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WOODBIDGE



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ORFORD

FRAMLINGHAM



April 2018



MESSAGE FROM THE MANSE

Dear Friends,

JESUS IS RISEN, ALLELUIA!

HE IS RISEN INDEED, ALLELUIA!

This is the traditional Easter response reminding us that Lent is over, Easter has dawned, the tomb is empty and Jesus lives!

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all every blessing in Christ.

Even in the midst of our ordinary, everyday life, may we know his joy and hope underpinning everything we do.

When through unwise words and actions we feel guilt and shame, may it be wiped away by his forgiveness and peace when we turn to him.

When in suffering and anxiety, may we know his healing and reassurance.

When everything seems to be ranged against us, may we know the power of his resurrection life.

In all things, may we know, and share, his limitless and undeserved love.

And may we never forget to give thanks in all circumstances to God, who every day offers us new life in Christ.

For Jesus came that we might have life and have it to the full (Jn 10:10); in his death he achieved his aim, in his resurrection he proved the truth of it.

Christ as a light, illumine and guide me.
Christ as a shield, overshadow me.
Christ under me,
Christ over me,
Christ beside me on my left and on my right.
Each day be within and without me,
lowly and meek yet all-powerful.
Be in the mouth of each to whom I speak,
in the mouth of each who speaks to me.
Christ as a light, illumine and guide me.

Amen.

(a prayer by John Michael Talbot based on St Patrick's Breastplate)

This Easter may we all know the light of the risen Christ filling our hearts and lives that we in our turn may be good news to all, always.

Happy Easter!

WOODBIDGE FAMILY NEWS

As always I wonder what exactly I will write when it is my turn to write the family news, but we are a very active church so before long I managed to find some news! Firstly belated birthday wishes to our Minister Martin who recently had family celebrations for a significant birthday

A Messy Church session took place at the end of February. The theme was the Lost Sheep. Those who were in church on the following Sunday will have seen the various pieces of art work which resulted. We had a small but enthusiastic group of children. I think that the adults enjoyed the craft as much as the children, especially as we always try to include an edible piece of craft!

The choir is busy rehearsing for an afternoon concert at the end of April to enable those who prefer to come out in daylight to enjoy an event. There will be no charge for the concert but donations for a charity, to be decided, will be invited at the end of the concert. It will have a spring theme, and will be on 28th April at 2:30 p.m. in the Octagon. Tea and cakes will be served. (See separate advert for further details.)

On 21st February the ladies of Ladies Forum prepared for the Women's World Day of Prayer. Helen Jay played the piano so that they could learn the new songs and Ann Cogar showed pictures from Suriname and gave the background to this year's service. This worldwide event takes place on the first Friday of March every year. You may remember that week for its weather. The covering of snow and ice made it dangerous for the ladies to get to Quay Church for the service and so, sadly, it was cancelled.

Peter Cogar continues to organise the church walks. They will be held on the fourth Wednesday of each month, generally about 4 miles long and finishing with lunch in a café or pub. For those of you who find walking too much he is proposing to have additional outings on the second Wednesday of each

month to a place of interest with lunch in the same manner as the walks. It will be as a church walk but without the walk, although possibly a short stroll. The two planned are on 9th May and 13th June. If successful more will be planned through the summer.

I am delighted to report once again that we have talent among our congregation and their offspring! Sandra and David Ball are competing in the European Ballroom championships in Blackpool just before Easter. They will be dancing in the fabulous Victorian Winter Gardens. It is an amazing festival full of energetic and talented Europeans who generally beat the British! There are thousands of spectators filling the ballroom and supporting their country. David and Sandra have decided to spread their dancing wings further than the U.K this year. They recently joined the World Dance Sport Federation which entitles them to enter competitions worldwide. Their dream has always been to dance the Viennese Waltz in Vienna city hall, so have entered a three day event in early April. Senior dancers will be there in their hundreds. There will be tough competition and a wonderful opportunity to watch amazing dancing in splendid surroundings.

The Balls are not the only energetic couple. Lois and Brian Ellis have been trekking in Nepal. Brian has sent me an account of the trip which is fascinating. I have included it at the end of this article. Brian and Dianne Clarke continue to play golf well and were rewarded with three trophies after last year's season.

