

# **THE VOICE**

## **MERROW METHODIST CHURCH MAGAZINE**



**August - September 2025**

## Message from the Manse

**Dear Friends,**

**“We Are Human Beings, Not Human Doings.”**

### **Wisdom from Africa:**

Ghana (Akan proverb): “The true measure of a person is not in how much they do, but in how much love and respect they give to others.”

Nigeria (Yoruba proverb): “A person’s true wealth is measured by the kindness they show, not by the riches they accumulate.”

South Africa (Zulu proverb):

“Umuntu ngumuntu ngabantu”, a person is a person because of others.

In a world that often values productivity and achievement above all, I invite you to pause and reflect that we are human beings, not human doings.

Your worth is not defined by your accomplishments but by your very essence—created for love, connection, and purpose. Whether you follow a faith or simply seek meaning, this truth remains: our greatest riches lie in kindness, compassion, and authenticity.

### **The Myth of Retirement**

Many see retirement as the end of purpose, but life continues to unfold. True purpose doesn’t retire—it transforms. Like rivers that flow and stars that shine, we are made to keep growing, serving, and becoming.

Consider Giuseppe, an elderly Italian furniture maker. After retiring from his craft, many assumed he would settle into quiet days. But Giuseppe had other plans. He began mentoring young apprentices, sharing his skills, wisdom, and warmth. His days are filled with joy and meaningful connection. When asked why he continued, Giuseppe replied, “I may have stopped making furniture for money, but I am still shaping lives. That is my purpose.”

His story reminds us: purpose is not confined to a profession. It’s found in our ongoing presence and contribution

### **Purpose Beyond Performance**

Scripture and global wisdom affirm:

- Keep moving forward with perseverance.
- Live guided by your highest calling.
- Even when careers or bodies slow, the spirit continues to soar.

A gentle reminder: **You are not finished yet.**

### **Wisdom from Around the World:**

- “Movement is life.” — Moshe Feldenkrais

- “Keep doing what you love.” — Japanese wisdom
- “Life is like riding a bicycle—you must keep moving.” — Albert Einstein

### **A Life of Purpose, Not Performance**

Scripture teaches us that life with God is a journey, not a checklist:

“Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.” — Hebrews 12:1

“Walk by the Spirit.” — Galatians 5:16

“I press on toward the goal...” — Philippians 3:14

Even when careers end and bodies slow, our calling endures.

Even when the world says, “You’ve done enough,” God whispers, “I’m not finished with you yet.”

### **Knowing When to Step Back, But Not Out**

There comes a time to pass the baton and make space for others. But stepping back does not mean stepping away. Your presence, wisdom, and love continue to shape the rhythm of our shared journey.

Sometimes, even the best dancer must leave the stage not because the music has stopped, but to allow others to find their rhythm. Stepping back is not stepping away. Your influence remains, shaping the dance of life from the wings.

### **Final Word**

Whatever your background or beliefs, remember we are wonderfully made, called to live fully, love deeply, and grow continually. Let us not retire from life’s purpose. Keep moving. Keep growing. Keep becoming.

Enjoy the summer days.

With warm blessings,

Rev. George Quarm

(Presbyter for Merrow, Stoughton & West Horsley Methodist Churches)

# EDITORIAL NOTE



## ‘Two in one’ July – August

The Voice this month, I must admit,  
Is making me quite fraught.  
Two into one just will not go,  
At least so I was taught!  
Yet all the news for both these months  
Must reach you without fail.  
Ensuring no omissions makes my heart begin to quail!

The quail is quite a ‘grounded’ bird,  
But that’s not how I feel.  
To bring this next edition out  
Is taking nerves of steel.  
So bear with me, if, by mistake  
It doesn’t hang together,  
And in a truly British way just blame it on the weather!

