

THE VOICE

MERROW METHODIST CHURCH MAGAZINE



NOVEMBER 2024

MESSAGE for NOVEMBER

One of George's favourite Psalms is Psalm 23. During the Covid epidemic I heard a sermon based on this Psalm and am taking this opportunity to share it with you. It is a psalm of comfort

Mavis was one of the Windrush generation, when a family in the Caribbean would elect a member to come to Britain to help to re-build the empire. She was a nurse, midwife, a leader, representing the Caribbean community. For her selfless work she was awarded the MBE, but died of Coronavirus in her 80s. She chose this psalm for her funeral service.

Psalm 23:

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

When we say the first line we surely ask ourselves, 'Who is my shepherd?' The answer? It is the Lord – caring for his sheep (like David the king) David had been a shepherd boy. Tending sheep was part of his experience, to protect, guide, seek the lost, lead them to good pasture and water. v1-2

If we come to *this* shepherd we will not want. He will provide rest and food to nurture and sustain us. We can rest in this comfort and he will restore our souls - v3, and even in the bad times he feeds and blesses us.

The preacher then told this story.... On a cruise, the passengers were entertaining each other. A Shakespearian actor recited Psalm 23; perfect in pitch, pace and pause, then an old woman recited it again, stumbling through it.

When the actor was asked what he thought of what had happened, he said "I know the psalm, but

She knows the shepherd"

John10: 7;11; 14-15

I AM the gate; the good shepherd; I know my sheep and I lay down my life for them.

EDITORIAL NOTE



Autumn Song

Autumn enfolds us in her misty veil;
Chill fingers touch and hold.
The summer hues of green have given way
To russet, brown and gold.
The sun has lost her heat, yet, high above
With gentler warmth, shines bright.
November rains and ever darkening clouds
Cannot obscure her light.
Each season offers treasures of her own
And in them all, God's bounteousness is shown.

Any items for inclusion in the **DECEMBER** issue of "The Voice" should be sent
to me by: **NOVEMBER 21st 2024**

via email: gillianbrierley13@gmail.com

by hand

or by post: **Gillian Varley; 4, Merrow Croft, GU1 2XH**

USEFUL ADDRESSES

SUPERINTENDENT MINISTER

REV. DR. PAUL GLASS

01483 575667

revpaulglass@gmail.com

MINISTER: (on Sabbatical for 3 months from 1st October)

REV. GEORGE QUARM

01483 575432

quarmenchill@btinternet.com (please note new email address)

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 November will be:

HELEN BELSHAM

01483 823742

EDITOR – ‘The Voice’

GILLIAN VARLEY

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” both text and photographs are OUT OF COPYRIGHT.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN NOVEMBER

Stewards for Sunday worship:

Date	Time	Vestry Steward	Worship leader	PA/AV	Door Stewards
Nov. 3 rd	10.30 HC	Hugh Bradley		Jane Vinall	Wendy Bradley Jan Marshall
Nov.10 th	10.30 Remembrance	Joan Wells	Doreen Siame	Glenys Magill	Julie Wallis Ruth McCulloch
Nov.17 th	10.30	Suzanne Burnham	Gillian Varley	Jane Vinall	Wendy Bradley Maggie Woolcock
Nov.24 th	10.30	Iris Walker		Cari Rayner	Joyce Goodall Maggie Woolcock

Communion stewards:

November 10.30am	<u>Preparation</u> Doreen Siame & Suzanne Burnham	<u>Assisting</u> Helen Belsham
---------------------	--	-----------------------------------

Flower Rota:

November 3 rd	Jan Kemp
November 10 th	Cari Rayner
November 17 th	Doreen Siame
November 24 th	Ruth McCulloch

Sunday Morning Coffee – Rota

Nov. 3 rd	Pauline Daniels and Sheila Shackleton
Nov.10 th	Joan Wells and Jan Walker.
Nov.17 th	Julie Wallis and Helen Belsham
Nov.24 th	Gill Vinall and Jan Kemp.

