

# **THE VOICE**

## **MERROW METHODIST CHURCH MAGAZINE**



**April 2024**

Pastoral Message for April  
A Story from an African Couple.

In the blink of an eye another day is gone,  
In the blink of an eye another week is gone.  
In the blink of an eye another month is gone,  
In the blink of an eye another year is gone.  
And in the blink of an eye, I'll be gone too,  
And not just me but also you.  
So maybe we should be wishing' and hoping',  
That we could just keep our eyes open.  
And see and appreciate all that we can see,  
And learn how we can be, the best that we can be,  
Before it's too late,  
Time flies, so let's not wait.  
Whether we have just one life or many, one thing is true,  
We should try to enjoy every moment we can; it's the wisest thing to do. This gift of  
life came from God.

I interviewed a couple a few weeks ago that just had their 60th wedding anniversary and I asked them one question. "How does a beautiful couple like yourself keep such a healthy marriage for over 60 years?" She told me, "Wait right here young man" and she went back to their bedroom and pulled something from a weathered roll top desk. It was an old worn-out Bible, about 84 years old, handed to her parents.

She said "This right here is what has got us through everything life has thrown at us for the past 60 years". She went on about how it completely changed their lives and it taught them numerous things that should be a staple in all relationships in this day and age, no matter how long you and your significant other have been together. She spoke these encouraging words.

We learned how to forgive each other.

We rebuilt trust when it was broken.

We always listened to one another.

We apologize for things when we were wrong.

We always made time for each other.

We learned how to communicate.

We always put one another first no matter the circumstance.

We never stopped dating each other.

We always told each other "I love you" before we went to bed.

We always prayed for each other daily.

We never made permanent decisions based on our temporary emotions.

She added... "These are just a few things the Bible has taught us".

I decided to ask her one last question

I said, "After 60 years, are you worried about what tomorrow brings?"

She said something I will never forget.

She said, "I trust the next chapter of our love story, because I know the author."

Which is God.

May you enjoy every blessing that this season brings.

Thank you.

God bless.

Devotedly Yours,

George

## EDITORIAL NOTE



### An Ode for April

As gentle lamb or roaring lion  
Did March depart and bid farewell?  
Will April bring more sun than showers,  
Bright primroses in woodland dell?  
Now who can tell?

As they return, a mad display  
Of swifts and swallows on the wing,  
And leaves unfurl their vibrant green  
In answer to the call of Spring  
As skylarks sing.

Sweet music to the listening ear  
A symphony beyond compare  
Of buzzing bees and singing birds.  
Wafting upon the Spring-time air:  
A wordless prayer.

\*\*\*\*\*

Any items for inclusion in the April. issue of "The Voice" should be sent to me by:

**April 21st 2024**

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

### ACTING SUPERINTENDENT (During Paul's Sabbatical)

REV.SAM FUNNELL

**01483 727038**

samfunnell24@btinternet.com

### **MINISTER:**

REV. GEORGE QUARM

**01483 575432**

unclegeorge.quarm@gmail.com

### **CHURCH OFFICE:**

Bushy Hill Drive, Guildford, GU1 2SH.

**01483 537655**

office@merrowmethodistchurch.org.uk

### **PROPERTY LETTINGS**

#### **ADMINISTRATOR:**

**01483 537655**

lettings@merrowmethodistchurch.org.uk

### **PRAYER SUPPORT GROUP:**

This is a small group willing to put time aside for praying each day for special needs within the Church community. Your request will be passed on to other members of the group, where it will remain confidential.

