

THE LINK

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WOODBIDGE



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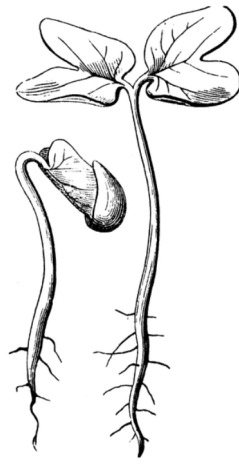


ORFORD

FRAMLINGHAM



March 2019



MESSAGE FROM THE MANSE

Dear Friends,

I love this time of year; spring is a time when the trees and hedges begin to dress in their spring colours of variegated greens and spring flowers bring colour to the grass. This is a great season of hopefulness that seems to be reflected in the singing of the birds as they seek a mate and build their nests and even in the croaking of the frogs in the pond in the manse garden. Spring is a time when we can really get down to some serious gardening as well; preparing the soil, sowing seeds, planting out seedlings and watching for the green shoots to show above the ground, with all their promise of a crop to come.

Green shoots are signs of hope for the gardeners amongst us, but the phrase is often used in other areas of life as well. Wherever people have worked hard and there are hints of success, those hints are often referred to as 'green shoots', for green shoots are signs of hope and even the merest glimmer of success in a big venture is a sign of hope, something to build upon.

In the church we can easily get despondent about news of declining congregations, difficulty in attracting ministers, what the media tells us about the place of Christianity in society and so on. It is always easy to find things to grumble about, but grumbling is not our business. Our business is the business of hope and as a consequence, rather than grumble about what is going wrong, we need to search for the green shoots that remind us that God is at work among us, that he is touching people's lives and making a difference.

Look around at the good things that are happening: the people finding comfort, help and support from the church and its members. Look at the number of organisations

working for good in the community – many of those organisations exist because of the Christian Church and its sense of social responsibility, and many of them are led or staffed by church members. Look at the number of people who come onto church premises week by week for a whole variety of reasons, many not directly connected to the church at all; but still are touched by God because they are meeting in a holy place, or interact from time to time with our members. Look at all the people we meet day by day, people whose lives can be touched by the love of Christ because we have spoken to them in a caring way, responded to their needs in love or just smiled and greeted them in passing. All these are seeds of the Kingdom being planted, and some of those seeds germinate and begin to show green shoots of hope in people's lives.

The world is full of grumblers and nay-sayers, they need no help from us! On the contrary, we are in the business of hope, and the green shoots of lives being touched by God's love are what we look for – and when they are sparse, we need to be preparing the ground and sowing the seeds of the Kingdom at every opportunity. We don't always get to see the harvest, that may be someone else's Job – as St Paul wrote of members the ancient church at Corinth: 'I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase'. Our job is to sow and to tend, the harvest is God's business. For us, it is always spring-time and may the green shoots of hope keep coming up!

God bless,

WOODBIDGE FAMILY NEWS

The Link is indeed a very important link for our church family, especially those who are housebound and others who can't be at church as often as they would like, due to health problems, or family commitments, or even the weather that can pose a problem at this time of year. For those who are shut-in just a friendly phone call or a visit from a church friend can work wonders! As I write this in early February, we don't know what may still be round the corner. Last year's Beast from the East didn't arrive until March!

Yet life still goes on! We think of those enduring homelessness, and all the help that the churches and others give. There is also extreme hardship amongst some individuals and families, and the Salvation Army does a fantastic job distributing food that we and other churches donate week by week.

However this is March, and we can all look forward to the spring: daffodils and new life springing up in our gardens and hedgerows. Birds are singing for a mate and beginning to nest and early bees and butterflies are out on warm days. We must look after them too as part of our stewardship of God's creation.

We have some very exciting and amazing news from the Archer family. Emily Pursehouse, Jenny and Bryan Archer's granddaughter, recently became the English Women's weightlifting champion, with a combined lift of 179kg! Emily, who was baptised in our church by Stephen Yelland in 1996, took up weightlifting when she was a student at Loughborough University and became British Universities Champion. She now works at Culford School as a Strength and Conditioning Coach. Well done Emily! Your family must be very proud of you.

Trish and Roger were at a fundraising event in Brighton at the weekend for motor neurone disease organised by their daughter Zoe. Their son in law Gordon spoke along with a professor engaged in research. The event and dinner raised an amazing £38,000. Gordon hopes to continue in his teaching job to the end of the school year. Pray that he will be able to walk his son Louis to school in September.