---

**Any items for inclusion in the October issue of “The Voice” should be sent to me  
by: September 22nd**

**via email:** [gillianbrierley13@gmail.com](mailto:gillianbrierley13@gmail.com)

**by hand or**

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

- **Please verify that any copy you submit for publication is non-copyright. This applies to text and photographs. Things in the ‘public domain’ are no longer under copyright.**

## **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) **07852557067**

### **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 contacts:

<b>August</b>	Ann Carpenter	<b>01483 535282</b>
<b>September</b>	Ann Carpenter	<b>01483 535282</b>
	Pauline Daniels	<b>01483 958905</b>
	Doreen Siame	<b>07966 428222</b>

### **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.

# WHAT'S HAPPENING IN AUGUST & SEPTEMBER

## Stewards for Sunday worship:

Date	Time	Vestry Steward	Worship leader	P/A; A/V	Door Stewards
Aug 3 <sup>rd</sup> HC	10.30am	Suzanne Burnham		Cari Rayner	Julie Wallis Maggie Woolcock
Aug 10 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am 6.30pm	Iris Walker Hugh Bradley		Jane Vinall Glenys Magill	Wendy Bradley Joyce Goodall
Aug 17 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Hugh Bradley	Doreen Siame	Cari Rayner	Glenys Magill Jan Marshall
Aug. 24 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Iris Walker		Jane Vinall	Suzanne Burnham
Aug. 31 <sup>st</sup>	10.30am	Joan Wells		TBA	Joyce Goodall Ruth McCulloch Jan Marshall

## Communion stewards:

Date	Preparation	Communion Assistant
August 3 <sup>rd</sup> am	Doreen Siame & Glenys Magill	Doreen Siame
August 10 <sup>th</sup> pm	Glenys Magill	

## Flower Rota:

August 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Jan Kemp;	August 10 <sup>th</sup>	Cari Rayner
August 17 <sup>th</sup>	Glenys Magill	August 24 <sup>th</sup>	Pauline Daniels
August 31 <sup>st</sup>	Wendy Bradley		
September 7 <sup>th</sup>	Ruth McCulloch	September 14 <sup>th</sup>	Joan Wells
September 21 <sup>st</sup>	Doreen Siame	September 28 <sup>th</sup> (Harvest)	Margaret Hills Iris Walker Gordon McConnell Margriet Rasker

## Sunday morning Coffee Rota

3rd August Hugh and Wendy Bradley  
 10th August Joan Wells and Jan Walker.  
 17th August. Hugh and Wendy Bradley  
 24th August Ruth McCulloch and Margaret Hills.  
 31st August Pauline Daniels and Julie Wallis.  
 7th September Glenys Magill  
 14th September Joan Wells and Jan Walker  
 21st September Ruth McCulloch and Margaret Hills  
 28th September Pauline Daniels and Julie Wallis.

## Charity support

Coffee funds  
 Bible Society  
 Embrace the Middle East  
 Action for Children  
 MHA  
 Mission Aviation  
 JMA  
 Transform Trade  
 Christian Aid



**Organ Rota:**

Gillian Varley: morning services

Hymnal + : evening services

## **Women's Fellowship**

Monday 1st September 2.30 pm - Speaker Cari Rayner

All are welcome

\*\*\*\*\*

We have two Church Bible Study groups

### **Morning Bible Study**

at Lavender Cottage, Marlyns Drive, Burpham.

10.45am for coffee and a prompt start at 11.00am

Tuesdays September 9<sup>th</sup> and September 30<sup>th</sup>

continuing our study of Mark's gospel

led by Gillian Varley

### **Evening Bible Study**

At Merrow Methodist Church

September 18th at 7.30pm

Led by Julie Wallis

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Number 5 and Mulberry House**

Please continue to donate items, which are always gratefully received

\*\*\*\*\*

### **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.

### **Charity Coffee Mornings**

Usually on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month the coffee morning offers

a tempting selection of cakes and raises funds

to support a different Charity each month



Yes! We sometimes even have piano duets at our coffee mornings.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Weyfarer

previously known as BFG

This is the new name for the group  
which meets to journey together in faith and thought  
by reading and then discussing books by such authors as  
Rowen Williams, Tom Wright and Paula Gooder



Rev.J.AllanTaylor leads our discussions and the group meets fortnightly,  
usually on Friday afternoons, in various homes.

If you would like to make this journey as a Weyfarer,  
please contact Gillian Varley or Rev.J.AllanTaylor for more details.





## MERROW METHODIST CHURCH – 70 years

SEPTEMBER - SONGS OF PRAISE  
SUNDAY SEPT.14TH – 6.30pm

OCTOBER – CHURCH QUIZ  
SATURDAY OCT. 18<sup>TH</sup>

NOVEMBER - CHURCH CONCERT  
SATURDAY NOV.15TH - 7.00pm

DECEMBER - CHRISTMAS FINALE  
MONDAY DEC.8TH

Come to some or come to all – but let's make this  
a joyous celebration.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **PS            The Church Concert on Sat.15<sup>th</sup> November.**

Now that our choir is small in number we would like you to augment it  
for this occasion for an item by  
'The Merrow Methodist Singers.'

