# THE VOICE

# MERROW METHODIST CHURCH MAGAZINE



**April 2021** 

#### MESSAGE FROM THE MANSE – HOPE THROUGH THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS

Dear friends,

We are all in a state of separation two Eastertides running due to the cause and effects of Covid-19 and its new variants. This disconnection is not easy for anyone. Human beings are relational and our natural human instinct is for engagement and intimacy not detachment and isolation. No doubt we are yearning for special moments with family, to be able to socialise with friends and to live and enjoy life as we always have in the company of others.

However, as we enter April, daffodils are gracing our gardens; the days are growing longer and the weather warmer. Slowly but surely we are moving from the cold of winter into the new life and beauty of spring. And Easter is in a few days time too, the celebration of the resurrection of our Lord giving us hope and reassurance that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ. And the prospect of an end to the coronavirus restrictions is in sight as well.

Resurrection reminds that God justified his Son before the eyes of the world, annulling the human judgement and reversing the sentence of death that was carried out against him. Jesus was convicted of blasphemy and treason and sentenced to death on a cross. But God declared him innocent; raising him from death on the third day with angels announcing, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!" (Luke 24:5-6 NIV).

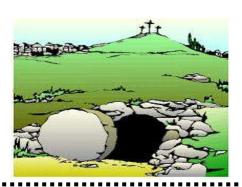
The Scriptures inform us, both through the prophecies of the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) and the narratives of the Early Church (New Testament) that Jesus' death was, in the purposes of God, the means of achieving the salvation of a sinful humanity: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world but to save the world through him." (John 3:16-17 NIV). Though many find this difficult to accept a broken and hurting world is in need of God's love and intervention.

Human beings are capable of great good but also of great wrongs and we are aware of the darkness within ourselves though we fail to acknowledge it fully. This darkness offends an absolutely holy God who is "too pure to look on evil" (Habakkuk 1:13 NIV). Yet this holy God is also a God of absolute love "towards all he has made" (Psalm 145:17 NIV). How can these two aspects of God's character ever be reconciled in His dealings with human beings? The answer is that at the cross God's holiness and his love for all humankind are united. Together the Father and the Son have found a way of reconciling God's unapproachable holiness with his unfathomable love. Once achieved in the sacrifice of the Son of God he is raised from the death which cannot hold Him. Therefore, with joy we proclaim:

#### Alleluia! Christ is risen!

#### He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Have a peaceful Easter Asif



The Donkey by G.K.Chesterton

When fishes flew and forests walked And figs grew upon thorn, Some moment when the moon was blood Then surely I was born.

With monstrous head and sickening cry And ears like errant wings, The devil's walking parody On all four-footed things.

The tattered outlaw of the earth, Of ancient crooked will; Starve, scourge, deride me: I am dumb, I keep my secret still.

Fools! For I also had my hour; One far fierce hour and sweet: There was a shout about my ears, And palms before my feet.

### **EDITORIAL NOTE**

As I write this we are still in lockdown, though that may have changed by the time you are reading it. We haven't been able to visit each other, even in our gardens, for a long time but some feathered visitors just come anyway. This is one we rarely catch sight of though we often hear it.



Which of you will hear the first cuckoo this Spring I wonder?

#### The Cuckoo

I April I open my bill In May I sing all day In June I change my tune In July I prepare to fly In August, go I must

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Any items for inclusion in the MAY issue of "The Voice" should be sent to me

by: WEDNESDAY APRIL 21st 2021 via email: <a href="mailto:gillianbrierley13@gmail.com">gillianbrierley13@gmail.com</a>

or by post: 57, Darfield Rd. Guildford. GU4 7YY

Front cover photograph for Spring taken by Helen Belsham

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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 APRIL 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, we recognise that some contributors may be uncomfortable with a mention on our web page and 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.



We are still abiding by government guidelines and Methodist Church advice and hope to re-open for Sunday Worship on **Sunday May 23rd.** Not only will be able to meet in person but this is Aldersgate Sunday and Pentecost - a triple celebration.

You will still need to book a place and observe safety precautions as before.