Nigel Bingham is working hard at his long term recovery. He has frequent visits to Addenbrookes for specialised physio to improve the mobility of his right hand and fingers. He is also having remedial work done on his right leg prior to receiving skin grafts. He and his wife Suzanne will need our prayers for a long time.

Peter Hoyle has been very poorly with a heart attack and side effects from medication. We pray for him, Wilma, Dylan and Oliver.

Some members of our church family have long term debilitating conditions and it's lovely to see them when they are able to worship with us, and have a good chat over coffee, thinking especially of Sheila with Gareth and Muriel with Bob. Christine Griffiths is a real stalwart and we pray that she will soon be much better and free from pain.

Our Saturday Coffee and Chat mornings are a wonderful outreach to those who hire our premises, to our own church family, and to others who join us off the street or from other churches in Woodbridge. The coffee is always hot and the cakes delicious. Thank you to all the volunteers who help.

From the Coffee and Chat in October Fairtrade Fortnight last year £145.65 was collected. In the final Half Price Sale of Traidcraft goods in January £330.64 was taken. A total of £476.29 was sent to Traidcraft Exchange for their development work overseas. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this excellent total. Traidcraft has changed the way it operates, but you can still go online to look for a reduced range of goods. After 21 years it's time for me to stop being a Fairtrader, but I hope all of us will look out for the Fairtrade Mark when we go shopping at our local supermarket. It makes a big difference to people in the Developing world.

God Bless our Church family!

Heleen.

ORFORD FAMILY NEWS

It's been a bit quieter in the Monday tea room this last few weeks but the Wednesday Lunch numbers have kept up despite the usual winter coughs and colds.

Our friends Ruth Murray and Charlie Brown are unable to be with us at the time these notes are prepared – Ruth in hospital and Charlie residing in Care in Woodbridge – our prayers and love are with them both.

Our love and support also go to the Bantoft family in the recent death of Audrey, a long time resident of Orford who reached the grand age of 97 last October. Her Thanksgiving & Funeral Service, which had been arranged by herself some time ago, and held in our church, was conducted by Stephen Caley. Audrey's very interesting and homely life formed the Address, with her youngest son Nigel bringing to the service a wonderful and amusing Tribute to his mum. Audrey's request was that after the funeral there should be (only) Chocolate Cake and Tea/Coffee – and this we did in her memory. Audrey attended the morning services some time ago – and her son Michael had been her Carer for 20years. Michael himself is in hospital and was too poorly to attend the Thanksgiving service – we wish him well for better health.

The children at church all have February & March birthdays, Felicity and Sofia (Feb) and Ellen (March) – Happy Birthday and lots of love too!

Our many thanks for support given to enable monies to be sent to the charities: Children in Distress, E.A.C.H (Children's hospice). St Elizabeth Hospice, and the Leprosy Mission. Thank you too to those who support the East Suffolk Food Bank with their gifts of food items.

FRAMLINGHAM FAMILY NEWS

Since the last edition of the Link our school room has been the venue for some enjoyable events.

As usual Cafe worship was well attended. Lively discussions took place interspaced with songs accompanied by Jean and Katherine. It was great to have Ben Grogan serving chocolate croissants and other delicious refreshments.

At our Cameo evening James Mableby spoke of his involvement in Zimbabwe and the charity he founded ZAWT(Zimbabwe Agricultural Welfare Trust). The aim of the trust is to support children who have suffered as a result of the situation in the country that has developed since Mugabe came to power. Supported by slides it was a very interesting discussion and encouraging to see young people achieving a good educational standard in spite of all their circumstances.

On 18 March an evening meal out has been planned, the details of which will be known nearer the time.

It was decided at the last Christian Aid Meeting that as a fund raising initiative we would have more frequent soup and pud lunches. This proved to be a very successful ecumenical event and although it was a very blustery and wet morning many familiar faces appeared to enjoy a variety of delicious home made soups and wonderful desserts. The next one is planned for May and we hope for even more people as the weather will be kinder. £173 was raised for C.A.

Nicky gave us happy news of Rosie who is having a wonderful time in Thailand with 3 friends. Rosie worked hard to raise the funds to go travelling during her gap year before starting at Durham University in September.

Laurian is back from her family holiday 'Down Under' so we are looking forward to hearing all about her time there.

When we chose 2 March for our Church party, we did not know that it was Martin's Birthday so we can 'push the boat' out with old fashioned and silly games! Food will be a "bring and share" tea with the emphasis on Party Fare. Oh ! 2.30 start. We hope as many of our fellowship will come to make this a happy occasion.

Apologies to Helen Glasse as I omitted to say that she attended the URC Youth Assembly at Lichfield in January in the role of the Representative for the Eastern Synod. Well done, Helen for fitting this in with your busy life at Bath.

