

THE LINK

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WOODBIDGE



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ORFORD

FRAMLINGHAM



July 2018



MESSAGE FROM THE MANSE

Dear Friends,

I once knew a Baptist minister who had a friend from the USA staying with him. In the middle of the week of his stay, the American made a request: 'Can I go and see your church?' To which the minister replied 'No you can't.' The American was a bit taken aback and asked 'Why not?' and the minister replied 'At this time of the week my church is all over the area; some are at work, others at home, some are out shopping and some are ill or in hospital. If you want to see my church, you will have to come on Sunday, when they are all together.'

Clearly the American wanted to see the church building, but my minister friend decided to play a little game with him. What the minister said, though, was quite true. The church were spread all over the area because the church is the people, not the building. The building is where they meet, it is a base for their mission, it is a constant reminder of the church's presence in the community, but without the people it is just a shell.

The people who worship in that building, however, are the church all the time – not just when they are together. We are the church all the time. Wherever we go and whatever we do we are the people of God, disciples of Jesus, his ambassadors to the rest of the world. Wherever we go and whatever we are doing we represent Jesus to the rest of world. We may not do it very well sometimes, we may not even intend to do it, but we do. We do it for the simple reason that we are the church, we are Christians, we are his people and by definition we represent Jesus.

This is a good time of year to remember that, as many of us will be going off to holiday destinations many miles from home – but we are still the church! Even more importantly, God is already there and wherever we are, he seeks our response to his loving presence.

Wherever we go this summer, whatever we do, we must not neglect to love God and our neighbours – whoever they are! We are the church, together or apart, near or far, at work or at leisure, we are the church and we belong to Christ!

Have a lovely Summer.

God bless,

WOODBIDGE FAMILY NEWS

Our church holds many activities which reach out to the public and the congregation alike. The Treasure Hunt is one such event and the recent prize went to Geoff Holdcroft, who is not only known as a county councillor but was married in our church. If you haven't yet tried the Internet Treasure Hunt, why not give it a go? The prizes are well worth the stirring of the old grey matter!

The Rock Ridge and Dry Creek Garden Railroad Open Day on 26 May was a steaming, root-a-tooting success. All afternoon four different trains circumnavigated the flower beds, plus the usual train hauled by a live steam loco at the end of the afternoon. We had a record breaking afternoon both from the number of people attending (and some others who could find nowhere to park!) and the money raised: £486.00 for Kirton Chapel's building fund. This was raised through donations, sale of books and delicious refreshments and the various game stalls on the day. In addition, Helen Lewis also raised over £60.00 on the Traidcraft stall. We are very grateful to all who helped, some from our churches, some were friends or members of the Dawes family and also thanks to Deben Rotary for bringing along their mini-golf game. Most of all thank you to everyone for coming and making it such a great afternoon for everyone!

It is always a pleasure to hear about former Junior Church members. We hear tell of the examination success of another former Junior Church star, John Porter. Does Tim Peake have a rival? Why not talk to John's parents for more exact news, please.

Adam, Elisabeth and Eilidh Barnes are expecting their new addition to the family in early September. By this stage they hope to have moved into a new home in Winchcombe in Gloucestershire. Adam has been appointed to the county council role of Head of Communications. Elisabeth tells me that there is a Methodist Church in the Cotswold town. A search of the internet revealed that the minister there had described herself as a "bit of a rebel"!

We send our prayers up and our fondest wishes for safe deliveries and happy, healthy infants to all expectant mums and their families. More baby news next month.

Some of our members have been experiencing the joys (or otherwise) of NHS hospital stays. Sheila Davies spent two and a half weeks in hospital in Sussex and we are delighted to have her worshipping back with us recently. Gareth's long distance driving skills were well tested, especially as he had to go to South Wales to visit his father too.

And we are delighted to have Roger Stevenson worshipping with us after his Papworth valve repair.

Alma Bartley is now back in Woodbridge after a prolonged stay in Ipswich Hospital. She has found a place in Grove Court and she has a working computer to help her stay in touch with the world. We pray for caring, Christian medical and caring staff for all our frail friends.

As this edition of the Link was due to go to press, we heard of the passing of Flo Whiting. Her cheerful personality, laced with a cheeky smile and Brummie accent, made Flo a delight to visit. She was a scrabble player of some renown. Flo had moved from Suffolk Place to Grove Court and then to White Gables in Felixstowe. Her daughter Trisha Skirrow has been on hand to help Flo thankfully. As I write, a sizeable group is planning to go to Seven Hills crematorium for the service.

