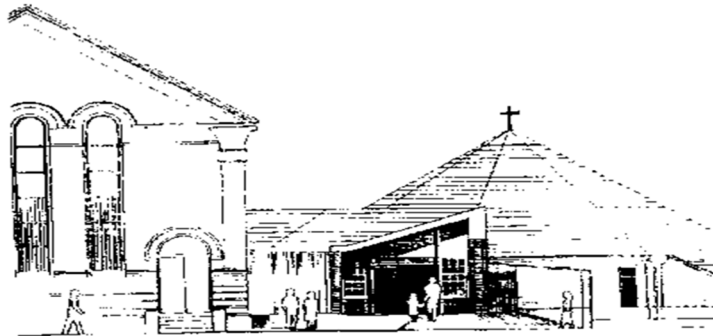


WOODBRI METHODIST MUSINGS



October 2026



Message from Our Minister

An Encouragement and Theological Reflection for Woodbridge Methodist Church Minister's Message.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I am grateful for the opportunity to share a word of encouragement with the Woodbridge Methodist Church family. My time among you has been filled with many joys, meaningful relationships and opportunities to serve God. I thank God for the fellowship, worship, prayers and kindness that I have experienced in this church. I shall always take Woodbridge Methodist church as my first home in the UK. My long holiday in Zimbabwe was really impressed with the way you were doing things with other Ministers especially Vivienne our circuit superintendent.

At the same time, our extended family has experienced the sadness of funerals and the pain of losing loved ones. These experiences remind us that life contains both celebration and mourning. As Christians, we do not deny grief, but we face it with the hope we have in Jesus Christ, who is the resurrection and the life. In times of sorrow, the church becomes a family that carries one another through prayer, presence and practical support.

I also give thanks for the gift of good health in my father, who is now ninety-seven years old and does not take any medication. I am equally thankful for Tariro's mother, who only takes tablets for high blood pressure and continues to feel strong. These are reasons to praise God, while also remembering that good health is a gift entrusted to us for responsible living and service.

My month-long holiday in Zimbabwe was a valuable and memorable experience. It gave me the opportunity to reconnect with family, observe the beauty of the country and see more clearly the challenges facing many communities. One important area of concern is the progress of the community gardening project.

The project is becoming increasingly significant as the number of participants continues to grow. This is especially important because the country has experienced a serious drought this year.

The gardening project is more than an agricultural activity. It is a practical expression of Christian mission. It promotes food security, dignity, cooperation and hope. It serves people without denominational or political discrimination, reflecting Christ's call to love our neighbours without boundaries. The project still needs a shed, fencing and either a large water tank or another borehole. These are not merely building requirements; they are essential investments in the wellbeing, sustainability and dignity of the community.

The community gardening project people are so grateful for the construction of the toilet. We shall hear more about the toilet through Helen who is working closely with the community and the local Minister.

This ministry also reminds us of our responsibility as stewards of God's creation. The land, water and people entrusted to us must be protected and wisely managed. In a time of drought and economic hardship, community gardening offers a witness that faith must relate to practical action. Prayer is essential, but prayer also leads us to respond to human need.

I want to thank the church leaders for their exceptional coordination, commitment and spirit of teamwork during my long holiday in Zimbabwe. Through the minutes, I have been able to see evidence of the work being undertaken and the care given to the life of the circuit. I also thank you for attending the circuit service in such large numbers and for providing the congregation with tea and cakes. These acts of hospitality strengthen fellowship and demonstrate the welcoming ministry of the church.

I am deeply grateful that you have given me another two years to work for the Lord in this circuit. I receive this responsibility with humility and renewed commitment. Ministry is not the work of one person; it is a shared calling. When leaders and congregations work together in unity, the church becomes a

stronger instrument of God's mission.

I encourage you to continue praying for all those who are unwell, for families experiencing bereavement and for those facing hardship. Let us also pray for our partnership with Buhera Circuit, particularly for the community gardening project. May this partnership grow in trust, generosity and practical cooperation.

The people of the community would greatly appreciate visits from members of Woodbridge Methodist Church. Such visits could also be combined with a holiday, allowing visitors to experience the beauty of Zimbabwe while sharing fellowship and encouragement with the community. In this way, travel can become an opportunity for mission, learning and mutual blessing.

