

THE VOICE

MERROW METHODIST CHURCH MAGAZINE



MAY 2024

MESSAGE FROM THE MANSE

Hello friends in the faith,

Happy Springtime

A photograph that has sparked controversy won the best photo of the decade award. The photographer was asked, "How was it that you took this picture?" He answered the following:

“Cheetahs chased a mother deer and her two babies, she was faster than those cheetahs, her babies weren't, so the mom offered herself so her two babies could escape”..

The photo shows how she watches her babies run safely while she is about to be devoured. The mother could have easily outclassed the cheetahs, but instead, she offered herself to the cheetahs so her cubs could run and escape until they were safe.

How many times have you stopped to think about how many sacrifices your parents make for you? While you have fun, laugh and enjoy life, they deliver theirs.

We are so worried about growing up that we forget they're getting older and their time each day is more limited. Love! True love makes us give everything for those we love. Love is one of the most powerful forces in the universe, yet it can be challenging to understand.

Divine love is a perfect example of pure and unconditional love. Praying for a deeper understanding of love in its truest form can be a powerful way to bring more love into your life and those around you.

Please, kindly find time to read and digest 1 Corinthians 13, and Romans chapters 12-14.

Let us sacrifice ourselves and our gifts to God and His Church with genuine love from our hearts.

Prayer.

Heavenly Father, we humbly pray to You today, asking for Your guidance and wisdom. Give us the grace and insight to understand love in its purest form, as exemplified by Your divine love. Help us to recognize when we are not in alignment with Your love and how to shift our perspectives to align with Your truth.



Give us the courage to show compassion, understanding, and kindness even when difficult. Help us to forgive those who have wronged us and to be generous with our love. Help us to love ourselves so we can be open to the love You have for us.

Give us the strength to trust in Your divine plan and that Your love will guide us through any challenge.

We thank You for Your divine love and the opportunity to deepen our understanding.

Amen.

We come again before you today to lift up all of our brothers and sisters who are single. We pray that you would shower them with your love. Fill their hearts with your peace and joy. Show them your perfect will for their lives. Give them the strength to wait patiently for your best, and bless them with the gift of your perfect mate when the time is right.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

Thanks

God bless you.

Devotedly Yours
Rev Uncle George.

EDITORIAL NOTE



Transformation

- A poem about the tree seen, as I wake, from my bedroom window -

Once skeletal against the wint'ry sky
Her canopy holds secrets yet unseen;
Buds, tightly furled, touched by the rising sun
Unfold their hidden treasury of green.

A portly pigeon perching up on high
Surveys the morning frenzy down below,
As saucy squirrels scamper branch to branch,
Crazily leaping, chasing to and fro.

Each morning as, unwillingly, I rise,
My heart is glad, my spirits soar to see
This sight, in which, unfailingly, I find
A blessing in the splendour of a tree.

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

by: May 20th 2024

via email: gillianbrierley13@gmail.com

by hand

or by post: **Gillian Varley; 4, Merrow Croft, 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 May will be:

ANN CARPENTER **01483 535282**

EDITOR – 'The Voice'

GILLIAN BRIERLEY **01483 531191**
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, we recognise that some contributors may be uncomfortable with a mention on our web page and we will be happy to omit your name and any other personal details in any future issue if requested to do so.*

Please ensure that any submissions for "The Voice" are OUT OF COPYRIGHT; text and photographs.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN MAY

Stewards for Sunday worship:

Date	Time	Vestry	Worship Leader	PA/AV	Door
May 5th	10.30am HC	Joan Wells		Jane Vinall	Maggie Woolcock Margaret Hyam
May 12 th	10.30am	Iris Walker	Doreen Siame	Glenys Magill	Ruth McCulloch Sheila Shackleton
May 19th	10.30am	Hugh Bradley	Gillian Varley	Jane Vinall	Wendy Bradley Joyce Goodall
May 26th	10.30am	Iris Walker		Cari Rayner	Julie Wallis Jan Marshall

NB. May 12th - after morning service is the church AGM. The evening 'Songs of Praise' will not now take place.

