

THE VOICE

MERROW METHODIST CHURCH MAGAZINE



August 2021

Although there is no “Message from the Manse” this month here is Asif’s “Message from the Pulpit” given at Merrow on Sunday 13 June 2021

Bible Readings Matthew 7: 24 – 27 & Luke 24: 44 – 49

A Church that Listens and Obeys Jesus is a Church built on the Rock

It is quite clear in Jesus’ teaching (Matt 7: 24 - 27) that ‘building on the rock’ relates to someone who listens to the words of Jesus and puts them into action. This would also be true for a group of people or a church built on the rock. And if another listens and knows the scriptures but does not put them into practice they are a person or a group or a church, who builds on sand. A church which is built on the teachings of Jesus and puts them into practice will be able to fare the storms, the winds, the floods and everything else that is thrown at us. A church that just knows the things written in the Bible but does not obey, they can be washed away. So a missioning church, a practising church, is a church which is strong and is still.

In every walk of life, in every institution, there are rules and regulations that need to be understood and observed. They are vital for the upkeep, welfare and future of the institution. Just look at the time we are in - the rules are that we must wear masks and we all are doing it! We must not sing and we are obeying that. There are other rules like sanitising our hands, some of us don’t like doing that, or wearing the mask, but we are doing it. They may be cumbersome rules, some people say that can’t breathe properly or they can’t talk properly but we are obeying them.

In the same way Jesus has his rules and regulations, his commands, his statutes and they need to be obeyed so that we are building our life and our church upon the rock. It is important for the church to obey him and to practice what he says for the church to stay healthy and to witness and mission effectively in the world

The commands of Jesus are not burdensome, they are not difficult. But sometimes very easy commandments are more difficult to observe. In Matthew 11: 30 it is written, “My yoke (or my burden, my commandments or my laws) they are easy and they are light.” Easy and light do not mean the same in this context. When we obey the commandments of Jesus they are easy and they also provide a light for our steps so that we know where we are going and do not stumble. So physically easy - yes! humanly possible - yes! challenging – yes!

Sometimes the easy sounds foolish for example in John Chapter 2, there was a miracle at a wedding in Cana, in Galilee when they ran out of wine. Mary asked Jesus to do something and told the servants to do whatever Jesus asked. What Jesus said was very easy but it sounded foolish. The water in the pitchers had been used by the wedding guests for the ritual washing of hands and feet which was required by strict Pharisaic law and was not suitable for drinking. Jesus told the servants to fill up the pitchers and serve the water to the guests. Whether it made sense or not, the servants obeyed Jesus and when the people drank it they were overjoyed for this wine was better than the one they had consumed earlier. Simple but sometimes not easy to accept. I do hope and pray that as the church accepts that sort of challenge because it provides light and we can walk in a way that is good and effective not just for us but in a way that is good for the society in which we live.

In the second reading (Luke 24: 44 - 49), before his ascension (40 days after his resurrection) Jesus was giving his instructions to the disciples. He knew his disciples had been terrified when he was put on the cross and they were living in fear and lockdown as people say today during this pandemic, and hardly came out. But after his resurrection and appearing to them, they regained strength and faith and confidence in him. The time was coming when they were to embark on real mission without Jesus being physically present with them. He gave them three easy commands before he ascended:

Stay in Jerusalem.

Wait - wait till the power from above comes upon you. (Waiting in the Hebrew concept is not just waiting sitting there doing nothing. It is waiting patiently while expecting something to happen. Waiting also means to be praying together, living in unity, encouraging each other and getting ready to receive something special. That something special was to be given for them be able to....

Witness - to witness to the life and sacrifice of Jesus.

And so the disciples stayed in Jerusalem, waited and following the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost witnessed not just in Jerusalem but to the ends of the world. I'm glad that they did it! They obeyed and that is why the church was born and that is why we are here today, worshipping together. They did not say "we are sacred, we are not staying in Jerusalem, who knows what is coming, He has gone now, let's go home, who's is going to witness to this, it is

very dangerous". But they obeyed, they stayed in the power that came upon them ten days later on the day of Pentecost. They were out there in the temple when the Holy Spirits came upon them. It was a day of festival, when all families, particularly all men were commanded by God through Moses to go to Jerusalem to celebrate the festival and give thanks to God. So there were thousands of people there and that is why thousands heard them and a few thousand became followers of Jesus after Peter's sermon.