We know of ongoing health issues amongst those in our church and their loved ones. We pray that they will find support and comfort within our caring fellowship.

ENID PHILLIPS 18 June 1936 - 9 January 2019

It was with sadness that we learned of the death of Enid, better known to us as Enid Millns. It was here, in Woodbridge, that she was for many years a very active and much valued member of the congregation. Enid's skills were varied and, at time when the church was undergoing a great deal of change and all able hands were needed, she was always busy. Enid's keyboard skills embraced both the typewriter and the piano and she was invaluable on the secretarial front as well as accompanying the singing when and where needed. This was especially appreciated by me in the Sunday School where she also helped with the very young children in an imaginative way (think of messy church). There was a touching moment on the Sunday when her death had been announced when, standing at the lectern before reading the lesson, Peggy Baker gently pointed out that the piano near the front of the sanctuary, used still in services and concerts, is "Enid's piano". Enid was also a member of the cooking team in our Day Centre but what many in the church will recall most are the bumper teas she organised at Christmas and other times of the year. When she left Woodbridge, Enid moved first to the Midlands and then to Dunstable, where she met and married Reg Phillips, a Local Preacher who often needed a pianist for the services he conducted. They were able to come back to Suffolk twice after their marriage, so it was possible for Enid to show Reg around the church at Woodbridge and travel also to Orford, where we had attended so many Good Friday services which she loved. In recent years, Enid's diabetes became worse and throughout the many dialysis treatments required at the local hospital and the difficulties of daily life, Reg has been of immense support. The service in celebration of her life was held at the Toddington Methodist Church on 29th January and was conducted by two ministers, with a further two ministers, one of whom was Rev David Marshall, contributing to the tributes. We give thanks for the happy times they were able to share together and send our love and sympathy to Reg, to Enid's daughter and son, and to all the family at this difficult time.

Audrey Robertson

CHRISTMAS!

OH NO! OH YES!

You may feel this is a little early to be asking – “What are your favourite Christmas Carols” or “How many of the ‘New’ Carols in Singing The Faith do you know/like?” – but, at Woodbridge Methodist Church we are going to be having one of our Songs of Praise types of Service at 10:30am until about 12:30pm on Sunday 30th June 2019 – and we would like to include a small section of Christmas Carols – favourites and new ones amongst the other hymns we select. June seems to me to be an excellent time to look at and sing a few Christmas Carols away from the hype, advertising frenzies and mistaken interpretations of Christmas that we are embattled with every year. So, what do I want you to do? Over the next few weeks, have another good look at your hymn book(s) and think about which hymns you would like to include in the service (your ‘favourites’ or ‘special meaning’ hymns) and also look at the Christmas section and see if there are any that you would like us to try out or that you think we may all gain benefit from singing them in the bleak mid-summer! There will be a post box set up after Easter (21st April 2019) at WMC until 26th May 2019 but anyone can e-mail me their list – there are no limits on numbers of selections—up to 2nd April 2019 michaelandjoy.porter@btinternet.com so that I can organise them aided and abetted as before by Jean Crossley into a service that should promise a Thoroughly Good Sing in true Methodist style! I would also welcome suggestions for readings or any other item that you feel would add to this service and for some volunteers to introduce their choices. Last time (which was in May 2017!) we sang through between one and all the verses from 41 out of nearly 150 suggested hymns – and still had voice left to finish with Cwm Rhondda! This year we would like to raise the roof even more, so please, choose early – avoid the Christmas rush by being ready in June!

Michael Porter



Brenda Dudley and other ladies from our church along with local friends spend many hours knitting for this charity. You may have seen little cardigans, hats, bootees and blankets they have made.

Brenda received a letter of thanks:

I am delighted to say that we have received your lovely knitted donations. We look forward to delivering the items, as they undoubtedly make a big difference to those in need. Some have been sent recently to a charity in London helping trafficked women, others to Syrian refugees.

Thank you SO much! So many items, wonderful!

Your donations have a great impact on the communities where they are sent, not only do they provide much needed warmth, but the recipients are always so touched by the time and effort that you put into making these items. We couldn't do our work without the generosity of people like you.

Last time Brenda sent an amazing 50 items!

So speak to Brenda or phone (01394 382681) if you would like to Knit for Peace. She will tell you what is required. All the knitters need a constant supply of yarn. If you don't knit yourself but can contribute some yarn, especially Double knitting that is most welcome too!

