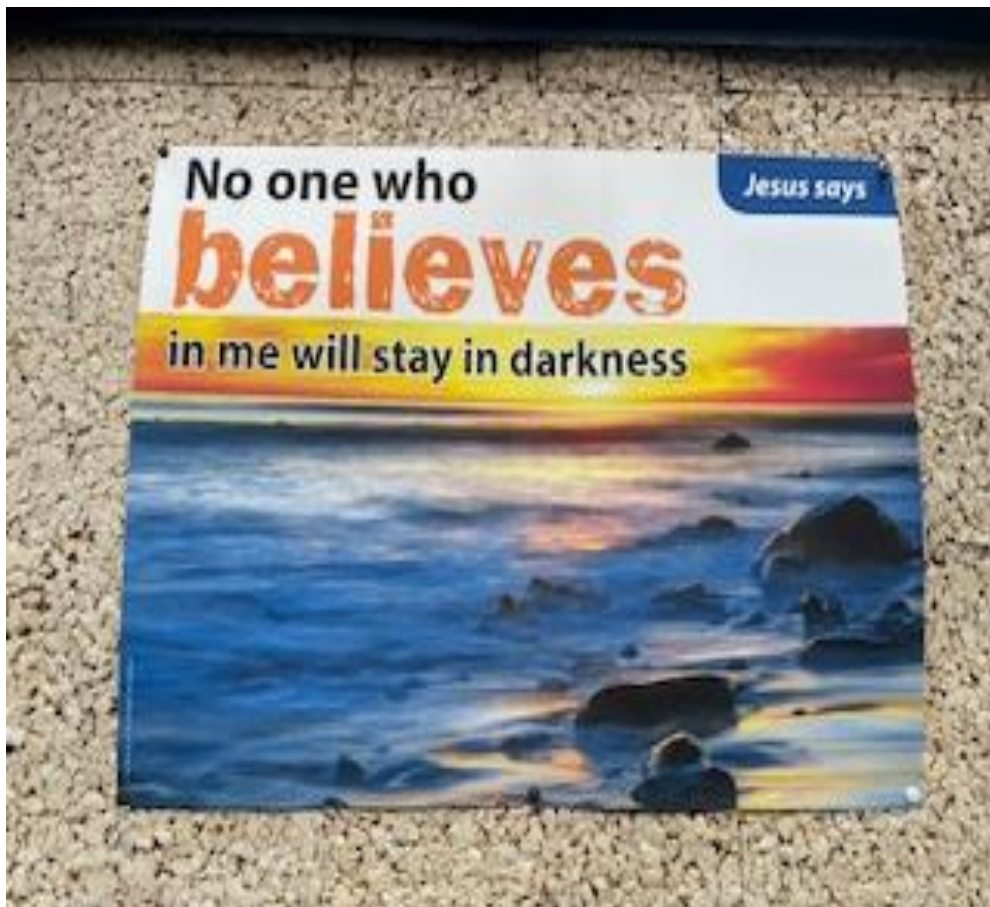


70<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY

of  
MERROW METHODIST CHURCH



THE VOICE

JUNE 2025

Message for June  
from Rev. Barrie Tabraham

## “FAITH’S ESSENTIALS”

Dear friends,

George has asked me to write the ‘Minister’s Letter’ for May, and I thought I would spare you another article on the Wesleys! What has been making me think in recent weeks is a comment made by that great Methodist leader of the 1950s, Dr William Edwin Sangster, who once said,  
“As I get older, I become more and more certain of less and less.”

I have to say that as I myself get older, I empathise more and more with this statement. Some of the questions that used to make me ponder, if perhaps they didn’t trouble me exactly, no longer do so now. So to give a few examples: if I tell you that Paul almost certainly did not write the Letter to the Ephesians, and that a group of priests compiled the book of Genesis, not Moses – does this really shake your faith? And if one were to say that there are, indeed, many examples of what some might call ‘historical inaccuracies’ in the Bible – (did Jesus cleanse the Temple at the beginning of his ministry (John Chapter 2:13-22) or at the end (Luke 19:45-46)? or twice?) – does it really matter to our faith?

