

# **THE VOICE**

## **MERROW METHODIST CHURCH MAGAZINE**



**July 2021**

## **MESSAGE FROM THE MANSE – JULY 2021**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Putting together my final message for the Voice before “I sit down,” the term we use for a minister ending his or her stipendiary ministry, brings with it an inevitable sense of looking back. The last nine years have brought with them both their joys and their challenges, as no doubt everybody in any walk of life experiences. These nine years have gone very quickly. When I first arrived in this Circuit in 2012, nine years seemed a long way away. Standing on the other side now, I wonder how quickly time has gone. I am now looking back with a genuine sense of thanksgiving for the many wonderful people working tirelessly in this church doing God’s work. Some of those are still working tirelessly, some feeling the pressure of advancing years, are not as active as they used to be. Some have moved away, some are now in nursing homes and some having run a good race are now part of the glorious company of the saints in light. But they have handed to all of us an enduring legacy which will not be lost or forgotten.

For all disciples of Jesus, whatever role they have in the church, work does not actually come to an end. Christian life and ministry has no ending, it continues beyond life on earth, into eternity. Jesus assured his disciples that he will never leave them nor forsake them and for Jesus never means forever. As I move on to a new phase in life and ministry, I will continue seeking to discern what God might be calling me to do, although in a different capacity and situation. So there is still some excitement ahead.

Most importantly, for all of you, this is a time not for looking back but for looking forward to what there is yet to be. The huge impact of Covid-19 on the life of the church means an even greater deal of thought, time and prayer needs to go into discerning the way forward. We are blessed with a good number who are full of vigour, energy and creativity, and God will be with you through His Holy Spirit when you keep trusting and obeying Jesus. Faithfulness to Jesus always bears much fruit. Added to your gifts and talents will be the valuable gifts, experience and insights of the Reverend George Quarm. I know you will receive him, his wife and his family with great love. I am also sure they will enjoy the beauties and blessings of living and ministering in such a lovely part of the country.

And finally many thanks to all for the love and care and support you have given Martha and me during my tenure with you. We both will cherish the memories of our time here. And it is my sincere prayer, God bless you in the days ahead, and may he pour out the riches of His goodness and grace upon you. Amen

Asif Das

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'The Voice' is the voice of all in Merrow Methodist Church.  
With one voice we wish you  
a trouble free move,  
a very happy retirement  
and many blessings upon you, Martha and all your family in the future.

## EDITORIAL NOTE



*Once upon a Roman time,  
This may seem strange I fear,  
July's name was Quintilis  
The fifth month of the year.  
Jan.and Feb.were quite left out  
'Til Julius Caesar's rule.  
Then they joined the other months  
(As once you learnt in school.)  
So to honour Julius  
The seventh month was named  
'Julius mensis' or 'July,'  
Caesar, forever famed.*

NB:

Around 450 BCE when January became the first month of the year July became the seventh month of the year and its name was changed during the Julian calendar reform in 45 BCE to honour Julius Caesar.

For me July is the 11<sup>th</sup> month since I became editor of 'The Voice' but one thing about July has remained consistent and that is its length which has always remained as 31days

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Any items for inclusion in the **AUGUST** issue of "The Voice" should be sent to me by:

**WEDNESDAY JULY 21st 2021**

via email: [gillianbrierley13@gmail.com](mailto:gillianbrierley13@gmail.com)

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

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**ADMINISTRATOR:** **01483 537655**  
[lettings@merrowmethodistchurch.org.uk](mailto: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 JUNE will be**

HELEN BELSHAM **01483 823742**

### **EDITOR – ‘The Voice’**

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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.**

# WHAT'S HAPPENING IN JULY

We are delighted to be open once again for Sunday morning worship  
You will still need to book a place and observe safety precautions as before, but this may change as government guidelines ease.

