

# **THE VOICE**

## **MERROW METHODIST CHURCH MAGAZINE**



**NOVEMBER 2023**

## LETTER FROM THE MANSE-NOVEMBER

Dear Friends,

Perception is a funny thing. Every day our senses aid us in the task of gathering information and then assimilating those things we see, hear, smell, taste, and touch into a basic understanding of life. You'd think since most of us use the same five senses to collect data from our environment, that we'd share a similar view of the world. But that's not the case, far from it. Therein lies a clue as to why the Bible instructs us to walk by faith, not by sight.

In crossing the Atlantic Ocean last July, while travelling with Ama, my wife, for a programme both in New York and New Jersey, USA. We observed this very principle of faith. (Faith is defined as belief with strong conviction; firm belief in something for which there may be no tangible proof; complete trust, confidence, reliance, or devotion. Faith is the opposite of doubt.) We saw no path upon the sea and sky, nor sign of the shore. And yet hour by hour, minutes by minutes, seconds by seconds, we were marking our path on United Airlines as exactly as if they had followed a great chalk line upon the sea and tail of the aircraft. And when we came within forty miles of land, we knew where we were exactly as if we had seen it all three thousand four hundred and forty-six miles ahead (3, 446 miles). The distance from London Heathrow Airport to New York, USA.

How had we measured and marked our course? Hour by hour pilot had taken his modern cockpit instruments and, looking up towards Scotland, onward towards the tip of Southern Ireland, had fixed his course by the skilful direction of Air traffic controllers into the mighty Atlantic Ocean to the United States of America's mighty and vibrant city New York.

So, faith looks up and cruises on, by God's great morning Sun, not seeing one shore line or earthly lighthouse or path upon the way. Often its steps seem to lead into utter uncertainty, and even darkness and disaster; but He opens the way, and often makes such midnight hours the very gates of day. 'Too many of us want to see our way through, before starting new enterprises'. If we could and did, from whence would come the development of our Christian graces?

Faith, hope and love cannot be plucked from trees, like ripe apples.

"Waiting on God brings us to our journey's end quicker than our feet." The opportunity is often lost by deliberation. To walk by faith, not by sight is simply saying that you believe in God's character and promises even if you have not seen Him physically. It means you are confident that He is moving mountains for you even when you can't see Him working. It means you fear Him even when you do not feel like it. (2 Corinthians 5:7)

Let us depend on God for our Church's progress and survival for the next decade and throughout time. Let us do that by faith. God's possibilities will

surprise and amaze us if we hold on to him, trust him, let go of our hopes and allow him to speak his hopes into our lives. **(Let us get to the basics: "Read your Bible and pray every day." the only way to grow in Christ our Lord.) God bless you and His church.**

**"Faith, mighty faith, the promise sees, and looks to God alone; Laughs at impossibilities, and cries it shall be done"-Charles Wesley.**

### **Our fellowship ties.**

As people of faith, and hope, we continue to trust God for His blessings, healing on our friends in their times of need. Let us continue to pray and trust God for the following members of our churches. Joy Kendal and family, Frank, Cynthia and Catherine Winder, Joan Tabraham, Iain Steele, husband of Carole Steele our treasurer, Eric and Maureen Lupton, John Allman, Gillian and Derek, and Margriet (Merrow), Ruth Isaac (West Horsley), Marion Tismond and Richard Martin (Stoughton Methodist Church) and all waiting to undergo hospital procedures.

### **On a sad note:**

Sorry to hear of the passing of the Brother-in law of Joan Wells (Joan's sister's husband) in Ireland. May the Lord grant him perfect rest for his soul.

Remember the sisters in your daily prayers.

**Prayer: Jehovah Rapha, you are the God who is our Healer. We pray that you would reveal your great comfort to them today. Help them to feel seen and cared for by you. We pray that you will bring them comfort and strength and that you will guide the hands of their doctors, nurses and paramedics as they provide care.**

**May your presence surround them, and may they feel your love and peace even as they suffer.**

**We pray that you will give them hope for the future and the assurance that you will always be with them. Amen.**

**Just as the leaves fall and the trees are laid bare, so are we stripped of our defences this November.**

**Strip us from our doubts and insecurities.**

**Strip us from self-loathing.**

**Strip us from feeling defeated.**

**Strip us from being lost.**

**Guide our ways and point us to the light that never fades, so that a dark, November night can be our healing and our balm.**

Enjoy the blessings and peace from God.

Thank you.

Yours devotedly,

George Quarm.