Also, hats for sailors on the big boats at Felixstowe

Gill Stevenson (01394 385298) is your contact for these. They go to the Chaplain visiting the sailors. They appreciate very much a gift of a warm head covering when they are at sea in all weathers. Gill has a simple pattern.



**LENT
BIBLE
SCHOOL
2019**

*“Prayer and Prayers
in the Bible”*

*In five sessions
led by Rev. Martin Dawes*

Woodbridge Methodist Church (upstairs)

Mondays at 2.30pm,
11th, 18th, 25th March, 1st and 8th April

Dylan Hoyle's Golf-A-Thon

To raise money for my 4-week trip to Borneo in the summer of 2020, I want to undergo a huge challenge that will up my fitness and build my character. I tend to be quite a lazy person, but I decided I wanted to get up off the sofa for something that will change me. I have been a part of Ufford Park Golf Club since the age of 4, when I started in the academy.

At the current moment I am in year 10 at Farlingaye High School, I plan to be a marine biologist when I'm older. I wish to look after and preserve environments for all animals and humanity. This will not be a holiday for me, but an incredible learning experience. I am going to understand the issue at hand and so that when I come back, I have a deeper understanding of the issues and it is then that I hope to make a difference.

What I will be doing is a sunup till sundown golf-a-thon, on Thursday 20th June at Ufford Park Golf Club. I will continue until I have achieved a minimum of 72 holes, however I strive to complete more. I will continue for as long as light allows me, and I will follow through with this rain or shine, the only reason I will stop is if there are lightning strikes and the course is closed as a result.

I am going to Borneo, not to make a massive change, but to gain a greater understanding about the issue that is the mass deforestation and the abuse of natural resources. The farming of palm oil is a real issue that my family and I have noticed even before this opportunity, but when this chance sprung up, I just knew I had to go. Palm oil is in loads of products we use, and it is very hard to find alternatives. Whenever my family notice that we have been using a product with palm oil in it, we try and substitute it. Now this is very tricky because as I said, it is in pretty much everything. Also, what I am trying to do is to use reusable bags and up the amount of plastic we recycle. The amount of plastic that ends up in the ocean

drastically hinders marine life and affects us. Plastic ends up in the fish we eat and therefore, gets into our digestive system. I plead with you to think about playing an active role in reducing the amount of plastic waste we put into landfill and oceans. I support the current drive to have a deposit for plastic bottles as they currently do in Germany. I have travelled to Germany on many occasions and can say that the system works well.

How can you help me?

Sponsor me for each hole I complete.

Make a donation to my GoFundMe account: <https://www.gofundme.com/8qfjt-getmetoborneo>

Join me for my final round. You can do this by bidding at an auction to play 3 of my final holes to help encourage me to complete my challenge. The successful bidder for the 70th to 72nd hole may be required to continue through till I am done if I am able play more (hopefully). The date of the auction will be advised at a later date.

Spread the word and ask others to support me.

Thank you in advance for taking the time to read about my challenge, I hope I can count on your support.

Regards

Dylan Hoyle

WOODBIDGE
ORCHESTRAL SOCIETY

PRESENT A PROGRAMME
OF LIGHT CLASSICAL MUSIC

AT

WOODBIDGE METHODIST CHURCH

(IP12 1ED)

MONDAY 1st APRIL AT 7.30 p.m.

Music includes:

Symphony no. 35, Haffner	Mozart
Nimrod from Enigma variations	Elgar
Romance no. 2 for violin and orchestra	Beethoven
Finlandia	Sibelius
Water Music	Handel

Tickets £7 (includes light refreshments)

from Helen Lewis 01394 411232/

Anne Stevenson 01394 385728

or at the door.

Proceeds for the work of the Church.

News from Joy Preparatory and Junior High School Ekon Cape Coast Ghana. As you know Christopher, my brother, helped Richard Dadzie, the head, to set up this school in a poor fishing village on the Cape Coast in Ghana and as we as a Church have helped in various ways, financially and sending a group out to see how the project was developing, I thought you would be interested to read a report from Richard, the head.

“The school has been able to present 6 batches of students from 2013-2018. In all 98 students have passed and completed school and out of this number as many as 95 of them have furthered their education to the higher level. Several are learning a vocation. 5 of them are at the tertiary level of education. John Mensah is studying Computer Science at Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology. More than 10 of them have passed their senior high school exams and are waiting to go to university. We’re very proud of Mr Prince Annan who had 6 As and 2Bs in his West African Senior Secondary School Certificate Exam. This has never happened in the village before. He is the first to have attained such a feat. He will be on full scholarship from Phastor Company Ltd for his university education. Mr Samuel Abedu Sam has now joined a prestigious football Academy “Glow Lamp Football Academy”. In the near future we hope he becomes an international footballer and joins Manchester United. We’re encouraging him to train hard to achieve his dream because he promised to give back to the school if he’s successful in his football career.

