

# THE VOICE

## MERROW METHODIST CHURCH MAGAZINE



**MARCH 2024**

## Message for March

*This month's message is from your editor in place of a message from George who, with Ama, has been in Ghana following the death of his brother. We extend our deepest sympathy to George and all the family.*

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What book are you reading at the moment, a biography, a 'who-dun-it,' a historical novel?

Look no further for your next read than the Old Testament book of Esther. It could fall into any of these categories.

**Esther** is one of the great women of the Bible; a woman of good judgement, exceptional self-control, and of great self-sacrifice, yet she appears in one of only two Old Testament books where God is not explicitly mentioned. However God is very much present in her life of Esther and that of Mordecai whose faith inspires the drama.

A truth found throughout Scripture is that God often chooses to work in the world through human beings and human circumstances and this is never more so than in this book.

**Paul** said – **Phil.2:13** “for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfil his good purpose; and in **2 Corinthians 6:1** we are “God’s co-workers,” and **Martin Luther** once wrote - “God himself will milk the cows through him whose vocation that is. He who engages in the lowliness of his work performs God’s work, be he lad or king.”

‘Esther’ is the book we have are studying in the Tuesday morning Bible Study group on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of each month. One of those attending had found the story so gripping she had read the whole book in one go!

Whether in one go or several sessions it has an important message for all of us. In **Ch.4:13-14** Mordecai, who has urged Esther to remain silent about being a Jew, now sees that she is the only one who, having risen from orphan child to become Queen of Persia, can use her royal position to save the Jews from destruction..... ; (

**“Who knows, if it is for such a time as this that you have become queen?”**

This was no easy path. Esther would risk death by entering the king’s presence uninvited and by revealing her race and her faith.

Where are you, where am I, in our own life’s journey, at this moment? What risks would we take? Could it be that God has placed us exactly where we are – **“for such a time as this”?**

## EDITORIAL NOTE



### A Spring Song

As Winter fades and Spring comes into view,  
March marches in, our spirits lift anew.  
Hardened by frost or blanketed in snow  
The earth now bursts to life, a welcome show  
Of crocus, hyacinth, golden daffodil,  
Undoes the icy grasp of winter's chill.  
Now Springtime sunshine warms the frozen sod.  
In all of these we see the hand of God.

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Any items for inclusion in the April issue of "The Voice" should be sent to me  
by: **March 22<sup>nd</sup> 2024**

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

by hand:

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

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We are sorry to announce the deaths of two of our treasured members:

John Allman, whose service of remembrance is  
at 1.30pm on Wednesday March 6<sup>th</sup>

Marjorie Rye, whose funeral service will be held  
at 12.00pm (mid-day) on Wednesday March 20<sup>th</sup>.

Both services are at Merrow Methodist Church

## **USEFUL ADDRESSES**

### **SUPERINTENDENT MINISTER:**

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

### **MINISTER:**

REV. GEORGE QUARM **01483 575432**  
[unclegeorge.quarm@gmail.com](mailto:unclegeorge.quarm@gmail.com)

### **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 March will be:

HELEN BELSHAM **01483. 823742**

### **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 MARCH

## Stewards for Sunday worship:

Date	Time	Vestry	Worship Leader	PA/AV	Door
March 3 <sup>rd</sup>	10.30am HC	Joan Wells	Doreen Siame	Jane Vinall	Sheil Shackleton Julie Wallis
March 10 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Suzanne Burnham	Gillian Varley	Cari Rayner	Maggie Woolcock Margaret Hyam
March 17 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am  6.30pm HC	Helen Belsham  Hugh Bradley		Glenys Magill  Glenys Magill	Ruth McCulloch Joyce Goodall
March 24 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Iris Walker		Cari Rayner	Julie Wallis Jan Marshall

March 28 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm Tenebrae	Hugh Bradley		Glenys Magill	Wendy Bradley
March 29 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm Good Fri.	TBA		Glenys Magill	Glenys Magill Jan Marshall
March 31 <sup>st</sup>	10.30am Easter	Joan Wells	Gillian Brierley	Jane Vinall	Joyce Goodall Ruth McCulloch

## Communion stewards:

March 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Doreen Siame/Suzanne Burnham	Julie Wallis
March 17 <sup>th</sup>	Glenys Magill	
March 28 <sup>th</sup>	Glenys Magill	

## Flower Rota:

March 3<sup>rd</sup> – Ruth McCulloch; March 10<sup>th</sup> – Joan Wells; March 17<sup>th</sup> – Pauline Daniels;

March 24<sup>th</sup> – Glenys Magill; March 31<sup>st</sup> – Joy Kendall & Margaret Hills.

