch.6

Evening Bible Study

Thursday 17th October

At Merrow Methodist Church

Details from Julie Wallis

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.

please leave any donations in the foyer as usual and I can pass them on.

Thank you

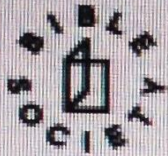
Ruth McCulloch

Do you practice the art of Calligraphy?

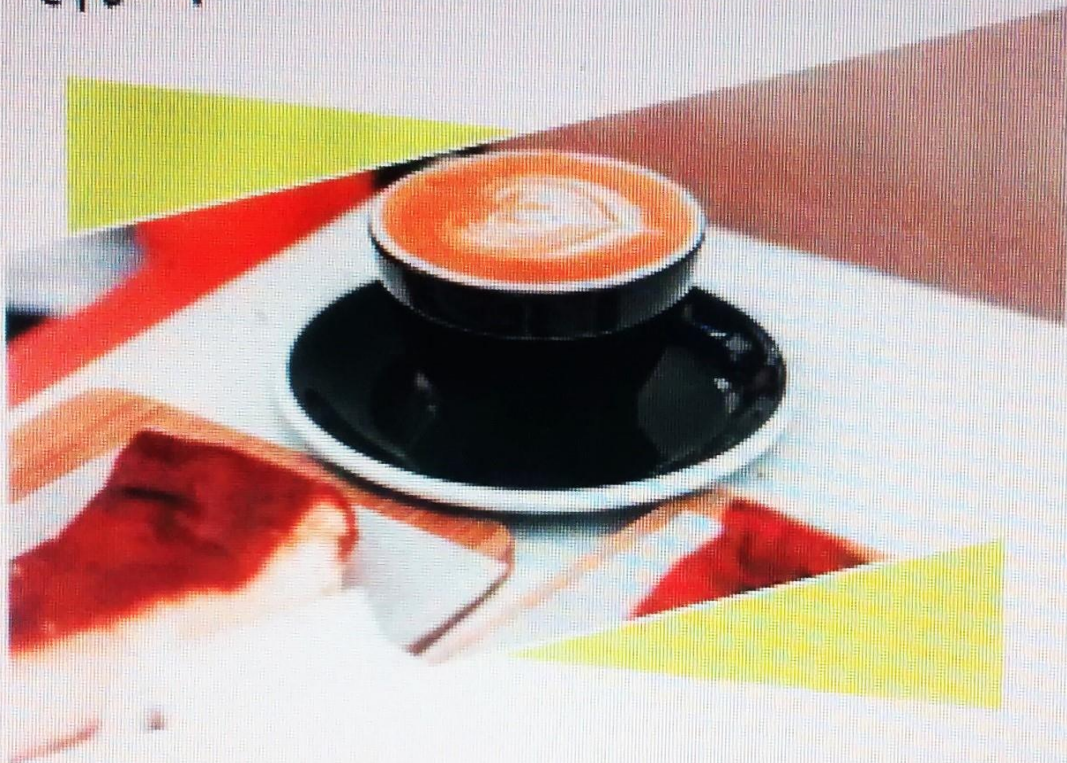
*We are looking for someone to inscribe the names of members
who have died, in the Remembrance Book.*

If you, or someone you know could help in this way
please get in touch with me

Gillian Varley



**Merrow
Methodist Church**



Coffee Morning

COME AND JOIN US FOR COFFEE/ TEA AND
HOMEMADE CAKES AND ENJOY THE CHATTER

Thursday 10 October 2024
10.30 am until 12 noon

**Merrow Methodist
Church, Bushy Hill Drive,
Guildford GU1 2SH**

www.wesleyan.org.uk | Registered charity 232779 | Photo: Janna Davel UNSPLASHED



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP



MONDAY 4th NOVEMBER

at 2.30pm

HATS OFF!

Speaker: couture milliner
Sophie Fryer will talk about her
experience of making hats for a
wide range of clients, and
theatrical hats for well-known
shows. Come along and try
some on.

This meeting has been arranged
in memory of our dear friend
Joy Kendal.

LOOKING BACK AT SEPTEMBER



As you may be aware, the Merrow Community Garden was awarded a Squire's ***Love Where You Live*** award earlier in the year.

We were delighted that Chris Price, Manager of the West Horsley branch of Squire's and Ben (the photographer) were able to visit the garden on Thursday 29th August to present us with a plaque, and were very pleased that so many people came along to mark the occasion.



The award was £500 worth of Squire's gift vouchers which have been spent on

the taller raised bed, plants for the all the raised beds and compost. The remainder will be spent on plants and compost as we restock over the coming months.



We are always keen to have your ideas on how the garden might develop and have welcomed the help that has been offered so far - with donations of plants, planting and watering.

