

THE VOICE

MERROW METHODIST CHURCH MAGAZINE



July/August 2024

Message from the Manse – July

Dear Beloved Community,

In these times of uncertainty and change, it is easy to feel adrift, much like the early disciples who navigated the literal and figurative storms of life. Yet, as Christians, we are called to be beacons of hope and love in a world that desperately needs it. Our faith teaches us that through Christ, we have the strength to face any challenge. Philippians 4:13 reminds us, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” This powerful truth can inspire us to take heart and act with courage, knowing we are not alone.

The church is not just a building; it’s a community of believers united in purpose. We are called to support one another, to lift each other up in prayer, and to serve those around us with compassion. In doing so, we embody the love of Christ and become His hands and feet on earth. Let us embrace our role as people of peace and agents of change; whether through small acts of kindness or larger initiatives for social justice, our actions can ripple outwards, bringing light into the darkness.

As we navigate the complexities of today’s world, let us hold fast to our faith, find strength in our fellowship, and move forward with hope. For we know that “in all things God works for the good of those who love him” (Romans 8:28). Together, let’s make a difference—one act of love at a time.

Also, in a world that often feels to be spinning faster than we can keep up, it is easy to feel overwhelmed. We witness change at every turn – in our personal lives, our communities, and across the globe. Yet, amidst this constant flux, we are reminded of the steadfast love and unchanging nature of God. The scriptures tell us that “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever” (Hebrews 13:8). This enduring truth provides us with a foundation upon which we can stand firm. It offers us hope when the future seems uncertain.

As your minister, I encourage you to embrace this hope. Let it be the light that guides you through change and the anchor that holds you steady in life’s storms. Let us come together as a community of faith to support one another, to serve those in need, and to spread love in all we do. For it is through hope and love that we reflect Christ’s light in the world. And it is through our united efforts that we can make a difference, bringing comfort and joy to those around us. May this message uplift your spirits and inspire you to face each day with courage and faith.

May God bless every member of our dear church past and present.

With blessings and peace for this summer season.

Devotedly Yours,

Rev George.

EDITORIAL NOTE



July and August in duet
Their "Voice" is '2-in-1,' and yet
Each page holds news and information,
With articles for stimulation,
Poems and pictures all for you,
Ensuring, all the summer through,
That, if you take a look, you'll find
Something to occupy the mind,
Inform, instruct, or please the eye.
Read on, the months will just fly by!
Enjoy your summer and remember
"The Voice" to follow's in September.

Any items for inclusion in the September issue of "The Voice" should be sent to me by: **August 20th 2024**

via email: gillianbrierley13@gmail.com

by hand:

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

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USEFUL ADDRESSES

SUPERINTENDENT MINISTER:

REV. DR. PAUL GLASS **01483 575667**
revpaulglass@gmail.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 July will be:

HELEN BELSHAM **01483 823742**

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 JULY / AUGUST

Stewards for Sunday worship:

Date	Vestry	Worship Leader	PA/AV	Door
July 7 10.30am HC	Iris Walker		Jane Vinall	Ruth McCulloch
July 14 th 10.30am AFC	Suzanne Burnham		Cari Rayner	Wendy Bradley Julie Wallis
July 21 st 10.30am Ch. Anniversary	Iris Walker		Jane Vinall	Julie Wallis Joyce Goodall
July 28 th 10.30am 6.30pm	Hugh Bradley Hugh Bradley	Gillian Varley	Glenys Magill	Wendy Bradley Julie Wallis
August 4 th 10.30am HC	Helen Belsham		Glenys Magill	Margaret Hyam Maggie Woolcock
August 11 th 10.30am 6.30pm HC	Joan Wells Helen Belsham		Cari Rayner	Joyce Goodall Sheila Shackleton
August 18 th 10.30am	Hugh Bradley		Glenys Magill	Wendy Bradley Sheila Shackleton
August 25 th 10.30am	Suzanne Burnham	Doreen Siame	Jane Vinall	Margaret Hyam Maggie Woolcock

Communion stewards:

July 7th 10.30am	<u>Preparation:</u> Suzanne Burnham & Doreen Siame	<u>Assisting:</u> Doreen Siame
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Flower Rota:

July 7th – Pauline Daniels

July 21st – Cari Rayner

August 4th – Ruth McCulloch

August -18th – Glenys Magill

July 14th - Jan Kemp

July 28th – Doreen Siame

August 11th – Joan Wels

August 25th – Wendy Bradley

Sunday Morning Coffee Rota & Charities:

Ruth McCulloch and Margaret Hills. East	7th July	Embrace the Middle
Maggie Woolcock and Margaret Hyam.	14th July.	Action for Children
Wendy and Hugh Bradley.	21st July	Transform Trade
Glenys Magill and Hugh Bradley.	28th July	JMA
Pauline Daniels and Sheila Shackleton.	4th August	Coffee Funds
Joan Wells and Jan Walker.	11th August	
Julie Wallis and Helen Belsham.	18th August	
Gill Vinall and Jan Kemp.	25th August	

Women's Fellowship

**The Summer Tea
will be held on
Monday 8th July 2.00pm.**

Church Bible Studies

All are welcome.

