

# **THE VOICE**

## **MERROW METHODIST CHURCH MAGAZINE**



**July 2023**

## July REFLECTION *from the Reverend Peter Hills*

However busy a minister is, no matter how many meetings there are to be attended, or visits to be made, no matter that an order of service has to be prepared and a sermon written, something else has to happen before all else. Well, in my case, it is the early morning cuppa, breakfast and the Telegraph crossword. But apart from that, the day must start with what I still call my Quiet Time.

Those who know me won't be surprised that I use a set form of Morning Prayer, alongside the Methodist Prayer manual, which contains a daily hymn, psalm and Bible passage and prayers for the worldwide Methodist Church. I then read, if there is time. A few years ago I was introduced to an ancient prayer by a Baptist colleague, and now use it every Monday, to start my week. It begins:

O Holy Spirit,  
As the sun is full of light, the ocean full of water,  
Heaven full of glory,  
*so may my heart be full of thee.*

Vain are all divine purposes of love and the redemption wrought by Jesus  
except thou work within, regenerating by thy power,  
*Giving me eyes to see Jesus, showing me the realities of the unseen world.*

Give me thyself without measure,  
*As an unimpaired fountain, as inexhaustible riches.*

It's easy for me, of course. One of the gifts received by a minister is the time to pray and study, but prayer is not about words. To sit in silence can be prayer. More than that: even busy-ness can be turned into prayer:

Teach me, my God and king,  
In all things thee to see,  
And what I do in anything,  
To do it as for thee.

The work I do as a chaplain is simply 'being there'. My 'being there' allows hard working people to take their eyes off the computer screen and chat – and sometimes the conversation goes deep, but that isn't the point. The point is their knowing that someone is caring for them. At the Taizé service I led recently, I quoted the founder of the Taizé community, Brother Roger.

When he first went to that tiny hamlet, he devoted himself to helping refugees from the Nazis, for this was France in 1942. He created an oratory for himself, where he went three times a day for prayer. He said this: 'They saw me go to pray...but I would say nothing. You must not force anything. When you are in the same house you cannot help but bear witness. The gospel teaches us to show the way, to point like John the Baptist beyond ourselves to the way of Christ.'

Jesus even provided a prayer for busy people: the Lord's Prayer can be said softly or in silence anywhere at any time. It is a reminder that God is with us at all times; and because we take time to pray, we become witnesses for Christ, just by 'being there' in love. Without saying a word. My 'Monday' prayer ends:

Come as helper,  
*with strength to bless and keep, directing my every step;*

Come as beautifier,  
*bringing order out of confusion, loveliness out of chaos.*

Come, Holy Spirit. Amen.

God bless,

Peter



## EDITORIAL NOTE



Term ends at last;  
School rules are past.  
The cuckoo sings his last,  
Prepares to fly away,  
And come what may  
No longer stay.

Do try to hike,  
Or ride your bike,  
If transport goes on strike.  
Could happen any day,  
As well it may  
This holiday.

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Any items for inclusion in the **AUGUST/SEPTEMBER** issue of "The Voice" should be sent to me by: **July 21st 2023**

via email: [gillianbrierley13@gmail.com](mailto:gillianbrierley13@gmail.com)

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

**Please note that the next issue will cover  
TWO months**

## **USEFUL ADDRESSES**

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### **PROPERTY LETTINGS**

**ADMINISTRATOR:** **01483 537655**  
[lettings@merrowmethodistchurch.org.uk](mailto: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 JULY will be:

DOREEN SIAME **01483 578214**

### **EDITOR – ‘The Voice’**

GILLIAN VARLEY **01483 495567**  
[gillianbrierley13@gmail.com](mailto: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, if you feel uncomfortable with a mention on our web page we will be happy to omit your name and any other personal details in any future issue if requested to do so. Please advise at the time of submitting the copy.**

# WHAT'S HAPPENING IN JULY

## Stewards for Sunday worship:

Date & Time	Vestry Steward	Worship Leader	P/A & A/V	Door Stewards
July 2 <sup>nd</sup> 10.30	Helen Belsham	Doreen Siame	Jane Vinall	Sheila Shackleton Joyce Goodall
July 9 <sup>th</sup> 10.30 AFC	Suzanne Burnham		Julie Wallis	Maggie Woolcock Margaret Hyam
July 16 <sup>th</sup> 10.30 HC	Iris Walker		Glenys Magill	Joyce Goodall Ruth McCulloch
July 23 <sup>rd</sup> 10.30	Joan Wells		Cari Rayner	Sheila Shackleton Joyce Goodall
July 30 <sup>th</sup> 10.30	Hugh Bradley		Julie Wallis	Wendy Bradley Ruth McCulloch
July 30 <sup>th</sup> 6.30	Hugh Bradley		Glenys Magill	

