

THE LINK

M
E
T
H
O
D
I
S
T

WOODBIDGE



C
H
U
R
C
H
E
S

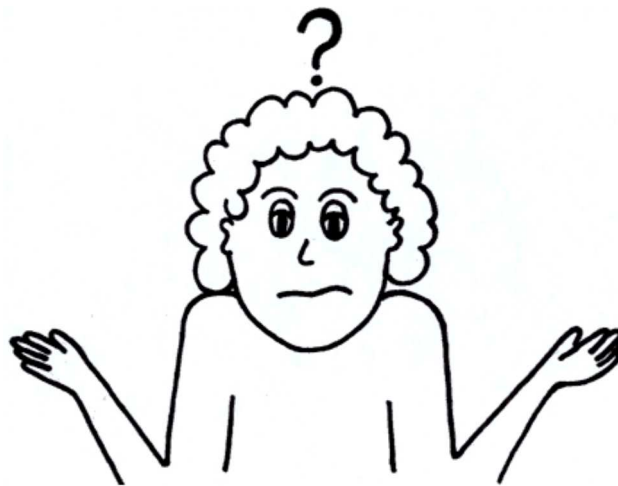


ORFORD

FRAMLINGHAM



February 2019



MESSAGE FROM THE MANSE

Dear Friends,

As I write this message, we are only a few days away from a vote in Parliament which affects the future of our nation (I will try to refrain from using the 'B' word!). At least we think we are only a few days away, by the time you read this the vote should have been taken – though it may not – which gives me a theme for this letter: uncertainty.

There is a huge amount of uncertainty around at the moment and it is there at every level of society. At the moment, none of us know what is going to happen, and when it does, no-one really knows what effect it will have. Uncertainty is unsettling and we find it uncomfortable; it is very difficult to plan ahead when the future is unknown.

In reality, the future is always unknown and our notions of 'how the world is' are so easily upset as circumstances change – as, of course, they always do. As long ago as 1789, Benjamin Franklin when writing about the new US Constitution stated: 'Our new Constitution is now established, and has an appearance that promises permanency; but in this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes.' It has to be said, the US Constitution is being tested somewhat at the moment!

Change and uncertainty are facts of life, they are always there. If we try to avoid change and uncertainty we will be disappointed, if we ignore them we will be frustrated. If we wish to live life to the full, it is how we face change and uncertainty that really matters.

St Paul wrote in a letter to Timothy: 'we brought nothing into the world and we can take nothing out of it.' (1 Tim 6:7), birth and death are our only fixed points – it is how we approach what comes between them that matters. In many

ways, the events that take place between those fixed points are less important than how we approach them. The whole of life is filled with choice and how we make choices is a reflection of who we are, of what our values and ideals are. Jesus illustrated this to his disciples when he said: 'every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? Likewise, a good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit.' (Mt 7:16-18)

When great changes are being made in the world, we must not be alarmed (or even surprised!), rather we continue to trust in God, even when it hurts; knowing that whatever happens, God knows what he is doing and he holds us all in his hands. When we respond to those changes as they affect us, we follow the example Jesus gave of always responding in love: love for God and love for others – whoever they are. In all things, let us follow Jesus and then, whatever life throws at us, we will reflect the light of God's love, shining like stars in a dark sky.

Uncertainty and change may be unsettling, but it is how we respond to them that is the measure of our character. Always remember that Jesus teaches us to trust in God and to act in love in all things.

God bless,

Martin

WOODBIDGE FAMILY NEWS

A lot has happened since the last edition of the Link. Our church hosted the funeral service of (Arthur) John Potter, a well-known businessman with Methodist connections. It was standing room only for those who wished to pay tribute. What wasn't mentioned was that John and Margaret's house in Grundisburgh Road is now the Manse.

