

THE VOICE

MERROW METHODIST CHURCH MAGAZINE



May 2023

SPRING REFLECTION from the Manse.

Dear Church Family,

I suppose the best kind of spring morning is the best weather God has to offer.

**Don't wait for someone to bring you flowers. Plant your own garden and
decorate your own soul. Luther Burbank**

**The flowers of late winter and early spring occupy places in our hearts well out
of proportion to their size. Gertrude Wister**

The deep roots never doubt spring will come. Marty Rubin

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.”

Matthew 13:44

Imagine for a minute that a man in a black suit stepped out of a limousine. He says “You can have any one thing you want in the world.”

You want to live somewhere else? Consider it done.

You want the fastest car on the planet? Not a problem.

You want to see your favourite sports team win a championship? Mission complete.

Our minds race as we think of the one thing we want most.

But wait, there's a catch... The mystery man says, “But, to have this thing, you must sell everything you have and give it to me.”

You might have the fastest car, but you have nowhere to live. You might have the nicest house on the street, but you have no car to drive or money for furniture. This thing we wanted so dearly suddenly doesn't look so good.

Jesus gives us a parable of a man that wanted something so bad, it was worth selling everything for and brought him great joy. He called it the “kingdom of heaven.”

Right after this parable he gives another example of a man who did the very same thing. Obviously, the kingdom of heaven is and should be important to us as Christians as it was to these men Jesus told us about.

We read what the kingdom of heaven is in the book of Romans:

“For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of

righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.” (Romans 14:17 ESV).

The Apostle Paul tells us that he has counted everything he has gained as loss in order to gain knowing Christ (Philippians 3:7-8). This is what the kingdom of heaven is, knowing Christ and his ruling our lives.

As you read the parable and the words of Paul, do they resonate in your heart? Can you say I am willing to give up all that I have to know Christ and be a part of His kingdom?

Be challenged to live for the kingdom.

Trusting the Lord for our future. Indeed, "because He lives we can face tomorrow. Because He lives all fear is gone, because I know He holds the future, and life is worth the living, just because He lives" - Bill Gaither

Enjoy the Spring Season.

God bless our church.

Yours devotedly,

George



EDITORIAL NOTE



MAY

A month when hawthorn blossom bends the bough,
Its heady perfume heavy in the air;
When lily of the valley's fragrant bells
Shake in the breeze, so delicate and fair.

The sparrows chatter, swallows swoop and soar,
And tiny wrens may catch you unawares
Darting and shyly hiding, quickly gone.
Robins and blackbirds hop around in pairs.

So look around at nature's bounteous gifts;
Each butterfly, the bird's sweet roundelay:
Heaven's treasure, poured into our waiting hands
By God who loves us, come what may, in May.

or as The Song of Solomon puts it ...

The winter is past; the rains are over and gone.
Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come, the cooing of
doves is heard in our land.
The fig tree forms its early fruit; the blossoming vines spread their
fragrance.

Any items for inclusion in the **June** issue of "The Voice" should be sent to me

by: **May 24th 2023**

via email: gillianbrierley13@gmail.com

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

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN APRIL

Stewards for Sunday worship

Date	Time		Worship Leader	P/A & AV	Door Stewards
May 7th	10.30 am HC	Joan Wells	Doreen Siame	Julie and John Wallis	Sheila Shackleton Joyce Goodall
May 14th	10.30am	Iris Walker		Cari Rayner	Wendy Bradley Ruth McCulloch
	6.30 pm	Helen Belsham		Glenys Magill	
May 21st	10.30am	Suzanne Burnham	Gillian Varley	Jane Vinall	Sheila Shackleton Julie Wallis
	6.30pm	Joan Wells		Glenys Magill	
May 28th	10.30am	Iris Walker		Cari Rayner	Margaret Hyam Maggie Woolcock

Communion stewards:

May 7th Doreen Siame & Glenys Magill

May 21st Glenys Magill

Junior Church:

May 14th & 28th

Flower Rota:

May 7th Suzanne Burnham

14th Iris Walker

21st Pauline Daniels

28th Wendy Bradley

Organ Rota:

Gillian Brierley: May 7th; 21st 10.30am & 6.30pm

Joan Tabraham: May 14th 10.30am & 6.30pm; May 28th

Women's Fellowship

Monday May 1st 2.30 pm

Celebration of King Charles 111 and Queen Camilla's Coronation.