Also just before this edition was due, John Jay, husband of our experienced organist and choir accompanist Helen, died peacefully in Haughgate House. The funeral service will be held at St Mary's Church, Otley where John and Helen worshipped for many years before moving to Woodbridge. We send our loving condolences to all bereaved folk as they cope with adjustments to their lives at this time.

I hope summer is a time for relaxation and enjoyable challenges.

God bless.
Monty Guest

ORFORD FAMILY NEWS

Our continuing prayers and good wishes go to Audrey Bantoft who remains in hospital after a stroke. Ivy Caley sustained a fall at home which required an urgent visit to the Ipswich Hospital A&E and a few days rest at home helped to heal. Other friends remain within our 'prayer requests'

Circuit Lay employees gathered at church for a No Agenda Quiet Day at the end of May with an opportunity to share information and ideas. Appreciation was given to Karen & Pam who prepared and cooked a 'roast chicken' lunch which was much enjoyed. After lunch Martin lead a short service of Communion. It was a rewarding day with plenty of sunshine and fresh air for those taking advantage of the footpath walk to the river wall & quay.

A very successful indoor Picnic Lunch was enjoyed after the morning service in 3 June and it was good to be together as 'one family'. Many thanks for the donation of food and to those preparing and clearing away. *Note the next picnic lunch on Sunday 1 July!*

The Spring Bank Holiday Monday saw a packed Chapel Tea Room throughout the day – with some visitors sitting outside enjoying both sunshine and food and several staying to chat and relax. Our Tea Table Service the previous day was much quieter and gave another opportunity to 'catch-up' with friends.

Many thanks for the welcome response to last month's appeal for Poppy Knitters. Friends, old and new, are busy beavering away and producing an array of poppies with sales already underway! All the money goes to Help the Heroes and the Royal British Legion.

FRAMLINGHAM FAMILY NEWS

When I read Martin's letter in the last Link Issue it brought a smile to my face and I immediately emailed him to ask if he would like me to send a few Monk Soham flies in his direction!

It brought home to me how different life in the country is when surrounded by fields and livestock.

Many of our fellowship are away on holiday this month and some have returned from visiting family and friends. Laurian and Mick spent a very happy time with their daughter Michelle in Germany and she introduced them to the art of bee keeping. With their other daughter Nicola living in Australia, holiday time with them is very precious.

Peter and Margaret have offered to organise a walk in August to their wood followed by a picnic and sausage 'cook up'! Similar occasions have been such fun, so we shall look forward to this.

As I said in the last edition of the Link, Avril and Ron have been preparing to move into Framlingham. They invited friends and members of our fellowship to have afternoon tea in their lovely garden at Badingham which also has a wild flower meadow. There was a lot of laughter too when they showed us the items that needed new homes and Avril showed great skill as a sales person! The end result of a wonderfully enjoyable afternoon was a donation to the Methodist Homes association of £140. Thank you, Avril and Ron.



With school exams coming to an end and the summer holidays for our young people looming, we hope they have a relaxing and fun time during August.

It was good to have Helen back amongst us and to know that she is looking forward to a holiday job at the Badingham White Horse. Hopefully she will not have to work every Sunday morning as she is great on the overhead projector!

Open the Book

We are delighted that Open Book grew by an average of 83 new Storytellers and 25 new schools every month during 2017. Praise God for his faithfulness as we seek to share his word with children in primary schools across the country

Thank God for the amazing work he is doing through Open the Book. Praise the Lord that we now have over 15,000 volunteer storytellers sharing the Bible with the next generation. Praise God that primary schools in Birmingham are willing to have Open the Book teams as part of the urban/multi faith pilot.

Pray for wisdom as we use the results of the volunteer survey to inform us as we shape and develop a ten year strategy for Open the Book.

*I will cause your name to be remembered in all generations; therefore nations will praise you forever and ever.
Psalm 45.17 (ESV)*

QR Code?

Last month I included the QR Code that will take you to our website. How do you do this? You need either a smartphone or tablet with a QR reader App on it (obtainable from your devices App store). The app uses the device's camera to read the code and will then open your browser and take you to the website. I will be including this code wherever I can.