## Communion stewards:

July 16 am	Suzanne Burnham and Doreen Siame	Julie Wallis
July 30 pm	Glenys Magill	Hugh Bradley

## Flower Rota:

July 2<sup>nd</sup> - Doreen Siame;      July 9<sup>th</sup> – Ruth McCulloch;      July 16<sup>th</sup> – Iris Walker  
 July 23<sup>rd</sup> – Pauline Daniels;      July 30<sup>th</sup> – Wendy Bradley

## Organ Rota:

Gillian Varley:      July 2<sup>nd</sup>;    9<sup>th</sup>;    23<sup>rd</sup>  
 Joan Tabraham:      July 16<sup>th</sup>;    30<sup>th</sup> am & pm

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## Church Bible Study groups

### Morning Bible Study

Continuing our study of the Holy Spirit  
 at Pauline Daniels' House.

On Tuesday 11th & 25th July at 11.00am

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### Evening Bible Study

at the church

on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2023 at 7.30pm.

# Women's Fellowship

## Summer Tea

Women's Fellowship will be holding their summer tea  
on Monday 3rd July at **2pm**

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## AFC

Action for Children  
the children's charity of the Methodist Church

Our AFC Sunday will be held on Sunday 9th July at 10.30 pm and will be led by the Rev. Peter Hills.

At AFC they see every day the transformative difference that a nurturing, supportive and loving environment makes to the lives of children, young people and their families. This year AFC Sunday focuses on this connectedness we have as humans, and God's commandment to love one another as we are loved by God. In these challenging times for so many families, we hope that the Methodist calling as people of faith respond to God's love through worship and mission

Thank you for your prayers, continued commitment, and for helping us give more children and young people a safe and happy childhood

Suzanne

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## Outlet

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## 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

Weekly Coffee Mornings  
at Merrow Methodist Church

on **Thursdays** from **10.30 - 11.45**

If you are free, do drop in for a drink and a chat with others from the church and local community. There is no charge.

However

Each month on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday, the coffee morning will be to raise money for a specific Charity

You are invited to a

**COFFEE MORNING**

in aid of

the  
**migraine**  
trust

**on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> July**  
**from 10.30am to 12.00noon**



Migraine is a severe and painful long-term health condition that 1 in 7 people live with

Coffee and home-made cakes  
Bring your family and friends



## Afternoon Tea at MMC



Please come and join us for afternoon tea at  
Merrow Methodist Church, Bushy Hill Drive  
on Tuesday 22nd August 2.30 - 4.30pm

Places limited so book now!

To book and for any queries, please contact one of the following:

Joan Wells G. 503737      Ruth McCulloch G. 570824

Maggie Woolcock G. 502942      Margaret Hills G. 576192

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**July is a time to remember our young people.**

**School holidays begin and the days stretch out ahead  
waiting to be filled,  
but leaving them (and their parents)  
wondering how to fill the long days.**

**Exams are over, but results are still anxiously awaited.**

**A school year ends and school friendships sometimes falter.  
The discipline of school life gives way to that of home.  
The transition isn't always easy.**