Our dear friend Alma Bartley moved into Ipswich's Norwood MHA home and was reported to be "happy as Larry". Both my step-mother and Muriel Booth's and Vera Keer's sister Gladys enjoyed Norwood's care. As our nation and our church comes to terms with the "population that is getting older" (I've never heard of one which gets younger), we will all, I am sure, help our friends come to terms with not being able to do things which they could easily do twenty years before. With God's help, we shall.

We can also be proud of how our church donates to local and national and international charities. The treasurer has detailed these donations separately. One of our members, Helen Lewis, finds time to play a full part in her local village life, appearing in the EADT on her bicycle, starting schemes to combat loneliness and even on TV to explain the challenges faced by Hollesley in having new prison facilities built and certain offenders transferred there. For many years Helen has organised our church's involvement with the Fairtrade and Traidcraft charities and many of us have been encouraged to buy Fairtrade goods from Helen's stalls, the cupboard and even in local supermarkets. For various reasons which Helen will explain, she has decided to bring her Fairtrade and Traidcraft work in our church and other Woodbridge churches to an end. We thank you Helen for all you have done in our church and the community and look forward to your next ventures.

Congratulations also to Derek Rothwell who has been given one of the highest Rotary awards by his Deben club: a Paul Harris Fellowship. Colin Sadler alerted me to the achievements of his student granddaughter who as I write is addressing a conference in Utah on her specialist subject: gene and DNA replication.

The choir felt proud that Jackie Shipham arranged for us to sing at Alice Grange Home in Kesgrave, where Jenny Hepworth lives. This concert was well received but then an even larger audience came out on a cold December evening to hear the choir's Christmas concert with several new carols and an amusing play based on the story,

originally penned by Geoff Jacobs, of the Three Magi: two astrologers and an alchemist (Michael Porter, Barry Giffard and Ron Hepworth). Thank you Jackie for your work with all the performers. Several audience reports said it was the best concert for a long time.

The advent flowers and Christmas tree (thank you Cath Hamilton and team and Stephen Millar) looked splendid and were excellent backdrops for another highlight of the Christmas services, the well-planned and well-attended Candlelit Carol Service with Martin's reflection on the meaning of Jesus' incarnation.

For many of the congregation, another highlight of the December services was the chance to welcome back former junior church student Amy Whittaker who brought baby Jack Peter Plummer with dad Mark and their families for baptism on 16th December. Jack allowed Martin to present him to the congregation and we all took the special vows to support the family in his Christian upbringing. A "high-five" to you young Jack!

We have many interesting and exciting things to look forward to in 2019. This issue of the Link contains an advertisement for a Children and Families Worker. The Parent and Toddlers group and Messy Church will cater for the growing generation. Martin will be leading another Lent Bible School themed around Biblical Prayers. The Town Pastors will be meeting and greeting young people on Friday evenings. The Open The Book team will be going out to local primary schools to perform well-known Bible stories. Our work with TWAM led by Brian Ellis continues and we shall continue our support for the Woodbridge Food Bank organised by the Salvation Army.

I hope spring will be a time for renewed worship of our Lord and Saviour and enjoyable challenges inside and outside the church.

God bless

Monty Guest

ORFORD FAMILY NEWS

Advent and Christmas 'round-up' - Once again the church looked stunning with decorated trees & lights, candle ring, 'Glory to God in the Highest' Angel banner and much more which set the scene for Worship. On the third Sunday of Advent Ellen, Sofia and Felicity presented the 'Animal Nativity' with a little help from Angus, Liovet, Louise and Pam. Family visitors came along to encourage the children and did so with much hand clapping! Afterwards everyone stayed to enjoy a 'party' lunch. Then on to the fourth Advent Sunday, Christmas Communion followed by mince pies, Congelton gingerbread and chocolates after which, tables were set ready for Tea for the late afternoon Candlelight Carol Service – many lit candles helped to make this a joyous occasion. All the centre candles were lit again for the Christmas Morning Service and also on the last Sunday of the year when a Christingle Service was appreciated. And then to Epiphany! We have been delighted to see visitors join us for worship.