## EDITORIAL NOTE



### Sustained by prayer

We thank you, Lord, who knows our deepest needs;  
stoops down in love to comfort and sustain.  
You hear and answer every lifted prayer  
And in our need you come to meet us there.

When fears beset and anxious thoughts intrude;  
When others take the burden of our care.  
The loving prayers of family and friends  
Become the strength on which our peace depends.

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*I would like to thank you all for your thoughts and prayers during my recent hip-replacement surgery. Although outcomes are never certain and niggling fears raise their heads at times, your prayers have sustained me throughout and the result has been very positive and amazingly pain-free.*

*Thank you too for the welcome I received on my return to church on October 15<sup>th</sup>. I truly felt wrapped in love.*

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Any items for inclusion in the **December** issue of "The Voice" should be sent to me by: **November 22nd 2023**

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

**by hand:**

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

## USEFUL ADDRESSES

### **SUPERINTENDENT MINISTER:**

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[revpaulglass@gmail.com](mailto:revpaulglass@gmail.com)

### **MINISTER:**

REV. GEORGE QUARM **01483 575432**  
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### **CHURCH OFFICE:**

Bushy Hill Drive, Guildford, GU1 2SH. **01483 537655**  
[office@merrowmethodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:office@merrowmethodistchurch.org.uk)

### **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 November will be:

HELEN BELSHAM **01483 823742**

### **EDITOR – ‘The Voice’**

GILLIAN VARLEY **01483 495567**  
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- **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.**
- **Please check that you have copyright permission for any submissions which are not your own work; text or pictures.**

# WHAT'S HAPPENING IN NOVEMBER

## Stewards for Sunday worship:

Date	Vestry	Worship Leader	Offerory counting	PA/AV	Door
Nov.5 <sup>th</sup> 10.30am	Helen Belsham		Helen Belsham Joyce Goodall	Jane Vinall	Wendy Bradley Joyce Goodall
Nov.12 <sup>th</sup> 10.30am	Joan Wells		Joan Wells Sheila Shackleton	Cari Rayner	Ruth McCulloch Sheila Shackleton
Nov. 19 <sup>th</sup> 10.30am	Iris Walker	Doreen Siame	Iris Walker Maggie Woolcock	tba	Maggie Woolcock Margaret Hyam
Nov.19 <sup>th</sup> 6.30pm	Hugh Bradley			Glenys Magill	Glenys Magill
Nov 26 <sup>th</sup> 10.30am	<b>Joint Service at West Horsley</b>				

## Communion stewards:

Nov. 5 <sup>th</sup> a.m.	Preparation - Suzanne Burnham /Doreen Siame Assisting - tba	
Nov.19 <sup>th</sup> p.m.	Preparation - Glenys Magill Assisting - Glenys Magill	

## Flower Rota:

Nov.5<sup>th</sup>        **Suzanne Burnham**  
 Nov. 12<sup>th</sup>     **Sheila Shackleton**  
 Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>     **Jan Kemp**  
 Nov. 26<sup>th</sup>     **Cari Rayner**

## Organ Rota:

Gillian Varley and others

*(As many of you already know, Joan Tabraham will not be taking her place at the organ on Sundays due to the sad deterioration in her mobility. We are grateful for all her musical gifts, so freely shared with us in the past, and now offer the support of our prayers and whatever practical support we can give.)*

## Sunday morning Coffee Rota:

5th Nov. Julie Wallis and Helen Belsham  
 12th Nov. Gill Vinall and Jan Kemp.  
 19th Nov. Ruth McCulloch and Margaret Hills.  
 26th Nov. Hugh and Wendy Bradley

## Women's Fellowship

Women's Fellowship speaker on Monday 6th November 2.30 pm will be from Shooting Star Chase Hospices which care for babies, children and young people with life limiting conditions. All are welcome

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## Morning Bible Study

We have two Church Bible Study groups  
A morning meeting, usually on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of each month at the home of Pauline Daniels  
Lavender Cottage, Marlins Drive, Burpham.  
On Tuesday November 7<sup>th</sup> (*1st Tuesday*) and November 28<sup>th</sup> at 11.00am

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The other is held once a month in the evening at the church.

## Evening Bible Study

This will resume in January.

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## Outlet

Nov 13th 'Sensory Services by Sight for Surrey'  
Katie Wilson will speak about this charity supporting and enabling people. We will also have the opportunity to hear from one of the volunteers with lived experience.  
7.30 for refreshments and 8pm start.

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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

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## Weekly Coffee Morning

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.  
A Charity Coffee Morning will usually supersede the weekly coffee morning, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday each month.

