

# THE VOICE

## MERROW METHODIST CHURCH MAGAZINE



**MARCH 2025**

## Message from the Manse - March

### Never Force a Relationship: A Perspective

#### **Dear Friends,**

As we enter February, a month that celebrates love in all its forms, I feel compelled to share some reflections on the nature of relationships that are close to my heart.

Our journey through life leads us to many individuals who touch our lives profoundly. Yet, there are times when we must recognise that letting go can be far more beneficial than holding on to those relationships that do not honour our true selves.

It is a painful truth that sometimes, our absence teaches lessons that our presence cannot. We must accept that we cannot force someone to genuinely care, to stay faithful, or to transform into the partner we envision. The person our heart desires may, indeed, be the person we are meant to part ways with. Life unfolds in unexpected ways—some encounters are transient, while others aim to foster our growth.

While it can be heartbreaking to come to terms with this reality, it is vital to protect our hearts. We must never lose ourselves in the pursuit of fixing what was never meant to be. If someone is not ready to reciprocate the love we have to offer, we must lovingly accept this truth. Remember, healing is a journey; it is entirely natural to grieve the potential of a relationship that did not flourish. But with time, you will emerge stronger and wiser about the qualities you truly desire in a partner.

One important lesson I have learned over the years is this: “It is better to be single than to settle for less.” If someone sees you merely as an option, they certainly do not deserve to be prioritised in your life.

So, as we navigate our relationships this month of love, let us be mindful. Never chase someone who is not also chasing you. True love flourishes when both individuals invest in nurturing it together.

As we cherish the ties that bind us as a community of faith, let us remember the words of the beloved hymn:

**"Blest be the tie that binds  
Our hearts in Christian love;  
The fellowship of kindred minds  
Is like to that above."**

Let us conclude with a heartfelt prayer for nurturing love and protection in our relationships:

## **Prayer for Open Communication:**

“Dear Lord, grant us the ability to communicate openly and honestly with one another. Help us listen with empathy and understanding so that we may hear each other's hearts and needs. Let our words be filled with love and respect, fostering a deeper connection among us. We ask for Your protection over our relationships, shielding them from anything that may harm them. We commit to working through challenges while viewing each other with the utmost kindness. May we never lose hope in love. Amen.”

**1 John 3:1-3 & 13-24; 5:1-3:** *"See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!"*

As we celebrate this season of love, may each of you cherish every precious moment. Remember that the bonds we share, whether with family or friends, reflect God's love for us.

May God bless all of you at the Merrow Methodist Church.

**"When we asunder part,  
It gives us inward pain;  
But we shall still be joined in heart,  
And hope to meet again."**

In Christ's love,  
Rev. George Quarm

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## *Congratulations*

*On the 19<sup>th</sup> of February 2025  
Hannah Curley  
passed her driving test  
at the first go!*

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## USEFUL ADDRESSES

### **SUPERINTENDENT MINISTER:**

REV. DR. PAUL GLASS **01483 575667**  
[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.
- Please verify that any copy you submit for publication is non-copyright. This applies to text and photographs.

## EDITORIAL NOTE



### March

*March is the doorway from Winter to Spring,  
To sunshine and flowers and birds on the wing.  
Thank God for his bounty and let your hearts sing.*

*New growth is abundant and browns change to green.  
The buds hidden secrets burst forth to be seen.  
'Twixt Winter and Summer, Spring comes in-between*



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Any items for inclusion in the April issue of "The Voice" should be sent to me  
by: **March 22nd 2025**

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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# WHAT'S HAPPENING IN MARCH

## Stewards for Sunday worship:

March Date/Time	Vestry	Worship Leader	AV/PA	Door stewards
2 <sup>nd</sup> 10.30am HC	Helen Belsham	Doreen Siame	Jane Vinall	Maggie Woolcock Jan Marshall
9 <sup>th</sup> 10.30am	Iris Walker		Cari Rayner	Julie Wallis Joyce Goodall
9 <sup>th</sup> 6.30pm HC	Hugh Bradley		Glenys Magill	Ruth McCulloch Wendy Bradley
16 <sup>th</sup> 10.30am	Suzanne Burnham	Gillian Varley	Glenys Magill	
23 <sup>rd</sup> 10.30am L.A	Joan Wells		Jane Vinall	Julie Wallis Maggie Woolcock
30 <sup>th</sup> 10.30am Mothering Sunday	Suzanne Burnham		Cari Rayner	Jan Marshall Ruth McCulloch