A head count at the Wednesday Christmas Lunch held on the 19th December realised 33 who enjoyed a full and traditional Christmas lunch with the opportunity to sing carols afterwards. Added to the tea and mince pies was a large birthday cake – with 'Happy Birthday' sung for Lorna, Joan and Louise – Lorna got to blow out the candles as it was her day on the 19th. The large food hamper was won by Olive (Framlingham) - Sincere thanks to Karen, Pam P, George, Mark, Pam C, Lorna and Louise for all their help and in making this another wonderful and enjoyable day. The 'regular' Wednesday staff were presented with Christmas gifts which were much appreciated.

Monday Tea Room and Wednesday Lunch took a well earned break for two weeks!

The final total of money received from the Sale of Knitted Poppies and the Exhibition held at the end of October amounted to £805.00 for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal and Help for Heroes

FRAMLINGHAM FAMILY NEWS

Not a white Christmas but a traditional one. The church was beautifully decorated, the gifts surrounding the tree were sent to FIND and carols were sung at every opportunity.

Several from our fellowship joined others from Framlingham to sing and raise money for Christian Aid in the Co-Op. We were joined by several shoppers and were accompanied by a very accomplished recorder player from St. Michael's Church. Every song on the carol sheet was sung and Cath provided us with some much appreciated liquid refreshment during the hour or so and about £130 was raised. Thank you Cath for arranging this happy event leading up to Christmas.

Although a bit of a scrum at Monk Soham the carol singing evening at the Lodge was fun. It made all the difference having Chris and Katherine Grogan accompanying the enthusiastic singers, so thank you both.

It was lovely to have families of all generations at the Christmas Eve candlelight service which was followed by refreshments kindly provided by Linda and Richard.

Although only a small number came on Christmas morning Nicola led a short but meaningful service.

This time in the Christian calendar is always 'full on' and it is hoped that those who take our services know how much they are appreciated.

Just in excess of £800, which was the donation total from the Coffee morning and Christmas tree decorations, was divided between the Alzheimer's Society and Shelter box.

It was agreed that the coffee morning at the beginning of December is a good opportunity to meet with folk from the town in a relaxed way. Martin suggested it could be called friends raising instead of fund raising !

It was with great sadness that Avril told us that Don Keys had died just before Christmas. Anne has been part of our fellowship for some time and her love and care for Don during his illness has touched so many of us.

Don was a vibrant, true gentleman who will be greatly missed by family, friends and so many in Dennington where they have lived for a number of years. There was a wonderful partnership so we remember Anne in our prayers at this difficult time.

With the many events planned for this year we hope that 2019 will be a time of real fellowship in our church and look forward to many occasions when we can share the Good News of Jesus .

Woodbridge House Groups

I am the new WMC House Group Co-Ordinator. At the moment there are four house groups within our church, all a little different in the way they organise themselves.

Why do we have such groups? They are a great way of getting to know a small group of people and a great place to enjoy being a Christian. They tend to be groups of six to twelve people who get together to share and to grow in faith. They often include Bible study and discussion about our faith, but also include sharing the lighter side of life such as meals out and theatre visits. Our four groups all meet on different days and times. A list of the groups, together with contact numbers is on the church notice board. If you are not in one at the moment but would like to try one, either use the contact number or phone me. I am sure that there will be one to suit you!

There is plenty of material for use in house groups and this is now stored on a shelf in the church office. Feel free to look at the material at any time. Each set of books is in a folder. If you do wish to take away the folder, please remove the card and write your house group's name and date on it, then placing it in the box provided. I hope this will enable me to keep track of where everything is, and the date gives me an idea of when it is likely to be returned.

On the next page are some thoughts from one member of a house group which I hope makes encouraging reading.

Deirdre Rothwell

OUR HOUSEGROUP: PRACTICAL AND SOCIAL ACTION

Methodists have always been pleased to belong to a practical and socially minded church.