May God continue to guide Woodbridge Methodist Church, strengthen its leaders, bless its people and make it a faithful witness to Christ through worship, compassion, justice and service.

To God be the glory.

Every blessing

Revd Saul Tadzaushe, Woodbridge Methodist church Minister.

WOODBIDGE FAMILY NEWS

The severe hot temperatures have now abated, and we have had some welcome rain. (I think that I must be one of the few people who didn't welcome the rain – my ball will no longer roll on the fairway and my scores in golf will once again become rather low!) I hope that many of you were able to take advantage of the sunshine and have time away. Derek and I managed a couple of days here and there in Suffolk. It confirmed our belief that we are lucky to live in such a beautiful county. Some of our members managed to escape the heat and travel to Scotland. Derek and I did that last year and we took a picture of a roaring fire in our hotel, during the heatwave in England! Tariro and Saul have been able to fly home to Zimbabwe this summer. They enjoyed driving around to attend and enjoy large family gatherings.

Pam and Stephen Caley will have been remembering the heat of 1976 as they celebrated their golden wedding anniversary. They celebrated with an Agape service and lunch. (An Agape service goes back to early Christianity - but for us from John Wesley's time and more so as a 'Love feast' used when not enough ordained minister for Holy Communion.)

Sheila Batty was able to come out of hospital for two hours to celebrate her 90th birthday. Her daughter Debbie organised a lunch for family and friends in Squadron House. Sheila enjoyed her day and is now pleased to be back home.

For once there was no service at our church on 6th September. This was due to a circuit service held at Northgate School. Rad and her husband Alan attended, along with about 200 others! Her complete article will be separate from here but a snippet: *The service begins and Vivienne greets us All, as we sing the first hymn. And the united voices sing it beautifully, I sense the presence of the Holy Spirit and His angels joining us!!! After a few announcements, Helen speaks her sermon and it IS beyond excellence. It's from John 13: 34-35, John 15:12, 17, Love one another as I have loved you and John 5: 6-15, Love your neighbour as yourselves!!! Great*

Bible verses, to live by, take it to our hearts and hide it there, as we welcomed in a new connexional year. Great content and delivery by Helen, giving us an encouraging and joyful time together.

On 12th September we once again found Helen Lewis on her bike, riding around the countryside raising funds for Suffolk Historical Churches. I think it is now called "Ride and Stride" so walkers can join in too!

As some of you are aware I have a Macmillan fund raising event each year. It was my 25th year this year and quite poignant as we are using their services ourselves now. Despite the rain many people supported me. Thank you to all who donated money and tombola prizes and to those who came along on the day. A special thank you to David and Sandra who manned the Tombola stand for a large part of the time. Thank you, David, for also helping the day before to label all the prizes. I may still receive more donations, but up to date, my total stands at £1,037. This is fantastic. Helen, our daughter, came along to help on the day. Her employers, Barclays, will now match the amount 50% so another £500 to be added.

Please put Saturday 26th September in your diaries for Ipswich Community Wind Band Concert Conducted by Tom Rumboldt at our church. Doors open at 6:30. Title of the music is THE GOLDEN AGE OF STAGE & SCREEN There will be a raffle, (cash only.)

Derek and I really appreciate your thoughts and prayers at this worrying time. Derek's treatment will be ongoing for some time to come but we remain optimistic for a positive outcome.

Deirdre

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. All about our Eco Project!

You will be delighted to hear a little about Rev. Saul's recent visit to Zimbabwe, along with Tariro for part of the time. Here you see him giving the card we all signed to Rev. Surupu with greetings to the church at the Bedza Community. We are grateful to him for overseeing the Toilet project for us.

On the Sunday Saul preached at the service where you see a large congregation of all ages including many children.

The ladies are wearing a uniform to go to church. This is a traditional practice in many churches in Africa.



Below you will see two views of the completed toilets which will make such a big difference to everyone working all day in the Community Garden.



Helen Lewis

Helen

Circuit Service 6th September, a Reflection by Rad

I woke early that Sunday morning, with joy in my heart, but this day was somehow different, there was excitement, mingled with happiness. And outside, it's a clear sunny day, light breeze in the air, perfect weather.

It was the morning of Sunday, 6th Sept. 2026, and this was the day I was so looking forward to, ever since I learned of this Circuit meeting.