Remembering Queen Elizabeth's Coronation 1953.

With tea and cake

Please bring any memorabilia

All are welcome

Suzanne

Bible Study

See Gillian Varley for details..
On Tuesdays May 9th & 23rd at 11.00am
Continuing our studies on 'The Holy Spirit'

Evening Bible Study – Thursday 18th May 7.30pm at the Church.

Outlet

Due to the two Bank Holidays and Coronation in May, Outlet will be on
Monday 15th May
7.30 for refreshments and 8pm start.
Colin Brice will speak
Eden People Community Wellbeing & Spirituality

This will be our last meeting before our AGM in June so please have a think about ideas for speakers next year and we would love to have somebody else to join our planning committee!

Number 5 and Mulberry House

Thank you for all your generous donations for Number 5 and Mulberry house. They are very appreciative of the support we give to them.

Number 5 specifically asked for Biological washing powder when I dropped donations off this week so please leave any donations in the foyer as usual and I can pass them on.

Thank you
Ruth McCulloch

New Weekly Coffee Morning

Thursdays 10.30 - 11.45

We now have a weekly coffee morning on a Thursday instead of Warm Space. if you are free, do drop in for a drink and a chat with others from the church and local community.

Every so often we will have a charity coffee morning, next one on 11th May, which will supersede the weekly coffee morning.

CHRISTIAN AID **Coffee Morning**

10.30 am -Thursday 11th May

Dates for your diary

Together We Can

Wednesday afternoons in May

This will continue to run at MMC on Wednesday afternoons until 31 May with the hope that we will be able to repeat it again in the autumn.

Each session has a particular focus such as keeping safe at home, eating healthily on a budget, improving IT skills etc. with plenty of time for refreshments and getting to know each other.

To keep this course running we will need additional volunteers on a regular or occasional basis to help with welcoming guests, serving refreshments or setting up the room. Please have a word with Helen if you're able to help in this way. Or you might like to come along yourself or suggest it to a friend/neighbour?

Aldersgate Day, or Wesley Day,

Observed on 24 May.

It recalls the day in 1738 when Anglican priest, John Wesley, reluctantly attended a group meeting that evening in a Moravian meeting house (the Fetter Lane Society) on Aldersgate Street in London in Aldersgate, London. It was there, while someone was reading from Martin Luther's Preface to the Epistle to the Romans, that he felt that his heart was "strangely warmed." He describes it as follows:

"I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone, for salvation; and an assurance was given me that he had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death."

This was the pivotal event in Wesley's life that ultimately led to the development of the Methodist movement in Britain and America.

An enthusiastic supporter of Methodist heritage and instigator of the Aldersgate John Wesley Flame Memorial, (erected in 1981 at high-walk level, in modern Nettleton Court) was **Richard Martin Phillips Ludlow** (1931-2004)

Born into a staunchly Methodist family, Martin was educated at The Leys School and, after his National Service, at King's College, London, where he studied law. The London Chamber of Commerce and Industry awarded him a Fellowship and he was also made a Freeman of the City of London.

A member at Putney Methodist Church and a local preacher for 45 years, he was actively involved with Wesley's Chapel.

He instigated the Aldersgate John Wesley Flame Memorial and its erection in 1981 at high-walk level, in modern Nettleton Court, and the replica statue of Wesley in the grounds of St. Paul's Cathedral.

The Flame Memorial marks as closely as possible the street level location of the original conversion place of John Wesley in old Nettleton Court in eighteenth century London.

Martin was also the inspiration behind the Charles Wesley Hymn Choir of which our editor, Gillian, was director.