**One thing remains constant and unchanging;  
God's love for each one of us.**

# Women's Fellowship Coronation Party

The Coronation cake

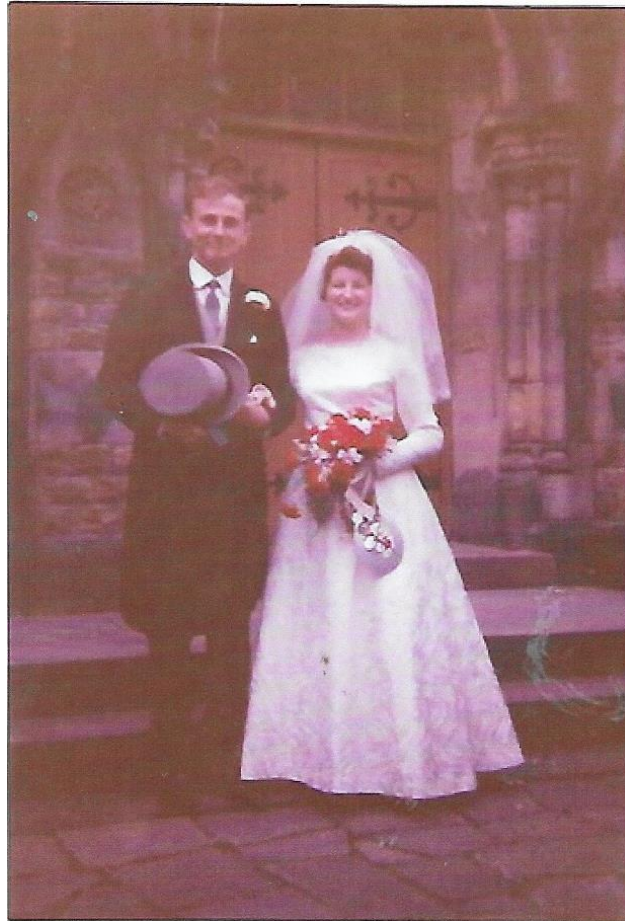


and those who gathered to enjoy it



## DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

This year Iris and Peter celebrate their sixtieth wedding anniversary. They were married in Durham Elvet Methodist Church on 3rd August 1963.



On 30th July we'll bring a celebration cake for you to enjoy with your coffee after the service.

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### SMILE

How many people can a person marry?  
A little boy, who attended his first wedding, worked it out pretty quickly.  
For better, for worse, for richer, for poorer. Comes to 16.

# JUNIOR PAGE – for the young and young at heart

## A summer crossword

1		2			3				4
					5		6		
7						8			
		9		10					
11	12								
13						14		15	
16									
17					18				

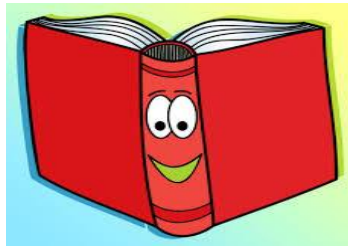
### CLUES

#### Across:

- 1 & 2down You will be looking forward to these at the end of term
- 5 "I scream for - - - cream"
- 7 You will need this to quench your thirst
- 8 You might catch one in a rock pool, or from the harbour wall
- 9 A summer month
- 11 A fairground stall: the Coconut - - - .
- 13 An important game in the cricket calendar
- 16 Abbreviation for a US city and the 6<sup>th</sup> note of the scale (sol-fa)
- 17 Letting off steam on a Sicilian holiday
- 18 A celebratory get-together

#### Down:

- 1 You may build one on the beach
- 2 See 1 across
- 3 After a swim you may - - - in the sun
- 4 Where boats are moored
- 6 A white wading bird, often seen in inlets
- 10 Volleyball is one you may play on the beach
- 12 Enjoy this from the summer sun
- 14 A hot refreshing drink
- 15 Wear one to shade you from the sun



## Story time

### The Musical Donkey

Udhata, a working donkey, was starved by his owner, a local fisherman, so he went in search of food with his friend, a jackal. The pair wandered around the village in the middle of the night, avoiding the guards who were on patrol to keep the villagers safe. After a while they stumbled upon a cucumber field. That night, they truly relished their meal and decided to visit the cucumber field every night.

Udhata eventually began to get fatter and look much healthier and was able to pick up more load.

Once, after an appetizing and wholesome meal of cucumbers, the donkey insisted on singing. Knowing that this was foolish, the jackal advised him against it, but the stubborn donkey refused to listen to his friend. Even when the jackal told the donkey that his voice wasn't exactly sweet, Udhata ignored him – thinking that the jackal was jealous. He told the jackal that he was happy, and there's nothing wrong in expressing one's happiness.

Once again, the jackal warned him of his foolish behaviour and of bringing trouble upon himself by disturbing the guards. However, the foolish donkey would not budge. When the donkey started to sing, the jackal interrupted and asked the donkey to wait until he had jumped over the other side of a fence for his own safety. Once there the Jackal crouched down out of sight.

On hearing the loud braying noise made by the donkey, the guard naturally awoke from his slumber. When he spotted Udhata, the guard beat him black and blue mercilessly. He didn't hold back and channelled all of his anger onto the donkey who was truly regretting not taking his friend's advice.

