

WOODBIDGE METHODIST MUSINGS



September 2026



Message from Our Minister

As the minister in charge of the Woodbridge Methodist Church, I am deeply grateful for God's providence and guidance throughout this summer season. We have been abundantly blessed, and we acknowledge the Lord's hand in our lives and in the life of our congregation. Yes, we enjoyed the warm summer season, but it has not been the best for the farmers. Drought is not good for the whole nation.

It is with joy that I reflect on one particular highlight: the celebration of Mark and Jenni's 50 years of marriage. Witnessing them stand before our congregation as I officiated their ceremony was a profound reminder of the beauty of commitment and love that God has placed within the bonds of marriage. Diane's heartfelt congratulations on behalf of the congregation added to the joy, and it was uplifting to see members rejoicing and congratulating the couple during our tea gathering.

In moments like these, we are reminded that celebrations are testimonies of God's faithfulness. When we come together to celebrate life's milestones, we declare that our God is with us in both times of joy and sorrow.

As we embark on this new Connexional year, which centres on the theme of Sorrow and Joy, may we remember that joy is never diminished by sorrow but rather intensified through it. As stated in Philippians 4:4, "Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I will say, Rejoice!" This verse calls us to remain anchored in Christ, for He is our source of true joy that surpasses circumstances.

Celebrations are not merely personal milestones; they are opportunities to affirm community bonds and the shared journey of faith. As theologian N.T. Wright famously expressed, "The joy of the resurrection reflects a community bursting with life." When we celebrate, we cultivate a spirit of unity and gratitude that honours our shared history and our collective futures in Christ.

I encourage each of you to come forward and share your celebration dates with our congregation. Whether it is anniversaries, births, or other significant moments, these celebrations remind us that God's presence fills our lives with hope and joy. As we continue to walk together in faith, let us cherish our successes and support one another through challenges, knowing that our God is forever with us. Rejoice, for joy will always triumph over sorrow.

Rev Saul Tadzaushe Woodbridge Methodist Church Minister.

WOODBIDGE FAMILY NEWS

As I start to write this, I look outside and see brown grass and Barry furiously watering the flowers and veg patch, what a very dry and hot summer we have had so far.

As normal my news will start with my own family, my eldest Kevin married Meg at the end of April, a small family wedding held at Monkey World in Dorset; with a big party to be held in the middle of September in Stafford. My youngest Richard and his fiancée Abby will be married in October in Cyprus.



Barry's family in New Zealand have now bought a house, so we are looking forward to staying there when we go over in December. Paul did go and see that Spurs match when they were playing in Auckland.

Allan and Rad are now proud grandparents, with the birth of Violet Grace. Jenni and Mark Beesley celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at the end of July and had it blessed in church, they really don't look old enough. Congratulations to Terry & Jackie Shipham who celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in August.



We have had some big birthdays recently, Sheila Batty was 90 in August, Joan Bingham was 95, and of course our Ron was 100 in July. Ron played a round of golf on his Birthday, with his boys and was interviewed on the local news. He had a party in the evening with many friends. I believe he had a surprise meal with friends from the Rotary club and of course he had a meal with us after the service on the Sunday.

It was lovely to catch up with Peter and Joyce recently, as it is always lovely to hear from those who have moved away.

A message/update from Mike and Joy Porter.

I look back on my time with all at WMC with great fondness - yes, it was stressful at times - but always having that underlying feeling of being cared for and upheld works wonders. We have certainly been fortunate in finding a church here with a very similar attitude and it also has a sizeable congregation with a medium-sized Junior Church and thriving Girls' Brigade company too. We are on the coffee rota already and will slowly be drawn into the 'workings' as time goes on. We have been quite busy at home, we completed the removal of the back 'hedge' - a row of 14, twenty-foot tall leylandii trees, the smaller branches of which, together with one beech tree and two each of Berberis and Cotoneaster that had grown in among the leylandii and made dealing with them even more prickly, have all been chopped

small and taken to the recycling centre! I now have a 60-foot long, 12-foot high, beach hedge at the side to 'trim' back a few feet as it had been left to overgrow, so that will keep me out of mischief for a few weeks to come.

Diana Luxmoore is looking forward to the wedding of her daughter Catherine in Bury St Edmunds in September.