## Stewards Rota July 2021 Sunday Services at 10.30

Date/Time	Vestry	Door	Worship Leader	P/A & A/V
July 4 <sup>th</sup> 10.30am HC	Helen Belsham	Glenys Magill Maggie Woolcock	Doreen Siame	Jane Vinall
July 11 <sup>th</sup> 10.30am	Suzanne Burnham	Helen Belsham Joan Wells		John & Julie Wallis
July 18 <sup>th</sup> <b>11.00am</b> Church Anniv. Asif's farewell	Hugh Bradley	Wendy Bradley Ruth McCulloch	Margriet Rasker	Glenys Magill
July 25 <sup>th</sup> 10.30am	Joan Wells	Suzanne Burnham Julie Wallis	Gillian Brierley	Cari Rayner

Organists – Gillian Brierley July 4<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> Joan Tabraham – July 11<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>

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

Date	Door Steward	P/A
July 7th	Helen Belsham	Glenys Magill
July 14th	Julie Wallis	Glenys Magill
July 21st	Hugh Bradley	Glenys Magill
July 28th	Helen Belsham	Glenys Magill

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**Choir Practices - Wednesdays 11.15 -12.15**

You are invited to a  
**Coffee Morning at Merrow Methodist Church**

In aid of



**Thursday 15 July 10.30 - 12 noon**

As this will be first event of this kind at church for some time, as opposed to meeting on Zoom, please note the following arrangements. In addition to the normal signing in and sanitising of hands you will be asked to sit at designated tables where you will be served your drinks. Please do not mingle with friends at other tables, wear a mask except when sitting down and as far as possible, keep socially distanced at all times.

We are also investigating the possibility of running a Zoom coffee morning concurrently to enable those at home to attend. If this proves possible, details of the joining instructions will be published in the weekly news sheet

Gift aid envelopes will be available on the day or donations can be made via the JustGiving website

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/helen-belsham>

# Action for Children Sunday

11th July 10.30 am

This year we will be celebrating 152 years of AFC. It goes without saying that the past year has been extremely challenging. In the face of adversity, though, ways have been found to continue to support Action for Children. While lockdowns put a stop to many fundraising activities, Methodist supporters have still managed to raise more than £330,000 which is a remarkable achievement.

The most vulnerable children and their families have been particularly affected by the pandemic. They need our support more than ever.

End Childhood Crisis:

- 12 months since the first lockdown began.
- 12 months of families struggling to cope.
- 12 months with children in poverty at breaking point.

Mr Dave Paterson will be preaching on Sunday 11th July at 10.30 am. There will be envelopes at the service so please give generously for this very worthwhile cause.

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**The story behind it all:**

***In 1869, the Reverend Thomas Bowman Stephenson saw some children living rough under the arches of Waterloo Station. Instead of walking by, he stopped to listen to their stories. Then he worked out the most practical way to help. Stephenson was a Methodist minister from the North East of England. He was also passionate about social justice. So when he moved to London, he challenged the Methodist Church to take action to help children living on the streets.***

*His work led to the creation of the National Children's Home (NCH). In 1994 we became NCH Action for Children. We've been Action for Children since 2008.*

## IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR IN THE GARDEN

July is a month in which to enjoy the fruits of our work in earlier months and begin to harvest our home-grown produce.

In my garden it is also the month in which lush growth everywhere overtakes my ability to keep things tidy; tying in, propping up and constant deadheading is the order of the day.

The reward, however, is the profusion of colour all around the garden and the effort this month is to keep those blooms going for as long as possible.

Roses can be given a boost by scattering fertiliser around the roots and making sure you cut back to a strong leaf joint when deadheading.

My sweet peas are at their most productive now and to keep these producing colour the blooms need to be cut every day and all side shoots nipped out. I also give mine an occasional feed of Tomorite, or any good plant food.

The dahlias are growing strongly and need the support of a stout stake. To ensure the biggest blooms you can disbud each shoot, leaving only the terminal bud to grow on. If you leave all three buds on each shoot you will get a succession of smaller blooms.