**No auditions** and very little rehearsal required,  
only the ability to 'sing something simple' and in tune!

Gillian Varley (editor/organist) is eager to hear from any 'would-be' participants.

# DIARY DATES & NEWS

Sunday June 22<sup>nd</sup>, our 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Service, led by Rev. David Coote, pictured below, after the service, with his wife Barbara



During the service Gill Vinall told us how she came to Merrow Methodist Church 70 years ago:

‘My Mum and I were homeless and housed in the flats on Merrow Downs waiting for the Bushy Hill Estate to be built. We went to a little Congregational Church in High Path Road.

When we were moved to Bushy Hill we still went to the church, and as we walked up we passed two of the families coming to Merrow Methodist Church. One day they asked us if we were going to church. They invited us to come to Merrow Methodist Church and we said we would when the Congregational Church closed, which we did and the few people left there came as well. There was so much going on; Sunday School, Youth Club in the week and after Sunday evening service, Girl’s Club, Boys Club, Men’s Group, Mothers and Babies, Bible Study etc...

Roy’s family came to Guildford and his dad’s secretary was Audrey Heath and they came to the church and I met Roy. We were married in what is now the church hall in 1966. Our twin daughters were christened in this church in 1969 on a very cold day and the heating wasn’t working.

When Rev. Wallis White had christened them he said that Gill and Roy are to take them home as it is so cold , but the rest would stay for the rest of the service!

On this special day for Merrow Methodist Church we all have a special day, the first time we came to a service here and I would like us to celebrate that as well.

I am so glad I came on that day.’

Our Anniversary Day celebration continued after the service with lunch in the hall.

Merrow Savouries catered for us, and old friends and new met and chatted together over the splendid selection of food.



-----

July was the month in which the church said “goodbye” to Helen and Graham Belsham, thanking them for the many ways in which they had enriched our church life and wishing them every happiness in their new home.

The Tuesday morning bible study group said their goodbyes to Helen at a farewell lunch given by Pauline Daniels



On July 2<sup>nd</sup> the funeral service for our dear friend Sheila Shackleton took place here in the church which she loved.



Tributes from the family and the church were read on their behalf by Hugh Bradley and Julie Wallis.

Julie outlined Sheila's invaluable work as a steward of this church, and her impact as well as her dog Ella's, on the Thursday 'Warm Welcome; coffee morning.

Living in Bushy Hill and taking Ella for her daily walk, as well as her outgoing, though unassuming personality gave Sheila every opportunity to meet local residents and invite them to come and join us for coffee.

Sheila rarely missed those opportunities!

I would like to quote a few lines from the Families tribute.

"Sheila's life was a tapestry woven with love, kindness and determination and it is this legacy that we will remember and cherish."

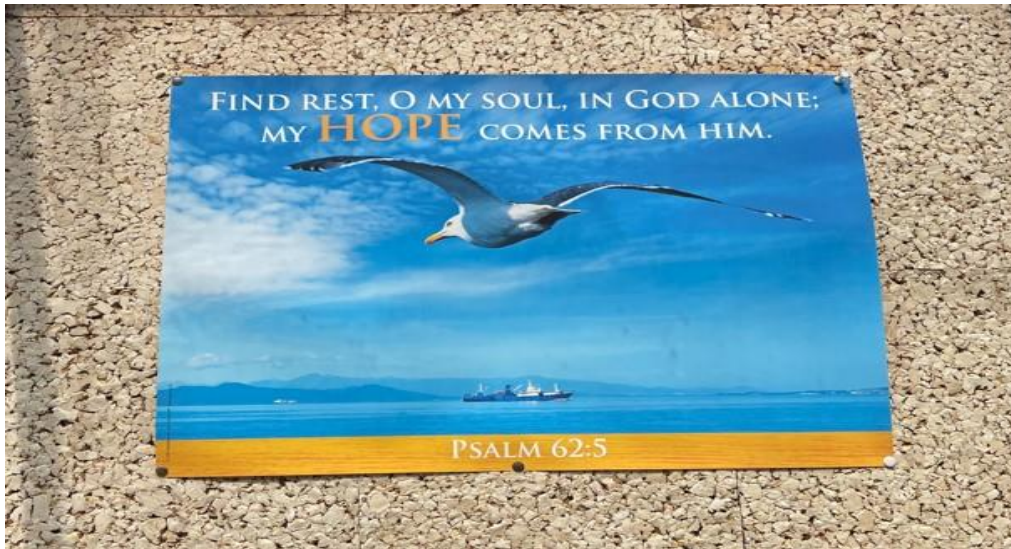
"Sheila's love for her family was palpable. Every holiday spent together created a special bond..... and her commitment to her community was equally profound."

