



West Bergholt Methodist Church

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THE LINK

JULY/AUGUST 2018

SUNDAY SERVICES

WORSHIP at 11 am will be led by
July 1st No service in our Church
July 8th Rev John Robinson with Communion
July 15th No service in our Church
July 22nd Mr Alan Beesley
July 29th United Service at St. Mary's
Aug 5th No service in our Church
Aug 12th Ms Rachel Allen
Aug 19th No service in our Church
Aug 26th Rev Ken Chalmers with Communion

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.

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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 and only until the end of August. **The service on August 26th will be our last Sunday morning service in the Chapel.** 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.

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...

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Our next meeting will be at 2.30pm



on Wednesday 18th July – a Garden Party at the home of Judith Fletcher, 85, Albany Road.
All are welcome.

There will not be a Fellowship meeting in August.

There will not be any Bible Book Club meetings in July or August. We will resume in September.

REFLECTION

(The following is an article by Rev Langley Mackrell-Hey in "Connexion", the magazine of the Methodist Church.)

Jesus came proclaiming a kingdom.
Yet what we got was a church.

But I am not convinced that's what He was aiming for. Rather than a community of believers living a life of prayer and service where our practices and discipline fan the coals of mission from red hot to white hot. I sometimes see a church that has been poisoned by the serpent's venom of "this is the way we do things round here....properly". We all have a tendency to stay comfortable and to resist change. Yet not all change is bad.

As I see it, Jesus did not come to form a club or an institution. He came to form a family, a body of believers who strive to experience life in all its fullness. Where success is best measured in quality of relationship. And where our love for God, for each other and for the world compels us to care for others. We can welcome people at the door all we like. We can "do our bit". But it is not until we start giving our lives to people and changing to meet their needs rather than our own that we will see growth.

There are, however, times when despite our disappointments, my heart skips a beat with joy. There are times where our own children and others under our care, receive the gospel and live it better than we do. They realise that the world is theirs for the taking. That life should be lived in all its fullness. We need to follow their example, lay our anxieties to one side, outstretch our arms, and live in the moment. Our fears will melt away to be replaced with delight and the chains that we once believed were there to constrain us become the chains that keep us safe as we feel the wind rush against our face.

And there are times when our children's innocence exposes us. They are not as naive as we think. They see the truth. They see our incongruence. But, thank God, they are not so inhibited by our own social inhibitions. And ask awkward questions with perplexed eyes and a smile. "Come on then, are you really up for it?" they say. Or, when receiving bread and wine they ask "Is that it then?" Little do they know they are the prophet in our midst? We have sanitised

our bread and our sharing. Our communities are often divided like cubed bread and relationships can in reality be wafer thin. Someone once said to me that you cannot buy or fake enthusiasm. And that is what makes it so potent.

The Holy Spirit is moving at our generation. But amidst a plethora of innovation and all things fresh, some are questioning what it is to be Church? As if unless it meets on Sunday and ticks all the right boxes it cannot be the real deal. I put it to you that just because something lacks maturity does not mean that it is any less valuable. And because a child is not an adult, does not diminish their humanity or devalue what they have to say. And who is to say that our understanding of what is proper is right in the first place?

I know a man who was accused of enthusiasm. His name was John Wesley. Some said he was a bible moth, taking scripture too seriously. Others said he did far more than was reasonable, and was attention seeking. A number suggested he was a radical, at risk of stirring unrest as people began to fight for their self-worth. But I am proud to be an enthusiast. Today the term would be fundamentalist. I have no problem with that. It is just what you are fundamental about that is the issue. Being lukewarm is what God can't stand.

With the power of enthusiasm the Church can become for us, once more, a means of doing the work of the kingdom rather than a social club for almost Christians.

To comfort, to disturb?

At the last Circuit meeting our Superintendent Minister, Rev Alan Jenkins, read about John the Baptist (Mathew 14:1-12). He made the point that, while certainly we are called upon to comfort people in need, there are also times when it is necessary to disturb. John the Baptist was a controversial figure; he challenged the status quo and disturbed the religious leaders.

At our service on June 10th our preacher, speaking on Mark 3:20-35, pointed out that Jesus, who was compassionate and often comforting people, also disturbedhis family, his neighbours, the wider population and definitely the religious and secular authorities of the time.

Both of these reminded me of a saying, which has appeared in a number of forms, but I recognise it from, perhaps an unlikely source, the American folk singer, Woody Guthrie (1912-1967). He wrote:-

“the job of *the folk singer* is to comfort the disturbed and to disturb the comfortable.”

So should we try replacing the words “*the folk singer*” with “*the church*”, “*the preacher*” or simply “*Christians*”?

School Holiday Activities

We will be providing fun activities for young families (children please bring an adult along) at our **Coffee and Craft** mornings during the school holidays. These will take place in the West Bergholt Methodist Church Hall, Chapel Lane, CO6 3EF from 10.30 – 12.00 on the following Mondays – July 30th and Aug. 13th.

Donations of cakes will be appreciated. For further details phone Andrew (242511).

Farewell Celebration Weekend September 29th/30th

We are planning a weekend of activities in our Chapel and Hall as a farewell celebration for the 139 years of Methodist service and worship in our Chapel and community, even longer in the village. The Chapel and hall will be opened from 2-6 on both days. There will be a Quiz on Saturday evening. The weekend will finish with a service late Sunday afternoon followed by tea and cake in the hall. Keep the date and watch for more details nearer the time. If you have any memories and/or memorabilia that could be displayed please speak to one of the stewards.

Action For Children - the sponsored walk at West Bergholt on Saturday June 16th was enjoyed by eleven walkers (and a dog). The initial sum of £600 was raised with some more still to be collected. Much of the sum was also gift aided. Thanks to all who supported.

Christian Aid Week May 13th to May 19th

The provisional sum raised from the village collection is £1,616, of which well over £700 is gift-aided. Thanks to all who helped collect and supported this effort.

The next **COFFEE MORNINGS** will be on
Weds. 11th JULY 10 - 11.30am and then on
Weds. 8th AUGUST 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. June result - £42.40

Saturday July 28th

There will be a welcome back from sabbatical social event for Ken at Mile End Church at 12.30 with a bring-and-share lunch. This will be for members of the four congregations that Ken looks after. It would be helpful for arrangements to have an idea of numbers of people likely to be attending so please speak to Judith, Susan or Andrew if you would like to attend.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sun. July 8th – Action for Children Sunday
Fri. July 27th - Church meeting at 3.30pm
Sat July 28th – Welcome back Ken at Mile End
Mon. July 30th - Coffee and Craft in the hall
Mon. Aug 13th - Coffee and Craft in the hall
Sat/Sun Sept 29th/ 30th – Methodist Memories weekend including Quiz on Saturday and Service on Sunday afternoon.

Copy for the September edition should be with Andrew

**Wilks by the third Sunday in August – August 19th
please.**