## Sunday Morning Coffee -

March 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Burnham

March 10<sup>th</sup>

March 17<sup>th</sup>

March 24<sup>th</sup>

March 31<sup>st</sup>

## Charity support

Action for Children

MHA

Mission Aviation Fellowship

JMA

Transform Trade

Suzanne

Hugh Bradley

Hugh Bradley

HughBradley

Glenys Magill

## Organ Rota:

Gillian Varley: All Morning Services; Tenebrae 7pm – March 28<sup>th</sup>;

Good Friday 2pm – March 29<sup>th</sup>

All are invited to attend  
the  
**World Day of Prayer**  
on  
FRIDAY 1ST MARCH 2024 at 2PM  
in  
:MERROW METHODIST CHURCH  
BUSHY HILL DRIVE  
GUILDFORD  
GU1 2SH



**"I BEG YOU, BEAR WITH ONE ANOTHER IN LOVE"**

Prepared by the Christian women of Palestine.

The WDP promotes informed, prayerful living and worship for all and helps raise awareness of the lives and concerns of others throughout the world, especially those who write the Service.

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# Women's Fellowship

Women's Fellowship will be holding their Easter Communion on Monday 4th  
March 2.30 pm. This will be led by Rev. Peter Hills.

All are welcome

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All those who attend Women's Fellowship are saddened to hear of the passing  
of Marjorie Rye, a gracious lady and past Fellowship Secretary for many years

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## Church Bible Studies

### Morning Bible Study

at Lavender Cottage, Marlyns Drive, Burpham.

On Tuesdays March 12 & 26th at 11.00am

Details from Gillian Varley

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### Evening Bible Study

Thursday March 14<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm

Details from Julie Wallis

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### Outlet

March 11th at 7.30 refreshments 8pm start

Usual £3 charge which goes towards expenses.

Everyone is welcome, so please bring your friends  
and anyone else who might be interested.

Good wishes

Jan, Ruth, Cari and Sandy

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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 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 supersede the weekly coffee morning, usually on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday each month and this month will support Shooting Star Chase, which supports 700 families from diagnosis to end of life and for three years after bereavement.

Their bespoke care includes a range of therapies and support groups for the whole family, specialist nursing care, respite, and symptom management.

Whether families need their services for years, or just a few weeks, they are there to make every moment count.

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## Women's Fellowship Coffee Morning

### Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March

10.30am – 12noon



Coffee and home-made cakes

To raise funds for Shooting Star Chase  
Children's Hospices





# NEWS & FUTURE DIARY DATES

## **"Unlock" Annual London Walk Saturday 27th April 2024**

This year's sponsored walk will be centred around West London.

More information will be in the April edition of The Voice.

Hopefully some of us will be walking again this year

and we hope that others will be able to sponsor us.

All money raised is for the work of "Unlock" a small Christian charity involved in mission work in deprived urban areas.

More info from Maggie Woolcock  
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## **Our new Community Garden - 2024**



**- January**



**- early February**

## A wintry walk - *Pauline Daniels*

We climbed the hill to St. Martha's - Luke, the dogs and me. As we climbed we entered the clouds, hardly anyone around. On reaching the top the church was clear but surrounded by mist. We stood where we normally look at the view and the dogs immediately sat looking at us - heads cocked to one side as if to say 'what next' ? It was a magic moment - just us in the cloud with the church in full view.

When I think of beautiful scenes - A bluebell wood, a poppy field - In its way this was just as beautiful - the church in the mist, the dogs, my grandson and me - a moment of quiet, ethereal it seemed.

When thinking about this I started singing the hymn:

'For the beauty of the earth for the beauty of the skies'

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### **Local Arrangement - An Iona style Service**

from Jan Walker

It was a surprise to come to church and discover we would choose a table to sit around with others, making about 6 groups.

Following her experience as a volunteer at the Iona Community, Helen led using the Morning Service liturgy that is used daily on Iona. It has set leader and congregation responses, and Gillian taught us some new songs which we enjoyed singing in different parts, creating a good sound all together.