Quilters Exhibition

This year the Guildford Quilters will be holding their 3 yearly exhibition at Place Farm Barn. (See poster on next page)

For those who went 3 years ago in Holy Trinity Church in the High street and 6 years ago in Clandon House, it was an opportunity not to be missed to see the most exquisite quilts hanging from the ceilings of these historic buildings.

The quilts escaped the fire in Clandon House two days before the fire broke out. So, as soon as we had a safe fortnight, in Holy Trinity in 2020, we were planning where to exhibit in 2023.

It is rare to meet an idle quilter so off we went to buy fabric for producing quilts. It was just at the beginning of the Covid period and we were not able to have our monthly meetings. Yet, on the quiet, we have produced a stunning collection which will be on display from 10-15 May.

Hopefully it will wet your appetite to have a go at this wonderful art of playing with fabric and designs. There will be demonstrations, traders tables to buy your needles and everything a starter needs..... raffles and Tombola, cushions and handmade gifts , books for beginners and for the advanced. The quilts will be hanging on walls in a very old building. The first resident moved in around 1425.



There is a special team led by Doreen Plumage, who founded The Guildford Quilters, over 40 years ago. They will hang the quilts on poles and frames according to colour, size and design. Stewards are walking around to explain how the quilts have been made.

When your eyes are completely absorbed by the colours and designs, do give them a rest by walking in the beautifully designed gardens, and have a rest in the tearoom.

Free entrance.

Enjoy your day!!

For more information contact Margriet Rasker G. 808362 mob.07447 190 68

Easter reflections

'Though Mary's heart was pierced by a sword
Her loss was victory – Our risen Lord.'



Our Easter cross
and
Easter flower display



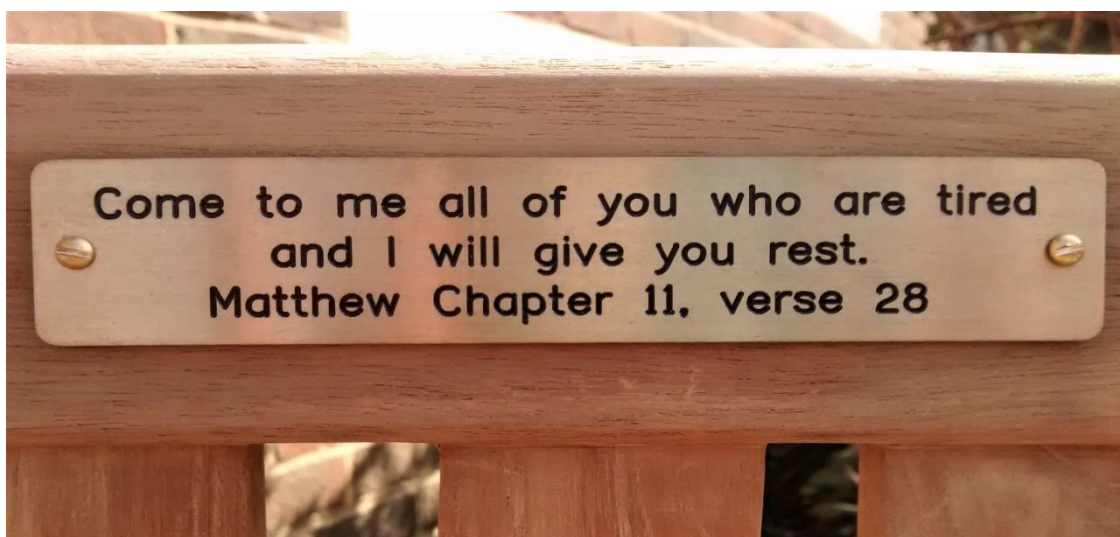
Catherine Winder gave us this beautiful 'Easter garden tomb' which was displayed in the church foyer

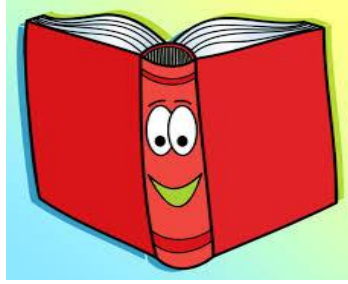


After a joyous Easter morning service George dedicated two benches. The first is in the back garden of the church and was presented by the Vinall family in memory of Roy, who served our church and his God so faithfully.



