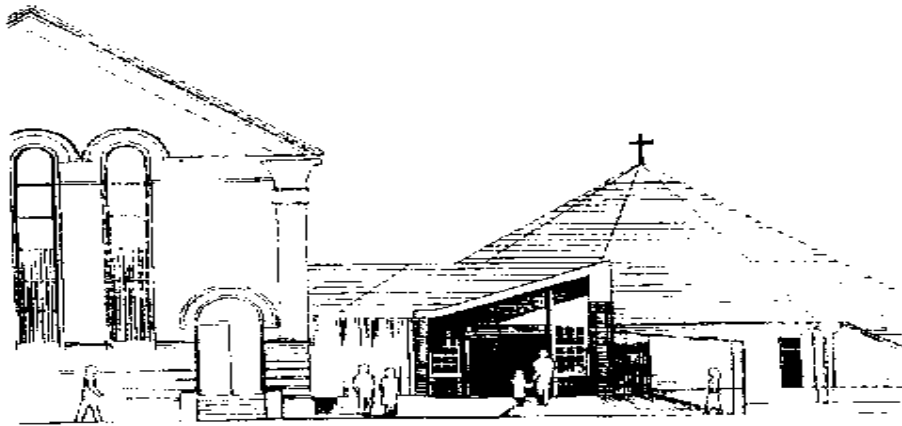
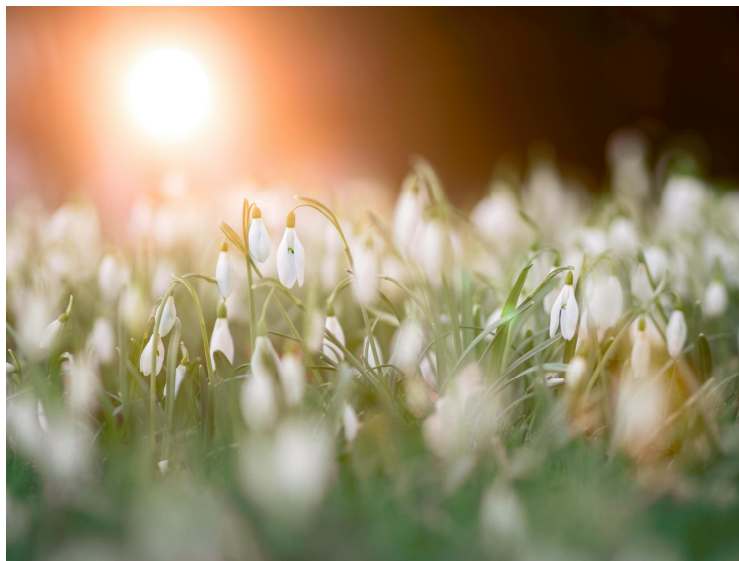


WOODBRI METHODIST MUSINGS



April 2024



Message from Our Minister

Family love is consistently important and relevant, especially under challenging circumstances. When facing adversity, the support of family members can provide a sense of stability, strength, and comfort. The love within a family can serve as a lifeline, offering encouragement, understanding, and a profound connection that can help navigate even the most difficult situations.

In times of adversity, such as illness, loss, financial hardship, or other crises, the unwavering support of family love can make a significant difference. Family members often come together to provide emotional support, practical assistance, and a sense of unity that can help individuals cope with challenges and emerge stronger as a result.

Furthermore, family love can offer a sense of belonging and identity, which are crucial components of an individual's emotional well-being, especially in the face of adversity. The knowledge that one is unconditionally loved and accepted by their family members can provide an invaluable source of resilience during tough times.

Moreover, the significance of family love becomes even more pronounced during challenging circumstances such as natural disasters, pandemics, or other widespread crises. In these moments, families often rally together, offering one another emotional support, sharing resources, and working collectively to overcome the challenges at hand. The bond of family love can help individuals feel less isolated and more able to confront adversity with a sense of shared purpose and solidarity.

