



## West Bergholt Methodist Church

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# THE LINK

SEPTEMBER 2017

### SUNDAY SERVICES

**WORSHIP at 11 am** will be led by  
Sept 3<sup>rd</sup> Rev Ken Chalmers with communion  
Sept 10<sup>th</sup> Mrs Caroline White  
Sept 17<sup>th</sup> Mrs Betty Rampling  
Sept 25<sup>th</sup> Mr Brian Dack

**Please note** that our **Harvest Celebration Service** (and Church Meeting) planned for October 1<sup>st</sup> has been moved to **October 8<sup>th</sup>** to ensure our minister, Rev Ken Chalmers, is available.

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.

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

### OTHER MEETINGS

Please note that there will **not** be a shared weekday communion with St. Mary's for September.

### FELLOWSHIP

Our next meeting will be at 2.30pm  
Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> **September**  
The speaker will be Mr Frank King



Our **HARVEST FESTIVAL** will take place on **SUNDAY 8<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER**

We will be decorating the church on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> from 9.30am. Gifts of flowers, fruit, vegetables, tinned and packet goods would be appreciated, plus volunteers to help. Sunday service at 11.00am and a faith lunch at 12.30 followed by a Church meeting. Goods will be distributed to the Colchester Night Shelter and The Women's Refuge.

**Methodist Homes for The Aged** –The sum of £30 was raised from the MHA envelope donations. Thanks to all who supported.

*With race tensions on the rise again in America (and Britain?) it is perhaps a good time to produce the following article by Rev Jonathan Hustler from "Preach", the magazine of the Leaders of Worship*

*and Preachers Trust.*

### MARTIN LUTHER KING JR

He was (in 1963) the man who, in front of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, encapsulated the aspirations of black Americans "I have a dream". He was (in 1964) awarded the Nobel Peace prize for a non-violent campaign that saw segregation in the USA finally outlawed. He was (in 1968) the civil rights leader who was assassinated and whose birthday (from 1986) has been commemorated as a National Holiday in the US. But, above all else, Martin Luther King was a Baptist preacher.

Born in 1929, King was called Michael until a sabbatical in Europe took his father to Berlin and an encounter with German Protestantism. On his return, King Sr renamed both himself and his son "Martin Luther". Martin Jr proved to be academically gifted; he trained for ministry at the Crozer Seminary in Pennsylvania; a PhD from Boston University followed. His first pastorate was at Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama, where he quickly assumed a principal part in the bus boycott which followed the arrest of Rosa Parks. From there his influence as a leader of the civil rights movement grew and he was in demand as a preacher and speaker across the Southern states. In 1960 he returned to his home church, Ebenezer, in Atlanta where he served as his father's co pastor until his death.

King's preaching contained two elements. One came from the theological training at Crozer and showed the influence of Paul Tillich (the subject of his thesis) and liberal preachers (such as Phillips Brooks and Henry Emerson Fosdick) that address the human condition and stresses the influence of the life of Jesus. The other was the heritage of African-American preaching with the engagement of the congregation ("the antiphony of "call and response"), though King tended to eschew the emotionalism that was often to be found in African-American churches.

Although there are published versions of King's sermons, each remained essentially an oral event. To say that King preached the same sermons over and over again would not be accurate, he used the same titles, outlines and texts over and over again. In the introduction of "Loving your Enemies" he said "I try to make it something of a custom to preach from this passage of

Scripture at least once a year, adding new insights that I develop....” These new insights often refer to the contemporary situation. It is impossible to divorce the King sermons from the struggle for civil rights. In “A knock at midnight” it is the black American who hammers on the door of white churches but is denied the bread of freedom; in “Guidelines for a constructive Church” the acceptable year of the Lord is when “people in Alabama stop killing civil rights workers”. These examples are typical of King’s ability to take a biblical narrative and contemporize it. In “But...if not” Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego are “practicing civil disobedience”. The supreme example of this is the narrative of Exodus, which King makes (as many black preachers made it) the story of his own people. In that story, Martin Luther King was Moses, who saw the Promised Land but was not to enter it.

The figurative interpretation of Scripture was delivered with considerable rhetorical skill. King had great vocal range; recordings show how deliberately he articulated his words and, which is not always obvious from the printed text, the euphony of his utterances. King was a poetic speaker: his sermons are replete with repetition, alliteration, assonance and the careful use of metaphor as he moves seamlessly between the biblical world and the issue of the day. Biblical phrases are interspersed with the language of his congregation; his famous retelling of parable of the sheep and the goats ends with the Lord saying to those on his left “But I was hungry, and ye fed me not. I was sick, and you visited me not. I was naked in the cold and I was in prison and you weren’t concerned about me. So get out of my face!”

It is the sort of rhetorical flourish that can only come from a preacher completely at home in the pulpit. Martin Luther King was a great orator and preachers will want to study his art. More important, however, and more to be imitated, is his skilful appropriation of the biblical story to the situation of his day.

**QUIZ NIGHT**

Our next Quiz Night will take place on Saturday September 30<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. Book your table for 4 at £20 with Judith on 01206 241969 Light refreshments will be provided as usual.

The next **COFFEE MORNING** will be on Weds. 13<sup>th</sup> SEPT. 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. Results - July £35-96 and August £26-45.

**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*

**Free Family Fun Festival Saturday September 16<sup>th</sup>**

In the Lower Castle Park from 11.00am to 4.00pm. Activities planned already include bouncy castles, donkey rides, face painting, a dog show, live music, a barbecue and tea tent. Everything is free except food. Free entry – all are welcome.

**Circuit Study day Saturday October 7<sup>th</sup>**

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.

**Property Matters Update**

The Church Council agreed that a range of necessary property maintenance works should be carried out to our Chapel and Hall premises. The works to the Chapel have now been completed.

Thanks in part to a generous contribution from the Locality Budget of our local Colchester Borough Councillors, we have now been able to arrange with the contractor to proceed with the works to the Hall. The ceiling tiles will be replaced and some insulation installed above; this should improve heat retention and thus comfort in the winter months. We very much appreciate the above grant and the other donations that have been given as a contribution towards the works in the Hall. It is hoped that these works will be carried out in the near future (possibly by the time you read this or shortly afterwards) and we will do our best to keep disruption to a minimum. However, some impact on activities is inevitable and it is likely that the Hall will not be available for at least a week when the work is carried out. Further information will follow once firm dates are known.

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

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

- Sat. Sept 16<sup>th</sup> Free Family Fun day in the Castle Park.
- Sat. Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> – Quiz evening in Hall at 7.00pm.
- Sat. Oct 7<sup>th</sup> – Circuit Study day
- Sun. Oct. 8<sup>th</sup> – Harvest festival and Church Council after lunch following the morning service.
- Sun. Oct 22<sup>nd</sup> – Church Anniversary
- Sun. Oct.29<sup>th</sup> – United Service at Great Horkesley at 11.15.
- Sun. Nov. 12<sup>th</sup> Remembrance Day Service in the Orpen Hall at 10.45am.

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**Copy for the October edition should be with Andrew  
Wilks by the third Sunday in September – September  
17<sup>th</sup> please.**