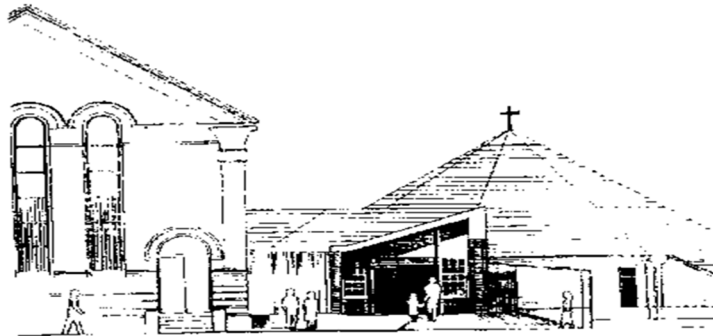


WOODBIDGE METHODIST MUSINGS



June 2026



Message from Our Minister

Celebrating New Beginnings at Woodbridge Methodist Church!!!

Dear Woodbridge Methodist Church Family,

As we embrace the month of June, we take a moment to reflect on the abundant blessings we have been given and the exciting future that lies ahead for Woodbridge Methodist Church. One of the most significant milestones we've recently achieved is the approval for the Tree of Life mission hub exploration, as discussed in our annual general meeting on 3rd May 2026. This progress encapsulates not only our collective vision but reaffirms our commitment to serving our community and nurturing spiritual growth.

The stewards' report presented at the annual church meeting confirmed the positive impact of our church's vision, particularly highlighting the collaborative efforts of various groups, including Alcoholics Anonymous (AA). Their dedication to caring for our church facilities exemplifies the spirit of cooperation we cherish within our congregation.

Let us continue with shaping our church with the love of God which transcends all boundaries for the sake of God's plan and purpose with humanity and his creation that we may live together in harmony with all people.

We believe that the Tree of Life mission hub concept aligns perfectly with the principles of Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD), allowing us to leverage our strengths and resources for greater impact.

As we review the work God is doing within our walls, we want to extend heartfelt thanks to each of you for your contributions to the life of our church. Your support and involvement are what make our community vibrant.

We shall miss Andrew and Louise for their exceptional work at Woodbridge Methodist church. We wish them both a happy life where they are going. We also want to thank all the groups which are using our facilities for a noble cause of human development.

It is essential to acknowledge the hard work of our stewards, who continually strive to create a welcoming environment. They truly deserve recognition and appreciation for their incredible efforts, so let's give them a big hug (metaphorically!) for all they do! We continue to make any appeal to you all for more stewards. The harvest is plenty but the labourers are few.

Additionally, we are thrilled to see parents bringing their children to play in the Octagon. Let us continue to create a safe space for these children as we allow Helen Peats to walk with them as a former teacher and also as a dedicated servant of God in children ministry.

The recent launch of our 4 PM community service has been a positive addition to our church schedule, further promoting fellowship and connection among families and individuals alike. We would like to thank John Anthony for the enormous amount of effort he put to make it a reality. We are grateful for Suffolk Coastal Poverty alleviation leader for his talk to us about the God who cares for the poor through the church and his people.

We shall continue to explore different ways to make our church visible in its pastoral work and outreach service to our communities. Matthew 28 invites us to participate in great commission as we witness to the World that Christ is Risen and is at work reconciling all to God.

As we move forward together in faith, let's remain committed to embracing our mission and exploring all that God has in store for us. Together, we can achieve great things and continue to build a loving and supportive community rooted in faith.

I would like to encourage you all to participate in our circuit programmes as they are lined up in the Ipswich circuit round.

Let us also remember to participate in Woodbridge Church Together Area programmes. We are a church which strongly believe in ecumenism. We are a community driven church. There are so many activities lined up for our Woodbridge Churches Together Area this month and the months to come.

I would like to remind you all that every 2nd Thursday of each month Roger Theobod and I lead a bible study in the Wesley room. Roger has been used by God in this ministry in an amazing way. Please come and join us for a transformative experience with the teachings from the word of God.

I will be attending the annual Methodist Church conference on the 27th June 2026. I was chosen to represent the East Anglia District. Prayer for our Conference that it may be given wisdom by God to guide our church especially at this moment when many churches are being closed due to different challenges beyond our control. It is God who can make a way where there is no way. Let us put our faith in him for the future of our church.

May I take this moment to wish you all a shalom peace which surpasses all understanding.

Every blessing

Rev.Saul Tadzaushe

WOODBIDGE FAMILY NEWS

It's always good to hear news of the younger folk connected with our Church Family. Bob Booth's grandson Sam has just completed the Brighton Marathon. His time was 3 hours and 44 minutes. He trains with a run along the seafront every day.