Family love also plays a critical role in shaping the mindset and emotional resilience of individuals when facing difficult circumstances. The feeling of being loved and supported by one's family can provide a foundation of emotional strength, empowering individuals to confront challenges with a more positive outlook and a greater sense of determination.

Additionally, family love can serve as a source of motivation and inspiration during challenging times. Feeling the support and encouragement of loved ones can fuel individuals to persevere through adversity, knowing that they are not alone in their struggles. This can be particularly powerful in helping

individuals find the strength to overcome obstacles and work towards better outcomes.

In situations where circumstances have strained family relationships, the presence of love within the family can act as a catalyst for healing and reconciliation. The mutual understanding, forgiveness, and empathy that emerge from family love can pave the way for rebuilding connections and strengthening familial bonds, even in the face of difficult situations.

Furthermore, family love provides a vital source of stability and security for children and adolescents when they encounter challenging circumstances. Growing up in an environment where they feel loved, supported, and valued by their family members can equip them with the emotional resilience needed to face life's inevitable trials with greater strength and adaptability.

In conclusion, family love is undeniably crucial and relevant under challenging circumstances. It serves as a beacon of hope, a source of strength, and a wellspring of resilience during times of adversity. The unwavering support, understanding, and unbreakable bonds that characterize family love can help individuals and families weather the storms of life and emerge stronger, more connected, and more capable of overcoming the challenges they face.

Rev Saul Tadzaushe

WOODBIDGE FAMILY NEWS

Thank you to all the co-respondents (well-named title for them!) who have helped me compose these news notes.

Here is more about Andrew and Louise Taylor, our new members, who moved to Hollesley just over a year ago from Leiston. They had been members of the URC at Saxmundham, but decided to transfer membership to WMC. They quickly settled into Hollesley with Andrew volunteering to give lifts for the Good Neighbour Scheme. Louise has joined the WI and they both volunteer to serve at the village Meet Up sessions. At WMC Andrew is shortly to join the team on the Sound Desk. He was involved in projecting powerpoints at his former church. Our stewards have been very helpful to Louise, who has hearing problems, by printing out prayers and sermons for her so that she can follow the service. As Shakespeare, I think it was, phrased it “Thrice Welcome”, Andrew and Louise!

We also need to note that another big birthday almost slipped “under the net”. Bryan Archer celebrated his 80th birthday on 2nd March. For those who remember the many important renovations to our church sanctuary and octagon in the 1980s, and the protracted negotiations with many other authorities and companies over land and planning permission, Bryan, in his role as solicitor to Suffolk Coastal District Council at that time, provided clear advice on the legal situation. Perhaps Bryan will celebrate on the 19th green? All the best, Bryan, for the coming year.

When Helen Peats and Barry Giffard arranged the Pancake Day Pop-In Party just before Lent, little did they predict that 21 people with an average age of 16 would come along. Our WMC equivalent of Shrove Tuesday, Mardi Gras, without the processions and samba dancing, had over 60 pancakes prepared and eaten with pleasure. Yes, you have worked out a high consumption rate, but they were very small pancakes, in our defence! £82.50 was raised for Christian Aid.

We were shocked on hearing the news of Terry and Jackie Shipham. Terry had a couple of falls and was diagnosed as having a bleed on the brain. His initial care by the nearby doctors’ surgery was good but on final admission to Ipswich Hospital the response was, I would comment, less than satisfactory, before Terry was eventually given a bed in the seventh-floor ward of the maternity block. This had a good view over Ipswich and Terry’s sense of humour returned as doctors, physios and speech therapists checked out his symptoms, not least a chest infection. Jackie’s energetic care was all the more remarkable because she had had to deal with their daughter Simone’s sudden gall bladder infection and stay in Ipswich Hospital the week before too.

A little further afield, our friends at the Salvation Army hall in Woodbridge are having major renovation work done starting on 1st March for several weeks, but the Woodbridge Food Bank will still operate.

