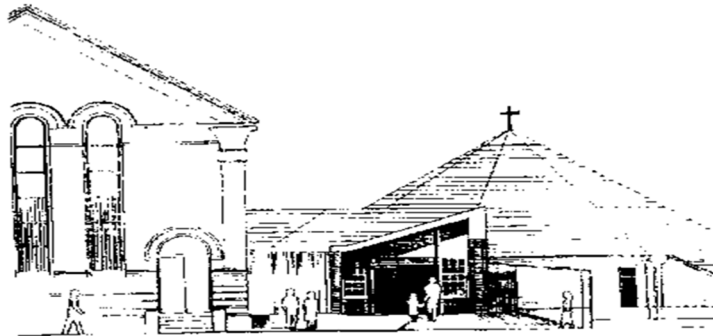


WOODBIDGE METHODIST MUSINGS



February 2026



Message from Our Minister

Dear Beloved Woodbridge Congregation,

As we reflect upon the Christmas and New Year celebrations, I am filled with gratitude for the many ways we have come together as a community. I thank God for His protection and grace, which has been sufficient for us, especially for those among us who have been unwell yet continue to participate in church activities. Your resilience is truly inspiring.

Our Christmas service was a beautiful expression of collaboration. It was heartening to receive greetings from our church members online, and I extend special thanks to the Coger family for their exceptional coordination. Such services remind us of John Wesley's words: "The best of all is, God is with us." Let us strive to create more services of this nature.

The Covenant Service was a profound experience, beautifully highlighted by our 'covenant tree.' Our hearts were enriched by the paper leaves adorned with prayers and promises, and the communion we shared. I am deeply grateful to Anne Stevenson for her meticulous preparations and to Monty for his poignant intercession prayer, quoting Martin Luther King Junior, who once said, "Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase."

Helen Jay's hymn selections resonated beautifully with the Epiphany season, and her skilful organ playing was a blessing. Deidre's unwavering commitment to God's work, even while on crutches, serves as a testament to the strength of our community spirit.

Reflecting on 2025, despite its challenges, we have accomplished so much together. Let us continue in this spirit of teamwork, remembering that we are the body of Christ, as 1 Corinthians 12:27 reminds us: "Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it." In our unity, none is indispensable.

Let us keep each other in prayer, actively participating in God's work both in our circuit and mission area. I encourage you to support our upcoming community service on April 26th. This outreach programme offers an opportunity to extend our love to the organizations we work with. We will invite these organisations to

come share with us the good work they are doing in our communities. John Anthony, Helen Peats and Radmila Tucker will help us to get this done correctly in the spirit of growth and devotion.

Many thanks to Michael Porter. We shall always have him in our thoughts and prayers for his immense contribution to the life of our church. May the good Lord bless him and his family.

In conclusion, may we embrace the new year with hope, echoing the thoughts of Martin Luther King Junior: "Let us develop a kind of dangerous unselfishness." Together, with God's guidance, we will continue to shine His light in our community. With each one of us participating in the life of our church, Woodbridge Methodist church will continue to be a beacon of hope to our communities and beyond.

Tariro and I, would like to thank you all for your Christmas and new year wishes. We are enjoying our ministry in the UK all because of your love, support and prayers. We wish you all God's blessings in all your endeavours.

With warmest blessings,

Rev Saul Tadzaushe

WOODBIDGE FAMILY NEWS

Before Christmas we enjoyed a lovely concert brought to us by the A Capella Octave, who sang a variety of music old and new. We followed it with delicious German refreshments. Donations and raffle amounted to over £600 and we are delighted to announce that we have now paid for our new Foyer Front doors. Thank you to everyone!

In the last few months we have lost two valued members of our church, John Summers and Vera Keer. Monty has written tributes to them. Michael Porter and family have finally moved to Newcastle, and we will miss Mike, for the many years leading his house-group, his sense of humour, and the many practical ways he supported our church. We wish him and Joy rich blessings in their new home.

Peggy has been unwell for several weeks, but we were delighted to see her back worshipping with us at the beginning of January. We pray she will soon be restored to full mobility. Pam is now happily settled at Elmhurst Park after some initial delays. She is just along the corridor from Barbara. Brenda celebrated her 91st birthday in January and manages to worship with us most Sundays.

Welcome to Peter and Shirley Scales who have moved here recently from Staffordshire. We look forward to getting to know you as the weeks go by.