Once he was done, the donkey could barely move. Yet, he somehow dragged his limp body out of the field to where the jackal had been waiting.

With a sympathetic look on his face his friend said, *"I told you so."*

**Moral: Think before you act.**

# Hugh's news

What happened next.....

In the June issue of The Voice I wrote how delighted I was to discover that the blue tits had returned to our nesting box on the side of our house again this year. The female bird lays one egg a day first thing in the morning, up to 16 eggs but more usually between 5 and 12. She then incubates these for 14 days.

I thought I could count ten with two hatching that first morning. Two more followed the next day but no more after that. Most broods contain a number of infertile eggs but if food is also in short supply quite often only four or five chicks survive until fledging. Chicks hatch naked and blind not much bigger than the top of your thumb. As they are so vulnerable at this time the female sits on them to keep them warm. Each chick can eat 100 caterpillars a day so to feed a brood of only four the adults need to find as many as 400 a day. If the weather is particularly cold and wet finding enough caterpillars to help them grow can prove difficult.

anion will help with this. Last year the female in our box managed completely on her own, but this year I was very pleased to see the male coming into the box and handing over caterpillars to be fed to the babies. As well as feeding the chicks the adults also need to remove the chicks' fecal sacs on a regular basis to keep the nest clean so they are kept very busy! When the female is out looking for food the chicks settle down but become very active when they hear her returning and sit with their mouths wide open. Their red gapes are to attract the attention of the adults at feeding time and it has been shown that the chicks with the brightest gape colour are the fittest.



To get the attention of the adult the chicks extend their necks, call loudly and jostle their siblings, with the loudest and most colourful getting the lion's share of the food.



You can see from the photos which one that was in my brood...!

The chicks grow incredibly quickly and are ready to fledge when they are 18- 21 days old. When they reach this point the parents call from outside the box urging them to come out. One by one each chick will poke its head out and make their first tentative flight (not very smoothly) to the nearest available perch. The largest one actually left the nest on Monday 5th June and its siblings followed two days later. They can now be seen being fed by their parents in the garden around the feeders and will be fully independent after four weeks.

Anne Frank wrote “ I firmly believe that nature brings solace in all troubles” and Aristotle said “ In all things of nature there is something of the marvellous” . I do not possess their turn of phrase but I do know that watching my families of blue tits each year gives me great joy!

HRB 14/06/2

# Gill's trills



## The buzz of summer



O busy bee with eyes so blue,  
You look at me, I'm watching you.  
The colour of those piercing eyes  
Has come as quite a great surprise!  
Whilst you sip nectar from each flower,  
In constant movement, hour on hour,  
Lulled by your buzzing, here I laze,  
Drowsing through summer's sun-lit days.



# Ken's Pen

A lad in Central Africa had learned to read in the Roman Catholic Mission School. As a reward, they gave him a medal with an image of The Virgin Mary. They told him that when he prayed, he should look at the medal and Mary would look after him.

After a while the lad left the Mission, but came back some months later. "Why did you not stay with us?" they asked. "Well, I read how Mary lost Jesus when they went to Jerusalem, so, if she forgot her little boy, she will surely forget me. So I just pray straight to Jesus now."

Do you find it easier to pray to God, or to Jesus? Both are perfectly valid.

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A minister was once asked what was the best advice he had ever been given. He replied that it was that he should marry the girl who was now his wife. "Who gave you that advice?" he was asked. "She did." He replied.

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A lady asked her minister to visit her husband who was very ill in hospital. She warned him that her husband was an atheist. He duly went, and spent a while talking about family, work, his illness and other subjects. Before leaving he asked the man if he would like him to pray for him. "No thanks" he replied "but would you please turn on the radio, which I can't reach. The 2.30 at Ascot is just starting, and I put £10 on the favourite."

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An elderly couple arrived at Gatwick just in time for their flight to Spain. The wife suddenly said "I wish we had brought the piano with us," "Whatever for?" asked her husband." Because I left our tickets and passports on it." She admitted.

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If you will be going on holiday soon, I wish you well. And do take the documents with you.

