



# West Bergholt Methodist Church

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# THE LINK

APRIL 2017

## SUNDAY SERVICES

**WORSHIP at 11 am** will be led by

Apr. 2<sup>nd</sup> Rev Ron Smith with communion

Apr. 9<sup>th</sup> Mrs Anne Worker

Apr. 16<sup>th</sup> Easter Day Mr Alan Beesley

Apr. 23<sup>rd</sup> Rev Alan Jenkins

Apr. 30<sup>th</sup> United Service - Mr Mike Abbs & Rev Mandy Elmes with communion

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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...*

**Shared weekday communion at St. Mary's on TUESDAY APRIL 11<sup>th</sup> at 11am**

WOMENS WORLD DAY OF PRAYER took place on FRIDAY 4<sup>th</sup> MARCH with a lovely service written by the women of the Phillipines and attended by over 30 people. The collection raised £202 for WWDP; some was gift aided so additional funds will be claimed. Thanks to all who supported.

**QUIZ NIGHT SATURDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> April at 7pm IN THE HALL**

TABLES OF FOUR at £20

Light Refreshments will be served. You are welcome to bring your own nibbles and soft drinks (sorry no alcohol allowed). Book your table by contacting JUDITH (01206 241969)

## Easter School Holiday Activities

We are holding another of our **Coffee and Craft** mornings providing fun activities for young families (children please bring a parent along). This will take place in the West Bergholt Methodist Church Hall, Chapel Lane from 10.30 – 12.00 on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> April. For further details phone Andrew (242511). Donations of cakes would be appreciated.

**ALL ARE WELCOME.  
FROM PREACH MAGAZINE**

After much campaigning – a lot of it from Christian groups – The British government agreed to accept a number of unaccompanied child refugees into the UK. Around 100 children and young people, many of whom have travelled alone from war-torn Syria, are currently being resettled in the UK, while campaigners including former Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams fight for a further 400 to join them.

However, when several of the refugees arriving in the UK appeared to be over the age of eighteen, opponents of migrant resettlement led calls for the ages of all refugees to be verified. One of the methods suggested for this was the use of dental X-rays, an idea disputed as “unethical” by the British Dental Association. Media coverage quickly began to propagate the idea that adult refugees were exploiting a loophole and entering the country under the pretence that they were children, and this soon led to an outpouring of anger across social media sites.

Former England football star turned TV presenter, Gary Lineker, commented “The treatment by some towards these young refugees is hideously racist and utterly heartless. What is happening to our country?” This drew a mix of anger and acclaim and led to responses ranging from supportive to calls for him to be sacked for commenting.

The storm around Lineker’s words suggests that, following Britain’s decision to leave the EU, the political temperature in the country remains high, especially around the issue of immigration. Opinion on the government’s immigration policies is fiercely divided, both inside and outside the church. Meanwhile, although the “jungle” refugee camp in Calais has been demolished, people continue to head toward Europe in search of safety and a better life.

Whatever else our response to child refugees might be, it must be rooted in compassion. The word literally means “to suffer with” and is most perfectly illustrated in the incarnation and death of Jesus. The Bible is littered with references to this sacrificial, getting-alongside kind of love, such as Paul’s words in Galatians 6:2 “Bear one another’s burdens and so fulfil the law of Christ”. And Mark 6:34 says that when Jesus saw a great crowd “he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd.” If we want to emulate Him, then we too must look on great crowds of “lost” people and cultivate the same sense of self-sacrificing love in ourselves.

No Christian believes that racism is godly, but Christian definitions of racism vary wildly. For some the word should only be used for disgusting verbal and physical abuse, but for others it describes an attitude which is much more subtly entrenched in our behaviours and practices. If your church is full of people who all look the same, while the culture outside your doors is much more diverse, then perhaps you have a problem. The apostle Paul wrote that “there is neither Jew or Greek...for you are all one in Christ Jesus”

(Galatians 3:28), so our church communities must reflect this, if not in their makeup, then certainly in their treatment of "others", including those who are refugees.

Points for prayer:-

- Pray particularly for unaccompanied child refugees, that they would be kept safe, have access to health provision, and where possible be reunited with their families.
- Pray for continuing international response to the refugee crisis, that solutions would be sought and found.
- Pray for celebrities and others in positions of influence, that they would be able to use that influence for good.

