

# **THE VOICE**

## **MERROW METHODIST CHURCH MAGAZINE**



**May 2026**

Family of God,

I give thanks to the Almighty for granting me a safe return from Ghana, where daily temperatures ranged from 34 to **42°C**, and even the evenings settled at **24°C**. Life there moves with a gentle rhythm — joyful, communal, and unhurried. Time is held lightly as people go about their work, family responsibilities, and religious activities with a natural grace.

This Easter was a particular blessing. I was privileged to reconnect with friends and family and was unexpectedly invited to preach to **over 600 adults and 150 children**. For nearly **55 minutes**, I proclaimed the message of the risen Christ, then administered the communion elements. It was a moment of profound humility and gratitude, and I returned to the Circuit strengthened by the faith and warmth I witnessed.

### Living as Easter People

Easter does not conclude with the final hymn on Easter Sunday. It continues to shape our worship, our service, our prayers, and our shared life. We remain Easter people, and the month of May invites us to embody that identity with renewed purpose – carrying resurrection hope into the ordinary rhythms of our days.

Across my four churches, we stand at the threshold of a new season. A new minister will soon join us, bringing with them fresh gifts and perspectives. Such transitions naturally stir anticipation and renewed energy. Yet they also remind us of a deeper truth: our hope does not rest on personalities, methods, or human plans.

Scripture gently reorients our vision. The strength of the Church has never depended on one individual but on the unwavering faithfulness of God, who calls, equips, and sustains His people. *“He must increase, and we must decrease.”* Christian renewal is always rooted in God-centred obedience, not human enthusiasm.

### Foundations for the Season Ahead

As we prepare for what lies before us, may we hold fast to three guiding truths:

- Christ remains our focus. Ministers come and go, but the Lord is the eternal Shepherd of His Church.
- Walking with God is our calling. Not to chase trends, but to deepen trust, prayer, and discipleship.
- Our mission is shared. God works through all His people, drawing each of us into His purposes for blessing, growth, and care.

When our eyes remain fixed on Jesus, hope does not fade after the first weeks of a new appointment. Instead, it grows, matures, and becomes a steady light for others.

## Stepping Forward in Faith

As we enter May, let us open our hearts to the future God is shaping among us. Let us welcome our new minister not as the source of renewal but as a fellow servant whom God will use alongside each one of us. The Church flourishes most when Christ is at the centre, and God's people walk forward together in faith.

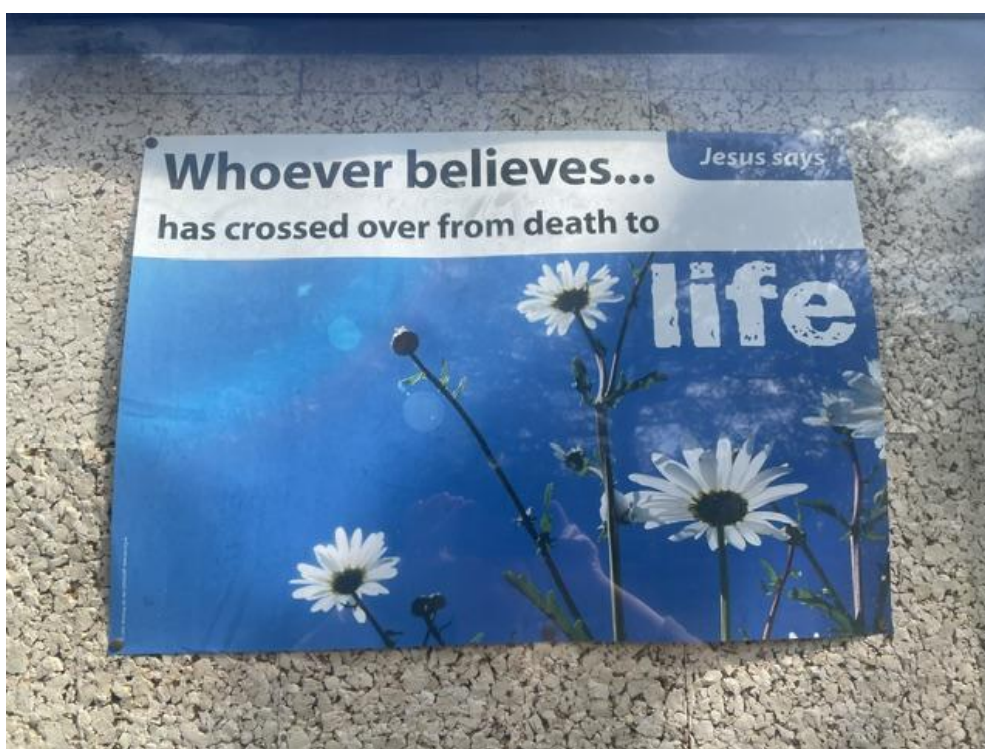
We are Easter people. Hope is our language. Christ is our centre. And the most beautiful chapters are written when God leads the way.

