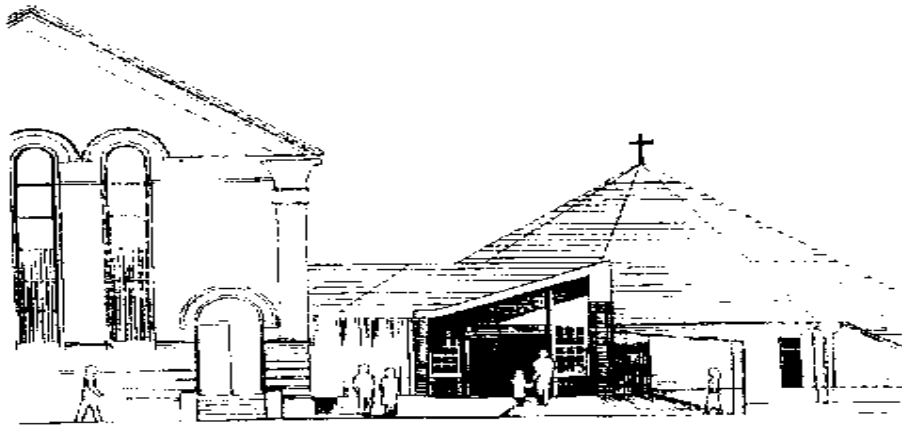


WOODBIDGE METHODIST MUSINGS



February 2024



Message from Our Minister

Happy New Year to you all. Compliments of the new season. As we start a new year I would like to encourage you all to focus on frontline for Evangelism and Discipleship .

In Zimbabwe many churches after the impact of covid 19 on church growth discovered that 'frontline' could be helpful terminology to identify the places where people in the church spend most of their time and where they probably have most of their contact with non-Christians.

Looking at the Woodbridge church community, it would be the workplace, for others it would be the clubs, for example walking club. There are so many examples we may give as frontline.

Focusing on the frontline is the best way we can use for Evangelism and Discipleship. We can name it, explore it, be affirmed by your fellowship group or house group and start to become attentive to what God is doing in that place. This can be one of the most life-giving dynamics in the whole process of culture shift for church in the community for church growth and revival.

I would like to encourage each one of you to use frontline lens within our communities. I would like to encourage our fellowship groups, our clubs and our village networks to work together towards soul winning.

Matthew 5:13- 16 says," You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again. It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men.

You are the light of the world. A city on the hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

May the good Lord bless you all this year as you bring light and salt to your frontline. Be the light and the salt which penetrate and purify your frontline for Jesus Christ. Let it be our motto 'All People To Jesus'. Amen

With best wishes

Rev Saul Tadzaushe.

WOODBIDGE FAMILY NEWS

I think it was Prime Minister Harold Wilson who said that a week was a long time in politics. Well, a lot has happened in our church, our worship and our outreach in the two months since the December WMM was published, as well as internationally and nationally. I shall try to summarise some of the main events. So much has happened on the international stage, with the war in Israel/Palestine replacing the Ukraine war in the headlines, war crimes being committed sometimes in front of the cameras and the parallel ongoing battle of the propaganda machines, it is easy to forget that we were all given a new commandment by the Son of God to love one another, just as he has loved us. I argue that this is the basis of true peace.

We have enjoyed and been challenged by many interesting services of worship. At the start of Advent, the Ipswich Circuit held its Advent Service at Woodbridge. Barry and Diane Giffard performed a very funny and message-full sketch (which our friends from Framlingham borrowed) and Saul arranged a small Zimbabwean choir to sing a well-known carol in Shona. We have had many well-prepared, competent preachers leading our services of worship. For example, Liz Cope, former Circuit Steward and diligent Local Preacher from Elmsett, preached on the second Sunday of Advent. She asked us if we had come across the Oxford English Dictionary's Word of the Year: Rizz. Amongst those pleased to confirm that she knew the meaning of the word was Helen Jay. I am happy to confirm that Helen has it. Perhaps look the meaning up.