We also sang hymns.

The passage from **Micah 6:8** was the focus of the service.

"What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with your God?"

We were encouraged to discuss in our groups what this passage meant to us as individuals and as a church. It was a free discussion and, in my view, benefitted from not having to feedback immediately afterwards. Helen gathered any written comments and I will summarise these. However, it was the conversation that was most important and valuable, and more was discussed than captured in writing.

***H  
J U S T I C E  
M  
K I N D N E S S  
L  
I  
WHAT DOES THE LORD REQUIRE OF  
YOU?***

### What does the Lord require of you – to do justice.

We thought of the many inequalities in society here and across the world.

Often it is not easy to know how to address these.

As individuals, we are required to act when we hear people are being subject to injustice, for example when we hear racist, sexist or other prejudiced attitudes, we should challenge these and support those people. It takes courage to confront others. Sometimes we may be afraid of the backlash.

Remembering we are all equal, and all equally loved by God, therefore we want to make sure we treat everyone equally and try to be aware of power imbalances and respond to these individually and as a Church.

Although we are all equal, we are different; accepting people as they are and getting to know them individually and as a church, is important in expressing our values in action.

We pray for unity.

We are required to pray for justice on a wider level in the world.

Sometimes we feel it is too big a problem and can feel overwhelmed or disempowered. Action is difficult individually at this level.

We can give financially in support of organisations that promote justice individually and we do this as a church with commitments to particular charities on an annual basis and monthly basis.

### What does the Lord require of you – to love kindness

It may be that loving kindness is an easier requirement. We considered ways to show kindness individually and as a church.

Always be kind to all, be respectful. This includes forgiving others; none of us is perfect.

Try to understand other people's point of view. Also never put anyone down or humiliate others in any way. We notice often people pay kindness forward.

Helping and supporting others is an act of kindness and a privilege. Love is not love till you give it away.

### What does the Lord require of you – to walk humbly with your God

Seek God. Learn from Jesus' life.

Learn from listening to preaching.

These things will help us to become more Christ-like.

We are all a work in progress; don't put yourself down.

Walking humbly includes acting responsibly without needing praise.

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

### A Quiz for March

1. Jo, Amy, Meg and Beth March are sisters in which famous novel?
2. The March Hare is a character from which book?
3. Which season begins in March?
4. Complete the saying: 'March comes in like a lion and goes out like a ....'?
5. March is named after Mars; the Roman god of ----- ?
6. The Ides of March is a day on the Roman calendar that corresponds to which date?
7. What famously happened on The Ides of March in 44BCE?
8. On what date in March is Saint Patrick's Day?
9. Which bridge, the longest in Gt Britain, was opened by the Prince of Wales in 1890?
10. Daylight Saving Time begins on the last Sunday in March, leading to what change?
11. Who was the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean in March 1932?
12. Who was the author of the “Harry Potter” series born on March 24?

(Answers on the last page)

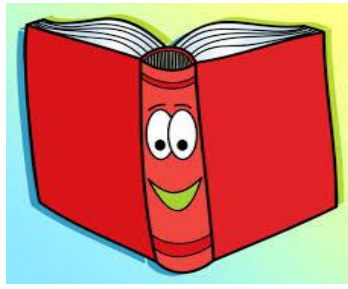
and did you know

Each year March and June ends on the same day of the week.

The first telephone was patented on March 7th, 1876 by Alexander Graham Bell.

The daffodil is the flower of March

The largest chocolate Easter egg in the world was auctioned off for £7,000 on March 20<sup>th</sup> 2012



## Story time

### The boy who cried 'wolf'

Once upon a time, there lived a shepherd boy who was bored watching his flock of sheep on the hill. To amuse himself, he shouted, "Wolf! Wolf! The sheep are being chased by the wolf!" The villagers came running to help the boy and save the sheep. They found nothing and the boy just laughed looking at their angry faces.

Don't cry 'wolf' when there's no wolf boy!" they said angrily and left. The boy just laughed at them.

After a while, he got bored and cried 'wolf' again, fooling the villagers a second time. The angry villagers warned the boy a second time and left. The boy continued watching the flock.

After a while, he saw a real wolf and cried loudly, "Wolf! Please help! The wolf is chasing the sheep. Help!"

