

THE VOICE

MERROW METHODIST CHURCH MAGAZINE



JULY 2026

George's final 'Message from the Manse'

Dear Christian friends,

As I write this final newsletter to you — the beloved people of Merrow, my heart is full. Full of gratitude, full of memories, and full of the quiet knowledge that God has allowed us to walk together for a season that has shaped me more deeply than you may ever know.

I have lived among you, worked among you, prayed among you, laughed among you, and sometimes wrestled with you. Whatever impressions I carry — whether joyful, challenging, or quietly instructive — they will stay with me for the rest of my life. The Ministry leaves fingerprints on the soul, and you have left yours on mine.

As I take my leave from this circuit and move to South Essex, I want to share a simple truth: the willingness to serve God genuinely and sincerely must come from the heart, not merely from the lips. Words are easy. Performance is easy, but true discipleship grows from the inner life — from a heart shaped by grace, humility, and obedience.

This is why we must learn to discern the difference between love and tolerance. Tolerance merely puts up with people. Love sees them, honours them, prays for them, and walks with them. Tolerance is passive. Love is active, costly, and Christ-like.

And yes — we must ask ourselves the deeper questions of faith. Is God real? Is heaven real? These are not questions to be answered with quick sentences but with honest reflection, prayer, and the witness of our lives. Some questions in life demand immediate answers — “Where is your house?” or “What work do you do?” But others require us to pause, to think, to search our hearts.

There is an old question often used to provoke reflection: “*Whom would you save first if both your wife and your mother were drowning?*” It is not a question about family loyalty — it is a question about values, priorities, and the courage to face difficult truths. In the same way, our faith must be examined, tested, and lived out in real decisions, not just spoken in comfortable moments.

Let me leave you with a short illustration:

A traveller once asked a wise man, “What is the greatest danger to faith?” The wise man replied, “A heart that stops examining itself.” Faith grows when we reflect. Faith dies when we drift.

And so, as I say goodbye, here are two words of exhortation for the journey ahead:

“Let your love be real, not rehearsed.” “Live your faith so sincerely that heaven is not a theory but a destination.”

On behalf of my wife, Ama, and myself, we say: God bless each one of you. Thank you for allowing us to share your homes, your stories, your joys, and your sorrows. Thank you for the privilege of serving as your minister. With affection, gratitude, and a prayer for your future.

Enjoy the summer days.

Your minister and friend, saying goodbye.

Rev George K. Quarm



USEFUL ADDRESSES

SUPERINTENDENT MINISTER:

REV. DR. PAUL GLASS

01483 575667

revpaulglass@gmail.com

MINISTER:

REV. GEORGE QUARM

01483 575432

unclegeorge.quarm@gmail.com

CHURCH OFFICE:

Bushy Hill Drive, Guildford, GU1 2SH.

01483 537655

office@merrowmethodistchurch.org.uk

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 May will be:

ANN CARPENTER

01483 535282

PAULINE DANIELS

01483 958905

CARI RAYNER

07887 692598

DOREEN SIAME

01483 578214

EDITOR – ‘The Voice’

GILLIAN VARLEY

01483 495567

gillianbrierley13@gmail.com

- Please verify that any copy you submit for publication is non-copyright and in the ‘public domain.’ This applies to text and photographs. .

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



July

A little farewell poem for George and Ama

‘Parting is such sweet sorrow,’
Are words from Shakespeare’s pen,
Or maybe graphite pencil,
In use both now and then!
Yet parting’s pain is fleeting
For memory is kind
And fills, with sweet recalling,
The space you leave behind.

Any items for inclusion in the August issue of “The Voice” should be sent to me
by: **July 23rd**

via email: gillianbrierley13@gmail.com
[by hand,](#)

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

COPYRIGHT

Please do not submit any articles or photographs which are Copyright,
ie. not in the Public Domain.

Church websites and magazines are closely monitored by outside ‘copyright
checking’ agencies.

