

WOODBRI METHODIST MUSINGS



November 2026



Message from Our Minister

Moses had been on Mount Sinai for forty days. The Israelites became anxious because he had not returned. They could not see Moses, and they struggled to trust the God who had delivered them. So, they asked Aaron to make a golden calf—a god they could see, touch, and control.

Their greatest failure was not simply impatience. It was forgetting. They forgot that the God who had opened the Red Sea was still present on the mountain. They confused delay with abandonment.

That temptation is still with us. When prayers seem unanswered, when the church becomes smaller, or when the future appears uncertain, we may wonder whether God is still working. But God's silence is not His absence, and delay is not denial.

Theologian Walter Brueggemann describes biblical faith as learning to trust God's promise when present circumstances seem to contradict it. That is precisely the challenge Israel faced. They had to choose between trusting God's promise and creating something they could control.

Consider this simple illustration:

A farmer planted an orchard, but for several seasons the trees produced no fruit. His neighbours told him to cut them down. "They are taking up space," they said. But the farmer continued to water, prune, and protect them. One spring, after a long winter, the trees blossomed. The fruit had not appeared because the farmer had stopped working. The roots had been growing beneath the surface. Faith is often like that. God may be working in ways we cannot yet see.

An ageing church may feel like it has lost the energy and influence of earlier years. Yet its ministry is not finished. Every prayer, every visit,

every word of wisdom, and every act of kindness continues to bear spiritual fruit.

Simeon and Anna were elderly, but they were still watching, worshipping, and waiting. Their years had not made them irrelevant. Their patience had given them spiritual vision, and they recognized Jesus when He came.

Moses also shows us the power of intercession. While Israel was turning away from God, Moses was praying for them. He did not excuse their sin, but he appealed to God's mercy and covenant.

This is a vital calling for an ageing church. It may not have the strength it once had, but it can still become a praying church—standing before God for families, communities, and future generations.

C. S. Lewis wrote, "Relying on God has to begin all over again every day." That is the discipline Israel had forgotten and the discipline we must recover.

When the answer is delayed, wait a bit longer.

When the church feels weak, pray a bit longer.

When the future is unclear, trust God a bit longer.

Do not build a golden calf because God has not yet fulfilled His promise. Keep worshipping. Keep praying. Keep serving. The church may be ageing, but God is not finished. The promise may seem delayed, but the Promiser remains faithful. God is still at work beneath the surface. Wait for a bit longer.

Let us pray for our church and all its members.

Saul

WOODBIDGE FAMILY NEWS

Welcome back to Saul and Tariro after their visit to Zimbabwe. It is so good to know that they were able to be with the church and their family. You will have seen the photos in last month's Musings of the celebrations on the completion of the Toilet Project in the Bedza Community Garden. All they need is a handwashing facility for that. I have sent details of a simple design which they could make themselves if they wished, using a simple wooden stand, a Jerry can of water and a foot pedal. Our Church Council will have met again by the time you read this and we will consider whether to support the Bedza Community again for further improvements.

Last month we told you about Sheila Batty's 90th Birthday. Now we have a lovely photo too!



We continually pray for Derek, Dela, Stephen and anyone else we know who needs our prayers. Terry is happily settled in the Rendlesham Care Home, and Jackie enjoys visiting him there.

We celebrated Harvest on 27th September, led by John Anthony, and Helen Peats and helpers provided a delicious lunch

afterwards. Our donations, along with those of other churches are sent to support the Salvation Army Food Bank. The following week the service included a presentation by Laura Wright from Christians Against Poverty. Helen Peats also works with her. It's good to know that these organisations help people beyond the local or national government help they receive. We can all pray for this work too and the people who benefit. Just ask Helen to add you to her list of supporters.

Earlier in September we also heard from Caroline Sullivan about the work of Just 42, another Christian Organisation with much needed Youth Groups all over Suffolk. On 1st November we shall have our first Service (Communion) led by our own Minister Saul since his return from Zimbabwe. We look forward to hearing all about his visit.