## More in the life of **Frank Winder**

### **Frank and the NHS**

The month after the coronation (see October issue) there was another big day for Frank; July 5<sup>th</sup> marked the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the NHS and Frank is hugely proud of being an NHS pioneer.

After being demobbed from the Navy in the autumn of 1946 where he had been a 'Sick Berth Attendant' (the naval equivalent of a nurse), he went to work at the old Royal Surrey County Hospital in Farnham Road for a few weeks as a plaster room orderly, applying and removing plaster casts. This temporary role lasted until he could start his training to be a State Registered Nurse at the old St Luke's Hospital in Warren Road (now St Catherine's Park). Frank's initial employer in November 1946 was Surrey County Council who was responsible for running the hospitals but once the NHS was created, he signed a new contract with that entity and continued to work for them in a nursing role for the next 44 years until retirement.

The NHS was literally life-changing for the people of Great Britain, giving free access to healthcare from cradle to grave - as a boy, Frank would usually be taken to the local pharmacist when he was unwell because consulting a doctor was costly (although he has been a patient of the same doctors' practice for over 90 years!). After he and Cynthia married in January 1947, he continued his training through the early years of their marriage and family life; he would study at any opportunity (in work breaks or on a train trip), and often had to fit in extra jobs to help make ends meet in what was also a time of rationing and very low pay. Although several ex-servicemen trained with him, nursing was essentially a female-dominated environment – certainly in the matron's view!

For all that, Frank genuinely enjoyed his varied NHS career, working in different hospitals across Surrey (often travelling by bike), in both ward and clinic settings, having some wonderful colleagues and seeing many changes in the organisation of the Health Service.

When the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh officially opened the new Royal Surrey in 1981, Frank was honoured to be invited to tea with them. Ironically, he never worked at the new hospital, despite promises that his clinic would move there (which it did after he retired). Although the work was demanding and the hours long, the focus was always on genuine patient care. There was time for some fun too – but that's a story for another day!



## Action for Children - the Methodist Church Children's charity

The challenges of the cost of living crisis have continued to affect millions of children, young people and families across the country.

The One4all gift vouchers will be collected on Sunday 3rd December at the morning service. In the past they have been delivered to Jamie Heane at Fostering Wessex in Fareham. Please support the children again this Christmas. The minimum is £10 which should be written on the envelope.

Thank you for your continuing support for this very worthwhile charity

Suzanne

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## The Christening of Jerusha

On the October 1<sup>st</sup> we celebrated Jerusha's christening. Jerusha was welcomed into our church family by Suzanne Burnham , Cradle Roll Secretary.

The photograph below shows our minister,  
the Rev. George Quarm,  
who conducted the service, his wife Ama,  
Jerusha's parents, Roy (holding Jerusha) and Shirley  
With a very proud grandma.



## Congratulations

to George and Ama on becoming grandparents on 5th October.



A son to Anthony Athanasius and Bianca Quarm.  
Yet to be named due to customs and traditions of their Ghanaian culture.  
At the moment known as Paapa Ekow (Thursday born)

*REMEMBER, REMEMBER the fifth of November  
Gunpowder, treason and plot.  
I see no reason  
Why gunpowder treason  
Should ever be forgot.*

I lament the growth of Hallowe'en in this country to the detriment of 5th November, Guy Fawkes' Day, which is no longer celebrated in the way it used to be in this country. Why do I say this? 5th November is my birthday, and I loved the sense of occasion enjoyed by all in the country. Even my celebrations are toned down. It used to be a rocket to mark every year. Too expensive at my age. Now it will be ONE gigantic missile!



Shock! Horror!

The church we attended in Dorset closes at the end of the year. The good news is that it will continue as a place of worship, purchased by the Roman Catholic Church, which needs bigger premises. We learn that at a recent Church Council meeting when conversation turned to where people would go to worship, a lifelong Methodist and worship leader, shocked the meeting by saying she was going to Rome. They never envisaged one of their number joining the Roman Catholics. It turned out she meant she was "going to roam."

Iris

## Life in the North Highlands

from Julie Wallis

As many will be aware, I have been spending a little bit of time in the North Highlands looking after my mother who hasn't been too well recently. (For information, if anyone watched 'Hamza Yassin's 'Strictly Birds of Prey recently' this shows the region at its best. He lives in the village of Kilchoan which is approximately 20 miles from where my Mum lives (and is the sister Church to Acharacle).

Although, it is a very remote area, I thought I would shine a light on 'life in the Northern Highlands' (and despite the last few days – it doesn't rain all the time!)

