



West Bergholt Methodist Church

Rev. Ken Chalmers – 01206 545253
Church Contact - Judith Fletcher Tel. 01206 241969
Or e-mail awilks1op@btinternet.com

THE LINK

DECEMBER 2018 / JANUARY 2019

Our special **CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING** is on **Saturday 1st December**, 10-12 noon. There is a warm welcome for you with coffee/tea and mince pies available.

We shall be very pleased to receive cakes, preserves, books, jigsaws etc for the stalls and any gifts, however small, to put on the gift table.

The next monthly **COFFEE MORNINGS** will be on Weds. 12th Dec. and Weds. 9th Jan. 10-11.30am

BRING A FRIEND WITH YOU
Coffee or Tea and Biscuits - 50p
Gifts for Cake and General Stalls
will be appreciated.



Greetings Cards will be on sale

Thank you for your support, Nov. result £43-81

Journey to the Stable -1st December

At Mile End Methodist Church on Saturday, this is a Reflective Advent Event - come and go as you please between 10am and 4pm. There will be refreshments, a stall and children's activities.

GIFT and PARADE SERVICE on DEC. 2nd at 11am

With Rev Ken Chalmers. **In the Hall.** Gifts donated will be distributed to the homeless at THE WOMEN'S REFUGE, BEACON HOUSE, & THE NIGHT SHELTER, making their Christmas a more joyful occasion. Everyone is welcome with the uniformed organisations of the village to make this a very special day.

Following on from our "Methodist Memories" weekend I thought I would use a message from one of our previous Ministers, so here is Rev Ruth Ridge's Christmas message for 2012 (with thanks to the Roots magazine for the insert).

FROM OUR MINISTER'S DESK

God does not always choose people who look the likely ones to be leaders and prophets. If you look through the pages of the Old Testament you will find Gideon, who was an illegitimate child, Amos who was a shepherd and farmer, Ruth, a foreigner from a despised land and David, the youngest son of a large

family who served as a shepherd. Time and again God chooses not the rich and powerful, but those who are willing to listen to Him and each of these in spite of their background are given the ability to achieve great things.

All of this seems particularly relevant as we look to the Christmas story where God chooses an unmarried teenager to take on the greatest role of all, to be the mother of God's own Son. Jesus is born, not into wealth and power, but into a family with tensions and struggles such as many of us would recognise. And Jesus' first visitors, chosen by the angels to receive the good news of His birth – are shepherds; workers doing the most menial of jobs.

(If you lived in first century Palestine and you wanted an influential group of people to witness an event and spread the word about it, shepherds would be the last people to ask. They are not well known. They don't go to the synagogue. Their work keeps them away from towns and cities. They are probably the best people to ask to keep a secret! But it is to the shepherds that the angel goes. It is to them that the news is given. The shepherds are quick to recognise God's hand in this. The first thing they do is to go and see for themselves. And having seen, they tell others. What a life-changing experience, this must have been to turn unlikely witnesses into evangelists!)

God comes to all people and for all people, entrusting himself to those whom he knows will listen and respond and giving them a place in His salvation plan.

What about us? This Christmas as we read and hear again the story of Mary's 'yes' to the angel and of the shepherds telling the Good News to all who will listen, will we reflect on what God is saying to us and will we be ready to respond to His call? The characters that I've mentioned are all willing to allow God to change their lives as he calls them; to lead them to new countries and to call them to speak to people they never dreamed that they would meet. What are we willing to give up in order to answer God's call, how much are we willing to change? Let's ask for God's grace to help us respond as Mary does when our call comes – 'let it be to me according to your will'.

Every blessing for this Christmas and the New Year

Ruth

SUNDAY SERVICES

WORSHIP at 11 am

Dec. 2nd GIFT & PARADE SERVICE will be led by Rev Ken Chalmers **in the Hall**

Please note that we are no longer holding regular 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 (except as noted) will be led by

Dec. 9th Mr Ron Firmin
Dec. 16th Mrs Anne Worker
Dec. 23rd Rev Martin Camroux with communion
Dec. 23rd Rev Ken Chalmers Carols **at 4.00 pm**
Dec. 25th CHRISTMAS MORNING SERVICE with Rev Ken Chalmers
Dec 30th United service at **Highwoods** with Rev Ken Chalmers **at 11.00 am.**
Jan. 6th Rev. Ken Chalmers COVENANT SERVICE
Jan. 13th Mrs Jo Eckersley
Jan. 20th Circuit Service at Castle **at 11.00 am**
Jan. 27th Mr Brian Dack

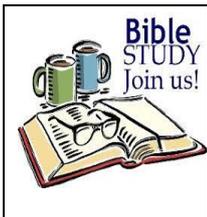
There will not be a **Christmas Morning Service** at our Church, but there will be services at the following:-

- Mile End Methodist Church at 10.30am, Rev Ken Chalmers.
- St Mary's, service at 9.30am, Rev Mandy Elmes.

OTHER MEETINGS

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

Please join us for our 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 December 5th** led by our Minister, Rev Ken Chalmers. January date to be confirmed. All are welcome.



Our Bible Study Book Club usually meets every third Wednesday, next meeting **Wednesday 19th December** and then **Wednesday January 23rd (Please note later date) at 10.45am** both in our hall. All are welcome

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP



Our next meetings will be at 2.30pm on

Wednesday December 19th Christmas Carols and tea
Wednesday January 16th a speaker from Silver Line, the charity founded by Dame Esther Rantzen.

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.

JOIN US FOR CAROL SINGING

We are looking for volunteers to sing Carols:-

In Mile End:-

- Saturday 8th December at 6.30pm at the Dog and Pheasant
 - Sunday 16th December at 4.30pm at Tall Trees Care Home
 - Tuesday 18th December at 3.30pm at Woodlands View Care Home
- If anyone is able to come to some or all the venues then please speak to Andrew.

In West Bergholt:-

We will be outside the Co-op store on **Friday December 21st from 6.15-7.30pm**. More voices are always welcome so please come and join us. We will be raising funds for Action for Children. Followed by coffee and mince pies.

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 **Friday 21st December**. **Please note change of day**. Look out for our posters nearer the time for further details or phone Andrew (242511). **ALL WELCOME.**

Nativity Scene

It is thought that the first person to make a nativity scene was St Francis of Assisi in 1223. After a pilgrimage to Bethlehem, he told a friend he wanted to show people the poverty and simplicity into which the Christ child came. He made a scene, complete with ox and ass, in a cave outside Greccio for midnight mass on Christmas Eve. How can we follow the example of St Francis and find creative ways to tell the Christmas story so that people see it with new eyes?

Our **NEW YEAR SOCIAL AFTERNOON** takes place on **SATURDAY 26th JANUARY** from 3 – 5.30pm in the Hall. Friends from our Sector Churches and the Village are welcome to join us for a fun afternoon. **Please come along**. There will be a BRING and SHARE TEA – we supply the Coffee and Tea. Details from Judith – 01206 241969

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sat. Dec. 1st Christmas Coffee Morning at 10am.
Sun. Dec. 2nd Gift and Parade Service at 11am
Fri. Dec 21st Coffee and craft in hall 10.30-12.00
Fri. Dec. 21st Carol Singing outside the Co-op 6.15pm
Sun. Dec 23rd Carol Service at Mile End at 4.00 pm
2019
Sun. Jan 6th Covenant Service led by Rev. Ken Chalmers at Mile End
Sat. Jan. 26th New Year Social in the Hall

Copy for the February edition should be with Andrew Wilks by the third Sunday in January– Jan. 20th please.