There is a heavy fine for publishing such material without permission.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN JULY

Stewards for Sunday worship:

Date	Time	Vestry	Worship Leader	PA/AV	Door
July 5 Church Anniversary	10.30am	Hugh Bradley		Cari Rayner	Wendy Bradley Joyce Goodall
July 12th HC AFC	10.30am	Suzanne Burnham	Doreen Siame	Jane Vinall	Maggie Woolcock Ruth McCulloch
	6.30pm	Joan Wells		Glenys Magill	
July 19 th Circuit Service farewell to George	10.30am	Iris Walker		Cari Rayner	Peter Walker <u>Joyce Goodall</u>
	3 pm	Suzanne Burnham		Jane Vinall	Ruth McCulloch Julie Wallis
July 26	10.30am	Joan Wells		Glenys Magill	Maggie Woolcock Joyce Goodall

Communion stewards:

	<u>Preparation:</u>	<u>Assisting:</u>
July 12 am	Glenys Magill and Doreen Siame	Doreen Siame

Flower Rota:

July 5th. Margaret Hills
12th Glenys Magill
19th Doreen Siame
26th Wendy Bradley

Sunday Morning Coffee Rota:

5th. July
12th July Pauline Daniels and Julie Wallis
19th July
26th July Hugh and Wendy Bradley
Magill

Coffee Funds - Hugh Bradley
Christian Aid - Hugh Bradley
JMA - Hugh Bradley.
Transform Trade - Glenys

Organ Rota

Gillian Varley : morning services;
Hymnal+ : evening services

Women's Fellowship
Monday July 6th
Summer Tea

Action for Children
the Methodist Children's Charity
Action for Children Sunday
Sunday 12th July.

Rev Barrie Tabraham will be preaching and there is Holy Communion.

The theme this year is 'Everyone's welcome'.
A reference to the wider family of God and in particular on focus on foster care, which is where AFC began over 150 years ago.
Sadly, the need is as great as ever, with 7,000 new foster families needed. Fostering can be a turning point in a child's or young person's life. It is more than just a home - it's stability, hope and a loving environment.

Driven by love
We pray for vulnerable children
We give to support vulnerable children
And we campaign for the lasting change needed
to create more safe and happy childhoods
Driven by love, we take action for children

There will be Gift Aid envelopes available.
Many thanks to all your support throughout the year
Suzanne

We have two Church Bible Studies
To which all are welcome.

Morning Bible Study
at Lavender Cottage, Marlyns Drive, Burpham.
On Tuesdays July 7th & 21st
Please contact Gillian Varley for further details

Evening Bible Study
Thursday July 16th
led by Julie Wallis in the church at 7.30pm

Number 5 and Mulberry House

Thank you for all your generous donations for Number 5 and Mulberry house.
They are very appreciative of the support we give to them.

Weekly Coffee Morning

Thursdays from 10.30 - 11.45am

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.

On the 2nd Thursday each month this is usually

A Charity Coffee Morning

to support a different charity each month

On July 9th our **Charity Coffee Morning** will be
for

'Community Angels'

in Merrow Methodist Church Hall 10.30 to 12 noon

Enjoy homemade cakes, coffee/tea and chat with friends old and new

Community Angels is a befriending Agency

Run by Guildford Town Centre Chaplaincy



Coffee Morning

Thursday 9th July

Merrow Methodist Church Hall

10:30 to 12 noon

Enjoy homemade cakes, coffee/tea
and chat with friends old and new.

Community Angels is a befriending project run by Guildford Town Centre Chaplaincy.

Registered charity number: **1126056**



NEWS & FUTURE DIARY DATES

“UNLOCK” Annual London Walk 18.4.2026

Once again thanks to Ruth and Alan McCulloch who completed this year’s “Unlock” London Walk on behalf of our church with 2 of their friends (see article in June edition of The Voice) and to all who kindly sponsored the walkers. We raised **£775** in total – a wonderful total.

Sponsorship from the Annual London Walks is the major source of income for Unlock and generates about 70% of the Agency’s running costs. Below is a letter of thanks received from “Unlock” for the sponsorship money received from us this year, detailing how they will use this money.

Please ask me if you’d like further information about “Unlock” and their Mission work. “UNLOCK” Annual London Walk 18.4.2026

Maggie Woolcock

01 June 2026

Dear Mrs Woolcock

Thank you for your support during this year’s London Walk. The sponsorship raised by Merrow Methodist Church, Guildford (£775) 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 17th April 2027!

Once again, thank you for all your support.

Yours sincerely,

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

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? (continued on next page)

With Give as you Live, thousands of major brands including 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 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? To find out more about leaving a legacy contact us for a copy of our Legacy Leaflet or visit Unlock-urban.org.uk

*Unlock 15 Station Road, Rotherham. S60 1HN
telephone 01709 380 319*

Registered Charity No.313454

Community Angels

Guildford Town Centre Chaplaincy (GTCC) was set up 17 years ago by the churches in Guildford. It consists of Street Angels caring on the streets, Community Angels caring in the community and Volunteer Chaplains in the workplace.