Brian Crowe

QUIET DAY

At Kirton Methodist Chapel

SATURDAY | 21 JULY |

10AM-4PM

**PLEASE BRING A PACKED LUNCH.
LIGHT REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED.
A REFLECTIVE GODLY PLAY SESSION
IN THE MORNING FOLLOWED BY
GUIDED SILENCE IN THE
AFTERNOON. HOLY COMMUNION IN
THE GARDEN AT CLOSE OF DAY.
COME FOR ALL OR PART OF THE
DAY.**

**NO CHARGE DONATIONS TO THE
KIRTON BUILDING PROJECT.**

Colin Morris – a personal reflection

I was privileged to meet one of the great Methodist ministers of the 20th Century, Rev Colin Morris who died recently aged 89. His influence, like that of his near contemporary, Lord Donald Soper (who was well known for preaching at Hyde Park Corner) went far beyond that of his church.

I was a physics student at The City University in London in 1969 and my hall of residence was in Bunhill Row, near Moorgate. The nearest Methodist church was by chance Wesley's Chapel in City Road, a mere 800 yards away and reached by a stroll through the famous dissenters graveyard of Bunhill Fields where amongst others are to be found the graves of Isaac Watts, John Bunyan, Daniel Defoe and Susanna Wesley, John and Charles's mother. Very atmospheric on an autumnal evening. Beware hobgoblins and foul fiends!

The minister at Wesley's Chapel, the "cathedral" of Methodism, was also Methodist minister to the university. At first we members of MethSoc met the kindly Rev Kingsley Lloyd but soon word spread that we were going to have a very different character, someone whom Kenneth Kaunda, the first president of Zambia, once described as "the ideal parson". It is not the first description that comes to mind of Colin, who was a fiery political preacher, fierce critic of governments and church, controversial broadcaster and, eventually and ironically, a senior manager at the BBC, though maintaining an intense involvement with the contemporary world.

When Colin arrived as a young missionary in the Copperbelt region of what was then Northern Rhodesia in 1956, to work with white miners from South Africa, and to serve a congregation in the town of Chingola, he quickly became aware of the racial inequities in the country and made it clear that his church was open to people of all races. His sermons attracted considerable controversy; in fact, they became notorious. Colin's almost all-white congregation found his multiracial message hard to accept and numbers fell from hundreds to a mere handful after just four Sundays. He first met Kaunda in 1957 and Kaunda's vision for his country impressed Colin; the two men became close friends. After independence, Kaunda conferred Zambia's Order of Freedom upon Colin, in 1966.

It was with this background that Methodist Conference appointed Colin to the post of minister of Wesley's Chapel. His first Sunday service was packed with white and black faces. Colin began by apologising, saying that if he didn't greet everyone by name after the service, it was because "you know, all you whites look the same to me". Later Colin used Radio 4's Thought for the Day to deliver a devastating critique of the bill that would become the 1971 Immigration Act. He described it as alien to the spirit of Jesus of Nazareth, "the greatest non-patrial of them all". The huge row that followed was partly because Colin had spoken publicly on the subject before parliament had considered it (at the time, this was not done) as about perceived bias from a clergyman.

Monty Guest

LEA

On Wednesday 23 May Lea finally gave up her struggle for life. She spent her last days in the loving care of the Childrens' Hospice. It is incredible to think that she lived for over 15 years and we give thanks that for that time we were part of her life.

Her funeral took place on Monday 4 June at Seven Hills Crematorium. The funeral cortege was escorted from the Hospice to the crematorium by an entourage of some 40 bikers from the 4FS group who have supported her by fundraising and physical assistance over many years. The noise as they revved their engines whilst lining the entrance to the crematorium was incredible, a sound that Lea loved.

We shall miss her terribly but take great comfort that she is now pain free and resting in the arms of Jesus.

We would like to thank all our friends at WMC for their incredible support and prayer over the years which have sustained us through many a crisis.

We shall say our final goodbyes at a celebration of Lea's life which is to be held at Mistley Village Hall on Sunday 24 June.

God bless you all.

Brian and Dianne

Visit of Rev Jeremy Hadju-Paulen and family

Our former minister and his wife Allison and their two daughters Miriam (13) and Margaret (9) are coming over to England! Jeremy is now pastor of Tigard United Methodist Church, near Portland, Oregon. Allison, his wife, works at the Pacific University Student Counselling Centre. Jeremy enjoys running whereas Allison enjoys jogging, gardening, crafting and baking. Elder daughter Miriam plays in a church marimba band and is learning the clarinet. She even enjoys the rainy Oregon weather. Younger daughter Margaret is learning piano and has joined a school choir club. She is a Girl Scout Brownie and enjoys her theatre lessons. Last year the whole family moved to a house just a mile away and are enjoying having a yard (garden) again, and a fireplace. Both girls were born after Jeremy and Allison moved back to the States.