Liz Cope also introduced us to another new word: Metanoia. In medical psychology, which Liz as a GP may also have been referring to, it is a psychotic "breakdown" and subsequent, positive psychological re-building or "healing". In theological use it refers to a change in one's way of life resulting from penitence or spiritual conversion, eg "what Jesus demanded of people was metanoia, repentance, or a complete change of heart".

Now I love new (to me) words. Here is a Christmas related word which has gone out of use: Welkin. It is sibling of the German Wolke, a cloud, and was a standard term in Old English for the space above our heads and, by extension, heaven. It was eventually nudged out of use by 'sky' in the thirteenth century. Welkin became restricted to literary use as well as some regional dialects, such as that of Yorkshire. In her novel Shirley, Charlotte Brontë gives Robert Moore the beautiful line, "I see a fine, perfect rainbow, bright with promise, gloriously spanning the beclouded welkin of life." In 1739, a collection of Hymns and Sacred Poems introduced a hymn for Christmas by Charles Wesley. It began, 'Hark! how all the welkin rings, / Glory to the King of kings. Fourteen years later, it reappeared rewritten as "Hark the herald angels sing. Glory to the new-born king".

The stewards organised our own very special Carol Service on Sunday 17th December. The range of appropriate readings and the fine singing of the carols together with the excellent soloists was a joy to experience. On Christmas Day Revd Saul, with the use of a simple illustrated visual, asked us "What Kind of Christmas Did We want?". Presents? Family? Emmanuel? I am sure you know the meaning of this word. At the end of December Revd Abe Konadu-Yiadom finished her calendar year end service with a video clip of how Ghanaians celebrate the New Year. The colour, joyous music and dancing was a treat to behold.

At the Covenant service in January, Revd Saul welcomed Andrew and Louise Taylor from Hollesley to membership. I shall leave it to next month's WMM Church Family News scribe, Helen Lewis, who is their Pastoral Friend, to tell us a little more about Andrew and Louise.

We love hearing about our member's families. There was a flurry of activity in Bob Booth's household. His grandson, Will (Bob's daughter Helen's son) is moving to his Company's Head Office in New York. His Croatian fiancée Valerija was not allowed in, despite also having a job to go to. They therefore had to bring their wedding forward quickly and the event was much smaller than hoped, with just both direct families and

each of their best friends attending. Bob tells me that it was still a quite sumptuous affair, however.

Several of our congregation have been in hospital or unwell. Ron Hepworth underwent an ankle operation and was looked after by his daughter Susan Morphew for his rehabilitation. Brenda Sadler was in hospital following a fall but after surgery on her knee she has returned to her home at Martlesham where some long-overdue building work has given her a wet-room. The front access ramp is still to be built. Dela Lloyd had joyfully recovered enough from her time spent in Addenbrookes Hospital to attend with husband John our Carol Service. Cath Hamilton had more tests at Royal Papworth. She and Sandy are not scheduled to have any more surgical interventions, to my knowledge, which enabled them to have a good Christmas celebration with daughter Lyndsey and son Greg and the grandchildren. In January, Dorothy Holmes had a chest infection and was admitted to hospital by her GP and underwent several tests on her heart. She is now home, cared for by her son Roger and she now has new medication. Oh, and a new stair-lift, but that didn't come on the NHS.

Please keep all these folk in your prayers, and their carers and families, and also any others you know whom we have not been informed of yet.

We have many more worship and social occasions to look forward to with our church. At the end of March, when it will be lighter in the evenings and warmer, we hope, Woodbridge Orchestral Society will be playing a concert for us. Provisionally on Monday 25th March. You can invite friends too. Watch out for posters, flyers and notices.

There is of course a full programme of Easter services of worship at our church alongside associated Churches Together events. We have much to be thankful for in being able to worship and serve our community in our relatively safe and orderly country. Politics, both nationally and internationally, may rear its head too, even for a week or two this coming year, I am told.

Monty Guest

TWAM NEWS

As I am sure you are aware, especially as you pass the large box in our entrance hall, our church is a major supporter of this Christian charity which has its headquarters in Ipswich. If you need any tools picking up, please talk to Brian Ellis. If you need any information about the charity, please talk to me.

