



West Bergholt Methodist Church

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THE LINK

NOVEMBER 2017

SUNDAY SERVICES

WORSHIP at 11 am (except as noted) will be led by

Nov 5th Local Arrangement
Nov 12th Joint Remembrance Service with Rev Ron Smith, *IN THE ORPEN HALL at 10.45am*
Nov 19th Mrs Jo Eckersley
Nov 26th Mr Brian Llewellyn

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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.

All children are very welcome. Crèche facilities will be provided when necessary
For further information please contact Mrs Susan Windscheffel.

OTHER MEETINGS

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

Village weekday communion at St Mary's on
TUESDAY NOV. 14th at 11.00.

 <p>Bible STUDY Join us!</p>	<p>Our Bible Study Book Club meets every third Wednesday, next meeting Wednesday 15th November at 10.30am in our hall. We are looking at the Letter of Paul to the Philippians. All are welcome</p>
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A CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL is being held at the parish church in Great Horkesley, over the weekend Dec 2nd/3rd. Pat is organising our tree. Please watch out for further details. All are welcome to visit the display on Saturday from 11.00am to 4.00pm and on Sunday from 1.00pm to 4.00pm.

Church Anniversary Gift Bags

The donations raised £95.00 for church funds
Many thanks to all who supported this effort.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Our next meeting will be at 2.30pm
Wednesday 15th November



When the speaker will be Mr Phil Bingham

A message from our Superintendent Minister

The president of the Methodist Church in Britain 2017-18 is the Rev'd Loraine Mellor, Chair of the Nottingham and Derby District.

In an address shortly after being inducted as President, she suggested that the triennial statistics received at this year's Conference served to sharpen the Connexion's concern for the denomination's future. This concern has been deepened by a precipitate decline in every significant statistic the church gathers. There has been much talk recently, in the world of politics, of Britain being in danger of "falling off a cliff" if we do not come to some agreement with the EU as to our exit from the European Union.....if we were to use the same analogy in viewing the church's future, it would not be an exaggeration to suggest that we are not just close to falling of a cliff, we are over the edge and clinging on like grim death to the tiny bush growing out of the cliff face ten feet down...

The stark truth about our position drove Mrs Mellor strongly to suggest, if not actually direct, that each Church Council should be challenged to reflect on its individual position, and its future. That reflection she sharpened in her Presidential Address when she asked the question, "Why do some churches not have a growth plan in place, but also (why do some churches) not have a palliative pastoral terminal care plan in place either?"

They are both questions to which our Circuit Policy document in 2014 sought to stimulate answers, and with which the staff have certainly been grappling ever since we began to form the current team when Ken arrived in 2015.

I am greatly encouraged by Mrs Mellor's positive realism. She does not shrink from the facts of decline, but neither does she suggest that all is lost for the Methodist Church: in fact she ended her address by saying, "I know I am part *at present* of a declining Church, but I am not part of a declining gospel. The gospel of Jesus Christ is here to stay, but as the time not come for us to be radical, to take some risks in order that we can grow? Because you see, perhaps in my naivety, I don't believe that God is done with us just yet."

I would urge everyone who has access to the internet to read Mrs Mellor's address in full – you can find it on – <http://www.methodist.org.uk/news-and-events/news-releases/lets-change-the-culture-says-new-methodist-president-in-inaugural-address> and it repays study. (For fuller extracts from the President's Address please see the October Link.)

I happen to think that Mrs Mellor's words ought to give us much encouragement in our Circuit as we review our progress with our Circuit policy. I certainly think we should address the issues both she, and the Triennial Statistics for Mission, raise for us.

So – does your church have a strategy for growth, and if not ...what is in place for “palliative pastoral terminal care”?

Best wishes - Alan Jenkins
Circuit Superintendent



This year the Royal British Legion are asking supporters to *Rethink Remembrance* by recognising the sacrifices made not just by the Armed Forces of the past, but by today's generation too.



100 Years Ago

November 1917 – the end of the Battle of Passchendaele

75 Years Ago

November 1942 - Victory for Montgomery's Desert Rats over Rommel's German forces

50 Years Ago

November 1967 - British troops withdraw from Aden and South Yemen

25 Years Ago

1992 - British soldiers serving with the UN Protection Force on peacekeeping efforts in Bosnia

Now

2017 –The British Army is actively engaged in operational duties across the globe, including in Iraq to help defeat Daesh.

I died in hell—

*(They called it Passchendaele). My wound was slight,
And I was hobbling back; and then a shell
Burst slick upon the duck-boards: so I fell
Into the bottomless mud, and lost the light.*

Siegfried Sassoon

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

For your tomorrow, we gave our today

We will remember them

The village Remembrance Day Service will be in the Orpen Hall on Sunday November 12th at 10.45, lead by Rev Ron Smith.

The next **COFFEE MORNING** will be on
Weds. 8th NOV. 10 - 11.30am

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



Greetings Cards will be on sale

Thank you for your support.

October result - £40-00.

Come and enjoy a coffee and a chat.

Our **CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING** will be on
Saturday 2nd 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. We also need small items for the Mystery Parcel Stall.

**A Future for Methodism in Colchester?
A Colchester Methodist Church Study Day –
Saturday 25th November**

With congregations more often declining than growing and average ages increasing we are right to ask what the future holds for us as a church and yet we still have a mission and a gospel to proclaim.

On this circuit study day we will be watching the stimulating address given by the President, Revd. Loraine Mellor, to this year's annual Conference; considering what the challenges facing our circuit might be and making plans to continue our mission. The study day will take place at the Ark, Highwoods on Saturday 25th November starting promptly at 10am. Coffee will be served from 9:30. Please bring a packed lunch. If you would like to attend please sign up on the sheet in the vestibule or speak to Andrew.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sun. Nov. 12th Remembrance Day Service in the Orpen Hall at 10.45am.
Sat. Nov. 25th Circuit Study day
Sat. Dec. 2nd Christmas Coffee Morning at 10am.
Sun. Dec. 3rd Gift and Parade Service at 11am
Sat/Sun. Dec. 2nd/3rd Christmas tree festival at Great Horkeley.
Sun. Dec. 17th Candlelight Carol Service 6.30 pm
- No morning service
Thurs. Dec 21st Coffee and craft in hall 10.30-12.00
Fri. Dec. 22nd Carol singing from 6.15 outside the Coop.

Copy for the Dec/Jan. edition should be with Andrew Wilks by the third Sunday in November – November 19th please.