## Communion stewards:

March 2 <sup>nd</sup> am	Preparation Suzanne Burnham	Preparation Doreen Siame	Assisting Helen Belsham
March 9 <sup>th</sup> pm	Glenys Magill		Hugh Bradley

## Flower Rota: March

2<sup>nd</sup> Jan Kemp  
 9<sup>th</sup> Cari Rayner  
 16<sup>th</sup> Glenys Magill  
 23<sup>rd</sup> Wendy Bradley  
 30<sup>th</sup> Joyce Goodall

## Sunday Morning Coffee – Rota

2nd March. Ruth McCulloch and Margaret Hills.  
 9th March. Pauline Daniels and Sheila Shackleton.  
 16th March. Glenys Magill  
 23rd March. Hugh and Wendy Bradley  
 30th March. Joan Wells and Jan Walker.

## Charity support

MHA  
 Mission Aviation  
 JMA  
 Transform Trade  
 MHA

**Organ Rota:** Gillian Varley: morning services ; Hymnal+ : evening services

## Women's Fellowship

Women's Fellowship on Monday 3rd March 2.30 pm  
The speaker will be Deborah Seabrook.  
Deborah was a former councillor.  
Please join us.      Suzanne

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## Morning Bible Study

at Lavender Cottage, Marlins Drive  
On Tuesday March 11<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>  
Concluding our study of Paul's letter to the Romans  
led by Gillian Varley  
*What would YOU like to study next?*

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## Evening Bible Study

in the church  
Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm  
Details from Julie Wallis

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## Number 5 and Mulberry House

Thank you for all your generous donations for Number 5 and Mulberry house.  
The support we give to them is very appreciated.  
Please leave any donations in the foyer as usual and I can pass them on.  
Thank you  
Ruth McCulloch

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## Weekly Coffee Mornings

each Thursday from 10.30 - 11.45am  
do drop in for a drink and a chat  
with others from the church and local community.  
There is no charge.

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

## A Charity Coffee Morning

to support a different charity each month

## **On Thursday 13 March our charitable coffee morning from 10.30 - 12.00 will be dedicated to Leprosy.**

There will be coffee and tea and home-made cakes in aid of Leprosy. There will be plenty of information about the Leprosy Mission. A helper of the Leprosy Mission will speak up for people affected by Leprosy and will show a film about the latest project.

Do take a friend with you. See you on the Leprosy Coffee morning!

Warmest greetings

Margriet Rasker. mobile 07447 190 680

### **T H E L E P R O S Y M I S S I O N .**

"Leprosy is one of the 21 neglected tropical diseases [ NTD;s] that devastate lives across the world,

Many are treatable and preventable. And so it is a cruel injustice that **1.56 billion** people are still in need of health care for a neglected tropical disease. That is one in 5 of us. Our compassion is making an amazing difference. But we need governments to get on board too."

In January 'The leprosy Mission' hosted an event in Parliament to call for global action on NTD's.

The Leprosy Mission is sharing stories of people affected by leprosy and shows people how the UK support will make a difference.

Without more political action communities affected by NTD are in danger of being forgotten.

Families will be pushed even deeper into poverty.

Leprosy will continue to destroy lives.



# NEWS & FUTURE DIARY DATES

Presentation of a cheque for £115 to Helena Burke, the Community Fundraiser for the Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice.

Helena was the speaker at the February Women's Fellowship when Suzanne presented her with the offering from our Carol Service in December



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**Action for Children** Patron The Princess of Wales made a surprise visit to one of the largest women's prisons in the UK HMP Styal in Cheshire: a closed category jail for adult female and young offenders over the age of 18 years. As the patron of AFC she visited the jail's Mother and Baby Unit (MBU) to highlight how important 'strong, loving and consistent' relationships are to child's development, even in the most challenging of environments. The Princess heard from current prisoners about the support they and their babies were receiving from Action for Children. Since 2022 AFC has run three MBU's in jails in the North of England providing a 'safe space' for new expectant mothers serving a sentence or on remand.