Here is some news of their activities over the Advent and Christmas period and requests for your prayers.

In November TWAM sent six containers of tools to Uganda. Praise God for the increasing number of applications submitted online each year and for the new groups that are finding out about TWAM in Uganda. Give thanks for Peter Fisher's many years service to TWAM as a volunteer Country Coordinator. We pray that the container which has just been dispatched from Rugby will have a safe journey across the sea and land to Entebbe.

A New Country and Partner: Burundi is officially the poorest country in the world and has suffered some of the worst genocides in African history. Extreme poverty and political instability are endemic. In spite of these challenges, TWAM is seeking to make Burundi a supported country. Please pray that TWAM will agree a partnership with a Burundi based organisation soon and be able to start promoting our ministry. Please pray that people in Burundi will be receptive to the offer of tools and will understand this is not a scam.

"Do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased." Hebrews 13:10

TWAM finances were looking very challenging at the beginning of the year, but thanks to the faithful and generous gifts of our supporters we have been able to address this.

Praise God for His faithful provision through this really challenging year.

Monty Guest

Eco Church.....

As Headmaster at Seepapitso Senior Secondary School in Botswana my husband John MacLeod was responsible for 1300 pupils, some of whom were boarders from the middle of the Kalahari Desert. At Half Term long weekend the special bus took so long to cover the rutted track to their homes that they had to start the return journey just a few hours later! The education provided at the school would be the first rung of the ladder to a better future away from the poverty of their remote villages.

On return from Botswana Tearfund, the Christian Relief organisation, working in many parts of the world, was raising money for donkey wagons for the Bushmen of the Kalahari, to help them collect firewood for cooking and heating, and anything else they could source from the wild bush area around them. Tearfund also wanted to provide iron bedsteads as the termites ate the wooden ones and people were forced to sleep on the bare earth!

We had visited villages where these folk lived and we knew something of the hardship they faced. What could we do to help?

Lands End to John O'Groats

In 1994, with sponsorship from Woodbridge Methodist Church, and the Church of Scotland in Wick, we cycled over 1000 miles in 21 days and raised £2500 for Tearfund. In Africa that would have provided several donkey wagons!

Help for Eco projects too

Tearfund are just one of many organisations that help people in poorer countries, providing support and relief where it is most needed. They were one of the first in Gaza recently.

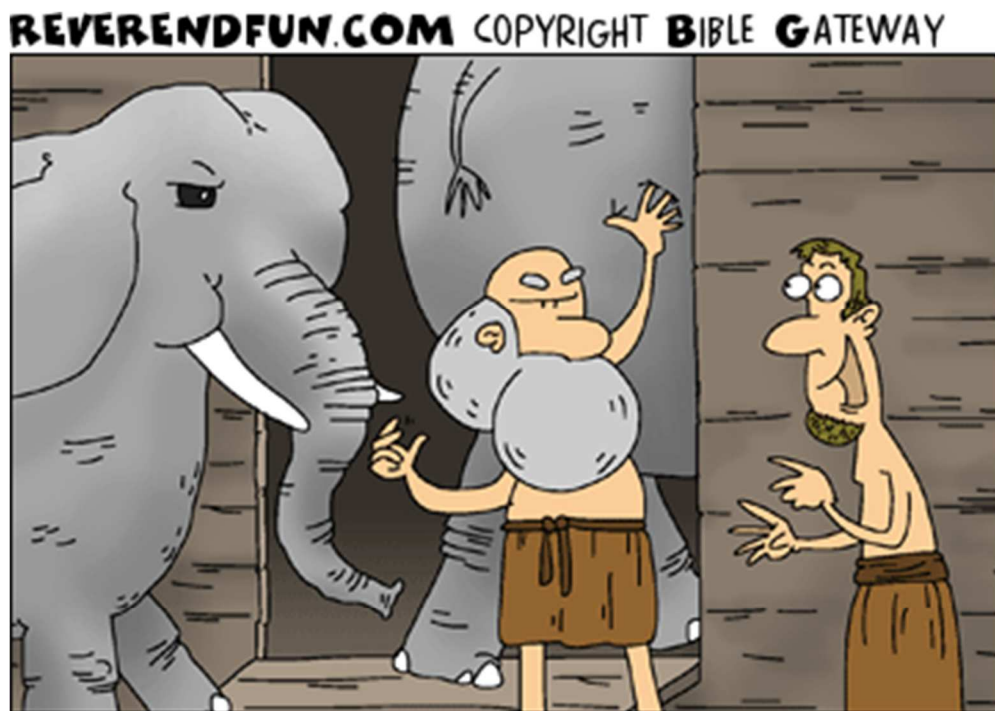
In 2009 there was a big campaign win when wealthier countries promised \$100 billion a year to enable lower-income countries to respond to the climate crisis.