Every blessing to the Merrow, Stoughton, West Horsley, and Sheerwater congregations. Thank you.

Rev. George Quarm

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## Our new outside poster



## **USEFUL ADDRESSES**

### **SUPERINTENDENT MINISTER:**

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

### **MINISTER:**

REV. GEORGE QUARM **01483 575432**  
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### **CHURCH OFFICE:**

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[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 May will be:

ANN CARPENTER **01483 535282**  
PAULINE DANIELS **01483 958905**  
CARI RAYNER **07887 692598**  
DOREEN SIAME **01483 578214**

### **EDITOR – ‘The Voice’**

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**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



### *From a bedroom window*

*How swiftly do the buds unfurl their leaves;  
The tree beyond my window veiled in green,  
With branches spread, where squirrels leap and play;  
Magpies and pigeons rest, to court and preen;  
All part of Springtime's glorious reward  
To celebrate, with us, our risen Lord.*

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Any items for inclusion in the June issue of "The Voice" should be sent to me  
by: **May 23<sup>rd</sup> 2026**.....

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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## Women's Fellowship

on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May @ 2.30 pm will be chat, tea and cake

Anyone is welcome to join us

All are welcome

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## Morning Bible Study

Continuing a study of Peter's first letter  
at Lavender Cottage, Marlyns Drive, Burpham.

On Tuesdays 5<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> May

led by Gillian Varley

All are welcome

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## Evening Bible Study

Thursday May 21st at 7.30pm

at Merrow Methodist Church

led by Julie Wallis

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## Weekly Coffee Morning

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.

Although

you are invited to support a different charity each month

at our

## **Charity Coffee Morning**

when a delicious selection of cakes is served for you to enjoy

on 7th May

the Charity will be

## **CHRISTIAN AID**

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You are invited to a  
**COFFEE MORNING**  
in aid of



on **Thursday 7th May**

**10.30am to 12pm**

at **Merrow Methodist Church**

Section Break (Continuous)



# DIARY DATES & NEWS

## Our Easter flower displays

On each radiator shelf the floral displays were arranged by Pauline Daniels



The flower displays at the front of the church were all arranged by Margaret Hills



The piano shelf



The pedestal display

## Community Easter Tea

1<sup>st</sup> Merrow Scouts - Once again this year we were invited to the Community Easter Tea which was held in our hall on March 28<sup>th</sup>. There was a wide selection of sandwiches, savouries and cakes, all served with a smile by the scouts themselves. No-one could possibly go home hungry.



Above is one very happy customer with an example of what delicacies were on offer, not forgetting the cups of tea!

After tea we were treated to a short entertainment by Rosemary Hill, an extremely talented young recorder player, playing pieces by Montelbano and Telemann, accompanied at the piano by Felix Hatt.