Suzanne

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# **World Day of Prayer - 'I made you wonderful'**

A service prepared by the women of the Cook Islands

on

**FRIDAY 7<sup>th</sup> MARCH at 2pm**

**Emanuel Church**

**Shepherds Lane**

**Guildford GU2 9SJ**

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## *An Invitation to Ghana*

A group recently returned from Ghana.

**Anyone from the circuit is welcome to join the next trip; you will love it!**

(visa and other needs would be taken care of by the organisers.)

**Saturday 24th January to Thursday 5th February 2026.**

Certified by the British and Ghana Conferences.

The overall objective is to learn about the life and ministry of the Methodist Church Ghana and explore the faith in the Ghanaian context by interacting with both the clergy and lay in the urban and rural settings, to learn from the dynamic growth of the Methodist Church Ghana and how this has been achieved and understand the concept of mission and evangelism, to engage with the history of Methodism and the history of the slave trade and visit projects that are being or have been sponsored by the Methodist Church Britain as well as visit places of interest.

The brief itinerary includes:

Paying a courtesy call on the staff at the Conference Office in Accra

Visiting the Methodist Rafiki Satellite Village (Orphanage) in the Winneba Diocese, to have a session with the children.

A visit to Cape Coast Castle, to be briefed about the slave trade and visit Sekondi Diocese.

Engagement with young people, men's and women's fellowship

Visits to educational institutions and Health Clinics

In the Northern Region (Tamale/Yendi), we will visit another area to explore the relationship between Christians and Muslims and we will visit some of the rural Methodist Churches to interact with the local people.

*The total cost involved is £2,200, and includes the flight, hotel accommodation, air conditioned coach hire, meals and other miscellaneous expenses. Payment of £1,000 by Wednesday 15th October 2025 and the remaining amount will be collected at the airport before we depart to Ghana. We are humbly inviting you to be part of this exciting trip to Ghana. Contact me for any information if interested.*

**Rev. William Davis**

**Blackheath/Crystal Palace Circuit**

Email - [william14da@yahoo.com](mailto:william14da@yahoo.com)

Tel.(mobile) 07930 843207

# “UNLOCK” ANNUAL LONDON SPONSORED WALK

## SATURDAY 12th APRIL 2025

This year's Annual London Walk organised by Unlock, a small Christian Mission organisation, is a little earlier than usual. Our church has been supporting these walks since the very first one in 1984. This year it's the 42nd London Walk and I'm hoping that we can continue to support this event both through walking and sponsorship.

Details of this year's walking route will be on the Church Notice Board together with a sponsorship sheet nearer the time.

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 Brandon Baptist Church, one of the churches we will be visiting during the walk.

This year's walk is 8 miles long and is around the Kennington, Camberwell, Brixton, Stockwell and Battersea areas of South London. Don't be put off by the length of the walk as we take our time, and rest and refreshments stops are provided at selected churches along the way. There is also the option of covering part of the route by bus for weary walkers! I hope that previous Unlock walkers will be able to join us again this year and any new walkers would be warmly welcomed.

Unlock has provided the following description of this year's route which can be started at any number of different points:

“Battersea and Brixton and in between is where the Unlock Walk will be. The biggest landmark we'll see is Battersea Power Station, one of the largest brick buildings in the world, now an upmarket shopping and residential complex having been derelict for decades after closing in 1983. The route will then loop towards Brixton and Windrush Square, with its celebration and archive of Caribbean people's experiences in the UK. We'll go by some very well-known places such as the Oval cricket ground and also take you to some more surprising places.”

The Unlock London walks always 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, both well-known and some less well-known areas. Walkers experience a range of very different communities often living in close proximity to each other.

During the walk a number of different denominational churches (6 this year), are visited where there is the opportunity to learn more about the role each church plays within its local community. Most churches we visit provide interesting displays and fact sheets about their role and work within their local communities. There are always volunteers and church members present to provide more information and to answer any questions.

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. Details of timings will be confirmed nearer the date but there is usually an early start between 8.30-9am returning late afternoon. 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. Walkers also need to bring some small change for donations at the churches visited.

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 feel able to 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.