I remember having conversations with some of my members when Dan Brown’s book the Da Vinci Code was published, who were troubled because he seemed to suggest that in Leonardo Da Vinci’s painting of the Last Supper, the figure on our Lord’s left was, in fact, Mary. I said that if that were so, it wouldn’t really worry me or alter what I believe happened that night. But I added that Dan Brown never explained where on earth was John, the beloved disciple!!

Over the centuries there have been many debates about such things as the authorship of Biblical books, details of Jesus’ life, miracles, and so on. I think, if I’m really honest, the only thing that would really disturb my faith would be if, somehow, it could be shown that Jesus had not risen – because that truth is at the heart of everything I believe as a Christian.

The ‘less and less’ of which I am more and more certain, is that God so loved the world that, like an artist who has fallen in love with one of his paintings, he has painted himself into his picture, and become part of it himself (forgive the male pronouns). This God has created each one of us to know him, to belong to him, and to grow into the image of Christ, who is humanity as it is meant to be. And this love which God has for us is so strong that not even death can separate us from him, but that he has opened a pathway which will enable us to enjoy the life which Jesus promised us – ‘life in all its fullness’.

So let us cling on to the basic essentials about the love and goodness of God which he has revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord, and rejoice in the gift of eternal life which he offers to us all.

With love and prayers,

**Barrie**

\*\*\*\*\*

A further note from your editor

*Reverend, William E. Sangster (1900 – 1960)*

*A British Methodist preacher who was known for calling the Methodist denomination to stick to its Biblical roots during the 20th century rather than cave to religious compromise.*

*Dr. Sangster eventually became the pastor of London's Westminster Central Hall in 1939. His sermons were regularly stopped by bombings in London and sometimes he preached through them. In 1949, Sangster was elected leader of the Methodist Conference of Great Britain where he emphasized evangelism and spiritual growth. He was an early supporter of the evangelist Billy Graham when many other clergymen in Great Britain were critical of Graham.*

*He was diagnosed with muscular atrophy which robbed him of his mobility and his voice. On Easter Day he wrote to his daughter:*

*"It is terrible to wake up on Easter morning and have no voice with which to shout, 'He is risen!' but it would be still more terrible to have a voice and not to want to shout".'*

## **USEFUL ADDRESSES**

### **SUPERINTENDENT MINISTER:**

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**01483 575667**

[revpaulglass@gmail.com](mailto:revpaulglass@gmail.com)

### **MINISTER:**

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### **CHURCH OFFICE:**

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**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 June will be:

DOREEN SIAME

**01483 452395**

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.

## EDITORIAL NOTE



### June

I write in May, which seems too soon  
To pen the poem you'll read in June.

Yet this is what I have to do

To make sure that it gets to you

In June's edition of The Voice.

There really is no other choice.

Yet all the flow'rs which bloom in May

Could well have faded quite away,

Before June's issue comes to you.

What is an editor to do?

The problem will not go away.

You read in June, I write in May!

\*\*\*\*\*

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

**Saturday June 21st 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 JUNE

Stewards for Sunday worship:

Date/time	Vestry	Worship leader	P/A & A/V	Door
June 1 <sup>st</sup> 10.30am HC	Suzanne Burnham	Gillian Varley	Glenys Magill	Julie Wallis Maggie Woolcock
June 8 <sup>th</sup> 10.30am  HC 6.30pm	Helen Belsham  Joan Wells		Cari Rayner  Glenys Magill	Ruth McCulloch Jan Marshall
June 15 <sup>th</sup> 10.30am	Joan Wells	Doreen Siame	Jane Vinall	Joyce Goodall Glenys Magill
<b>June 22<sup>nd</sup> 10.30am Church Anniversary followed by lunch</b>	<b>Iris Walker</b>	<b>Gillian Varley</b>	<b>Glenys Magill</b>	<b>Julie Wallis Maggie Woolcock</b>
<b>June 29<sup>th</sup> NO</b>	<b>service at Merrow</b>	<b>- a combined</b>	<b>service at</b>	<b>Sheerwater</b>

**Communion stewards:**

June 1 <sup>st</sup> am	Preparation	Assisting
	Doreen Siame and Glenys Magill	Helen Belsham
June 8 <sup>th</sup> pm	Glenys Magill	

