

West Bergholt Methodist Church

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THE LINK

APRIL 2018

SUNDAY SERVICES

WORSHIP at 11 am, unless shown, will be led by
Apr. 1st Easter Day - Rev Ken Chalmers with communion
Apr. 8th Rev David Moody
Apr. 15th No service in our Church
Apr. 22nd Rachel Allen
Apr. 29th **10.30 am**, Circuit Service at Castle Methodist church

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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.

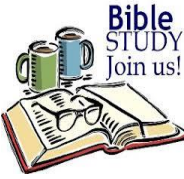
All children are very welcome. Crèche facilities will be provided when necessary
For further information please contact Mrs Susan Windscheffel.

Please note that the pattern of our Sunday worship has changed. Starting from April 8th 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.

OTHER MEETINGS

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

 <p>Bible STUDY Join us!</p>	<p>Our Bible Study Book Club meets every third Wednesday, next meeting Wednesday 18th April at 10.30am in our hall. We are looking at the Letters of Paul to Timothy. All are welcome</p>
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WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Our next meeting will be at 2.30pm



On Wednesday 18th April – And the speaker will be from Age Concern

A MOMENT OF THE DEEPEST DARKNESS.

The unthinkable had happened. He was gone. After three short years of life together, their feet on harsh and dusty roads, at times rejected and at others surrounded by the crush of the poor, the sick, the hopeful and the healed. The arguments and misunderstandings, the glimpses of something else, something greater than the sum of these ragged disciples and the One who just kept walking, endlessly teaching, fearlessly challenging, healing, focused on a goal none could yet see.

He was gone. And had it all come to nothing? The garden was stripped to the darkest blackness, deserted now, only footprints remaining, telling stories of hope and despair mixed with a whirlwind of confusion. The stillness of the air, unyielding cold of the tomb and scarlet blood spilt, reminded them all of their present reality.

And yet beneath the layers of earth, in a place that none could see or comprehend, a miracle was in progress. A shifting of the natural laws, and a breaking through of the inevitability of death. A new order. Deep below, Light was moving. An unstoppable and extraordinary energy which could not be contained by law or force. A supernatural power which, with arms outstretched and upward gaze, was to change the world forever. The earth shifting on its axis, taking a new trajectory through space and time. And all because of this one man. Condemned, tortured, bruised and broken, surrounded by hatred, beaten by betrayal, there seemed to be no possible way back. It was an end so public that none could deny the death of this loving man who with the greatest compassion, challenged and offended the righteous of the day. They broke the law they defended to bring about the end.

And this energy, the purest of loves, holds only forgiveness. Strong enough to break the hardest of hearts, redeeming the darkness of failure and self-condemnation and flooding all with unexpected grace.

So this is the story we tell, year after year. With every sunset and sunrise, this truth rolls on. With each kindness given, every touch of compassion, every look of recognition, and each word of life spoken, lives are changed.

And the resultant joy that is its essence refuses to be diminished by the hardships and inconsistencies of our lives. The story goes on. The grace expanding with the galaxies, and His love, full of resurrection

power, forms our yesterdays, todays, and all our tomorrows.

Lord I am in awe,
A word seldom in my vocabulary
But there is no way to better describe,
Fully understand,
Or verbalise what happened that day.

The forces at work,
The powers of destruction
faced with unstoppable love,
Their bondage broken forever.

What a privilege,
What an unbelievable miracle
that we are part of the story.
We carry the presence,
the irrefutable evidence
Of Love
and life within us,
safeguarding and announcing it
to the next generation and beyond.

Thank you
I have no words
But thank you
with all my heart.

(From an article by Jenny Hawke in Preach, the magazine of The Leaders of Worship and Preachers Trust.)

Ken's Sabbatical

Our Minister, Rev Ken Chalmers will be on sabbatical, but it has been slightly delayed to accommodate a funeral, from April 4th to July 6th. 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.

WOMENS WORLD DAY OF PRAYER
took place on **FRIDAY 3rd MARCH**
with a lovely service written by the women of Suriname. The snowy weather meant fewer attended than usual. The collection raised over £170 for WWDP; some was gift aided so additional funds will be claimed. We used some of the service again at our Local arrangement service on March 18th, when the snow struck again! Thanks to all who supported.

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)

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 9th April. For further details phone Andrew (242511). Donations of cakes would be appreciated.

ALL ARE WELCOME.

Christian Aid Week - May 13th to May 19th

There will be a Take-away "Ploughman's lunch", in lieu of a Hunger Lunch, available after our service on Sunday 13th May. Volunteers are needed for distribution and collection of envelopes around the village. Please see Susan Windscheffel if you can help.

Action for Children (NCH) Home Collecting Boxes raised £31-87 during 2017. 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. 11th APRIL 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. March result - £31-70

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Mon. Apr. 9th Coffee and Craft in hall 10.30am.
Sat. Apr. 14th Quiz evening in the Hall 7.00pm.
May 13th - 19th Christian Aid week.

Copy for the May edition should be with Andrew

**Wilks by the third Sunday in April – Apr. 15th
please.**