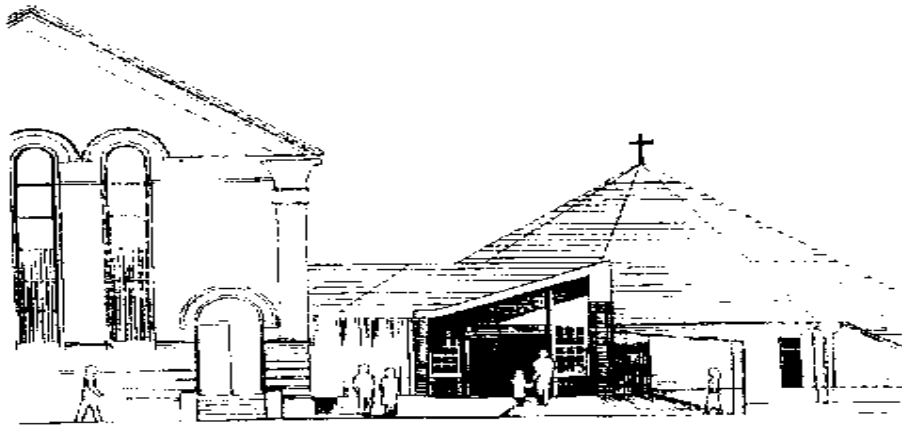


# **WOODBRI METHODIST MUSINGS**



**May 2024**

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## Message from Our Minister

### QUESTIONING OURSELVES

How often do we question ourselves?

It is easier to question others than to question ourselves.

Here is a lesson for all of us about

### QUESTIONING OURSELVES.

John Wesley (1703 - 1791) led a highly disciplined life. He created some questions for self-examination which he and his friends in Oxford used daily, for instance: "Am I a slave to dress, friends, work or habits? " In our case we may be enslaved with Internet. These questions made them accountable spiritually and morally which eventually birthed the Methodist Movement within the Church of England.

Having been brought up in a Methodist Church community self-examination and introspection was highly valued by our church. Questioning ourselves sessions would always be part of our class meetings and fellowship groups. This would be the same at Preachers meetings, Synod ministerial sessions and even at Conference it would be the same. I have found it helpful in my personal devotions for deepening my understanding of my faith, values and actions as a minister more importantly as a Christian.

It would be grateful if our fellowship groups would create a time for self-reflection and questioning ourselves ,examining ourselves, our beliefs as Christians, our motives for doing what we are doing, our behaviour in relation to our spiritual journey.

Here are some of the questions we may use for our QUESTIONING OURSELVES SESSION TODAY IN OUR GROUPS.

1 How is my personal relationship with God? Am I still reading the bible on my own? How is my prayer life as a child of God?

2 How do I respond to the issues of equality, diversity and inclusion as a Christian?

3 How am I stewarding the resources that God has entrusted me such as time, talents, finances?

4 How am I involved in charity work in our communities?

5 How am I sharing the good news of Jesus with others?

6 How is my character towards others. How do I deal with conflicts, social injustice issues and ethical rights.

7 How am I contributing to the life and ministry of our Woodbridge Methodist church and Ipswich Circuit community?

Take time to prayerfully consider these questions and many more in seeking guidance from the Holy spirit as you navigate your walk with Jesus Christ.

Always Remember That We Do Everything For His Glory And In His Name. Amen

Let us pray for

Our Woodbridge Methodist Church in its ministry of

WORSHIP

EVANGELISM

SERVICE

AND SHARING.

With best wishes to you all as we enjoy QUESTIONING OURSELVES SESSIONS.

Rev Saul Tadzaushe



## WOODBIDGE FAMILY NEWS

I write this month's news after our Easter celebrations, we were blessed with dry weather during the Walk of Witness and service in Elmhurst Park, roughly 100 people on the walk with more joining us for the service. This year it was suggested that we hold refreshments afterwards, and we Methodists volunteered, it certainly felt like most people came back for refreshments, thank you to Ann C, Helen P, Freddy, Katherine & Brian for their help. There were approx. 70 at the sunrise service on Easter morning (6 Methodists) at the bandstand by the Deben, 3 of our number attended the sunrise service at Shingle Street. At our Easter Day service with Saul, we were treated to a hymn sung by Katherine, Julien and 'friends', and a message 'Life Beyond Our Hopes' from Saul.