So it was through their courage and obedience that we are here today and as the Spirit came upon them, they went out and told the people about the life, death and resurrection and the forgiveness of sins through faith and obedience to Jesus. The Spirit empowered them and equipped them through gifts, talents and resources to carry on the work of Jesus. They were based in Jerusalem from that time onwards and we know Peter and John, and James and Jude the brothers of Jesus were there.

How does it apply to us? It is an encouragement to us today. We have come out of fear and are coming out of lockdown. Jesus still has confidence in his disciples, even in us here at Merrow, as he had confidence in his early disciples that they will obey him. He has confidence in us and we are here in his name. If we stay obedient to him he will bless us, strengthen us and equip us with all we need to carry on the work he has entrusted to us. A common saying amongst the preachers is 'Jesus equips those whom he calls to do his work'. He did the same with his early disciples, he does the same with us and he will continue to do so if we remain faithful to him. If a call comes, whatever that call is, if we accept it, obey him, he will equip us. And as Jerusalem was the base for the early church, our base is here in Merrow. This is the pasture that has been selected by God, by Jesus for us and we need to stay here. This is where he will feed us spiritually. This is where he helps us and guides us to go out and come back. He feeds us and encourages us to go out and come back and receive from him his power and strength and keep on doing the same thing, going out and coming back. As they were told to in Jerusalem, we have to engage in witnessing in words and actions, not just in words as I am doing now. We have to put those words into action so that people outside can see that we are followers of Jesus. And as we do that he will continue to equip us with everything we need but we have to engage. And we have to keep on engaging not to spread whatever we need to spread but according to the scriptures. Spreading righteousness, justice, peace, holiness and purity of heart and mind in accordance with the commands of Jesus as written in the scriptures. I am sure that God will bless us abundantly and I am sure that our

work will increase after the lockdown, just as after the short lockdown for the early disciples, they did a huge amount of mission work.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, help us to put our trust in you, and to live in the power of the Holy Spirit, obeying the commands of Jesus, following his guidelines, and carrying on the mission he has entrusted to us so that we carry on doing what is righteous. Help us to be bold and steadfast even in times of difficulty and follow Jesus faithfully. Amen.

EDITORIAL NOTE



A little summer ode

*I'll not be deterred,
Though sometimes I've erred,
Contributions deferred,
And some quite absurd
But I read every word
And your voice will be heard.*



A special note:

Yes! We can all sing the hymns again, but please only from behind your mask.

Any items for inclusion in the **SEPTEMBER** issue of “The Voice” should be sent to me by: **TUESDAY 24th AUGUST 2021**

via email: gillianbrierley13@gmail.com

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

Don't forget that this is YOUR 'Voice'.

Do you have something to say or something to share; some family news; exam results; a favourite poem, the latest scam? Please send it in.

USEFUL ADDRESSES

SUPERINTENDENT MINISTER:

REV.KEITH C. BECKINGHAM

01483 575667

keithcbeckingham@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 AUGUST will be:

*Pauline Daniels

01483 854050.

EDITOR – ‘The Voice’

GILLIAN BRIERLEY

01483 531191

gillianbrierley13@gmail.com

TRAID CRAFT

GLENYS MAGILL

01483 823587

glenys.magill1@ntlworld.com

**(note Pauline’s new land-line)*

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN AUGUST

Sunday Morning Worship: 10.30am - Stewards Rota

Date		Vestry	Worship Leader	PA/AV	Door
Sun Aug 1		Helen Belsham	Doreen Siame	Julie and John Wallis	Maggie Woolcock and Joan Wells
Sun Aug 8		Suzanne Burnham	Margriet Rasker	Jane Vinall	Ruth McCulloch and Julie Wallis
Sun Aug 15		Hugh Bradley		Glenys Magill	Wendy Bradley and Suzanne Burnham
Sun Aug 22		Joan Wells	Gillian Brierley	Jane vinall	Glenys Magill and Maggie Woolcock
Sun Aug 29		Helen Belsham		Cari Rayner	Ruth McCulloch and Suzanne Burnham

Wednesday Silent Prayer will not take place during August but will re-open in September

FLOWER ROTA

August 1st	Gill Vinall
8th	Doreen Siame
15th	Joan Wells
22nd	Suzanne Burnham
29th	Megan Swayne



FORWARD PLANNING

Womens Fellowship

will be meeting on Monday 6th September 2pm.