We wonder if you are aware of the work which members of the Phoenix House group, led by Derek and Deirdre Rothwell, do in the community and in the church? We hope you are surprised and pleased to see such a range of practical and social action.

Did you know:

- one of our house group is a school governor;
- one is a volunteer at Warren Hill Prison Chaplaincy;
- one is a Citizens Advice Bureau volunteer;
- two are volunteers with the charity Tools With A Mission;
- five are on the church sound desk/AV team;
- one is a church steward;
- two are on the Open The Book team;
- six of us sing with the church choir;
- one is the church treasurer;
- two belong to the church pastoral friends;
- two are Woodbridge town pastors;
- two of us volunteer with the Parent and Toddler and Messy Church groups.

And all this plus fitting in work, family, friends - and a social life!

“Don’t sit at home moping – join a House Group!”

NEWS AND GREETINGS

FROM THREE MINISTERS

Revd Jeremy Hajdu-Paulen (2001-2) was blessed with a 3-month sabbatical, during which the HP family travelled to Europe (England, Wales and Hungary) meeting old friends and seeing new sights. Elder daughter Miriam (14) was confirmed in their church near Portland, Oregon, and has started playing the tenor sax. Younger daughter Margaret (10) learned to swim and has taken a few acting classes. Jeremy and Allison enjoyed being invited to the Woodbridge Manse by Martin and Pam to see the changes since they lived there. The Hajdu-Paulens write that in a tumultuous time, may we all seek to be people of hope, joy, love and peace. Their newsletter is pinned up on the entrance hall noticeboard.

Once again Revd Frank Aichele (2002- 2010) travelled a lot as part of his work as mission secretary for the United Methodist Church in Germany. He visited South Africa, Mozambique, Liberia, Nigeria, Lesotho and Swaziland. Also two visits to Atlanta for the board meetings of the General Board of Global Ministries and European meetings in Copenhagen. All interesting parts of his work.

The year did not start too well for Gabi because in March she slipped on an icy patch and broke both bones in her left arm and then developed a "CRP Syndrome" which attacks the nerve system. This was treated quickly and the arm has improved afterwards slowly, but much better than expected. Gabi was off work for several months and she still has some limitations in the arm. Fortunately, Gabi was able to join Frank on a summer holiday in South Africa, Botswana and Zambia, including the breath-taking Victoria Falls and Chobe National Park with enormous herds of wild animals. Altogether a wonderful experience that showed again the beauty of God's wonderful creation.

Frank and Gabi are visiting Suffolk in the summer and Frank has accepted an invitation from the Woodbridge stewards to lead the service on Sunday 5th May 2019 when they will both be able to tell us more news and show us something of Frank's travels and his mission work. Put it in your diary, please.

Although Francisca Rhys was not a minister in the Woodbridge section while here (she was a youth leader and candidated for the ministry from the Ipswich circuit), many will know that Fran is now minister at Bishop Street Methodist Church in Leicester, a mixed Christian congregation of all ages and from four continents, worshipping in a large 204 year old chapel complete with café. Fran and Diane's news of holidays in Cornwall and Greenbelt, the Whetstone Community Harvest and the Pennsylvania State Chilli Cook-Off is pinned up on the notice board.

Monty and Freddie Guest

The Methodist Church



Ipswich Circuit

is seeking a part-time (20 hours a week)

Children and Families/Pastoral Worker

for Alan Road and Woodbridge Methodist Churches to provide pastoral support and work with the families and children involved with the Church or who use the premises.

Salary £ 8.75 per hour plus additional points dependent on responsibilities, qualifications and experience.

Initially for 2 years with a possibility of extension subject to available funding.

There is a genuine occupational requirement for the postholder to be a Christian. An enhanced DBS certificate will be required.