"In her honour, let us strive to have time for other, just as she had all the time in the world for all of us. Her gentle spirit and unwavering love will forever be a guiding light in our lives."

\*\*\*\*\*

The words on our latest church poster, pictured on the next page, are, for Sheila, a perfect epitaph.





\*\*\*\*\*

## **Afternoon Tea at MMC**



Please come and join us for afternoon tea in the Church Hall

**Wednesday 13th August 2.30-4.30pm**

Places are limited so please see Maggie Woolcock or Joan Wells asap to book.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Action for Children**

The coffee morning on Thursday 26th June raised £267 including gift Aid.

On Sunday 13th July, AFC Sunday raised £111.25p including gift aid was raised.

Many thanks to everyone who contributed.

**Suzanne**

## UNLOCK LONDON WALK - APRIL 2025

This year's sponsored walk for the small Christian Charity Unlock, raised just over £800 for the work of Unlock - a fantastic result thanks to the generous sponsorship of walkers by church members and friends.

Unlock sent this letter of thanks:

Dear Mrs Woolcock

Thank you for your support during this year's London walk.

The sponsorship raised by Merrow Methodist Church, Guildford and other donations received are very much appreciated and will help us to

- Unlock real life stories of urban people
- Reveal Good News of the Down to Earth Christ
- Release life changing skills and confidence – through...
- Developing new Unlock Local partnership Projects in UK cities.
- Developing partnerships with other agencies, which will extend Unlock's reach and frontline impact.
- Providing Unlock training to other agencies working in deprived urban areas.

We rely on the walk to generate around 70% of our running costs each year, so your support is crucial to the work we do in deprived urban areas in the UK.

We look forward to seeing you at our next walk on the 18h April 2026!

Once again, thank you for all your support.

Yours sincerely,

Nguemo Takon. (On behalf of the Chief Officer Dawn Lonsdate)

Raise money for Unlock just by shopping online!

Would you like to support Unlock every time you shop online at no cost to you and no cost to us? With 'Give as you Live,' thousands of major brands including Play.com, John Lewis and Expedia have signed up to donate a percentage of every purchase you make online to Unlock.

The average shopper will raise £2.10 per month through what they already buy online.

Give as You Live is easy-to set -up and use. Simply visit Give as You Live at [www.giveasyoulive.com/join/unlock](http://www.giveasyoulive.com/join/unlock) for full details.

Try it today and help raise valuable funds for Unlock.

Have you considered leaving a gift to Unlock in your will?

[unlock-urban.org.uk/support/legacies.php](http://unlock-urban.org.uk/support/legacies.php)



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

### A Summer Holiday wordsearch

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

Can you find the following words in the square above?

The words can read in any direction :-

Horizontal, vertical, diagonal and in reverse

Apples; August;

Beach; Bee; Bites

Exams;

Fete; Fish

Ham; Herb; Hot;

Map;

Pier;

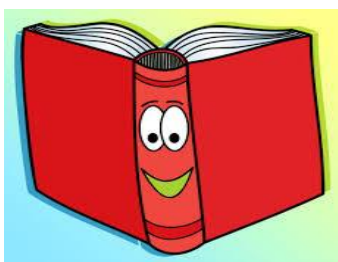
Rabbit; Rhubarb; Rope; Rug

Sailing; September; Shelter; Ship; Sparrow; Summer; Sun;

Surf;

Tram; Tree

Yurt



## **Story time**

### **Two poems by Hilaire Belloc**

#### **The Frog**

Be kind and tender to the Frog,  
And do not call him names,  
As 'Slimy skin,' or 'Polly-wog,'  
Or likewise 'Ugly James,'  
Or 'Gap-a-grin,' or 'Toad-gone-wrong,'  
Or 'Bill Bandy-knees':  
The Frog is justly sensitive  
To epithets like these.

No animal will more repay  
A treatment kind and fair;  
At least so lonely people say  
Who keep a frog (and, by the way,  
They are extremely rare).

