

Theme Development

05 Theme dev

Place holder Screenshot

Tony Evans

Add a Widget

Sidebar

See next page for screenshots of what your page should look like

In this folder you can see the following:

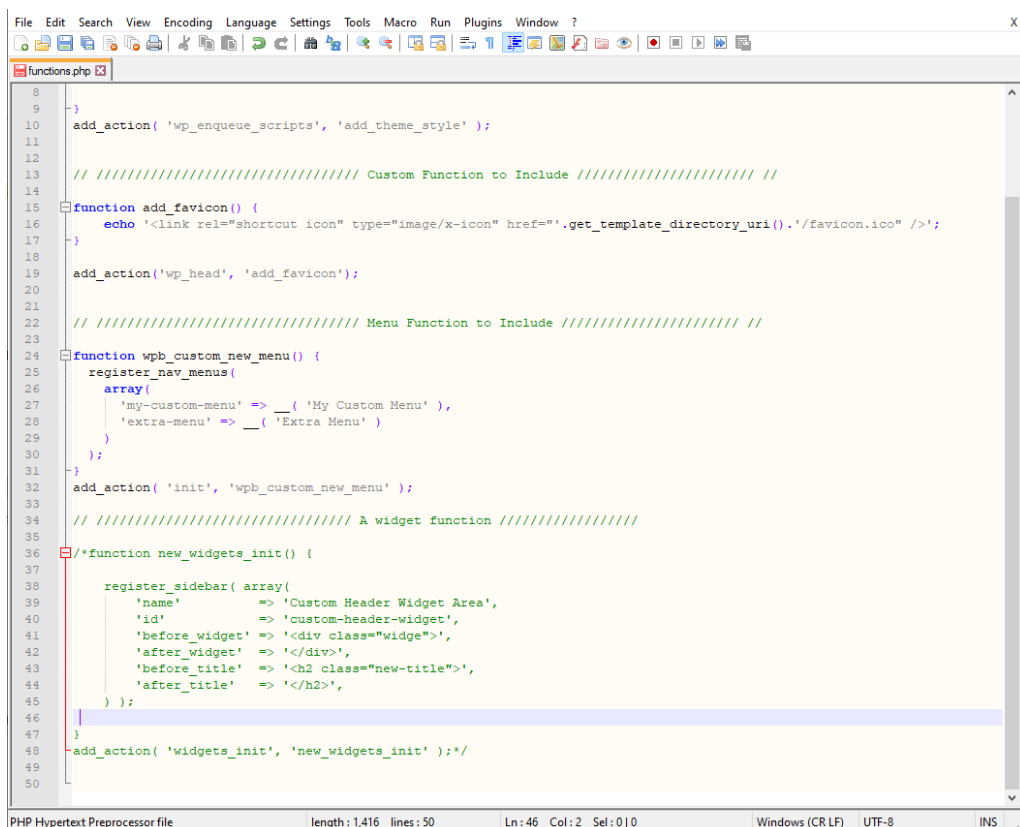
Name	Date modified	Type	Size
css	24/03/2021 2:04 PM	File folder	
about.php	8/04/2020 4:57 PM	PHPfile	1 KB
favicon.ico	9/11/2018 5:57 PM	Icon	2 KB
functions.php	12/05/2021 1:41 PM	PHPfile	2 KB
header.php	12/05/2021 1:18 PM	PHPfile	1 KB
index.php	12/05/2021 1:20 PM	PHPfile	1 KB
screenshot.png	17/10/2018 3:57 PM	PNG File	9 KB
style.css	17/10/2018 4:03 PM	Cascading Style S...	1 KB
05-Theme Development.docx	23/03/2021 8:54 PM	Microsoft Word D...	1,863 KB

The following Tutorial explains how to add a widget to your theme.

Widgets or Sidebars

A widget area is also known as a sidebar. To start adding a widget to your site you will need to edit the “functions.php”.