A few of you may remember David Jardine, who ran our Youth Group over 40 years ago whilst working for the Forestry Commission in East Suffolk. My late husband Michael, a bird ringer, helped him and encouraged him to train also. Now retired, David lives in Kilmartin in Argyll where my son Patrick, one of that church Youth Group, now 58, lives with his family. Patrick's son, my grandson Frank, 14, is being trained by David to become a bird ringer too. Where they live there are Golden and White-tailed eagles, and many other interesting birds in their beautiful area. I am thrilled that our family tradition continues, along with my younger son Malcolm who rings birds in Coastal Suffolk.

We welcome our Minister Saul to lead our Communion Service on the first Sunday of the month, but he has other churches to look after in our section, so we have to share him out! We are pleased to see Local Preachers in between. Our two Senior Stewards, Diane and Helen must be thanked and congratulated in the way they manage to juggle home and family commitments with their Stewards' duties and also make our 'Local Arrangements' Services. These are often original and fun, yet with a message, and involve some of us, or all of us on Café Sundays! Thanks to our organists too! How many of us realised that when we had no organist to play recently, the organ played itself? Our organ is electronic, and Helen Jay was able to pre-record the service hymns for us!

A date for your diary: Woodbridge Orchestra will play a programme of English music for us on Monday March 23rd. Do join us. We come from all over Suffolk to play together on Monday evenings, and after this concert we will break for the summer.

Helen Lewis

Helen

CIRCUIT PRAYER MEETINGS

Everyone from around the circuit is welcome to join together at our weekly prayer meeting on Zoom to pray for events and opportunities in our circuit and so much more

We meet at **9:00am on Tuesday mornings**

For more details and for the Zoom link please go to the Ipswich Round

www.methodistic.org.uk/category/ipswich-round/

Saint Valentine (Cover Picture)

Saint Valentine (Italian: *Valentino*; Latin: *Valentinus*) was a 3rd-century Roman saint, commemorated in Western Christianity on February 14 and in Eastern Orthodoxy on July 6. From the High Middle Ages, his feast day has been associated with a tradition of courtly love. He is also a patron saint of Terni, epilepsy, and beekeepers. Saint Valentine was a clergyman – either a priest or a bishop – in the Roman Empire who ministered to persecuted Christians. He was martyred and his body buried on the Via Flaminia on February 14, which has been observed as the Feast of Saint Valentine (Saint Valentine's Day) since at least the eighth century.

(From Wikipedia)

Eco Church



Traidcraft, and Traidcraft Exchange are now renamed as Transform Trade and celebrate 40 years this month. It was in 1998 that I first became a Traidcraft Fairtrader, which enabled me to buy goods from the extensive Fairtrade catalogue to sell at our church on Sundays after the service. Everything from consumables such as biscuits, tea, coffee, chocolate, greeting cards and much more were kept in a big cupboard in the Octagon and displayed every week, with a 10% profit from sales going to Traidcraft. Over 20 years to 2018 this gave Traidcraft a profit of over £3000 to help many communities in the developing world to receive a fair price for their goods. At Christmas we had many lovely craft products including jewellery and hand decorated china. Some of you, like me, may still have some of these at home.

Over the years more Fair Trade goods have been widely obtainable, and many of us look out for the Fair Trade symbol in our weekly shop. Fair Trade bananas and other goods give a fair price to the workers wherever they are. A premium goes to provide clean water, toilets, health care or helps children to go to school. This can be life changing for communities in countries like Africa.

Traidcraft was wound up a few years ago, but a limited range of goods are now available online from **Transform Trade** which is proudly continuing the legacy of Traidcraft. Have a look online and support them if you can.

At the Supermarket look out for the



FT symbol

Helen Lewis

Helen.

John Charles Summers

A full church came to pay their respects to John. The service was led by Revd Saul who preached a fine sermon on the message of “The Ministry of Presence”, which was entirely appropriate for such a character as John. The eulogy was read by the retired minister of Grundisburgh Baptist Church where John’s mother worshipped and was laid to rest and where John wished also to be buried.

Eulogy

John was born on 27th October 1969, the youngest child of Bert Edgar and Margaret Summers. How proud his brother and sister were to call him their brother and how touched they were that everybody came to celebrate John’s life at his funeral.

From an early stage of John’s development, it was brought to the family’s attention that he was different. They didn’t know what that meant or how it would change their perception of how he would shape his future. For example, on one occasion they were visited by a health professional who asked John to complete a task of assembling a twenty-five piece jigsaw puzzle. He was shown what was expected, John’s response was to turn the puzzle upside down and complete it with the picture down. So, they had an early indication that he thought differently.