Charity Support

3 rd Nov	Mission Aviation Fellowship.	Hugh Bradley
10 th Nov	Christian Aid	Hugh Bradley.
17 th Nov	Coffee Funds	Hugh Bradley
24 th Nov	JMA.	Hugh Bradley



Women's Fellowship

Monday 4th November
at 2.30pm

“HATS OFF“

Speaker: Couture milliner Sophie Fryer will talk about her experience of making hats for a wide range of clients, and theatrical hats for well-known shows.
Come along and try some on.

This meeting has been arranged in memory of our dear friend, Joy Kendal.
Tea and cake will be served afterwards.
All ladies and their friends are welcome to join us for this fun afternoon.



Morning Bible Study

On Tuesday November 12th & 20th
at Lavender Cottage, Marlyns Drive, Burpham
Details from Gillian Varley
Continuing our study of Paul's letter to the Romans

Evening Bible Study

Thursday 21st November
at Merrow Methodist Church
Details from Julie Wallis

Number 5 and Mulberry House

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

Thank you

Ruth McCulloch

Merrow Methodist Church
Charity Coffee Morning
Thursday 14 November 2024
10.30am - 12 noon

In aid of
MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

LOOKING BACK AT OCTOBER



The Rev. George Quarm after the Harvest Festival: his last service before leaving for his Sabbatical.

This service was followed by a harvest lunch,
with tasty dishes from around the world.

Thank you to all who made this such a memorable occasion.

Janet Williams : 1941 - 2024

The Local Arrangement service on Sunday October 20th incorporated a time of remembrance and thanksgiving for the life of Janet Williams who died on September 8th.

LOOKING FORWARD TO DECEMBER

Action for Children

There are 4.2 million children who now live in poverty in the UK. Day after day they will go without the essentials like food, clothes that fit and a warm house. AFC know children will be still struggling long after the Christmas decorations are packed away.

Yet again this year I will be asking for vouchers One4all which can be purchased at the Post Office and Sainsbury's. The minimum is £10.

I will collect them at the morning service on Sunday 1st December.

I will deliver them, once again, to the Fostering Wessex at Fareham before Christmas.

Please help me, by donating these vouchers and make a vulnerable child feel the magic of Christmas.

Suzanne

December services will include:

- A Service of Remembrance led by Rev.Dr.Paul Glass, our Superintendent minister, to commemorate the lives of those of our church family who have died in the last few years.
This will be on Sunday December 8th at 4.30pm.
- The Carol Service – Sunday morning worship on December 15th

JUNIOR PAGE – for the young and young at heart

How many **4** letter words can you make from the word **NOVEMBER**?

You may only use any letter once in each word

NB. 'Been' can be used as 'e' appears twice in November

Score of 12 -good

Score of 15- very good

Score of 19- excellent

November facts

For over two centuries, *The Old Farmer's Almanac* has gone by the saying:

"If 'All Saints' (November 1st) brings out winter, 'St. Martin's' (November 11th) brings out Indian summer."

"Indian Summer" is nothing to do with Indians at all but is best described as an unusually late warm spell.

St Martin's Day, November 11—is the official start of these unusually late warm spells.

Preparations for Bonfire Night in **YORKSHIRE** began some weeks before November 5th.

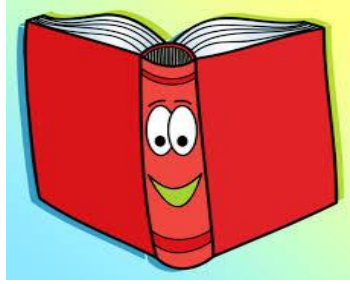
CHUMPING – was going round to friends and neighbours collecting wood to burn on the bonfire calling "Got any chumps mister/missus.

CHUMPS were the pieces of wood collected.