We continue to open for Silent Prayer each Wednesday from 10-11.00 am Wednesday Steward's Rota:

Date	Door Steward	P/A
Fri Apr. 2 <sup>nd</sup> 10-11am	Hugh Bradley	Glenys Magill
Sat Apr 3 <sup>rd</sup> 10-11am	Ruth McCulloch	и
Sun Apr.4 <sup>th</sup> 2-3pm	Maggie Woolcock	и
Wed Apr. 7 <sup>th</sup>	Helen Belsham	и
Wed. Apr. 14 <sup>th</sup>	Hugh Bradley	u
Wed Apr.21 <sup>st</sup>	Julie Wallis	и
Wed. Apr. 28th	Maggie Woolcock	и

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### **LENT GROUP**

The final ZOOM **Lent Group** is on Maundy Thursday April 1<sup>st</sup> at 3pm.

You will find log in details in the notice sheet and don't forget you can join by phone if you don't have internet access. Our Zoom host is Hugh Bradley with Asif leading this final session. The booklet "A Methodist Way of Life" which came with your membership tickets is the basis of these studies and we will be considering our response to the section on Evangelism.

Please join in with the

# Walk of Witness

Good Friday • 2 April 2021 • 10:30

Livestream: youtube.com/c/HTSMGuildford



Enter into the spirit of Good Friday, with many Christians from local churches. We hear the story of Jesus's journey from Gethsemane to Golgotha.

Once the cross has been tied to the railings at the top of the High Street,
outside Holy Trinity Church, you are invited to tape a prayer to the cross,
when you are next in the centre of Guildford,
as a sign laying down your burden at Jesus's feet.
You are also invited to leave a flower or symbol of hope,
as a witness to our belief in the resurrection.

## The Friends of St John's Church Merrow



invite you to our FREE On-line Organ Recital to celebrate restoration of the Church's 1881 William Hill organ on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> April from 7:30 pm



Please come, support and celebrate 140 years of music with organist Mark Shepherd MA, FRCO, ARCM – Director of Music, Charterhouse School.

To register for a broadcast <u>link</u> contact FoStJ's website <u>https://www.fostj.org/</u>

phone the FoStJ Secretary on 01483 478 589.

This is a FREE event, but donations or sponsorship of an organ pipe (with Gift Aid if possible) will help towards our £9,600 appeal towards the cost of restoration and would be greatly appreciated.



The Friends of the Church of St. John the Evangelist, Merrow is a registered Charity No. 1189324

#### Unlock London Walk Saturday 24th April 2021

This year's walk, due to take place on April 24<sup>th</sup>, will now be replaced with another "virtual" walk, as happened last year. This is due to the ongoing restrictions imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic and the need to make plans well in advance without any guarantees that the actual walk would be allowed to take place.

The 2021 virtual walk, will be in the Lambeth, Southwark and City Of London areas. Details will be available on the Unlock website from April 18<sup>th</sup> 2021 or by post from the Unlock Office. See details below.

Many of you will know that Unlock is a small Christian charity dedicated to Christian mission work within inner city and deprived urban areas. The annual sponsored London walks, which are a major source of income for the charity, have proved both interesting and informative to those of us from more affluent areas. We have learnt much about the different areas of London and of how the churches visited on the walk have been able to serve their local communities. The walks have always been well supported by walkers and sponsors from our church at Merrow since the first walk in 1983.

Last year there was a serious concern that without the income received from the London walk, Unlock may not survive. Although the future is still uncertain for the charity, the introduction of the virtual walk was a great success and did raise a significant amount of much-needed income through donations. The following is an extract from a letter sent by Andrew Norton, the Chair of Unlock National Council to supporters: "We had loads of great feedback from people went on the virtual walk and, like me, much to my surprise, really enjoyed the experience and learnt so much. The other real success was how much money it raised: not quite as much as the real one the year before (2019), but a remarkable and very humbling source of blessing when we thought we were very likely to have to close down Unlock, it becoming another coronavirus victim"

Thank you on behalf of Unlock to those of you who continue to support this Charity. Please do consider undertaking the virtual walk from the comfort of your armchairs this year and/or making a donation to Unlock. You can obtain details of the virtual walk and how to donate from the Unlock website at: unlock-urban.org.uk or by post from: Unlock, 15 Station Road, Rotherham, S60 1HN.

Alternatively, please contact me.

Maggie Woolcock – 01483 502942.

#### THE VOICE -APRIL

#### IT"S THAT TIME OF YEAR IN THE GARDEN!

Spring, the time to enjoy blossom, young green leaves, new plants and rejuvenated old ones.

As we've had some fine days in March I've managed to finish pruning my roses, although the early part of April is still not too late. It always seems a shame to cut off all those fresh shoots, but it will result in better and stronger stems later on.