### Community picnics

A community picnic was held on the 30th September at the Community Garden in Acharacle. The school, nursery and Community centre drew pictures of local animals, flowers on material which was then made into a waterproof blanket. (shown below)



My mum drew the kingfisher (I drew one of the pictures but I will leave you to guess which one!). A local music band provided entertainment.

Unfortunately, Mum was not well enough to attend the event but a lot of fun was had by all (and yes, it was dry throughout!).

### New Church at Kilchoan

On September 10th, a new Church building at Kilchoan was consecrated. It proved to be a rather more eventful than expected.

1. The new building is designed to be used by the whole community.

As such, WIFI is an essential feature and the Church elders have been trying to get it installed for the past 6 months. To get WIFI and the internet, the road had to be dug up to install cables etc. As one could expect - BT turned up on September 10th to dig up the road to install the cables for the WIFI.

2. As a lot of people were arriving for the building opening (including the Moderator of the Church of Scotland), Gazebos were erected for the refreshments. Very strong winds on that day blew them down!

3. A visiting minister from Fort William took ill just before the service and had to be air lifted to hospital by helicopter (fortunately, he is ok).

Despite all the above, the opening went well!

### Royal Connection

Attending Church one Sunday, it was explained that the Communion Service scheduled for today had to be cancelled as the minister had been called away to another Church. He was preaching at Crathie Church in front of King Charles III.

### 'Seilag' – The Loch Shiel Monster

Acharacle (the village, my Mum lives in) is on the side of Loch Shiel. This (apparently) contains 'Seilag' - the Loch Shiel Monster. (I say, apparently as I haven't seen it myself). Given the recent Nessie search (which was ever so successful), monster hunting is very topical. The local magazine decided to feature an article on 'Seilag'. The description of it varies between one or two humps (although it says that the information was forthcoming after a few drams from the local hotel!)

An expert on 'Seilag' sightings was Father Henry Cyril Dieckhoff, a Benedictine Monk, born in Moscow in 1869 and based in Fort Augustus Abbey. He lived locally to study Gaelic in the 1930s and studied Loch Shiel and Seilag. He concluded that Seilag is said to be about 70 feet long and shows three large humps in the water. The monster has also been seen on land. There is a theory that there are underground tunnels between Loch Morar, Loch Shiel and Loch Ness which would enable the monster to move between the Lochs. (This could explain why Nessie can never be found – he has simply moved via the tunnels to Morar or Shiel!)

The last sighting was in 1998.

The mystery continues.....

## **JUNIOR PAGE** – for the young and young at heart

NOVEMBER - the month of the BONFIRE.

Have you ever realised that this is perhaps  
to show your Christian faith to others

to

**B On Fire** for Jesus



the best month of the year

\*\*\*\*\*

### An exploration of the English language

I was looking to see how many other words of 3 letters or more I could make using the letters in **BONFIRE**, and I found **28** ( see back page for my list)

This made me realise what a strange language we have, because some of these words sound just like others yet mean something quite different, only with a different spelling.

e.g.

Bore – Boar

Fir – Fur

For – Fore – Four

Ion – Iron

Nob - Knob

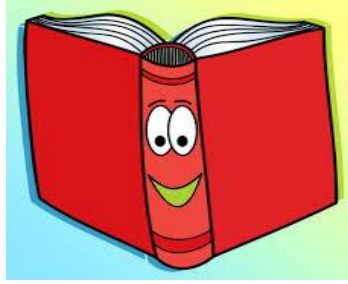
Ore - Oar

One – Won

No wonder people from other countries find English a difficult language to learn!

Playing with words is fun.

**Try it!!**



## Story time

### The Lion that Sprang to life

**Moral:** Knowledge without common sense is useless.

This is the story of four friends in an eastern country. Three were clever at school, but one, Chandira, wasn't nearly so clever or insightful in any way. However, he possessed the one quality that his more intellectual friends did not: *common sense*.

A day arrived when they left school. The three friends with good qualifications decided to search for well paid jobs in distant towns and villages. After all, what was the use of being so learned if they were not going to gain anything back from it.

The three friends did not wish to take Chandira along because of his lack of intellect but since he was an old childhood friend, they decided to invite him too.

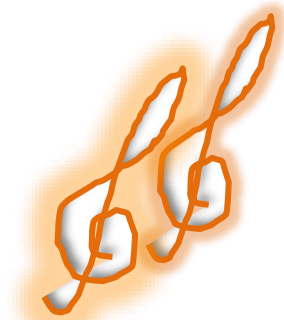
The four friends set out on their journey, moving from one town to another in search of a way to earn money. While passing through a dense forest, they discovered a bunch of bones lying under a tree. They decided that a fine opportunity to display their powers had presented itself.