Our church was full at the end of March with Woodbridge Orchestra holding their annual concert, many people from the area attended.

Sadly, last month we bade farewell to Joyce Boorman and her husband Peter (who some will know from Men's Breakfast) she has sent us this lovely message.

First of all, Peter and I send you all our very good wishes from Hailsham, especially at this Easter time. Thank you so much for the lovely Easter card we received yesterday and all the 'welcome to your new home' cards. It is difficult to believe that Peter and I have been here now for over a month. We are still living surrounded with boxes, but as each day passes they become fewer and we find things that we wanted to use yesterday, or even last week! As the saying goes 'we are getting there'. I finally attended Hailsham Methodist Church – on Palm Sunday – so I have my palm sitting proudly in the lounge. When I got out of my car in the town car park a lady was getting out next to me. We spoke and I asked whether she was possibly going to the Methodist Church. She was! So, I had met my first Church member – Barbara. What a coincidence. Members were very welcoming and hoped I would be staying for refreshments. It was a visiting Minister from Uckfield, so I have yet to meet the Minister herself. There were approx 35 at the service with probably an age range similar to Woodbridge. It was a good service with quite a bit of interaction with the Minister. The service start at 10.00am and lasted over an hour (not that I was clock watching). Everyone was friendly when we were having coffee (and they had decaffeinated, so they know I was going!). There were the usual rotas on the notice board – flower, refreshments, welcoming etc – which I found very reassuring. I don't think they have a 'men's breakfast', but they will be having a 'Messy Church' after Easter, so I expect there is a toddlers (or similar) group. I have yet to find out what

happens as far as any outreach activity is concerned. All in all, it was a good introduction to my new church. Easter Blessings to you all. Joyce

Brian Ellis had his pacemaker fitted at the beginning of April and hopefully is on his way to being fully fit and well. Dela is due her hip operation in April, so I know we will all be thinking and praying for her full recovery, it has been lovely to see both her and John back regularly to services.

Those Grandparents and great grandparents amongst you, may well want to ask Brian Crowe about his adventures at Peppa Pig World. You may also wish to ask Christine Griffiths about her 'Great Escape'. Sandra, David & Jenny Ball climbed up the O2 in London for Jenny's 40<sup>th</sup>, I believe there are photos. I will be off next month to Dublin to see how the wedding preparations are coming along. I know Vera also has a wedding to look forward to.

Deirdre Rothwell, in her role as East Anglian Inner Wheel District Chairman, will be attending the International Conference in Manchester at the beginning of May. Delegates will attend from about one hundred countries, assuming they can acquire visas. There will even be a more informal occasion to wear twenties (1920s!) style costumes.

This will be a great event and we congratulate Deirdre on the work she has achieved during her year as chairman.

Diane Giffard



## **Christine Rosemary Illman - The Value of a Life**

On 12th March people gathered from far and wide at our church to celebrate the life of Christine Illman, a loving wife to Michael, a mother to Julian, Hilary and Mark, a supportive mother-in-law to Kathryn, a caring grandmother to Alexander and Dominic, and a kind great-grandmother to Callum and Caden.

The service of loving memory had great hymns, an amusing poem (see below) and tributes from her close family. Julian paid special tribute to his brother Mark who was tirelessly at his Mum's side through the last stages of her life, supporting and caring for her at home, with her family around her.

Mark talked about his Mum's professional career in music, teaching at local schools and individual lessons, and playing for many a local production. She had been given a baby grand piano, which she treasured. She also loved painting, especially in watercolours. Christine was a key part of a Woodbridge based singing group called The Follies.

Julian also told us about some lesser-known facts to give a flavour of her varied life. She was born on the 8th April 1931 in Mitcham, Surrey to Sally and Herbert Mayers, their only child. So her life began before World War II. She holidayed as a young child in the sand dunes of Aberdovey with her father Herbert (a member of this church). Indeed, mid-Wales was a large feature of the family's life. There is a Welsh phrase "hiraeth", a blend of homesickness, nostalgia and longing, that conveys a distinct feeling of missing something irretrievably lost, especially in the context of Wales or Welsh culture. The family has felt that pull, and has been back there many times.