Another "tidying up" job is to cut back last year's growth on penstemons, hardy fuschias and any other slightly tender perennials; the old foliage has protected the plants through the winter, but it is now time to expose the new shoots at the base of the plants.

Although the garden centres are now full of annuals for the new season, it is still too early to plant them out; they need to be kept in the warm until all threat of frost is past. It is probably easier to delay buying them until next month at the earliest.

Having mown my lawn a couple of times now, I'm very much aware of the amount of moss now in evidence; I need to apply a weed and feed lawn fertiliser that contains a moss killer, and then hope that there won't be too much to re-seed.

My new chrysanthemum rooted cuttings have arrived and are potted up in the greenhouse; they will soon need to have the tops pinched out to encourage four good stems on each plant. Also in the greenhouse my stored dahlias have been uncovered and are producing some early shoots.

Most outdoor vegetables can be sown this month, it's best to sow salad crops little and often to keep a steady supply through the summer. Easter is the traditional time for sowing potatoes, I like to prepare a well-manured trench, then fill it in and plant the potatoes about 6-7inches deep.

I'm trying an experiment with strawberries this year; I'm growing them in pots in a three-tiered "gallery" against a sunny brick wall. This is an idea I saw on Gardener's World. One advantage will be that it will keep the berries off the ground –assuming I get any! I'll let you know how it goes!

#### F W Gardener

Enjoy your garden.



#### JUNIOR PAGE – for the young and young at heart

#### Word Search

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D A B
     M C O W R A P
                    K
O R P
     NHUZ
              S
               A T
                    E
LAASODCLRY
                    M
     G C O M K O M B
OBL
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RSGGE
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              TSAE
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              S J
PHGNI
                 K L
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     G E O R
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All the words below can be found in the word-square above. The words can run in any direction, but must go through through adjacent squares.

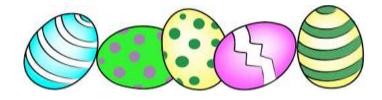
Easter Eggs; St George; Dragon; Spring; Palms; Boat Race;

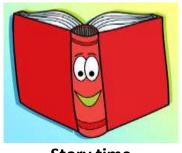
Bluebell; Cuckoo; April Fool; Chocolate; Bunny

#### \*\*\*\*\*

The decoration of **eggs** is believed to date back to at least the 13th century and it became traditional, at Easter, for people to give each other chicken's eggs which had been hard boiled and painted bright colours.

The first chocolate Easter eggs were made in Europe in the early 19th Century with France and Germany leading the way. These eggs were made from solid chocolate but JS Fry of Bristol was the first to manufacture the hollow chocolate Easter Egg in 1873, with Cadbury launching its version two years later.





**Story time** 

#### The Tortoise and the bird

A tortoise was resting under a tree, on which a bird had built its nest. The tortoise spoke to the bird mockingly, "What a shabby home you have! It is made of broken twigs, it has no roof, and looks crude. What's worse is that you had to build it yourself. I think my house, which is my shell, is much better than your pathetic nest".



"Yes, it is made of broken sticks, looks shabby and is open to the elements of nature. It is crude, but I built it, and I like it," tweeted the bird.

"I guess it's just like any other nest, but not better than mine", said the tortoise. "You must be jealous of my shell, though."

"On the contrary", the bird replied. "My home has space for my family and friends; your shell cannot accommodate anyone other than you. Maybe you have a better house. But I have a better home", said the bird happily.

Moral:

Better a crowded hut than a lonely mansion.



Paraprosdokians - Are figures of speech in which the latter part of a sentence or phrase is surprising or unexpected and frequently humorous.

#### (Winston Churchill loved them)

- 1. Where there's a will, I want to be in it.
- 2. The last thing I want to do is hurt you ...but it's still on my list.
- 3. Since light travels faster than sound, some people appear bright until you hear them speak.
- 4. If I agreed with you, we'd both be wrong.
- 5. We never really grow up -- we only learn how to act in public.
- 6. War does not determine who is right, only who is left.
- 7. Knowledge, is knowing a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.
- 8. To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is research.
- 9. I didn't say it was your fault, I said I was blaming you.
- 10. In filling out an application, where it says, "In case of an emergency, notify....," I answered 'a doctor.'
- 11. Women will never be equal to men until they can walk down the street with a bald head and a beer gut, and still think they are sexy.
- 12. You do not need a parachute to skydive. You only need a parachute to skydive twice.
- 13. I used to be indecisive, but now I'm not so sure.
- 14.To be sure of hitting the target, shoot first and call out whenever you hit the target.
- 15. Going to church doesn't make you a Christian, any more than standing in a garage makes you a car.
- 16. You're never too old to learn something stupid.
- 17. I'm supposed to respect my elders, but it's getting harder and harder for me to find one now.