The first flush of border perennial blooms will soon be over; instead of individual deadheading, I chop them back to about half their height with a pair of shears. It's quicker and should result in a strong second flush of flowers

This is a good month to clip hedges to retain their shape. The birds' nesting season is over so there is now no danger of exposing them to possible predators.

In the vegetable garden, my runner beans are growing well and starting to produce some bloom. They will need to be kept well watered, particularly if we get any hot dry spells. Spraying the leaves and blooms with water is also said to aid germination!

Like the beans, potatoes will benefit from regular watering as soon as they show any bloom; this will help to swell the tubers forming below ground. It is also a good idea to pull the soil up around the plants to avoid exposing the tubers to light.



I think I can say that my experiment with growing strawberries in pots in a “gallery” against a brick wall has been a success. They have produced more fruit than usual and keeping them off the ground is an advantage. My one reservation is that next time I will use larger pots, as they dry out very quickly and need to be watered and fed almost daily. However I will do it again next year as it also freed up the old strawberry bed for another crop.

There’s always something new to try in the garden!

**F W Gardener**

JUNIOR PAGE – A summer holiday crossword for the young and young at heart.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



**Word Bank**

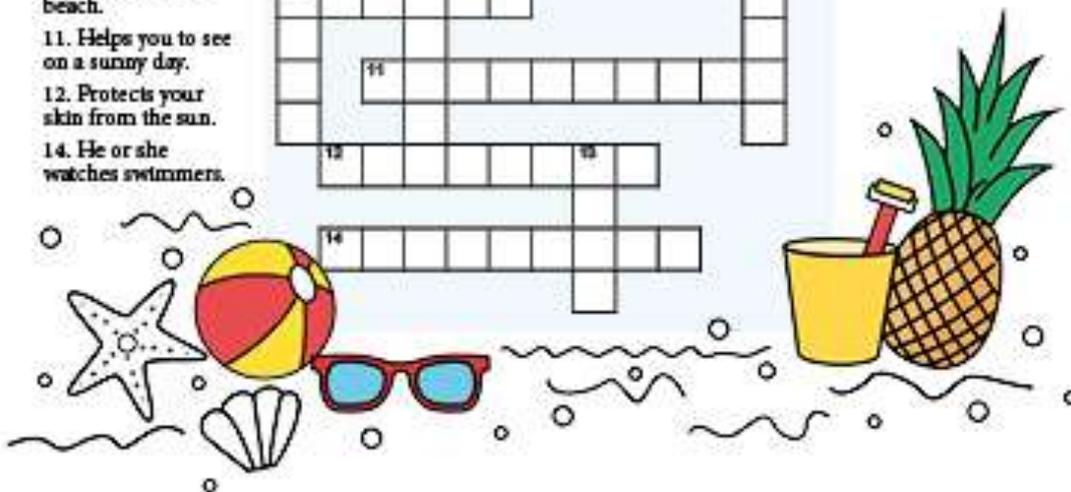
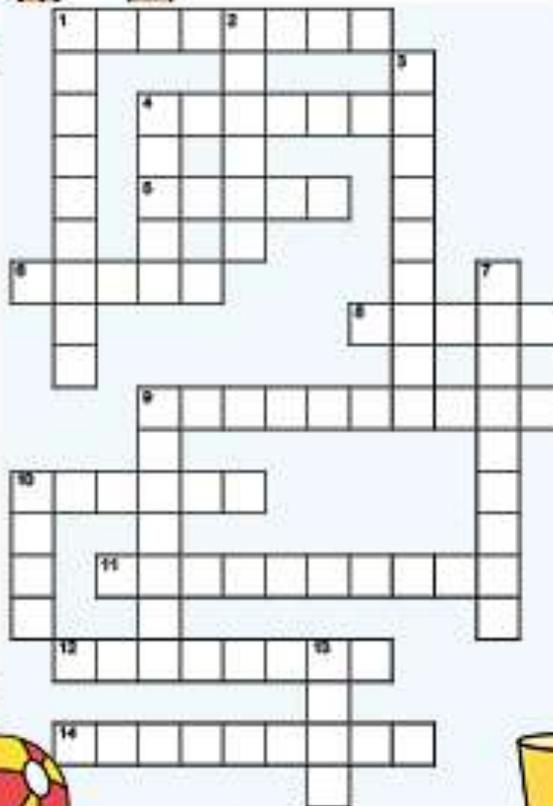
- |            |            |            |
|------------|------------|------------|
| CRAB       | PICNIC     | SUNBURN    |
| FLIP FLOPS | SANDCASTLE | SUNGLASSES |
| JELLYFISH  | SHORE      | SURFBOARD  |
| LIFEGUARD  | SHOVEL     | SWIMSUIT   |
| OCEAN      | SNORKEL    | TOWEL      |
| PAIL       | SUNBLOCK   | WAVES      |