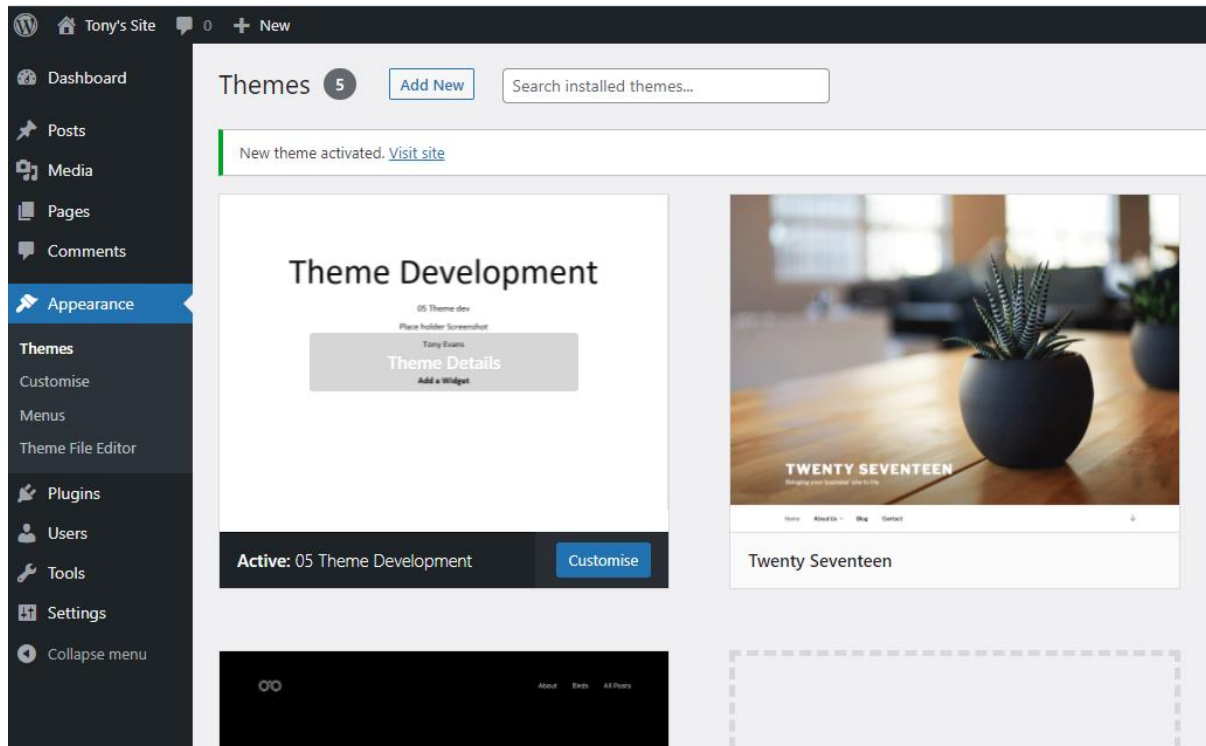
Open the “functions.php” file in notepad++.



```
8
9
10 add_action( 'wp_enqueue_scripts', 'add_theme_style' );
11
12
13 // ////////////////////////////////// Custom Function to Include //////////////////////////////////
14
15 function add_favicon() {
16     echo '<link rel="shortcut icon" type="image/x-icon" href="'.get_template_directory_uri().'favicon.ico" />';
17 }
18
19 add_action('wp_head', 'add_favicon');
20
21
22 // ////////////////////////////////// Menu Function to Include //////////////////////////////////
23
24 function wpb_custom_new_menu() {
25     register_nav_menus(
26         array(
27             'my-custom-menu' => __( 'My Custom Menu' ),
28             'extra-menu' => __( 'Extra Menu' )
29         )
30     );
31 }
32 add_action( 'init', 'wpb_custom_new_menu' );
33
34 // ////////////////////////////////// A widget function //////////////////////////////////
35
36 /*function new_widgets_init() {
37
38     register_sidebar( array(
39         'name' => 'Custom Header Widget Area',
40         'id' => 'custom-header-widget',
41         'before_widget' => '<div class="widget">',
42         'after_widget' => '</div>',
43         'before_title' => '<h2 class="new-title">',
44         'after_title' => '</h2>',
45     ) );
46 }
47
48 add_action( 'widgets_init', 'new_widgets_init' );*/
49
50
```

Scroll down until you see the commented code under the “A widget function” comment. This code is available on WodrPress.org – Theme Handbook - <https://developer.wordpress.org/themes/functionality/sidebars/>

Open your WordPress installation to have a look at the available options.