When Christine was evacuated to Aberdovey to stay with family, she learnt Welsh and was looked after by the older girls at her school. This was a period called the 'phoney war', the early stages of the war, when they thought London was due to be bombed. However, there was no bombing in this initial period and so she returned home - and of course then the bombing did start. She had to sleep in the Anderson shelter in their garden at night. She described the bombing as horrific, and often very near, even in the next road one night. Her Dad, Herbert, was an ARP warden and a First Aider, helping to clear up after the bombings. He must have seen a lot, though he never spoke of the horrors.

She started piano lessons at the age of 5. When she came under the tutelage of a Mr Kineston, her music really took off. And that is where she met her future husband, a fellow pupil. Their first date was at the Albert Hall at the Proms! At the age of 23 on 22nd August 1954, Christine Rosemary Mayers married Michael Thomas Neville Illman at The Congregational Church, New Malden, after which they moved into the Hereford Cathedral cloisters, their marriage residence.

Around 1958, Michael learnt that the Queen was looking for an organist at Sandringham Church, and from 1958 to 1963 he became the Queen's organist and they lived at the organist's bungalow on the Sandringham estate. The Queen lived next door and Lady Di the other side of the fence. It was here that Mark was born on 30th March, 1958 and Julian subsequently arrived on 23rd April 1960, weighing in at a mammoth 11lbs 4 ozs (Julian joked that he was on solids on day 2). The bungalow was a big school house, but very cold in the winter, particularly the very cold winter of '63, so Christine was glad when her husband accepted the offer of Head of Music at Woodbridge school.

Christine also organised the Methodist Guild Concerts at this church for a number of years. Indeed, it was at one of these very same concerts in 1995 that Julian met Kathryn: love - a tale as old as time.

When Michael took early retirement, he became an examiner for Trinity College of Music and travelled extensively. Christine would join him on a number of these trips and kept diaries of her visits to places such as Cape Town, South Africa and Australia. These were happy times.

Above all, Christine was a great people lover and was genuinely interested in people and their lives. As Revd Stephen Yelland commented, she was interested and interesting.

Latterly, as the constant rapid eye movement required to read music became more difficult, a musical diminuendo (or quietening) occurred, whilst a corresponding crescendo to Christine's lifelong passion for books, jigsaws and puzzle books became more voracious.

Christine's life can teach and inspire in us the value of our own lives. For that we are truly grateful and celebrate.

#### Dust If You Must by Rose Milligan

Dust if you must, but wouldn't it be better  
To paint a picture, or write a letter,  
Bake a cake, or plant a seed;  
Ponder the difference between want and need?

Dust if you must, but there's not much time,  
With rivers to swim, and mountains to climb;  
Music to hear, and books to read;  
Friends to cherish, and life to lead.

Dust if you must, but the world's out there  
With the sun in your eyes, and the wind in your hair;  
A flutter of snow, a shower of rain,  
This day will not come around again.

Dust if you must, but bear in mind,  
Old age will come and it's not kind.  
And when you go (and go you must)  
You, yourself, will make more dust.

This poem first appeared in *The Lady* (September 1998). It is now believed to be in the public domain.





# **5 in a Bar**

## **A Concert in aid of**

### **Kelsale Methodist Church**



**As heard on the BBC programme Coast  
Madigals, pop, jazz – something for everyone!**

**Kelsale Village Hall IP17 2NU**

**7pm Saturday 25th May**

**retiring collection**

**LIGHT REFRESHMENTS DURING INTERVAL**

## *Eco Church*

Our members at WMC support TWAM, Tools with a Mission, whose national headquarters are in Hadleigh Road Ipswich. In case not everyone knows, this amazing charity accepts unwanted tools, garden implements, sewing and knitting machines and computers, to be refurbished by volunteers and sent to Africa. There they are received by partners and eventually distributed to people who are trained to use them, who would be unable to afford to buy such things for themselves. The result is transformative for individuals and whole families living on the bread line, with no hope of a proper income without the skills, knowledge and tools that are provided. The Red Sea Crisis means that tools ships take longer to travel than usual, and the cost is greater.

Here is Florence's story:

Florence lives in the poorest, most rural area of Uganda, and her life has been unimaginably hard. But thankfully, she lived near one of TWAM's best projects: URICT. It is run by one of our volunteers, Andrew Gabula, and he noticed her plight and invited her to join his tailoring course. Florence tells us:

"I had no money or ability to do anything, so I came here where the training is free. I joined the course because I knew my life had to change, and I had to have independence from my husband because he was not good to me. I left home with my children but had to go back to my husband to beg for money, but I could not keep doing that. I have four children and knew I must keep them safe. When I joined the course, I was living with my mother, but the strain was too much for her."