Our dear friend Christine Griffiths has had two good pieces of news: she was visited by her grandson Harrison who brought his Serbian girlfriend Aleks to visit the family. Not exactly an inspection but approval, I understand, was unanimous. The other piece of news was that the Paddington Experience opened on London's South Bank. All the family needs now is to work out how to transport Christine there.

We send our love and condolences to Julian Illman, his brother Mark and sister Hilary on the passing of their dear mother Christine who would have been 93 in April. When Freddie and I first joined WMC in the late 1970s, Christine was a stalwart member of the congregation and always enquired about our sons' progress. This kindness continued into her 90's. The service of thanksgiving and celebration for her life was held at our church on 12th March. Revd Saul Tadzaushe and Revd Stephen Yelland led the service, Jean Crossley played the organ and Derek Rothwell enabled the sound/AV system.

At the Midweek Communion service in February, Revd Saul announced that he had been interviewed for a part-time post as Hospital Chaplain. This is an exciting development. Not only will it give him some detailed insight into an NHS hospital but the (suitably anonymised) scenario will be another breadth for his sermons and talks. And we are very pleased that Tariro has a post as teaching assistant (TA) at Suffolk One, the sixth-form centre on the other side of Ipswich. It means catching two buses but she is happy to return to an educational environment.

A sturdy group has been able to undertake some Bible Study with Saul leading us. He began with the third verse of the Bible in Genesis. I pointed out that it was the first time that the good people of WMC and the NMA had been compared to Rivers of Water.

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

By the time you read this, you should have enjoyed the free concert given by Woodbridge Orchestral Society on Monday 25th March. This is a type of thank-you concert for the use of our sanctuary and its acoustics. In April we shall be able to worship in freedom, unlike many around the world, and celebrate the great Christian festival of our Lord's rising from the tomb at Easter. We also then have some more special events the following month: on Sunday 5th May we have Saul celebrating Communion with us, followed by our (Annual)

General Meeting. On Sunday 12th May our Chair of the East Anglian District, Revd Canon Julian Pursehouse will be making a welcome return visit. Put the dates in your diary, please. Further details to follow.

Monty Guest

Methodist Church:

Voter Registration Champion

The Methodist Church has been announced as an ambassador to champion voter registration and encourage participation in elections.

The Voter Registration Champions scheme, set up by the campaigning group Citizens UK, aims to ensure all those eligible can exercise their right to vote.

Bible Reading Fellowship

The new year for BRF starts in May. If you would like to subscribe to receive daily readings, I have examples I can show you and you can join our Group Membership which costs around £15 per year. Please let me know this month so I can add you to the list.

Thank you. **Helen Lewis** 01394 411232

AND LET US RUN WITH PERSEVERANCE THE RACE MARKED OUT FOR US

This year, we have the chance to give thanks for God's faithfulness as The Leprosy Mission celebrates 150 years of care and mission!

It is heart-warming to see God's plan at every turn in the life stories of Wellesley and Alice Bailey, a truly amazing couple. After Wellesley committed his life to Jesus in 1866, God led him to India and showed him the plight of people affected by leprosy.

How wonderful we now can stand on the shoulders of giants like this 19th Century Christian! God used Wellesley and Alice's heart for people outcast by leprosy to create The Leprosy Mission, now a global charity serving millions. And you can pick up the baton in the race to end leprosy too.

Wellesley Bailey famously said The Leprosy Mission was born and cradled in prayer. One hundred and fifty years later, prayer remains at the very heart of everything we do. Each morning, the team prays for the needs of people and communities affected by leprosy. We pray for and thank God for you too, as partners in this kingdom-building work. Please ask that Jesus and prayer will always be at the centre of The Leprosy Mission across the world.

OUR EYES ON JESUS, THE PIONEER AND PERFECTOR OF FAITH.

Hebrews 12, 1-2 (NIV)

For more than half of The Leprosy Mission's existence, there was no cure for leprosy. Little could be done medically to alleviate the suffering this disease caused. Our Christian predecessors could only offer love, care and acceptance. Praise God that a cure for leprosy was discovered 40 years ago. and ask that He will continue to enable us to find people who need this across Africa and Asia.