Merrow Community Gardeners



merrowcommunitygarden@gmail.com 01483 823742

JUNIOR PAGE – for the young and young at heart
 October Wordsearch

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

Words to find:

Acorn; Autumn; Barn; Bounty; Crunch; Halfterm; Halloween;
 Harvest; Heron; Hibernate; Leaves; Mist; Oak; Rain; Ripe;
 Squirrel; Wind.

What do all the following words have in common? (answer on last page)

Probing

Lantern

Bowls

Scarecrow

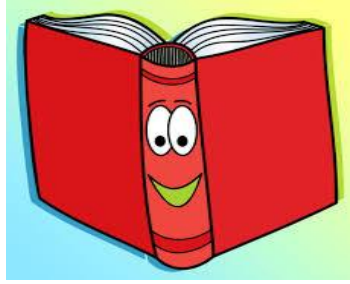
Regretful

Scooter

Femur

Mongoose

Stitch



Story time

The king's question or The wise answer

One day, a rich king asked a question in his court that left everyone in the courtroom puzzled. He left them to try to figure out the answer and when he returned, the courtiers were still deep in thought. The king asked what the matter was and they just repeated the question to him. The question was, "How many crows are there in the city?"

One young man immediately stepped forward and going up to Akbar, announced the answer. He said "there are twenty-one thousand, five hundred and twenty-three crows in the city."

When asked how he knew, the young man replied, "Ask your most trusted servants to go out and count the number of crows. If there are more, then the relatives of the crows must be visiting them from nearby cities. If there are fewer, then the crows from our city must be visiting their relatives who live outside the city."

Amazed and delighted with the answer, the king presented the clever young man with a ruby and pearl chain of great worth.

Moral of the Story

Having an explanation for your answer is just as important as having an answer.

Gill's trills



The October birth flowers are marigold and cosmos. With their beautiful autumnal colours and spicy scent, marigolds are extremely fitting for those celebrating their birthday in October and a favourite of many gardeners.

Symbolising peace, tranquillity and harmony, Cosmos flowers come in all kinds of colours like orange, pink, white, red and purple. So you can really spruce up an October birthday flower bouquet with these beauties! Cosmos originated in Mexico, where Spanish priests cultivated them in their mission gardens. They named the flower as cosmos is the Greek word for order, and the flower's petals were all evenly placed and in perfect order.



October is another month where there are actually two birth flowers! Marigolds are the second flower associated with October. These popular flowers also have an interesting history behind them. They were originally discovered by the Aztec's who absolutely loved them and considered them to be a sacred flower because of their medicinal properties. Then, they were brought over to Europe by Spanish explorers and eventually, over the next hundred years or so, they became well-known and loved worldwide. Did you know how marigolds got their name? Well, this pretty flower was actually named after the Virgin Mary. Back in the day, people would bring these flowers instead of coins as an offering to Mary's altar and would call them 'Mary's gold' which then evolved into marigold. Marigolds are a very sturdy flower, surviving and thriving all throughout autumn no matter the weather conditions. Because of this, they have a meaning of stubbornness and determination. And, with how bright and colourful they are, they also symbolise warmth, passion and creativity.

Ken's Pen

I probably watch too much tv, but I do enjoy nature programmes. The latest photography techniques enable us to see so much more than ever. It is interesting and often amusing watching animals. birds, and even fish teach their offspring how to cope: to hunt for food, store food, crack open nuts, how to hide from predators, and so on.

To succeed in life, the little ones must have the best training. Our children and grand-children copy and learn from us, but we also are watched by those around us, at work, school, play, or in the shop or street. Many will know we are Christians. Do we, by our actions, talk, or the way we look, enable those who notice us want to know why we are "different". We should be, for we have Jesus as our friend and saviour. Let's not let Him down.

.....

A preacher who was noted for long-winded sermons told a member that on the following Sunday he was going to preach on the milk of human kindness. "Well" the member said, "I hope it will be in the condensed form."

.....

A bride had just married an army sergeant. As they walked down the aisle together, she hoped for a word or two of love from her new husband. He whispered "You're out of step."

.....

My greetings to you all from Puddletown. Keep smiling. Ken Mills

.....

JULIE'S NEWS

Ffald y Brenin



Ffald y Brenin is a Christian retreat Centre and House of Prayer located in the Presili valley near Fishguard, West Wales. John and I had the privilege of going 'on retreat' here for 4 days in July 24.