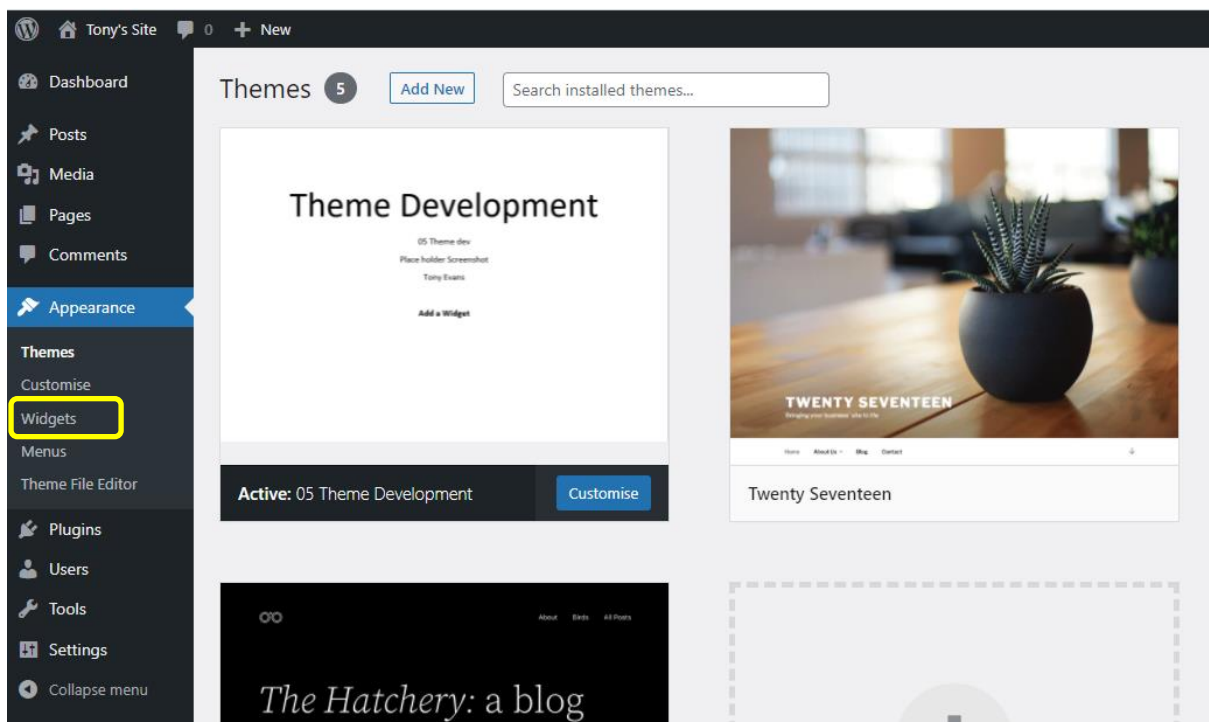
Notice that there is no “widgets” appearing under the “Appearance” menu. This is because the code is commented out and is not registered. If you do not want your users to access widgets or sidebars, then do not register them.

To register the widget area, uncomment the code in the “fucntions.php” file.

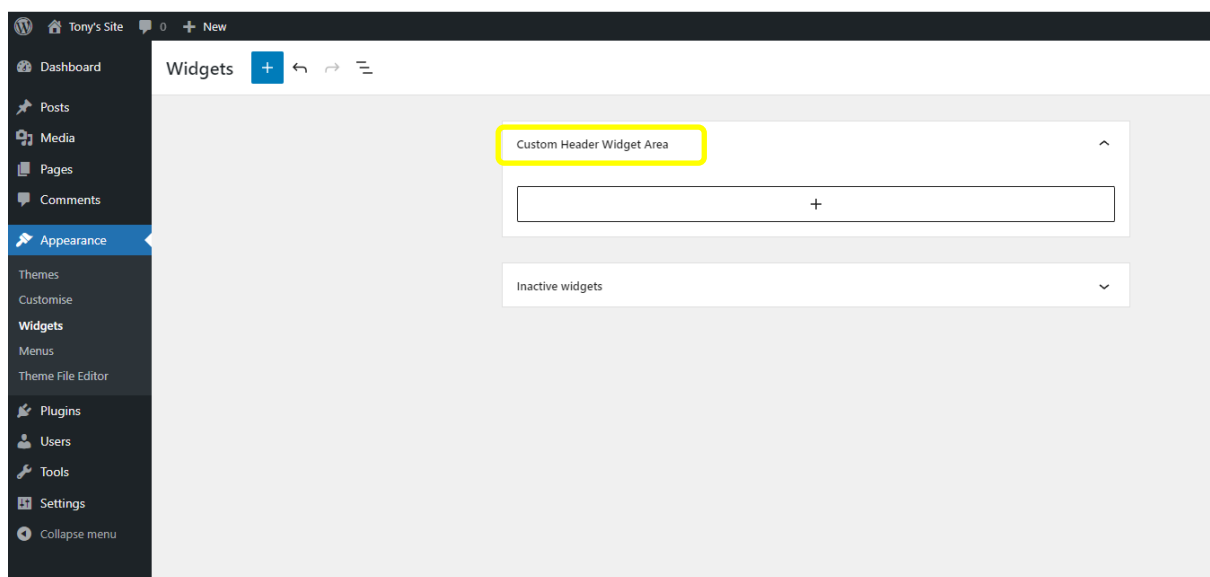
```
File Edit Search View Encoding Language Settings Tools Macro Run Plugins Window ?
Functions.php
8
9
10 add_action( 'wp_enqueue_scripts', 'add_theme_style' );
11
12
13 // ////////////////////////////////// Custom Function to Include //////////////////////////////////
14
15 function add_favicon() {
16     echo '<link rel="shortcut icon" type="image/x-icon" href="'.get_template_directory_uri().'favicon.ico" />';
17 }
18
19 add_action('wp_head', 'add_favicon');
20
21
22 // ////////////////////////////////// Menu Function to Include //////////////////////////////////
23
24 function wpb_custom_new_menu() {
25     register_nav_menus(
26         array(
27             'my-custom-menu' => __( 'My Custom Menu' ),
28             'extra-menu' => __( 'Extra Menu' )
29         )
30     );
31 }
32 add_action( 'init', 'wpb_custom_new_menu' );
33
34 // ////////////////////////////////// A widget function //////////////////////////////////
35
36 function new_widgets_init() {
37     register_sidebar( array(
38         'name' => 'Custom Header Widget Area',
39         'id' => 'custom-header-widget',
40         'before_widget' => '<div class="widget">',
41         'after_widget' => '</div>',
42         'before_title' => '<h2 class="new-title">',
43         'after_title' => '</h2>',
44     ) );
45 }
46
47
48 add_action( 'widgets_init', 'new_widgets_init' );
49
50
```