Our Church is an ideal venue for local Concerts too. On 26th September the Ipswich Community Band gave a concert of music from Stage and Screen which was much enjoyed. 'Love To Sing' will serenade us on 17th October.

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. All about our Eco Project!

We are so delighted, as reported last month, that the Bedza Community Garden Toilet is completed and in use.



They still need a handwashing facility and I sent them details of a simple idea developed in Kenya by this nine year old in the photo for sites without running water. The Bedza community may not think this is good enough, but my son easily made one for Grundisburgh folk outside and safe to use during the Covid Pandemic.

It is a low cost design made with a simple stand. A jerry can hung on it by a string is linked to a foot pedal by another string. When the foot pedal is pressed it releases a small amount of water for the hands and a piece of soap on another string enables non-touch use to prevent passing on infections.

We could also help with some wire fencing to keep out wild animals, especially goats that enjoy juicy vegetables! In this country we may not have goats invading our gardens, but some of us know all about Muntjak deer and Badgers which eat our flowers and dig for worms!

Helen Lewis

Helen



Suffolk Historic Churches Ride and Stride

Saturday 12th September

Back in September our church doors were opened for the annual Historic Churches Ride and Stride. It was a good day for cycling, and the many cyclists we welcomed to the church arrived with smiles on their faces. It was lovely to see several families out cycling together.

Throughout the day, we again welcomed just over 60 cyclists and walkers; they were greeted by our willing band of volunteers who signed in the many visitors. Thank you, we couldn't open our church without you.



Helen Lewis was our keen cyclist who visited many of the churches between Bawdsey and Woodbridge, stopping at WMC for tea and cake.

A very big thank you to Helen, along with everyone who supported this event – especially those who sponsored her. In total

£300 was raised, of which half of the amount will come back to our church.

We are all very fortunate to have in Suffolk so many places of worship of all denominations that are part of our historic heritage.

Helen Peats



Suffolk Coastal Poverty Action

Churches working in partnership in East Suffolk



Suffolk Coastal Poverty Action is a charity which offers support to people in our Northern Mission Area

Christmas Hampers

Each year we give a Christmas Hamper to all the households that we have worked with during the year. We try to make the hampers as festive and as treat-like as possible, whilst also including some essentials.

Your contributions would be greatly appreciated by Sunday 22nd November to allow time for distribution well before Christmas. Please give any donations to Helen Peats

For example:

Tins of food	Chocolates
Dried goods (rice, pasta,)	Pickles Jams and condiments
Jars (Pasta sauce, curry sauce)	Jams and condiments
Biscuits	Christmas Crackers
Christmas cake	Mince pies
Christmas pudding	Coffee
Yule logs	Tea
Other cake	Squash

Please, no frozen, chilled or fresh food or anything that will go off.

Any questions, please speak to Helen Peats

Come and join our Christmas Carol Service

Readings, Drama and lots of Singing

On Sunday 13th December

At 10:45am



Everyone Welcome

A SAFEGUARDING DISCUSSION - NEWS FROM THE SANDWOOD HOUSE GROUP

The Sandwood House Group has had an interesting year. Alongside a Christmas theatre visit, we have had Bible studies and discussed some important topics, even controversial ones like AI, the Assisted Dying Bill, and in September Safeguarding.

I thought that WMM readers might be interested in how these discussions proceeded. They will be aware that there are a lot of Safeguarding issues in the national news, including very serious concerns at three hospital maternity units.

Three of our group had been on Safeguarding courses in their working lives. Encouraged by our church's Safeguarding Officer, Diane Giffard, I had been on an interesting Methodist District Safeguarding course. One aspect of this course was very clear by the end:

Safeguarding is everybody's responsibility!

Much to our surprise, the House Group session was enjoyed - and valuable in spreading the messages, with contributions from all the members present. After our initial prayers, we discussed confidentially **who in our church circles might be vulnerable**. We then discussed what kind of ways in which vulnerable people, indeed any of us (!), could be subject to a need for Safeguarding to take place - what the tabloid press calls "Attacks". There are many such ways. The District Safeguarding Hand/Workbook included many categories, including: physical abuse, mental, psychological, spiritual and emotional abuse.