Fifty years ago a young married couple moved from abroad to Woodbridge. The young man taught physics at Farlingaye HS, which had a school role of 410 and no sixth form. His wife went on to work briefly for GRE insurance. They joined our church as Revd Leonard Oliver began his ministry. They have enjoyed worshipping and serving the community with six (all quite different) ministers. WMC had a ten-person choir then and one local preacher sat on the steps of the organ at the back. Lads from the HMP borstal came to services. Doreen Bishop, whose father stoked the coal-fired boiler in the cellar on Sunday mornings, has written knowledgeably about the changes in the building and congregations. Audrey Robertson has written the Church History.

Woodbridge has seen many changes: traffic, including double decker buses, flowed along the Thoroughfare both ways; the Framfield House surgery was in the eponymous house on the corner near the church; Notcutts was the largest town employer; BT employees were moving from Dollis Hill in NW London and the Martlesham Heath village was in its infancy; Sizewell A was generating power; the British Museum had excavated mounds on the Sutton Hoo site. If you can guess who the young couple were, they will treat you to a coffee/tea and a piece of cake after worship at the end of September.

A date for your diary, Saturday 26th September at 7pm by the Ipswich Community Wind Band, the Concert will feature the music of The Golden Age of Stage and Screen, with selections from My Fair Lady and Carousel alongside other selections/medleys of film/show music.

Diane Giffard

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

We are not alone! All churches are raising money for the fabric or for projects in their community or further afield. The Historic Churches Cycle Ride takes place on Saturday 12th September when cyclists of all ages will be riding longer or shorter distances, sponsored by their churches to raise money for this organisation. Half the money raised comes back to the participating churches. The rest goes to help projects, where costs would be out of reach by small congregations especially in our villages or the major churches in our towns and cities. Thank you to everyone who has sponsored me again this year.

This year our major fundraising project at Woodbridge was the refurbishment of the Ladies' Toilet. Many people and organisations use our church and it is good to be able to offer the ladies a bright and clean venue.

As you read this our Minister Saul will be shortly returning from his month long stay in his home country, Zimbabwe. We look forward to hearing all about this trip where he will have enjoyed seeing family and friends and taking part in local church events.

The Community Garden in Bedza, Buhera

Land belonging to the Community is used for growing essential crops to supply families there. Recent droughts linked to Climate Change have made it increasingly difficult for folk, and our church sent money to help them buy drought resistant seeds. Earlier in the year we saw some wonderful videos of the seeds being sown there. We hope to have news of the harvest soon. Up to 40 people, mainly women, work all day out in the heat, some having walked several miles to reach the Community Garden from their homes. There are no toilet facilities in this remote location, and our church agreed to help with that too.

The Blair Toilet, invented in Zimbabwe

This was developed by Dr Peter Morgan at the Blair Institute in Zimbabwe and since 1975 has transformed the facilities for millions of people in rural locations there and is used in many other African countries. The Blair Toilet has a specially designed vent pipe and a fly screen which make a safe facility reducing odours, and preventing disease, housed inside a basic shed structure.

Whilst in Zimbabwe Saul will send our greetings and hand over our signed card to the folk at the Garden. He will dedicate the toilet provided by Woodbridge Methodist Church which will be a basic yet wonderful facility for all who work there. Thank you to everyone who has supported this. It's not too late to help, as we have yet to cover the full cost, and we hope to have a World Church event soon, with information and photos, and further donations will be gratefully received.

Helen Lewis



Seb Soames

Chancellor of the University of Suffolk and Classic FM Radio Presenter

Faith has been part of Seb Soames's life since early on. His family have lived in Lowestoft for generations, and his father, an accountant, was a Methodist lay preacher before becoming a minister. As is the lot of clergy children, from an early age Seb was thrust into adult social situations, when his peers would have been able to escape back into their own world.

"I was a very shy boy, but, paradoxically, wanted to be a performer, because I found confidence in being other people. I would get terribly shy if I was asked to be myself in front of people. Reading in church, I used to get terribly nervous, but that would have been my first experience of public speaking. And there's nothing more addictive or rewarding than entertaining grown-ups when you're a child."

He describes life as part of a "large family" as "at least eight around the Christmas table. I used to put on little puppet shows and magic shows at Christmas; so I very much got the performing bug at home, and was encouraged. At church, we were always encouraged as children to sit with other members of the congregation; so we formed friendships with much older people. All my life, I've been very grateful for the friendships of older people. I've always been an old soul."