But this time, no one came to help him. By evening, when the boy didn't return home, the villagers wondered what happened to him and went up the hill. They found the boy sitting by the remains of his flock, weeping. "Why didn't you come when I called out that there was a wolf?" he asked angrily. "The wolf killed some of the sheep and the rest of the flock is scattered now," he said.

A wise old villager approached him and said, "People won't believe liars even when they tell the truth. You shouted "Wolf" once too often, but perhaps now you have learnt your lesson."

We'll help look for your sheep in the morning. Let's go home now".

### **Moral**

*Nobody trusts a liar, even when he is telling the truth.*

# Gill's trills



## MARCH

March is the third month of the year,  
The start of Spring to bring good cheer;  
Not in the Southern Hemisphere!

Mars was the first month, it is true,  
until in 1752

Calendars moved from old to new.  
Farewell the calendar of Rome,  
Gregorian calendars had come  
To grace the walls of every home.

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# Ken's Pen

The Bible tells us that after Moses had communed with God, his face shone brightly. A good Christian person was said to be living so close to God that her face shone. Another person, who was known for his love of Jesus, and his care for others, visited a church family. The door was opened by a little girl, who called out, "Come here, Mummy, Jesus is at the door."

Years ago, Lord Peterborough, a sceptic agnostic, had to spend some time with a fine Christian. The following day he said "If I had to spend any more time with that good man, I shall be a Christian, in spite of myself."

When other people see, or listen to us, do they feel close to Jesus? Are we full of God's love and compassion? Does our face shine with His glory?

An American lady's 7-years-old grandson asked "Grandma, what church do we go to?" She replied "The Episcopal." He then said "Oh, I have been telling my friends we went to the despicable. "

Children's thoughts on Mothers:- The role of a modern Mother is to deliver her children safely at birth, and by car for ever after. A Mother is someone who sends her children to bed when not sleepy, and wakes them up when they are fast asleep. Mummies are for telling you to ask Daddy; Daddies are for telling you to ask Mummy.

God bless, Ken Mills

# Walker's talk

## A Photographic Tour of the Monopoly board

*Iris Walker*

Last month Peter wrote about our lecture on the history of Monopoly at the Arts Society. This is the second part of that occasion.

In 1935 Waddington Games bought the UK and Commonwealth rights to the game and it was put into production the following year. Representatives from their base in Leeds came to London to make decisions about the streets they would use. With the aid of a six metre screen, Roger Mendham, an accomplished photographer, took us around the board, beginning with the least and progressing to the most expensive streets.

*Old Kent Road* was the only one south of the Thames and was chosen because there was a popular song of the same name at that time.

*Whitechapel* was infamous for Jack the Ripper.

*The Angel, Islington*, is a former pub, not a street. In 1935 it was a Lyon's Corner House.

*Pentonville*, named after Henry Penton who developed the area, was well known for its prison.

*Euston Road* with its first intercity railway station in London claimed a position on the board.

*Pall Mall* was based on the game, "pelle – melle", a cross between golf and croquet. The playing area for this was next to St. James's Park.

*Whitehall* was memorable for the execution of Charles 1.

*Northumberland Avenue* is linked with Sherlock Holmes novel, "The Hound of the Baskervilles" ( 1901) and The Northumberland Arms was a pub frequented by Holmes. Now there is a Victorian themed pub there named The Sherlock Holmes.

The next section was linked with the law.

*Bow Street* was the location of the "Bow Street Runners".

Marlborough Magistrates Court explains the square named *Marlborough (Square)* because there was no Marlborough Street in this area of London. It was the location of the shop, Philip Morris Co., who first sold Marlboro cigarettes manufactured in the U.S.A.

*Vine Street* was the shortest one at 70 feet but was associated with the law and its 18 th . century courthouse.

*The Strand* and *Fleet Street* lead on to Trafalgar Square with the famous bronze lions designed by Sir Edwin Landseer and guarding the base of Nelson's Column.

186 Fleet Street was the location of Sweeney Todd, the infamous barber.

85 Fleet Street, designed by Lutyens, was the home of the Press Association and Reuters news agency where my husband, Peter, began his journalistic career in London.

*Leicester Square* is the centre of theatre land with its statue of William Shakespeare and *Piccadilly* has the Royal Academy. Fortnum and Masons, who are still there after 300 years, were the first shop to sell Heinz baked beans in the UK. Did you know that?

*Coventry Street* connects Piccadilly to Leicester Square. It was a centre of entertainments and had the first Lyons and Co.

