



West Bergholt Methodist Church

Rev. Ken Chalmers – 01206 545253
Church Contact - Judith Fletcher Tel. 01206 241969
Or e-mail awilks10p@btinternet.com

THE LINK

OCTOBER 2017

SUNDAY SERVICES

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

- Oct 1st Local Arrangement
- Oct 8th Rev Ken Chalmers Harvest Festival, followed by faith lunch and Church Meeting.
- Oct 15th Mr Phil Bingham
- Oct 22nd Rev John Robinson - Church Anniversary, with communion, Gift Day, coffee and cake.
- Oct 29th United service at Great Horkeley at **10.30** (N.B. British Summer Time ends – do not forget to put your clocks back one hour.)

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...

Shared weekday communion with St. Mary's will be at St. Mary's on **TUESDAY OCT. 10th** at 11am.

 <p>Bible STUDY Join us!</p>	<p>Our new Bible Study Book Club meets every third Wednesday, next meeting Wednesday 18th October at 10.30am in our hall. We are looking at the Letter of Paul to the Philippians. All are welcome</p>
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Our **Church meeting**; will take place on **October 8th** following the morning service and faith lunch at approximately 1 o'clock.

Our **HARVEST FESTIVAL** will take place on **SUNDAY 8th OCTOBER**

We will be decorating the church on Friday 6th from 9.30am. Gifts of flowers, fruit, vegetables, tinned and packet goods would be appreciated, plus volunteers to help. Goods will be distributed to the Colchester Night Shelter and The Women's Refuge

On the **CHURCH ANNIVERSARY** Sunday Oct. 22nd we are having a **GIFT DAY** for Church Funds. Gift day

bags are available for your gifts so please bring these to the Anniversary Service.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

In her inaugural address, the Revd Loraine N Mellor, the newly elected President of the Methodist Conference, asked: "How are we disturbing the present in the Church today?" as she shared her concerns with the current state of the Church and her vision for taking radical risks to change its culture. (*The following are extracts from the President's address to Conference*)

Catharine Booth said: "If we are to better the future we must disturb the present". So how are we disturbing the present in the Church today?

I do not for one second believe that God has done with the Methodist Church just yet, and I am not at all ready for the funeral.

But there is no getting away from the fact that we are a declining Church and we have to stop kidding ourselves that we are good at evangelism. Does this keep you awake at night? Because it does me! It worries me that we have dropped our membership figures below 200,000. It worries me that circuits cannot attract presbyters to their appointment, and the effect that has on the local church, the circuit staff and stewards. It worries me that a lot of churches have a lot of money in trust funds that is not being used for mission and evangelism - £5 million in the district where I serve alone and many, many more millions around the Connexion.

It worries me that some churches and circuits are still using old models of ministry and have a seemingly inability to change and adapt to the context, which we find ourselves in today. It worries me when I see ministers struggling with the workload, the number of ministers who choose to or are forced (due to ill health) to retire early. It worries me when I see the sheer number of meetings we ask our lay people to attend. It worries me when I think we have so much as a Methodist Church to offer to our communities.....

I heard someone say a few months ago 'there is nothing wrong with the gospel so what is wrong with the Church?', so what are we going to do about it, brothers and sisters? Because I believe we must do something. We have to change the shape, the narrative of the story and I contend we do that when the story is about our worship, about the hospitality that we offer, about the generosity of our sharing, by being disciples who are shaped by Jesus and his cross and by making decisions that give us a hope and a future.

Earlier this year the Archbishop of Canterbury said: "We must be cross-shaped, foot-washing, Jesus following, confident in faith and humble in service - and above all outward looking."

I wonder how many of us want to change the world, because I know I do. I want every single person on this

planet to know the love of God. And I make absolutely no apology for that at all.

So often our dreams are limited, how big are your dreams and who limits them, not God, so it's us, the Church. If we are honest it is often us - we are afraid. I believe that our role as disciples is to express hope in a society that is disintegrating.