The prayer contact for April will be:

PAULINE DANIELS

**01483 958905**

#### **EDITOR – 'The Voice'**

GILLIAN VARLEY

**01483 495567**

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 APRIL

## Stewards for Sunday worship:

Date	Time	Vestry	Worship Leader	PA/AV	Door
April 7 <sup>th</sup> H.C.	10.30am	Iris Walker		Cari Rayner	Maggie Woolcock Margaret Hyam
April 14 <sup>th</sup>	10,30am	Suzanne Burnham	Doreen Siame	Glenys Magill	Sheila Shackleton Jan Marshal
April 21 <sup>st</sup>	10.30am	Hugh Bradley		Jane Vinall	Wendy Bradley Ruth McCulloch Suzanne Burnham
ATS	6.30pm	Helen Belsham			
April 28 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Suzanne Burnham		Cari Rayner	Julie Wallis Sheila Shackleton

## Communion stewards:

	<u>Preparation:</u>	<u>Assisting:</u>
April 7 <sup>th</sup>	Doreen Siame / Glenys Magill	Doreen Siame

## Flower Rota:

April 7 <sup>th</sup>	Iris Walker
April 14 <sup>th</sup>	Wendy Bradley
April 21 <sup>st</sup>	Suzanne Burnham
April 28 <sup>th</sup>	Sheila Shackleton

## Sunday Morning Coffee Rota & Charities:

7 <sup>th</sup> April	Glenys Magill and Suzanne Burnham		
	MHA		Hugh Bradley
14 <sup>th</sup> April	Pauline Daniels and Sheila Shackleton.		
	Action For Children		Suzanne Burnham
21 <sup>st</sup> April	Joan Wells and Jan Walker		
	Bible Society.		Joan Wells.
28 <sup>th</sup> April	Julie Wallis and Helen Belsham		
	Embrace the Middle East.		Hugh Bradley

## Organ Rota:

Gillian Varley: Morning services

# Women's Fellowship

Women's Fellowship will not be meeting in April as the first Monday is Easter Monday

The ladies of Women's Fellowship raised £276 for Shooting Stars at their coffee morning on Thursday 14th. March

\*\*\*\*\*

## Church Bible Studies

All are welcome.

Please contact Gillian Varley for further details

\*\*\*\*\*

## Morning Bible Study

at Lavender Cottage, Marlyns Drive, Burpham.

On Tuesdays April 9<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> at 11.00am

-----

## Evening Bible Study

April 18<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm

at Merrow Methodist Church

\*\*\*\*\*

## Service of thanksgiving for the life of Rosemary Mills

April 10<sup>th</sup> at 2.30 p.m.

Please, no black to be worn but bright clothes for a celebration of a life well lived.

Family flowers only, but, if wished, donations

to

Unicef or World Cancer Relief Fund.

During the service time will be allowed for anyone to say a few words about

Rosemary, and there will be light refreshments served in the hall,

where a book of remembrance to sign will be available.

# 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.

There is no charge.

--

You may even be treated to some piano duets from our duetists  
Gillian and Mavis



On the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday each month  
this is usually

## **A Charity Coffee Morning**

when a delicious selection of cakes is served for you to enjoy.

Come along to help us support a different charity each month



# DIARY DATES & NEWS

## **TOGETHER WE CAN - WE COULD - SO WE DID!**

2020's Post – Covid lockdown rules created a locked-in isolation amongst many elderly people.

Surrey's Adult Social Care Social Prescribers faced the issue by launching a programme to encourage their clients to get out and around again.

They looked to Millmead to launch this initiative because, like most churches, we had accessible, safe space, a welcoming volunteer culture, a good reputation in the Community and not least, we could possibly access Charitable funding to meet the costs.

A six week, two hour programme emerged. Guests would engage with professionals about Safety at home:

Avoiding Scams ....Fire andRescue Safety advice....Economic Dietary strategies.... IT Training.....'Move it or Lose it' ( of course!)....Mental Health issues and a Craft session.

The programme was replicated across three other churches:

St.Peter's CofE, Ash; Westborough URC and Merrow Methodist Church

Adequate funding was established. Two new topics were added making it eight weeks: Benefit claims.... Preparing for End-of-Life issues.

In all, 16 progammes involving 270 guests, 20 volunteers and grants, totalling £23,305 have been engaged to support over 350 hours of TWC interactions.

However, promises to signpost clients by Social Providers never materialised.

The venue churches did all the recruitment but now have used up most of their likely contacts.

The lead officer from Adult Social Care has moved on. Sadly, 4 years on, many Elderlies are still locked -in and not inclined to get out much.