Further Information and Application form from: Circuit Office, 17 Black Horse Lane, Ipswich IP1 2EF Tel: 01473 254781 Email: circuitoffice@methodistic.org.uk

Closing date 31st January 2019*

Interviews to be held w/c 11th February to commence as soon as possible.

*Although date has passed we are sure applications will still be considered.

Bible Reading Fellowship

February is the month when I place orders to BRF for Bible reading notes for the forthcoming year. The cost is just £4.50 and there are a variety of notes to choose from.

New Daylight 'sustains your daily journey with the bible'

Guidelines is 'bible study for today's ministry and mission'

Day by Day with God 'rooting women's lives in the bible'

The Upper Room 'where the world meets to pray'

I have examples of all these for you to see before making your choice. The next notes start in May with a daily reading, comments and prayer. I will be pleased to order single copies if you require yours sooner.

Helen Lewis 01394 411232

Prayer Circles

For a number of years we have had two Prayer Circles, by phone and by email. In the last couple of months some of the Telephone Prayer Circle have been able to transfer to the email system as they are online. Carol Hollett runs this and I continue to circulate messages by phone.

However you take part this is an important ministry for our church family, and also a very good way of keeping in touch with folk and their needs especially if you can't be at church every week. Some of our members are housebound, but are able to feel part of the church by receiving news via the Prayer circle. We can all pray even if we can't get to church, and we can support our friends and the church family in this way.

If you haven't joined the Prayer circle yet, it's a simple matter of making contact:

Carol Hollett carol.hollett9@gmail.com

Helen Lewis **01394 411232**

We look forward to hearing from you

A NEW HYMN

At a service in November at Woodbridge, David Welbourn talked about a key part of the New Testament and introduced us to a new hymn which he had written. It was an expression of the passage in Chapter 6 of St John's Gospel where Jesus explains clearly to the crowd and the disciples, as if they still had not understood what his earthly ministry was about already (which quite possibly they had not), some "home truths". David suggests that the hymn is set to the tune Richmond.

"I am the bread of life", he said.

"My body is your food:
drink from my blood to quench your thirst,
and gain eternal life".

Some in the crowd were truly fazed
at such outrageous claims.
Too harsh a pill for them to take,
their faith too weak to last.

Then Jesus faced his chosen few,
love shining in his eyes.
"Will you leave too" was all he asked:
so keen to hear their thoughts.

Peter replied for all the twelve:
"How could we choose to leave?
With you alone, we're truly blessed,
to leave would make no sense.

"You've shown us all there is to know:
the wondrous love of God;
the richness of his bounteous grace;
His peace surpassing all.

"Wisdom beyond our deepest dreams;
And words to touch our soul;
Signs which reveal God's inmost ways;
A life beyond compare".

So as we read God's written word,
we pray we too may feel
that same compulsion to declare
our trust and faith in Him.

© David Welbourn 2018

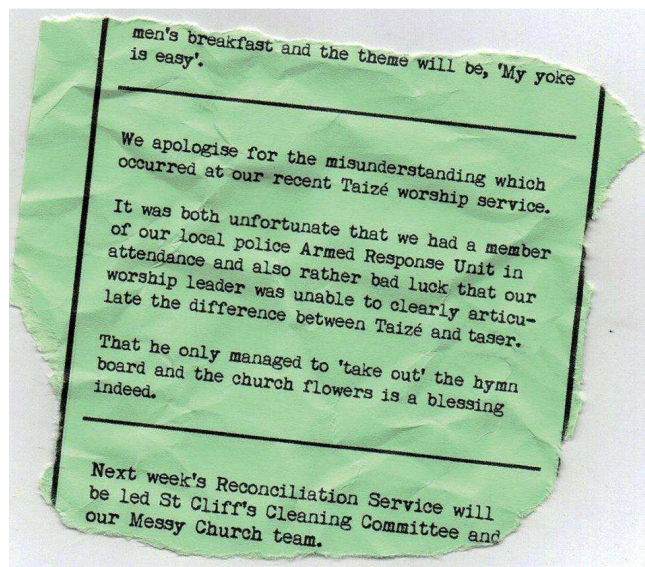
Out of the Mouths of Innocent Children

Whilst walking past his church, a minister heard the intoning of a prayer that made his collar wilt. Apparently his 5 year-old son and two playmates had found a dead robin.