Bench number 2 is in front of the church for the use of all who pass by,
and was presented
by Sheila Shackleton





Story time

The Leap at Rhodes

Once, there was a man who visited foreign lands. When he returned, all he could talk about was the wonderful adventures he had and the great deeds he had done.

One of the feats he told about was a leap he had made in Greece, in a city called Rhodes.



“The leap was so great,” the man boasted, “No other man can make such a leap. Many persons in Rhodes saw me and can prove I am telling the truth.”

“No need for witnesses,” said one who was listening. “Imagine that this city is Rhodes, now show how far you can jump.”

The Moral

It’s the deeds that count, not the boasting words.

JUNIOR PAGE – for the young and young at heart – May 2023

An animal story and quiz

This story is about people and places, but animals, insects, birds and fish can be found hidden away if you search for them. There is at least one in every line. How many can you find?

Once upon a time a rabbi thought it would be a good idea to go and meet all the people who lived in his village. He set off and as he walked slowly along he met two more rabbis on the way so they walked together. They passed a field full of ripe wheat and plucked a few heads to share between them. They scattered the chaff on the ground and walked on past a scarecrow wearing an old hat and tattered coat. They came to a big house and on the garden wall a magpie preened her feathers.

They looked over the wall and noticed a boy with a pen in his hand, scowling down at a sketch pad.. “Let’s go at once and see what he is drawing,” one rabbi said to the others. “See that gap, I guess we could squeeze bravely through there to get in. Go when I give the sign; at once!” “ Are you sure that’s the best rout?” said one, but they decided to try it. The boy seemed to be writing in code. He stopped when he saw the men. “Do go on,” they said. “No” he replied “ I’m writing a story and I want to surprise my mother with it. “I’ll give it to her but I mean to keep the author secret.” “O, admirable” chorused the rabbis, and went on their way.

A wind blew up and they walked faster and faster. “Never have I walked so quickly, we really must slow, or my lungs will burst,” said one. “Burst! O a truer word never was spoken” said another, “I was puffing, but this has been such an enjoyable walk, it tends to make this the best way of meeting people. In fact it was perfect, so let’s do it again soon, though I wish rewards were in order!”

There are 16 animals, 6 birds, 5 insects and 3 fish

(The answers are on the final page)

Gill's trills



May has two birth flowers – the Hawthorn flower is a symbol of hope, while the Lily-of-the-Valley represents the return of happiness and sweetness.

Did you know that in the U.K., May is National Pet Month and National Smile Month?

If the first of May is on a [Friday](#), and the 31st of May is on a [Sunday](#), no other months in the year will start or end on a Friday or a [Sunday](#)!

It was called Tri-Milchi by the Anglo Saxons for the knowledge that lush, green grass led to milking cows three times a day!

Ken's Pen

When I worked in Oxford, I dropped in to Keble College and looked at the famous painting by Holman Hunt , The light of the world. It shows Jesus knocking at the door of a cottage, & holding a lantern.

Critics told the artist that he had forgotten to put a handle on the door. But it was done deliberately. Jesus will never force himself into our lives. He offers to enter, to guide and help us, but it up to us to “open the door” and welcome Him in.

.....

If you look at your passport photo, you will agree that you need the holiday

.....

One teenage girl to another...”I’ll never understand men, even if I live to be 20”.

.....

A minister was leading a discussion at a country church. He asked “What is the opposite of sadness?” “Joy” someone replied. “Good ; and the opposite of woe?”. A member who had a few horses said “ I guess it must be ‘Giddy up.’ “

.....

Rosemary and I hope to celebrate our 70th Wedding Anniversary on May 23rd, I shall be arranging for Rosemary’s hair to be done as a present. I have asked the hairdresser to use two long strands of hair and then she will be PLATINUM!