Setting up another 8 ongoing programmes for 2024 is proving to be a step too far. Reluctantly, the time has come to step back and rejoice in what has been achieved:

Merrow Methodists have established a thriving weekly Community Coffee morning..... Scores of Older folks have been welcomed onto Church premises Important quality of life information and sign-posting has been imparted... the reality of God's love reaching out to Guildford's older population has been recognized.

Thanks must go to all whose servant - heartedness made TWC happen: volunteers, organisers and the Office staff. TOGETHER WE CAN lived up to its name: WE COULD DO IT..

..and by God's grace - WE DID!

Derek Wensley

A letter of thanks from  
**EMBRACE THE MIDDLE EAST**

30 January 2024

Dear Hugh

Thank you so much to everyone at Merrow Methodist Church, Guildford for your gift of £438.00 from your carol service. You are standing by our Christian partners as they face a humanitarian crisis of terrifying proportions. The horrors continue to unfold in Gaza and resonate across the Middle East; and yet in these dark times, our partners remain doing what they can to help people to survive amidst the violence. They are providing aid and care to support those who have been wounded both physically and emotionally in this conflict.

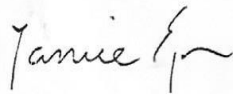
Please pray for our partners. The latest partner updates will be added to our website as and when we get them at [embraceme.org/embrace-iopt-partner-updates](https://embraceme.org/embrace-iopt-partner-updates). Please also consider writing to your MP and Church Leaders; a template can be found at [embraceme.org/israel-palestine-news](https://embraceme.org/israel-palestine-news).

Thank you for standing in solidarity with the people of Gaza and its small but vital Christian community. The love you have shown to our sisters and brothers in the Middle East is deeply appreciated by them, as our partner recently reminded us.

*"Please understand that in times like these, the strength of our partnerships and the support of friends like you are a profound source of hope and resilience for us all."*

Nader, Middle East Council of Churches – Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees (MECC-DSPR)

Thank you once again to everyone at Merrow Methodist Church, Guildford.



Jamie Eyre

Director of Programmes, Partnerships and Advocacy

*John Allman's daughters, Sally and Alison and their families, would like to thank everyone for attending the service of thanksgiving on March 6th at Merrow Methodist Church and for making it such a warm and memorable occasion.*



*The family have been very touched by the huge outpouring of support and the countless kind messages they have received. They are very grateful for the kindness, generosity and personal involvement of so many church members on the day of the service itself.*

\*\*\*\*\*

*The funeral service for Marjorie Rye took place on March 20<sup>th</sup> in our church. Her sons, Derek and Colin gave moving tributes and Gillian Varley gave a short tribute on behalf of the church.*

*Marjorie had reached the wonderful age of 101 and been a faithful member of our church until frailty necessitated a move into Felbury House Care Home in late 2022.*



*Marjorie proudly holding her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday telegram from the Queen.*



*Marjorie's great grandson, Taylor Pollard, enjoying lunch in the church hall after the funeral*



# World Day of Prayer

The service was compiled by the Women of Palestine and the church was beautifully decorated with fruits and artefacts of Palestine. It was well supported ecumenically and by our MP Angela Richardson (3<sup>rd</sup> right in photograph of those taking part.)



Special thanks to Doreen Siame,  
our church representative to the local World Day of Prayer committee,  
for all her hard work in arranging this important event

# Number 5 and Mulberry House

Thank you for all your generous donations for Number 5 and Mulberry house

Thank you  
Ruth McCulloch  
\*\*\*\*\*

## Action for Children

The difference you make

Is very appreciative of your life-changing support

AFC helped 765,905 children, young people and families in 2022/23.

That is nearly 95,000 more than the previous year.

You helped AFC be there for vulnerable children across the four core areas of work - children in care, family support, disabled children and mental health.

Here is the impact of your generosity

AFC bought and started refurbishment on two new children's residential homes. That is part of the plan to open 10 new residential home across England and Wales.

83% of the disabled children AFC supported have improved communication skills, which is important for them to express themselves, communicate their wishes and build relationships with others.

AFC family support services, including Parent Talk service supported 652,000 children, young people and their families.

