

THE VOICE

MERROW METHODIST CHURCH MAGAZINE



JUNE 2026

Message from the Manse – June

Dear Christian family

As we welcome the month of June, we see God's creation bursting with new life — growing strong, stretching upward, and bearing fruit. It is a gentle reminder that the Lord calls us to grow daily in faith, in character, and in love.

I often think of a garden surrounded by a sturdy hedge. At first glance, it may seem like a barrier, but its true purpose is to protect what is tender, to keep harm at bay, and to create a safe space where roots can go deep and life can flourish. In the same way, the boundaries we honour and the trust we guard are not restrictions. They are God's gracious design — safeguarding what is precious and allowing His love to take firm root in us.

Elisabeth Elliot expressed it beautifully: **“Faithfulness is not doing something great for God, but doing ordinary things with great integrity, for His glory.”**

With deep gratitude, I share that in February 2026 I completed my doctoral studies on confidentiality and work-ethics boundaries — a journey that began in 2019. These years have taught me that confidentiality is a sacred trust, and that right boundaries are essential if every act of service is to reflect Christ's holiness and compassion.

This message is my last but one to you. My heartfelt prayer is that each of you continues to cherish life fully — in its joys, its challenges, and its countless blessings. Life can be demanding, and moving home adds its own weight, as many of you know well. As we prepare to downsize, I humbly ask for your prayers: that even in this season of change, our hearts remain steady and our hands faithful to the Lord's calling.

“To love the Lord is to love His people, for His heart beats in every neighbour we meet.” “The Church is not a building but a family — and when we love the Lord, we learn to carry one another with grace.” “Loving Christ always leads us outward, to lift the weary, welcome the forgotten, and shine His light where hope feels thin.”

A gentle reminder: our farewell service will take place on **19th July at 3pm**, where I will have the joy of offering my personal thanks to each one of you. I have shared more reflections and a fuller expression of gratitude in this month's edition of *Merrow Pages Magazine*, so do look out for it.

May God bless you richly.

**Yours in His service,
Rev George Quarm**

USEFUL ADDRESSES

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PROPERTY LETTINGS

ADMINISTRATOR: **01483 537655**
lettings@merrowmethodistchurch.org.uk

PRAYER SUPPORT GROUP:

This is a small group willing to put time aside for praying each day for special needs within the Church community. Your request will be passed on to other members of the group, where it will remain confidential.

The prayer contact for June will be:

ANN CARPENTER	01483 535282
PAULINE DANIELS	01483 958905
CARI RAYNER	07887 692598
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EDITOR – ‘The Voice’

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EDITORIAL NOTE



June

This month we say farewell to Spring,
But welcome June once more.
What will this Summer season bring?
What does it hold in store?
The endless cycle of the years
Brings joys and sorrows, hopes and fears,
But the bright flame of Pentecost,
Will warm the coldest heart,
Re-kindle faith, search out the lost,
Such gifts will it impart.
So let the Holy Spirit move
And fill your life with joy and love.

Any items for inclusion in the July issue of "The Voice" should be sent to me by:
20 June 26.....

via email: 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	PA/AV	Door
June 7th	10.30am	Joan Wells	Doreen Siame	Glenys Magill	Maggie Woolcock Joyce Goodall
June 14th	10.30am	Hugh Bradley	Gillian Varley	Cari Rayner	Wendy Bradley Ruth McCulloch
June 21st	10.30am	Iris Walker		Jane Vinall	Peter Walker Julie Wallis
	6.30pm	Hugh Bradley		Glenys Magill	
June 28th	10.30am	Suzanne Burnham		Jane Vinall	Julie Wallis Glenys Magill

Communion stewards:

June 7 th 10.30am June 21 st 6.30pm	<u>Preparation:</u> Suzanne Burnham & Doreen Siame Glenys Magill	<u>Assisting:</u> Julie Wallis
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Flower Rota:

7th June Suzanne Burnham
14th June Catherine Winder
21st June Jan Kemp
28th June Cari Rayner

Sunday Morning Coffee Rota

7th June. Pauline Daniels
14th June. Glenys Magill and Maggie Woolcock
21st June. Hugh and Wendy Bradley
28th June. Joan Wells and Jan Walker

Charity:

Bible Society

Organ Rota:

Morning Services. Gillian Varley
Evening Service: Hymnal+

Church Council

Our next meeting is on
Wed. 24th June
at 2.00pm.

Everyone is welcome to attend these meetings
although voting is restricted to Council members.

Women's Fellowship

on Monday June 1st @ 2.30 pm
The speaker is Iris Walker on Pam Ayres
followed by tea and biscuits.
All are welcome

*The bible is a foundation stone of our Christian Faith.
Reading and discussing it together in an informal group
helps us to understand how faithful and forgiving God has been
and continues to be to his people
and how the Old Testament underpins the New Testament.*

Morning Bible Study

Continuing our study of Peter's first and second letters
at Lavender Cottage, Marlyns Drive, Burpham.
On Tuesdays 9th & 23rd June
led by Gillian Varley
Don't be shy. Come and join us.