## **Flower Rota: June**

1<sup>st</sup> Cari Rayner  
8<sup>th</sup> Glenys Magill  
15<sup>th</sup> Wendy Bradley  
22<sup>nd</sup> Pauline Daniels  
29<sup>th</sup> Ruth McCulloch

## **Sunday Morning Coffee – Rota**

1<sup>st</sup> June Ruth McCulloch and Margaret Hills.  
8<sup>th</sup> June Pauline Daniels and Julie Wallis

## **Charity support**

MHA  
Embrace the Middle East

15<sup>th</sup> June Glenys Magill

22<sup>nd</sup> June Hugh and Wendy Bradley.

Fellowship 29<sup>th</sup> June United Service at Sheerwater.

Bible Society

Mission Aviation

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

# Women's Fellowship

Women's Fellowship on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2.30 pm

The speaker is from Mulberry House

which has support accommodation for vulnerable single women.

Over the years Merrow has supported these ladies with various donations.

All our welcome.

Suzanne

\*\*\*\*\*

## Morning Bible Study

at Lavender Cottage, Marlyns Drive

On Tuesday June 10<sup>th</sup>

Continuing our study of Mark's gospel .

Led by Gillian Varley

Come and join us.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Evening Bible Study

in the church

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> June 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

.....

## 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.

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

## A Charity Coffee Morning

to support a different charity each month

see following page for details of the June Charity Coffee Morning

You are invited to a  
**COFFEE MORNING**

in aid of **Action for Children**



**on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> June**  
**10.30am to 12.00noon**  
at Merrow Methodist Church



Coffee and home-made cakes



Bring your family and friends



# DIARY DATES & NEWS

## A snapshot of April



Pauline Daniels gave a tasty farewell lunch for Helen Belsham after the Bible Study on April 29<sup>th</sup>

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Doreen Siame and Rev. Allan Taylor celebrating their recent birthdays after a lunch at Helen's home to mark her final meeting with the BFG book-discussion group on April 25<sup>th</sup>

before she and Graham move to Barnt Green.

### **and a snapshot of May**

The Circuit Service held on Sunday 11th May celebrated 60 years of preaching by both Rev Peter Hills and Rev. Allan Taylor.

Below is a photograph of Peter and Margaret Hills celebrating this event.



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Women's Fellowship VE Day celebrations on May 2<sup>nd</sup>.





## Women's Fellowship VE Day celebrations - continued



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We announce with great sadness the death of Sheila Shackleton  
after many months of suffering following a fall.  
Sheila had been a member of this church for many years, and there will be  
further tributes, in future issues, to the many ways in which she contributed  
to the life of this church.

She will be especially missed as a member of the choir  
and by the morning bible study group.

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The final resting place for the ashes of Janet Williams and her sister Gill  
at Clandon Natural Burial Ground on April 24<sup>th</sup> with a short service led by Helen  
Belsham at which the Rev.Allan Taylor officiated.



**JUNIOR PAGE** – for the young and young at heart  
A Summer word search

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

*Can you find all these words; horizontal, vertical or diagonal in any direction?*

Ball; Bat; Beach; Blackbird; Blossom; Boat; Buttercups.

Camera; Cod; Crab; Flag; Foam.

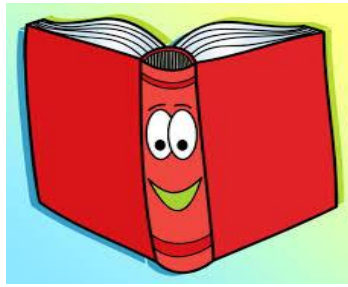
Harbour; Heat; Holidays; Ices.

June; Lunch; Moat; Oar; Rod.

Sand; Sea; Ships; Spade; Suitcase; Sunstroke; Surfboard; Swimming.

Tide; Tonic; Tour; Travel.

Wasp; Wave.



## **Story time**

### **Noah's Ark**

Many years ago, long before Jesus was born, the people in the world God had made were not living the loving, caring lives which God had meant them to live. Only Noah found favour in God's eyes.

God decided to bring a flood to the earth to destroy everyone but Noah and his family. God told Noah to build a huge boat, called an ark, big enough to hold one male and one female from every kind of animal and creature. Noah built the ark, just as God told him, and brought all the animals, two by two, into it.