PENNY FOR THE GUY – Every bonfire had a guy to be burnt on the top. The guys were homemade and were pushed round the streets, for a week or so before November 5th, often in a wheelbarrow, to the cry of "Penny for the guy" The pennies were collected to buy fireworks.

MISCHIEF NIGHT – A night for children to go out playing pranks on neighbours.

The American "Halloween 'trick or treat'" seems to have taken the place of most of our bonfire night traditions, but they were widespread when each street or group of friends had a bonfire of their own, with Parkin (northern gingerbread) and toffee to eat and potatoes and chestnuts roasted in the fire.



Story time

The Milkmaid and Her Pail

A milkmaid's job was to milk the cows and sell their milk at the market.

Mary, milked her family's cow and set off to market, carrying the milk in two pails, dreaming about the things she would spend her money on when she had sold the milk.

While walking along, she noticed a chicken in a field by the side of the road and thought that if she bought a chicken and sold its eggs as well as her milk, she could make the other milkmaids jealous with all the extra things she could buy from the extra money.

She started to skip in excitement, and skipped so much that soon the milk spilled over so that only a few drops were left. She went home with empty pails; no milk and no money.



"There is an old saying," said her mother, "And it is very true. *You shouldn't count your chickens before they are hatched.*"

Moral: Do not depend on something until you are sure it will happen.

Gill's trills



Flower of the month – Chrysanthemum



Chrysanthemums were first cultivated in China in the 15th century BCE as a herb and tea flavouring. They were introduced to Japan in the 5th century CE through Chinese trade.

The name Chrysanthemum comes from the Greek words *crysos* (golden) and *anthemon* (flower). In Greek superstition the flower is seen as a protector against evil spirits.

Chrysanthemums have different meanings in different cultures and eras. For example, in the Victorian era they were given as a sign of friendship, while in modern times white chrysanthemums can express sympathy. In Japan, the chrysanthemum is a symbol of the sun and perfection.

The Imperial Seal of Japan is based on the chrysanthemum, and the Chrysanthemum Throne is the name of the Japanese Emperor's position.

Chrysanthemums symbolize optimism and joy.

These flowers have long been a favourite subject for artists, such as the French Impressionist Vincent Van Gogh.

Ken's Pen

A wartime tale.

One evening a vicar went into his church and found a young lad kneeling at the altar. As the boy left, the vicar asked him what he had been doing. "Oh, I've been coming every night this week, sir. You see, I was afraid my Daddy might be left on Dunkirk beaches, so I asked God to bring him safely home. He has done, so I came along just this time to say thank you."

We ask God to give us "our daily bread", and for so many other things. Do we thank God as often as we ask? The little boy did.

.....

A priest was hearing a confession.

At the end the penitent said "I have also stolen a pair of silver vases."

"My son, you must give them back, or I can't give you absolution."

"But Father, won't YOU have them?" "Certainly not, I absolutely refuse."

"But what if, when I offer to give them back, the owner refuses to accept them?"

" In that case, you will be able to keep them."

Having received absolution the penitent left. On arriving back home, the priest found his silver vases were missing.

.....

A little girl noticed her teacher putting a packet into her handbag. Being inquisitive she asked teacher, " What's that, miss?" "Those are my wages" was the reply. "But where do you work, miss?" the lass asked.

.....

With greetings from Puddletown
Ken Mills

If you go down to the woods today

.....

from Julie Wallis

On a recent trip to Wakehurst Place gardens in West Sussex, John and I had a rather pleasant surprise! We have been visiting Wakehurst frequently since Lockdown so thought we knew the gardens well but on this visit, we discovered a wood that we had never ‘found’ before

This wood was called Pearcelands wood. As we walked round, we encountered some lovely surprises. As we started walking round, I suddenly noticed this deer standing in the glade.



We thought ‘What a lovely sculpture’.

Shortly afterwards, we then encountered a woodpecker – followed by an owl



We began to realise that this wood contained something special – and wished we had found it previously. We started to look out for other animal creations.