The first friend used his scientific skills to assemble the bones into a skeleton. When the skeleton was ready, the second friend chanted a prayer, which led to the formation of flesh and meat on the skeleton. It looked like a lifeless lion. Just as the third friend was about to end the show with a spell to bring the lion back to life, the fourth friend stopped him. Chandira knew that once the ferocious lion was brought back to life, it wouldn't spare them.

However, the third friend ignored his advice, made fun of him and went ahead with something that was clearly a bad idea. Christopher quickly climbed up a tree nearby to protect himself as the third friend began to chant the spell to bring life to the lion back. As predicted by the fourth friend, the lion killed all three of the learned friends.....

.....while Chandira rushed back to the village, ALIVE.

# Gill's trills



## An Autumn verse

The leaves have turned from green to shades of brown,  
russet and gold, they fall to clothe the ground.  
The Autumn winds dislodge each dying stem  
And whirl the leaves in merry dance around.  
The trees once more display their sturdy boughs,  
Each branch a tightrope for the squirrel's chase.  
Such joys does Autumn bring, enjoy them now,  
Summer is past. Winter comes on apace.

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# Ken's Pen

This month I shall catch up with Rosemary, to be 92. Fortunately I am still reasonably fit and compos mentis..... with greetings from Puddletown; Ken Mills

When John Quincy Adams, America's 2<sup>nd</sup> President, was very old, he was asked how he was getting on. He replied "John Quincy Adams is very well himself, sir, but the house in which he lives is falling to pieces. Time and seasons have almost destroyed it. The roof is well worn, the walls shattered. It trembles with every gale. I think John Quincy Adams will soon have to move out. But he himself is very well, sir."  
He had lived a good and active life and was ready to depart.

In Luke 2 vv 25-38 we read of Simeon and Anna, also very old. Both met Mary, Joseph and the tiny baby Jesus in the temple. Immediately their lives were changed, and their longings to meet their Messiah were fulfilled. Whether we are old or young, we can surely join Augustine in saying "O God. You have made us for yourself, and our souls are restless till they rest in you."

.....  
Seen outside a cinema "Free entry for pensioners; only if accompanied by both parents."  
.....

Do you remember sandwich-boards with "Prepare to meet thy doom" or some such message? One chap with one asked a passer-by "Are you prepared for judgment day?" When will that be?" was the reply. "It could be tomorrow , or one day next week " "Well, when you are sure, let me know. My wife and I don't go out much, so she may want to go both days.



Three men reached the platform just as the train was due to start. The porter managed to get two of them on as it started to move, but not the third, who stood sadly watching the train depart.

The porter said "Too bad I couldn't get you on board as well, you must be disappointed". "Yes" he replied, "and my two friends will be as well. They were seeing me off."

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Lest we forget

The Tower is a symbol of strength

The Poppies a symbol of sacrifice.

From strength and sacrifice

May peace blossom

# SCAMS

- If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is!!
- Never give out personal banking details, especially PIN numbers. If you are asked for these you are almost certainly being scammed.
- Fraudsters masquerade plausibly as your Bank/ the Police/Tax and Pensions offices etc.....
- Do not click on links in Emails if you are not absolutely certain who they are from.
- If a caller purports to be the police or your bank about fraudulent activity on a debit /credit card and suggests that you phone the Customer Services number on the back of your card to confirm that they are who they say they are – do not do this. The fraudster keeps the line open and you will only be speaking with them again, not your bank!
- Scam offers of free mobile phones are around at the moment. Beware!

## Prayers worth sharing



*Father, hear the prayer we offer:  
Not for ease that prayer shall be,  
But for strength that we may ever  
Live our lives courageously.*

*Be our strength in hours of weakness,  
In our wanderings be our guide;  
Through endeavour, failure, danger,  
Father be there at our side.*

*Love Maria Willis – 1824-1908*

Love Maria Willis was the daughter of a Unitarian minister. She married Frederick Llewellyn Hovey Willis (1830-1914) in 1858: he had been brought up in the family of Louisa May Alcott, and claimed to be the original of Laurie in Little Women

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Answer from Junior page -

List of words from BONFIRE:

Bin; Bine; Brine; Bone; Bore; Brief; Ebon; Fir; Fire; Fin; Fine; For;  
Fore; Fob; Fib; Ion; Ire; Iron; Nib; Nor; One; Ore; Obi; Orb  
Rob; Rib; Rife; Robe