



West Bergholt Methodist Church
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THE LINK

FEBRUARY 2019

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
 Feb 3rd Rev David Chapman (Chair of the District)
 with communion
 Feb 10th Mrs Rachel Allen
 Feb 17th Rev John Allison
 Feb 24th Local Arrangement

Lent Course—March 2019

St Mary's are planning to run a 3 Parishes Lent Course on Wednesday evenings at 8pm in the church hall on the following dates: ♦ **13, 20 & 27 March** ♦ **3 & 10 April** The theme will be the radical nature of the gospel with a special focus on the church in India and topics covered include taking action to combat human trafficking and inspiring school children to care for the environment. You are warmly invited to join them.

Half term Activities

We will be providing fun activities for young families (children please bring an adult 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 February 18th**. For further details phone Andrew (242511) - ALL WELCOME.

THE WOMENS WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Will take place on FRIDAY 1st MARCH at
St Mary's Church at 12 noon

Everything is ready and the invitation is for everyone - men, women and children of all ages to join this Day of Prayer. Women of Slovenia, one of the smallest and youngest countries in Europe, have prepared this year's service and they encourage us to reflect on the barriers they have faced since the end of the Second World War when their country was a part of Yugoslavia, a Marxist socialist republic. They share the challenges they have met and the hopes they have for the future.

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 the month at 11.00am. The next such event will be on **Wednesday February 6th** led by Rev Sue King All are welcome.

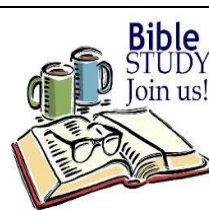
The next **COFFEE MORNING** will be on
 Weds. 13th FEBRUARY 10 - 11.30am
BRING A FRIEND WITH YOU
Coffee or Tea and Biscuits - 50p
 Gifts for Cake and General Stalls
 will be appreciated.



Books & Greetings Cards will be on sale

Thank you for your support,
 Results – Christmas Coffee Morning £156-55,
 Dec £17-50, Jan. £27-65
 Total result for 2018 was £589-84 (2017 £570-70)

Many thanks to everyone who helped to raise this splendid amount for our Church Funds.



**Bible
 STUDY**
 Join us!

Our Bible Study Book Club meets every third Wednesday, next meeting **Wednesday 20th February at 10.45am** in our hall. We are looking at Corinthians. All are welcome

FELLOWSHIP GROUP



Our next meeting will be at 2.30 on **Wednesday 20th February**. The speaker will be Mrs Rachel Allen who will speak on growing up in Guernsey.

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.

Action for Children (NCH) Carol Singing donations and the collection boxes raised £73-00. Many thanks to all who supported for these results.

A NEW MINISTER FOR THE CIRCUIT?

The Circuit is seeking, through the stationing process, to secure a new minister for the Circuit from September 2019 to replace Rev Steve Swan who left in 2018. If the Circuit is successful the new minister would live in the manse at Tollgate, Stanway and would have particular responsibility for the churches at Lexden, West Mersea and Wimpole Road. The Rev Neil Adams has visited the area, the Circuit has invited him to come from September and he has expressed interest in doing so. Therefore, it is possible that we will have a new minister from September. However, the final allocation of ministers to Circuits is decided by Conference in June so the position could still change. The stationing process is explained in the following article from the Methodist magazine, Connexion.

“It is characteristic of Methodism that ministers are connexionally stationed to appointments, with the expectation of moving on after a time under the system of ‘itinerancy’. Usually, ministers who feel called to move make this known, and circuits seeking ministers do the same. On behalf of the Conference, prayerful work is done annually to match them, with the heartfelt intention that the right people will be matched with the right appointments. Stationing is not an easy process. It requires patience and trust from all involved. It makes great demands of everyone.

Why do it, then? Why put ourselves through this system? As a practice, it goes back to the days of Methodism’s founder, John Wesley. For Wesley, it was a vital mechanism for mission and evangelism. Ministers were (and are) sent where needed, as an expression of what it is to be part of the people of God, who are all called to journey with Christ. Jesus calls us to follow him, but he also sends us to do his work, as the very end of Matthew’s Gospel tells us. Furthermore, for Methodists, the stationing of ministers is an expression of being a connexion. Ministers are ordained to serve the whole Church, whose ministry does not belong to just one group of people but to all. At best, ministers equip and enable the Church’s mission, wherever the need is greatest.

The issues we currently face

Ministers and circuit appointments vary enormously. This diversity is something we celebrate and is a gift. Getting the right combination (or match) of minister and appointment requires considerable effort and wise, prayerful discernment. Getting the stationing wrong can be destructive, and does not lead to the flourishing of God’s people or ministers. A visit after a stationing matching round is an important part of the discernment process and requires open-hearted exploration between the minister and the circuit. God can surprise us all but during the process we have to be honest with each other about hopes and needs.

The stationing process requires us to be flexible. At times in the life of a minister the need to support elderly parents at a distance can be an anxiety. The needs of a partner’s employment or education of dependents can sometimes require careful handling. However, sometimes we talk as though only Methodist ministers move location frequently or are sent to new locations and that simply isn’t the case. Great care is taken, but clearly a minister can only be

matched or directly stationed to where appointments are available and where the mission of the Church requires a minister to resource and enable the ministry of all in a particular place.

We have fewer ministers to station than we have circuits seeking ordained ministers. We need more candidates for ordained ministry and a more creative approach to ministry teams of lay and ordained. We also need a willingness to do new things and serve in new contexts.

Stationing: how it works

Deacons, including probationer deacons, are stationed directly by the Warden of the Methodist Diaconal Order. Probationer presbyters are stationed directly too.

Other presbyters are stationed after a matching process.

The stationing matching group (SMG) is made up of all the District Chairs, a number of lay Stationing Representatives and connexional officers. Presbyters and circuits, in consultation with their District Chair, are asked to prepare profiles on a standard template that describe the ministry offered and sought. The circuit profiles are then scrutinised by a small group to determine which are the most critical to fill first.

From these profiles, presbyters and circuit Invitation Committees are asked to produce an indicative list of five appointments/presbyters that they believe best match their needs. The District Chairs then present these lists in the context of the SMG meetings in November, December and January.

When the SMG meets there is knowledge in the room of every circuit and presbyter in the process. Circuits are matched with presbyters one by one and to ensure fairness these are considered according to a random selection process. At this stage all matches are provisional allowing for a further process of discernment; no one is considered matched until every presbyter available is matched.

At the end of each SMG, when matches are finally agreed, presbyters are asked to visit circuits. Together, circuits and presbyters discern whether their match is a good one or not. When a match does not hold the presbyter and circuit both re-enter the process. For those circuits and presbyters not matched in any of the first three rounds of SMG, a smaller group consults on a monthly basis to continue the matching process until the Conference takes place in June.

Deacons and probationer presbyters and deacons visit their circuits after being directly stationed to them. Ultimately it is the Conference, meeting annually, which agrees to the stationing of all ministers.”

The Revds Jennie Hurd, Richard Hall and Helen Cameron from the Connexion, the free magazine of the Methodist Church, www.methodist.org.uk

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Mon. Feb. 18th Coffee and Craft in Hall.
Fri. Mar. 1st Women’s World day of Prayer, lunch and service at St Mary’s Church from 12-00.
Sun. Mar 31st Mothering Sunday.

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