



West Bergholt Methodist Church

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THE LINK

OCTOBER 2018

SUNDAY SERVICES

Please note that we are no longer holding Sunday morning services in our Chapel. Transport will be arranged to a service at Mile End Methodist church, leaving the village at 10.00am for the 10.30am service. Please contact Judith, 01206 241969, or Andrew, 01206 242511, if you would like a lift.

WORSHIP at Mile End at 10-30 am will be led by

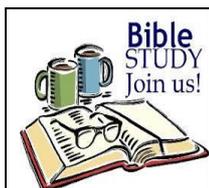
- Oct 7th Rev Ken Chalmers with communion
- Oct 14th Mr Brian Clow
- Oct 21st Local Arrangement
- Oct 28th Rev David Moody

(N.B. British Summer Time ends – do not forget to put your clocks back one hour.)

OTHER MEETINGS

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

Please join us for a **new venture** we have started. We are holding a monthly **mid week informal worship** activity in our hall on the first Wednesday of each month at 11.00am. The next such event will be on **Wednesday October 3rd** and will be led by our Minister, Rev Ken Chalmers. All are welcome.



Our Bible Study Book Club meets every third Wednesday, next meeting **Wednesday 17th October at 10.30am** in our hall.
All are welcome

FELLOWSHIP GROUP

Our next meeting will be at 2.30pm
Wednesday 17th October
Speaker – Rev Sue King



ALL ARE WELCOME

If you would like to come to any church activities, but would need a lift, please phone 01206 242511 or 241969.

Copy for the November edition should be with Andrew Wilks by the third Sunday in October – October 21st

please.

A CALLING

Flora Stewart, who took up sailing at the age of 12, believes she is called to be a Christian athlete in the British Sailing Team: her goal is to be selected to represent Team GB at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, while alongside this she is training to become a local preacher

My expatriate Scottish parents met at a Church of Scotland church in London, but our family moved back to Scotland when I was eight so my memories growing up are all based around the Solway Coast and messing around on my granddad's boat. Both my parents and grandmother are elders in the Church of Scotland, so as a family we were always in church on Sundays. Throughout my childhood I believed in the risen Lord.

The joy of sailing

When I took up sailing I just loved the freedom to go as fast or as slow as I wanted. To be honest I just wanted either to go as fast as possible, or capsized! My very supportive parents drove me around the country so I could race in different competitions. I knew from a young age that my goal was to go to the Olympics.

I sailed most weekends when I was in my final couple of years at school, so attending church on Sundays wasn't really an option. For years I would miss spending Easter Sunday with my family as there was always a regatta taking place. This was one of the sacrifices I made for my sailing.

I went to Bath University where I graduated with a degree in Sports Performance, and then moved straight to Weymouth, going from sailing at the weekend to sailing during the week. For the first time in my life I had weekends free.

Discovering my identity

I made it a mission to find my own church, and boy, did I try church upon church! Just when I had nearly given up hope in finding one, my mum suggested I try the Methodists. So there I was, in November 2014, in Weymouth Bay Methodist Church.

I knew this was where I was meant to be before the service even started. Everyone was so welcoming. At the time I was suffering from concussion, resulting in 18 months out of competition. In any athlete's life this is very challenging, and you feel like you lose your identity. But having that time to attend a church regularly, really for the first time in my life, I realised my identity wasn't just about being an athlete. It was

about who I was as a person. If I was asked how I would describe myself today I would say I am a Christian athlete.

A calling to ministry

There is a shortage of local preachers, certainly in the Weymouth Circuit, and there had been a letter in our circuit magazine calling for local preachers. I thought it was something I could do.

This wasn't out-of-the-blue. Being the youngest in the family, it had been my responsibility to write and read the prayer on Sundays and on special occasions, and my granddad said at the time that I would be a great minister one day.

I prayed about the letter in the magazine, and spoke to my mum and grandmother about it. I felt I had a calling to spread the word of the Lord, and this went from an idea to a passion. The love from the congregation to me was also very important in making my decision.

One Sunday I was in church and we sang the hymn I, the Lord of sea and sky. The words of the chorus are:

Here I am, Lord. Is it I Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

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This was it: I was ready and waiting to be used in the kingdom of the Lord.

Training for God's work

My mentor, David Ninnim, has taught me a lot. He is very understanding of my busy schedule and has gradually introduced me to all of the churches in the circuit. I have already been given some responsibility and I must thank all the folk who have given me feedback. Being an elite sports person, I know the value of feedback!

Training to become a local preacher also involves an online course, and while doing this my sailing partner and I are in full-time training for the Olympics. Neither of these things are easy, but I feel they are what God is calling me to do.

Flora Stewart from the connexion, the free magazine of the Methodist Church, www.methodist.org.uk

Uprooted

There will be a Christian Aid exhibition at Castle Methodist Church in October. We do hope that you will be able to come along sometime to learn more about **internally displaced people**. They are those who have become homeless through conflict and through natural and environmental disasters, but remain within their own countries, often the most vulnerable to poverty and exploitation, yet without even the limited protections afforded to refugees. We especially invite you and your friends and church colleagues to come on Saturday 6 October at 10.15, when there will be a short, but very warm welcome to the exhibition here in Colchester. You will be able to take a look at the exhibition and refreshments will be available.

Come and find out more at Castle Methodist Church, Maidenburgh Street, CO1 1TT
Saturday 6th Oct: 10.15am – 3.00pm
Sunday 7th Oct: 12noon – 3.00pm

Monday 8th Oct – Thursday 11th Oct: 9.30am – 3.00pm

Our Superintendent Minister Rev Alan Jenkins

Since the beginning of the year Alan has been having eye trouble. Various medications have failed to solve the problem and Alan has been for a number of examinations, tests and consultations. It has just recently been established that he has a very rare form of cancer in his blood and soft tissues, the latter being the cause of the eye problems. This form is referred to as a "low grade" cancer and is treatable with a significant degree of success in reducing and controlling the impact of the illness. He will have to undergo a six month course of chemotherapy and thus will be off work for at least this period of time, probably longer. The treatment is due to start shortly. Our thoughts and prayers are with Alan, Janet and the family at this testing time.

The main concern is, of course, for Alan's health and future well being. However, there will be increased pressure on Rev Ken Chalmers as the one remaining full time Circuit Minister. Steps are being explored to support the Circuit and we are fortunate to have the help of several active "retired" ministers.

The next **COFFEE MORNING** will be on
Weds. 10th OCT. 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.
September result - £37-02

Come and enjoy a coffee and a chat.

Circuit Study day Saturday October 13th

There will be a Circuit Study Day on Saturday 13th October at The Ark, Highwoods from 9.30am to 1.00pm followed by lunch. The theme for the event is "Covenant People?" - Living Together in the light of Covenant. There is an introductory Bible Study followed by four Group Sessions. More details will be available on the day.

Please bring a packed lunch (optional) and stay and share in fellowship and also look at the Christian Aid display which will be there at the same time. To book a place please speak to Andrew asap.

Half term Activities

We will be providing fun activities for young families (children please bring a parent 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 October 22nd**. Donations of cakes appreciated. For further details phone Andrew (242511).

ALL WELCOME.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wed Oct 3rd Mid week Worship in the Hall 11.00am
Sat Oct 6th – Thurs Oct 11th – Christian Aid Exhibition at Castle Methodist Church
Sat. Oct 13th – Circuit Study day, Highwoods
Sun. Nov. 11th Remembrance Day Service in the Orpen Hall at 10.45am.

Sat. Dec. 1st - Christmas Coffee Morning at 10am.

Sun. Dec. 2nd - Gift and Parade Service at 11am.