

THE VOICE

MERROW METHODIST CHURCH MAGAZINE



August 2026

Message for the Church



The manse is awaiting the arrival of our new minister.
But although there is no “message from the manse” this month,
the poster above, which is displayed on the outside notice board,
is a message for us all
and
for everyone who walks past our church building.

Each month we display a different poster
with a Christian message of
hope
invitation
and
challenge

USEFUL ADDRESSES

SUPERINTENDENT MINISTER:

REV. DR. PAUL GLASS

01483 575667

revpaulglass@gmail.com

MINISTER: Any communications this month to
Superintendent Minister

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

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



A midsummer trifle

This poem may be a trivial thing
Of no importance; just a frill!
A summer trifle of no worth,
Or is it something better still?

A layer of sponge above some fruit,
Topped off with jelly, custard, cream.
Layer upon layer of sweet delight:
A childhood dream.

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

via email: gillianbrierley13@gmail.com

by hand,

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

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

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN AUGUST

Stewards for Sunday worship:

Date	Time	Vestry	Worship Leader	PA/AV	Door
August 2 nd HC	10.30am	Hugh Bradley	Doreen Siame	Cari Rayner	Wendy Bradley Julie Wallis
9th	10.30am	Iris Walker		Jane Vinall	Peter Walker Ruth McCulloch
9 th HC	6.30pm	Joan Wells		Glenys Magill	
16th	10.30am	Hugh Bradley	Gillian Varley	Cari Rayner	Wendy Bradley Julie Wallis
23rd	10.30am	Iris Walker		Jane Vinall	Peter Walker Maggie Woolcock
30th	10.30am	Suzanne Burnham			Joyce Goodall Ruth McCulloch

Communion stewards:

August 2 nd am	<u>Preparation:</u> Suzanne Burnham Doreen Siame	<u>Assisting:</u> Hugh Bradley
August 9 th pm	<u>Glenys Magill</u>	

Flower Rota:

Aug. 2nd Ruth McCulloch

9th Joan Wells

16th Catherine Winder

23rd. Joyce Goodall

30th Suzanne Burnham

Sunday Morning Coffee Rota:

2nd August Glenys Magill and Maggie Woolcock.

9th August Joan Wells and Jan Walker.

16th August Ruth McCulloch and Margaret Hills.

23rd August Pauline Daniels and Julie Wallis

30th August Glenys Magill and Maggie Woolcock

Organ Rota

Gillian Varley : morning services;

Hymnal+ : evening services

Church Bible Studies

All are welcome.

Morning Bible Study

will resume in September

at Lavender Cottage, Marlyns Drive, Burpham.

on 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 10.45am.

Please contact Gillian Varley for further details

Evening Bible Study

will resume on

Thursday 17th Sept. in the church at 7.30pm

led by Julie Wallis

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

from 10.30-11.45am

when a delicious selection of cakes will be served for you to enjoy.

Come and join us for a cuppa that changes lives

The next charity coffee morning will be on September 10th

NEWS & DIARY DATES

Our 71st Church Anniversary Service on Sunday June 5th was led by the Revd. Keith Beckingham the previous Superintendent Minister of this Circuit. He was accompanied by his wife Hilary who served the Circuit as a local preacher. It was a pleasure to welcome them back.



The service was followed by a family lunch in the hall after which we took the opportunity to present George and Ama with leaving presents as they come to the end of George's ministry with us.



Ama Quarm; Rev.Dr. George Quarm; Doreen Siame & Julie Wallis (stewards)

The afternoon came to an end with George cutting our Anniversary cake, and singing his own farewell message in his own inimitable way

- "I'll never stop loving you"-



Circuit Farewell Service – 3pm - Sunday 19th July

The church building was full to overflowing as we met to say goodbye to our minister, the Revd. Dr. 'Uncle' George Quarm and his wife Ama.

The service was led by our superintendent minister, Revd. Dr. Paul Glass, who gave a moving tribute to both George and Ama, thanking them for all they have given to the circuit during the last five years.

The Merrow Choir was augmented by additional singers who surprised George with an abridged "Hallelujah Chorus" from Handel's 'Messiah' to open the service. This was something which our choir alone was too small to attempt, but which George had frequently asked for and there was great enthusiasm from singers around the circuit to join us in this first performance of my shortened version.