Monty

Suffolk Historic Churches Ride and Stride

Saturday 12th September

If you would like to take part or support this annual event, you can in several ways.

Firstly, you might like to ride your bicycle (or walk) to visit the many churches around Suffolk – for a sponsor form and the list of the churches, please ask a steward or take a form from my pigeon hole.

Secondly, you could welcome the cyclists to our church by signing them in.

Finally, we would welcome and thank anyone who would like to sponsor Helen Lewis – our keen cyclist.



Many thanks
Helen Peats

NEWS YOU MAY HAVE MISSED

Donald Trump unveiled an AI-generated video of his planned presidential library last week. The 47-floor glass skyscraper, to be built on public land in downtown Miami, will apparently feature a golden entrance arch, a golden escalator, an Air Force One 747 in the lobby, a replica of the Oval Office – and a huge golden statue of Trump holding up his fist in a defiant salute. There was no sign of any books; Trump said that he didn't want to build a museum, and that "it's going to be most likely a hotel". Eric Trump said the edifice would be a "lasting testament" to "an amazing developer, and the greatest president our nation has ever known". Not everyone was impressed. The Miami Herald called it an "ego tower"; Whoopi Goldberg called it a "giant penis". California governor Gavin Newsom said that Trump's "dictator chic" looked "awfully familiar", tweeting pictures of golden statues of Mao and Kim Jong Il.



An archivist at Morley College London started clearing out a box earlier this month – and found what turned out to be a previously unknown score by Ralph Vaughan Williams. Written when he was in his 20s, *Before the Mirror* is a song set to a poem by Algernon Charles Swinburne. It's not clear how it ended up at the adult education college, near Waterloo, but Vaughan Williams gave lectures there, and his friend Gustav Holst was its musical director from 1907 to 1924.

An 86-year-old retired accountant has become the oldest person in Britain ever to donate a kidney. Graham Sisson was 84 when he decided to give the organ to his son-in-law. Ian Tonks had had a transplant 12 years earlier, but the organ had started to decline in 2018. He was put back on the transplant list in 2019, and when he failed to find a donor, Sisson stepped in. "I'm thrilled to bits to see Ian's life change," he said, "but others seem to think it's a bigger thing than I do." Tonks said that "no gift in the world" matches what he did.

A humanoid robot, draped in a saffron robe, was initiated into a Buddhist order in South Korea last week. Leaders of the Jogye Order, which is struggling with falling participation rates, said it made sense to have robot monks, as robots are "becoming part of our community".

It wasn't all bad

Back in the first century, Pliny the Elder referred to the way onions make people cry; and ever since, cooks have found novel ways – from dunking their onions in water to wearing goggles – to stop themselves weeping. Now, though, a food company in Japan is marketing a variety that, when cut, does not release the enzymes that lead to tears. The Smile Ball – which is so sweet it can be eaten raw – costs about 70 pence per bulb; but it's not clear if it is coming to the UK.

THE WEEK 7 March 2026

A rare copy of the first poem ever written down in Old English has been found at the National Central Library in Rome. The transcription of *Caedmon's Hymn* – a short verse attributed to an illiterate 7th century Northumbrian cowherd – was spotted by researchers in Ireland as they examined the digitised pages of a 9th century manuscript copy of Bede's *Ecclesiastical History of the English People*. Only two older copies of the poem have survived.

THE WEEK 23 May 2026

THE WEEK 16 May 2026

OCTAGON BUILDING TEAM



**We can identify most of the team on this photo,
But can you identify the six folk, A to F, please?
Speak to Monty, please.**

Ipswich Community Wind Band



THE GOLDEN AGE OF STAGE & SCREEN

CHARITY | 7 PM
CONCERT | DOORS OPEN
6.30PM

CONDUCTED BY TOM RUMBOLD

SEPTEMBER 26TH

WOODBIDGE
METHODIST
CHURCH,
IP12 1PE

CASH & CHEQUE DONATIONS FOR
CHURCH REPAIRS ARE REQUESTED

www.ipswichcommunitywindband.org.uk

CIRCUIT CELEBRATION *Service*

Sunday 6th September

11 am

Northgate High School

Sidegate Lane, Ipswich

IP4 3DL

Plenty of parking!