I am going to tell you a little about Community Angels with whom I have been a volunteer for the last 6 years.

Our work is befriending and supporting adults throughout Guildford Borough to face the challenges of loneliness and isolation.

What do we do?

We spend time with clients in their own homes and out and about in the community offering a listening ear, companionship and encouragement every week lasting about half a day.

I do enjoy it and look forward to my Wednesday mornings which are varied and sometimes with little challenges to overcome. It is a pleasure to work with such people who are always warm and welcoming to us.

Referrals come from a wide range of organisations including GPs, Citizen Advice, Police and some self-referrals. More referrals are received than there are volunteers. In the last year there were 85 client referrals, volunteer hours 1755, clients supported 45, doing visits and outings 698 hours and numerous phone calls each month.

If you consider it's something you would enjoy doing the contact is

communityangels@gtcc.org.uk

Tel 07825 799309

Joan Wells

Afternoon Tea at MMC

Please come and join us for afternoon tea at
Merrow Methodist church, Bushy Hill Drive
on
Tuesday 18th August 2.30 - 4.30pm



We look forward to seeing you once again at this annual event so please
book now as places are limited!

To book and any queries, please contact one of the following;

Joan Wells 07808934391. Ruth McCulloch 07702541644
Maggie Woolcock G. 502942. Margaret Hills G. 576192

Although August is a quiet month at church, let's not forget that for George and Ama it's a busy time of goodbyes and new beginnings. They leave their home of five years to settle into a new manse with all the upheaval that entails. Yet it is a time of new horizons, new hopes and dreams.

It is a time of looking forward for us too, to our own 'new horizons.' So let us use this month well, to rest, pray and prepare our hearts and minds to embrace and enjoy all that the coming weeks and months and years will bring.

JUNIOR PAGE – for the young and young at heart

A seasonal quiz

Summer Fun

1. **Which frozen summer treat is typically served in a cone?**
2. **What is the first summer month?**
3. **What yellow fruit is often called the "King of Fruits" and is especially popular in the summer?**
4. **What do bees collect from flowers that they use to make honey?**
5. **Which popular summer sport involves floating on water and racing from one end of a pool to the other?**
6. **Which planet in our solar system is known as the “Red Planet”?**
7. **How many legs does a spider have?**
8. **What is the name of the biggest and loudest animal in the world?**
9. **Which bird is famous for its ability to fly backward?**
10. **What is the name of the imaginary line around the middle of the Earth?**

A very short Alphabet of flowers

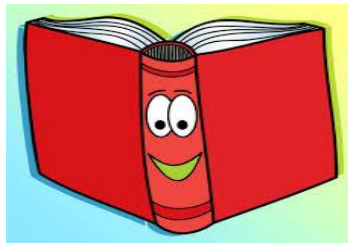
A - Aster

B - ?

C - ?

D - ?

E - ?



Story time

Jim, Who Ran away from his Nurse, and was Eaten by a Lion
by HILAIRE BELLOC

There was a Boy whose name was Jim;
His Friends were very good to him.
They gave him Tea, and Cakes, and Jam,
And slices of delicious Ham,
And Chocolate with pink inside,
And little Tricycles to ride,
And read him Stories through and through,
And even took him to the Zoo—
But there it was the dreadful Fate
Befell him, which I now relate.
You know—at least you *ought* to know,
For I have often told you so—
That Children never are allowed
To leave their Nurses in a Crowd.

Now this was Jim's especial Foible,
He ran away when he was able,
And on this inauspicious day
He slipped his hand and ran away!
He hadn't gone a yard when—Bang!
With open Jaws, a Lion sprang,
And hungrily began to eat
The Boy: beginning at his feet.
Now, just imagine how it feels
When first your toes and then your heels,
And then by gradual degrees,
Your shins and ankles, calves and knees,
Are slowly eaten, bit by bit.....
.....No wonder Jim detested it!

(continued on next page)

No wonder that he shouted "Hi!"
The Honest Keeper heard his cry,
Though very fat he almost ran
To help the little gentleman.
"Ponto!" he ordered as he came
(For Ponto was the Lion's name),
"Ponto!" he cried, with angry Frown.
"Let go, Sir! Down, Sir! Put it down!"