Fellow Circuit Ministers led Prayers and readings and George's sister read a poem written for the occasion.



A presentation was made to George and Ama on behalf of the Circuit by Nigel Campion-Smith.



and of course George's response was - A Song!

Ama was also celebrating her retirement and George his Doctorate, so it was wonderful that their three sons were there to share in this service of praise and thanksgiving.



ACTION FOR CHILDREN

Action for Children Sunday on 12th July raised £368.75 which included gift aid. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Children's Charity of the Methodist Church.

The retiring collection at the Circuit Service on Sunday 19th July raised £140 which was donated to Action for Children

Suzanne

COFFEE MORNING FOR **AL-AHLI HOSPITAL – GAZA**

(The oldest and only Christian Hospital)

Thursday 10th September
Coffee and Cakes from 10.30am
at Merrow Methodist Church

Talk by Dr Ang Swee Chai at 11.30am

A Senior Consultant at Barts Hospital. She has worked as a surgeon in both Gaza and Lebanon and has spoken at the United Nations.

She is a founder member on the Board of MAP (Medical Aid for Palestinians).



Please come and listen to this wonderful, courageous lady who has worked tirelessly against injustice.

JUNIOR PAGE – for the young and young at heart

An A B C around the church; the building or something in it.

A IS FOR

Oh dear, I'm stuck already!

B IS FOR

Yes, I've got one. That's easy. Just look in the rack on the back of a chair in the church

C IS FOR **CHOIR**

I thought I'd help you with this one! There are lots more.

D IS FOR

E IS FOR

F IS FOR

G IS FOR

H IS FOR

I IS FOR

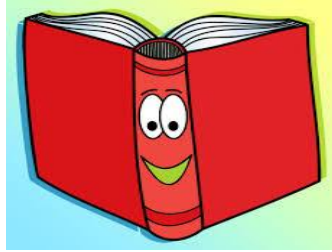
J IS FOR

K IS FOR

L IS FOR

M IS FOR

I couldn't fill all these in either, but how many can you find?
We'll do N to Z next month.



Story time

My friend and I went hiking in the countryside to see how many different flowers and plants we could find, but took a wrong turn in some woodland and were soon hopelessly lost. We could hear the sound of a river in the distance and fortunately I had my mobile phone with me so phoned 999 for someone to come and rescue us.

As we waited we wrote this story about our adventure and rescue. We have hidden the 20 flowers and plants we had collected in the story. How many can you find?

An afternoon adventure

No bridge spans yonder river and the bushes around us offer no shade, but a hero, sent to save us, dives in from the far bank to swim across, but the current sweeps him past erratically until up into the undergrowth on our bank he scrambles. He runs quickly past a lone cow, slips between trees in a near-by copse. Dumbly we wait as he stops to listen to a lark's pure song. I turn to you and see the hope on your face, (though in the heat her forehead is damp with perspiration). Even I let out a sob as I listen to him getting nearer.

"We're here," we shout, to guide him to us and suddenly he appears, like a ghost, among some prickly bushes. As he brushes past them I rise to my feet, pull my friend up too and we run towards him. Will he be compassionate, or chide us for getting so lost?

He stops and takes stock of the situation, reaches into his waterproof rucksack and hands us each a sweet pear to eat, then signals for us to follow him. We skirt the river's edge until it narrows and becomes shallow enough for us to wade safely across. Soon home is in sight. Safe at last!

Our hero has already turned away and, with a final wave he calls "Forget me not."

Answers on last page.



Gill's trills

Are you a railway enthusiast? Then visit the Isle of Man to experience all it has to offer. It really is an island full of surprises.



Electric



Steam

The mountain railway up Snaefell from which you get a bird's eye view of the Laxey Wheel



..... not forgetting the Horse-drawn tram!

Ken's Pen

Sir Ernest Shackleton, the leader of the famous Antarctic expedition, who died in 1922, once wrote : When I look back on those days, with all their anxiety and peril, I cannot doubt that our party was divinely guided both over the snowfields and across the storm-swept sea. I know that during that long and racking march of thirty six hours over the unnamed mountains and glaciers of South Georgia, it seemed to me often that we were not three, but four. I said nothing to my companions on the point, but afterwards Worsley said to me "Boss, I had a curious feeling on the march that there was another person with us".