They will be visiting their friend Rev Philip Turner, now in Bath, formerly an Ipswich circuit minister at the same time as Jeremy. Then they will come to stay with us on the Heath from 14th to 17th July. I am sure Jeremy and Allison will appreciate meeting members of the congregation who remember them and showing their daughters their old "haunts". Martin has kindly offered to show them the Manse, where of course Jeremy and Allison once lived – eighteen years ago. We shall arrange some visits for them, including Melton and Martlesham village fetes on Sat 14th July. Jeremy will be assisting Martin with the communion service on Sunday 15th July.

Monty and Freddie Guest

poetry place

This is the word of the Lord

Some learnt the bible-books
like they were 'a, b, c'
while some learnt communion prayers
like they were 'do-re-mi'.

Some learnt with fuzzy-felt
old and two-dimensional
others learnt by living lives
bold and unconventional.

Some learnt by negligence
and falling on their knees
and scraping skin and feeling guilt
and going where they pleased.

Some learnt by ignorance
some learnt by prayer
many learnt by surviving hate
under priestly stares.

Some have heard of difference
and Judas Maccabees.
Others heard that Mary was
differently conceived.

Some caressed those skin-thin pages
early every morning.
Others learnt of sin and death
and hell and early warnings.

Some learnt Corinthians
others made confession.
Both crossed the green peacegate
seeking out new lessons.



From Sorry for Your Troubles by Padraig O Tuama (Canterbury Press).

The Latest news from Steve and Catriona Bennett

Greetings from the UK!

You will remember that Steve is a consultant general surgeon and Catriona is a consultant anaesthetist working at Gahini Hospital where their mission is to provide a surgical and anaesthetic service, develop the hospital's facilities and train local healthcare staff.

News from Gahini

Since our last letter, the surgical service at Gahini has continued to operate at a pace. There has been no let-up in the number of people requiring surgery, both elective and emergency. Steve has continued to see and treat many patients, operating about 25-30 cases a week. Catriona took this as an opportunity to maximize teaching and training for the non-physician anaesthetists.

The Easter weekend was particularly busy and Steve went into the hospital most days to do a ward round and undertook a few emergency cases in theatre. Anyone who knows about NHS healthcare knows that four-day bank holiday weekends are a challenge in terms of the desire to maintain a good standard of care for all patients. Unsurprisingly, this is one of the challenges of being the sole surgeon – how to achieve a work-life balance.

One of the patients we were able to help was a lady with a large benign tumour on her abdominal wall. She had originally come to see Steve some months back and he had recommended a scan and a biopsy which had to be performed in Kigali. Now the tumour had increased in size from that of a tennis ball to that of a melon while also developing a distinct odour that was socially stigmatizing. Two weeks before we were due to leave, and the day after she had received the results in Kigali, she came to Gahini to find Steve and once again asked him to operate. Given the rapid growth of the tumour, he felt that it could not wait until after our home leave and so she became one of the “extra” patients we had to slot in in our last few weeks. She was delighted with the results and is now back home.

Following much intensive training of the non-physician anaesthetists, Catriona started to realise that she was not required for every paediatric case. With a combination of hands on teaching and small tutorials all of the non-physician anaesthetists had worked really hard to improve their knowledge and skills. And so in the last few weeks, Catriona gradually became less “hands on” and more “around” for paediatric cases. Two of the non-physician anaesthetists have really risen to this challenge and by the time our home leave came, Catriona felt confident in their abilities to continue paediatric practice during her absence. This is fantastic for our visiting orthopaedic surgeon who needs to operate on many children, and great for their personal and professional development.

During the last few months in Gahini, we were also blessed with many visitors. It was fantastic to catch up with both friends and family and to be able to welcome people to our new home. Living at Gahini is quite socially isolating and so having visitors from time to time is a pleasant change. We found it particularly helpful to be visited by a family who we know well from Steve's Uganda hospital work. We were able to discuss some of the challenges we face and our ideas for the future.

