



West Bergholt Methodist Church

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THE LINK

FEBRUARY 2018

SUNDAY SERVICES

WORSHIP at 11 am will be led by
Feb. 4th Rev Ken Chalmers with communion,
followed by Annual Church Meeting
Feb. 11th Local Arrangement
Feb. 18th Mr Brian Dack
Feb. 25th Mrs Jo Eckersley

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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...

SUNDAY 4th February Annual Church Meeting– approx. 1.00pm. Please note that it has been necessary to bring forward the date of the Annual Church Meeting from March to February.

After lunch following the morning service.
Please stay/come if you can and bring your own lunch – we will provide hot drinks– 12:30pm.

Please circulate reports before the meeting.

 <p>Bible STUDY Join us!</p>	<p>Our Bible Study Book Club meets every third Wednesday, next meeting Wednesday 21st February at 10.30am in our hall. We are looking at the Letters of Paul to Timothy. All are welcome</p>
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The next **COFFEE MORNING** will be on
Weds. 14th FEBRUARY 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 – Dec. Result £20-30, Jan. Result £29-73
Total result for 2017 was £570-70 (2016 £574-64)

Many thanks to everyone who helped to raise this splendid amount for our Church Funds.

WHY DO YOU GO TO CHURCH?

This question is usually asked spontaneously and we find ourselves on the spot. So what answer should we give? Chair of Plymouth and Exeter District, the Revd Graham Thompson, reflects on worship.

We go to church to worship God! We enjoy being with God. We want to celebrate all that Jesus offers, for we are people of the Resurrection – those who die and rise with Jesus and live every moment of every day certain that our risen Lord is in us and with us. We offer praise to God for who God is and all that God means to us. We offer thanks for the many wonderful ways in which God has blessed us; for the privilege of enjoying a relationship with the eternal God.

Worship is the central activity of the Church. Without worship there would be no Church. You can take away Bible studies and prayer meetings, you can lose a Sunday school or youth group, you can ignore social evenings and home groups, but if you have worship, you are still a church – a poor church, but still a church.

Self-fulfilling worship?

In his report to the 2011 Conference, the Revd Dr Martyn Atkins, then General Secretary of the Methodist Church and Secretary of the Methodist Conference, said that having travelled around the country for a few years, he had picked up a prevailing view that Methodist worship “neither reaches the heights nor plumbs the depths”. Is Dr Atkins right? If he is, what has caused this and how might we change things?

I believe we get the worship we deserve. If we go to worship with a wrong frame of mind; without preparing ourselves (including praying for those who will lead worship); if we go with our minds made up as to what it is going to be like and what we will get out of it, questioning the length of sermon or choice of hymns, we then generate a self-fulfilling prophecy. You might find it helpful to think about other stumbling blocks to good experiences of worship, including these typically Methodist tripping hazards:

1. The free availability of the Preaching Plan listing who is taking the next service, along with announcing who is taking next week's act of worship, instead of simply stating when the next service will be and inviting people to attend. We need to move the focus away from the leader of worship to the God whom we worship.
2. Busy office holders going to church with lots to sort out and people they need to talk to – focusing on the busyness of responsibility rather than the One for whom we seek to be useful. The privilege of worshipping the God of love; the God of all creation; the God who was, and is and is to come, means that our primary focus should be God.

Glorifying and enjoying God

Worship is when we come together to meet with God and any encounter with the living God will change us. People leaving worship should be different – changed – by the experience of meeting God. Perhaps imperceptibly at first, but over time we are changed.

The Westminster Catechism states that the chief purpose of humanity is to glorify God and enjoy God forever. Not to go to worship so that we can get something good from God. The principal focus of any worship is God. Graham Kendrick, quoting Lamar Boschman, puts it like this: "Worship is first and foremost for God's benefit, not ours, though it is marvellous to discover that in giving God pleasure, we ourselves enter into what can become our richest and most wholesome experience in life."

Worship is the central activity of the Church and – perhaps – we could do better?

The Revd Graham Thompson from the Connexion, the free magazine of the Methodist Church, www.methodist.org.uk

FELLOWSHIP GROUP



Our next meeting will be at 2.30 on **Wednesday 21st February**.

The speaker will be Mr Chris Westren from "Tools with a Mission". Chris does volunteer work for TWAM and is, incidentally, a Methodist Local Preacher in the Ipswich Circuit.

The charity collect a wide range of donated tools, refurbish and sort them into trade kits and send them to the developing world for livelihood creation. TWAM works with over 400 partners including churches, schools, orphanages, vocational training centres and development charities. Lists detailing all the items they collect are available.

As part of our support for this charity we are looking to collect as many tools etc as we can to donate to their work. If anyone is able to donate any items we would be pleased to receive them. If they can be brought to our hall that would be great. Alternatively contact Andrew (242511) who will see if a collection can be arranged.

Action for Children (NCH) Carol Singing donations and the collection at the Candlelight Carol Service raised £164-25.

Many thanks to all who supported for these results. The words and hymns of our **Annual Covenant Service** seemed to have particular significance this year as we continue to think about the future of our Church here in West Bergholt. The last verse of the hymn written by Fred Pratt Green says:-

*We have no mission but to serve
In full obedience to our Lord
To care for all, without reserve
And spread is liberating Word.*

Our Calling



The calling of the Methodist Church is to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission.

It does this through:

Worship

The Church exists to increase awareness of God's presence and to celebrate God's love

Learning and Caring

The Church exists to help people to grow and learn as Christians, through mutual support and care

Service

The Church exists to be a good neighbour to people in need and to challenge injustice

Evangelism

The Church exists to make more followers of Jesus Christ

Half term Activities

We will be providing fun activities for young families (children please bring an adult 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 February 12th**. For further details phone Andrew (242511) - ALL WELCOME.

THE WOMENS WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Will take place on **FRIDAY 2nd MARCH** at

St Mary's Church

Written by the Christian women of Suriname, the theme will be "All God's creation is very good!"
Soup'n Snack Lunch at 12.30pm in St Mary's Hall,
New Church Road; Service at 1.30pm
ALL ARE WELCOME - Children & gentlemen welcome!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sun. Feb. 4th AGM - Lunch after service at 12.30pm.
Mon. Feb. 12th Coffee and Craft in Hall.
Fri. Mar. 2nd Women's World day of Prayer, lunch and service at St Mary's Church from 12-30.
Sun. Mar 11th Mothering Sunday.
Mon. Apr. 9th Coffee and Craft in Hall.
Sat. Apr. 14th Quiz evening in the Hall 7.00pm.

Copy for the March edition should be with Andrew Wilks by the third Sunday in February – Feb. 21st please.