AFC mental health services have a big impact. 99% of children and young people who accessed one-to-one support from their Staffordshire emotional wellbeing service reported progress in their goals

AFC deliver 426 services in local communities across the UK, in schools and on line  
Suzanne

\*\*\*\*\*

## FAVOURITE BIBLE VERSE

There is to be a new bench placed at the front of the Church shortly. A small plaque is to be added to this bench. If you have a favourite Bible verse that you would like the plaque to display, please send the details to the Church Office or directly to myself. Paper Submissions are fine if you don't do email.

[Julieawallis@outllok.com](mailto:Julieawallis@outllok.com) or [lettings@merrowmethodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:lettings@merrowmethodistchurch.org.uk)

The church poster for March



A new church poster will be displayed each month  
on the outside notice board

\*\*\*\*\*

## Urban Saints Girls

Urban Saints Guildford have launched a new youth group for girls! There will be games, activities, food and a space to chill out. It's all about having fun, making friends, and hearing a little about the Christian faith. They head out on trips some weeks so best to get in touch with Dave Wright before your first visit: [dave.usgg@gmail.com](mailto:dave.usgg@gmail.com)

Age - School years 7, 8 & 9

When - Fridays 7.40pm – 9.30pm

Where - Burpham Church, GU4 7HW

Note these forthcoming dates:

05/04 Closed

12/04 potential trip (might do this on Saturday instead)

## **“UNLOCK” ANNUAL LONDON SPONSORED WALK**

**SATURDAY 27<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2024**

Its time again for this year's Annual London Walk organised by Unlock, a small Christian Mission organisation. Our church has been supporting these walks since the very first one in 1984. This year it is walk no 41! And I'm hoping we can once again take part in this event. Details of the walk will be on the Church notice Board together with a sponsorship sheet. (Only names & amount sponsored needed – not addresses.)

This year's walk of 7.5 miles is around Kensington, Chelsea, Hammersmith and Fulham and is full of contrasts. The many grand and opulent houses en route sit across from a number of Council Estates still providing homes for Council and Housing Association tenants. The same opulent houses were once run-down multi-occupancy properties, housing people who had been encouraged to come here from the Caribbean in the 1950's and 1960's and who ended up living in slum conditions in a racially hostile environment. Many improvements in housing and race relations have occurred over the past few decades and there is now a strong sense of community in this ethnically diverse area. Poignantly the walk will also pass close to the site of Grenfell Tower.

The Unlock London walks offer an interesting and unique experience. Hundreds of walkers from a variety of churches across London and the South East join in the walk and there is always a good sense of fellowship. The walks cover different areas of London each year but always some well-known and some less well-known areas and walkers experience a range of very different communities often living in very close proximity, highlighting the different situations of residents. During the walk a number of different denominational churches, both old and new, are visited where there is the opportunity to learn more about the role each church plays within its local community. Many of the 7 churches we will visit on this year's walk, including Notting Hill Methodist Church, have strong links with the Carnival and also provided some important support for residents in the wake of the Grenfell fire. Most churches we visit organise interesting displays about their role and work within their local communities and there are always volunteers and church members present to provide more information and to answer any questions.

The Annual London Walk is the main source of income for Unlock who are a small and dedicated Christian charity supporting the work of Christian Mission within inner city and deprived urban areas. They do this by helping to make the messages of the Gospel relevant to those who would not normally attend church or read the Bible. Unlock supports and funds project workers working in deprived urban areas who offer both practical help and emotional support as well as sharing the good news of the gospel. These projects have been shown to make a real difference to those attending. Unlock workers will have a presentation and display of their work at St Katts Church in Westway which we will visit during the walk.

Our walking group is smaller than it once was but I hope that some previous walkers will be able to join us again this year and maybe some new walkers too. The walk will be an all-day event and we will travel to London by train and then public transport to the start of the walk, leaving Guildford at approximately 8.30am and returning early evening. Details of timings will be confirmed nearer the date. Comfortable sturdy shoes are a must and it's a good idea to bring some light refreshments as we never know in advance which churches will be providing refreshments. (I have high hopes of the Methodist Church this year but its best to have a back-up plan!) Walkers also need to bring some small change for donations at the churches visited. Although it's a long route there is the chance to stop and sit at most of the 7 churches visited which are fairly evenly spaced along the walk.