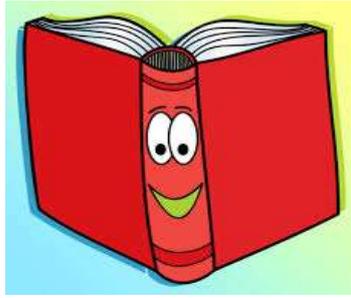
**Across**

1. What most people wear on the beach.
4. Allows you to breath underwater.
5. It's right next to the beach.
6. They wash in at the seaside.
8. Use this to dry off.
9. You might build this on the beach.
10. Lunch on the beach.
11. Helps you to see on a sunny day.
12. Protects your skin from the sun.
14. He or she watches swimmers.

**Down**

1. Use this to ride the waves.
2. Used for digging.
3. Shoes for the beach.
4. The edge of the water.
7. Sea animal that stings.
9. Watch out! If you turn red, you have this.
10. Use this to collect sand, water, or shells.
13. Little animal with pinchers.





## Story time

### The girl and the garden

A young woman inherited a beautiful garden from her grandmother. She loved gardening too and was very proud of her garden. One day, she saw a very beautiful plant in a catalogue, ordered it and planted it at the base of the stone wall at the end of the garden. She took great care of the plant, which grew quickly and was soon covered with beautiful green leaves.

Months passed, but not a single flower bloomed on the plant. Disappointed and a little angry, she was ready to cut it down, but just in time, her neighbour, who was an invalid, called and said, “Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers. You have no idea how much I enjoy looking at the blooms of the shrub you have planted”.



Hearing this, the young woman rushed round to the neighbour’s side of the wall and saw the most beautiful flowers in bloom. All the care she had taken had paid off, but the plant’s branches had crept through the crevices of the stonework, cascading down on the other side. Although it did not flower on her side of the wall it bloomed generously on the other side.

### ***Moral***

*Just because you cannot see the good results of your efforts does not mean that it bore no fruit.*

## Do what God called you to do

In the latter part of the nineteenth century when the Methodists were holding a denominational convention, one leader stood up and shared his vision for both the church and society at large. He told his fellow ministers how he believed that someday men would fly from place to place instead of travelling on horseback . It was a concept too outlandish for many in the audience to handle. One man, Bishop Wright stood up and furiously protested: 'Heresy! Flight is reserved for the angels!' He went on to say that if God had intended man to fly, he would have bestowed him with wings. When he finished his protest, he collected his two sons, Orville and Wilbur and left the auditorium. Yes, you guessed it. His sons were the famous Orville and Wilbur Wright who several years later on 17 December 1903, did precisely what their father had declared impossible.

*from John and Julie Wallis*

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## **THE HARE**

*Sent in by Iris Walker*

A man was driving along a road when a hare jumped out from the hedge and although he swerved to try to avoid hitting the animal it was to no avail. An animal lover as well as a sensitive being, he pulled over to see what had become of the hare. To his sorrow, the hare was dead. He felt so awful that he began to cry.