All of us go through times of stress ,anxiety and trouble from time to time. Whether we realise it or not, God goes with us through those times, and through His love, compassion and understanding. will help us through. We need only ask Him.

.....

"Whoops" church notices

Ladies; please remember the jumble sale. It is a good chance to get rid of those items around the house that are not worth keeping. Do bring your husbands.

.....

The third verse will be sung without musical accomplishment.

.....

The agenda items were approved, last month's minutes agreed, and the Treasurer gave a grief report.

.....

There is a sign-up sheet for anyone wishing to be baptised on the table in the hall.

.....

Our minister is on holiday. Massages may be given to his secretary.

.....

A new loudspeaker system has been given to the church by a member in memory of his late wife.

.....

With every good wish from Fairlands Care Home, Chippenham. KEEP SMILING.
Ken Mills

Ken's pen continued

Pete's tweet

Surrounding Emily Hobhouse

Gillian recently mentioned Emily in our June news magazine. I can add a little lustre to the cluster of overall detail she espoused but specifically in reference to her railings against the British military in South Africa.

The army moved into what was known as the Transvaal to the north of the country then tried to annex the “Orange Free State” just South. Needless to say, the Afrikaner did not like it! There were three Boer wars and this was the most lethal involving military expansion. The Afrikaner was heavily outnumbered but understood the land and how to effectively use it. Male gear blended into the open bush, hills and scrub land. Another bonus was that they were expert rifle men. By contrast, the opposition wore bright red uniforms with two white cross stripes meeting over the chest. They were sitting ducks. Historians pinpoint this epoche as the start of guerilla warfare.

The infamous “Scorched Earth” policy was a clumsy attempt by the military to stem losses and defeat the Afrikaner. A chorus of criticism including that from EH forced the authorities to rethink the strategy. Instead of leaving old men, women and children to die they were corralled and relocated into one of several concentration camps around Bloemfontein, the principal city of OFS. This herding merely compounded the felony because cholera struck killing innocent civilians.

It should be highlighted that the camp authorities also suffered whereas the more modern comparison with WW II ghettos is unfortunate. A museum exists in Bloemfontein as a memorial to this unfortunate event.

Until black rule in 1994 there were four provinces in South Africa, namely Transvaal, Orange Free State, Natal and Cape Province. There is no one capital city in the country. Bloemfontein (“Flower Fountain”) is the legal capital, Johannesburg the commercial one and parliament resides in Cape Town. Pretoria is the administrative centre. Most of these recognitions are slowly changing, along with names, as a result of black rule which has now been in place for over thirty years.

Quote: **Taste is the feminine of genius.** *Edward Fitzgerald*

Julie's News

Sheep



Anyone who knows me, knows that I love sheep. You see them in the fields with the lambs frolicking in spring time. Sheep are mentioned over 500 times in the Bible. Apart from that – we don't tend to think of sheep very much (apart possibly from Sunday lunch!) Has this always been the case or do Sheep actually have more importance in our history?

Surprisingly, yes – Sheep do have an extremely important role in English (as well as Scottish) history. From 1100 to the Industrial Revolution, the English economy ran mainly on Wool. The quality of wool produced was high and was in high demand in Europe. There was a 'small boat' issue in the 1500/1600s as traders would smuggle wool out to avoid taxes and tariffs etc as the Government thought they were onto a nice money earner with wool.

Many have heard of the Highland Clearances in Scotland. Something similar happened in England (although people weren't forced to live on edge of cliffs) with the Enclosure Act. Tenants' small land plots were taken away to make larger enclosures for the farming of sheep so that they could produce more wool. If this resulted in the removal of homes, this was unfortunate. (I had always thought it was to improve food yield!) The much maligned Cardinal Wolsey actually tried to rectify this but it was generally too late.

I have recently read a book called 'A short History of the World According to Sheep' by Sally Coulthard which describes the impact that Sheep have had for centuries. They are far from the silly, woolly animals, we see in the fields. (They are also far from silly- they are able to work out how to cross cattle grids etc).