## Gill's trills



Though April showers may come your way
Just count the hours 'til they go away.
And just be grateful, for this you know,
Because whilst it's just raining rain, there is no chance of hail or snow.

And where you see clouds upon the hills Don't bother looking for daffodils. For they're long over like the snowdrops, And will not bloom again, Until next year's run up to April's rain.

And where you see clouds upon the hills To keep you cheerful, just read Gill's Trills. And keep on looking for that blue bird And list'ning for his song, Whenever April showers come along.

(with apologies to Al Jolson)

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Someone rang my door bell a few weeks ago and having put on my mask and opened the door found a parcel on the doormat and a masked man standing well back. "Postman" he called cheerfully. It wasn't until he turned to go, looking a bit puzzled, that I realised it wasn't the postman at all, but our minister, Asif.

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In case you feel that, in these days of people being masked, you are becoming adept at recognising them by their eyebrows, here is a cautionary tale:

As a 5 year old I had to have an eye operation and so my eyebrows and lashes were removed. My parents came at visiting time and walked straight past my bed. On seeing my woebegone face they hesitated, turned back and pretended it was a joke. Later my mother admitted that she would never have believed anything could stop her recognising her own child, but no eyebrows did it!

# Ken's pen

A man was on his way home one mid-Summer evening when a young lad went to him and asked the time. "Ten past ten" he replied. "Oh gosh, is it that late? I don't know what my mum will say when I get home. Maybe your watch is fast, or the sun went down too quickly. I was looking for tadpoles, and it was further than I expected. Such a lot of flowers, I could hear and see the birds, and found a nest with eggs in. I must have forgotten the time." "Where do you live?" the man asked. "Just round the corner." "Would you like me to go with you to meet your mum?" "Oh, please, she would be nice to you."

On the doorstep the man said "You must be proud of your son; loving birds, flowers and nature." "He's a scamp, but I'll let him off this once." She replied.

God sent His Son Jesus, who lived a human's life, experiencing joy and sadness, temptation and disappointment. Whatever OUR situation, Jesus walks with us, understands how we feel and will, at the last, forgive us.

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Jack said to his pal George, "It's your 20<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary soon. What will you be giving your wife as a present." "A once in a lifetime trip to Australia." "Wow" said Jack, "that will be wonderful. She will be pleased. But what will you give her on your Silver Wedding Anniversary?" "Well I was thinking I might send her the money for a ticket back."

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## Walker's talk

More miscellaneous observations on modern life:

- I used to eat a lot of natural foods until I learnt that most people die of natural causes.
- Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach him how to fish and he will sit in a boat and drink lager all day.
- If I wanted to hear the pitter-patter of tiny feet I'd put shoes on my cat.
- Good judgment comes from bad experience and a lot of that comes from bad judgment.
- I really don't mind getting older, but my body is taking it badly.
- I thought getting old would take longer
- Cleaning is just putting stuff in less obvious places.

## Pete's tweet

- Some of those hymns quoted by Gillian in "Thought for The Day", Feb 26th have interesting extrapolations. Here is the second verse of "All Things Bright and Beautiful":
  - The rich man in his castle,
  - The poor man at his gate,
  - God made them high and lowly,
    - And ordered their estate.
- The author, Cecil Frances Alexander, knew that whereas everyone was born equal in the sight of God it was definitely not so in the eyes of secular society. It was an unsettling verse since the aristocracy would be prominently seated in the smart church whilst a beggar could be seen squatting in a corner. Somehow hypocrisy reigned supreme. The eventual response, and gender typical of man's sinfulness, was not to address issues of wealth disparity but remove the verse from its rightful place. At least those women recognised that in an emerging democracy they possessed the inherent right to equality of opportunity. To paraphrase Gillian, they certainly helped to extend the spiritual boundaries of growth and learning. Without them our lexicon of hymns would be a picnic rather than the banquet now available to us.
- "Nearer My God to Thee" was the hymn rendered by the ship's orchestra on her top deck as the Titanic slowly settled into the ocean, broke in two then finally slid beneath the icy waters. Several independent witnesses from the lifeboats encircling the doomed liner verified the tale. Jack Phillips, born in Farncombe, was the wireless operator who heroically remained at his post until the last. Circumstantial evidence indicates that he managed to swim towards an upturned lifeboat but exposure killed him. JD Wetherspoon in Godalming has given his name to the pub restaurant situated there.
- In closing, a few more lasting thoughts. "In the Bleak Midwinter" is one of those carols which cannot be missed at Yuletide. So is "Once in Royal David's City" also written by CF Alexander. A Christmas with neither hearing nor singing them would be like drinking water instead of champagne! One could also apply this logic to Eastertide "There is a Greenhill Far Away", CFA again. As a final epitaph to this feast of hymnology revisit the 26th Feb. script and mentally note all the given hymns. Now imagine what sense of lacking fulfilment Sunday church life would have resembled if those songs had never been written.
- Quote: Whatever women do they must do twice as well as men to be thought half as good. Luckily, this is not difficult. Charlotte Whitton