The Lion made a sudden Stop,
He let the Dainty Morsel drop,
And slunk reluctant to his Cage,
Snarling with Disappointed Rage.
But when he bent him over Jim,
The Honest Keeper's Eyes were dim.
The Lion having reached his Head,
The Miserable Boy was dead!

When Nurse informed his Parents, they
Were more Concerned than I can say:—
His Mother, as She dried her eyes,
Said, "Well—it gives me no surprise,
He would not do as he was told!"
His Father, who was self-controlled,
Bade all the children round attend
To James' miserable end,
And always keep a-hold of Nurse
For fear of finding something worse.





Gill's trills

My shortest trill
This space to fill!
The reason why?
Well, it's July,
And far too hot,
(or maybe not!)

and a poem discovered in Crete

Begin today

Dream not too much of what you'll do tomorrow,
How well you'll work another year.
Tomorrow's chance you do not need to borrow,
Today is here.
Boast not too much of mountains you will master
The while you linger in the vale below,
To dream is well, but plodding brings us faster
To where we go.
Talk not too much about some new endeavour
You mean to make a little later on.
Who idles now will idle on forever
'Til life is gone.
Swear not some day to break some habit's fetter,
When this old year is dead and passed away;
If you have need of living wiser, better,
Begin today.

Anon

Ken's Pen

A couple of the Care Home staff who serve at the dining room say "Thank you for coming. " A bit strange, as I would see them again a few hours later. However, they are polite.

Some residents seem to have forgotten how to say please" and "thank you".

If asked, "Would you like cereals or porridge?" they say "porridge", and accept it without a word of thanks.

As we pray, always remember to give thanks to God for all His many blessings.

.....

A little girl was going to a party. Mummy said "Don't forget to say thank you as you leave."

When she got home her Mum asked if she had said "thank you". "No, I didn't" she replied. "The girl in front of me did, and Mrs. Carter said "Don't mention it". So I didn't".

.....

A man went into a florists and selected a bunch of flowers. "They are my wife's favourites" "I hope she will get better soon". "She is NOT ill" he replied. "Sorry sir; but husbands don't usually buy flowers for their wives unless they are ill or dead," replied the florist.

.....

A real Christian is a person who can give their parrot to the village gossip. Billy Graham

.....

With greetings from The Fairways Care Home, Chippenham

Keep smiling
Ken Mills

“Mottoes!”

The other day I found a copy of the motto of my old university (Swansea) which was adopted when the college was founded in 1920. It read as follows (in Welsh, of course):

'Gweddw crefft, heb ei dawn'

But how does that translate into English, you might ask? The literal translation ('**A craft widow, without her talent**') seems to make no sense at all! However, there are two basic ways of rendering the idiomatic Welsh into something sensible:

'Bereft is craft without inborn gift'

or

'Skill is bereft without culture'



I never did like the first translation, as it could easily be misunderstood. It could suggest that the university was saying to prospective students, “If you haven’t got it (‘up there’) – don’t bother coming to us, as simply working hard won’t bring you success” Wow !! Somehow, I don’t think it was intended to convey such a dispiriting message, and certainly the staff under whom I studied were almost always positive and encouraging.

The second way of translating those Welsh words is much nobler – and definitely more appropriate for an institute of learning. Of course, the English words themselves can be viewed in different ways, one definition of ‘culture’ that I came across the other day was: *‘Shared language, values, norms, traditions, pastimes, customs, beliefs and conventions that cause people to identify with one another.’*



I suppose my Christian faith gives a bias to my own interpretation. It’s bound to, really. You may think I’m stretching a point, but those words suggest to me that if we are serious when we say that we live in God’s world ‘with his permission’, as it were, then all our talents, all our work, should be to honour our loving Creator.

I’m glad that *Singing the Faith* has found room for a hymn by the noted 17th century poet George Herbert (1593-1633) who makes the point much better than I can:-

*Teach me, my God and King, in all things thee to see,
and what I do in anything, to do it as for thee.*

*A servant with this clause makes drudgery divine;
who sweeps a room, as for thy laws, makes that and the action fine.*

Barrie Tabraham

Julie's News

As Merrow has recently remembered 'Aldersgate Sunday' on the 24 th May (as well as the important festival of Pentecost), the anthem reminded everyone of John Wesley's rules for Christian Living:

Do All the Good You Can,
By All the Means You Can,
In All the Ways You Can,
In All the Places You Can,
At All the Times You Can,
To All the People You Can,
As long as EverYou Can!