Communion stewards:

May 5th	Doreen Siame/Suzanne Burnham	Helen Belsham
---------	------------------------------	---------------

Flower Rota:

May 5 th	Jan Kemp
May 12 th	Cari Rayner
May 19 th	Doreen Siame
May 26 th	Ruth McCulloch

Sunday Morning Coffee - Rota

May 5 th	Gill Vinall and Jan Kemp.
May 12 th	Ruth McCulloch and Margaret Hills.
May 19 th	Glenys Magill.
May 26 th	Wendy and Hugh Bradley.

Sunday Coffee - Charity support

5th May Mission Aviation Fellowship.
12th May Christian Aid.
19th May Coffee Funds
26th May JMA. Hugh Bradley

Organ Rota:

Gillian Varley: May 5th; 12th; 19th- morning Services;

Women's Fellowship

May 6th - 2.30 pm

Tea and chat

Morning Bible Study

at 4, Merrow Croft

On Tuesday May 14th at 11.00am

Details from Gillian Varley

Continuing our study of "The Resurrection"

Evening Bible Study

Thursday May 16th at 7.30pm

Details from Julie Wallis

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.

please leave any donations in the foyer as usual and I can pass them on.

Thank you

Ruth McCulloch

The Community Garden

See how the garden grows!

This is a community venture, open to all.



The beds have multiplied



The first broad beans

Come along
to
Sow, plant, water, nurture, watch things grow, harvest
and
make new gardening friends.

My Garden

By Thomas Edward Brown

A GARDEN is a lovesome thing, God wot!
Rose plot,
Fringed pool,
Ferned grot --
The veriest school
Of peace; and yet the fool
Contends that God is not --
Not God! in gardens! when the eve is cool?
Nay, but I have a sign:
'Tis very sure God walks in mine.



THY KINGDOM COME

Thursday 9th May - Sunday 19th May 2024

The Kingdom Come, the global ecumenical prayer movement which invites Christians around the world to pray daily for 5 friends or family members, that they might know the love of God, is happening here. Let's start thinking about who we might pray for - friends, neighbours, family?

Novena and Prayer Journal

The two main resources are the Novena and the Prayer Journal. The Novena contains daily reflections written by Bishop Anthony Poggo, Secretary General of the Anglican Communion, who focuses on the early chapters on Revelation and the Prayer Journal is written this year by a range of contributors guiding us through a range of different ways that we can pray. Both will be available in hard copy from late April/early May and there are links to the electronic versions below You might like to focus on one or use both!

Resources:

Novena

[https://www.thykingdomcome.global/sites/default/files/2024-03/2024 Novena.pdf](https://www.thykingdomcome.global/sites/default/files/2024-03/2024%20Novena.pdf)

Prayer Journal

[https://www.thykingdomcome.global/sites/default/files/2024-03/TKC Prayer Journal 2024 WEB V1.pdf](https://www.thykingdomcome.global/sites/default/files/2024-03/TKC%20Prayer%20Journal%202024%20WEB%20V1.pdf)

Children's resources

See TKC website - <https://www.thykingdomcome.global/>

Since its start in May 2016 God has grown Thy Kingdom Come from a dream of possibility into a movement. Christians from nearly 90% of countries and 85 different denominations and traditions have taken part in praying 'Come Holy Spirit', so that friends and family, neighbours and colleagues might come to faith in Jesus Christ.

"In praying 'Thy Kingdom Come' we all commit to playing our part in the renewal of the nations and the transformation of communities." Archbishop Justin Welby

Warm Welcome Evensong

Maggie and I were invited to attend a service of Evensong at St Paul's Cathedral on 17 April for supporters of Warm Welcome Spaces. The service was very well attended and we were lucky enough to be seated directly under the dome with a clear view of proceedings and the stunning architecture of St Pauls.

Within the traditional sung framework for evensong there was a moving testimony from Shafraz, a Sri Lankan seeking asylum who described how the warm spaces in Waltham Forest had provided a variety of services which have helped him and his family to feel part of the community and build up a support network. This was put to the test recently when residents were told they would be moved to other accommodation, some outside London, within a week. As a result of the community coming together and with help from the warm spaces, the decision was challenged and all of the residents have now been relocated within London.

