

THE VOICE

MERROW METHODIST CHURCH MAGAZINE



October 2021

MESSAGE FROM THE MANSE

The month of September marks the beginning of a new academic year. Whatever happened in the last academic year is past and here is the opportunity to start afresh, to learn from past experience. Many young people will be starting afresh in new schools, some with friends they have known since nursery school, others alone, having to establish new friendships. It can be daunting! Many young people will begin tertiary education life and discover just how difficult it is to juggle finances, keep a room clean, do laundry, cook and attend classes! Some will also have a part time job! September marks a fresh start and will bring challenges and joys. The beginning also of good things to come, not only the starting of the New Year. I hope and trust the church year will be of blessing and joy, as we begin our life here in the Wey Valley Circuit, that much in Merrow during this busy time. Kindly read the article below with deep thought and laughter.

You are not alone! You have been created in the image of a God of love who desires to be in relationship with you. You are unique, created with gifts and talents that God wants to use to his glory and to help human kind. On the days that you waver and we all have them, have a conversation with God, tell him what is on your mind, ask for guidance, and then look for possibilities. Praise God for that.

On a second note. You know the time has a way of moving quickly and catching you unaware of the passing years. It seems like yesterday that I was young, just married, and embarking on my new life with my mate. Yet in a way, it seems like aeons ago, and I wonder where all those years went. I know that I lived them all. I have glimpses of how it was back then and of all my hopes and dreams.

But here it is... the winter of my life, and it catches me by surprise... How did I get here so fast? Where did the years go and where did my youth go? I remember well seeing older people through the years and thinking that those "older people" were years away from me and that winter was so far off that I could not fathom it or imagine fully what it would be like.

But here it is, my friends are retired and getting grey, they move slower and I see an older person in myself now. Some are in better and some worse shape than me... but, I see the great change. Not like the ones that I remember who were young and vibrant...but, like me, their age is beginning to show and we are now those older folks that we used to see and never thought we'd be.

Each day now, I find that just getting a shower is a real target for the day! And taking a nap is not a treat anymore, it's mandatory! Cause if I don't on my own free will... I just fall asleep where I sit!

And so... now I enter this new season of my life unprepared for all the aches and pains and the loss of strength and ability to go and do things that I wish I had done but never

did!! But at least I know, that though the winter has come, and I'm not sure how long it will last... this I know, that when it's over on this earth, it's over. A new adventure will begin! Yes, I have regrets. There are things I wish I hadn't done things I should have done, but indeed, there are also many things I'm happy to have done. It's all in a lifetime.

So, if you're not in your winter yet let me remind you, that it will be here faster than you think. So, whatever you would like to accomplish in your life, please do it quickly! Don't put things off too long!! Life goes by quickly. So, do what you can TODAY, as you can never be sure whether this is your autumn/winter or not!

You have no promise that you will see all the seasons of your life so, live for today and say all the things that you want your loved ones to remember, and hope that they appreciate and love you for all the things that you have done for them in all the years past!!

"Life" is a GIFT to you by God. The way you live your life is your gift to those who come after you. Make it a fantastic and memorable one.

Remember: "It is Health that is Real Wealth, and not pieces of gold and silver."

Your children are becoming you, but your grandchildren are perfect!

Going out is good. Coming home is even better!

You forget names, but it's OK because other people forgot they even knew you!!!

You realize you're never going to be really good at anything especially golf bingo, Memory, Crossword or Solitaire.

The things you used to care to do, you no longer care to do, but you really do care that you don't care to do them anymore.

You sleep better on a lounge chair with the TV blaring than in bed. It's called "pre-sleep."

You miss the days when everything worked with just an "ON" and "OFF" switch...

You tend to use more 4 letter words ... "what? ", "when?"

Now that you can afford expensive jewellery, it's not safe to wear it anywhere.

You notice everything they sell in stores is "sleeveless?!"

What used to be freckles are now liver spots.

Everybody whispers.

You have 3 sizes of clothes in your closet... 2 of which you will never wear.

But "Old" is good in many ways:

Old Songs, Old movies, Old times and best of all, our dear , OLD FRIENDS!!

“There is no medicine against old age” - African Proverb

Please do read Psalm 103 if you could for this month. God bless you. Enjoy the mixed wet and dry days.

George.