*Regent Street*, *Oxford Street* and *Bond Street* were grouped as retail centres, BUT Bond Street does not exist as a street. It's the name of an underground station between Marble Arch and Oxford Circus. New Bond Street is to the north and Old Bond Street is to the south. Bond Street has always been in two sections like that. The famous Roosevelt/Churchill sculpture, Allies On A Bench, is on New Bond Street, but this was created long after the Monopoly board was created.

Our final destinations,  
*Park Lane* and *Mayfair*, were put alongside Super Tax!

The four stations,  
*King's Cross*,  
*Marylebone*,  
*Fenchurch Street* and  
*Liverpool Street* were termini of L.N.E.R. before nationalisation of the railways in 1947.

I hope you enjoyed our little trip around the 22 streets. The photography was stunning.

IRIS



# Pete's tweet

A rich land owner with a racing stud of 17 horses compiled a will to ensure hereditary succession. He left  $\frac{1}{2}$  of his possessions to his son,  $\frac{1}{3}$ rd to his grandson and  $\frac{1}{9}$  to his nephew. The inevitable day arrived.

It was easy divvying most of the estate but the stable was a headache which stifled the three recipients. A bitter, noisy feud erupted which reverberated throughout the locality. None would give ground. The problem was that half of 17 equines would result in 8.5 horses. Killing a valuable commodity was senseless. The difficulty was compounded because another third of 17 horses produced 5.67 animals and one ninth generated yet another fatality.

An immediate neighbour with only one horse in a small stable, got so upset at the dissension and disruption that he donated his only horse to the family with no strings attached. What a great change was produced! Half of 18 horses gave nine of them to the son, grandson got one third of 18 which was six and nephew got one ninth which was two horses. The men now realised that  $9 + 6 + 2 = 17$ . That left one spare horse. The grateful family donated it to "Samaritan" as a mark of respect, kindness and appreciation for their dilemma.

(Acknowledgement to December "Reform" mag, via GUC)



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# POETRY CORNER

I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud

BY WILLIAM WORDSWORTH

I wandered lonely as a cloud  
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,  
When all at once I saw a crowd,  
A host, of golden daffodils;  
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,  
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

Continuous as the stars that shine  
And twinkle on the milky way,  
They stretched in never-ending line  
Along the margin of a bay:  
Ten thousand saw I at a glance,  
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.

The waves beside them danced; but they  
Out-did the sparkling waves in glee:  
A poet could not but be gay,  
In such a jocund company:  
I gazed—and gazed—but little thought  
What wealth the show to me had brought:

For oft, when on my couch I lie  
In vacant or in pensive mood,  
They flash upon that inward eye  
Which is the bliss of solitude;  
And then my heart with pleasure fills,  
And dances with the daffodils.



# SCAMS

## Parcel deliveries

These scams often begin with text messages or emails claiming to be from delivery services. The messages might state that you have a package waiting or that there's an issue requiring your attention and pre-payment is required.

Engaging with these can lead to identity theft and/or financial loss.

- **Verify delivery notifications:** Always check directly with the delivery company through their official website or app rather than clicking on links in unsolicited messages.
- **Avoid unsolicited packages:** If you receive a package you didn't order or a request to pay for an unsolicited delivery, be cautious. Report any such incidents to the delivery company and avoid interacting with suspicious messages.

### NB

- 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.
- Do not click on links in Emails if you are not absolutely certain who they are from.
- Fraudsters masquerade plausibly as your Bank/ the Police/Tax and Pensions offices etc.....If a caller purports to be the police or your bank regarding 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!

## Prayers worth sharing



May the sunlight and the rain be reminders that you are at work  
renewing the earth.

O God of renewal you are ever at work in our lives, too. Open our  
eyes and lives to the changes we need to make in our lives this  
Spring. We thank you for the new awakenings we see around us.

Awaken us to new life and perspective.

In Jesus' name we pray,

Amen

*"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing  
a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making  
a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland."*

[\(Isaiah 43:18-19\)](#) NIV)



Answers from the Junior Page:

Little Women; Alice in Wonderland; Spring; Lamb; War; March  
15<sup>th</sup>;

Julius Caesar was assassinated; March 17<sup>th</sup>; The Forth Bridge;

Clocks advance one hour; Amelia Earhart; J.K. Rowling.