

THE VOICE

MERROW METHODIST CHURCH MAGAZINE



October 2025

Message from the Manse

Authentic Faith: Living Sincerely in the Everyday

Dear Beloved Community of Faith,

Faith is not confined to the sanctuary or Sunday service—it is woven into the very fabric of our daily lives. It is tested in how we speak to one another, how we care for our families, and how we serve both the church and our neighbours. While gathering for worship and lifting our voices in prayer is vital, the truest expression of faith is found in the quiet, consistent acts of love we offer each day.

True faith is not a performance; it is a posture of the heart. It asks: *Am I living what I believe?* It calls us to reflect Christ's love not only when it's convenient but especially when it's hard. When our actions mirror our convictions, we become living testimonies of grace.

Consider this: one winter in a UK neighbourhood, a family's boiler broke down. Rather than waiting for outside help, neighbours came together—offering tools, time, and warmth. Their hands repaired more than a boiler; they rekindled the spirit of community. That simple act of kindness became a sermon in itself.

So, let us ask ourselves: are our actions sincere? Are we loving our neighbours with the same compassion Christ shows us? Authentic faith is not measured by eloquence but by integrity. Every small gesture, a visit, a prayer, a helping hand, is a step closer to the life Jesus calls us to live.

Celebrating 70 Years of Grace: A Song of Praise

We give thanks to God for the joyful celebration of our 70th anniversary and for all who joined us at our Songs of Praise service on Sunday, 14th September 2025. Your presence, voices, and prayers made it a moment of deep gratitude and unity.

We honour the generations who have built this church with faith and love, and we look ahead with hope.

To God be the glory for seven decades of steadfast grace.

As we journey forward, let us lift our dear Minister, Rev. George, and his family. May God continue to guide, strengthen, and bless them in every step of their ministry. May wisdom and peace surround them, and may our church remain a place of love, support, and shared purpose.

A Prayer of Thanksgiving and Renewal

Heavenly Father,
We thank You for seventy years of Your grace
at Merrow Methodist Church.

We remember those who have gone before us,
and we pray for those who are infirm or far from home.
Surround them with Your peace and love.

We lift our ministers and their families.
Bless them with strength, wisdom, and serenity as they serve.
May Your presence be their guide and Your joy their strength
as they look to the future in their work for Your kingdom.

As we celebrate this milestone, let us renew our hearts.
Help us to live with sincerity, to serve with compassion,
and to shine with Your light in our community.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Thank you, and God bless.

With every blessing,
Rev. George K. Quarm

EDITORIAL NOTE



An October apology

The title of my poem in the Summer “Voice” edition
Was, by a month, adrift I realise.
It should have read “‘Two into One’ from August to September.”
But then my heart was quailing at the thought, if you remember!
I can do no more than apologise.

“Apology accepted,” are the words I’d like to hear.
They would indeed be music to my ears.
Your editor’s endeavour, though ’tis quite an imposition,
Will be to make no errors in this Autumnal edition.
If I succeed I’ll raise three hearty cheers

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

via email: gillianbrierley13@gmail.com

by hand

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

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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 every month will be:

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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.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OCTOBER

Stewards for Sunday worship:

Date	Time	Vestry Steward	Worship leader	P/A; A/V	Door Stewards
Oct 5 th	10.30 HC	Hugh Bradley	Doreen Siame	Cari Rayner	Maggie Woolcock Wendy Bradley
Oct 12 th	10.30	Joan Wells		Glenys Magill	Ruth McCulloch Joyce Goodall
Oct 19 th	10.30 6.30 HC	Iris Walker Hugh Bradley		Jane Vinall Glenys Magill	Julie Wallis Wendy Bradley Glenys Magill
Oct 26 th United	10.30 Service	Suzanne Burnham		Cari Rayner	Maggie Woolcock Joyce Goodall

Communion stewards:

October 5th	<u>Preparation:</u> Doreen Siame; Suzanne Burnham	<u>Assisting:</u> Doreen Siame
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Flower Rota:

October	5 th	Jan Marshall
	12 th	Joyce Goodall
	19 th	Suzanne Burnham
	26 th	Jan Kemp

Sunday morning Coffee Rota

5 th October	Glenys Magill.
12 th October	Hugh and Wendy Bradley
19 th October	Joan Wells and Jan Walker
East	
26 th October	Ruth McCulloch & Margaret Hills

Charity support

Action for Children
Bible Society
Embrace the Middle
Mission Aviation

Organ Rota:

Gillian Varley: morning services
Hymnal + : evening services

Women's Fellowship

Monday October 6th at 2.30pm

AGM, Bring and Buy

All welcome

Church Bible Study

We have two Church Bible Study groups

Morning Bible Study

Tuesdays October 14th & 28th

at 4, Merrow Croft, GU1 2XH

10.45am for coffee and a prompt start at 11.00am

continuing our study of Mark's gospel

led by Gillian Varley

Evening Bible Study

Thursday October 16th at 7.30pm

Led by Julie Wallis

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.