He grew up attending the special classes at the local infant and junior schools which his brother and sister also attended. John showed remarkable stamina - he would walk for miles without complaint with the family dog Ben.

He later lived in a group home in Lowestoft called The Ashley School where he was educated until he was sixteen. Many people asked for his opinion of his experience at the school and they were always answered with fond memories.

When he left the school he returned to Felixstowe, living in a group home and developing interests in music, trains, swimming and cycling which would be a major part in his life. He was then allocated a flat in Felixstowe where he lived independently with visiting specialist support. John was diagnosed with both schizophrenia and autistic tendencies. Even though he described his symptoms as disturbing, he never showed any signs of anger, and with the help of medication was able to live his life on his terms. He then moved to a flat in Woodbridge where he would happily live for the rest of his life. He got to know many others living nearby. John liked routine and familiar surroundings – Revd Saul would meet him often in the same

places in Woodbridge. He was well known and liked by the staff at the holiday camp at Caister, which he went every year with his brother. John loved his snooker and played regularly in Kesgrave as well as swimming in Felixstowe, catching a bus from well-known timetables.

He became a member at Woodbridge Methodist Church (WMC), attending regularly, always sitting in the same seat and greeting those whom he knew. He once cycled 30 miles for the Historic Churches sponsored cycle ride, now called Ride & Stride.

John was also a member of The Gateway Club which was started by WMC where it continues to meet. He made lots of friends there and was encouraged to take some minor responsibilities (he called it his work). He took part in many social activities.

He liked to go to New Horizons lunch club too (he liked his food) and enjoyed friendship and support there too, particularly from Diana Luxmoore, also a WMC member.

John preferred independence and was able to make his own choices on how he lived his life. There was a point where his family felt he wasn't coping and they discussed the possibility of moving to a more supportive environment. After a lot of discussion, they came to the decision that with the right support he could carry on as before. This was the best decision for John and allowed him to have his chosen way of life.

Since he died, the family has been overwhelmed with the affection and support given by his immediate neighbours and church members. All expressed how much they will miss his cheerful disposition and warm smile. John was a quiet gentle soul who never asked too much of anyone. The family would like to express their warmest thanks to those who came to his assistance when he asked for help.

Despite his disabilities, John had a real faith in the Lord. A simple, straightforward, but sincere faith. He often saw his prayers answered and he loved worshipping and reading his 'Our Daily Bread' Bible booklets.

VERA HILDA KEER

9th August 1929 – 24th November 2025

The service of thanksgiving on Wednesday 17th December for Vera's life and witness was very well attended as her large family and many friends came to worship God and thank Him for her resolute and people-engaging spirit.

Revd Saul led the service and preached about the theme "investment". After explaining the Latin origins of the word as in the donning of new clothes, he explained how Vera had invested her life in her faith, her family and those she met. And these had brought great dividends to her and those she met.

The following is the Tribute prepared by the family and read by Anne Stevenson, one of our WMC Stewards, at the service. On a personal level, Freddie and I were asked frequently by Vera about the progress of our sons, whom she had seen grow up in the church. Just one example of how she cared for those around her.

Vera, born in Butley, was the middle child of a family of 14, having 6 sisters and 7 brothers, meant lots of hard work, but also a carefree country life.

After going into service at the local rectory at age 14 with her sister Ruby, they decided to spread their wings and moved to Chelmsford, to live with older sister Gladys, and work in a garment factory. After a while they moved into a flat in Ipswich and worked at a men's suit company. While visiting home one weekend, she met her husband to be, Reg, a war veteran, and after a whirlwind courtship, they were married in a double wedding ceremony with Ruby and Arthur

Life started off in Butley, with Malcolm arriving, then Chillesford with Jane being born 5 years later, and ended up in Sudbourne, taking over the family smallholding. Life was hard as they grew crops, raised pigs

and took care of a very large flower and vegetable garden. During this time, they were active in the British Legion, and Vera was in the W I. Unfortunately, due to war related illness, Vera was widowed young. She made the move to Woodbridge in 1991 to be closer to her siblings and became very active in the Methodist Church. Among her many duties at Church, she cooked meals for the Day Centre, volunteered at Coffee Mornings, Mother and Toddler, and derived great pleasure in helping to create the Church flower arrangements.