# Hugh's News

## Birding with Hugh ( Part 2)

In the last edition of The Voice we left Tilly the female blue tit two days into constructing her nest in my empty bird box. She did a great job and by the end of the week she had built a very cosy home to be proud of.



Having finished her nest she did not start laying eggs until a week later. Amazingly blue tits seem able to exactly time when their eggs need to hatch to coincide with when oak-moth caterpillars (the main source of food for the chicks) are in abundance and this depends on the prevailing spring weather.

Blue tits typically lay between 7 and 14 small white eggs with red brown spots, usually one per day. Although they may occasionally lay up to 16, a clutch of 8-12 is most common. At first it was difficult to spot the eggs under the feathers at the bottom of the nest when they were being laid, but by the 10th April eleven eggs were clearly visible and Tilly started to incubate them using a featherless area of the skin on her tummy, called a brood patch, to keep the eggs warm.



During this period of incubation Timmy came into his own, regularly visiting the box to feed his mate.



Early on Wednesday 22nd April the eggs started to hatch and the very small featherless chicks, with only a thin layer of skin, started to crawl out.



They proved very difficult to count as they cover each other up fighting for space in the nest, but four days later nine chicks are clearly visible patiently waiting to be





Two of the eggs might not have hatched or there might be two more chicks hiding from view. Whether it is nine or eleven they will now take a great deal of feeding to ensure they survive. Luckily Timmy is making very regular trips to the nest passing on caterpillars.



So hopefully in the next edition of The Voice we will have more photos to share showing how quickly the chicks grow as they prepare to fledge.....

**WATCH THIS SPACE!**

**JUNIOR PAGE** – for the young and young at heart  
to put a Spring in your step!

Can you find all these words in the square below.?

The words can run horizontally, vertically or diagonally , forwards or backwards:

Bud

,  
Deer

Flowers, Fresh,

Holiday. Hope

Lamb

Maypole, MayQueen, May,

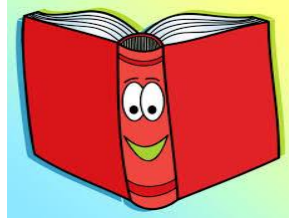
Police

Rose,

Spring, Sheep, Swallow, Spider, Spa, Sap

Winter

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



## Story time

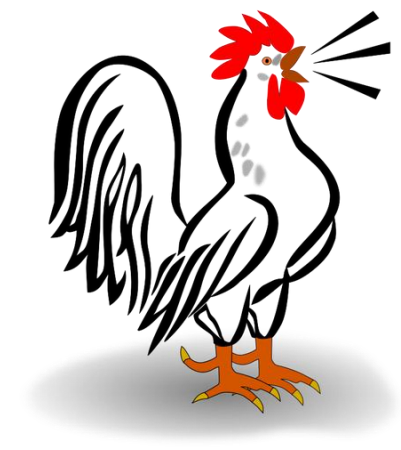
This is the house that Jack built.  
This is the malt that lay in the house that Jack built.  
This is the rat that ate the malt  
That lay in the house that Jack built.  
This is the cat that killed the rat that ate the malt  
That lay in the house that Jack built.



from the essay [Gottfried Mind, The Raphael of Cats](#)

This is the dog that worried the cat that killed the rat that ate the malt  
That lay in the house that Jack built.  
This is the cow with the crumpled horn that tossed the dog  
That worried the cat that killed the rat that ate the malt  
That lay in the house that Jack built.  
This is the maiden all forlorn that milked the cow with the crumpled horn  
That tossed the dog that worried the cat that killed the rat that ate the malt  
That lay in the house that Jack built.  
This is the man all tattered and torn  
That kissed the maiden all forlorn  
That milked the cow with the crumpled horn  
That tossed the dog that worried the cat that killed the rat that ate the malt  
That lay in the house that Jack built.  
This is the priest all shaven and shorn  
That married the man all tattered and torn  
That kissed the maiden all forlorn  
That milked the cow with the crumpled horn  
That tossed the dog that worried the cat that killed the rat that ate the malt  
That lay in the house that Jack built.  
This is the cock that crowed in the morn  
That woke the priest all shaven and shorn  
That married the man all tattered and torn