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

## Merrow Community Garden needs you

The community Garden in front of the church was established a year ago after receiving a grant from Project Aspire (GBC). Since then it has become a talking point amongst our local community; those who walk by, perhaps on their way to school, or those who are coming to a class or event at the church.

The Garden has been fortunate to receive further funding from Squire's Garden Centre and the Merrow Residents' Association.

We are looking for someone from the church who can liaise with keen gardeners Charlotte and Caroline as they develop the garden and continue with the sessions with Merrow Junior School

The role would involve liaising with the church stewards and property group and Merrow Junior School. It could also include publicity and fundraising if needed.

Please have a word with Helen (G.823742) if you would like to find out more about this new venture in our local community.





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

A Spring Word Trail.

Continue the trail by adding new words beginning with the last letter of the previous word.

I've filled in one or two, but the clues will help you with the rest.

L

A

M

B - - S .....(You may see these buzzing about)

U

N - - T .....(You may see a bird building one)

-

- ..... (A Spring flower)

-

P - - - - C ..... ( An outdoor meal)

-

- .....(Grey or white in the sky)

-

D - - - - - G .....( \*\*See photo below)

-

- ....( The colour of Spring)

-

N - - S.....(Squirrels hide these)

-

-

- .....(Where to go on a sunny day)

-

-

E - - - - R ..... (The next school

holiday)

-

-

- ..... (Sometimes called

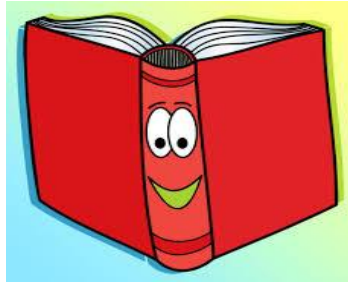
'Bunny')- - -

-

\*\*

T - - - - - E .....(A baby frog)





## Story time

**Henry King;** Who chewed bits of String and was cut off in dreadful agonies

The Chief Defect of Henry King  
Was chewing little bits of String.  
At last he swallowed some which tied  
Itself in ugly Knots inside.

Physicians of the Utmost Fame  
Were called at once; but when they came  
They answered, as they took their Fees,  
"There is no Cure for this Disease.

"Henry will very soon be dead."  
His Parents stood about his Bed  
Lamenting his Untimely Death,  
When Henry, with his Latest Breath,

Cried, "Oh, my Friends, be warned by me,  
That Breakfast, Dinner, Lunch, and Tea  
Are all the Human Frame requires..."  
With that, the Wretched Child expires.

**By Hilaire Belloc**

*Next month read about George, and what happened when he played  
with a dangerous toy!*

# Gill's trills



## MARCH

March, the *third* month of the year,  
Spring's harbinger 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;

So once grasped tight in Winter's hold  
From wintry white to green and gold,  
March sees the joys of Spring unfold.

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# Ken's Pen

Do you remember Pun-gent who used to write a fun page for the church magazine, and who still writes here in Dorset? His motto was "Keep smiling."

My dear Rosemary, who died a year ago, was remembered by many for her lovely smile. When we trekked in Nepal, each morning at 6 the tent flap would be opened and a smiling sherpa would hand us a mug of hot tea.

One of the waitresses at a hotel we visited always had a cheerful smile. Smiling, like singing, makes one feel good, and may also help someone else feel better.

A long time ago, the Methodist Recorder showed a picture of Jesus smiling. I recall preaching on "Did Jesus smile?" He must have done; camels and needles; eyes with specks and beams. It is not always easy to smile, but, if you can, do so because we have a Saviour who smiled, and who gave His life to free us from sin's hold. So, give it a try, you'll be doing His will.

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# Ken's Pen continued

A minister preached at a country chapel and was invited by the farmer-steward to come for lunch. A wonderful roast chicken was provided. After lunch, while being shown round the farm, a cockerel crowed loud and long.

"He seems very proud of himself" said the minister.

"Of course" replied the farmer "he's now got a daughter in the ministry."

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From a church noticeboard

'Next Saturday the men's breakfast will be gin at 9 a.m.'

