



West Bergholt Methodist Church

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THE LINK

MAY

2018

SUNDAY SERVICES

WORSHIP at 11 am will be led by
May 6th No service in our Church
May 13th Local Christian Aid service
May 20th No service in our Church
May 27th Rev Sue King 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.

Please note that the pattern of our Sunday worship has changed. 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 16th May 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. 9th MAY, 10 - 11.30am
BRING A FRIEND WITH YOU
Coffee or Tea and Biscuits - 50p
Gifts for Cake and General Stalls
will be appreciated.



Books and Greetings Cards will be on sale

Thank you for your support. April result - £34-21
WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP



Our next meeting will be at 2.30pm

On Wednesday 16th May – Our speaker, Mr David Ablewhite, will give a talk on Queen Victoria and her nine children.

ALL ARE WELCOME

For the February meeting we had a speaker from "Tools with a Mission" (TWAM), TWAM 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.

We started collecting tools, computers, sewing machines, stationery and much more. The support for this was excellent and a very impressive van full was collected on Monday March 26th. Thanks to everyone who contributed to this collection.

EASTER SERVICES

The Easter offering Envelopes raised £17-00 for the World Mission Fund. Thanks to all who supported this appeal.

Ken's Sabbatical

Our Minister, Rev Ken Chalmers is on sabbatical 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.

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.

Rev Sue King, a retired Minister living in Halsted, has kindly agreed to support the Circuit, and the Churches Ken cares for in particular, during this period.

For any queries during this time please phone Judith Fletcher (01206 241969), e-mail Andrew Wilks (awilks10p@btinternet.com) or speak to any of the

Stewards. They will deal with pastoral and any other issues, involving a Minister where needed.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK
MAY 13TH – MAY 19TH

***Stand Together this Christian Aid Week
For dignity, For equality, For justice.***

There will be a take-away “Ploughman’s Lunch”, in lieu of a Hunger Lunch, again this year. Pick and choose after the morning service on Sunday 13th May and make a donation to Christian Aid. Volunteers are needed for distribution and collection of envelopes around the village. Please see Susan Windscheffel if you can help.

REFLECTION FROM HAITI

Pastor Clement was on his way to his mother’s funeral when the earthquake hit Port-au-Prince – Haiti’s capital city on 12 January 2010.

When he got back to Port-au-Prince, he found his wife and children. They were struggling in truly horrific conditions, so were forced to search for a place of shelter.

For two nights, they stayed in a temporary camp in the suburbs, before crossing the border to neighbouring Dominican Republic. There a local pastor helped Clement to find a house which he could rent for his family. Clement then went back to Port-au-Prince to help those in desperate need.

One evening Clement returning, feeling completely exhausted, in the nearby town square he met a young Dominican man called Benito. Assuming he had been visiting Haiti when the earthquake hit, Clement asked him how he had managed to survive.

To Clements’s surprise, Benito told him that he had travelled to Haiti’s border to live alongside the people displaced by the earthquake. He had wanted to send money to help, like many people around the world. But because his family was poor and he didn’t work, he had nothing to give. Benito came to Jimani to be with the Haitians, to sleep alongside them and to share their suffering.

As we raise money, pray and give our time during Christian Aid Week, we’re being there for our neighbours who need us in Haiti and across the world, just like Benito was. We’re standing in solidarity with our sisters and brothers through their suffering, and we’re helping them to have hope for the future.

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Poverty is an outrage against humanity. It robs people of their dignity and lets injustice thrive. But together we have the power to transform lives.

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As Jesus entrusted his disciples with his mission to the world, we pray that we, who have felt the transforming power of your love, will bear witness to that love far and wide. Loving God may your joy be made complete for organisers of collections and

events this Christian Aid Week as we choose to love as we are loved. Amen

Plans for the future

A message from our Circuit Senior Steward,
Sally Crafer.

The following verse from Romans 12:10 often springs into my mind. “Love one another warmly, as Christian brothers and sisters”

Caring for one another and for the communities in which we serve can feel daunting. It is especially difficult when there is friction and confusion over the plans of individual churches to serve their communities and the strategy of the Circuit. This is where I find that I turn to God in prayer, and the answer I often get is to take faith that we are part of a Christian community where love is outworked through effective pastoral nurturing of all. While we make plans for the life of our individual churches and for our Circuit, we are reminded of the following verse:-

“For I know the plans I have for you” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future”: Jeremiah 29:11.

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Thy Kingdom Come

Thy Kingdom Come 2018 has been launched by the Archbishop of Canterbury. This is a worldwide, ecumenical prayer movement calling on all Christians to pray that people might come to know Jesus Christ. The Methodist Church is a major partner in this initiative. The prayer is focused between Ascension Day and Pentecost from Thursday, 10th to Sunday, 20th May 2018. There are lots of free resources on how to pray and for activities on the website www.thykingdomcome.global.

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Action For Children - a sponsored walk will take place, starting from our Church Hall, on **Saturday June 16th** at 10.00am. All are welcome to join in the walks (two choices - one or two hours) and sponsorship for the walkers would be welcomed. Please speak to Sylvia Wilks for more details.

School Holiday Activities

We held another of our **Coffee and Craft** mornings providing fun activities for young families on Monday 9th April. Over 40 children with their parents (not to mention the helpers) enjoyed a range of craft activities on an Easter theme. Further mornings will be planned for the school summer holidays but the dates are yet to be decided. Watch this space for further details.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- May 10th-20th- Thy Kingdom Come, prayer initiative
- May 13th - 19th Christian Aid week.
- Sun June 10th – Methodist Homes Sunday.
- Sat. June 16th – Action For Children walk here at West Bergholt 10.00am.
- Sun . July 1st - Open gardens

**Copy for the June edition should be with Andrew Wilks
by the third Sunday in May – May 20th please.**