When it started raining, [Noah](#) brought his wife and his sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth and their wives onto the ark. It rained for 40 days and 40 nights and the ark began to float. After a while the ark came to rest on a mountain and Noah sent out a dove to find dry land, but it returned and settled back in the ark.. Seven days later, he sent out another dove, which flew back with an olive leaf in its beak; a sign that as there were olive trees and dry land it was safe to go ashore.

God promised never to destroy the earth with a flood again, and he placed a rainbow in the sky as a sign of his promise.



# Gill's trills



## For our 70<sup>th</sup> Celebration

We are making concert plans, a  
Night of sketches, poems and music  
With a wild extravaganza  
By the 'Merrow Philharmonic,'  
Loosely based on Joseph Haydn,  
(Though I think that Haydn's hiding).  
But we need a few more items.  
So on you my hopes are riding.  
Do not keep your talents hidden,  
Share them with us all, unbidden.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Ken's Pen

I always found it much easier to preach than to talk personally to someone about my faith.

When Stanley went to Africa in 1871 to search for David Livingstone, he eventually spent a long time with him, but Livingstone never talked to him about spiritual things. Stanley watched the old man whose actions and patience, plus his sympathy for the local people, were beyond his understanding. For the sake of Jesus and His gospel, the missionary doctor was eager, untiring, spending time, effort and himself in the service of his Master. Later, Stanley wrote "When I saw that unwearied patience, that unflagging zeal, those enlightened folk of Africa, I became a Christian at his side, though he never spoke to me about it."

Even if you too find it hard to talk about your faith, wouldn't it be wonderful if someone became a Christian by watching and listening to you, as you try to do your best for Jesus.

.....

Five-year-old Timmy was told by Mum that he must finish his porridge before he could leave the table. He didn't want to and got cross. Mum said God would be upset, as so many children in the world are hungry. She went into the kitchen when, suddenly, there was a great crash of thunder. Mum came back to find Timmy eating his porridge as quickly as he could. "All that fuss over a bit of porridge" grumbled Timmy.

## Ken's Pen cont.

Timmy also went to church sometimes, where he found the minister's intercessory prayers rather long. The minister was invited to lunch a bit later. He spoke a very short grace. Timmy piped up "You don't pray long when you are hungry, do you?"

.....

With my greetings from Puddletown  
(ring 01305-849328 if you'd like to pop in for coffee on your way West)

Ken Mills

\*\*\*\*\*

### Birding with Hugh ( Part 3)

In the last edition of The Voice I told you that the blue tit eggs hatched out over Easter Saturday and Sunday.

The chicks were very tiny, weighing around one gram. They were entirely featherless and blind with only a thin layer of skin. They have a high metabolism and need a lot of food to grow quickly.

The parents primarily feed their chicks caterpillars (oak tree moth caterpillars are a favourite), which are rich in protein and energy, and a baby chick can eat approximately 100 caterpillars a day.

With eight chicks to feed Tommy and Tina made multiple trips to the trees at the back of our garden throughout the day.

I will leave you to work out the maths but they were kept extremely busy!



The caterpillars were initially the main food source but these were supplemented with meal worms and suet from our feeding station as the chicks got older.

Chicks normally spend anything from 15-23 days in the nest growing and developing feathers before they are ready to fly.



During this time they more than quadruple in size from their hatching state and are typically 4.5 inches in length and weigh 9 grams when they leave the nest with a wingspan of approximately 7 inches. Amazing growth in 3 weeks!



Our babies fledged in the early hours of Saturday 10th May, 18 days after they were born.

Birds typically fledge , or leave the nest, in the early morning. While this is the general pattern, the process can be protracted, with young birds potentially being reluctant to leave. While initially it was thought fledging early was to avoid predation, research suggests it is more likely that nestlings simply become ready to fledge overnight and leave early the next morning.

Our chicks were all in the nest when I went to bed on Friday night and all gone when I next looked on Saturday morning. All gone, that is, apart from one egg which never hatched!

Fledglings stay with their parents who continue to feed them for a few weeks after they have left the nest and I have spotted them around our feeding station patiently queuing for their next meal....