Neither John or I had ever done a retreat before so I was a little uncertain how it would go. As there would be no wifi or internet access whatsoever, I was also very uncertain how John would 'take' to it given that he is very addicted to gadgets. As it was John that had requested going – and I had received several nudges from the Lord – I agreed to give it a go. We stocked up on plenty of Christian books (*I took 8, John took 7. We bought 2 each whilst there and no – we didn't finish them all!*) and prepared to discover what the Lord would 'do with us'

It is not a 'led retreat'. The place has a variety of rooms which you can book (cottages, double and single rooms). The rooms have catering facilities as it is self-catering. There are group prayer sessions in the morning and evening where the hosts and all guests come together. During this time, prayers and hymns are sung as people felt led. Whilst we were there, one group were led to sing Psalm 23 in the Shona language. It felt as if we had entered heaven. The rest of the time, you are free to walk the hills, spend time in the chapel, read in your room or the common rooms, or simply relax.

Whilst there, I started to discover 'things happening' that I couldn't quite explain. On the Sunday evening (around 7.30pm), I was in the common room reading the Bible, I looked out – and noticed one quarter of a rainbow. It was completely unexpected as it wasn't normal conditions for a rainbow and it wasn't a full one. Whilst I was watching, I could literally see that section only forming and constructing. 5 minutes later – it had all gone.

During the night, I woke singing a hymn. I would hum the first line then would sing 'the glory of the risen Lord'. I had no idea what the hymn was – but it went on all night – I just had to go 'with it'. I asked John if he knew what it was and he said 'All Heaven declares'. I thought – 'OK – wonder why I was singing that'. At the prayer meeting, the leader said that he had had the first hymn planned but on the way in, he was led to change it to hymn 10. When we opened the book to Hymn 10 – it was 'All Heaven declares'.

All the above may seem very interesting – but the greatest miracle (and to me – it is a miracle) is that the Lord intervened and has worked wonders with regards my migraines. As many will know, I have suffered greatly with migraines for the last 30 years. Until I got treated with Botox injections, I was having severe migraines every day – hence my having to give up full time work! 10 years ago, I got Botox injections, which did reduce the migraines down to 8 to 10 a month and the severity down to mild/moderate – but still has an impact.

Since, I have been to Ffald y Brenin, the number of migraines I have had is on single figures. The couple I have had have been so mild that I have not really noticed them. I haven't had to order my usual triptan tablets for months as I haven't been using them (and normally I'm ordering them all the time!).

As part of my Botox treatment, I have to keep a headache diary. The Nurse commented that my last diary was unusual in that it showed a complete drop off in headaches from July onwards – when the number of headaches should have been increasing due to the Botox wearing off! She asked if I knew the cause and I could only say 'Ffald y Brenin and the Lord!'

I would just like to say that I wasn't certain if I fully believed if miracles still happened – I do now! I also perhaps have an understanding of how some of the people who were recipients of Jesus' healings felt afterwards. Yes, I am very happy – but also very confused. Ultimately though – I am thanking the Lord!

Julie Wallis

The church poster for this month



POETRY CORNER

Autumn Fires - **Robert Louis Stevenson** (1850-1894)

In the other gardens
And all up in the vale,
From the autumn bonfires
See the smoke trail!

Pleasant summer over,
And all the summer flowers,
The red fire blazes,
The grey smoke towers.

Sing a song of seasons!
Something bright in all!
Flowers in the summer,
Fires in the fall!

An October Garden - **Christina Rossetti** (1830 –1894)

In my Autumn garden I was fain
To mourn among my scattered roses;
Alas for that last rosebud which uncloses
To Autumn's languid sun and rain
When all the world is on the wane!
Which has not felt the sweet constraint of June,
Nor heard the nightingale in tune.

Broad-faced asters by my garden walk,
You are but coarse compared with roses:
More choice, more dear that rosebud which uncloses,
Faint-scented, pinched, upon its stalk,
That least and last which cold winds balk;
A rose it is though least and last of all,
A rose to me though at the fall.

SCAMS

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

Romance scams involve people being duped into sending money to criminals who go to great lengths to gain their trust and convince them that they are in a genuine relationship.

They can build up a relationship over many weeks, even months, before beginning to manipulate, persuade and exploit so that requests for money do not raise alarm bells.

These requests might be highly emotive, such as criminals claiming they need money for emergency medical care, or to pay for transport costs to visit the victim if they are overseas.

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

Thank you Lord for the gifts of Autumn;

You have blessed us with the changing of the seasons.

You have blessed us with the changing of the seasons.

Remind us to take time to rest.

Remind us of the wonder of your creation.

Remind us that it is you who give us the breath of life.

.....

The Native American prayer for autumn?

Earth teach me acceptance ~ as the leaves that die each fall.

Earth teach me renewal ~ as the seed that rises in the spring.

Earth teach me to forget myself ~ as melted snow forgets its life.

Earth teach me to remember kindness ~ as dry fields weep with rain.

Amen

.....

Answer from Junior Page: The words all contain the name of a bird