Florence completed her course and has become a successful seamstress. She even gives back to URICT by repairing the school uniforms and bed sheets for the orphanage for nothing. But Florence's work is only free because she has a sewing machine.

Have you a sewing machine you no longer use? Bring it to church and we will take it to TWAM for you.

Thanks very much

Helen Lewis

*Helen*

## Morality - A Questionnaire

About six years ago, a Morality Questionnaire was created by the Church of England. The results were really surprising, and they were characterised by the Archbishop of Canterbury as "Make It Up As You Go" Morality.

Our Phoenix house group answered each of the questions individually and then discussed our responses.

Here is your chance to answer five of the questions and decide what kind of neighbour you would like to be.

### Everyone has some kind of moral code. Where do you think you mainly got yours from?

Parents  
School  
Church  
Friends  
Books  
Other  
Don't know

### Here is a list of "the seven deadly sins":

Lust  
Gluttony  
Sloth  
Envy  
Avarice  
Wrath  
Pride

Which do you personally think is the worst of them? Which is the least bad?  
Which do you reckon you give in to most?

### Drinking and driving?

Yes, is acceptable  
No, is not  
Don't know

### Do you believe that society as a whole is less moral today than it was 50 years ago?

### Do you think adultery is wrong?

Wrong in all circumstances  
Can occasionally be justified  
Can frequently be justified  
Don't know

**PRAYERS OF CONFESSION**  
**A personal study and presentation**  
by Rad Tucker

At the Lent Bible Study in March Revd Saul asked four of us to prepare a short talk as an aid to discussion on the four major forms of prayer which we use in our worship: Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving and Supplication.

Here are some of my initial thoughts on the prayers of confession:

What do WE do when we PRAY to God?

We can speak from our heart, sharing our hopes and desires and our concerns and problems and

We can ask God for help with:

- (a) Our walk with Him and in which direction, or
- (b) Our healing and forgiveness, or
- (c) Anything else that is on our mind.

In doing this, we acknowledge that His wisdom and timing is greater than ours and when we talk and listen to Him, this we call PRAYER. To Christians, Confession = admission and revelation of sin, a declaration of guilt

When we think of CONFESSION, what do we think of?

I believe that the Bible teaches us that sin is something that we have done which is contrary or against the Ten Commandments and the good order that our Heavenly Father has instructed us to follow. Please read the Gospel of John 3: 16 and Paul's Letter to the Romans 6:1-3

CONFESSION is essential, being an act of acknowledgement that we have done something wrong. This could easily be an act which we are ashamed of or embarrassed about. In the legal world, a court of law or a police station, a Confession can be a formal statement admitting that one is guilty of a crime, e.g. "He signed a confession to breaking and entering the home illegally".

As our God is all powerful, all seeing, all knowing, why should we Confess during our prayer time? We confess because:

1. It cleanses our souls
2. It grows our relationship with God
3. We shall experience divine forgiveness.
4. We can relinquish/surrender our guilt, and
5. We acknowledge our sinful ways.

Please read 1 John 1:9 and 1 John 2:1

## **The Leprosy Mission – a short history**

Many of you will know of the major Christian charity, The Leprosy Mission. It has an excellent catalogue of Christian cards and other gifts. Here is the story of how it started 150 years ago.

We hope you will agree that it is heart-warming to see God's plan at every turn in the life stories of Wellesley and Alice Bailey.

In 1866 a young Irishman became engaged to Alice Grahame, his childhood sweetheart. Little did either of them know what God had in store and how their lives would change so dramatically! The couple grew up during the potato famine in Ireland. The hardship Wellesley endured as a boy inspired him to travel in search of a more prosperous future. He decided to go to Australia and New Zealand before he married. Alice's one request to Wellesley was that he should attend church services whenever he could.

Wellesley had never taken the Christian faith seriously. But just a few days into his travels he found himself stranded in Gravesend. He was waiting for a heavy fog to lift that had left his ship stuck in port. With little else to do, Wellesley entered a church. He was astounded when he heard God speak to him! He left the church deeply moved by the experience. On return to the ship, he knelt by his bed and committed his life to Christ.