(From an article by Martin Saunders in the magazine of The Leaders of Worship and Preachers Trust.)

**HOLY WEEK SERVICES**

**Maundy Thursday April 13<sup>th</sup>** – (a) "Passover" meal and Communion at Lexden Methodist Church at 7.00pm with Rev Paul Howes.

(b) Fellowship meal and communion at 8.00pm at St. Mary's. We are welcome to join them.

Please speak to Judith or Andrew if you would like to go to either of these so we can advise numbers for catering purposes.

**Good Friday April 14<sup>th</sup>** - a reflective service at 10.30am in our Methodist Church with Rev Ken Chalmers.

**Friday April 14<sup>th</sup>** - Good Friday service at Mercury Theatre at 7.30pm.

**Sunday April 16<sup>th</sup>** - Easter Sunday service at 11.00am in Methodist Church, led by Mr Alan Beesley

**Christian Aid Week - May 14<sup>th</sup> to May 20<sup>th</sup>**

There will be a Take-away "Ploughman's lunch", in lieu of a Hunger Lunch, available after our service on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May. Volunteers are needed for distribution and collection of envelopes around the village. Please see Susan Windscheffel if you can help.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Our next meeting will be at 2.30pm



On Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April – And the speaker will be Mr George Hay.

**Action for Children (NCH) Home Collecting Boxes** raised £6-58 during 2016. Many thanks to all who supported.

If anyone else would like a box to raise money at home during the year for Action for Children please let us know. *Andrew and Sylvia Wilks*

The next **COFFEE MORNING** will be on

Weds. 12<sup>th</sup> APRIL 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. March result - £30-81



**"Our Story"**

Our series of meetings led by Rev Ken Chalmers will **continue on Wednesday morning April 5** at 10.30 in our Church hall. We will then break for Easter. We will continue after Easter on May 17 and 24. We are exploring our part in the ongoing story of God's people. In March we looked at our story, preparation, and planting. In April/May we will look at nurturing, pruning, harvesting and feasting. All meetings will be on Wednesday mornings starting at 10.30 with coffee and will close by 12.00. We would love you to come to all the meetings but realise this may not be possible, so come along to as many as you can make. All involved with and concerned for our Church are welcome.

**Urgent East Africa Crisis Appeal - Disasters Emergency Committee: Help East African People** . Hunger on a massive scale is looming across East Africa. If we don't act now, it will get much worse. Drought and conflict have left 16 million people on the brink of starvation and in urgent need of food, water and medical treatment. People are already dying in South Sudan and Somalia.

In Kenya, the government has declared a national emergency and Ethiopia is battling a new wave of drought following the strongest El Nino on record. Women, children and older people are suffering the most; more than 800,000 children under five are severely malnourished. Without immediate treatment, they are at risk of starving to death.

DEC member charities are already delivering life-saving assistance in all affected countries. But, they need more money to help reduce the scale and severity of the crisis.

Don't Delay; Donate Now. You can make a real difference to the millions of people affected by the food crisis in East Africa. The UK Government will match pound for pound the first £10 million donated by the public to the DEC East Africa Crisis Appeal. £25 could provide a month's supply of life-saving peanut paste to a malnourished child. £60 could provide clean drinking water for two families for a month. £100 could provide supplies to a clinic treating severely malnourished children for a week. If you would like to donate please speak to Andrew or go to [www.dec.org.uk](http://www.dec.org.uk).

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

Wed. Apr. 5<sup>th</sup> – Our Story in the Hall 10.30am

Mon. Apr. 10<sup>th</sup> Coffee and Craft in hall 10.30am.

Fri. Apr. 14<sup>th</sup> – Good Friday Service, at 10.30am at Methodist Church.

Sat. Apr. 22<sup>nd</sup> Quiz evening in the Hall 7.00pm.

Sat. May 13<sup>th</sup> – Circuit social issues day at Highwoods.

May 14<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> Christian Aid week.

Wed. May 17<sup>th</sup> – Our Story in the Hall 10.30am

Wed. May 24<sup>th</sup> – Our Story in the Hall 10.30am

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**Copy for the May edition should be with Andrew Wilks by the third Sunday in April – Apr. 16<sup>th</sup>**

**please.**