Many, who have been deprived of holiday trips and cruises for the past year, will now be looking forward to being able to book flights and hotels, and cruise the high seas (or rivers) once again. This prayer is especially for you.

#### The Tourist Prayer

(Art Buchwald 1980/Revised or up-dated in July 2015)

Heavenly Father,

Look down on us, your humble, obedient tourists who are doomed to travel this earth, taking photographs, making videos, sending postcards, buying souvenirs and posting the new places on Facebook.

We beseech Thee, O Lord, to see that our plane is not overbooked and our luggage is not lost.

Give us this day divine guidance in our selection of friends we meet on this trip.

We pray that the internet works and that we have a good connection, and that we can understand our duties on board the vessel and that the crew can speak our language.

Lead us to good, inexpensive restaurants where the food is good, the wine is included in the price of the meal and our special dietary requirements are met. Give us the wisdom to tip correctly in currencies which confuse us. Make the locals love us for what we are and not for what we can contribute to their economy.

Grant us the strength and patience to visit museums, palaces and yet more cathedrals and churches and, if we skip a monument to take a nap after lunch, have mercy on us, for our flesh is weak and enough is enough.

Dear God, protect our wives from "bargains" which they do not need and cannot afford. Lead them not into temptation for they know not what they do.

Almighty Father, keep our husbands from comparing foreign women with us. Save them from making fools of themselves in nightclubs and local bars. Above all, dear Lord, do not forgive them their trespasses for they know exactly what they do.

And when our trip is over, give us the wisdom to know how to check- in Online on our electronic devices, so that we can choose the best seat and our overweight luggage goes unnoticed.

Dear God, grant us the favour of finding someone who will have the patience to look at our holiday snaps and listen to our endless stories, so that our lives as tourists will not have been in vain.

Amen

#### The Computer

A Spanish teacher was explaining to her class that in Spanish, unlike English, nouns are designated as either masculine or feminine.

'House,' for instance is feminine: 'la casa.' 'Pencil,' however is masculine: 'el lapis.'

A student asked, "What gender is computer?"

Instead of giving the answer, the teacher split the class into two groups, male and female, and asked them to decide for themselves whether 'computer' should be a masculine or a feminine noun. Each group was asked to give four reasons for its recommendation.

The men's group decided that 'computer' should definitely be of the feminine gender (la computadora) because:

- 1. No-one but their creator understands their internal logic;
- 2. The native language they use to communicate with other computers is incomprehensible to anyone else;.
- 3. Even the smallest mistakes are stored in long term memory for possible later retrieval; and
- 4. As soon as you make a commitment to one, you find yourself spending half your paycheck on accessories for it.

#### (THIS GETS BETTER!)

The women's group, however concluded that computers should be masculine (el computador), because

- 1. In order to do anything with them you have to turn them on;
- 2. They have a lot of data but still can't think for themselves;
- 3. They are supposed to help you solve problems, but half the time they ARE the problem; and
- 4. As soon as you commit to one, you realise that if you had waited a little longer, you could have got a better model.

The women won.

At this point it should be noted that , in reality, the Spanish word for computer is feminine (la computadora).

a favourite of Cynthia Winder

What is this life if, full of care, We have no time to stand and stare.

> No time to stand beneath the boughs And stare as long as sheep or cows.

No time to see, when woods we pass, Where squirrels hide their nuts in grass.

> No time to turn at Beauty's glance, And watch her feet, how they can dance.

No time to wait till her mouth can Enrich that smile her eyes began.

A poor life this if, full of care, We have no time to stand and stare.