After breakfast I dress quickly and prepare fully for the day ahead, with a simple prayer: "Father God, let it Be a great day, one of Praising and Worshiping your Holy Name, being together in unity. Thank you, Lord Jesus, Amen".

By 9.45am I am already in the car, driving to the home of a dear sister-in-Christ, of which I am delighted to call a friend. Together we head to Northgate school. As we arrive around 10.30am, we are kindly shown to a parking area, by a welcoming smile of our parking attendant.

As we leave the car, we observe a crowd heading to the entrance, among them we recognise dear brothers and sisters from our circuit churches. In the courtyard, just before the entrance we are greeted by two great ladies: our very own Superintendent: Rev Vivienne Smith and our District Chair and the Speaker for the day: Rev Helen Holland. Both ladies warmly greet All that passed by them.

The entrance is a little busy, nearly congested, but we are shown to our seats. As we wait for the Service to start, we observe that the room is nearly full, only few seats left, scattered around with only one or two available, and yet at the door there are still people waiting to be seated. My husband, being an accountant, does a quick reconning and exclaims: "By my quick estimate, I think we may well be over 200, maybe even 250 people here". "Great!" I reply and smile with a satisfying thanks to our God!!

The service begins and Vivienne greets us All, as we sing the first hymn. And the united voices sing it beautifully, I sense the presence of the Holy Spirit and His angels joining us!!! After a few announcements, Helen speaks her sermon and it IS beyond excellence. It's from John 13: 34-35, John 15:12, 17, Love one another

as I have loved you and John 5: 6-15, Love your neighbour as yourselves!!! Great Bible verses, to live by, take it to our hearts and hide it there, as we welcomed in a new connexional year. Great content and delivery by Helen, giving us an encouraging and joyful time together.

After the sermon, Helen congratulated Margaret Gooderham and Stephen Bolton, who received their 40 Year Certificates, for serving as Local Preachers, in our churches. A roaring applause followed and we were delighted to be part of it. This was followed by Vivienne, who presented Luke Rokobuli, as he begins his Diaconate training at Queens. We continue to pray for Luke and wish him well on his training journey.

At the meeting we had a great orchestra, musicians from different churches, who played beautifully and led the rousing singing, as we raised the roof to: "And Can It Be"!! So many voices singing Praise to our amazing God, it was a site to behold. The hall was totally full, with even extra chairs brought in to accommodate us all. If you did not come, please plan to come next time, as this was a time not to be missed. Our God always shows up, when we are together, it's not the building that makes a church, but His people, as in Matthew 18: 20 NIV, "For where two or three are gathered in my Name, there am I with them".

After the service, warm greetings were exchanged between friends, sisters- and brothers-in Christ and no one appeared to be in a hurry to leave. Warm sunshine and cool refreshments kept us together in light conversation, and yet ready for home, in the knowledge, that day we met together with God.

Every Blessings

From the one who attended

All Saints' Day

As some people are not comfortable with celebrating Halloween, I have found this about the day after, All Saints' Day.

All Saints' Day is a Christian holy day celebrated in honour of all the saints of the Church, whether they are known or unknown.

From the 4th century, feasts commemorating all Christian martyrs were held in various places, on various dates near Easter and Pentecost. In the 9th century, some churches in the British Isles began holding the commemoration of all saints on November 1, and in the 9th century this was extended to the whole Catholic Church by Pope Gregory IV.

In Western Christianity, it is celebrated on November 1 by the Roman Catholic Church as well as by many Protestant Churches, such as the Lutheran, Anglican, and Methodist traditions. With respect to its festal ranking, All Saints' Day is a solemnity in Catholicism and a festival in Lutheranism. The Eastern Orthodox Church and associated Eastern Catholic and Eastern Lutheran churches celebrate it on the first Sunday after Pentecost. The Syro-Malabar Church and the Chaldean Catholic Church, both of which are in communion with Rome, as well as the Church of the East, celebrate All Saints' Day on the first Friday after Easter Sunday. In the Coptic Orthodox tradition, All Saints' Day is on Nayrouz, celebrated on September 11. The day is the start of the Coptic new year, and of its first month, Thout.