My grandson Oliver, Malcolm's son, following graduation in engineering in Bristol University is organising the building of a windfarm in the north of Scotland, quite a challenge for a 23 year old. His sister Amber is in Portsmouth University studying Diagnostic Radiography.

Andrew and Louise Taylor have moved to Ipswich, and we will miss all the help they have given us volunteering at the Sound Desk, serving refreshments, and welcoming folk to church at the door. We wish them God Speed and hope they will soon settle in a new home.

Alex Hill has been elected as a Governor for the Norfolk and Suffolk NHS Mental Health Trust. This involves inspections and holding the Board of Directors to account. Well done Alex.

We also think of members of our Church Family who can no longer get to church due to age or disability. Thank you to those who offer lifts to friends who no longer drive. You are providing an essential service to those who cannot come otherwise. If you wish for a visit from Saul or your Pastoral Friend just let us know.

We have just had our Annual Church Meeting, and it is obvious that many duties are performed by our various members, especially the Stewards, and both of our Senior Stewards, Diane Giffard and Helen Peats who have jobs and other responsibilities. On May 3rd, we had a visiting minister Rev. Charity from Cambridge, and a friend of Saul. She said that although we are sorry not to see children at our church, we must celebrate all we are able to do as older folk (some long since retired!). We keep the church running smoothly, and welcome all who use our premises. May we continue to do all we can to proclaim the gospel and show practical Christian love and friendship to all who come to Woodbridge Methodist Church.

May God Bless us all as we seek to serve him day by day.

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/

Eco Church, the Bruhera Garden

Back in April we were able to share ideas at our morning service for practical help for the Bruhera Community Garden. This consists of a couple of large fields 10 Km from the village where Saul's extended family lives. It is an area of open country where droughts are common and many people live on or below the poverty line. Most depend on subsistence farming with essential crops to feed their families.

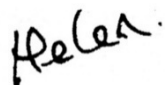
The photos and videos we showed brought us a wonderful snapshot of the area, with women working energetically to prepare the ground for sowing seed into the prepared beds. We were able to appreciate the challenges of growing crops using just handheld hoes for cultivation. Water is carried to the fields in buckets to water the crops from a large reservoir fed by a borehole.

There is no shelter from the hot sun beating down all day, and sometimes heavy rain can come too. Some of the women have walked up to 10km to reach the area, and there is no shelter. They need a shed and ideally a toilet as they are far from habitation.

Tariro explained that a simple building could be constructed from handmade clay bricks fired on site. Cement would need to be purchased, and a builder engaged to construct the building using the cement. A soak away toilet could be installed too. Saul contacted the local Methodist Superintendent Minister, Rev TP Surupu and he has offered to help us. His letter is printed here for you to read.

At Woodbridge Methodist Church we are currently raising money to renovate our Ladies' Toilets. Can we twin this project with the one in Zimbabwe and help that community too? We have had two retiring collections for them recently and we look forward to finding out the total raised so far. Our Treasurer will be delighted to receive further donations for this project.

Helen Lewis





Attention: **Helen Lewis**

April 18, 2026

Ref: Community Garden Sponsorship in Bedza, Buhera Zimbabwe

Greetings

Following my discussion with Rev Saul Tadzaushe, I felt it imperative for me to write to you.

1. I am the Superintendent of the Methodist Church in Zimbabwe, currently stationed in Buhera. Bedza community is under my jurisdiction.
2. The community garden is approximately 20km from the manse and progress can be easily monitored. I pledge to commit myself to assist the community gardening project though it is not a Methodist Church project. This will be part of Integral Mission. Such projects are very helpful in Buhera since it is a drought stricken area.
3. My Circuit stretches for approximately 127 kilometres with 20 stations under my leadership.
4. If considered helpful I promise to handle anything given under my jurisdiction in an honest and productive manner
5. Whenever needed, I will be able to send photos and any feedback from the Community Gardening project.
6. If you would want to send funds, you can do so using World Remit and MoneyGram to Tangisai Proud Surupu ID Number 49-048515- C- 49 and my address is as on this letter

Yours in His Vineyard.

Rev TP Surupu

Muchinjikwa ndiwo simba redu

WOODBRIIDGE METHODIST CHURCH

ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING

Sunday 3rd May 2026 at 12.15 pm

Minutes

1. **Opening Devotions** Psalm 1
Members who died during the year, John Orme, John Summers, Vera Keer, Shirley and John Kendall were remembered. **Rev Saul (Chair)**
2. **Apologies for absence:** David and Sandra, Andrew and Louise, Bob Booth, Gill Stevenson, Trish Lewis, Brian Archer, Helen Peats, Monty and Freddie
3. **Minutes of Church Meeting held on Sunday 4th May 2025 (already circulated)** were approved and signed by the Minister.
4. **Matters Arising:** There were no matters arising.
5. **Election of Stewards:** The current stewards were re-elected. Brian Ellis was elected as a property steward.
6. **Reports sent out in notices:**

Church Treasurer's Report was approved. **Freddie Guest**

Property Report: Diane reported that grants towards the ladies' toilets would be sought and that we are still fund raising. Historic Churches which we have supported for many years will be approached. **Diane Giffard**

Safety Representative Report: Michael is no longer living locally but will continue to monitor safety legislation. **Michael Porter**

Senior Steward's Report: The stewards are praying and asking for people to come forward as stewards. Saul added that the stewards collaborate well and are the anchor of the church. **Helen Peats/Diane Giffard**

Pastoral Report: Saul thanked Carol for her care and efficiency.