**Worship.....Music.....
Celebration**



Preacher: Revd Helen Hollands
Coming together in God's Name

VISIT TO St MARY'S THE VIRGIN, OTLEY

Most of you will know that one of our organists Helen Jay plays not only in our church but also in some other smaller Anglican churches, including Swilland (every third Sunday), plus Burgh, Ashbocking, Clopton, Hasketon and Grundisburgh from time to time. She plays for St Mary's, Otley on the first Sunday in the month. Helen had told me about some of the unusual features of this church in Otley, the village where she used to live before moving to Woodbridge.

At her invitation, alongside the PCC, the Sandwood House Group visited this lovely Gothic style church, dating from the 13th Century but with some 20th Century alterations. The church has a four-storey Tower with a brick battlement parapet. The views are across to Sizewell B and the Port of Felixstowe.

Before we began our tour, Helen played the organ to accompany a hymn chosen by our group, giving us a feel for its melodious power and distinctive pipe organ sound. A clear, concise introduction to the history and main features of the church was given by James Hall, Reader and former Diocesan Registrar. There were several interesting memorials, although the nave and traditional font are devoid of medieval decoration, the mutilation of which began under Henry VIII, accelerated by the Lord Protector's "Smasher" Dowsing. The hammer beam angels have lost their wings and their heads have been sawn off. One long oak beam now decorates a neighbour's home.

The most remarkable feature of the church is a Baptistry on the north side of the church with a concrete, adult full-immersion (2 ft 8" water depth), oval font with two stone steps down and a separate dry area for the officiating minister. Three of our group had experienced full-immersion baptism in their previous churches, two of them twice.

The church has a small, purpose-built kitchen and two Otley church members, Ruthie and Sharon, had volunteered to provide refreshments to accompany the picnics which we had brought. Rad, in her inimitable generous way, baked a cake and brought strawberries and cherries. An interesting perspective came from our South Africans Tonie and Cornelia, and Tariro: South African churches are not very old. We all felt a sense of history and gratitude that this church was being well looked after and continues its service to the community and worship over 950 years. The first rector was Thomas de Hastings in 1279 and worship continues in this building to the present day.

Thank you to Helen, James, Sharon and Ruthie, and to all the House Group who braved the inclement weather to arrange this most interesting visit.

RMG

Hanging 32 Striplights

Just to let you know if you were not already aware, on Friday 10th July at 7.30am Barry and I were at Church awaiting delivery of a Scaffolding Tower that we were going to use to replace the Striplights in the Octagon.

The Scaffolding Tower had been organised via Diane and they erected it for us and they were finished by 8am.

Barry was up the Tower as per photo below, removing the Covers, Striplights, Starters and handing them down to me, ie the Covers, Striplights and dropping the Starters, which I proceeded to catch, not all the time though, which made it light-hearted. I then proceeded to wash the Covers, hand New Striplights, Starters and washed Covers to Barry and then when that section was completed, Barry climbed down the Tower, we moved the Tower, as on wheels, to the next section and then the whole process repeated itself.

After an hour or so of working, we had a break and had Coffee and Bacon Butties which was good and gave us a chance to assess the work that had been done.

Once we had completed the top row of Striplights, we had to partially disassemble the scaffolding tower, which I did with Barry's help, so that we could then reach the lower row of striplights and then the whole process repeated itself again.

We did have several drinks breaks and a coffee and biscuit break and we finished about 1pm, well maybe a little after that.

We then proceeded to dismantle the Scaffolding Tower, which I did, being up the Tower, passing the bits to Barry ready for collection, which we proceeded to help with, once the driver with the truck had arrived and we were finished by 1.45pm.

Barry and I had been at Church for just over 6 hours.

Barry and Chris



Sunday Preachers

September

6th – No service at WMC, Circuit Service at Northgate High School

13th – Local Arrangement

20th – Stephen Bolton

27th – John Anthony – Harvest

October

4th – Local Arrangement

11th – Rev Guy Goodhall

18th – Rev Paulson Devasahayam

25th – Roger Theobald

November

1st – Rev Saul Tadzaushe – Communion

8th – Paul Walker

15th – Bryan Nichols

22nd – Local Arrangement Café Worship

29th – Liz Cope

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

September

- 6th – Circuit Service at Northgate High School
- 12th – Ride and Stride
- 26th – Ipswich Community Wind Band Concert
- 27th – Harvest Festival Service

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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Please Note: Saul's day off is on Fridays

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N.B. Items for the October WMM must be in no later than
13/09/2026

Please email to Brian Crowe at:

wmclink.articles@gmail.com