Vera had a great love of the countryside and liked nothing better than to tend her garden and see the wild flowers in bloom. She enjoyed the Ramblers and family time with Malcolm, wife Helen and grandchildren Marie and Anthoy, and 7 great grandchildren. She also enjoyed many trips to California to see her daughter, Jane, husband Bill, grandchildren Billy and Ashley, and 4 great grandchildren. She had a can do attitude and enjoyed trips around the West Coast of the USA, including Hawaii, tent camping in Yellowstone, a helicopter ride over the Grand Canyon, and a cruise to Alaska.

During her later years, Vera developed problems with her eyesight and gave up driving. She stated "I don't think the DVLA will look kindly on a one eyed 90 year old.

At Oxford Drive, Vera had wonderful caring neighbours, without whom life would have been very difficult. Margaret took Vera to Tesco's and to medical appointments on a regular basis and checked on her welfare daily. This enabled her to remain in her own home for a lot longer than would otherwise have been possible.

November 2024, Vera decided that it was time to seek residential care. She moved into her room at Highlands Residential Home, where she was cared for the last year of her life. She enjoyed taking part in the daily activities, especially visits from the pre-school children. She also

looked forward to being collected by her Church friends and being taken to coffee mornings and the services.

It was very fortunate that Jane was able to visit 4 weeks prior to her passing.

Vera's life was well lived, with a positive attitude and a giving spirit.



A RECITAL *of*
ROMANTIC
PIANO
MUSIC

including, Brahms, Chopin, Liszt, Clara and
Robert Schumann, Satie, and Scott Joplin

Saturday 14th February 2026

St VALENTINE'S DAY

6.30 pm

**A Concert by
Andrew Leach**

**WOODBIDGE METHODIST
CHURCH St John's St**

Free Entrance

Donations requested

in Aid of Our Renovations

Light Complimentary Refreshments

Celebrating Christmas at Woodbridge Methodist Church

Decorating the Church - putting up the tree, creating flower arrangements on the windowsills and putting out the Nativity

Christingle Service



NMA Advent
Prayer Day at
Knodishall
Methodist Church



House Groups Christmas Socials which included Carol Singing, Entertainment, Food and Fellowship

Thank you to everyone who contributed festive treats to create hampers for those in need in our Northern Mission Area

Ladies Group visit to Helmingham Hall



Thank you for your financial support of Lighthouse Women's Aid

Carol Service



Christmas Concert from
Octave Vocal Ensemble

We joined together from
near and far for our
Christmas Day Worship

Various Church Groups had
visits to local theatres to see
Christmas productions

The Ladies Groups
and partners shared
fellowship together
with their annual
Christmas Dinner



Music Group Carol Singing
at Highlands Residential
Home



**Thank you to everyone involved in
any of our Christmas Activities**

Sunday Preachers

1 February - Communion - Rev Saul Tadzaushe

8 February- Nichola Glasse

13 February – Carol Almond

22 February – Stephen Caley

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

7:00 – 9:30pm ~ Woodbridge Orchestral Society (September to Easter)

3rd Monday - 7:30 – 9:00pm ~ Woodbridge Labour Party

Tuesday – weekly

7:45 – 9:30am ~ AA

9:30 – 11:00am ~ Yoga

1:30 – 4:30pm ~ Britten Pears Art Org

7:00 – 9:00pm ~ Creative Writing

7:00-8:00pm Church

7:00 – 9:00pm ~ Gateway (Term Time)

Music Group

Wednesday – weekly

7:30 – 8:30pm ~ AA

1st Wednesday – 7:00pm ~ Stewards Meeting

2nd Wednesday – 7:30 – 9:30pm ~ WI

Thursday – weekly

12:00 – 1:30pm ~ AA

7:30 – 9:30pm ~ Love to Sing

1st Thursday – 7:30 – 9:30pm ~ Sutton House Group

3rd 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, 3rd Saturday Men's Breakfast

10:00am – 12:00pm ~ 3cs Cafe

Please check the church diary on the website for any one-off bookings

<https://woodbridge.methodistic.org.uk/>

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

February

Saturday 14th – Piano Concert

Pancake Pop-in Lunch – keep an eye out in the notices for day and time

March

Sunday 22nd – Rev Frank Aichele leading our Morning Worship

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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Phone 01394 383674

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Please Note: Saul's day off is on Fridays

Stewards: Email: wmcstewards@gmail.com

Web: woodbridge.methodistic.org.uk

N.B. Items for the March WMM must be in no later than
08/02/2026

Please email to Brian Crowe at:

wmclink.articles@gmail.com