The school is also proud that 4 of our past students are giving back to the school by helping the teachers in various ways to teach the children while waiting to go on to further education. Also 5 of them after completing their senior high education are having internships with an insurance company on the Cape Coast.

On the whole there is a brighter future for all our past students since they are all being engaged in something productive which in the future will yield dividends to them, the school, and Ghana as a whole.

The school has now become the reference point in the village.”

Trish Lewis

The Methodist Church

Ipswich Circuit

“at the heart of community”

NEW CIRCUIT PRESBYTER

The Circuit has been successful in being allocated a full-time presbyter from overseas for 3 years, to have full pastoral charge of Chantry, Landseer Road and Museum Street churches.

Rev Joan Pell comes to us from America, together with her husband Adrian. She has lived in America since 1997, when her husband moved there with his job, but she is British. She has a BSc in Maths and Computer Science and is a Master of Divinity. She will be coming in July ready to start with us on 1st September and living at the Manse in Arundel Way.

She likes working ecumenically, teaching, creative worship with a mixture of music old and new, using language and liturgy accessible to all people. She will be happy with an ethnically mixed congregation, ideally with some children and youth and where the congregation are open to exploring fresh expressions of church and want to grow in their faith as disciples.

With the differences between American and British Methodism, and her being an URC member before she moved to America, Rev Jo Jacobs will be acting as her Mentor.

**Her Circuit welcome service will be on Wednesday 28th August,
6.30 for 7.00 p.m. at a venue to be advised,**

**and the preacher will be our Chair of District, Rev Julian Pursehouse.
Please put this in your diary as this is a very important service and we
want to give Joan a very big welcome.**

Please pray for Joan, her family and her churches.

Derek Grimshaw

Derek Grimshaw
Superintendent

Diana Sawyer

Diana Sawyer
Senior Circuit Steward



LENT LUNCH

at

The Salvation Army
New Street, Woodbridge

12 noon – 1.30 pm on

Thursdays

March 7, 14, 21, 28

April 4, 11, 18

Come and join us for a simple lunch
of soup, bread and cheese incl. tea or coffee

£4

Served by Churches Together in
Woodbridge & Melton

Forthcoming Events

Framlingham

1st March - 2pm - World Day of Prayer. St. Michael's Church.
Followed by refreshments - All welcome .
3rd March - Fair trade stall after morning worship.
4th March - 7.30pm - CAMEO. To be arranged
18th March - CAMEO evening meal out

Orford

MONDAY TEA ROOM – Open 11 – 2pm (ish) – A great way to meet up for Coffee & Lunch – always good food and friendship on offer and there's Art & Craft, Cards and much more!

WEDNESDAY LUNCH – served at 12.30pm – join with us as often as you wish – booking is necessary.

SHROVE TUESDAY 4th MARCH : SOUP AND PANCAKES from 12 noon – 2pm

CREAM TEA & SING (you favourite hymns/songs) SUNDAY
24th March - 4pm – 5pm

Woodbridge

11th, 18th, 25th - 2.30 Lent Bible school

WOODBIDGE SERVICES

3rd	10.45	Rev M Millar	All Age Worship
10th	09.30 10.45	Rev S Yelland Mr B Nichols	Communion
17th	10.45	Rev M Dawes	Communion
24th	10.45 4.30pm	Prof D Welbourn Rev M Dawes	Holy Communion with Prayers of Healing
31st	10.45	Rev S Yelland	

ORFORD SERVICES

3rd	10.30	Stephen Caley – Soup & Pud	
10th	10.30	Service Arranged Locally	
17th	10.30	Stephen Caley	
24th	10.30 4pm	Rev. Martin Dawes AND Rev. Stephen Yelland Cream Tea & Sing	Communion
31st	10.30	Stephen Caley	

FRAMLINGHAM SERVICES

3rd	11.00	Mr B Nichols	
10th	11.00	Rev M Dawes	Communion
17th	11.00	Mr W Glasse	
24th	11.00	Mr L Rokobuli	
31st	11.00	Mr R Theobald	

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

Woodbridge, Framlingham and Orford

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Framlingham: Mrs Nicky Seabrook

Tel: 01473 735131

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Church Website: www.framlinghamufc.onesuffolk.net

Orford: Mr Stephen Caley (details above)

N.B. Items for the April Link must be in no later than 10/03/19

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

link.articles@btopenworld.com