PHP Hypertext Preprocessor file length: 1,412 lines: 50 Ln: 48 Col: 50 Sel: 0 | 0 Windows (CR LF) UTF-8 INS

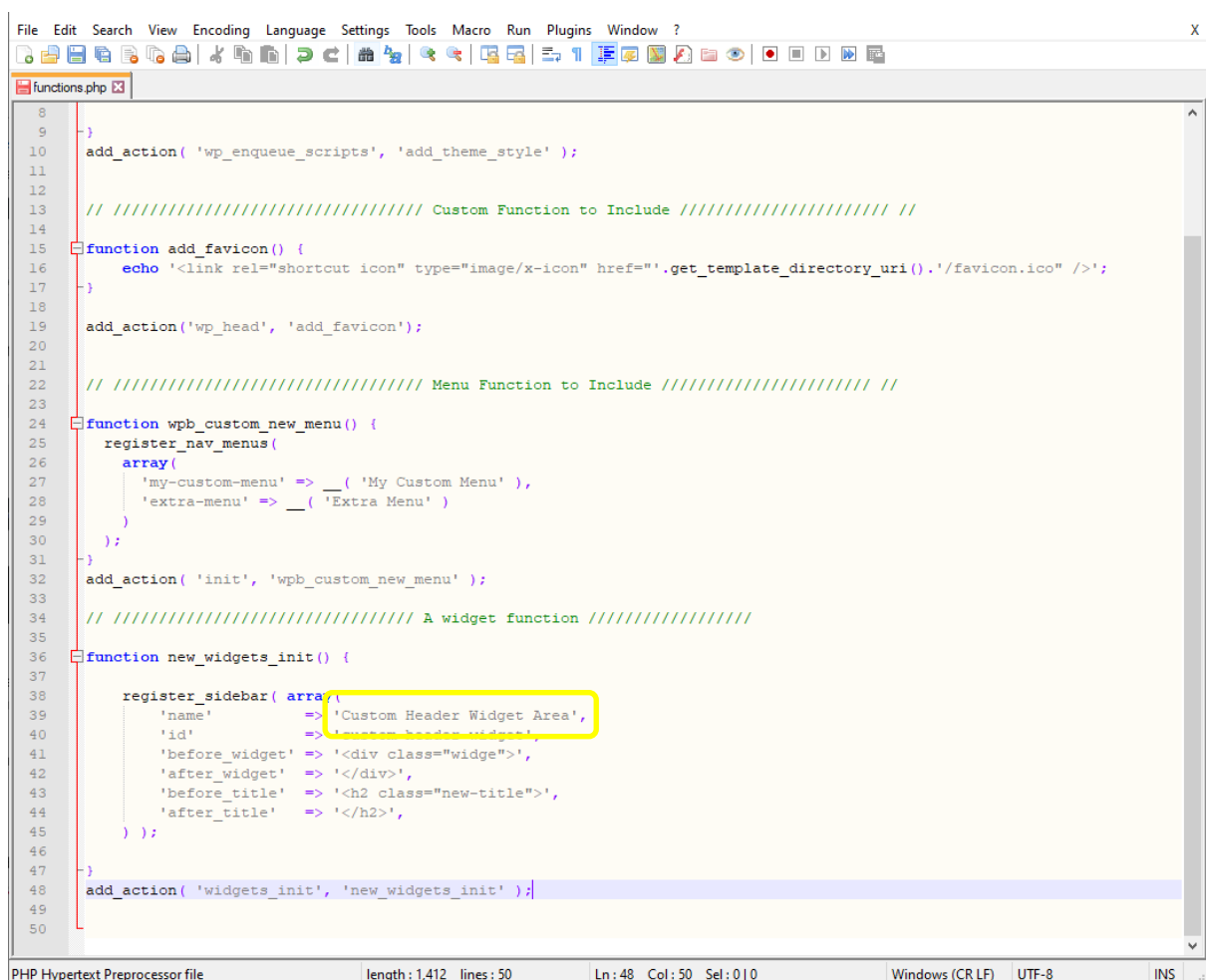
Now that the code is uncommented have a look at WordPress admin area.