Some **serious issues** are comparatively recent, often involving the new social media methods. Also, they have become more prevalent. Teenagers seem particularly subjected to these issues. Some of these forms of abuse have names, words which have only recently been added to our dictionaries! We in the house group had to admit that we had to check the exact meanings on the evening – on the t'internet. These terms included trolling, ghosting and gaslighting. If you haven't come across these, there are some definitions for you at the end of this article.

We finished the session by discussing what **action** one should take if there was **evidence or suspicion of abuse and safeguarding** needing to take place. We finished the evening with a final quiz. I was pleased that all the questions were answered correctly.

Explanatory Definitions

Trolling People are probably familiar with Trolls who spring out and verbally and physically attack passers. This kind of modern abuse is more likely to be by social media messages, often anonymously.

Ghosting This involves ignoring someone, even a friend, who cannot understand why it is taking place.

Gaslighting This abuse involves making a person doubt their memory, perception, sanity, or reality by distorting reality, shifting blame and creating dependency.

The ICWB Charity Concert

If you had asked me when the Ipswich Community Wind Band (ICWB) (with prominent member clarinet player Celia, Stephen Yelland's wife) offered to perform a concert in our church in aid of Project 2026 (the refurbishments of the Ladies toilets), "What exactly is a Wind Band?", I would have not known.

The clue is in the title: any musical instrument which is blown - so what is often called brass instruments (trumpets, cornets, horns, trombones, etc) and also what are termed woodwind instruments (clarinets, saxophones, oboes, etc). So not instruments which need stroking or banging! However, one expert percussionist did join the ICWB for the evening and made a positive contribution to the overall sound.

There was a full house - hardly a spare seat in the Sanctuary with overflows in the balcony. We had many, many positive comments on the concert, including from the 34 Ipswich Community Wind Band members themselves and their energetic and witty conductor, Tom Rumbold. Tom introduced the items on the programme with humour and musical clarity, including anecdotes, which were clearly enjoyed by the audience.

The programme included selections and excellent arrangements from musicals and films, like My Fair Lady, South Pacific and Oliver. Also, compositions by Handel and Shostakovich. And two marches. The Band played wonderfully, a sheer musical treat. There was balance between the various sections and some brilliant individual playing. I have the full programme, if you wish to see it.

Several of our WMC members thanked Tom and the Band personally afterwards. One member said she might even take up playing an instrument, so inspiring was the Wind Band.

Many of our members helped make the evening a success. Especially those who prepared sandwiches, cakes, laying out, serving and washing up. Even our elder son Tom came home to help with pouring the drinks. THANK YOU ALL! Anne Stevenson ran her usual, well organised raffle, which swelled the coffers. Thank you, Anne! Revd Saul gave a heartfelt thank you from the church to the Band and conductor. Tonie Badenhorst helped with the bucket collection at the end. Dankie!

The final total of all donations, including Gift Aid, was **£671.25**. An anonymous donor paid the Band's expenses.

Shall we invite the ICWB again? Next summer?

What do you think of a Methodist MayDay festival in Elmhurst Park!?? Audience bring picnics?

RMG

THREE JOKES

1. Three friends had gathered for a chat. As they were all Christians, Jokers and Engineers, the first friend posed the question: Was God an engineer?

He then explained that he thought that God was an electrical engineer (which he just happened to be).

"Just think about the human brain and the fantastic, high-speed connections, synapses and neurons there". "God designed the human body as the most splendid electrical circuit possible".

The second friend, a mechanical engineer, disagreed. He said, "I think God was a mechanical engineer. Just think how our bodies with their bones, muscles, tendons, cartilage and ligaments are a marvel of mechanical engineering". He then demonstrated by giving the structure of the shoulder, arm and hand as an example.

The third friend said, "No, sorry. You two are both wrong. God was a civil engineer. Who else would put a leisure facility next to a waste management site?".

RMG

2. St Peter was showing some new Methodists around heaven. True to form they were singing hymns at the top of their voices. As they approached a wall, St Peter gesticulated to them that they should whisper.