We underestimate our animal companions at our peril!
Wallis

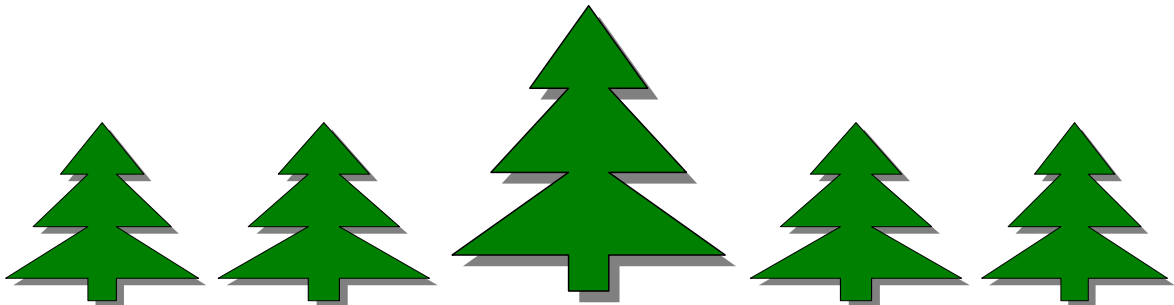
Julie

POETRY CORNER

The Way Through the Woods - Rudyard Kipling

They shut the road through the woods
Seventy years ago.
Weather and rain have undone it again,
And now you would never know
There was once a road through the woods
Before they planted the trees.
It is underneath the coppice and heath,
And the thin anemones.
Only the keeper sees
That, where the ring-dove broods,
And the badgers roll at ease,
There was once a road through the woods.

Yet, if you enter the woods
Of a summer evening late,
When the night-air cools on the trout-ringed pools
Where the otter whistles his mate,
(They fear not men in the woods,
Because they see so few.)
You will hear the beat of a horse's feet,
And the swish of a skirt in the dew,
Steadily cantering through
The misty solitudes,
As though they perfectly knew
The old lost road through the woods...



.....But there is no road through the woods.

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SCAMS

Scams can happen to anyone, regardless of age or experience. By knowing what to look out for, you can help protect yourself, your finances and you're your personal information

Common summer scams to watch out for

Fake holiday deals

Scammers often advertise bargain holidays, caravan breaks or last-minute travel offers that seem too good to be true. They may ask for payment by bank transfer, but they disappear once the money has been sent.

Stay safe by:

Booking holidays through reputable companies.

Checking reviews before making a payment.

Being cautious of heavily discounted offers on social media.

Never feeling pressured to pay immediately.

Bogus doorstep traders - During the summer, you may receive unexpected visits from people offering to clean your driveway, repair your roof, trim trees or carry out gardening work. While many genuine tradespeople do excellent work, some rogue traders charge inflated prices, carry out poor-quality work or demand payment upfront.

Stay safe by:

- Never agreeing to work on the spot.
- Asking for written quotes.
- Using trusted local traders recommended by friends or family.

Remembering it's perfectly acceptable to say, "No thank you."

Discounted flight tickets for sale on social media – book directly with the airline instead You're most likely to encounter this type of scam on social media, where fraudsters will post fake ads for cheap flights or pretend to sell tickets they can no

If you think you've been scammed

Don't panic. Contact your bank immediately if you've made a payment or shared financial information. You can also report scams to Action Fraud and seek advice from trusted organisations.

Remember, anyone can be targeted by a scam. Staying informed, taking your time and asking for a second opinion are some of the best ways to stay safe this summer.

Prayers worth sharing



Lord, we dedicate this month of August to you,
confident in your love and guidance.
Trusting in Your plans for us and sure of your continuous presence.

Fill our hearts and homes with your deep peace
and overflowing goodness.
Order our steps, giving us wisdom for every choice and change.

Protect our loved ones from harm, heal weary bodies,
and give us joy that lasts through any storm.

May we walk in faith,
reflecting your love and compassion in all that we do.
In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen!

Philippians 4:6-7

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Hidden flowers :

*Pansy; Fern; Rose; Aster; Lupin; Cowslip; Sedum; Larkspur; Peony;
Heather; Basil; Hosta; Rushes; Iris; Hebe; Orchid; Stock; Sweetpea;
Sedge; Forget-me-not.*