I was unaware that John Wesley had written other rules – although I have since discovered otherwise.

I recently acquired an older hymn book and when reading the preface was intrigued to discover John Wesley's 'Rules for Methodist Singers':

- 1/ Learn the tunes
 - 2/ Sing them as printed
 - 3/ Sing all. If it is a cross to you, take it up and you will find it a blessing.
 - 4/ Sing lustily and with a good courage.
 - 5/ Sing modestly. Do not bawl.
 - 6/ Sing in time. Do not run before or stay behind.
 - 7/ Above all, sing spiritually. Have an eye to God in every word you sing.
- Aim at pleasing Him more than yourself. In order to do this, attend strictly to the sense of what you sing, and see that your ear is not carried away with the sound but offered to God continually.

I am fairly certain that the above rules would apply to all singers (although personally, I am a little puzzled on how to combine rules 4 and 5). Overall though, everyone needs to remember Rule 7 – and remember to offer the hymn to God (even if it is your favourite hymn – note to self!)

Julie Wallis

Editors note: Re. No.3

Does sing all refer to every verse of the hymn (even when there are 18 or more verses), or does it mean that everyone should sing however they are feeling?

I suggest that it is the latter.

POETRY CORNER

Fern Hill by Dylan Thomas

Now as I was young and easy under the apple boughs
About the lilting house and happy as the grass was green,
The night above the dingle starry,
Time let me hail and climb
Golden in the heydays of his eyes,
And honoured among wagons I was prince of the apple towns
And once below a time I lordly had the trees and leaves
Trail with daisies and barley
Down the rivers of the windfall light.

And as I was green and carefree, famous among the barns
About the happy yard and singing as the farm was home,
In the sun that is young once only,
Time let me play and be
Golden in the mercy of his means,
And green and golden I was huntsman and herdsman, the calves
Sang to my horn, the foxes on the hills barked clear and cold,
And the sabbath rang slowly
In the pebbles of the holy streams.

All the sun long it was running, it was lovely, the hay
Fields high as the house, the tunes from the chimneys, it was air
And playing, lovely and watery
And fire green as grass.
And nightly under the simple stars
As I rode to sleep the owls were bearing the farm away,
All the moon long I heard, blessed among stables, the
nightjars
Flying with the ricks, and the horses
Flashing into the dark.

And then to awake, and the farm, like a wanderer white
With the dew, come back, the cock on his shoulder: it was all
Shining, it was Adam and maiden,
The sky gathered again
And the sun grew round that very day.

So it must have been after the birth of the simple light
In the first, spinning place, the spellbound horses walking warm
Out of the whinnying green stable
On to the fields of praise.

And honoured among foxes and pheasants by the gay house
Under the new made clouds and happy as the heart was long,
In the sun born over and over,
I ran my heedless ways,
My wishes raced through the house high hay
And nothing I cared, at my sky blue trades, that time allows
In all his tuneful turning so few and such morning songs
Before the children green and golden
Follow him out of grace.

Nothing I cared, in the lamb white days, that time would take me
Up to the swallow thronged loft by the shadow of my hand,
In the moon that is always rising,
Nor that riding to sleep
I should hear him fly with the high fields
And wake to the farm forever fled from the childless land.
Oh as I was young and easy in the mercy of his means,
Time held me green and dying
Though I sang in my chains like the sea.

*This much loved poem was **first published in 1945**. It was inspired by the long summer days the poet spent on his aunt's Annie Fernhill farm in Carmarthenshire*

Prayers worth sharing



Loving God, thank you for the gift of summertime,
the days of light, warmth, and leisure.

Thank you for the beauty that surrounds us:
the green trees, the bright blue sky,
and the laughter of children at play.

Help us to find rest and refreshment for our minds and bodies.

As we step away from our usual routines,
keep close to us and let your peace dwell in our hearts.

Amen.

A prayer of Phoebe Palmer (1807-1874) – American Methodist Evangelist

Plunged in the ocean of your love, O God,
and walking by faith,
let us rest in your promises
and receive your Holy Spirit.

Amen

Quiz answers: from the Junior page

1. Ice cream
2. June
3. Mango
4. Nectar
5. *Swimming*
6. Mars
7. Eight
8. Blue whale
9. Humming bird
10. Equator

SCAMS

Common July 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!