"The Catholics are on the other side of the wall, and they think they're the only ones here".

RT

3. St Peter was showing two new arrivals around heaven. He took one of them to a modest little building in a valley. It had all the mod cons as they say but was hardly a palace.

The other person he took to a beautiful new bungalow with a swimming pool and overlooking a golf course. This person was surprised by the difference in the new residences. St Peter explained: "The first chap was a Pope and we've lots of those here. You're an investment banker and you're the only one". AB

Message from the Circuit Trustees

I hope this letter finds you well.

Following the Circuit Meeting last week, the Circuit Trustees have asked me to write to you all on their behalf.

Sadly, I reported to the trustees that, over the last twelve months, there have been two occasions when members of staff have received messages that were upsetting and inappropriate — one by text and the other by email.

I am sure we would all agree that this is not acceptable. We may, of course, disagree with one another, and there will sometimes be strongly held views, but our communications with one another should always be kind, courteous and respectful. Disagreement is entirely legitimate; personal abuse, bullying, threatening or intimidating language is not.

The Circuit Meeting agreed that, going forward:

- a) Any such incidents will be recorded, including the date, time and nature of the communication.
- b) Where an inappropriate message is received by mobile phone, the number may be blocked. Where such communication is received by email, it will be retained where appropriate for our records. Circuit staff will not be expected to respond to messages that are abusive, threatening or otherwise inappropriate.
- c) In particularly serious cases, including communications that appear threatening or potentially constitute harassment, the Circuit may consider reporting the matter to the appropriate authorities.

We hope that this will not be necessary and that, whatever our differences of opinion, we can continue to communicate with one another in the spirit of respect, kindness and Christian fellowship.

Every blessing

Rev Viv and all Circuit Trustees



Parish Administrator's Standard Apology Form

Please tick the apology you require and consider it issued. There is no need to telephone to check that I have received your disappointment.

I'm SO sorry that...

- ☐ I understood "the deadline" to include you.
- ☐ Your Sunday morning announcement didn't make it into Friday's printing.
- ☐ I printed the date you supplied, rather than the date you intended.
- ☐ Your notice appeared below the jumble sale, despite your committee's greater standing in the Kingdom of Heaven.
- ☐ I reduced your "short announcement" to something shorter than the Epistle to the Romans.
- ☐ The newsletter contains too much information.
- ☐ The information you require is not in the newsletter. (It actually is. Please look again.)
- ☐ I failed to record the hall booking you mentioned to me in the Co-op last March.
- ☐ Your 'usual room' was allocated to a group who had unusually booked it.
- ☐ I asked you to complete a booking form when you have been coming here for forty years.
- ☐ The minutes recorded what you said, rather than what you now wish you had said.
- ☐ Your name appeared without the title which Jesus so carelessly omitted when calling you by name.
- ☐ I put you on the rota after you said "any time".
- ☐ I failed to interpret "any time" as excluding the dates you haven't told me about.
- ☐ I was on the telephone when you rang to ask why I hadn't answered your email.
- ☐ Your "quick question" coincided with my unreasonable desire to go home.
- ☐ I cannot locate the Vicar. If you find him, please ask him to ring the office. It would be nice to see him.
- ☐ I mistook the parish office for a shared resource, rather than your personal secretariat.



St Faithful's, Havnot
4 HOURS AGO

Judith

Judith M. Crowther

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR'S STANDARD APOLOGY FORM

Since Tim and Lionel's apology forms have proved so useful to The Faithful, I have decided to offer one for use by Parish Administrators. We too, spend a considerable proportion of our working lives apologising for things which could have be... See more

444 42 110

stfaithfuls.com



Sunday Preachers

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

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

November

Sunday 8th – Remembrance Sunday

Saturday 21st – Big Breakfast

Sunday 29th – First Sunday in Advent

December

Sunday 13th – Carol Service

Thursday 10th – Midweek Communion

Saturday 19th – Illuminati Concert

Friday 25th – Christmas Day Worship at 10:00am

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 December/January WMM must be in no later than

08/11/2026

Please email to Brian Crowe at:

wmclink.articles@gmail.com