In the Western Christian practice, the liturgical celebration begins with its first vespers on the evening of October 31, All Hallows' Eve (All Saints' Eve or Hallowe'en), and ends at the compline of November 1. It is thus the day before All Souls' Day, which commemorates the faithful departed. In many traditions, All Saints' Day is part of the season of Allhallowtide, which includes the three days from October 31 to November 3 inclusive, as well as the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church (held on the first Sunday of November), and in some Christian denominations, such as Anglicanism, extends to Remembrance Sunday.

Anglican and Methodist observances

In the Church of England, mother church of the Anglican Communion, it is a Principal Feast and may be celebrated either on November 1 or on the Sunday between October 30 and November 5. It is also celebrated by other Protestants, such as the United Church of Canada and various Methodist connexions. Protestants generally commemorate all Christians, living and deceased, on All Saints' Day; if they observe All Saints' Day at all, they use it to remember all Christians both past and present. In the United Methodist Church, All Saints' Day is celebrated on the first Sunday in November. It is held not only to remember Saints but also members of the local church congregation who have died. In some congregations, a candle is lit by the Acolyte as each person's name is called out by the clergy. Prayers and responsive readings may accompany the event.

Source Wikipedia

Brian



"It's a plague – don't overthink it. Just grab a frog and throw."



"Are these hydration breaks really for gladiator welfare, or is there a commercial motive?"

NEWS YOU MAY HAVE MISSED

A multi-Covid vaccine

Scientists have developed a vaccine with the potential to protect against a range of coronaviruses. Traditional vaccines use a single antigen to create an immune response against one virus, but the new one contains antigens from eight coronaviruses, including some that are circulating in bats and pangolins that could one day infect people. Parts of these antigens are also found in other coronaviruses, and so the protection the jab provides is extremely broad. In tests on mice, it induced an immune response to SARS-CoV-1, which was responsible for the 2003 Sars outbreak, though it didn't contain proteins from that virus. The hope is that it could also work on viruses that have yet to emerge. "Our focus is to create a vaccine that will protect us against the next coronavirus pandemic and have it ready before the pandemic has even started," said Rory Hills, of the University of Cambridge.

A ground-penetrating radar has revealed the outlines of a large Roman complex in Glamorgan that archaeologists say has the potential to be "Port Talbot's Pompeii". The site lies in a deer park at Margam that has never been ploughed, raising hopes that, when it is excavated, archaeologists will find intricate mosaics and other Roman artefacts. The complex, which was surrounded by fortifications, appears to have included a 572-square-metre villa, with two wings, and what may have been a meeting hall for visiting dignitaries.

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Statistic of the week

Some 40,000 children were suspended for physically assaulting staff at state primary schools in England in 2023/24, up from 19,000 in 2018/19. In secondary schools, the number has gone up from around 5,700 in 2018/19 to 16,000.

The Times/DfE

It wasn't all bad

A mystery benefactor left a trail of donations worth at least £70,000 in eight churches across Lancashire – as well as in one primary school. The donor, who identified himself only as "James, a servant of the Living God", left caches of gold coins in a series of churches; he is believed to be a biker who enjoyed visiting them. The donations were made in 2022 but have only just come to light. The gifts were used to fund vital repairs; the school bought whiteboards for its pupils.

THE WEEK 18 July 2026

Sunday Preachers

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

3rd Monday – 6:45 – 7:45pm ~ Woodbridge Labour Party**Tuesday – weekly**

8:00 – 9:00am ~ AA

1:30 – 4:30pm ~ Britten Pears Art Org

6:30 – 7:30pm ~ AA

7:00 – 8:00pm ~ Creative Writing

7:00 – 8:00pm ~ Church

6:45 – 8:45pm ~ Gateway (Term Time)

Music Group

Wednesday – weekly

7:30 – 8:30pm ~ AA

1st Wednesday 10:00am-12:00pm ~ Woodbridge Shire WI1st Wednesday – 7:00pm ~ Stewards Meeting2nd Wednesday – 7:00 – 9:00pm ~ WI**Thursday – weekly**

9:15 – 10:30am ~ Yoga

12:30 – 1:30pm ~ AA

7:00 – 9:00pm ~ Love to Sing

10:00-11:30am Parent & Toddler

1st Thursday – 7:30 – 10:00pm ~ Sutton House Group3rd 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

October

17th Love to Sing Concert 7.00pm

22nd Church Council 7.00pm

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

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 November WMM must be in no later than
11/10/2026

Please email to Brian Crowe at:

wmclink.articles@gmail.com