Carol Hollett

7. **Project 2026:** Diane invited any men who would like to see what has been done to let her know after the meeting and she will give them a guided tour.
8. **Discussion topic:** "What impact do our current activities have on the local community?" The meeting had time to discuss the impact of our activities on

the local community. It was generally agreed that the list from last year was still important with Saturday coffee morning, AA meetings and supporting the food bank highlighted as particularly important at the moment. It was suggested that New Testaments left in the Foyer for people seeking to take would be helpful. There were 3 already placed there. Additionally, we are now supporting Suffolk Coastal Poverty Action through Lent lunches, direct involvement (Helen P. and John), referral of individuals for support, direct support from the Church, direct donation and a series of services with lead speakers (Chair of SPCA etc.)

- 9. Saul's vision:** Saul spoke briefly about his vision of “the Tree of life Mission hub” for WMC the funding for which would come from the Methodist East Anglia District .The money would be to pay a lay worker who would be employed by the Woodbridge Methodist church council to manage the Tree Mission hub under the supervision of the Stewards. The Tree of Life Mission hub has to be approved by the circuit before it goes to the District for the funding. The meeting was asked to consider 5 potential benefits of such a hub which were: 1. Management of the church activities and organisations which are using the church facilities. 2. Outreach programmes to the communities through our website and ways. 3. Sustainable future for the church. 4. Lay worker for the day to day running of the church activities. 5. Grant from the District for new initiatives. The meeting approved the Stewards exploring this further.
- 10. Any other business:** The need for more people to run the AV desk was brought to the attention of the meeting as for various reasons the AV volunteer numbers have been halved recently. A basic knowledge of computer use is a requirement with training in our system available. Please contact the stewards if you may be able to help out.
- 11. Date of the next Annual Church Meeting 16th May 2027**
- 12. Closing Devotions** **Rev Saul**



Come along to our Parent & Toddler Group

At Woodbridge Methodist Church
every Thursday during Term Time

from 10:00am to 11:30am

suggested donation £1 per family,

which includes a drink and snack

All Welcome

To find out more, please speak to Helen P

We have several families
coming to our
Parent and Toddler Group
on a Thursday morning



Are you able to come and share
in a cup of tea or coffee with
them once a month?

Speak to Helen P for more
details

**First impressions are
important – we are looking
for some new Welcome
Stewards**



Is this a role you could do?

Speak to Helen P or Diane



The Return of the World Famous

(well, around Woodbridge!)

Barry's Quiz

Saturday 25th July

At 2:30pm in the Octagon

Teams of 4

(if you haven't got a team, let Helen P or Diane know and we can put you in a team)

£5 per person

Please bring your own snacks and soft drinks

Tea and Coffee will be served in the break

**To book your team or place,
please let Helen P or Diane know**

In aid of Project 2026 (aka refurbishment of the toilets)

It wasn't all bad

Solar-powered EVs haven't got far beyond the prototype stage among the big manufacturers; but in Tunisia, two of them are in showrooms already. Bako's models (a van and a two-seater passenger car) have a battery, but also solar panels on their roofs – which can boost their range by up to some 30 miles a day. They don't go very fast, and the van is mainly designed for last-mile deliveries, but they make electric driving possible in a country with very few public charging points.

A team of tradesmen and farmers from a village in Staffordshire won a gold medal this week in the World Indoor Tug of War Championships in Taiwan. England's team – the Sheen Farmers Tug of War Club – were considered underdogs, as seven of their eight athletes had never competed in the contest before. But in the event, they beat the Basque Country to seize the title in the 560kg category. Harry Lyons, one of the team's front "pullers", said he hoped their victory would help people see that the tug of war is a serious sport – and worthy of being reinstated to the Olympics.



Scientists at the University of Edinburgh have worked out how to turn discarded plastic bottles into a drug to treat Parkinson's disease. Currently, the drug, Levodopa, is often produced using fossil fuels. Instead, the team in Edinburgh genetically engineered a bacteria to break PET (the plastic used in bottles) down into its chemical building blocks, terephthalic acid, and turn that into Levodopa – a process they likened to brewing beer. The breakthrough, they said, could pave the way for a major "bio-upcycling industry".