A woman drove past and, seeing the man crying, stopped her car and came over to him. "What's wrong?" she asked.

"I feel terrible," he explained. "I killed the hare."

"Don't worry," said the woman, running to her car from which she took out a spray can. Walking to the dead animal she sprayed the contents on its body.

The hare jumped up, waved its paw at the two and hopped off down the road. Ten feet away the hare stopped, turned around and waved again. He repeated the process until he was out of sight.

Astonished, the man asked the woman, "What was in the can?" The woman turned the can around so that the man could read the label, which said: "Hair spray – restores life to dead hair and acts as a permanent wave."



## Gill's trills

To make a fool of yourself you only need one thing – an opportunity

There are days when my train of thought leaves the station without me.

It is said that 'nothing is impossible,' yet I've found it possible to do nothing all day!

The trouble with talking to yourself is that you never learn anything.

For a contented life, think of lots of things to do ... then avoid doing them.

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A Yorkshire joke: Why doesn't a witch wear a flat cap?  
Because there's no point!

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## Ken's pen

A minister was concerned that one of the church members, who had been very active in church life, had drifted away, and had not been to worship for quite a while. The minister called on him, was invited in, and found the man sitting in front of a coal fire. After a long pause, the minister said "Ted." Ted expected a lecture about his absence but the minister said nothing. Eventually the minister took tongs and pulled out from the fire a glowing coal, and placed it on the stone hearth. Still silence. Soon the coal grew cold, losing its brightness and heat. Ted then realised that the minister had given him an unspoken sermon. As his minister got up to go, Ted said "You are right, and I was wrong. I'll be back in my usual place on Sunday".

During lockdown we have not been able to worship with others, and may have got used to a longer lie-in on Sundays, using a recorded, radio, t.v. or written service. We CAN worship at home, or indeed, anywhere, but it IS important to come together, if we are able, to worship as a Christian community.

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A lady of 96 goes to a gym and asks if she can join the aerobics class. "Um, I'm not sure" the instructor said, having looked at her frail body. "How flexible are you?". "Oh, very" she replied, "but I can't do Monday mornings".

A lad was having financial problems. Writing from boarding school to his Grandmother, he asked her to send him a pound, which, he assured her would be very acceptable, and would solve his problems. In her letter of reply, there was no cash, but a strong reminder about the careful use of money. This was his reply:- “Dearest Grandmama, I received your letter and hope you will not think I was disappointed because you could not send me any money. It was very good of you to give me good advice. I sold your letter for four pounds ten shillings.”

The school- boy later became King George 5<sup>th</sup>, and his grandmother was Queen Victoria.

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## Walker's talk

### **LOTS OF THINGS YOU NEVER KNEW ABOUT BRUSHES – AND PROBABLY NEVER WANTED TO**

*from Peter Walker*

Where would we be without the humble brush? You may well ask. Down here in Dorset, surrounded by trees of most types, we are kept busy sweeping up leaves of all descriptions - pine needles, pine cones, twigs, catkins – to the mystification of some of our rustic neighbours who cannot understand the desire to keep the countryside looking neat and clean.

It is, therefore, most fitting that one of the world's largest manufacturer of brushes of every conceivable type is situated close to us in Mere – which is just over the border in Wiltshire. And it is worth noting that the firm has had the good sense to create a very good restaurant in its new factory on the outskirts of the town. A feature of the restaurant that will appeal to all brush lovers is an area containing a display of ancient brush-making machines, where diners may mingle before or after eating.

We first met the firm at the Gillingham and Shaftesbury Show in 2018 when we discovered their stand and purchased a sweeping brush made from the silky soft bristles of the wild boar! Honestly. Plainly there is a certain amount of danger in the manufacturing process!

Hillbrush was founded in 1922 by Fred and Bill Coward. Being literate folk they called their business 'The Hill Brush Company' because it was located at the base of the distinctive Castle Hill you will see if you visit Mere today. The firm originally specialised in dairy and agricultural brushes, but within a few years many of the streets were being swept with brushes made by Hillbrush.