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Points to Ponder after a year of Covid19 restrictions: (from Joan Wells)

The dumbest thing I ever bought was a 2020 planner.

2019: Stay away from negative people. 2020: Stay away from positive people.

The world has turned upside down. Old folks are sneaking out of the house & their kids are yelling at them to stay indoors!

This morning I saw a neighbour talking to her cat. It was obvious she thought her cat understood her. I came to my house & told my dog.... We had a good laugh.

Every few days try your jeans on just to make sure they fit. Pyjamas will have you believe all is well in the kingdom.

Does anyone know if we can take showers yet or should we just keep washing our hands?

I never thought the comment, "I wouldn't touch him/her with a 6-foot pole" would become a national policy, but here we are!

I need to practice social-distancing ....from the refrigerator.

I hope the weather is good tomorrow for my trip out to the bins!

Never in a million years could I have imagined I would go into a bank with a mask on and ask for money!

# A big thankyou

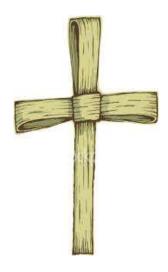


To all those

who organised, assembled and delivered the Mother's Day flowers and Palm Crosses.

Pauline Daniels asked me to put this THANKYOU in "The Voice" but I know that many others were touched to receive this reminder that though Covid restrictions have kept us apart,

Merrow Methodist Church remembers and cares for each one of us.



### **SCAMS**

### **Amazon gift vouchers**

This was my latest. An email purporting to be from our very own minister, though not from his email address, asking me to help him, as he was very busy, by buying and sending off a gift voucher to a relative.

#### DON'T DO IT!

I had a similar email supposedly from another circuit member some years ago, and this scam has re-surfaced again.

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and let's not forget our advertisers who are all facing challenging times.

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#### Wey Valley Circuit Prayer Diary - April 2021

- 2. Good Friday: Jesus said "It is finished" and died. Weep at the foot of the cross.
- 3. Take a few moments of quiet to think about what Jesus' sacrifice means for you.
- 4. Easter Sunday: "The Lord of life is risen indeed!" STF 294 words by Charles Wesley.
- 5. Pray that families are able to get together today.
- 6. Pray for effective and compassionate help for the many people suffering mental health issues.
- 7. Give thanks for the continuing work of the NHS.
- 8. Pray for the elderly and housebound that they find a friend in Jesus.
- 9. Pray for every member of your church community.
- 10. Give thanks for love of God shown in Jesus Christ his son.
- 11. If your faith is challenged take heart from Jesus' words to Thomas John 20:29.
- 12. Pray for peace for the people of Yemen, Afghanistan, Myanmar.
- 13. Pray for better understanding of Islam as Ramadan begins.
- 14. Give thanks for the solace of pets, helpful to many in lockdown.
- 15. Pray for vibrancy to return to our town and city centres.
- 16. Pray with confidence "I know that my redeemer lives" (STF 303 Samuel Medley)
- 17. Pray that all shoppers and retail staff stay safe and protected from Covid-19.
- 18. Ask God to reveal Jesus through the Sunday services today.
- 19. Pray for teachers, school caterers and schoolchildren as they return to school today.
- 20. Take the news headlines and pray into them.
- 21. Meditate on Proverbs 13:10 "Pride only breeds quarrels".
- 22. Give thanks for the work of Circuit Stewards and Circuit officers.
- 23. Give thanks for the Christian example of St George and all Christian martyrs
- 24. Ask for the Holy Spirit to guide the Synod business today.
- 25. "I am the good shepherd." John 10:11 the set reading for this Sunday.
- 26. Remember the gospel writer Mark in your prayers.
- 27. Pray for the world to take climate change seriously.
- 28. Pray that the Covid-19 vaccine is fairly shared across the world.
- 29. Give thanks for charities and NGOs working with refugees in Lebanon, Jordan and Palestine.
- 30. Pray for a better situation for all those who have to go to foodbanks.

#### Prayers worth sharing



The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face to shine upon you,
and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you and
give you peace.

Amen

Numbers 6:24-26,

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### AThanksgiving Prayer

We thank you
that Easter is not about
a people,
but all people;
that your love and your Salvation
are for all who confess
with voices, hearts and lives
that the tomb is empty
because Jesus is risen,
that we might knowforgiveness,
that lives might be reborn
and your name glorified
now and for eternity.

Do you have a favourite prayer? This page would love to feature it.