Ex members of our Junior Church have also been busy of late. This time last year we were praying for Andrew Ellis as he was undergoing treatment for cancer. It is therefore fantastic to report that this year he is running in the London marathon and raising money for a children's cancer charity. At the end of December our daughter Helen climbed Kilimanjaro. She must be the only person who had her birthday cake at the summit of Kilimanjaro! She commented that it was the hardest thing that

she has ever done to date but managed it and raised over £2,000 in the process for Just 42. Amy Whittaker, daughter of Alison, gave birth to a healthy 6lbs 14 oz. Jack Peter on 6th February. Her husband is a paramedic working on the offshore platforms. Amanda, daughter of Brian and Sandra Crowe, is expecting her first baby in August. Diane Giffard's daughter, Kerri, is now working in the head office of M & S. In her spare time she has been taking a course in sign language, she is just finishing her level 2. Kerri has been learning with a view to using this in a voluntary capacity. She did manage to use the signing when volunteering in a Crisis shelter over Christmas, and is accompanying two very disabled adults on a holiday in April where she will be using her knowledge.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Easter.

Deidre Rothwell

ORFORD FAMILY NEWS

Love, Prayers & Sympathy to Niall and Liz Higbee in the death of Niall's mum after a fall in her home in Leicester.

Let's hope that the better weather and lighter days will bring better health to many after the usual round of chesty coughs and colds.

A great start to Lent with our Annual Soup & Pancake Lunch for Shrove Tuesday. Local and visiting friends kept us busy consuming plenty of homemade soup and pancakes. Folks enjoyed the event and a handsome sum of money was added to church funds. Many thanks to all.

We sang several Mission Praise songs before and after the informal Toast and Jam service/sing. It was good to have friends from Framlingham United Free Church share with us as several of our people were unable to attend due to illness. Warming toast & jam consumed and cake too on a chilly afternoon – *no tea needed back at home!*

Mothering Sunday Service, themed on and reading Colossians 3 : 12 -14 reminded us all that whatever we do to do it with love for each other. New songs with older hymns helped our thinking and gifts of 'flowers' were given out to all present. After the service we all enjoyed scones, cakes and a birthday cake for a next day birthday!

The Easter Day Service will, once again, feature the created Easter Garden and Easter eggs and refreshments too!

With the 'Beast from the East' our weekly activities were cancelled, however now that the Spring weather is with us, we are 'back on track' and looking forward to the Summer timing for the Monday Tea Room which commences on Monday April 9th and continues until the Autumn!

FRAMLINGHAM FAMILY NEWS

The highlight of the church social calendar in February was the annual church party. Unfortunately Geoff and I were unable to go as we were visiting family and friends in the West Country. A good time was had as the following from Peter and Margaret suggests.

The annual Church Party was much enjoyed by all. Games involving drawing, acting and knowledge of historical events challenged us. After a shared tea there was a trip down Memory Lane involving classic video clips including "Four Candles", "Dead Parrot" and other laughs.

Returning from Somerset we called to see Lindsay Cole and her family in Ross-on-Wye. Charlie is now a strapping, super interesting 17 year old who is active in his church and youth organisations. As Lindsay is now Manager of the Oxfam shop in the town and also plays a key role in the Local food bank we could see how she embraces challenges wherever she goes. When Geoff and I walked around the very picturesque town we counted 10 Charity shops and we were staggered when Lindsay said that there are 17 in all! Whilst helping the charities this seems indicative of the gradual demise of small retailers which is rather sad.

The Marriage of Hannah and Charles.
An account of this very special day from Linda and Richard

Saturday 17th February 2018

It was one of those glorious Winter days.

The sun was shining in a clear blue sky, but there was a definite nip in the air.

One of those days when you could believe Spring was on it's way.

Perfect for Hannah and Charles' wedding!

The service was held in St Michael's Church and it was a joyous occasion where everyone gave of their best surrounded by friends and family.

Rev Mark Sanders gave a short but meaningful address to the happy couple based on GLASSE and what it means to them both.

G - God

L - Love

A - Appreciation of everything and each other

SS - Saying sorry

E - Enjoyment

He then went on to give another E which was 'enough' as he said they had heard enough from him!

The photographs were taken at the Church and Bruisyard Hall which is where the reception was held.

