



## West Bergholt Methodist Church

Rev Ken Chalmers – 01206 545253  
Church Contact - Judith Fletcher Tel. 01206 241969  
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# THE LINK

**MARCH 2018**

### SUNDAY SERVICES

**WORSHIP at 11 am** will be led by  
Mar. 4<sup>th</sup> Rev David Moody with communion  
Mar. 11<sup>th</sup> Mrs Caroline White - Mothering Sunday  
Mar. 18<sup>th</sup> Local Arrangement  
Mar. 25<sup>th</sup> Mr Brian Dack

*(N.B. British Summer Time begins – do not forget to put your clocks forward one hour.)*

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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.

**Please note** that the pattern of our Sunday worship will be changing. Up to and including Easter Sunday April 1<sup>st</sup> worship will be continuing as usual on each Sunday. Starting from April 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday services will only be held on the second and fourth Sunday in the month. On Sundays, when there is not a service at our church in the village, transport will be arranged to a service at another Methodist church within the Colchester Circuit. Please contact Judith, 01206 241969, or Andrew, 01206 242511, if you would like a lift. Full details of all these services will always be available in 'The Link'.

**All other activities are continuing as usual.**

**QUIZ NIGHT SATURDAY 14th 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)

### Lent Groups, 2018

**St. Mary's** are holding a series of Lent studies in their church hall on "We shall be changed". You are warmly invited to join them. Remaining dates for the sessions are: **6 March, 13 March and 20 March,- all at 8.00pm.** The group will start with coffee/tea and

biscuits. All are welcome – you do not (necessarily) have to attend each session.

### **FROM OUR SUPERINTENDENT MINISTER'S DESK.**

*Our friends at Wimpole Road Methodist Church in Colchester have had a difficult start to 2018. They suffered a break-in, when a number of items were taken; this was quickly followed by a second break-in resulting in a fire which destroyed the kitchen and did extensive damage to the parlour and hall. Understandably this has caused much sadness, disruption, extra work and expense. However, as our Superintendent Minister, Rev Alan Jenkins, notes, not all is "doom and gloom".*

This is because of the reaction of the whole community - that is to say, the church community here in Wimpole Road, and the wider community of New Town and The Hythe, which has been fantastic, and hugely supportive. I was reminded of a quote from an American TV host, which says:

*"When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, 'Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping'. To this day, especially in times of disaster, I remember my mother's words, and I am always comforted by realising that there are still so many helpers — so many caring people in this world."*

This terrible event, which of course we wouldn't have wished on anyone, let alone on our church, unleashed the many, many helpers in our community, who have been so quick to offer help and practical support. It has been heart-warming to see people rallying round: and it confirms for us in Wimpole Road that we have a place in this community - at its heart - and that place is not just as custodians of the building.

So, take heart! God provides for all our needs... with the help, of course, of Methodist Insurance who have been exceptionally supportive! We have a mission in this community, a mission, which is not stymied by the actions of one or two hugely misguided individuals (who themselves are people for whom we should pray - whatever we may think of their actions. They are still children of God.) and this event might perhaps help us to focus our efforts as we seek to proclaim God's Kingdom in this community - and it might help members of the wider community, who of late have otherwise neglected the things of the spirit, to reconsider their own priorities, and seek some answers within the church community.

Amen

With every good wish, Alan Jenkins  
**Ken's Sabbatical**

Our Minister, Rev Ken Chalmers will be on sabbatical from April 2<sup>nd</sup> to July 4<sup>th</sup>. For Methodist presbyters and deacons, a sabbatical is a time of grace allowing them to spend time with God doing something different. Sabbaticals were introduced to be part of the armoury to prevent burn out and reduce stress amongst presbyters and deacons. They are part of all ministers' continuing development; a time for refreshment and renewal, a time to be able to hear the still small voice of God.

Three months might seem a long period, but this time was set deliberately, because a shorter time does not really allow enough time for disengagement and reflection.

Ken wants to follow various ideas/strands around story-telling. He also plans to get fit and do a lot of reading.

A group representing each of Ken's churches, plus a circuit steward, has been set up to ensure that all aspects of Ken's work may be considered and adequately covered during the sabbatical. Sunday worship and the other regular church activities will continue much as usual throughout this period, but of course taking account of Ken's absence. Members of the group will also arrange for Ken to share his experience and learning as appropriate at the end of the sabbatical.

During this period we will be supported by other Circuit ministers.

For any queries during this time please phone Judith Fletcher (01206 241969), e-mail Andrew Wilks (awilks1op@btinternet.com) or speak to any of the stewards. They will deal with pastoral and any other issues, involving a Circuit minister where needed.

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The London Institute for Contemporary Christianity (LICC) assesses that the vast majority of Christians (around 98%) spend the vast majority of their waking time (around 95%) in non-church related activities. So, they say, just imagine what the impact might be on our neighbourhoods, on our schools and clubs and workplaces, on our whole nation, if all of us were really able to help one another to make a difference for Christ right where we are, out on our daily frontlines.

LICC's focus is on empowering Christians to make a difference in God's world, and equipping church leaders to help them do it. (licc.org.uk)

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**Good Friday Service** – there will be a devotional service at St Mary's at 10.00 am on Friday March 30<sup>th</sup>.

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**Respect for One Another**

Lord, when we are dismissed as unimportant, our views irrelevant, our feelings unnoticed, it makes us feel worthless. But each one of us is precious in your sight. Just as you love us, you ask us to love each other. May we always be aware of the feelings and needs of others, and treat all with the respect and care they deserve.

**OTHER MEETINGS**

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

**THE WOMENS WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**  
Will take place on FRIDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> MARCH at  
**St Mary's Church**

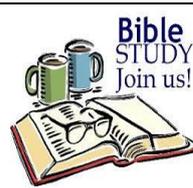
Written by the Christian women of Suriname, the theme will be "All God's creation is very good!" Caring for God's creation is hugely important and highly relevant to people of all ages and beliefs. With its vast rainforest and wealth of resources, Suriname asks us to pray for conservation and the protection of wildlife, through an awareness of pollution, misuse and abuse, as well as for the situation in Suriname and concerns for the future.  
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!**

The next **COFFEE MORNING** will be on  
Weds. 14<sup>th</sup> MARCH 10 - 11.30am  
**BRING A FRIEND WITH YOU**  
*Coffee or Tea and Biscuits - 50p*  
Gifts for Cake and General Stalls  
will be appreciated.



**Book stall and greetings Cards will be on sale**  
Thank you for your support.

February result - £36-40  
Come and enjoy a coffee and a chat.



Our Bible Study Book Club meets every third Wednesday, next meeting **Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March at 10.30am** in our hall. We are looking at the Letters of Paul to Timothy. All are welcome

**WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP**



Our next meeting will be at 2.30pm

On Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March – A members "round robin" meeting on interests.

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**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

Mon. Apr.9<sup>th</sup> – Easter Coffee and Craft in hall.  
Sat. Apr. 14<sup>th</sup> – Quiz evening in the Hall 7.00pm.  
Sun. Apr. 29<sup>th</sup> – United service at Castle Methodist Church with Neil Richardson (former Methodist President) and Lord Rowan Williams.  
May 13<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> Christian Aid week.

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**Copy for the April edition should be with Andrew Wilks by the third Sunday in March – Mar. 18<sup>th</sup>**

please.