Last year the world was still waiting for that promised support!

What can we do to help?

Helen Lewis

Helen.



READY FOR A FUN RIDDLE ... HOW MANY OF EACH ANIMAL DID MOSES TAKE ON THE ARK?

Have you solved the above?

Ladies Coffee and Chat Group

The Ladies Coffee and Chat Group has reached its 1st Birthday. So what have they been up to – well, we have continued to meet on the fourth Saturday of each month at Notcutts for coffee, cake and a time to chat. This is very informal time, when you are welcome to join us any time between 2:00 and 4:00pm.

Other events have also been arranged including several visits to local theatres, taking part in various quizzes (we haven't improved much), pottery painting, decorating the church for Christmas (which included more cake) and sharing a Christmas Meal together.

We are now busily putting together a programme for this year, where we are planning to explore other places for coffee for our monthly meeting, along with visits to the theatre, Helmingham Hall and even a trip on a train.

If you would like to find out more, come and join us for at our monthly meeting, which is advertised in the weekly notices or speak to Ann C or Helen P.



NEWS FROM SOME OF OUR FORMER MINISTERS

Many will remember Revd Jeremy Hajdu-Paulen and his wife Allison. Jeremy served as our minister in Woodbridge for a year before Revd Frank Aichele was allowed to arrive. He had trained for the ministry at Duke University in North Carolina but settled in well in East Suffolk.

In 2023 the Hajdu-Paulens celebrated Miriam's (19) High School graduation and travelled to Quebec for one last family vacation. Miriam has now completed her first term at Oregon State University. Bennett (15) is learning to drive and continues to thrive in the high school theatre programme. Allison left the Counselling Center at Pacific Univ. and is enjoying building her own counselling practice. She also created a fantastic t-shirt quilt for Miriam. Jeremy is in remission from his cancer and is feeling well, is back to running, and is in his 10th year serving Tigard United Methodist Church, near Portland, Oregon. They wish you and world peace in 2024.

Several of us are still in contact with Revd Francesca Rhys, who was our Youth Leader during the ministry of Revd Stephen Yelland. Fran served in Leicester, where she knew our member Jean Reah as Circuit Steward. Fran is now serving in Beverley, East Yorkshire. Her partner Diane is busy helping with worship and taming two garden plots. Fran writes:

This has started as quite a settled third year for us in Beverley (with its markets and minster :-). There have been some peaks and valleys in local church life as communities move on from simply recovering from the covid closures. At one of the churches for which Fran has pastoral charge a big redevelopment scheme will be voted on in the early new year, to reduce from two to one buildings and to make the church itself more multi-purpose, eco and mobility friendly. This church has gained a silver award from A Rocha for how it is making green initiatives. Fran celebrated her 60th Birthday by having a slim volume published by a supportive Methodist publishing house and Methodist Recorder review. (There is a flyer on the entrance hall notice board). Fran's Dad has turned 97 and seems content enough in his care-home in Leicester, singing in his own fashion alongside the kind activities co-ordinator and shuffling to greet us. Diane continues at Frith Farm with her eternal search for the perfect pea support system for 150 meters of maincrop pea beds. The farm area has no electricity so she's grateful for her Storm Kettle and the polytunnels if just for a bit of wind and rain relief. Best crop this year? Delicious sweetcorn. When she's not growing, at Frith or our allotment, she enjoys making Powerpoints for church services. And like Yorkshire's Robert Thompson* and his hidden mice in pew and furniture carvings, she enjoys sneaking the occasional fun bit into slides. Mostly they go unnoticed.