Please contact Gillian Varley(am) and Julie Wallis (pm) for further details

Morning Bible Study

at Lavender Cottage, Marlyns Drive, Burpham.
On Tuesdays July 9th & 23rd at 11.00am

Evening Bible Study

Thursday July 18th and August 8th 7.30pm
at Merrow Methodist Church

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.

On the 2nd 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

On Thursday July 11th
our Charity Coffee Morning will support

The Merrow Scouts

The Scouts put on an annual tea party for us in our church hall.
The proceeds of our coffee morning will be by way of showing our
appreciation for all that they do to make the tea party such an enjoyable
event.

Action for Children the Methodist Children's charity

On **Sunday 14th July at 10.30 am** Action for Children will be celebrating 155
years.

A lot has changed since 1869.
AFC started as NCH,
and then changed to Action for Children in 2008.

In over 155 years, they have been a source of crucial support for vulnerable
children, young people and families with nowhere else to turn,
and their ambition
- to give children safe and happy childhoods - shines just as bright.

They are a vital lifeline.
They have been for generations and together with amazing supporters like us,
they can be for generations to come
Mr Graham Warr will be our preacher and there will be gift envelopes available
for donations.

DIARY DATES & NEWS

Frank Winder
on his way to the DDay parade
in Guildford High Street
on Saturday 8th June



In June we bid our last farewells to Cynthia Winder.
Over many years she has been instrumental in
Helping to 'knit' this church fellowship together.

She was also a busy knitter, having made 30 blankets for charity.
Catherine has been doing the mathematics and tells me
"Mum knitted 340 rows per strip, each with 95 stitches.
This amounts to 32,300 stitches per strip and 129,000 per blanket:
In all 3,370,000 stitches.

JUNIOR PAGE – for the young and young at heart

Word-search for July/August

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

Words can go across, in either direction, up or down and diagonally

Words to find

Beach; Hat; Hot; Ices; Nest; Pool; Shells; Summer; Sunburn;
Sunshine;
Suntan; Surfboard; Swim; Travel;

And here are some summery things you might notice or enjoy.

Longer days

Shorter nights

No school,

Warm weather,

Holidays

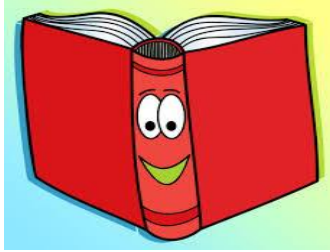
Swimming

Going to the seaside

Picnics

Barbecues

You can add a few for yourselves



Story time

'Matilda, Who Told Lies and was Burned to Death' by Hilaire Belloc

Matilda told such Dreadful Lies,
It made one Gasp and Stretch one's Eyes;
Her Aunt, who, from her Earliest Youth,
Had kept a Strict Regard for Truth,
Attempted to Believe Matilda:
The effort very nearly killed her,
And would have done so, had not She
Discovered this Infirmary.

For once, towards the Close of Day,
Matilda, growing tired of play,
And finding she was left alone,
Went tiptoe to the Telephone
And summoned the Immediate Aid
Of London's Noble Fire-Brigade.
Within an hour the Gallant Band
Were pouring in on every hand,
From Putney, Hackney Downs, and Bow
With Courage high and Hearts a-glow
They galloped, roaring through the Town
'Matilda's House is Burning Down!'
Inspired by British Cheers and Loud
Proceeding from the Frenzied Crowd,
They ran their ladders through a score
Of windows on the Ball Room Floor;
And took Peculiar Pains to Souse
The Pictures up and down the House,
Until Matilda's Aunt succeeded
In showing them they were not needed;

And even then she had to pay
To get the Men to go away!
It happened that a few Weeks later
Her Aunt was off to the Theatre
To see that Interesting Play
The Second Mrs Tanqueray.

She had refused to take her Niece
To hear this Entertaining Piece:
A Deprivation Just and Wise
To Punish her for Telling Lies.