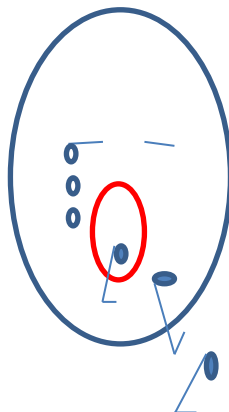
Walkers are encouraged to ask family and friends to sponsor them and there will be a group sponsorship list on the Church Notice Board. I hope that people will once again sponsor this year's walkers so that we can in turn support the work of Unlock who do such a good job on very limited resources. We have been one of the top 5 churches in terms of sponsorship amounts raised for some years and last year we were 4<sup>th</sup> in the "league table" of church sponsorship for the walk. This is a really wonderful achievement and I hope this year our church will support this event so we can maintain our position.

Please let me know if you'd like to join this years' walk and do ask if you'd like any further information about Unlock or the walk.

Maggie Woolcock

\*\*\*\*\*

**Songs of Praise**  
on Sunday evening 5<sup>th</sup> May  
has been cancelled

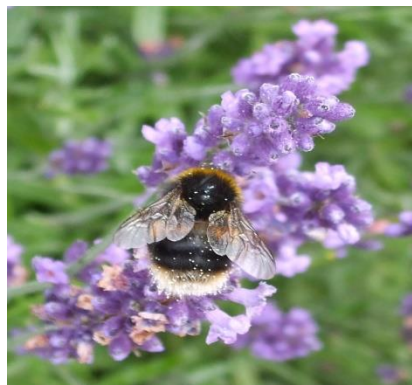




# JUNIOR PAGE – for the young and young at heart

## Word-search for Spring

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



### Words to find

April

Bee; Blossom; Bud

Chocolate

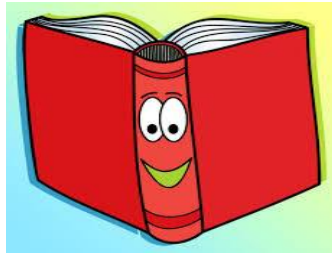
Duckling

Easter; Eggs

Fair; Fog

Lamb

Sea; Showers; Spring; Sunshine



## Story time

### **The farmer and the baker story**

Once upon a time, in a small town, a farmer and a baker did business with each other. In exchange for 1 Kg of butter that the farmer brought every day, the baker would give the farmer a 1Kg loaf of bread. The two developed a good bond between them and they became friends.

One day, the baker decided to check the weight of the butter to see if he was getting 1Kg as promised. When he measured the butter, he found that the farmer was giving him less than that and this made the baker very angry, so he decided to take the farmer to court to get justice.

#### **The Farmer's Trial**

When the farmer appeared before the judge, the judge asked him how he measured the butter. The poor farmer replied, "I weigh it on my weighing scale," and explained, "Your Honour, every day the baker buys butter from me and I buy bread loaf from him. So, every day when the baker brings his 1 Kg loaf which I put on the scale. Then I put my butter on the scale to match the weight of his loaf. So I give the baker the same weight in butter as he gives me in bread. If there is less than 1 Kg of butter it is because the loaf of bread must also weigh less and so it is actually the baker's fault."



The judge pronounced his verdict "The baker is a cheat and must be punished.

**Moral.** Be honest in life. Those who cheat will always be found out in the end.



## Gill's trills

1. Did you know April used to only have 29 days? The 30<sup>th</sup> day was added when Julius Caesar established the Julian calendar. The Romans also called it "Aprillis".
2. If you were born in April, your zodiac sign is either Aries or Taurus.
3. It is thought that the word "April" comes from the verb "aperire," which means "to open", which makes sense since April is the season of trees and flowers beginning to bloom.
4. The April birthstone is a diamond and the birth flower is either a Daisy or Sweet Pea.
5. After a 1,500 year break, the first Olympics of the modern era took place on April 6, 1896, in Athens.
6. The Titanic hit the now famous iceberg on April 15, 1912.
7. George Washington was inaugurated as the First President of the United States on April 30, 1789.