* Yorkshire's Robert Thompson was a furniture designer and maker. He often incorporated small mice into the furniture. This style of Oak furniture continues to be made in North Yorkshire.

Gabi und Revd Frank Aichele wrote from Hanau in Germany

Dear Friends,

Summarising, the only stable thing in 2023 was the continuous change. For the first half of last year Frank was still occupied with 3 different jobs: firstly he was (and still is) in charge of the Mühlheim circuit – we decided to try a few new events and approaches; secondly he was still in charge of the German United Methodist Church's World Mission department – and even though the official farewell event took place in March, he was still busy until the end of June (including visits to West Africa and Mozambique) when he could finally hand over the responsibilities to his successor; thirdly he was (and still is) the coordinator for Migrant Ministries, that is the Methodist migrants who have settled in Germany, the highlight of this was the meeting with delegates from nearly all of the 25 congregations.

Since July Frank is “only” a pastor in Mühlheim and Coordinator. In Mühlheim one change is to create a bigger circuit (more like the size the Ipswich circuit has always had) with the whole area around Frankfurt becoming one circuit. As a consequence, Frank will have responsibility for a second circuit next year and to cope with that, will reduce his work as coordinator from 50 to 25% of his time. So he will again have 3 different jobs!

Gabi still enjoys her work at the Lutheran Church family centre. The shortage of colleagues is still a problem and leads to daily challenges. She often feels it is difficult to keep the pedagogical standards she adheres to. Together with two other ladies Gabi started a Saturday once a month event called “family-church” for families with young children. Starting with a breakfast they play with the children, tell bible stories, and sing and worship. This event quickly became very popular and Gabi very much enjoys being part of that team

This summer we enjoyed a great holiday in the south of Germany. We travelled one week on our bicycles from Lake of Constance to the Kings-Lake (in the far South-East corner of Germany, near Salzburg) and stayed the second week at Lake Chiemsee (east of Munich).

In our flat at Hanau Klein Auheim we feel very much at home now. We have been able to explore the area more and get to know the neighbours. So we are well off, but the situation in our world seems to become more difficult all the time. Often we don't know how to cope with so much bad news and what we could or should do in this situation. Too many wars, repression of people, hunger and crisis seem to dominate. Like many people, we might want to turn back the clock to “better times” we have seen in our lives. But we know this is impossible. We should, rather we have to do it ourselves, to bring the

Christmas message of “peace on earth” and the reconciliation between God and us (and others) into the world and change it for the positive. And we all know, this is possible – we all can share stories of encouraging developments. And we pray you will be encouraged by such stories or experiences in 2024. May God surround you with his love so you will experience his encouraging power and enable you to share it with other people. With all best wishes Gabi und Frank

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT **BIBLE GATEWAY**



(See Acts 7:30-34)

03-24-2014

MOSES? DO I HAVE YOUR FULL ATTENTION?

WOODBIDGE METHODIST CHURCH CALENDAR

Regular Events

Join us for worship at 10:45am every Sunday

Every Saturday 3C's Cafe 10am – noon in the Octagon

Midweek Communion Services take place on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 10am

Stewards Meeting held on the first Wednesday of each month

There are also various House Groups

Men's Breakfast meets each month

Ladies Group meets each month

February

Thursday 8th – Church Council Meeting

Wednesday 14th – Beginning of Lent – Ash Wednesday

March

Sunday 10th – Bring and Share Lunch following Morning Worship

Monday 25th – Woodbridge Orchestral Concert

Friday 29th – Good Friday – CTWA Walk of Witness

Sunday 31st – Easter Sunday – don't forget to bring a flower to church

For more details or to add a date to the calendar
please speak to Steward or email wmcstewards@gmail.com



The monthly newsletter for Woodbridge Methodist Church

Church Contacts

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N.B. Items for the March WMM must be in no later than
12/02/2024

Please email to Brian Crowe at:

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