That Night a Fire *did* break out-
You should have heard Matilda Shout!
You should have heard her Scream and Bawl,
And throw the window up and call
To People passing in the Street-
(The rapidly increasing Heat
Encouraging her to obtain
Their confidence)-but all in vain!
For every time She shouted 'Fire!'
They only answered 'Little Liar'!

And therefore when her Aunt returned,
Matilda, and the House, were Burned.

The Moral:

It does not pay to tell lies



Gill's trills

Did you know?

In 1816 there was no summer.

The volcanic eruption of Mount Tambora in Indonesia blocked out the atmosphere with dust, ash and sulphur oxide, causing a significant drop in global temperatures which resulted in winter-like climates.

Ken's Pen

Are you tired? Disappointed? Sad? Hungry?

Have you been let down, abused?

Jesus being fully human as well as divine, experienced so many of our own feelings. So we can pray "Lord, Jesus, you know exactly how I feel. Please help me."

As Joseph Scriven wrote in that lovely hymn "What a friend we have in Jesus"

"Have we trials and temptations,

Is there trouble anywhere?

We should never be discouraged:

Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Can we find a friend so faithful

Who will all our sorrows share?

Jesus knows our every weakness:

Take it to the Lord in prayer."

.....

A minister was in the church office, trying to do some paper-work. Standing in front of the shredder, holding a sheet of paper, he looked puzzled. A steward walked in and offered to help. "Many thanks" said the minister. The paper was put in, the button pressed, and it was soon done. "O, good, and may I have another two copies?" he asked.

.....

A little girl was getting restless, as the sermon seemed to be going on a long time. "Mummy" she said, "If we give him the collection now, will he let us go?"

.....

A little boy was at home, when his Mummy, the minister, was trying to get tomato ketchup out of the bottle. The Superintendent rang, and the lad answered it. He said "I'm sorry, but Mummy can't come to the phone just now. She is hitting the bottle."

.....

With greetings from Puddletown, Ken Mills

Walker's talk

SERMON

A minister, known for his lengthy sermons, noticed a man get up and leave during his message. The man returned just before the end of the service. Afterwards, the minister asked him where he had gone. "I went for a haircut," was the reply. "But why didn't you do that before the service?" asked the minister. The answer came, "Because I didn't need one then."

FOR POLITICIANS ONLY

At the Pearly Gates, St. Peter greeted a minister and a Member of Parliament and gave them their room keys. "Minister, here are the keys to one of our best single rooms.

For you, Mr. M.P., the keys to our finest penthouse suite."

When the minister protested this was unfair, St Peter explained: "Look, ministers are ten a penny up here, but this is the first politician we have seen."

A GOOD HOME

After the christening of his baby brother, young Jason sobbed all the way home. When asked what was wrong he said, "That minister said he wanted us to be brought up in a good Christian home, but I want to stay with you guys."

PREPARED

Winston Churchill on his 75th birthday: "I am prepared to meet my maker. Whether my maker is prepared for the ordeal of meeting me is another matter."

U.S. ELECTIONS Edward Hale, while chaplain of the U. S. Senate, was once asked if he prayed for the senators. He quickly replied, "No. After getting to know the senators, I pray for the people."

ARE YOU A TRUE FRIEND?

Egbert Hubbard, writer, said, "Your friend is the man or woman who knows all about you and still likes you. If you have a friend like that, treasure them and tell them how much you appreciate them."

Pete's tweet

Adam Payne used the giant USA locomotive below in a recent sermon. It was called a "Big Boy" but owing to size and weight was only 4% efficient. One can easily extrapolate how his talk on the sinfulness of man evolved. However, a valid surmise could be that if the design had been better streamlined the aesthetics would have been more pleasing. It would have been a "Big Girl" and the output definitely more efficient!

NB: The largest British steam loco had a tractive effort of 38 000 lbs. This monster, eight of them preserved and one in working order, could haul 140 000 lbs.



JULIE'S NEWS

The church poster for July



Julie has also submitted this interesting article

Greensted-Juxta-Ongar Church Essex

St Andrews Church



The above Church is the oldest Wooden church in the world and the oldest ‘Stave Built’ timber building in Europe.

The timber planks shown here date from around 1060 but excavations within the Chancel show earlier timber structures from around the 6th and 7th centuries. The Church bears witness to the work of Saxon, Norman, Tudor and Victorian builders!

The body of St Edmund (King of East Anglia) and England’s first patron Saint rested here in 1013 on its way to his final resting place in Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk. It was the Normans who replaced him with St George!