That kissed the maiden all forlorn  
That milked the cow with the crumpled horn  
That tossed the dog that worried the cat that killed the rat that ate the malt  
That lay in the house that Jack built.  
This is the farmer sowing his corn  
That kept the cock that crowed in the morn  
That woke the priest all shaven and shorn  
That married the man all tattered and torn  
That kissed the maiden all forlorn  
That milked the cow with the crumpled horn  
That tossed the dog that worried the cat  
That killed the rat that ate the malt  
That lay in the house that Jack built.  
This is the horse and the hound and the horn  
That belonged to the farmer sowing his corn  
That kept the cock that crowed in the morn



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Hahn

That woke the priest all shaven and shorn..  
..That married the man all tattered and torn...  
...That kissed the maiden all forlorn....  
....That milked the cow with the crumpled horn.....  
.....That tossed the dog that worried the cat.....  
.....That killed the rat that ate the malt.....  
.....That lay in the house that Jack built.



# Gill's trills

## 'May' Quotes

from Little Women - Louisa 'MAY' Alcott

- "Watch and pray, dear, never get tired of trying, and never think it is impossible to conquer your fault."
- "Have regular hours for work and play; make each day both useful and pleasant."
- Our actions are in our own hands, but the consequences of them are not. Remember that, my dear, and think twice before you do anything.
- Keep good company, read good books, love good things and cultivate soul and body as faithfully as you can
- Be comforted, dear soul! There is always light behind the clouds.

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# Ken's Pen

Strangely enough, the noisiest place in the Care Home is the Dining Room. Chairs scraping, staff having to shout as so many are very deaf, cutlery being laid etc. To many people today, silence is unknown, disturbing, unacceptable. Without loud background music they can't concentrate, can't work.

Here is a poem written by a group of young people who still value silence.

When you don't return an offence: when you don't claim your rights:  
When you leave to God the defence of your honour: silence is meekness.

.....

When you don't disclose another's faults: when you forgive without asking the past:  
When you don't condemn, but plead in your heart: Silence is mercy

.....

When you suffer without complaint: when you don't seek consolation from people:  
When you don't intervene. but wait for the seed to germinate slowly: Silence is patience

.....

When you keep quiet to let another stand out: when you surround god's gifts with  
discretion:

When you tolerate your action being misinterpreted: When you leave to others the glory  
of success: Silence is humility.

.....

## Ken's Pen continued

When you keep silent because He is the One who acts: When you leave world sounds and voices aside to be in His presence: When you don't look for understanding because it's enough to be known by Him: Silence is faith.

.....

When you embrace the cross without asking "Why": Silence is adoration.  
Jesus was silent (Matt. 25; 63)

.....

A Junior Church teacher was talking to her class about the Prophet Elijah. She told them Elijah built an altar and put a bull on it for a sacrifice, to prove his God was the only god. She then said that Elijah poured a lot of water on the altar. She asked "Now why do you think God told Elijah to do that?" Little Emma raised her hand and said with great enthusiasm "To make the gravy!"

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With greetings from The Fairways Care Home.  
Keep smiling. Ken Mills

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## Pete's tweet

Good thoughts should never be forgotten.