A Spanish football fan who had hoped to see Barcelona play went to St James Park in Exeter, instead of St James' Park in Newcastle. It was only when he showed his ticket that he realised his mistake. He was given a free seat to watch Exeter City play Lincoln City, but left at half-time. He was "pretty gutted and a bit embarrassed", said Exeter's supporter experience officer.

IT MUST BE TRUE... I read it in the tabloids

After a 2025 season dogged by ill-fortune, Kent County Cricket Club booked a faith healer to "ward off evil spirits" from its Canterbury ground over the winter, according to coach Adam Hollioake. The club clarified that a "non-denominational geopathic surveyor" had been hired (geopathy is a pseudoscience based on beliefs about the effects of the Earth's vibrations). However, Kent CCC also stressed that a belief in geopathy was not shared across all club staff.

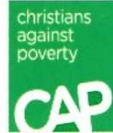
It wasn't all bad

The large tortoiseshell butterfly has been declared resident in the UK for the first time in decades. The tree-dwelling butterfly became extinct in Britain in the 20th century, after years of decline attributed by some to the impact of Dutch elm disease; but several have been seen this year, having emerged from hibernation in woods in Kent, Dorset and other counties. As a result, Butterfly Conservation has classed it a resident species in the UK, as opposed to a migratory one.

THE WEEK 14 March 2026

Suffolk Coastal Poverty Action

Churches working in partnership in East Suffolk



Debt Coaching



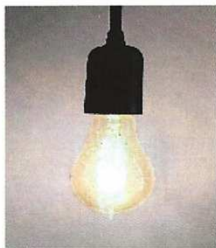
No matter how large or small your problem is, we can help. Our free, expert debt help will advise on the best route out of debt, and offer different types of support to help you become debt free.

Schools Work

Two free sessions for Year 5 and 6 pupils, which meet the KS2 Financial Capability requirements. The sessions explore income, expenditure, and budgeting through games, activities and group discussion.

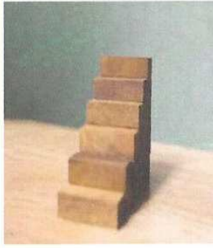


Life Skills



A free eight-session course, open to everyone with lunch included and lots of fun. It is a friendly place where you'll gain practical skills and discover new ways to a brighter future, whilst living well on a low income.

Employment Support



Free eight-week course plus individual coaching helping you to uncover and develop your strengths and skills and how to let employers know about them. Includes overcoming barriers, writing CVs and applications and succeeding in interviews.

Money Coaching Course

A free four-week course which is designed to develop the way people approach money through a range of essential budgeting skills. This includes building a successful budget and keeping track of money in an easy and accessible way.



To find out more or if you are worried about your financial situation and would like to talk to someone, please contact help@scpa.uk or visit our website scpa.uk

How to support our work

If you would like to know more about how to support SCPA, or would like to receive our newsletter, please email supporters@scpa.uk or visit our website scpa.uk

Sunday Preachers

June

7th Rev Saul Tadzaushe Communion

14th Guy Goodall

21st R Rokobuli

28th Local Arrangement

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

12:30 – 1:30pm ~ AA

7:30 – 8:30pm ~ Woodbridge Orchestral Society (September to Easter)

3rd Monday – 6:45 – 9:00pm ~ Woodbridge Labour Party

Tuesday – weekly

8:00 – 9:30am ~ AA

9:30 – 11:00am ~ Yoga

1:30 – 4:30pm ~ Britten Pears Art Org

6:30 – 7:30pm ~ AA

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 10:00am-12:00pm ~ Woodbridge Shire WI

1st Wednesday – 7:00pm ~ Stewards Meeting

2nd Wednesday – 7:30 – 9:00pm ~ WI

Thursday – weekly

9:15 – 10:30am ~ Yoga

12:30 – 1:30pm ~ AA

7:00 – 9:00pm ~ Love to Sing

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

3rd Thursday – 10:00am ~ Midweek Communion

Friday – weekly

7:30 – 9:00pm ~ AA

Saturday – weekly

9:00 – 10:00am ~ 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

July

Sunday 12th – Book this date in your diary – Special Birthday Lunch Worship led by Rev Helen Hollands – Chair of the District Saturday 25th – Church Quiz in the Octagon at 2:30pm

August

Monday 10th to Thursday 10th September – Saul Away

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

Minister Rev Saul Tadzaushe

Phone 01394 383674

Email: nmaminister@methodistic.org.uk

Please Note: Saul's day off is on Fridays

Stewards: Email: wmcstewards@gmail.com

Web: woodbridge.methodistic.org.uk

N.B. Items for the July WMM must be in no later than
14/06/2026

Please email to Brian Crowe at:

wmclink.articles@gmail.com