**April Fools' Day** is an annual custom on [1 April](#) consisting of [practical jokes](#) and [hoaxes](#). Jokesters often expose their actions by shouting "April Fool!" at the recipient.

Mass media can be involved with these pranks, which may be revealed as such the following day.

Eg An 1857 ticket to "Washing the Lions" at the [Tower of London](#) was advertised. No such event ever took place.

The custom of setting aside a day for playing harmless pranks upon one's neighbour has been relatively common in the world historically.

---

## Ken's Pen

In place of this month's contribution from 'Ken's Pen' we sadly announce the death of his wife Rosemary, peacefully in hospital following a stroke.

There will be a memorial service, in celebration of her long life, here at Merrow Methodist Church at 2.30pm on Wednesday April 10<sup>th</sup>.

Rosemary was a member of this church and played a full part in church life, whilst Ken was a valued member of the choir until their move to Puddletown, Dorset.

# POETRY CORNER

## My April lady

When down the stair at morning  
The sunbeams round her float,  
Sweet rivulets of laughter  
Are bubbling in her throat;  
The gladness of her greeting  
Is gold without alloy;  
And in the morning sunlight  
I think her name is Joy.

When in the evening twilight  
The quiet book-room lies,  
We read the sad old ballads,  
While from her hidden eyes  
The tears are falling, falling,  
That give her heart relief;  
And in the evening twilight,  
I think her name is Grief.

My little April lady,  
Of sunshine and of showers,  
She weaves the old spring magic,  
And breaks my heart in flowers!  
But when her moods are ended,  
She nestles like a dove;  
Then, by the pain and rapture,  
I know her name is Love.

Henry Van Dyke

# SCAMS

The most prolific scams involved criminals claiming to represent energy firms and selling goods at inflated prices.

Criminals may claim

- They are working on a neighbour's address, noticed you need work completed and they have left over materials.
- They may inspect areas you can't access, for example the loft or roof and show you photos/videos as evidence that you need urgent repairs

**Beware** : these images may not even be of your property.

Always ask for identification and tell them to wait outside whilst you check this by calling the company. If you are calling the company, **DO NOT use the phone number on the person's ID card**

How to protect yourself

- If you are not happy about a person's identity, do not let them into your house under any circumstances.
- Take time to consider your options and research costs from other providers.
- If you feel pressured have the confidence to **be firm and say no**.
- Call the citizens advice consumer helpline following a doorstep caller on 03454 04 05 06.

People's Postcode Lottery

Watch out for fake letters which include the People's Postcode Lottery logo and branding, claiming that you have won thousands on the People's Postcode Lottery. The letter asks you to call a number to claim your prize.

The criminal will ask you to provide personal information, most likely including your bank account details.

ADVICE: Always contact the People's Postcode Lottery directly via a verified phone number (**08081 098765**) if you genuinely believe that you may have won a prize.

Fake emails, texts or WhatsApp

- Offering discounts on energy bills.
- Claiming a relationship and that they have lost or changed their phone.

Do not reply, but report the scam email to [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk) and then delete.

## Prayers worth sharing



### Prayer of Cardinal Newman

O Lord, support us all the day long of this troublous life,  
until the shadows lengthen, and the evening comes,  
and the busy world is hushed,  
and the fever of life is over,  
and our work is done.

Then in your mercy, grant us a safe lodging,  
and a holy rest,  
and peace at the last.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Dear Father in heaven,** accept our thanks today  
for all you allow us to learn and to receive from you.  
Help us, your children, to follow the Saviour  
with a right spirit and with true understanding.  
Protect us from all evil and reveal yourself with power.  
May your will be done on earth as in heaven,  
Bless and strengthen us for all the work entrusted to us.  
In the name of Jesus we pray.  
Amen.

And in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ give thanks every day for everything to our  
God and Father. *Ephesians 5:20*