Home leave

It sounds weak to say it but after eight months at Gahini we were very tired and glad that our home leave was upon us! It very much falls under the title "a change is as good as a rest", as it has been far from quiet but we have been enjoying being in the UK for the past six weeks. We had our first Spring Harvest experience and it was thoroughly worthwhile for spiritual nourishment on the theme of "Only the Brave" and the main Bible study sessions unpacked the Book of James. We really appreciated the opportunity to worship with other Christians and found the talks personally challenging. Hannah played with other children in a room filled with toys as she was well looked after. Steve's parents helped us out with some babysitting so that we could attend some of the evening events.

Following this, we have been able to visit and speak at many of our supporting churches from Plymouth to Scotland and back down to Suffolk. It has been fantastic to be so warmly welcomed, and to feel increasingly part of your church communities. We are hugely grateful for your ongoing support both in prayer and finance, and it is lovely to be able to come and share with you something of what we are up to. Please do continue to be in touch once we are back in Rwanda.

As well as speaking and spiritual nourishment, we have needed to gain some CPD (continuing professional development points). CPD is a very important part of staying up to date while practising as a doctor. So we have taken the opportunity to attend a couple of medical conferences while we are here in the UK.

Finally, we have all enjoyed the opportunity to catch up with friends and family. So as we prepare to return to Rwanda, we don't know what lies ahead in the next year. But we do know that we have a loving Father who will walk with us and help us to step out bravely in faith. So once again we want to thank you for joining us in this journey and we look forward to updating you on our progress once we are back in Rwanda.

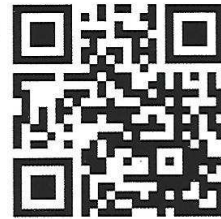
Wishing you every blessing,

Steve and Catriona Bennett

June 2018

Woodbridge Methodist Church

Is now running an Internet Treasure Hunt



The Internet Treasure Hunt



www.wmclight.org.uk

**Free entry for all
Major prizes
every month!**

MHA Norwood Care Home

14 Park Road, IPI 3ST Tel: 01473 257502

Invite you to their



Summer Fete

Saturday 7th July 2:30 - 4:30pm



©Andy Robb www.thebestofderekthecleric.wordpress.com

Forthcoming Events

Orford

Monday's TEA ROOM – open from 12noon – 4pm for Summer lunch menu and afternoon tea. Art, crafts, cards and much more also available

Wednesday's LUNCH is served at 12.30pm. You will need to book this meal!

Inspirational Painting and Colouring sessions are on hold until September.

A PICNIC LUNCH will be provided after the service on Sunday 1st July.

An informal TEA TABLE SERVICE at 5pm on Sunday 22nd July

There is always a welcome to friends from near and far to join with us at these events and services.

The 30th ANNUAL QUAY SERVICE will take place at 6pm on Sunday 5th August with a return visit of Monsignor Father Tony Rogers (Aldeburgh Roman Catholic Church) as the preacher. The Jubilee Sailing Trust will receive our support this year. Let's hope for a fine and sunny evening!

Framlingham

Monday 9th July 7.30pm Church Meeting

Every Tuesday 9.30am Prayer Meeting

Saturday 7th July 7pm Phoenix Singers "GLORIA" in Framlingham College Chapel

Monday 23rd July Summer evening walk or a meal out.

Last discussion of Christ and the Chocolaterie. Please ask Cath Kitching for details.

WOODBIDGE DIARY

1 July	10.45	Rev M Millar	All Age Worship
8 July	09.30 10.45	Rev M Dawes Mr C Westren	Communion
15 July	10.45	Rev M Dawes	Communion
22 July	10.45 7.30pm	Mrs A Holmes Rev M Dawes	Holy Communion with Prayers for Healing
29 July	10.45	Mr B Nichols	

ORFORD DIARY

1 July	10.30	Mr S Caley	
8 July	10.30	Celtic Hymns, Prayers & Meditations	
15 July	10.30	Rev S Yelland	
22 July	10.30 5.00pm	Rev M.Dawes Tea Table Service	Communion
29 July	10.30	Mr M Ellis	

FRAMLINGHAM DIARY

1 July	11.00	Mrs D Sawyer	
8 July	11.00	Rev M Dawes	Café Worship
15 July	11.00	Rev M Allen	
22 July	11.00	Mr W Glasse	Communion
29 July	11.00	Mrs J Paterson	

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 Aug/Sept Link must be in no later than 08/07/18

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

link.articles@btopenworld.com