Feeling that a proper burial should be performed, they had secured a small box and cotton wool bedding, then dug a hole and made ready the deceased for disposal.

The minister's son had chosen to say an appropriate prayer and with suitable dignity he was intoning his version of what he thought his father always said, "Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and into the hole he goes".

Diana Luxmoore



©Andy Robb www.thebestofderekthecleric.wordpress.com

Woodbridge Computer Club

Is this you when it comes to Information
Technology?



Want to know more about Computers, Smartphones
and the like.

Want to keep up with your Kids/Grandkids?

The Computer Club provides a drop-in facility for
Woodbridge residents who would like help/support
using their computers/smart devices for hobbies or for
family purposes. It is also a space to meet, in an
informal relaxed environment, likeminded people with
whom to share knowledge, learn from each other and
support each other as much as possible.

Saturday Mornings 10.30 – 12.00 at Woodbridge
Methodist Church St. Johns Street IP12 1ED.
Completely free but Tea and Coffee available at cost.

Contact woodbridge.computerclub@gmail.com or
07889 512216 for further info.

Forthcoming Events

Framlingham

Monday 4 February 7.30 Church Hall - James Mableby speaking about Zimbabwe

Saturday 9 February 11am-2pm Church Hall - Soup + Pud lunch for Christian Aid, with FT Stall

Monday 18 February 7.30 Church Hall - Games and cake evening

Orford

MONDAY TEA ROOM open from 11am – 2pm (ish) with a menu choice for LUNCH and morning coffee

WEDNESDAY LUNCH – a two course meal at just £6.00 and served at 12.30pm – you are welcome to join with us, however you do need to book for this meal

SHROVE TUESDAY 5 MARCH – SOUP & PANCAKES from 12noon – 2pm

Woodbridge

27 Feb Church Council 7.30pm

WOODBIDGE SERVICES

3rd	10.45	Rev M Allen	
10th	09.30 10.45	Rev M Dawes Mrs R Loggie	Communion
17th	10.45	Rev M Dawes	Communion
24th	10.45 4.30pm	Local Arrangement Rev M Dawes	Holy communion with prayers for healing

ORFORD SERVICES

3rd	10.30am	Stephen Caley	
10th	10.30am	Service Arranged Locally	
17th	10,30am	CAFE WORSHIP	
24th	10.30am	Rev. Martin Dawes – Communion	
	3pm	Cream Tea & Sing	

FRAMLINGHAM SERVICES

3rd	11.00	W Glasse	Café Worship
10th	11.00	Rev M Dawes	Communion
17th	11.00	Mrs N Glasse	
24th	11.00	Mr C Westren	

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

Woodbridge, Framlingham and Orford

Minister: Rev Martin Dawes,

13, Grundisburgh Road,

Woodbridge. IP12 4HJ

Tel: 01394 383674

email: martincdawes@yahoo.com

Lay worker: Mr Stephen Caley,

'Andorra', School Road,

Sudbourne. IP12 2BE

Tel:01394 450676

Church Contacts

Woodbridge: Mrs Anne Stevenson

Tel: 01394 385728

email: stevensonanne61@yahoo.com

Church Website: www.woobridgemethodistchurch.org.uk

Framlingham: Mrs Nicky Seabrook

Tel: 01473 735131

email: nicky@theseabrooks.co.uk

Church Website: www.framlinghamufc.onesuffolk.net

Orford: Mr Stephen Caley (details above)

N.B. Items for the March Link must be in no later than 10/02/19

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

link.articles@btopenworld.com