1. Each piece of art is a sermon in paint for those with eyes to see.  
*Rev Peter Hills (ref to recent Methodist Art Exhibition but universally applicable)*

2. The apostle Paul offers timely wisdom in Ephesians, chapter 5:  
a) time is limited  
b) make the most of every opportunity  
c) understand the will of the Lord

*Rev Adam Payne (circuit letter 07/01/26)*

3. In the context of Romans 8:28 - the good is not our comfort, wealth or health. It is conformity to Christ.  
*Rev Darlene McCarley (from the Manse, circa 2015)*

4. God's favourite way of being God is to be one with us:  
a) flesh & blood  
b) body & bone  
c) joy & pain  
d) life & death & life again

*David Jenkins, Bishop of Durham (thanks to Barrie for resurfacing, "Wey Valley Letter, 14/01/26)*

# POETRY CORNER

## Song. On May Morning by John Milton

Now the bright morning Star, Dayes harbinger,  
Comes dancing from the East, and leads with her  
The Flowry May, who from her green lap throws  
The yellow Cowslip, and the pale Primrose.

Hail bounteous May that dost inspire  
Mirth and youth, and warm desire,  
Woods and Groves, are of thy dressing,  
Hill and Dale, doth boast thy blessing.  
Thus we salute thee with our early Song,  
And welcom thee, and wish thee long.

*'This beautiful little Song has been set to music by Mr. Festin, and performed at Ranelagh gardens. [1753]*

## May Night by Sarah Teasdale

The spring is fresh and fearless  
And every leaf is new,  
The world is brimmed with moonlight,  
The lilac brimmed with dew.

Here in the moving shadows  
I catch my breath and sing--  
My heart is fresh and fearless  
And over-brimmed with spring.

*Sarah Teasdale (1884-1933) was an American lyric poet*

# SCAMS

If you are contacted by phone, email or text, by someone purporting to be your bank, or other financial institution, from Amazon or from the police regarding fraudulent activity in your account, however plausible the message may seem it is almost certain to be

A SCAM:

A way of persuading you to move money out of your account into a new one which they will help you to do, or to give them account or personal details.

HANG UP the phone

DO NOT click on any links.

Scammers are becoming more and more adept at masquerading as people in authority in almost every institution.

- Because a 'policeman' gives you his rank, number and details of where he is stationed, does not mean that any of these details are true. Hang up.
- If asked to phone the customer services number on the back of your bank card, don't.

Scammers can keep a line open so that even though you ring that number you will actually still be speaking to the scammer

- You may be sent a 'one-time pass-code' apparently from Amazon following a previous phone-call about fraudulent activity. Do not follow this up. Amazon notifies you via email, text messages (SMS), or alerts within the Amazon App. but not by phone.

## **THEN**

- Phone your bank or contact your account holder on a number, email address you know to be correct, to confirm whether or not there is fraudulent activity going on.
- If possible report the scam to Action Fraud with as much detail as you can.

*In the past week, both bank, police and Amazon scams have been aimed at members of our church family.*

*Phone numbers often used by scammers are:*

*Manchester area codes 07850 & 01615*

*London area code 02045*

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**DO NOT OPEN!**

*Emails in **spam** folders, supposedly from friends or acquaintances sending you photographs to access via a link .....*

**DELETE THE EMAIL!**

## Prayers worth sharing



The prayers this month are taken from the Methodist Prayer Handbook and span many centuries

Grant us grace, O God, to be interpreters of your beauty, narrators of your glory, confessors of your purpose, preachers of your mind and teachers of your works, through Christ our Lord

Amen

Odes of Solomon – late 1<sup>st</sup> century AD

Grant us, O Lord, purity of heart and strength of purpose, that no passion may hinder us from knowing your will and no weakness from doing it.

In your light we may see light clearly, and in your service find perfect freedom: through Christ our Lord.

Amen

St. Augustine of Hippo 354-430 AD

Gracious God, give us wisdom to perceive you, diligence to seek you, patience to wait for you, eyes to behold you, a heart to meditate on you and a life to proclaim you, through the power of the Spirit of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Benedict of Nursia c480-550 AD

O Christ, the Bright and Morning Star, when the night of this world is past bring us with your saints to your promised light and to that life which opens into everlasting day.

Amen

The Venerable Bede c 673-735 AD