Many of us are fearful of sharing our faith, of witnessing to this great and mighty God who we worship and I can understand that we may be fearful of being rebuffed. We may be afraid of the questions that we might not be able to answer. We may feel inadequate for the task, well join the club as we all feel like that at some time

At our current rate of decline we need to make members at 3 times the numbers we are making now and I am sure you are aware that 85% of those who come to faith today are under the age of 25.

My fear and my nightmare, is that as a church we will decline so much we will go out of existence as Methodists, we will not have many people around but we will be very rich as there are millions of pounds locked away in church funds. I fear that we are not being hospitable and generous with what we have. We are not using our money to enable people to learn how to share Jesus. Our money is not paying for an evangelist, not funding a youth worker, engaging with the one program, having an intern, not serving the poor, not feeding the hungry, not sharing the amazing wonderful life enriching love of God, but moreover, not appreciating that everyone we encounter has something to offer as well.

Let's build relationships, share this great gospel that you are loved by God. That's where it starts, with relationships. We have to focus primarily on our worship where we encounter our living God, we have to be generous and hospitable and we have to make some decisions to give us a hope and a future.

The reality is we have too many churches in the wrong places for our communities today. Great 100 years ago, but our communities have moved. We don't have too many churches; we just don't have enough people in them. The Church is almost, if not past the tipping point when we all need to take some risks in mission and our discipleship to enable us to grow. I am trying to be positive and commit myself to telling good news stories and I flatly refuse to buy into the story of decline.

Let's take some risky decisions, just as those first disciples did thousands of years ago and change as they did. Let us commit to talk of God, to make new disciples. Let us achieve this by being hospitable, generous and loving our people, and encouraging our people to talk of God. Let's release our ministers to engage in mission and not maintenance. To be where Jesus would be, eating with them, sharing with them, with those who are homeless: the hungry, the lonely, the bereaved,

Let us focus on our worship where we encounter our living God, we have to be generous and hospitable and we have to make some decisions which give us a hope and a future.

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 has 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.

The next **COFFEE MORNING** will be on
Weds. 11th OCT. 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.

September result - £48-79

Come and enjoy a coffee and a chat.

Property Matters Further Update

The works to the Hall have now been completed. The ceiling tiles have been replaced and some insulation installed above; this should improve heat retention and thus comfort in the winter months. We very much appreciate the grant and the other donations that have been given as a contribution towards the works in the Hall.

There is a significant cost attached to these works but they were essential for the future use of our premises. Any further contributions towards the costs would be gratefully received. Please speak to Andrew (01206 242511)

WEBB IVORY FUND RAISING CATALOGUE

Webb are not issuing the usual catalogue this year. They have a new system and an alternative catalogue is available, but the fund raising benefits to the Church are not so straight forward. If you would like to see the catalogue and help raise funds for our Church please speak to us.

Sylvia and Andrew

.....
Circuit Study day Saturday October 7th

Our latest study day will be a little different in that it is a puppet workshop open for anyone that is interested. The day will run from 10 am – 4pm at the Ark, it is for anyone who has an interest in using puppets in ministry and is suitable for those who have never used them before through to those who have some experience in this area. There is a charge of £15 for the day but anyone who needs to can receive funding through the circuit training budget. To book a place please speak to Andrew asap.

FELLOWSHIP GROUP

Our next meeting will be at 2.30pm
Wednesday 18th October
Speaker – Rev Martin Camroux
ALL ARE WELCOME



Half term Activities

We will be providing fun activities for young families (children please bring a parent along) at our **Coffee and Craft** morning during half term. This will take place in the West Bergholt Methodist Church Hall, Chapel Lane from 10.30 – 12.00 on **Monday October 23rd**. For further details phone Andrew (242511).
ALL WELCOME.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sat. Oct 7th – Circuit Study day
Sun. Oct. 8th – Harvest festival & Church Council after lunch following the morning service.
Sun. Oct 22nd – Church Anniversary
Sun. Oct. 29th – United Service at Great Horkelesley.
Sun. Nov. 12th Remembrance Day Service in the Orpen Hall at 10.45am.
Sat. Dec. 2nd - Christmas Coffee Morning at 10am.
Sun. Dec. 3rd - Gift and Parade Service at 11am.

Copy for the November edition should be with Andrew Wilks by the third Sunday in October – October 15th please.