With greetings from Puddletown, and,

don't forget to **KEEP SMILING**. Ken Mills

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## JULIE'S NEWS

### An early April Fools's joke?

Most days, if I have time (what is that, you say!), I do a scan of the headlines in order to keep myself 'up to date' with what is going on in the world. (Why – one often wonders!). Recently, I noticed a headline that intrigued me 'Scotland may soon be a no drone zone'. How I wondered was Scotland going to stop drones from flying in their skies when other countries haven't seem to have cracked this problem?

Whilst reading the article, I began to think that I'd actually woken up on April Fools day and somehow missed February and March completely.

After several readings, the article is about the decline of Bagpipe sales in Scotland (some may say – thank goodness). Apparently, last year, it was in the bottom three worst selling instruments in the UK along with the kazoo and the bassoon. The rest of the article provided 'facts' which many people may not have known about Bagpipes – and probably don't feature in many books!

1. Bagpipe farms have been in decline for many many years with bagpipe farmers drifting towards more 'popular' stock such as sheep or cattle. Hence parades of Bagpipes on the Glens are no longer frequently seen (or heard!).
2. At the end of last year, Edinburgh Zoo welcomed a pair of bagpipes called Mork and Mindy with the hope that they would breed. They became a big attraction but they have yet to grow close. Mork seems keen but Mindy is a little

standoffish says the keeper. She scuttles away whenever he makes an unwanted approach. The keeper reckons it's the sound Mork makes that Mindy can't bear – a sort of high-pitched wail.

3. For 10000 years, the bagpipe was used for food only, then for tent pegs. It was only in the late medieval period that its ability to produce music was discovered. A chieftain accidentally hit its stomach and 'Scotland the Brave' was emitted. The Royal Society for the Promotion of the Living Bagpipe was founded in 1811. its members keep bagpipes as pets.

4. The Bagpipe makes a truly excellent pet - somewhere between a cat and a budgerigar.. One member walks their pet bagpipe twice a day and feeds it on milk and tatties – and then it lets me play ' The Bonny Banks of Loch Lomand' on Sundays.

The following week an article appeared about Wild Haggises roaming around the Glens of Scotland (apparently 30% of Americans genuinely believe that there is such an animal as a Haggis!). I'm beginning to wonder what article will appear on April Fools day!

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## 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations

Merrow will be celebrating its 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. The Church Anniversary will be on the 22<sup>nd</sup> June and will be led by Rev. David Coote – but we are planning on holding other events throughout the year to celebrate this anniversary.

A committee has been formed to plan these events. If you would like to be part of this committee or if you have any ideas of possible events, please let me know.

Julie Wallis [julieawallis@outlook.com](mailto:julieawallis@outlook.com)

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*Note from the Editor:*

Further to the 70<sup>th</sup> celebrations:

We would like to plan a church concert/entertainment and this is for everyone to attend and offer their 'party piece' – Don't be shy!

Singing

Dancing

Drama

Comedy

Poetry

Monologues

Instrumental items

# POETRY CORNER

## Young lambs

By John Clare

The spring is coming by a many signs;  
The trays are up, the hedges broken down,  
That fenced the haystack, and the remnant shines  
Like some old antique fragment weathered brown.

And where suns peep, in every sheltered place,  
The little early buttercups unfold  
A glittering star or two--till many trace  
The edges of the blackthorn clumps in gold.

And then a little lamb bolts up behind  
The hill and wags his tail to meet the yoe,  
And then another, sheltered from the wind,  
Lies all his length as dead--and lets me go  
Close by and never stirs but baking lies,  
With legs stretched out as though he could not rise.



# 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



This is your garden, Creator God,  
a thing of beauty  
beyond understanding,  
a poem that is being written  
not in words  
but in colours,  
wind's whisper,  
soaring bird,  
snowdrop's petal,  
gentle rain,  
sunlight's warmth,  
This is your garden, Creator God,  
A thing of beauty  
beyond our understanding

For the cycle of life  
which brings death and rebirth  
**A. We rejoice in the promise of Spring**

For lengthening days  
and sunlight's warmth upon the soil  
**A. We rejoice in the promise of Spring**

For a snowdrop's beauty  
reflecting its Creator's artistry  
**A. We rejoice in the promise of Spring**

For new born lambs  
their joy and exuberance  
**A. We rejoice in the promise of Spring**

for all of creation  
and the majesty of its Creator  
**A. We rejoice in the promise of Spring**