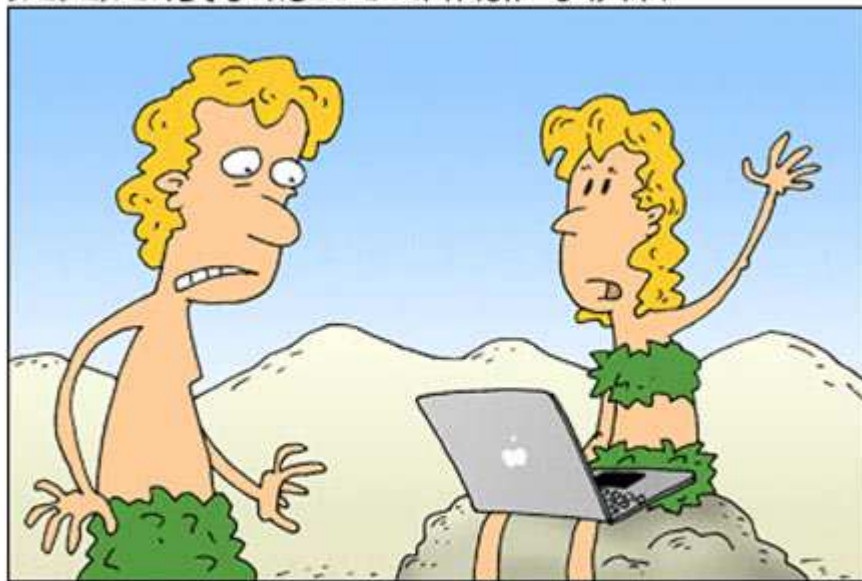
A delightful setting for the feasting and merriment that continued throughout the day and long into the evening.

Congratulations to the bride and groom and thank you for sharing your day with us.

As part of Fairtrade week we hosted a soup and pud lunch and were delighted to see many familiar faces amongst the 30 people who came. Three varieties of soup were offered and a selection of delicious puddings. Stephanie set up her Fairtrade stall and was pleased with the outcome. In excess of £160 was raised for Christian Aid and it was agreed that the event was a success.

Fortunately the lunch took place before the Beast from the East arrived ! Due to the wintry conditions, the Women's Day of Prayer and the Open the Book session had to be postponed for a fortnight (not cancelled).

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Thanks to Charles Dunleavy (See Genesis 3)

01-19-2009

I KNOW WE CAN'T AFFORD IT BUT THAT
SERPENT IS SO CONVINCING AND YOU KNOW I
CAN'T RESIST APPLES

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**PLEASANT SUNDAY AFTERNOON
- A CLASS APART**

Have you noticed the memorial plaque at the back of the church? Methodist churches, with some notable exceptions like Wesley's Chapel in City Road, London, are not known for plaques and other memorials usually. Ours is to William Samuel Rumsby, Founder and Leader of the PSA Class. This intrigued me. What was a PSA class?

PSA stands for Pleasant Sunday Afternoon and the PSA movement spread rapidly across England in the 1880s. It was, of course, an era of no TV, cinema, cars or internet. There were plenty of Sunday School classes for children, many on Sunday afternoons, but concern was expressed at the lack of social and religious facilities for young adults. Plus ca change!

PSAs and similar societies, called brotherhoods and sisterhoods, had as their ultimate aim, non-denominational evangelism (just as Billy Graham had). They had informal services with hymns and talks. They held annual central conferences and in addition to seeking to lead men and women into the kingdom of God, they encouraged the study of social science, the obligations of Christian Citizenship and promoted the unity of Social Service.

One contemporary description of a PSA in the Midlands wrote "It is essentially a religious meeting: prayer, praise and worship occupying their rightful place. The men throw themselves heart and soul into the meeting with a view to having a down-right good time".

The next step for me is to research our stained-glass window. Does anyone know who Arthur Fairweather was?

Monty Guest

Namaste from Lois & Brian Ellis in Nepal!

Flying into Kathmandu on 25 February it was all mountains - where were we going to land? At last it was flatter and we touched down. Outside the chaotic terminal building luggage was loaded on top of a minibus and we departed into the dusty mayhem that is Kathmandu until entering the calm oasis of the Malla hotel.

Early next morning we landed at the short uphill runway at Phaplu (2,469m) where we met our porters and guides. We set out for our first overnight stop at Junbesi (2,700m). Next day was a free day so several of us walked up to Thupten Chholing Gumba (2,950m) - a Buddhist Monastery (formed by Tibetan monks driven out by China). We joined their worship and were given tea. Children as young as 4 can join for a cost of US\$80.