Evening Bible Study

Thursday June 18th at 7.30pm
at Merrow Methodist Church
led by Julie Wallis

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.
Bring your friends!
Invite your neighbours!
There is no charge.
although
once each month
you are invited to support a different charity,
when a delicious selection of cakes is served for you to enjoy.
The next Charity Coffee Morning is on 4th June
(see poster on next page)

You are invited to a

COFFEE MORNING

in aid of **Action for Children**



on **Thursday 4th June**

10.30am to 12.00noon

at Merrow Methodist Church



Coffee and home-made cakes

Bring your family and friends

The Methodist children's charity AFC gives support to vulnerable children, campaigns for the lasting change needed to create more safe and happy childhoods.

Please come and support us

DIARY NEWS & FUTURE DATES

UNLOCK WALK 2026

This year's Unlock was around Kilburn and Hampstead. The usual walkers could not do it and Alan & I decided we would give it a go and just hope we wouldn't get too lost which is the usual scenario on our walks! At the last minute our friends Dolores & Stuart joined us.



We started at Kilburn Park tube station which was a 20minute tube ride from Waterloo. The weather was perfect with the sun shining all day but not too hot. The whole route was so interesting taking in parks, historic houses with their blue plaques, events and churches.



The quiz questions really helped to make it an enjoyable day. We picked up lunch on the way and ate on Hampstead Heath not far from the 'Wild' swimming! There was plenty of tea & coffee on offer at the checkpoints but not the amazing Caribbean food that I remember when I did my first Unlock walk.

Despite this there was always a warm welcome from the Volunteers! Some of the churches were amazing and especially one that was a real community hub with a cafe, post office, children's parties going on in the church, big permanent soft play at the side and could seat 1000 at a service! With all the activity it was difficult to see the actual sanctuary!



The walk was supposedly 7.2 miles but according to our step count it was 9 miles

and we didn't get lost (much)!

Thank you for all your generous sponsorship. Unlock rely on the walk to provide around 50% of their budget and in 2025 Merrow was the 3rd highest fund raiser so WELL DONE! This year we raised an AMAZING £775! Thank you.

CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

Sunday July 5th

10.30am Service led by Rev. Keith Beckingham

followed by our Anniversary lunch

and

concluding with a presentation to our minister

Rev. George Quarm

Circuit Farewell Service for George and Ama
here at Merrow Methodist Church

July 19th at 3.00pm

led by Rev. Dr. Paul Glass

Hugh's News

Birding with Hugh (Part 3).

We finished the article in the May edition of The Voice saying “hopefully in June we will have more photos to share, showing how quickly the chicks grow as they prepare to fledge....WATCH THIS SPACE”

Unfortunately you will have to continue to watch this space!

Read on

If you remember, the blue tit chicks hatched on 22nd April. I was not sure at the time whether all eleven eggs hatched but indeed they all did and over the next two weeks they quickly transformed from what looked like very small lumps of skin to hungry baby birds. I took numerous photos and saved them all to the gallery on the Bird Box App, to be used in this article....

On Tuesday 5th May I heard a very loud tapping noise coming from what I thought was our utility room and told Wendy there could be a problem with the washing machine. She said it was not currently running but she had heard the same noise the previous morning. I viewed the nest box on my iPad screen and all the chicks were huddled at the bottom of the box with their mother spread out over them. The noise was coming from outside the box! I went into the garden and discovered a Great Spotted Woodpecker trying to get into the nest. I had previously protected the access hole with a metal plate but this bird had managed to drill out quite a large hole below this in its attempt to get inside.



Woodpeckers have previously been very welcome colourful visitors to my feeding station in the garden, however I have subsequently learned that they will try and access blue tit nests to eat the eggs and even small chicks if they

can reach them! Luckily I scared this one off and although it still returns to the feeder I don't think it has been back to the box.

That same Tuesday morning I had a visit from an EE engineer to install full fibre cable broadband to our property. Once it was all connected he left me to change all the WiFi access codes on my devices and Apps. This I managed to do until it came to the Bird Box!! The screen was blank and I could not find a way to connect the new wifi. I phoned the manufacturer only to be told that the only way to do this was by accessing the camera in the box. But if I did this the adult birds would desert the nest and the chicks and not return. The person I spoke to understood my frustration and said, with a sigh, that I was not the first person to suffer this disappointment. Obviously it happens a lot! The perils of changing your broadband provider.....

He did say that all the photos I had downloaded would be stored on the App and I could access and view these once I had been able to change the WiFi details. I just need to wait until I can safely get to the camera in the box once the chicks have fledged.