With greetings from Puddletown, Ken Mills

Walker's talk

IDIOSYNCRASIES OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Eye have a spell ling chequer
It came with my pea sea
It plainly marques four my revue
Miss steaks eye kin knot sea

Eye tapa quay and type a word
And weight four it two say
Weather eye am wrong oar write
It shows me strait a weigh

As soon as a mist ache is maid
It nose bee fore two long
And eye can putt the error write
It's rare lea ever wrong

Eye have run this poem threw it
I am shore your pleased two no
It's letter perfect awl the weigh
My chequer tolled me sew

PRISON QUARTET

I was a guest preacher at a rural Church and was told that a prison quartet would be singing in the service. I wasn't aware there was a prison in the vicinity but looked forward to hearing them. When four members of the Church approached the front I was puzzled. Then the choir master introduced them. "This is our prison quartet," he said with a grin, "always behind a few bars and looking in vain for the key."

TECHIE TROUBLE

The preacher had technical problems with the sound system one Sunday. Instead of starting the service with his usual "The lord be with you," he said, "There's something wrong with the microphone." Not hearing this, the congregation responded, "And also with you."

POETRY CORNER

May and the Poets – Leigh Hunt

There is May in books forever;
May will part from Spenser never;
May's in Milton, May's in Prior,
May's in Chaucer, Thomson, Dyer;
May's in all the Italian books:—
She has old and modern nooks,
Where she sleeps with nymphs and elves,
In happy places they call shelves,
And will rise and dress your rooms
With a drapery thick with blooms.
Come, ye rains, then if ye will,
May's at home, and with me still;
But come rather, thou, good weather,
And find us in the fields together.

The First of May - Annette Wynne

If I could stay up late no doubt
I'd catch the buds just bursting out;
And up from every hidden root
Would jump a tiny slender shoot;
I wonder how seeds learn the way,
They always know the very day –
The pretty, happy first of May;
If I could stay up then, no doubt
I'd catch the buds just bursting out.



From My April Window

A tree, with boughs out-spread, is veiled in green;
Once skeletal against a wintry sky,
But now, new life, as tender leaves unfurl
To warm the soul and captivate the eye.

The squirrels chase and leap from branch to branch,
Now one, now two, now three, they sport and play
Whilst portly pigeons perch and peck and preen.
Magpies and crows descend, but do not stay.

With graceful flight they glide upon the air.
The currents bear them on to sites unseen.
Spring's treasury, to greet my wak'ning eye
All in one tree, with boughs new-veiled in green.



SCAMS

ADVERTS

Fraudsters are buying up adverts that appear at the top of search results when shoppers look up popular retailers on Google.

Recently Which? have seen examples of dodgy ads when searching for Next, TK Maxx and Zara.

Loft insulation scam calls

We've had reports of someone claiming to be from Surrey County Council.

They say that they are a conservation officer and try to sell you loft insulation.

Local Authorities do not do this, please hang up!

PHONE COMPANIES

According to experts at secure card payments provider, [Dojo](#), the most recent phone bill scam includes a range of legitimate-looking communications through email, text and social media, notifying consumers and businesses that they can benefit from reduced phone bill charges as part of a monthly contract. The scam will then ask for card details to receive the discounted phone bill. "Having acquired the stolen card details, scammers are then using them to make lavish online purchases, and empty bank accounts, causing a huge financial and psychological impact on victims.

NB

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

Prayers worth sharing



Lord our God, give us your Spirit, we pray,
that we may learn to understand what we are
and what tasks you have set for us.

We thank you for all the blessings you bestow on us;
that you are the way, the truth and the life.

Grant that we and all your children everywhere
may come closer
to knowledge of your truth
and be at peace about all that belongs in your care.

Keep us now and forevermore in your almighty hand
that we may know your goodness and the blessing it brings.
For through your goodness we can endure even the hardest days
and live to praise you.

Amen.

Answers to Junior Page story:

*Rabbit; Bison; Hare; Cat; Llama; Cow; Goat; Pig; Zebra; Hen; Dog; Horse; Toad;
Stoat; Kitten; Shrew.*

Tit; Owl; Crow; Dove; Tern; Puffin;

Gnat; Moth; Worm; Bee; Wasp

Trout; Cod; Sole.