HRB - 24/05/25.



## Becoming a pilgrim – for 30 minutes anyway!

Julie Wallis.

On Easter Saturday, John and I decided to have a day trip to Canterbury. We had previously visited the Cathedral so we investigated other places to visit – we didn't want to just follow the crowd! We decided upon – St Augustines' Abbey.

This was the first monastery founded in England by St Augustine (who else!) in 598 AD but is now a ruin after Henry VIII's destruction of the Monasteries. It is located approximately 5-10 minutes walk from Canterbury Cathedral (which official name is actually Christ Church). During this visit, it became very apparent that the skyline of Canterbury and surrounding area would have been very different during the medieval period with two magnificent Churches being located so close together.

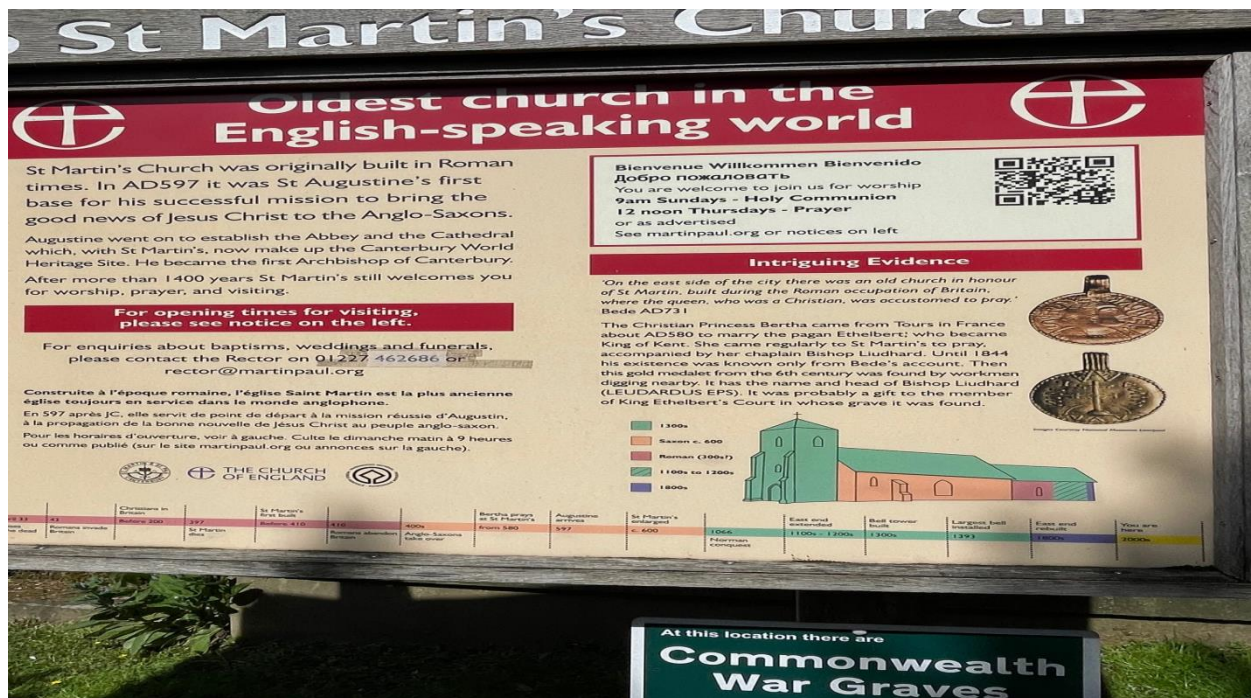
Whilst going round the Abbey, we noticed a sign mentioning 'St Martins Church was open to visit'. A guide recommended that we should certainly go – so off we went. We then discovered the following sign: Canterbury to Rome Pilgrimage.



It turns out that we had started the 'Via Francigena' Pilgrimage route – St Martin's Church was the 'first stop!'.



St. Martin's has been serving as a Church since 580AD – prior to the arrival of St Augustine as Queen Bertha (Christian wife of King Ethelbert) worshipped there.



Our own Rev Peter Hills has actually preached there (this I only found out at the Circuit Service!).

After going round the Church though – hunger pangs rather put an end to our pilgrimage – and we promptly returned to the City for lunch!