Normally chicks fledge between 15 - 23 days after hatching (Last year mine took 18 days). We came away from Guildford to visit the West Country on Weds 13th May, 21 days after our eggs hatched and that morning I checked outside and Tilly and Timmy were still making very regular trips to and fro the nest to feed their brood.

So, with apologies, you will have to keep watching this SPACE

Special announcements.

We offer our congratulations to Judith and Solomon
and celebrate with them the birth of their son,
brother to Anuonyam

We welcome into our church family,
Soheil and Marjan
and look forward to getting to know them
and their getting to know us.

Margaret Hyam has moved to her new home at Deepdene Care Centre,
Dorking

Ann Carpenter celebrating her 90th birthday on May 26th



Congratulations Ann!

Advance Notice! Afternoon Tea 2026

We will be having our Annual Afternoon tea on
Tuesday 18th August 2.30 - 4.30

Places are limited so please express an interest early if you would like to come!
Joan, Maggie, Ruth & Margaret

A SPECIAL REQUEST TO YOU

The Voice is not just for your information and entertainment, but for you to
share news with us **but do you ever read it?**

If you do, please send your news to the editor

about - family,

holidays,

hobbies,

outings,

poems you love

or books you've read?

Are there any special birthdays we should note, or exam results?

(yours, your children's, grandchildren's, even great-grandchildren's?)

Did you miss our Local Arrangement Pentecost service on 24th May?

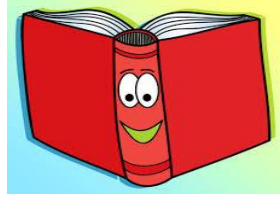
Then prepare yourself!

The communion table was ablaze with the flames of the Spirit!



..... not to mention the heart of John Wesley which was 'strangely warmed' on 24th May 1738 and from which experience the Methodist movement grew.

The service, led by members of the congregation, was the inspiration of Doreen Siame and challenged us to make sure that 'the fire of the Holy Spirit,' didn't remain on the communion table, but kindled a flame in each one of us.



Story time

Rebecca, Who Slammed Doors For Fun And Perished Miserably

by

Hilaire Belloc

A trick that everyone abhors
In little girls, is slamming doors.
A wealthy banker's little daughter
Who lived in Palace Green, Bayswater
(By name Rebecca Offendort),
Was given to this furious sport.

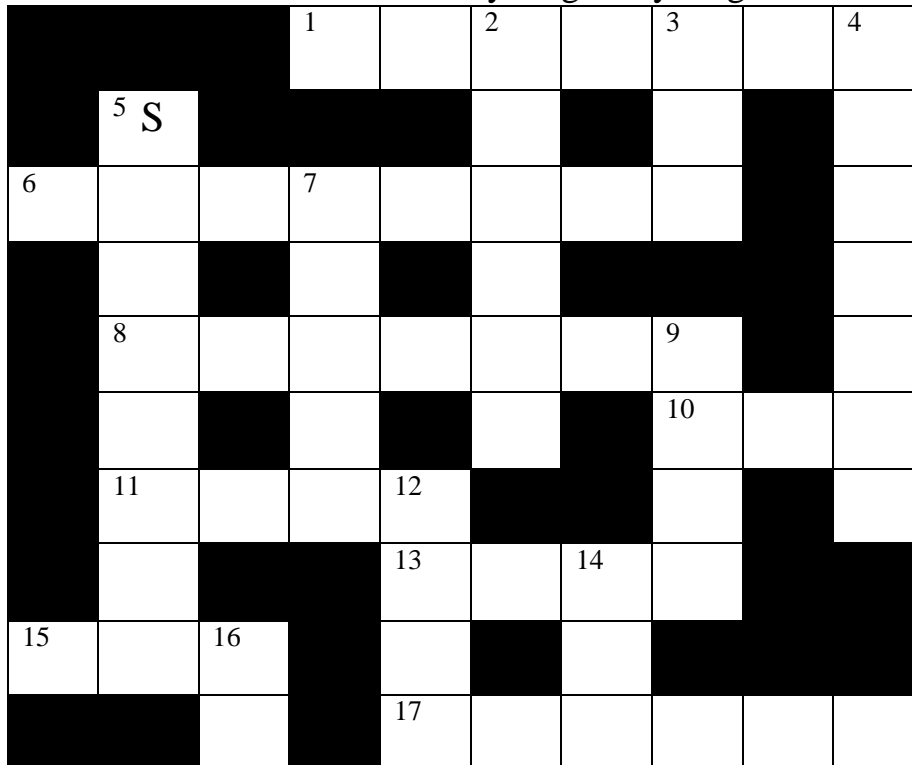
She would deliberately go
And slam the door like billy-o!
To make her uncle Jacob start.
She was not really bad at heart,
But only rather rude and wild;
She was an aggravating child...