From the very beginning, the brothers stamped their brushes with a salmon logo, born out of Bill's love for salmon fishing. The salmon logo not only distinguished the business from its many competitors, but as the 'King of Fish' it represented the quality of the products they were making. Over the years the logo has evolved but the salmon has remained an integral part of Hillbrush, and to this day many locals and customers worldwide refer to the company as 'salmon brushes', 'the fish brand' or 'the brushes with the fish'!

As you will see, the Queen is a regular customer and speaks highly of the telescopic feather duster that enables her to reach the loftiest ceiling. Accordingly, she has granted the company her warrant.

Founders Fred and Bill Coward explaining brush-making to the Queen in 1952



*(The man in the centre bears a remarkable resemblance to my uncle Harry but it must be sheer coincidence)*

As Fred never tired of telling tourists, the type of material in a brush makes a difference. Many different types of natural and plastic filaments on the market look and feel very much the same, but they have different wearing properties. Buyer beware!

It is a little-known fact that in its relentless pursuit of quality Hillbrush has undertaken experiments with the life of brushes using a specially designed "brushing" machine. This machine counts the strokes brushed on specific surfaces that can be changed to simulate different sweeping conditions. It was found that after 300,000 sweeps on a tarmac surface for instance, a brush filled with polyester was worn to the same extent as a similar brush filled with polypropylene, which had only completed 10,000 sweeps.

Polypropylene is cheaper than polyester but looks the same. How long does your brush last?

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## HOW TO MAKE YOUR BRUSH LAST LONGER - SOME TIPS FROM THE TOP

*Do not use brushes made for indoor use outside. Store outside brushes in a dry place out of direct sunlight. Always allow brushes that have got wet to air in a dry environment (particularly with natural materials). If you are using brushes with chemicals or chemical solutions, check to make sure that plastic filaments in particular will not be attacked. Always bear in mind that both chlorine and strong natural sunlight degrade all brush filaments eventually. Try to store brushes with the filaments away from surfaces, or better still hang them up after use.*

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## A BRUSH QUIZ (ANSWERS BELOW)

- What is a "Platform broom"?
- Where would I use a churn brush today?
- How long should a brush last?

- - - - -

A "Platform" broom is a broom that is wide and narrow, with an exposed length of brush fibre of approximately 100mm. Typically a platform broom has a flat back, or block, and is used for sweeping large open areas, such as pavements, factory floors, station platforms, school halls etc. They are produced in lengths from 356mm (14") up to 914mm (36"), with varying textures of natural and synthetic fibres.

A "Churn" brush was so named because it was designed for cleaning milk churns in the days when they were used to transport milk from farms to milk factories. They are made with a wedge trim to allow the brush to reach into the corners of the milk churns, and the fibre used in better quality brushes is a unique natural fibre called Bahia. Bahia comes from a palm in the State of Bahia in Brazil, and will not rot or distort. Churn brushes are therefore especially good for use in wet conditions. Nowadays they are used on most building sites for cleaning cement mixers, barrows and tools, and are also widely used in domestic garden situations. How many times have you needed a suitable brush for cleaning the mud off your Wellington boots?

**Finally, an insight into caring for your brush:** The life of a brush can vary considerably, depending on the care, usage, and the type of brush. Even well-made brushes used frequently in an industrial environment might only last a few months, whereas a cheap household brush used occasionally could last for many years. It is important to match the right brush to the right job.

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## GUESS WHAT THIS IS



ANSWER  
Finest Stiff 400mmØ Donned Boot Wiper with Handle

# POETRY CORNER

## **The Highwayman** by Alfred Noyes - PART ONE

The wind was a torrent of darkness among the gusty trees.  
The moon was a ghostly galleon tossed upon cloudy seas.  
The road was a ribbon of moonlight over the purple moor,  
And the highwayman came riding-riding-riding-  
The highwayman came riding, up to the old inn-door.