Each month this will be a Charity Coffee Morning which will raise funds for a different charity every month

- usually on the 2nd Thursday -

There is always a tempting selection of cakes on offer.



For October's charity
see the following poster



Merrow
Methodist Church



Coffee Morning

**ALL
WELCOME**

For coffee/tea,
cakes and
a chatter

Thursday 9 October
10.30 am – 12 noon

Merrow
Methodist Church

And please don't forget
our next 70th Anniversary celebration

THE QUIZ

on October 18th



70 years at MERROW METHODIST CHURCH



When

SATURDAY 18TH OCTOBER 7PM

Questions covering the years 1955 - 2025

General Knowledge.

Light Entertainment.

Sport



History.

Geography.

Spelling

!?.

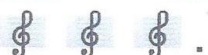
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!?

Musical Intros. What Comes Next – Lyrics,

Quotations.

This Weeks News.



!?!? ? !?!? ? !?!?

WE WILL BE SERVING A PLOUGHMANS SUPPER.

ALL TEAMS OF 8 ARE WELCOME.

NO CHARGE FOR TICKETS BUT DONATIONS INVITED ON THE EVENING TO THE OAKLEAF ENTERPRISE CHARITY

DIARY DATES & NEWS

Frank Winder surrounded by his family at his **100th** birthday party
A Birthday Party to remember on August 6th in the church hall
A wonderful celebration of 100 years
shared with his family, friends and all the church family



Then to celebrate Joan Tabraham's birthday at Guildford House,
What A Cake!!!



‘Songs of Praise’

Our September 70th Anniversary service
was a great success
and raised **£130.10** for Guildford Besom charity.
The hymns chosen were varied and sung with feeling.
‘a very uplifting service’
‘my heart sang’
‘a triumph’

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‘Harvest Festival’

On Sunday September 28th
was led by Rev. Shaun Sanders
The flower and fruit display on the front cover
was a stunning centrepiece to the many other gifts and displays.



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Saturday November 15th at 7pm
70th Anniversary Concert.