There is also a grave of a 12th Century crusader in the grounds.

The Church is still in regular use today!

If you are in the area, this beautiful church is well worth a visit. It even boasts a lepers hole, through which lepers could receive alms without coming into contact with other people.

I believe there is also one in Shere Parish Church wall, in addition to the John Wesley pillar in the graveyard there.

POETRY CORNER

Migration by Peter Youngs

The sun was setting in a clear blue sky that
Slowly turned grey as the daylight faded.
In the east a speck of silver was Venus at
Her rising as the first star to appear ahead
Of the main multitude.

The moon, waxing but not yet full, was beyond her
Zenith before descending into the far west to set
In the hours before dawn. In a few days the moon will
Be full when the year passes the equinox and yet
It is still summer.

Birds that came from afar to build their nests here
Have raised their families and will soon prepare to
Return for the long journey back, old birds and mere
Fledglings will find their way round mountains and low
Deserts back to Africa.

It's
Enough
Of a miracle
That the old birds can
Remember the route.
But even more
That the young ones
Have the strength
To complete the flight
And memorise where
They have been.

Margriet has sent an anecdote about Peter Youngs' great-grand-daughter Ella, who has German parents and lives in Germany.

"Ella and I took the tram earlier today and she started talking to a lady sitting next to us.

Ella told her that she would turn 5 in 40 days, to which the lady replied "I'll turn 83 soon. That's a number isn't it?!"

And then Ella said, very proudly, "You know what?! My great-grandfather has just turned 94!"
(*We wish Peter a belated Happy Birthday*)

SCAMS

Vacation Scams To Watch For This Summer and How To Avoid Them

- The bogus prize vacation. In this scam, you'll receive notification via snail mail, phone call or email, that you're the lucky winner of an absolutely free vacation stay...
 - In this scam, you'll receive notification via snail mail, phone call or email, that you're the lucky winner of an absolutely free vacation stay. You'll eagerly start planning your trip, only to find that you're constantly asked to pay various "prize fees," "taxes," or "reservation deposits" as the departure date draws near. Your "free" vacation isn't really free at all!
 - You might get suspicious and pull out. Or, you might be too deeply ensnared in the trap and only realize that, when you arrive at your destination, you've been conned. The vacation destination will either not exist at all, or be so substandard that you'll need a vacation from your vacation when you get back home
- The dream-priced rental.
 - You're scrolling through Airbnb, searching for that perfect vacation rental house when you suddenly strike gold. There it is! The rental you've been looking for — and at a dream price!
 - You'll contact the renter and begin making make arrangements for your trip. The renter will offer you an even steeper discount if you pay them through a third-party processing site instead of through the Airbnb website. Their likely preference is wire transfer. You'll then be asked to pay a deposit or even the full price of the rental before you arrive. While it's completely expected to pay up front through Airbnb or another rental service, you will not have the same protection if you're not using the site.
 - The problem starts when you arrive at your vacation spot — or try to do so, that is. The address you've been given does not actually exist and the gorgeous pictures you've been looking through belong to another renter. Sadly, you're now out your money and have nowhere to stay during your vacation.
- Phony "experiences" ...
 - sites like Airbnb also allow you to book "experiences," or days out on the town with locals.
 - Unfortunately, this platform has become a breeding ground for scammers who offer phony tours to eager vacationers. You might find yourself booking a tour or an experience, and even paying for it, only to find out you've been scammed.
- Travel-club membership with a catch.

Unscrupulous travel companies try to persuade you to join their travel club with promises of significant benefits including dream vacation stays, discounted cruises or resort tickets and completely free getaways. These may be hard to access, cost extra and come with severe restrictions.

Prayers worth sharing



The Celtic prayer for summer

God of summer sun, warming earth, sprouting seed.

Lord, through your power all things were made,
T Through your wisdom all things are governed.
Through your grace all things are sustained.
Give us power to serve you,
wisdom to discern your laws,
and grace to obey those at all times
Amen

The Irish blessing for summer

May the road rise up to meet you.
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
And rains fall soft upon your fields,
And until we meet again,
May God hold you in the hollow of His hand.
Amen

An Ignatian Prayer to Begin Summer

For more light in the day, we thank you,
For gentle mornings, we thank you,
For night-time conversations, we thank you,
For friends and family, we thank you,
For gardens and all manner of creatures, we thank you.
Help us, Creator and lover of our souls.
Help us love this earth.
Help us dwell wholeheartedly in our lives this day.
Help us pray as we walk, work, play, rest, and create.
Amen.