EDITORIAL NOTE



*October, when the autumn mist descends,
Described by Keats, but as the summer ends
The mellow fruitfulness of which he wrote
Is, more than mists, the one to get my vote.*

Any items for inclusion in the **NOVEMBER** issue of "The Voice" should be sent to me by: **Wednesday 20TH OCTOBER 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.*

*This page is a tribute
from the present to the previous editor of
'The Voice'*

Roy Vinall

*I will always be grateful for the generosity
and patience with which you eased me into
taking over this role.*

*Thank you for all the work you put into
making our magazine a success, and
immensely readable.*

USEFUL ADDRESSES

SUPERINTENDENT MINISTER:

REV. KEITH C. BECKINGHAM **01483 575667**
keithcbeckingham@gmail.com

MINISTER:

REV. GEORGE QUARM **01483 575432**
unclegeorge.quarm@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 OCTOBER

Sunday Morning Worship: 10.30am - Stewards Rota

Date		Vestry	Worship Leader	PA/AV	Door
Sun Oct 3	10.30	Hugh Bradley	Doreen Siame	Cari Rayner	Ruth McCulloch
Sun Oct 10 HC & HF	10.30 6.30	Suzanne Burnham Hugh Bradley		Jane Vinall Glenys Magill	Megan Swayne Julie Wallis
Sun Oct 17	10.30	Joan Wells		Julie & John Wallis	Sheila Shackleton Joyce Goodall
Sun Oct 24 HC	10.30 6.30	Helen Belsham Suzanne Burnham	Gillian Brierley	Cari Rayner Glenys Magill	Margaret Hyam Maggie Woolcock
Sun Oct 31		Joan Wells		Glenys Magill	Ruth McCulloch

Wednesday Silent Prayer - 10am-11am - Stewards Rota

	<u>Door</u>	<u>P/A</u>
Oct 6	Helen Belsham	Glenys Magill
Oct 13	Hugh Bradley	Glenys Magill
Oct 20	Ruth McCulloch	Glenys Magill
Oct 27	Maggie Woolcock	Glenys Magill

FLOWER ROTA

Oct. 3 rd (Harvest)	Joyce Goodall; John Allman; Gordon McConnell
10 th	Jan Kemp
17 th	Joan Tabraham
24 th	Margriet Rasker
31 st	Sheila Shackleton

Organists

Joan Tabraham	Oct 3 rd ; Oct 10 th -pm; Oct.17 th ; Oct 24 th -pm; Oct 31 st
Gillian Brierley	Oct 10 th -am; Oct 24 th am.

Dates for your diary

* * *

Harvest Festival Oct 3rd – 10.30



* * *

Women's Fellowship

4th October 2.30 pm

**Our speaker will be 'Uncle George' our Minister
who will be telling us about his life.**

It will be followed by tea and biscuits.

Suzanne

* * *

Bible Society Coffee Morning

Thursday 14 October 2021

at 10.30 – 12 noon

(see poster on next page)



You are invited to a

Coffee Morning

An opportunity to chat together over coffee and cakes.

All are welcome.

Thursday 14 October 2021
at 10.30 – 12 noon
Merrow Methodist Church

JUNIOR PAGE – for the young and young at heart

Can you fill in the missing words?

The third season of the year is - - - - -

which is the transition from Summer into - - - - -

In North America, this season is known as - - - -

One of the main features of Autumn is the shedding of - - - - -

from deciduous trees, as they turn from - - - - -

to brown.

Squirrels collect - - - - ,

one at a time, to store for the cold weather when food is less plentiful. They scrape a small hole in soft earth and bury their prize, patting the soil down on top to hide it from birds.



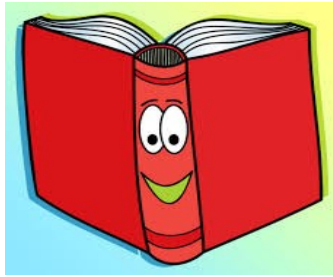
... and now a few other facts.....

In ancient times, Autumn was one of the most important periods of the year as daylight began to fade while darkness lay ahead.

In Greek mythology, Horae was the god of the seasons, in-charge of the natural portions of time and weather, while the Romans believed that Autumnus was the bringer of the fruit and nut harvest.

In ancient Japan, farmers practiced fire offerings in honour of Huichi in exchange for energy to finish the harvest.

In our Christian year we celebrate Harvest, thanking God for his provision for us.



Story Time

The two Parrots

Two parrots built a nest in a banyan tree. They lived with their two young ones And took good care of them. The mother and the father parrot went out to gather food in the morning and came back home by evening.

One day, when their parents were away, the young parrots were taken by a cruel hunter. One of the birds managed to escape and flew away from the hunter. He ended up at the home of some kindly hermits and grew up listening to kind words and compassion. The hunter put the other parrot in a cage, and soon it learned a few words and phrases. The hunter and his family were crude and didn't care much about kind words.