Wellesley did not make his fortune in Australia and returned to Dublin no richer than when he had set out. Yet his adventurous spirit remained strong, and he set sail once again. This time it was to visit his brother in India. It was here that he felt God calling him to mission work and applied to teach in a school in Ambala in Northern India. It was during his training that he saw, for the first time, the devastating effects of leprosy. He wrote:

"I almost shuddered, yet I was at the same time fascinated, and I felt if there was ever a Christ-like work in the world it was to go amongst these poor sufferers and bring them the consolation of the gospel".

The people Wellesley met had clawed hands. Some had disfigured faces and others were blind. This was an illness that was both mysterious and cruel. There was no cure for leprosy. The prejudice surrounding the disease was terrible, as it can be even today. Wellesley decided to spend time with this special group of people and wrote home to Alice. He shared with her his heart for people with leprosy.

Alice was deeply moved by Wellesley's letters and in 1871 she travelled to India to be with him. After marrying in Bombay Cathedral, they travelled north together to Ambala. Two years into their stay, the dry heat began to take its toll on Alice's health. Much to their regret, the young couple decided to return home to Ireland. Little did they know, however, that this was all part of God's plan. Their work had only just begun! Their time in Dublin would lead to far greater things!

When they arrived back in Dublin the couple were invited to the home of the Pim sisters. The sisters were renowned for their socialising and charitable works. Wellesley was asked whether he would share their experiences of leprosy. So gripping were Wellesley's talks, that many more were arranged.

Alice's health began to improve, and the couple prepared to return to India. It was agreed that Charlotte Pim would begin fundraising to support the Baileys' work. A target of £30 was exceeded and they managed to raise £600 by the end of 1874! And so The Leprosy Mission was born. By the late 1870s, the first supporters generously gave £900 a year which cared for 100 people in Northern India.

We hope this testimony encourages **you** to restore justice to the world today. The work to raise money in Ireland in 1874 was of equal importance to the work in India. One could not exist without the other! As it was before, so it is now. By working together, we can restore the lives of some of the most excluded people on the planet.

Whether we serve in a leprosy hospital, speak in churches, pray or give, together we are a powerful force for good. God has blessed the work of the generations before us. May He bless you today and your heart be moved for people affected by leprosy.

Monty



Part of our Mission Statement is 'Serving the Community'

Our church buildings are used regularly throughout the week. . . find out what they are being used for

**Sunday – weekly**

10:45am ~ Morning Worship

7:30 – 9:00pm ~ AA

**Monday – weekly**

9:30 – 11:45am ~ Car park used by St John's The Hub Cafe

12:00 – 1:30pm ~ AA

7:30 – 9:00pm ~ ALANON

3<sup>rd</sup> Monday - 7:30 – 9:00pm ~ Woodbridge Labour Party

**Tuesday – weekly**

7:45 – 9:30am ~ AA

9:30 – 11:00am ~ Yoga

7:00 – 9:00pm ~ Creative Writing

7:00 – 9:00pm ~ Gateway

**Wednesday – weekly**

7:30 – 8:30pm ~ AA

1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday – 7:00pm ~ Stewards Meeting

2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday – 7:30 – 9:30pm ~ WI

**Thursday – weekly**

10:00am – 12:00pm ~ Toddler Talk

12:00 – 1:30pm ~ AA

7:30 – 9:30pm ~ Love to Sing

1<sup>st</sup> Thursday – 7:30 – 9:30pm ~ Sutton House Group

3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday – 10:00am ~ Midweek Communion

**Friday – weekly**

8:00 – 9:30pm ~ AA

**Saturday – weekly**

8:45 – 10:15am ~ AA

9:00 – 10:00am ~ Table Tennis, 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday Men's Breakfast

10:00am – 12:00pm ~ 3cs Cafe

# 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

### May

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> – Church AGM following Morning Worship

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> – Worship led by Rev Julian Pursehouse followed by Bring and Share Lunch

### June

Keep an eye out for our Action For Children Lunch after worship – date to be arranged

### July

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> – 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](mailto:wmcstewards@gmail.com)





The monthly newsletter for Woodbridge Methodist Church

### **Church Contacts**

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Please Note: Saul's day off is on Fridays

### **Stewards:**

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N.B. Items for the June WMM must be in no later than  
12/05/2024

Please email to Brian Crowe at:

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