Some that we did ‘encounter’ were badgers and a weasel.



We were glad that we never encountered the bird that laid these eggs though!



The church poster for November



POETRY CORNER

Autumn (NOVEMBER)

by Walter de la Mare

There is a wind where the rose was,
Cold rain where sweet grass was,
And clouds like sheep
Stream o'er the steep
Grey skies where the lark was.

Nought warm where your hand was,
Nought gold where your hair was,
But phantom, forlorn,
Beneath the thorn,
Your ghost where your face was.

Cold wind where your voice was,
Tears, tears where my heart was,
And ever with me,
Child, ever with me,
Silence where hope was.

Written In November.

by John Clare

Autumn, I love thy parting look to view
In cold November's day, so bleak and bare,
When, thy life's dwindled thread worn nearly thro',
With ling'ring, pott'ring pace, and head bleach'd bare,
Thou, like an old man, bidd'st the world adieu.
I love thee well: and often, when a child,
Have roam'd the bare brown heath a flower to find;
And in the moss-clad vale, and wood-bank wild
Have cropt the little bell-flowers, pearly blue,
That trembling peep the shelt'ring bush behind.
When winnowing north-winds cold and bleaky blew,
How have I joy'd, with dithering hands, to find,
Each fading flower; and still how sweet the blast,
Would bleak November's hour restore the joy that's past.

SCAMS

Phishing Emails: purporting to be from someone you know and trust, asking a favour, or for your discreet help, and that you reply by Email a.s.a.p.

DON'T click on 'REPLY' to respond.

Phone or text the person you think sent the Email, or Email them on the address you *know* to be theirs to confirm whether the communication came from them.

Such an Email has come to me this week, apparently from a church source, but I was suspicious and also did not recognise the Email address of the sender as being correct. It was a scam!

Rogue tradesmen

With winter on its way, many householders will be thinking of carrying out maintenance work ahead of the bad weather. Rogue tradesmen know this, and residents are being urged to be very careful when approached by door-to-door salespeople and to take their time before making any decisions about goods or services.

Repair scams

Dishonest workers offering services such as gardening, gutter clearing, roof repairs or driveway maintenance.

Often a one-day only deal is offered 'while they are in the area', or alarming information given about the importance of getting something repaired immediately. A classic example being a builder who claims to have spotted a big problem with your roof.

Scam delivery texts and emails – You may get an email or text message saying your package has been delayed and it asks you to click on a link to track its status. This leads you to a phishing site that steals your personal information.

Malicious texts or phone calls

From someone claiming to be from your bank, or the police, who offers to help safeguard funds by trying to convince you to transfer money into a bogus 'safe account'. Forward any suspicious text messages to 7726 and send scam emails to report@phishing.gov.uk

Bogus charities - Only donate to trusted, well-known charities. Before giving, check the charity's name and registration number which can be verified at the Charity Commission's website at charitycommission.gov.uk

Prayers worth sharing



A Prayer of Remembrance

O Lord; grant us peace in our time and a longing for the day when people of every language, race, and nation will be brought into the unity of Christ's kingdom. This we ask in the name of the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

A prayer for those affected by war

God of justice and peace,
we pray for those who have been injured or disabled through war.
For those who have lost homes and security through conflict;
for those who have lost loved relatives in wars;
for those who face danger and take risks for peace;
for all those, especially children, caught up in current conflicts;
for refugees and all those in need of aid and other help.

God of encouragement and Saviour of the despairing,
comfort those who remember past sacrifices
and guide us in building a just and peaceful community for all.
Amen.

A blessing for November

O God, you have planted the seed of faith in our hearts
and have allowed it to grow and blossom.

We thank you for this precious gift.

Grant us the opportunity and the desire to freely offer this gift to others
that they, too, may know of your grace and love
at work in the world
and in their lives.

Amen.