\*\*\*\*\*

#### **The Vulture**

The Vulture eats between his meals,  
And that's the reason why  
He very, very, rarely feels  
As well as you and I.

His eye is dull, his head is bald,  
His neck is growing thinner.  
Oh! what a lesson for us all  
To only eat at dinner!



## Gill's trills

**August** is named after Roman Emperor Augustus, while **September**, derived from the Latin word for "seven," was originally the seventh month in the Roman calendar. **August** is famously SCHOOL HOLIDAY MONTH! (a holiday for some!!)

**September 22** marks the start of Autumn! On this date, there are approximately equal hours of daylight and darkness.

**September 29** is **Michaelmas Day**, an ancient Celtic "Quarter Day" which marked the end of the harvesting season.

**September** marks the beginning of the Methodist Church year.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Ken's Pen

A great conductor was rehearsing an oratorio with a full orchestra. Every type of instrument was there. The conductor listened intently ,expecting each to contribute to the great theme. Suddenly the baton rapped, and all went quiet. "Where is the piccolo?" the conductor called out. He had noticed that the piccolo player had forgotten to join in, thereby spoiling what should have been perfection. A small instrument, but important.

The music of heaven is not complete unless all play their part.

A church like Merrow is like an orchestra. Even if your contribution there to God's work seems insignificant, it would be missed if you gave up. Our Father God knows us by name; we are ALL precious to Him.

.....

A little girl said to her Mum after school , "There was a little Indian girl at school today". "Does she speak English" asked Mum. "No. But it doesn't matter because she laughs in English" came the reply.

.....

A few years ago I read my Bank Pensioners' magazine, and saw that K.S.Mills had died. It wasn't me ! The same thing happened to a chap, who rang a friend and asked "Did you see the announcement of my death in today's paper." "Yes, I did " he replied "Where are you speaking from?"

*With best wishes from Puddletown, Dorset. Ken Mills*

# POETRY CORNER

Bed in Summer by Robert Louis Stevenson  
from A Child's Garden of Verses

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?

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Moonlight, Summer Moonlight by Emily Jane Brontë**

'Tis moonlight, summer moonlight,  
All soft and still and fair;  
The solemn hour of midnight  
Breathes sweet thoughts everywhere,

But most where trees are sending  
Their breezy boughs on high,  
Or stooping low are lending  
A shelter from the sky.

And there in those wild bowers  
A lovely form is laid;  
Green grass and dew-steeped flowers  
Wave gently round her head.

# SCAMS

## **ADVERTS**

Fraudsters are buying up adverts that appear at the top of search results when shoppers look up popular retailers on Google.

Recently there have been reported in Which magazine examples of such scam ads when searching for Next, TK Maxx and Zara.

## **LOFT INSULATION CALLS**

There are still reports of someone claiming to be from Surrey County Council saying that they are a conservation officer and trying to sell you loft insulation. Local Authorities do not do this, please hang up!

## **PHONE COMPANIES**

According to experts at secure card payments provider, **Dojo**, the most recent phone bill scam includes a range of legitimate-looking communications through email, text and social media, notifying consumers and businesses that they can benefit from reduced phone bill charges as part of a monthly contract. The scam will then ask for card details to receive the discounted phone bill. "Having acquired the stolen card details, scammers are then using them to make lavish online purchases, and empty bank accounts, causing a huge financial and psychological impact on victims.

## **EMAILS**

Saying that they are about an order you have made and asking for further information. If you do not know that this is actually an order you have made Try clicking on the 'to...' below the senders name. If you do not recognise the correct 'from' email address, do not respond in any way.

If you are able to, report it as a scam.

## Prayers worth sharing



In the fading of the summer sun,  
the shortening of days, cooling breeze,  
swallows' flight and moonlight rays  
WE SEE THE CREATOR'S HAND

In the browning of leaves once green,  
morning mists, autumn chill,  
fruit that falls, frost's first kiss  
WE SEE THE CREATOR'S HAND

Creator God  
who breathed this world into being,  
who is discernible within  
the harmony of nature,  
the perfection of a butterfly's wing,  
the grandeur of a mountain range,  
the soaring eagle and humming bird,  
thank you for this world  
which you have created.

Thank you for summer sun,  
which reminds us  
that your creative breath  
is still alive and active.  
Thank you for the warmth of your love,  
sustaining this world,  
your garden

Amen