The programme includes

Hungarian dancing

Singing

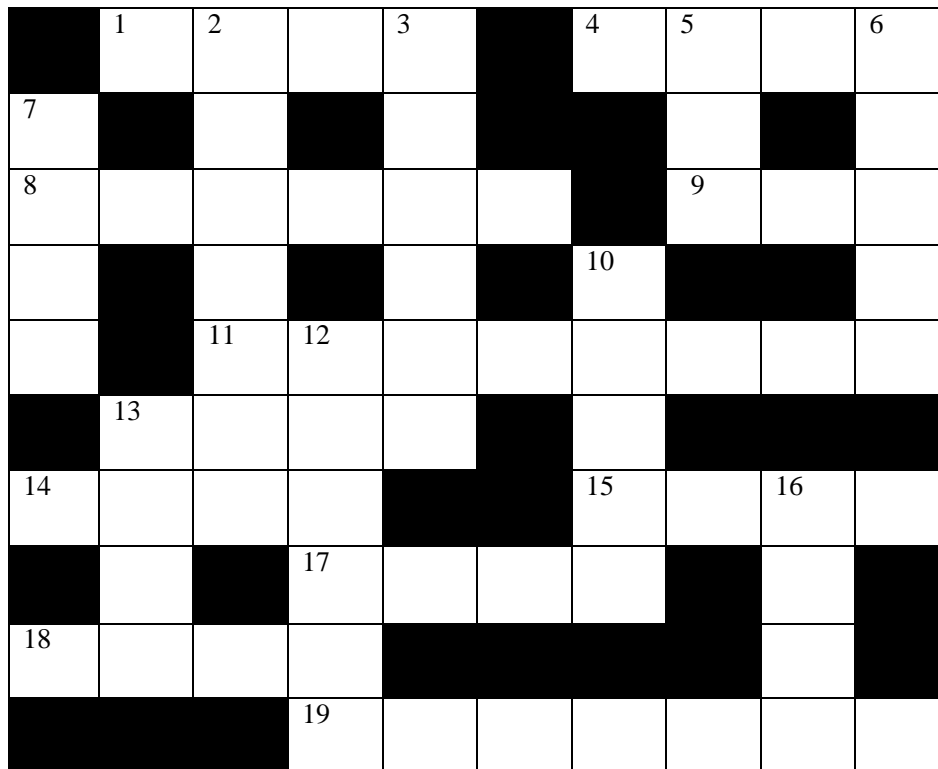
Sketches

Poetry

Instrumental music

Make sure the date is in your diary

JUNIOR PAGE – for the young and young at heart

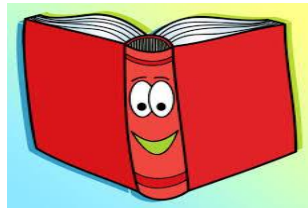


Clues Across:

1. This grows in the lawn as well as grass
4. One might fall from a tree.
8. The third season of 13Across
9. Wind blows branches 'to' and ' - - - '
11. Dark red root vegetable
13. There are 12 months in this
14. Rowing implements
15. Common insects
17. Autumn - - - - begins the school year
18. A popular girl's name
19. An edible plant stalk often made into Crumble

Clues down:

2. 10th month
3. 2nd season in the year
5. One of the fairy-folk
6. A cold white winter cover
10. Something to put on strawberries
12. You may have eggs to celebrate this
13. A tired stretch!
16. A rip, or a sad droplet.



Story time

Joseph's coat of many colours

A bible story of love, jealousy, evil and forgiveness.

Once upon a time there lived a teenager named Joseph, the youngest of the 12 sons of Jacob. Jacob favoured his youngest son and gave him a richly coloured coat. His brothers were jealous because their father seemed to love Joseph more than them. Joseph had two dreams in which his brothers and even the moon and stars bowed down before him, and he boasted of this to his brothers whose jealousy grew into hatred. When he told the dream to his father, Jacob was angry and said that the family would never do such a thing.

One day Jacob sent Joseph to find his brothers, who were out tending the family's sheep, to make sure that all was well with them and the flocks, but his brothers saw him coming and plotted to kill him.

Reuben, the eldest son, saved Joseph saying, "Let's just throw him down a dried up well, not kill him." This they did, but when some travellers passed as they went to sell spices in Egypt, the brothers pulled Joseph out of the well, took his coat and sold him to them. They dipped the coat in goat's blood and took it back to their father, pretending that they had found it in that state. Jacob immediately believed that Joseph had been eaten by a wild animal, and could not be comforted.

The merchants sold Joseph to a captain of Pharaoh's guard and he became his trusted servant, but the captain's wife turned against Joseph and he was thrown into prison. Some years later Pharaoh heard how Joseph's could interpret dreams and released him from prison. Joseph interpreted Pharaoh's dreams, but explained how his knowledge came directly from God. This so impressed Pharaoh that he gave Joseph charge of the people and land of Egypt. During good harvests Joseph stored up the surplus grain so that when famine hit Egypt and the nearby lands there was plenty grain in store. Joseph's brothers came to Egypt to buy food but though they didn't recognise him, he recognised them.

Their actions hadn't caused him harm, instead, God had placed Joseph where he could not only save his brothers from starvation, but also offer them forgiveness.

Gill's trills



Our Anniversary Year moves on apace,
We started with a service back in June,
Then came our August picnic, quite a treat,
This month, a quiz, to keep our brains "in tune."
Last month a celebration 'Songs of Praise.'
Such joyful singing we shall long remember.
But don't forget, there's still a treat to come,
The Anniversary concert in November.

Ken's Pen

From an article written in the West Dorset Magazine, by Canon Deb Smith.

Deb. wrote "Perhaps it might help break down a few barriers that church doors and some church actions and attitudes may have presented to those who question who we are and what we think".

All that really matters is the way in which we live;
The way we face our troubles and the happiness we give;
The way we deal with others who we contact on life's way;
The way we work, the things we think, the sort of prayers we pray.

All that really matters is our attitude of mind;
The way we meet life's rough and smooth; the setbacks that we find;
The way we try to right the wrong; the way we check despair;
The way we use our talents and the things for which we care.