Next day we crossed the mountain to Loding (2,800m), which proved to be the accommodation and facility low point... you have to think third world!

The following day would prove to be the toughest with a climb to Jase Bhanjyang at 3,520m where facilities thankfully improved. We struggled and the retired doctor on the trek monitored Brian's pulse as his heart rhythm kept going irregular.

The next morning we set out on a tricky section that crossed several frozen streams - really dangerous but the guides and porters took such great care of us and we reached our destination of Base Camp (no, not the Everest one) also known as the Cheese Factory at 3,640m. The weather was very cold and cloudy, but that night as we all went to bed around 8pm (to keep warm) thunder and lightning began. We wondered why it was drizzling in our room. The gale had blown open the door and snow was drifting in.... how we laughed after the initial shock! Could it get worse?

Next morning clouds had given way to blue skies, although the gale persisted as we started our ascent of the 4,065m Pikey peak (pronounced like the French 'pique'). We all made it through the sub-zero conditions after an hour or so, looking like polar explorers (I had 5 layers on) and struggling to avoid being blown off our feet.

The reward at the summit (where prayer flags flapped frantically in the wind) was a wonderful view of majestic peaks including Everest. Our descent back to Jase Bhanjyang through a snow covered rhododendron forest proved slow and tricky.

Our final day was a very long descent to Phaplu, where I sneaked a pillion ride on a motorbike for the last few miles over dirt/rocky tracks. Our accommodation in Phaplu was luxury... it had lights, but still no shower!

The next day we waited in vain for our return flight, but it was too windy to fly. At 1pm we took to three 4x4s on what turned out to be an epic 10 hour 280km trip to Kathmandu often on dirt/rock roads. It was quite scary, but a good way to see the country though. The trek part was over - it was time to become a mere tourist!

The porters were amazing, carrying huge loads and guides so caring of us and our safety. In fact the Nepalese people are so sincere, modest & kind, although many live in great poverty.



View from Pikey - Everest is the left most of the most distant mountains (with cloud above).

Woodbridge Methodist Church Choir
invites you to an afternoon of music and poetry
on a Spring Theme
on Saturday, 28th April
at 2:30 p.m.
in The Octagon
Tea and cakes will be served

Open the Book research

For the last two years, Open the Book (OtB) has conducted independent research in several primary schools to measure how their storytelling assemblies have made a difference to the children's biblical literacy, Christian values and relationships with the local church.

The consensus was that the knowledge and influence of Bible stories on the OtB groups was significantly positive and the OtB school children clearly retained

Bible stories and characters better than their non-OtB school counterparts. It was evident that:

- OtB storytelling is highly valued and enjoyed by children, teachers and volunteers alike
- It develops the children's own sense of spirituality and helps form their world view
- It increases biblical literacy and builds moral character

Church to vote on sharing ministers with Methodists

By Olivia Rudgard
RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

CHURCH of England leaders are braced for a controversial vote on whether it should share ministers with the Methodists as part of plans to boost struggling rural churches.

The proposals will be debated at the Church's governing body, the General Synod, next month.

The plans would allow officials from each church to preach at the other, and would help areas where there are "serious challenges in sustaining a Christian presence", church leaders suggest.

The Rt Rev Dr Christopher Cocks-worth, Bishop of Coventry, said the plans would also be a boost in "urban areas, perhaps particularly those where there are high levels of deprivation".

William Nye, the Church of England's most senior civil servant, said the proposals would mean Methodist clergy who had not been ordained by a bishop holding Church of England services, which is likely to be divisive.

Bishops felt this was a "bearable anomaly" but others would be "concerned" that the plan would break the "continuous apostolic succession" held sacred by Church of England members.

Some in the Church see the division as "a terrible tragedy, in that John Wesley was an Anglican clergyman who never intended to set up a separate church", he added.

The plan, which will be seen by many as a step towards reunifying the two churches after more than 200 years, is the latest attempt to bring them closer together after similar proposals mooted in 1972 and 1980 failed.

SUNDAY TELEGRAPH
23rd JANUARY 2018

Great total for Traidcraft Exchange

Thank you for your wonderful support at our two Coffee Mornings during Fairtrade Fortnight. Coffee and cake raised £141.02 which will be doubled by the government to £282.04

That money will go a long way to help the entrepreneurs in developing countries who will be given help and advice in production and marketing. The things they grow and make will end up featured in our Traidcraft catalogues.