We shall be holding a Church Service followed by tea and cake in the hall

We then shall be meeting on Monday 20th September 2pm

and from Helen

Unfortunately there will be no Holiday at Home this year but the team are organising an afternoon tea on 26th August for previous guests and for those who have not joined us before. Please see the invitation below for further details.

Afternoon Tea at MMC

Please come and join us for afternoon tea at

Merrow Methodist Church, Bushy Hill Drive

on Thursday 26th August 2.30 - 4.30pm

Places limited so book now!

To book and for any queries, please contact:

Joan Wells Guildford 503737

Maggie Woolcock Guildford 502942

Ruth McCulloch Guildford 570824

Helen Belsham Guildford 823742



Thursday 2nd September 2021
at 7.30pm
at Merrow Methodist Church

The District and Circuit Welcome Service
for
Rev. George Quarm

This is an opportunity for the Rev. Quarm to meet local civic dignitaries,
church and community leaders
and representatives of the four churches which will be in his care.

Seating will be limited and admission by invitation only.

Refreshments will be served from 6.30pm
and we would welcome any offers of assistance in preparing and serving these
to be made to Hugh Bradley

Our own opportunity to extend a welcome to our new minister
will be on
Sunday 5th September at 10.30am
when
the Rev. George Quarm will lead morning worship.
This will be a service of Holy Communion

Refreshments will be served in the hall after the service
so that we can meet and talk to George and his wife Ama
more informally.



Chinese Church at Merrow

From Sunday August 1st, a new 'Chinese' Christian Church will be worshipping at Merrow Church on Sunday afternoons (between 1pm and 4pm). It is hoped that we will get to know them by inviting them to join us at our special services (such as Harvest, Christmas Carol services etc). Merlin – one of the Church leaders, has written a small introduction to their Church and what their aims are.

We are a Chinese church based in Guildford and have congregations from wider communities from Surrey and Hampshire. The main service will be held in Chinese with the children Sunday school being held mainly in English.

Our vision is to centre on the Word of God, build up our relationship with God and with each other, and live out a Christ-centred life.

We started the church planting in September 2019, prior to that we were a Chinese Christian fellowship in Guildford.

We really appreciate your support and allowing us to use Merrow Methodist church. Please pray with us together that we can reach out to more local Chinese to share God's word and love with them.

JUNIOR PAGE – for the young and young at heart

SUDOKU

This name sounds Japanese, but the puzzle was probably invented in Indiana, USA, by Howard Garns, a 74-year-old retired architect and freelance puzzle constructor.

It wasn't introduced in Japan until April 1984 where it appeared as *Sūji wa dokushin ni kagiru* - which can be translated as "the digits must be single", or "the digits are limited to one occurrence" (In Japanese, *dokushin* means an "unmarried person"... that is 'single'). At a later date, the name was abbreviated to *Sudoku* (数独) by Maki Kaji

Here is a simple puzzle to get you started.

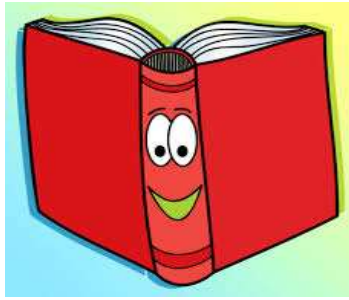
Each row across or down and each block of 4 squares must contain the numbers 1 to 4.

1			4
	4	3	
	2	1	
3			2

In the following puzzle each row across and down must contain the letters A; B; C; D

A			D
	D	C	
	B	A	
C			B

No guesswork, just logic.
A harder one next month!