Click on the Widgets menu item and have a look at the widget area available.

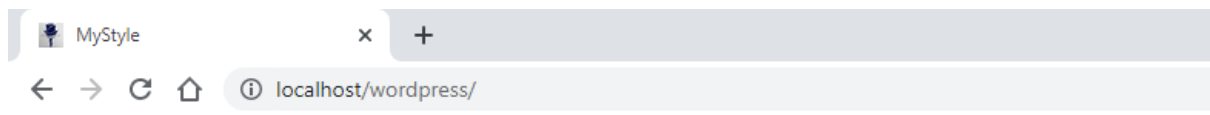


Notice the name of the widget area “Custom Header Widget Area”. Look at the code in the “functions.php” file



The next step we need to have a look at is where is the widget area appearing on the front page.

Open up the front page view to see what is happening.



Test - header.php

This is where the menu should be

[Sample Page](#)

Above this line

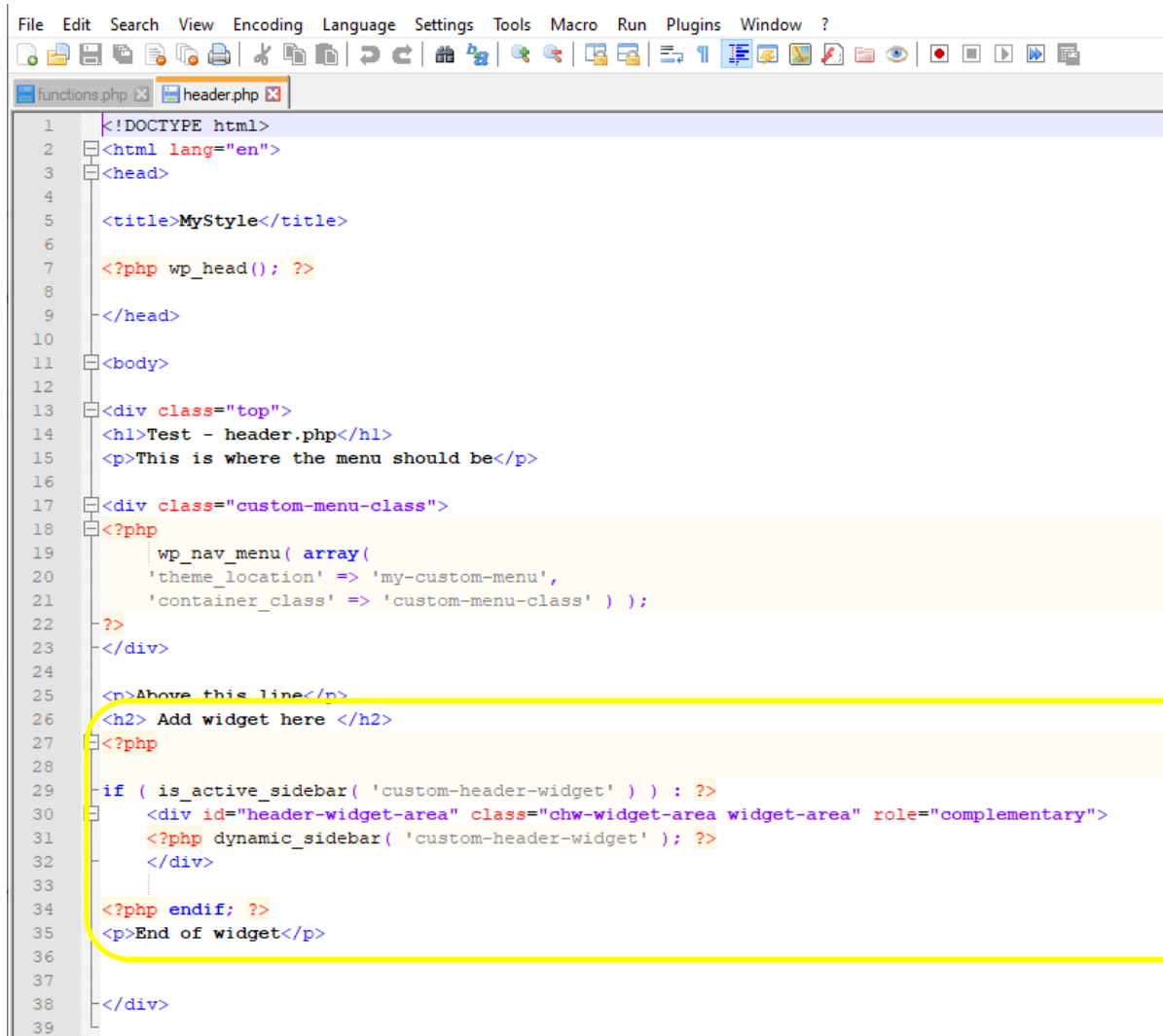
Add widget here

End of widget

My Home Page - index.php

You will notice that the area above shows a heading to demonstrate where the widget will go.