He'd a French cocked-hat on his forehead, a bunch of lace at his chin,  
A coat of the claret velvet, and breeches of brown doe-skin.  
They fitted with never a wrinkle. His boots were up to the thigh.  
And he rode with a jewelled twinkle, his pistol butts a-twinkle,  
His rapier hilt a-twinkle, under the jewelled sky.

Over the cobbles he clattered and clashed in the dark inn-yard.  
He tapped with his whip on the shutters, but all was locked and barred.  
He whistled 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.

And dark in the dark old inn-yard a stable-wicket creaked  
Where Tim the ostler listened. His face was white and peaked.  
His eyes were hollows of madness, his hair like mouldy hay,  
But he loved the landlord's daughter, the landlord's red-lipped daughter.  
Dumb as a dog he listened, and he heard the robber say-

"One kiss, my bonny sweetheart, I'm after a prize to-night,  
But I shall be back with the yellow gold before the morning light;  
Yet, if they press me sharply, and harry me through the day,  
Then look for me by moonlight, watch for me by moonlight,  
I'll come to thee by moonlight, though hell should bar the way."

He rose upright in the stirrups. He scarce could reach her hand,  
But she loosened her hair in the casement. His face burnt like a brand  
As the black cascade of perfume came tumbling over his breast;  
And he kissed its waves in the moonlight,  
(O, sweet black waves in the moonlight!)  
Then he tugged at his rein in the moonlight, and galloped away to the west.....

*What happened next? – see Part 2 in next month's issue*

# SCAMS

Unfortunately the usual ones continue, mentioned in earlier issues, but my latest was a phone call to my mobile number:

“We are about to suspend your National Insurance number. Please ....”

At this point I hung up!

Calls purporting to be from broadband providers are a regular intrusion. A recorded message says “Your broadband connection is about to be cut off within 48hours.” At this point disconnect the call ..... your broadband will remain connected!!

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This is **not** a scam

## WANTED

- a Zoom ‘host’ for Zooming our Church Services

The church council have decided that, as there will be some special services coming up when we may not be able to accommodate all who would wish to attend, we will stream them by Zoom. We are looking for someone who is familiar with using Zoom for meetings and could ‘host’ the service and work with the A/V team to stream the services. It may be possible to do this from home if you have your own computer. There are two services coming up, July 18, which is Asif’s last service in our church before he retires and Thursday evening Sep 2 when Rev George Qwarm will be inducted as our minister. If you can help at either or both those services, please contact Glenys Magill on 01483 823587 or [glenys.magill1@ntlworld.com](mailto:glenys.magill1@ntlworld.com)

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**Let's not forget our advertisers who still face challenging times.**

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## **'Nothing new under the sun' - My 'Thought for the month'**

When I was in the Royal Opera chorus rehearsing Moussorgsky's "Boris Godunov" a Russian coach taught us how to pronounce the Russian text. In one of the scenes the starving and down trodden peasants plead with the Tsar for bread. I remember how our coach spoke of that Russian revolution not as a past and final event but as something which would inevitably recur. The poor would eventually rise up against oppressive rulers and either be temporarily crushed or may successfully force change, but the same cycle would continue as the new rulers become strong and powerful once again and a new 'poor' face injustice.

Jesus was born into a time of political unrest. Herod the Great, appointed by Caesar ruled Judea, Samaria and Galilee. He, Roman officials, and those appointed to serve them in official capacities held all the wealth and power. There was also a section of Jewish society - the Pharisees, Sadducees, and The Essenes who constituted a Jewish upper class, holding a lot of political power. The farmers, fishermen and towns-people faced injustice and were heavily taxed by Caesar, far away in Rome, who used their taxes to boost his own wealth. Then, as now, we look around our world and see oppression greed and the mis-use of power. Even in our democratic society we are aware of the rich and the poor, those with power and those without.