One day, a passer-by was resting outside the hunter's hut. Sensing someone outside, the parrot said, "Fool, why are you here? Fool! Leave! I'll cut your throat". Scared, the traveller went away. On his journey, he reached the place where the other parrot was. This parrot greeted him "Welcome traveller. You are free to stay here as long as you want".

Surprised, the traveller told the parrot that he encountered a similar parrot elsewhere and it was very cruel. How is it that you are so kind?" The parrot replied, "That must be my brother. I live with wise men, and my brother lives with hunters. I learned the wise men's language, and my brother learned the hunter's language. The company we keep decides who we will be".

Moral

Keep good company if you want to be a good person.

T'S THAT TIME OF YEAR IN THE GARDEN!

October is a time of change in the garden; there is still plenty of bloom, and long may it last, but inevitably cooler weather is coming, for which we need to prepare. Hardy fuschias and penstemons can be helped through the winter with a mulch around the base of the plants. It's best to wait until the spring to cut the stems down to ground level, but I may tidy mine up a bit as they have put on so much growth this year. Shrubs that are cut back hard in the spring, like buddleias, can also be cut back a bit to let some light into the borders.

While the soil is still warm, those hardy perennials, which have finished flowering, can be cut down and the plants divided and replanted. It's best to use the outside, newer, parts of the plant as they will prove more vigorous than the central pieces. We still have lots of apples to pick, although they haven't grown as big as usual this year; perhaps we should have thinned the crop out more radically earlier on.

October is when we can expect the first frost! This will blacken the tender dahlias, which have provided such a wonderful show this year. They will need to be cut down to about six inches and the tubers lifted. I like to stand the tubers upside down for a day or two before putting them into frost-free storage.

Although this is the time to prepare for winter, it is also the best time to get the spring flowering bulbs into the warm soil, tulips can be left until next month, if necessary. In the vegetable garden, my runner beans are still producing a great crop, after a late start. I have finished lifting my potatoes – I tried a new variety this year, Kingsman, and they have done very well, providing a heavy crop of unblemished potatoes; the slugs don't seem to like them either!

Just a reminder that, if you are thinking about new shrubs, roses or fruit, this is the month to plant them. I am thinking of replacing some old gooseberry bushes, which did not produce much fruit this year.

I think I have mown the lawn fewer times this year than ever, even though we haven't had any real droughts; but it is still growing and will need further trims with the blades a bit higher to leave it longer. A dressing of autumn lawn food would help the roots develop. If there are any holes or hollows in the lawn, sprinkle some compost and fertiliser in them to encourage the grass to grow through; this can be repeated through the winter to gradually level them up.

Enjoy your garden.

F W Gardener

Gill's trills



As no-one has sent in any 'family news' so I'm going to 'trill' about mine. After an anxious wait for 'A' level results, my grand-daughter, Susanna, was delighted to get the grades she needed to take up the offer of a place at Downing College, Cambridge, to begin a six year course of study for a degree in medicine. On October 2nd she begins her new life as a university undergraduate. I am reminded of the nervousness I felt when, 60 years ago, I came to London to study music: settling into new 'digs': that first journey on the tube; looking at your first timetable and wondering if you would ever find the right venues for lectures let's send all our new students the very best of good wishes

Ken's pen

The skating rink was crowded, but a young lad was clinging on to the rail, having fallen a few times. Someone went up to him and offered help. "No thanks" said the lad, I'll keep at it." "But you'll be covered with bruises" the would-be helper replied. "Why don't you just give up? " "Give up? No way! My Dad didn't give me these skates to give up with He got them for me to learn with."

However young, old, busy or ill we may be, we still have a talent or two which we can and should use in God's service. Maybe we can't preach, clean the church, keep the accounts, or sing in the choir, but we can send messages of encouragement, thanks, & praise to those we know about. We can pray for those who are so busy and active. God didn't give us talents to give up with!

As it was getting dark, a little girl ran back indoors and said to Mummy "There's an elephant in the garden" ."Don't be silly." Mum replied, "It's only the old tree at the end of the garden. Go upstairs and tell God you are sorry for making things up. " Up went the culprit. She came down later and Mum asked "Did you tell God you were sorry?" "Yes, Mummy, but God said "Don't mention it lassie, I took it for an elephant myself at first."