It happened that a marble bust
Of Abraham was standing just
Above the door this little lamb
Had carefully prepared to slam,
And down it came! It knocked her flat!
It laid her out! She looked like that.

Her funeral sermon (which was long
And followed by a sacred song)
Mentioned her virtues, it is true,
But dwelt upon her vices too,
And showed the dreadful end of one
Who goes and slams the door for fun.

The children who were brought to hear
The awful tale from far and near
Were much impressed, and inly swore
They never more would slam the door,
— As often they had done before.

JUNIOR PAGE – for the young and young at heart



Clues Across:

1. A young tree
6. A meal cooked outside on a grill
8. You might enjoy this summer seaside sport
10. The first number
11. A short sharp wind
13. Ships may get wrecked on one of these
15. A tree with keys.
17. A baby pig/

Clues Down:

2. An outdoor informal meal
3. A favourite summer food ' ? - cream'
4. You may wear these when swimming
7. Most of their young will have fledged by now
9. A popular outdoor game
12. An excursion or a fall!
14. You may have one hard boiled
16. A sailor's song - "Yo-heave - ?"

Gill's trills and



VARLEY'S PARLEZ



Great Bay, St. Martins, Scilly Islands

Wonderful walking; Silver sands; Rural retreats; Silence and solitude;
Birds and boat trips

Does this sound like your sort of holiday?

Then try the Beautiful Scilly Islands.

On your way home pay a visit to

'The Story of Emily,'

an exciting new addition, near Liskeard, to all that Cornwall has to offer.

Visit the childhood Rectory home of Emily Hobhouse and, after lunch in the South African themed restaurant, visit the fascinating 'inter-active' museum to follow in the footsteps of this intrepid and brave English woman who took on, single handed, the British government during the Boer war to improve the lot of displaced and destitute Boer women and children whose homes, farms and livestock were being destroyed and burnt to the ground leaving them with no means of living.

POETRY CORNER

June's Picture

by Annette Wynne

Let me paint June's picture—first I take some gold,
Fill the picture full of sun, all that it can hold;
Save some for the butterflies, darting all around,
And some more for buttercups here upon the ground;
Take a lot of baby-blue—this—to make the sky,
With a lot of downy white—soft clouds floating by;
Cover all the ground with green, hang it from the trees,
Sprinkle it with shiny white, neatly as you please;
So—a million daisies spring up everywhere,
Surely you can see now what is in the air!
Here's a thread of silver—that's a little brook
To hide in dainty places where only children look.

Next, comes something—guess—it grows
Among green hedges—it's the rose!
Brown for a bird to sing a song,
Brown for a road to walk along.

Then add some happy children to the fields and flowers and skies,
And so you have June's picture here before your eyes.

Annette Wynne was an American poet specialising in children's poetry. In 1919, her book of children's poems, For Days and Days: A Year Round Treasury of Child Verse was published, followed by Treasure Things in 1922.



SCAMS

Common June Scams to Watch for:

Lloyds Bank impersonators:

Phone calls and texts saying someone is trying to take money from, or buy something using your account.

If you do not bank with Lloyds you would already be suspicious of this, but if you do it is all too easy to believe that this is not a scam. However, do not proceed, as banks will not contact you in this way about fraud.

Tax Refund Phishing (HMRC/IRS): Fraudsters send fake emails or texts claiming you are due a tax refund, aiming to steal bank details or personal information.

Holiday/Travel Scams: As people book summer holidays, scammers use social media to advertise fake low-cost flights or hotel deals, often mimicking legitimate travel companies.

Locksmith Scams ("Driller Killers"): Fraudsters quote low prices, then destroy locks with drills, charging excessive fees—sometimes over £700—for immediate replacement.

Lloyds Energy and Home Improvement Scams: Misleading calls regarding "Green Deal" funding, insulation, or unexpected repairs.

SO:

- **Verify Independently.**
- **Be sceptical of 'Deals'**
- **Never rush or be rushed**
- **Do not give out personal details**

THINK BEFORE YOU ACT!

Prayers worth sharing



Summer prayers

Creator God, forgive our moments of ingratitude
the spiritual blindness that prevents us
from appreciating the wonder that is this world
the endless cycle of nature
of life and death and rebirth.
Forgive us for taking without giving
reaping without sowing.
Open our eyes to see
our lips to praise
and our hands to share
May our feet tread lightly on the path we tread
and our footsteps be worthy of following
for they lead to you.

'Lord, purge our eyes to see
within the seed a tree,
Within the glowing egg a bird,
Within the shroud a butterfly,
Til, taught by such, we see
beyond all creatures, thee.'

Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)

Junior Crossword Answers:

Across

Sapling; Barbecue; Surfing; One; Gust; Reef; Ash; Piglet.

Down:

Picnic; Goggles; Sausages; Birds; Golf; Trip; Egg; Ho.