Open the “header.php” file to have a look at the code.

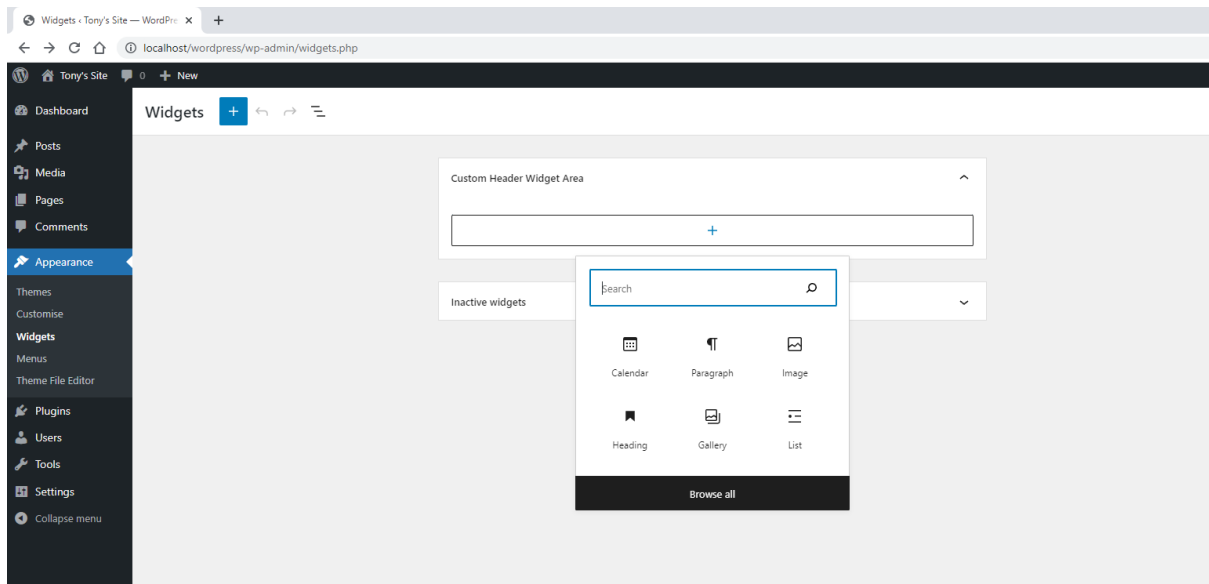


```
1 <!DOCTYPE html>
2 <html lang="en">
3 <head>
4
5 <title>MyStyle</title>
6
7 <?php wp_head(); ?>
8
9 </head>
10
11 <body>
12
13 <div class="top">
14 <h1>Test - header.php</h1>
15 <p>This is where the menu should be</p>
16
17 <div class="custom-menu-class">
18 <?php
19     wp_nav_menu( array(
20         'theme_location' => 'my-custom-menu',
21         'container_class' => 'custom-menu-class' ) );
22 <?>
23 </div>
24
25 <p>Above this line</p>
26 <h2> Add widget here </h2>
27 <?php
28
29 if ( is_active_sidebar( 'custom-header-widget' ) ) : ?>
30 <div id="header-widget-area" class="chw-widget-area widget-area role="complementary">
31 <?php dynamic_sidebar( 'custom-header-widget' ); ?>
32 </div>
33
34 <?php endif; ?>
35 <p>End of widget</p>
36
37 </div>
38
39
```

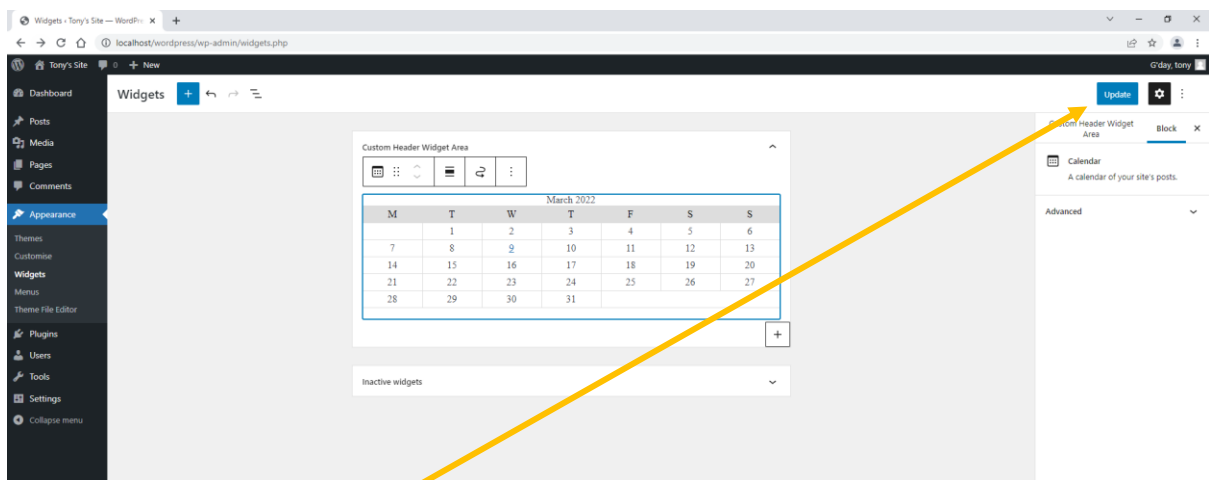
You can see the this showing where the widget we want to add is located. The code underneath the heading is php code to show our new widget. It does not show anything at the moment because there is no widget feature added to the area. For simple demonstration a calendar can be added. Try other features to see what happens.