Indeed, there is 'Nothing new under the sun,' but how negatively I was interpreting the phrase, using it to show the worst side of our human condition, the futility of thinking that we know best and that we can solve the problems we have actually caused through our own thoughtlessness.

Genesis tells us that God looked on his creation day by day and saw how it all worked together. Each newly created thing was 'good' and was supported by the rest of creation. When mankind tries to seize control of God's creation, not looking over it all to see that it is good, but ruling it with narrow self-interest, the cycle of repression and revolution may well continue. But one small change and the phrase can emerge with renewed and positive meaning: -

There is 'Nothing new under the **Son.**'

God named himself '**I AM**' – he is ever present and he is changeless.

**Malachi 3:6 - "For I the LORD do not change."**

Jesus said "**Believe Me that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me,**" John 14:11 and '**I am with you always to the end of the age.'**

Life may still have its ups and downs but God's rule doesn't change with each election or each new ruler. His promises and his love for us are unchanging and eternal. God will never love you more than he does at this moment, but neither will he ever love you any less.

Prayers worth sharing



*A morning prayer:*

*A Collect for Grace*

O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, who hast safely brought us to the beginning of this day: Defend us in the same with thy mighty power; and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger; but that we, being ordered by thy governance, may do always what is righteous in thy sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*nd a prayer to end the day*

*These beautiful words of an ancient prayer were part of Rev J.Allan Taylor's pastoral letter this week:*

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord;  
and by thy great mercy  
defend us from all perils and dangers of this night;  
for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

*A prayer of Frances Ridley Havergal from the Methodist Prayer Handbook:*

In weakness, O Lord, be our strength;  
In our sinfulness, pardoning love;  
In our need, all-sufficient grace,  
In our anxiety, be to us both stillness and rest  
and at all times be to us the fullness of blessing;  
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen

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On the following page is the **CIRCUIT PRAYER DIARY for JULY**

- 1** Find a quiet place and meditate on Proverbs 10.12
- 2** Give thanks for teachers as summer holidays approach
- 3** St Thomas the Apostle's day – share your doubts in prayer to God
- 4** Churches have reopened – pray for joyful worship together again

- 5** Pray for all couples getting married – at last!
- 6** Pray for all those children moving up to secondary school
- 7** Continue to hold in prayer older/vulnerable people who are still cautious
- 8** Pray for the ministry and wellbeing of Rev Sam Funnell
- 9** Confess any wrongdoing to God asking forgiveness
- 10** Give thanks for family, friends and church family
- 11** Give thanks for the work of AFC on Action for Children Sunday
- 12** Pray for Rev Keith Beckingham as he returns from sabbatical
- 13** Read Deut.11.18-21 and think how you can pass on your faith to your family
- 14** Thank God for the gift of Jesus Christ and read v5 STF 455
- 15** Hold all those who are ill, in pain or anxious in your prayers
- 16** Give thanks for supernumeraries' contributions to Circuit work and worship
- 17** Pray for rest, renewal and safe journeys for those on holiday
- 18** Pray that God speaks powerfully to worshippers in church today
- 19** Ask God to direct you to someone who needs help or prayer
- 20** Remember that Jesus wept for Lazarus; stand by those known to you who are terminally ill
- 21** Pray that all who are suffering from mental health problems seek and receive help
- 22** Jesus loved justice: pray for fair treatment and equality between all genders
- 23** Pray for wisdom, openness and compassion in government decision making.
- 24** Say the Lord's prayer slowly and thoughtfully
- 25** Praise God for raising up John and Charles Wesley, founders of the Methodist Church
- 26** Hold Rev Adam Payne and his family in your prayers today
- 27** Give thanks for the work of chaplains and faith leaders in hospitals and hospices
- 28** Read or sing Jesus is Lord! STF 353
- 29** Pray for your neighbours by name
- 30** Pray for teenagers as they grapple with social and media pressures
- 31** Pray for everyone to show more kindness to each other and to themselves