Story Time

The angry boy

There was once a young boy who had problem controlling his temper. When he became angry, he would just say anything that came to his mind and hurt people. So his father gave him a bag of nails and a hammer and said, “Every time you get angry, hammer one nail into the fence in our backyard”.

The first few days the boy hammered so many nails that he emptied half the bag. Over the weeks, the number of nails he hammered to the fence reduced and gradually, his temper was much more in control.

Then came a day when he didn’t lose his temper at all. His father asked him to remove one nail each day that he managed not to lose his temper.

Finally, on the day the child was removing the last nail, his father says, “You have done well, boy. But do you see the holes in the wall? The fence is never going to be the same, even after repainting. Likewise, when you say mean things in anger, you will leave a scar in the person’s mind, as the nails did to the fence”.

Moral

Anger is a dangerous weapon like a knife. When you stab someone with a knife and draw it out, the wound healsbut the scar remains.

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR IN THE GARDEN

...when everything is much the same as last month,
so, rather than repeat what you already know
here are some pictures to help you through the summer.



and finally



Please take your seats!
from Julie Wallis

As many of you will know, I love reading and whilst reading a book on the lives of Tudor women, it gave me an idea for raising funds for Merrow Methodist Church (I thought I had better take my new role of 'nominal' treasurer seriously!). Why not resurrect charging for pews – or in our case seats) again?

After reading about some of the antics that went on – which had to be dealt with by the Church wardens, I have decided not to propose this to the Church Council. Therefore, Hugh, you can relax – the Stewards will not have any extra work to do dealing with all the squabbles that arise!

Please read on – if you are interested!

Apparently, in the parish of St Ebbe, Oxfordshire in 1584, two women fell out over one wooden seat (at the start of a service). Words were said and the Churchwardens arrived to sort the issue out. Unfortunately, there was no 'Solomon's judgement' on this occasion! They were advised to 'share the seat' (How this was to work, I cannot visualise). This did not calm matters – it made it worse. Both ladies jostled for position. One stated that if you don't move, I will sit on your lap. whilst very 'fruity' language was used by both. Of course, this was happening whilst the service was proceeding! It took longer for the Churchwardens to break them up a second time.

Of course, in Tudor times, your seat position in Church also determined your position in society. Hence, position and location were prized possessions.

I'm quite sure that no-one at Merrow would behave as above – but why take the risk?



Gill's trills

August - adjective

1. respected and impressive.
marked by majestic dignity or grandeur

August is the eighth month of the year in the Julian and Gregorian calendars, and the fifth of seven months to have a length of 31 days. It was originally named Sextilis in Latin since it was the sixth month in the ancient [Roman calendar](#). The name of the month was changed to August in honour of Augustus Caesar in 8 BCE.

August is probably the busiest time for tourism because it falls in the main school summer holiday.. It is the seasonal equivalent of February in the opposite hemisphere.

August does not start on the same day of the week as any other month in the year in common years, but ends on the same day of the week as November every year. During [leap years](#), August starts on the same day as February and still ends on same day as November.

Ken's pen

Many years ago a coachman had been instructed to pick up Sir Bartle Frere at Paddington Station. Sir Bartle had been abroad and the coachman was new. "How shall I recognise him. " he asked Lady Frere. "Oh, he's a big man; if he's helping someone that will be the master." When the train pulled in, he saw a big man carrying parcels for a little elderly lady." Are you Sir Bartle?" the coachman asked. "Correct" was the reply.

Ken's Pen continued

Aristides, a 2nd century Greek Christian philosopher, wrote, of Christians "Behold, how they love one another." He also wrote "The Christians do not

commit adultery. They do not bear false witness, nor covet their neighbour's goods. They honour father and mother. They love their neighbours. They judge justly. They avoid doing to others what they do not wish done to them. They do good to their enemies. They are kind. “

When people look at us, or listen to us, do they recognise us as followers of Jesus?

.....

When the pandemic rules were eased, a chap who hadn't been to church for years decided to attend one Sunday. When he met a pal outside he said “ Did you know that when we send things through the post we have to sanitise them first?”