Wellesley's first fundraising target was £30, and he managed to raise £600 by the end of 1874. By the late 1870s, the first supporters generously gave £900 a year which cared for 100 people in Northern India. Today your generosity and prayer means that the Leprosy Mission serves thousands in need across 10 countries.

Please pray that God will continue to guide and bless the work of their hands as they seek to raise funds to end leprosy.

Monty Guest

Eco Church.....Responsible Living!

During last month there was a big Count of Plastic wrapping, especially food bags from Supermarkets. Some can be returned to them for recycling. Others have to end up in our grey bins to be destroyed. We know that plastic is causing big problems, especially in the poorer countries overseas. Some 'recycling' ends up in mountains of waste which clog up and pollute the rivers and seas. Drinking water can be affected too, causing pollution and illness.

What can we do?

Of course the best thing is to try to avoid buying items wrapped in plastic. But they are everywhere and it's impossible to go on a weekly shop without bringing some home. Greengrocery is the biggest problem, as such items as lettuce, cucumbers and others quickly deteriorate unless protected by a wrapping which keeps them fresh, and visual, so we can see what we're buying.

It's also easier for shops to sell bags of carrots and potatoes without having to weigh them out on the scales. If we live on our own, or as a couple we may not want or need the whole bag, and some of it may go to waste. So much of our food is wasted these days, which is scandalous when many families are going hungry and unable to afford what they need.

The local Greengrocer or Farm Shop

Here you can buy just what you need, and loose. Woodbridge and Melton both have excellent greengrocers, or a Farm Shop may be near you. All sell loose items, and they can often be tipped straight into your shopping bag.

Grow your own! Salads and tomatoes

The very best solution is to grow a few items at home, in your garden, or even salads on a windowsill, in a big pot, or tomatoes in a hanging basket or trough on a balcony if you have no garden. It's very satisfying, produce has only travelled a few yards, and it is fresh and full of goodness. At the same time you are saving money, helping God's planet and, your pocket! To store for a few days, just re-use a plastic bag you have saved from a previous purchase.

No new Plastic bags needed!

Helen Lewis

Helen.



Supplied by Monty Guest

Church Fellowship Together

Pancake Pop-in Lunch

Back on 13th February several of us joined together to share some delicious pancakes with a choice of fillings. Barry and Helen were very busy cooking many pancakes – they used 14 eggs! – which were quickly eaten. As well as plenty of eating, there was an opportunity to sit and chat – a real time of fellowship together. Thank you to everyone who joined us and for their donations of £82.50 for Christian Aid.



Bring and Share Lunch

Following our service on Sunday 10th March we had a Bring and Share Lunch. This was arranged so that Margaret Gooderham (a Circuit steward) was able to meet and chat with members of our congregation, as well as giving us a time of fellowship together. Thank you to everyone for their gifts of food, and for those who helped with the tidying up.

Keep an eye out for our next Bring and Share Lunch on Sunday 12th May following our service, when Rev Julian Pursehouse will be leading our worship.

Did you take up anything for Lent this year?

If not, it's not too late. . . why not take up something for the rest of the year!

Perhaps you could become involved in our weekly Sunday Worship – every small offer of help makes a big difference



Think about joining the tea and coffee rota

Why not become a Welcome Steward?



Could you be a Communion Steward?

Would you be willing to lead our Prayers of Intercession?



Are you able to arrange flowers?

Have you thought about doing a reading?



If you would like to offer to take up any of these or to find out more, please speak to a Steward

Every small offer of help makes a big difference

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 3rd Thursday of each month at 10am

Stewards Meeting are 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

April

May

Sunday 5th – Church AGM following Morning Worship

Sunday 12th – Worship led by Rev Julian Pursehouse followed by Bring and Share Lunch

June

Sunday 30th – Circuit Farewell Service for Rev Derek Grimshaw

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 May WMM must be in no later than
14/04/2024

Please email to Brian Crowe at:

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