With love and happy memories to Merrow from Puddletown

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Pete's tweet

Quotable Quotes & Myths

Quote 1: **What you get free costs too much.** Jean Anouilh

Quote 2: **When a blind man carries the lame one, both go forward.** Swedish Proverb

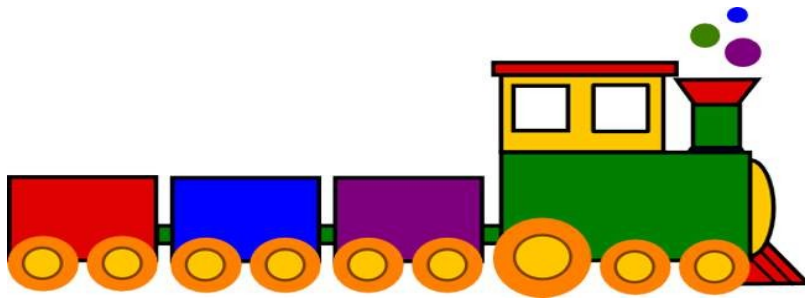
Quote 3: **Three things are good in little measure & evil in large: yeast, salt and hesitation.** The Talmud

Unquote: **Let them eat cake.** Queen Marie Antoinette *(There is no record whatsoever of her uttering the infamous quote. The myth is as widely debunked in France as it is quoted. Even the English translation is incorrect. The French was "nearer croissant rather than cake.")*

* * *

Once upon a time there was a railway in Surrey known locally as the 'Cranleigh line' It was opened in October 1865 and axed by the infamous Dr. Beeching just under 100 years later, the only Surrey railway to suffer this fate.

Trains ran from Guildford calling at Bramley & Womersley station before arriving at Cranleigh and going on to Baynards before moving out of Surrey into W. Sussex.



Read more about it on the next page

Guildford-Horsham Railway

Come with me now to Guildford town
Recall old days again;
Tea, bed & breakfast four and six,
And boots will meet your train.

There Mrs Hard will put you up
(Late of Mutton's Hotel),
Then riding on the Horsham line
You feel a proper swell.

As on the push-pull train you ride
To Bramley first of all,
Through Cranleigh on to Baynards next
And see those dahlias tall.

A tunnel through to Rudgwick now,
Where that tender loco slipped back;
Then on we go to Slinfold fair
Upon the single track.

Christ's Hospital we reach at last,
This trip is done, you know;
We've passed right o'er that piece of line
Where large locos must not go.

From Stammerham to Itchingfield
We now resume our ride;
What other prospects meet our gaze
Upon the Brighton side?

(Rev A G Pratt)

POETRY CORNER

Under a Wiltshire Apple Tree by Anna Bunston (Mrs. De Bary)

SOME folk as can afford,
so I've heard say,
Set up a sort of cross
Right in the garden way,
To mind 'em of the Lord.

*But I, when I do see
thik apple tree
An' stoopin limb
all spread wi' moss,
I think of Him
And how He talks wi' me.*

*I think of God
And how He trod
That garden long ago;
He walked, I reckon, to and fro
And then sat down
Upon the groun'
Or some low limb
What suited Him
Such as you see
On many a tree,
And on thik very one
Where I at set o' sun
Do sit and talk wi' He.*

*And, mornings too,
I rise and come
An' sit down where the branch be low;*

*A bird do sing, a bee do hum,
The flowers in the border blow,
And all my heart's so glad and clear
As pools when mists do disappear:
As pools a-laughing in the light
When mornin' air is swep' an' bright,
As pools what got all Heaven in sight
So's my heart's cheer
When He be near.*

*He never pushed the garden door,
He left no footmark on the floor;
I never heard 'Un stir nor tread
And yet His Hand do bless my head,
And when 'tis time for work to start
I takes Him with me in my heart.*

*And when I die, pray God I see
At very last thik apple tree
An' stoopin' limb,
And think of Him
And all He been to me.*



SCAMS

TV Licensing

Fake emails claim the recipient has overpaid or is owed a refund which hasn't been paid because TV Licensing has the wrong bank account details. These are scams to steal bank and personal details.

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, (often claiming to be Hammersmith police station), 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 and now also 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. 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. DON'T DO IT!!

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

Do report scams to Crimestoppers

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Prayers worth sharing



Creator God, forgive our moments of ingratitude,
the spiritual blindness that prevents us
from appreciating the wonder that is this world,
the endless cycle of nature,
of life and death and rebirth.
Forgive us for taking without giving
reaping without sowing.
Open our eyes to see
our lips to praise
our hands to share
May our feet tread lightly on the path we tread
and our footsteps be worthy of following
for they lead to you.

* * *

This is your garden, Creator God,
A thing of beauty
Beyond understanding ,
A poem that is being written,
Not in words,
But in colours,
Wind's whisper,
Soaring bird,
Snowdrop's petal,
Gentle rain,
Sunlight's warmth.
This is your garden, Creator God,
A thing of beauty
Beyond understanding.