“Who told you that?” his friend replied.

“Well, during the service I heard the minister say at least three times, ”Letters spray”.

Walker's talk

The Walker's talk is all about moving house again.

Yes! They are coming

closer

and closer.....

Watch this space!

Pete's tweet

Quotable Quotes & Myths

Quote 1: **Champagne for my real friends & real pain for my sham ones.**
Francis Bacon (his favourite toast)

Quote 2: **All prime ministers are wedded to the truth but like other married couples they sometimes live apart.** Saki

Quote 3: **I'm deeply honoured but a bit confused. I was only ever a B-cup.**
Diana Rigg (voted the sexiest television star 'of all time' by Americans)

Quote 4: **The last stage of fitting the product to the market is fitting the market to the product.** Clive James

Quote 5: **Do not forget in the darkness what you have learned in the light.** Joe Bayly (Scripture Union)

Unquote: **Elementary, my dear Watson.**

Contrary to popular opinion, Conan Doyle never wrote "Elementary".
Nicholas Meyer used it in a book (1974) entitled "The Seven Per Cent Solution".
"Severn Valley Railway" was used in the film (1976).
Less savoury, seven percent was heroin and water the remainder.

Giant Pandas

Down the years China has exported many of these delightful creatures to zoos around the world explicitly for breeding purposes. There have been many assigned names to these bears all with a common theme. Reflect on *Chi Chi*, *Su Su*, *Ba Ba*, *An An*, *Yang Yang* and *Gu Gu* to name but a few. A lot of university research was expended into discovering why the repeat syllable was employed. Eventually, the answer slowly evolved:

They do not hear so well the first time.

POETRY CORNER

The Highwayman – Alfred Noyes

PART TWO

He did not come in the dawning. He did not come at noon;
And out of the tawny sunset, before the rise of the moon,
When the road was a gypsy's ribbon, looping the purple moor,
A red-coat troop came marching—
 Marching—marching—
King George's men came marching, up to the old inn-door.

They said no word to the landlord. They drank his ale instead.
But they gagged his daughter, and bound her, to the foot of her narrow bed.
Two of them knelt at her casement, with muskets at their side!
There was death at every window;
 And hell at one dark window;
For Bess could see, through her casement, the road that *he* would ride.

They had tied her up to attention, with many a sniggering jest.
They had bound a musket beside her, with the muzzle beneath her breast!
“Now, keep good watch!” and they kissed her. She heard the doomed man say—
Look for me by moonlight;
 Watch for me by moonlight;
I'll come to thee by moonlight, though hell should bar the way!

She twisted her hands behind her; but all the knots held good!
She writhed her hands till her fingers were wet with sweat or blood!
They stretched and strained in the darkness, and the hours crawled by like years
Till, now, on the stroke of midnight,
 Cold, on the stroke of midnight,
The tip of one finger touched it! The trigger at least was hers!

The tip of one finger touched it. She strove no more for the rest.
Up, she stood up to attention, with the muzzle beneath her breast.
She would not risk their hearing; she would not strive again;
For the road lay bare in the moonlight;
 Blank and bare in the moonlight;
And the blood of her veins, in the moonlight, throbbed to her love's refrain.

Tlot-tlot; tlot-tlot! Had they heard it? The horsehoofs ringing clear;
Tlot-tlot; tlot-tlot, in the distance? Were they deaf that they did not hear?
Down the ribbon of moonlight, over the brow of the hill,

The highwayman came riding—
 Riding—riding—
The red coats looked to their priming! She stood up, straight and still.

Tlot-tlot, in the frosty silence! *Tlot-tlot*, in the echoing night!
Nearer he came and nearer. Her face was like a light.
Her eyes grew wide for a moment; she drew one last deep breath,
Then her finger moved in the moonlight,
 Her musket shattered the moonlight,
Shattered her breast in the moonlight and warned him—with her death.

He turned. He spurred to the west; he did not know who stood
Bowed, with her head o'er the musket, drenched with her own blood!
Not till the dawn he heard it, and his face grew grey to hear
How Bess, the landlord's daughter,
 The landlord's black-eyed daughter,
Had watched for her love in the moonlight, and died in the darkness there.