Heleen

Is your Bible gathering dust?

We were challenged about whether we read our Bibles regularly at a service recently. It's good to know that an increasing number of us do just that through the Bible Reading Fellowship whose notes can be ordered at church and delivered to your pigeonhole.

There are 16 of us who subscribe to Bible notes from the Bible Reading Fellowship, and others may have their own favourite notes from other sources.

The BRF has a selection of notes to cater for different needs. New Daylight is a traditional Bible Study with sections written by well-known theologians. Quiet Spaces is described as '*A Creative Response to God's Love*'. There are '*Reflections for Older People*' and '*Guidelines*' is '*Bible Study for Today's Ministry and Mission*'. '*Upper Room*' is different as it is a Bible reading with experiences and thoughts from ordinary people sent in from all over the world. There are even large print versions available.

I have old copies of all these publications which you can borrow and study before making a choice if you wish to order. Have a look at the selection in the Foyer.

I need to order early April for the year, starting in May, and the cost should be under £15 for three four monthly booklets, saving the postage if we order together. Let me know which you would like.

Heleen.

Knitting For Peace

As many of you know a small number of our members and friends continue to support Knitting for Peace, a charity which is based in Hampstead

I collect and pack all the beautiful work that the ladies (and one man) have made. The parcels are taken to Rapid Dispatch at Ipswich Docks. They are delivered next day to Hampstead.

Two large boxes were sent in December, I now have two more boxes ready to go.

12 large blankets, knitted squares sewn together
4 medium sized crochet blankets
6 children's jumpers
5 pairs adult bed socks
5 pairs mittens
35 hats various styles and sizes.

These are sent to people in need in the UK and many trouble spots in the world.

Below is an excerpt from their latest letter.

Ways to Support Knit for Peace

It costs a lot to acknowledge, sort and dispatch the donated knitting. We have to rely on donations. We estimate that we are sending £5,000,000 worth of goods each year. We realise that our knitters (we calculate now over 20,000 in the UK) are generous in making and delivering their knitting and we truly appreciate it. If you can spare any funds to help us with the costs of Knit for Peace, it would help even more.

Muriel Booth

Forthcoming Events

Woodbridge

1 Apr - Easter Sunday 8.00 am communion followed by breakfast
15 Apr - General Church Council Meeting 12.00pm
28 Apr - Afternoon Choir concert

Orford

Monday's Tea Room – open from 12noon – closing 4pm Lunch
and Afternoon Tea

Easter Monday Church and Tea Room Open from 11am to
view and relax with the Easter Garden – Tea room serving light
refreshments only.

Weekly Wednesday Lunch served at 12.30am

Thursday April 6th & 20th 10am – 12 noon Inspiration Art,
Colouring & Knitting with Coffee and Scones too!

Informal Tea Table Service will be held on Sunday 15th April at
5pm

Framlingham

Monday 9 April 7.30pm Church Meeting

Monday 16 April 7.30pm CAMEO first part 'Christ and the
Chocolaterie'

WOODBIDGE DIARY

1 Apr	08.00 10.45	Rev M Dawes Rev M Millar	Communion All Age Worship
8 Apr	10.45	Mr L Rokobuli	
15 Apr	10.45	Rev M Dawes	Communion
22 Apr	10.45 7.30pm	Mrs L Cope Rev M Dawes	Holy communion with prayers for healing
29 Apr	10.45	Mr S Caley	

ORFORD DIARY

1 Apr	10.30	Mr S Caley	
8 Apr	10.30	Local Arrangement	
15 Apr	10.30 4.30pm	Mr S Caley Informal Tea Table Service	
22 Apr	10.30	Rev M Dawes	Communion
29 Apr	10.30	Rev S Yelland	

FRAMLINGHAM DIARY

1 Apr	11.00	Rev J Cassidy	Communion
8 Apr	11.00	Local Arrangement	
15 Apr	11.00	Mr W Glasse	
22 Apr	11.00	Mrs S Liddell	
29 Apr	11.00	Rev I Gardner	

The monthly newsletter for the churches in the Woodbridge Mission
Area of the Ipswich Methodist Circuit

Woodbridge, Framlingham and Orford

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Orford: Mr Stephen Caley (details above)

N.B. Items for the May Link must be in no later than 08/04/18

Please use the box provided in the entrance at Woodbridge Methodist
Church or email to Brian Crowe at:

link.articles@btopenworld.com