God bless. With best wishes from Puddletown. Ken Mills

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# POETRY CORNER

July by George Meredith

Blue July, bright July,  
Month of storms and gorgeous blue;  
Violet lightnings o'er thy sky,  
Heavy falls of drenching dew;  
Summer crown! o'er glen and glade  
Shrinking hyacinths in their shade;  
I welcome thee with all thy pride,  
I love thee like an Eastern bride.  
Though all the singing days are done  
As in those climes that clasp the sun;  
Though the cuckoo in his throat  
Leaves to the dove his last twin note;  
Come to me with thy lustrous eye,  
Golden-dawning oriently,  
Come with all thy shining blooms,  
Thy rich red rose and rolling glooms.  
Though the cuckoo doth but sing 'cuk, cuk,'  
And the dove alone doth coo;  
Though the cushat spins her coo-r-roo, r-r-roo -  
To the cuckoo's halting 'cuk.'

Sweet July, warm July!  
Month when mosses near the stream,  
Soft green mosses thick and shy,  
Are a rapture and a dream.  
Summer Queen! whose foot the fern  
Fades beneath while chestnuts burn;  
I welcome thee with thy fierce love,  
Gloom below and gleam above.  
Though all the forest trees hang dumb,  
With dense leafiness o'ercome;  
Though the nightingale and thrush,  
Pipe not from the bough or bush;  
Come to me with thy lustrous eye,  
Azure-melting westerly,  
The raptures of thy face unfold,  
And welcome in thy robes of gold!  
Tho' the nightingale broods—'sweet-chuck-sweet' -  
And the ouzel flutes so chill,  
Tho' the throistle gives but one shrilly trill  
To the nightingale's 'sweet-sweet.'

# SCAMS

Summer-related scams revealed by Citizens Advice:

**Fake event tickets:** Scam ticket websites that claim to be able to sell you tickets for popular events but, after you've paid, the tickets never arrive and your calls and emails aren't answered. One person booked tickets to a concert a year but never received the tickets and was then unable to get in touch with the seller. The website would not load and the phone line had been cut off.

**Timeshare tricks and holiday club horrors:** People often receive an unexpected phone call, telling them they have won a prize. They are then pressured into signing a timeshare agreement which they then struggle to cancel. Many pay into a timeshare or holiday club scheme but never get a holiday.

There are also problems when it comes to selling a timeshare. Timeshare owners are contacted out of the blue by companies who offer to sell their timeshare on their behalf. The customer pays an up-front fee only to find that their timeshare isn't sold – or that it is but they don't get any of the money.

An 80 year old widow lost £1,295 after she paid it as a deposit to sell her timeshare. She was contacted out of the blue by a company saying they had a buyer for her timeshare, however she later found out it was a scam.

**Phony flights:** Consumers buy flights, often online, paying the full cost up front. Tickets never arrive and travellers are unable to contact the company.

**Online dating dupes:** Dating websites take £150 after promising that just a £5 up-front fee was necessary and saying customers can cancel within one month, but then they struggle to do so.

Scammers have used online dating website to con people out of thousands of pounds. A man lost £7,000 after transferring the money to a Bulgarian woman he met online so she could come to the UK. After she received the money, he did not hear anymore from her.

**Shady sun cream:** Consumers could get their fingers burnt by accidentally buying sun cream which turns out to be fake. Dodgy traders are also known to have sold sun screen past its use-by-date.

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“The age old saying - 'if it's too good to be true it probably is' still stands.

There are steps you can take to protect yourself from scammers, like checking you are on a secure payment site if paying online, where possible paying by credit card and looking to see if traders are authorised, for example checking a holiday firm is ATOL bonded.”

## Prayers worth sharing



O Holy Spirit,  
As the sun is full of light, the ocean full of water,  
Heaven full of glory,  
*so may my heart be full of thee.*

Vain are all divine purposes of love and the redemption wrought by Jesus  
except thou work within, regenerating by thy power,  
*Giving me eyes to see Jesus, showing me the realities of the unseen world.*

Give me thyself without measure,  
*As an unimpaired fountain, as inexhaustible riches.*

Come as helper,  
*with strength to bless and keep, directing my every step;*

Come as beautifier,  
*bringing order out of confusion, loveliness out of chaos.*

Come, Holy Spirit.

Amen.

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### **A prayer of St Ignatius Loyola**

Teach us, good Lord,  
To serve thee as thou deservest;  
To give and not to count the cost;  
To fight and not to heed the wounds;  
To toil and not for seek for rest;  
To labour and not to ask for any reward  
Save that of knowing that we do thy will.