



West Bergholt Methodist Church

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THE LINK

NOVEMBER 2018

SUNDAY SERVICES

Nov 11th Village Remembrance Service IN THE ORPEN HALL at 10.45am

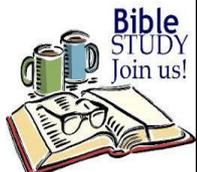
Please note that we are no longer holding Sunday morning services in our Chapel. Transport will be arranged to a service at Mile End Methodist church, leaving the village at 10.00am for the 10.30am service. Please contact Judith, 01206 241969, or Andrew, 01206 242511, if you would like a lift.

WORSHIP at Mile End at 10-30 am will be led by
Nov 4th Rev Ken Chalmers with communion
Nov 18th Mr Jonathan Sparkes
Nov 25th Caring service

OTHER MEETINGS

Please feel free to join us at any of these – you will be made most welcome...

Please join us for our monthly **mid week informal worship** activity in our hall on the first Wednesday of each month at 11.00am. The next such event will be on **Wednesday November 7th** and will be led by Mr Phil Bingham. All are welcome.

 <p>Bible STUDY Join us!</p>	<p>Our Bible Study Book Club meets every third Wednesday, next meeting Wednesday 21st November at 10.45am for an 11.00am start in our hall. All are welcome</p>
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WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Our next meeting will be at 2.30pm
Wednesday 21st November
A talk on the work of The Royal British Legion
ALL ARE WELCOME



If you would like to come to any of our services, or any other church activities, but would need a lift, please phone 01206 242511 or 241969.

Methodist Memories

The donations at our celebration weekend raised £150.06 for MHA

Many thanks to all who supported this.

Called to serve

For Deacon Jacqueline Esama-John, following her call and challenge to be a member of the Methodist Diaconal Order equipped her to deepen her spirituality and personal faith in Christ

Rooted in modelling the servant nature of Christ, my calling to ordained diaconal ministry has stretched my comfort zone and experience. It has propelled me to explore what mission and evangelism means globally by speaking out against injustice, and by enabling others to encounter God in Christ and live life to the full (John 10). This is the reality of making the Christian faith visible in a multi- and no-faith world beyond the walls of the Church.

Otherness

The contrast of my colonial roots in Africa and my life as a British citizen, living in Luton in south Bedfordshire, gives me a broad insight into the concept of 'otherness'. That helps me to proclaim the message of God's grace and love of Christ to all – not just to those who attend Sunday worship.

During my probation, I worked with six churches and communities across Luton, which involved:

- welcoming strangers
- gathering outcasts in two Messy Churches, at youth groups, coffee mornings and lunch clubs
- supporting the weak in three care homes for the elderly
- leading worship in churches
- leading Bible studies
- visiting the sick, suffering and dying
- engaging in interfaith dialogue and working alongside ecumenical partners.

Bridge-building and befriending

Leading Messy Church unsurprisingly led to questions about faith and about God in Jesus. Then being available to engage with people as they ask their questions is profoundly humbling. I have been able to build trusting relationships, be the local church's presence in the community and demonstrate God's interest in people's lives without forcing the issue. This

has also led to a few baptisms into the universal church of Christ.

18th please.

Welcoming the other

Luton is a diverse, densely populated multi-cultural town. God's love transcends boundaries of geography, race, religion, socio-economic status and even our own convenience. Such love demands giving and relationship.

I live in a neighbourhood that is predominantly Muslim, and it is a blessing to model how faith can be a catalyst for good relationships and welcoming the 'other.' I have led a school assembly at an all-Muslim girls' school, participated in the ladies community iftar ending a day's Ramadan fast, and attended Ladies Lantern events to celebrate Muslim Women in Britain. Being a Christian is an important part of my identity and how I treat others is an important part of my worship of God. The Bible calls us to "love the Lord your God ... and to love your neighbour as yourself" (Mark 12).

Learning to listen

The coffee mornings and lunch clubs are places offering friendship and space for sharing. When there, I offer a safe space and a non-judgemental listening ear. Through the house fellowships, I am grateful for being able to offer support whilst also celebrating the good things that make up communities.

Sometimes I find in pastoral care that trying to speak into people's many difficult and painful situations very challenging. I have learnt to listen more and pray for people in heartbreaking situations rather than give opinions. As deacons we are called to pray!

In modifying liturgies, and revising other materials, I have been able to help people with Alzheimer's disease 'to be present in the moment' even if they don't know what's going on around them. Seeing their family members and carers experience a sense of God's presence and grace is a tremendous gift and "an act of love", as a staff member in the care home pointed out to me.

I was ordained on 1 July 2018. Part of my ordination retreat was to reflect on 'being and becoming', remembering Jesus' way of witness and service. I have been exploring how I could have a more active focus on 'being' and hearing those echoes of God in the ordination declaration:

"Support the weak.

Bind up the broken.

Gather in the outcast.

Welcome the stranger.

Seek the lost."

The Methodist Worship Book

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And so, called to be a deacon, I constantly seek to become more of a disciple of Jesus, joyfully inspired by the Holy Spirit, to encourage people to deepen their faith and trust God for the possibility of changing 'deserted places' to 'harvest fields'.

Deacon Jacqueline Esama-John from *the connexion*, the free magazine of the Methodist Church, www.methodist.org.uk

Copy for the Dec/Jan. edition should be with Andrew Wilks by the third Sunday in November – November



100 Years Ago

This year marks the centenary of the end of the First World War.



WW1 1914 – 1918

Alfred Henry Sargeant	Alfred Cross
Edgar Harvey Bailey	Arthur George Shelton
William Thomas Clement	Frederick James Farthing
Jack Thomas Allston	Alfred Ambrose Balls
Ernest George Cooper	Albert Victor Balls
John William Evers	John Peake
Frank Ernest Allston	Arthur Alfred Newman
Horace Walter Patten	George Pearson
Lewis Salmon	Fred Cant
Charles Edward Thorne	Bertie Hankin
Arthur Towns	Frank William Seaborne
S.C. "Jack" Fairclough	Horace Allston

WW2 1939 – 1945

Richard Ardley	Reginald Pettican
Ernest Bones	Victor Pettican
Desmond Duddy	Charles Rayner
Leonard Johnson	Norman Upton
Thomas	Waylen

The village Remembrance Day Service will be in the Orpen Hall on Sunday November 11th at 10.45.

The next **COFFEE MORNING** will be on
Weds. 14th NOV. 10 - 11.30am

BRING A FRIEND WITH YOU
Coffee or Tea and Biscuits - 50p
Gifts for Cake and General Stalls
will be appreciated.



Books and Greetings Cards will be on sale

Thank you for your support.

October result - £39-06.

Come and enjoy a coffee and a chat.

Our **CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING** will be on
Saturday 1st December, 10-12 noon. There is a warm welcome for you with coffee/tea and mince pies available.

We shall be very pleased to receive cakes, preserves, books, jigsaws etc for the stalls and any gifts, however small, to put on the gift table.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sun. Nov. 11th Remembrance Day Service in the Orpen Hall at 10.45am.

Sat. Dec. 1st Christmas Coffee Morning at 10am.

Sun. Dec. 2nd Gift and Parade Service at 11am

Sat/Sun. Dec. 1st/2nd Christmas tree festival at Great Horkesley.

Wed. Dec 5th Mid week service at 11.00am in hall.
Thurs. Dec 20th Coffee and craft in hall 10.30-12.00
Fri. Dec. 21st Carol singing from 6.15 outside Coop.