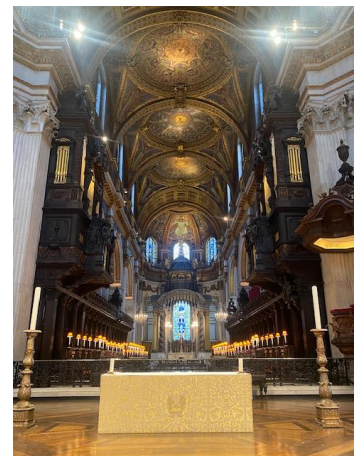
Jude Levermore, Head of Mission for the Methodist Church, gave a two point sermon highlighting the fact that blessings can be found in unexpected places and how we, as Christians, are called to be bearers of hope and blessing in our own communities.

The service ended with a Call to Action when we were invited to commit to

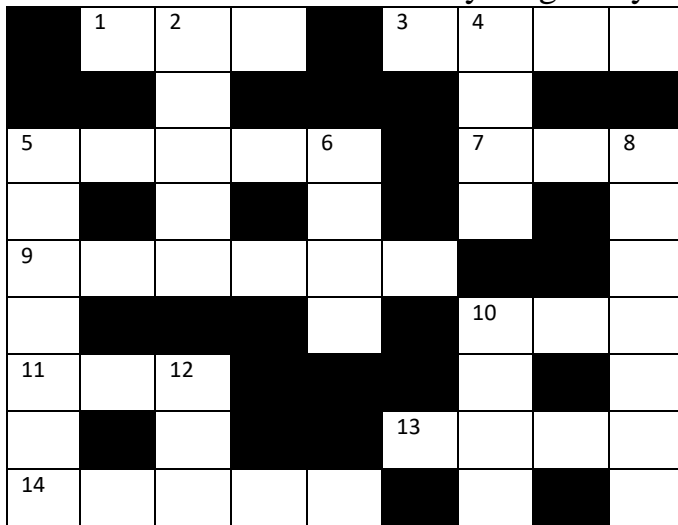
- continuing our support for local Warm Welcome Spaces
- praying for all those in need
- continue to use our gifts and resources to support those in need

In 2022 as energy bills began to spiral, a whole range of community organisations including MMC stepped forward to open their doors as Warm Spaces. About this time last year, as the weather got warmer we changed our name to the Thursday Coffee Morning, a space where everyone is welcome, friendships have been forged and help has been given. A heartfelt thank you from us both to all our guests and volunteers for making it such a special space in Merrow.

Maggie & Helen



JUNIOR PAGE – for the young and young at heart



Clues

Across:

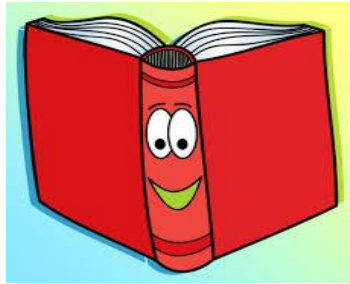
1. This month
3. You may see one in a pond
5. The first month of Spring
7. The hard shelled fruit of many trees
9. A bright Spring colour
10. A sticky, energy giving, liquid in trees
11. A common tree
13. Frozen raindrops
14. A bush or tree with edible flowers and berries

Down:

2. A month of fools
4. The place for an icy sport
5. You may dance round this in this month
6. The cry of a night bird
8. A baby '3 across'
10. A graceful water-bird
12. A young goat

Q. What is the difference between bird flu and swine fever?

A. Birds need tweetment, pigs get oinkment.



Story time

A poor young man traded the family's only cow for a handful of magic beans. When he went home and told his mother what he had done she said "Stupid boy! The cow gave us milk and might have brought us a good price at market, but who can believe that these beans are magic!" She then tossed the beans out of the window.

The next morning, Jack woke up to see a giant beanstalk outside his bedroom window. It stretched right up into the sky. He jumped out of bed, quickly got dressed and ran outside. His mother was still asleep, so he began to climb. Up and up he went and when he got to the top, found himself in the land where the only inhabitant was a giant who had a large store of golden coins. Jack looked around and saw that the giant was fast asleep so he filled his pockets with as many coins as he could and scrambled back down the beanstalk.

The next day, he returned to see what else he could find to take for himself, and his eyes fell on a beautiful golden harp. As he carried it to the top of the beanstalk to make his escape the harp strings made a noise, waking the slumbering giant who leapt up shouting "Fee fie foe fum" and began to give chase. Jack dropped the harp and began to climb hurriedly down the beanstalk. When he reached the bottom he grabbed an axe and chopped the beanstalk down. The giant was thrown off the beanstalk right down to the ground and was killed.