Back, he spurred like a madman, shrieking a curse to the sky,
With the white road smoking behind him and his rapier brandished high.
Blood red were his spurs in the golden noon; wine-red was his velvet coat;
When they shot him down on the highway,
 Down like a dog on the highway,
And he lay in his blood on the highway, with a bunch of lace at his throat.

. . .
*And still of a winter's night, they say, when the wind is in the trees,
When the moon is a ghostly galleon tossed upon cloudy seas,
When the road is a ribbon of moonlight over the purple moor,
A highwayman comes riding—
 Riding—riding—
A highwayman comes riding, up to the old inn-door.*

*Over the cobbles he clatters and clangs in the dark inn-yard.
He taps with his whip on the shutters, but all is locked and barred.
He whistles a tune to the window, and who should be waiting there
But the landlord's black-eyed daughter,
 Bess, the landlord's daughter,
Plaiting a dark red love-knot into her long black hair.*

THIS MONTH'S SCAMS

Tech. Support

Phone calls, emails, or pop-up messages on your computer, claiming something wrong with your computer or internet connection.. There will either be a demand for payment to fix it, or they will install software on the computer which will allow the criminals to access personal and financial details.

Impersonation fraud

Fraudsters impersonate the police, bank staff, government agencies or utility companies and use their position to convince someone to transfer money out of their account or *click a dangerous link*. Inland Revenue and Customs and Excise scams often promise a sizeable tax refund or threaten you with arrest.

Parcel Delivery

E mails purporting to be from DPD or from Royal Mail about parcel re-delivery eg “We tried to deliver your parcel today but you weren't in or there was no safe place to leave it. Your action is required. If this item is unclaimed by the return date, then it will be returned to sender. The first and second delivery attempt was free of charge. To schedule a new delivery, a shipping fee must be paid.” This is followed by a link to click to choose a re-delivery date.

Amazon Prime

I get two or three calls a day from Amazon Prime, which is somewhat surprising as I have never subscribed to it. Just hang up.

*****Do not** give out personal or banking details or click on links.

Do report scams to Crimestoppers

NB

If you receive a text from Asif, this is also a SCAM. Please do not open it.
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Prayers worth sharing



Two prayers from childhood:

Vespers

Little Boy kneels at the foot of the bed,
Droops on the little hands little gold head.
Hush! Hush! Whisper who dares!
Christopher Robin is saying his prayers.

God bless Mummy. I know that's right.
Wasn't it fun in the bath to-night?
The cold's so cold, and the hot's so hot.
Oh! God bless Daddy - I quite forgot.

If I open my fingers a little bit more,
I can see Nanny's dressing-gown on the door.
It's a beautiful blue, but it hasn't a hood.
Oh! God bless Nanny and make her good.

Mine has a hood, and I lie in bed,
And pull the hood right over my head,
And I shut my eyes, and I curl up small,
And nobody knows that I'm there at all.

Oh! Thank you, God, for a lovely day.
And what was the other I had to say?
I said "Bless Daddy," so what can it be?
Oh! Now I remember it. God bless Me.

Little Boy kneels at the foot of the bed,
Droops on the little hands little gold head.
Hush! Hush! Whisper who dares!
Christopher Robin is saying his prayers.

Now the day is over,
Night is drawing nigh,
Shadows of the evening
Steal across the sky.

Now the darkness gathers,
Stars begin to peep,
Birds, and beasts and flowers
Soon will be asleep.

Jesus, give the weary
Calm and sweet repose;
With Thy tenderest blessing
May mine eyelids close.

Grant to little children
Visions bright of Thee;
Guard the sailors tossing
On the deep, blue sea.

Comfort those who suffer,
Watching late in pain;
Those who plan some evil
From their sin restrain.

Through the long night watches
May Thine angels spread
Their white wings above me,
Watching round my bed.

When the morning wakens,
Then may I arise
Pure, and fresh, and sinless
In Thy holy eyes.

Glory to the Father,
Glory to the Son,
And to Thee, blest Spirit,
While all ages run.