Go back to the admin area and click on the widgets menu item.

Click the + sign to add a feature.

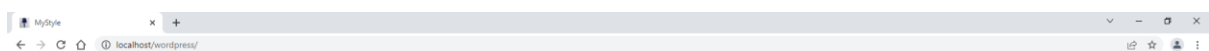


Click calendar.



Click the “update” button.

Return to the front page and view the widget.



Test - header.php

This is where the menu should be

[Sample Page](#)

Above this line

Add widget here

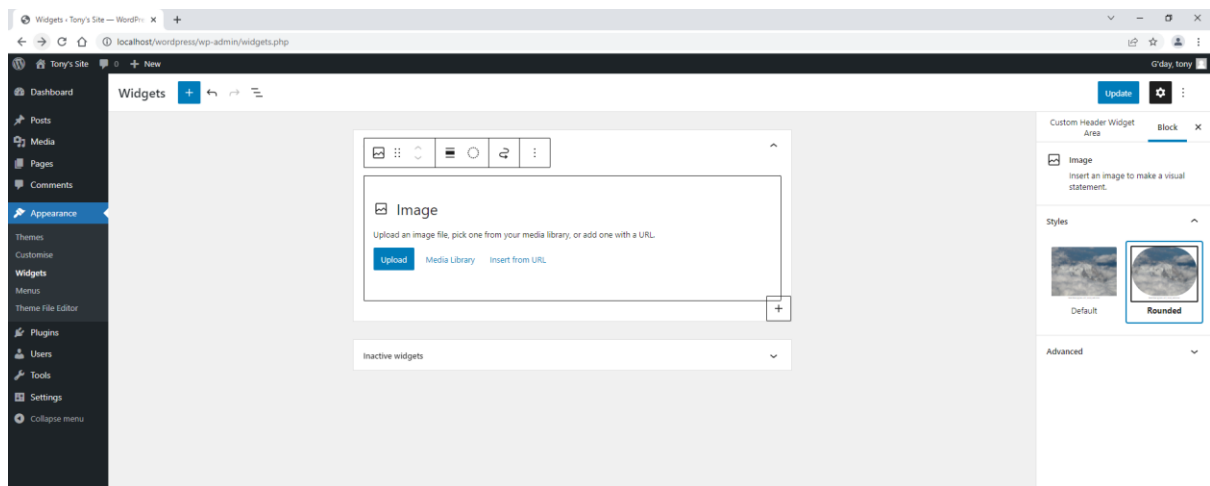
March 2022						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