After lunch though, we then made another discovery. Walking down the main shopping high street, we found the 'Franciscan Gardens'.

This was like going through the wardrobe in Narnia. You entered through a shop and exited out the back – into a very peaceful garden which meandered along the river. Within the garden was the Greyfriars Chapel.



Historically, the building has been used as a refuge for Huguenots and a monastery. Services are still regularly held there today.  
All told, we may not have managed to have walked to Rome – but it felt as if we had made our own Pilgrimage in our own way that day.



# 70 years at **MERROW METHODIST CHURCH**

To spread the joy of Merrow's 70 years of worship in Bushy Hill, we will be raising money for local charities at each of our celebration events. The charities that will benefit are listed below:

- |   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| 1. Church Anniversary – Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> June 2025<br>Hospice    | Phyllis Tuckwell    |
| 2. Family Picnic- Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup> August (2.30pm – 5pm)        | Cherry Trees        |
| 3. Songs of Praise Service – Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> September (6.30pm) | Guildford Besom     |
| 4. Church Quiz - Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup> October (7pm)                | Oakwood Leaf Trust  |
| 5. Church Concert – Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup> November (7pm)            | The Matrix Trust    |
| 6. Christmas Finale – Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> December                   | The Therapy Garden. |

# POETRY CORNER

## Sumer is i-cumin in

Anonymous – a 14<sup>th</sup> century English round

Sing, cuccu, nu. Sing, cuccu.  
Sing, cuccu. Sing, cuccu, nu.

Sumer is i-cumin in—  
Lhude sing, cuccu!  
Groweth sed and bloweth med  
And springth the wude nu.  
Sing, cuccu!

Awe bleteth after lomb,  
Lhouth after calve cu,  
Bulluc sterteth, bucke verteth—  
Murie sing, cuccu!  
Cuccu, cuccu,  
Wel singes thu, cuccu.  
Ne swik thu naver nu!

*(Llouth= loweth/moos; Murie = merry; sterteth = leaps; verteth = breaks wind)*

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## Bed in Summer

by Robert Louis Stevenson

In winter I get up at night,  
And dress by yellow candle light.  
In summer quite the other way,  
I have to go to bed by day.  
I have to go to bed and see  
The birds still hopping on the tree,  
Or hear the grown-up people's feet,  
Still going past me in the street.  
And does it not seem hard to you,  
When all the sky is clear and blue,  
And I should like so much to play,  
To have to go to bed by day?

# SCAMS

Sussex Police and Surrey Police are urging residents to be wary of ticketing and holiday fraud as the summer season approaches and fraudsters are waiting to prey on those booking flights and accommodation.

With prices rising and finances being tightened everyone is understandably shopping around for the best deals.

In a recent case in East Sussex an elderly gentleman was conned out of £2500 for flights to Canada that didn't exist. Whilst online searching for flights he was telephoned by a fraudster posing as a travel company who emailed him tickets for flights, that after having checked with the airline were not in fact genuine.

## Top tips:

Do your research: before committing and booking your holiday, make sure that you do a thorough online search to ensure the company is credible.

- Pay safely: use a credit card when shopping online, if you have one. Most major credit card providers protect online purchases.
- Remember to book through the trusted retailer and do not be encouraged to bypass the website rules and transfer money directly to the hosts.
- Look for the logo: make sure they're a licensed company and check that they are properly accredited. Look for an ATOL (Air Travel Organiser's Licence) or a membership of ABTA, The Travel Association.
- Beware of suspicious messages: be cautious of unexpected emails or messages offering unrealistic holiday deals. If you receive a suspicious email, report it by forwarding it to [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk)

## 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.

## Prayers worth sharing



### Summer Prayers

Lord, we thank you for the beauty of summer.  
For the warm sun, the long days, the vibrant colours  
and the wonders of nature that surrounds us.  
Guide our steps and strengthen our hearts  
as we enjoy each precious moment  
In which we experience your beauty and glory.  
As we thank you, deepen our respect for your creation  
and let us share your joy in all that you have made.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

-----

*May the love of the Father,  
the tenderness of the Son,  
and the presence of the Spirit,  
gladden your heart  
and bring peace to your soul,  
this day and all days.*