All that really matters is the character we build;
The way we shape its glory by the missions we've fulfilled;
The rays we cast through goodness across the ways we've trod;
These are the things that matter to ourselves as well as God.

(It is from a song called "All that matters " with lyrics by George W Dench)

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Ken's Pen cont.....

Irate passenger to the ticket collector " Why do I need a ticket? According to the timetable, I am home having my dinner."

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Years ago a minister from a remote country circuit took his family to London. They stopped outside a very tall building and saw two shiny doors open, and an elderly lady walked in. The doors closed, and numbers changed from 0 to 10. Then the numbers changed again from 10 to 0 . The doors opened, and a very pretty young lady exited. "Son" the minister said, staring "go and get your mother."

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The bride was certainly not a tidy housewife. She tried hard, but was a bit put out when her husband asked "Darling. where's the dust on our table? I had a phone number written on it."

.....

Mavis and Tom went to church one Sunday, and , during the sermon, Tom walked out. Next week Mavis said to the minister "I hope you were not too disturbed when Tom walked out last week ". " No, Mavis, I coped o.k." "That's good" she replied, "Tom often walks in his sleep. "

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With greetings, and many memories, from Dorset. Ken Mills

Editor's note:

Ken lives in the charming village of Puddletown, Dorset:

The name Puddletown means 'farmstead on the River Piddle'.

Nestling in the Piddle Valley, surrounded by rolling hills and woodland the village of Puddletown (formerly Piddletown is one of Dorset's most attractive villages and features in Thomas Hardy's novels, most notably 'Far from the Madding Crowd.'

POETRY CORNER

Poems to welcome Autumn

Emily Brontë

Fall, leaves, fall; die, flowers, away;
Lengthen night and shorten day;
Every leaf speaks bliss to me
Fluttering from the autumn tree.
I shall smile when wreaths of snow
Blossom where the rose should grow;
I shall sing when night's decay
Ushers in a drearier day.

Merry Autumn Days

by Charles Dickens

'Tis pleasant on a fine spring morn
To see the buds expand,
'Tis pleasant in the summertime
To see the fruitful land;
'Tis pleasant on a winter's night
To sit around the blaze,
But what joys like these, my boys,
To merry autumn days!

We hail the merry autumn days,
When leaves are turning red;
Because they're far more beautiful
Than anyone has said.
We hail the merry harvest time,
The gayest of the year;
The time of rich and bounteous crops,
Rejoicing and good cheer.

SCAMS

Do not

believe that every email, advert, text or phone call is actually from the company or person you think it is!

Fraudsters are getting more and more persuasive.

BUT

Check first, separately with the bank, person or company concerned. A fraudster will press you for **immediate** action.

Never

part with your password or bank details even to someone purporting to be your bank or savings provider.

Scams are becoming an everyday occurrence and ever more complex, but, on the surface, believable.

Think first

Check the caller/email address

Don't be rushed into a decision or action.

Common scams are messages from a friend or family member asking you to email them as they need help in some way but are unable to phone you, or saying that they now have a new phone number..... this often begins "Dear Mum". PLEASE IGNORE THESE and phone the number you already have for them to check its authenticity.

I received a demand last week for payment for my new TV licence.....

I don't even have one!!!!

If you receive a message. apparently from Gov.uk .asking you to click on a link to take part in a survey re. the 'National Alarm' which was on all phones, this is a SCAM. **Do not** click on the link.

NB

If it sounds too good to be true, **It probably is!!**

Prayers worth sharing



Not a prayer this month but a guide to prayer
sent in by Ken Mills

During the American Civil War, as a result of a family tragedy, a soldier had been granted permission to seek a hearing with the President. He wanted to request exemption from active service. However, when he got to The White House he was refused entry and sent away. He went and sat in a nearby park. A young boy saw him and remarked that he looked sad. The soldier told him the whole story. Eventually the boy said "Come with me." He led the dejected soldier back to The White House. They went round the back, none of the guards stopping them. Even the generals and high-ranking government officials stood to attention and let them pass through. The soldier was amazed. Finally they came to the President's office. Without knocking, the young boy opened the door and walked straight in. Abraham Lincoln standing there, turned from his conversation with the Secretary of State and said "What can I do for you, Todd?" "Dad," Todd replied "this soldier wants to talk with you."

If we find praying directly to God strange or awesome, we have someone who will give us access to Him. Let us pray to Jesus, who lived our life, died our death, and rose again, as we shall.

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