End of widget

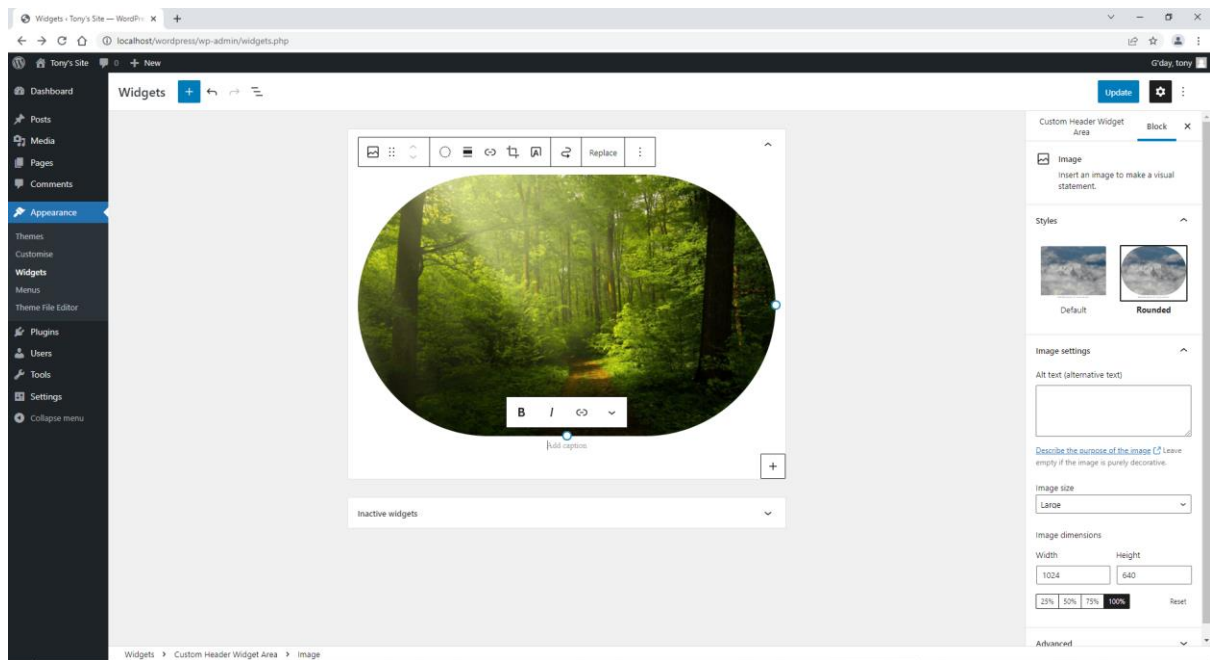
My Home Page - index.php

You can style this area to show on either side of the page or as it is across the whole page.

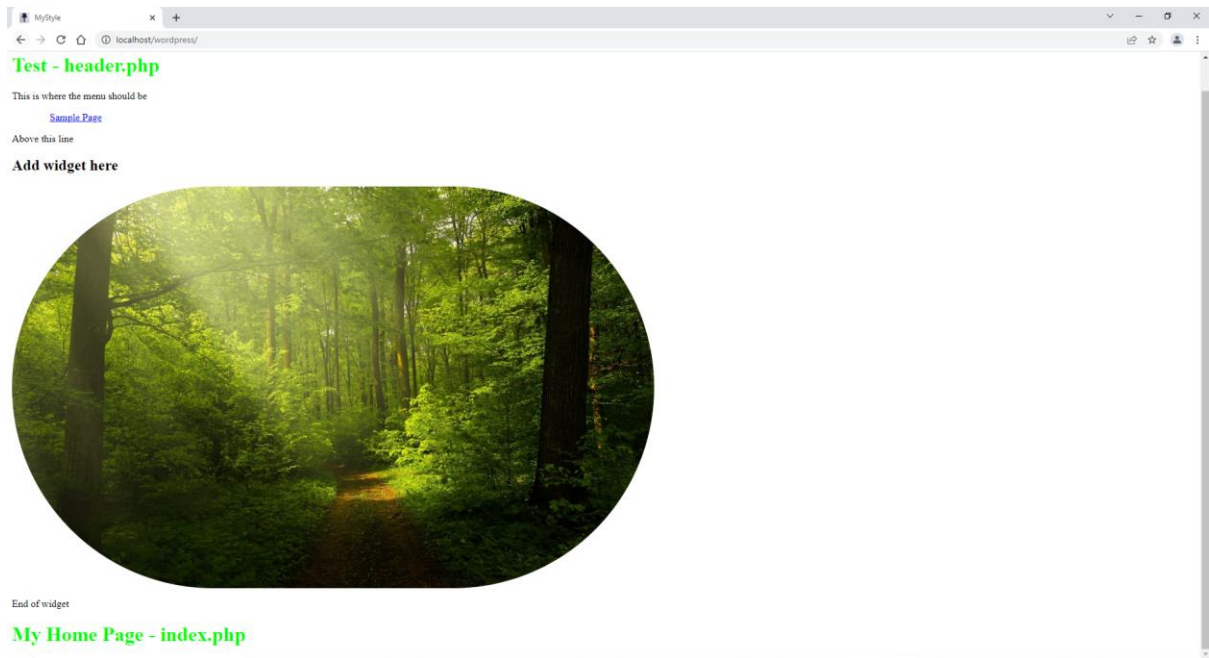
Try adding another feature to see how it works.



This one is an image. Remember that by adding this you are enabling the client to change what they want on the site.



Click the “update” and then view the page.



Looks like I've created a very ugly page so it needs a lot more work to style and look professional.

You can also have a look at the "index.php" file which also has the widget area, to show that you can place in different areas on your page.

```

1
2
3 <?php get_header(); ?>
4
5 <h1>My Home Page - index.php</h1>
6
7 <!--<p>Add widget here </p>-->
8
9 <?php
10
11 //if ( is_active_sidebar( 'custom-header-widget' ) ) : ?>
12 <!--<div id="header-widget-area" class="chw-widget-area widget-area" role="complementary">-->
13 <!--<?php //dynamic_sidebar( 'custom-header-widget' ); ?>
14 </div>
15
16 <?php //endif; ?>
17
18 <!--<p>end widget</p>-->

```

Uncomment and you will see the widget feature pop up on the page.

We can start to work on the next steps. See 06-Theme Development