MORAL :

It is good and wise to look out for opportunities in life, but don't be greedy.

It is easy to always want more, but stealing from others to get it is both selfish and wrong.

Gill's trills



This month I want to share with you photographs of the Keukenhof Gardens in Holland.

This beautiful park, well known for its displays of different varieties of tulips, but also many other Spring bulbs is well worth a visit.

Derek and I were visiting Derek's youngest son, Philip, (some of you will remember him giving the address at our wedding). He and his family now live in Rotterdam where Phil. is the pastor of a new church plant. We attended the Sunday morning worship and received a very warm welcome from people of many nationalities.

Amidst all the days of rain, we were blessed with warm, sunny weather to enjoy these beautiful surrounding



We welcome back

Ken's Pen

In Worcester Cathedral there is a stone slab bearing the sole word, in Latin, Miserrimus (most miserable), yet in a Roman catacomb, a burial place where early Christians hid from their persecutors, there is a stone with another sole word in Latin , Felicissimus (most happy).

At my end, and at yours, which would apply? I believe that Rosemary was well prepared to leave this life and be with Our Lord. I believe also that the world is a better place because of Rosemary's witness.

Thanks to all those who were able to attend Rosemary's farewell service.

Also for your many cards, and lovely words of memories.

I know several people were not able to come along and I understand that.

It was so good to meet again many friends in a church where we both worshipped and served for 43 years.

May God bless you all, and all you do in His service.

Ken Mills

JULIE'S NEWS



Watch the notice board in front of the church car park to see the posters change each month.

POETRY CORNER

May and the Poets

by James Henry Leigh Hunt

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

James Henry Leigh Hunt (1784–1859) best known as Leigh Hunt, was an English critic, essayist and poet.

Song on May Morning by John Milton

Now the bright morning Star, Dayes harbinger,
Comes dancing from the East, and leads with her
The Flowry May, who from her green lap throws
The yellow Cowslip, and the pale Primrose.

Hail bounteous May that dost inspire
Mirth and youth, and warm desire,
Woods and Groves, are of thy dressing,
Hill and Dale, doth boast thy blessing.
Thus we salute thee with our early Song,
And welcom thee, and wish thee long.

SCAMS

We all want to give and receive love, unfortunately scammers understand this
Only too well

Romance scams involve people being duped into sending money to criminals who go to great lengths to gain their trust and convince them that they are in a genuine relationship.

They can build up a relationship over many weeks, even months, before beginning to manipulate, persuade and exploit so that requests for money do not raise alarm bells.

These requests might be highly emotive, such as criminals claiming they need money for emergency medical care, or to pay for transport costs to visit the victim if they are overseas.

Fraudsters are also likely to exploit the concerns around gas prices in various ways, eg.

- Knocking on your door offering scam deals,
- phone calls around new gas takeovers or
- phishing emails and texts asking you to update personal and/or financial information.

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

If you are asked for personal details, especially bank details, **DO NOT** give them.

Lloyds Bank estimates that more than £1 million could have been lost in the UK to fraudsters selling fake Taylor Swift tickets.

The warning comes after the bank received over 600 scam reports from its customers.

To avoid ticket scams:

Stick to official retailers and competitions.

Be wary of buying tickets from sellers on social media as many ticket scams begin on these platforms.

Be suspicious of too good to be true prices.

Don't pay via bank transfer as you'll have a hard time being reimbursed if you do.

Prayers worth sharing



*We thank you Lord for the golden treasures of May:
Daffodils, primroses, dandelions, cowslips,
Peaches, bananas and honey
Parakeets and yellowhammers,
The glow of the sunshine.*

*Forgive us when we fail
to appreciate the wonder that is this world,
the endless cycle of nature
bringing the joy of rebirth, transformation
and new possibilities.*

*Open our eyes to see,
our lips to praise,
our hands to share,
and may our feet tread lightly
on the road that, together, we travel.*

Amen

*Thank you, Father, for the bible;
For its words about you and words from you;
For its words about you from unexpected people;
For its words that can help us to know ourselves better;
As we read, may we be stirred by your Spirit and meet with you,
The true word of God, who is Jesus Christ, our Lord.*

Amen

We especially remember in our prayers those of our church family who we have loved and lost, giving thanks that our loss is their eternal gain. Amen