



West Bergholt Methodist Church

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THE LINK

APRIL 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 (except as noted) will be led by

Apr. 7th Local Arrangement

Apr. 14th **Rev Ruth Ridge** – Palm Sunday with communion

Apr. 21st Easter Day – Mrs Jo Eckersley

Apr. 28th Circuit Service at **Castle** Methodist church at **11.00am**

Good Friday April 19th

- There will not be a service in our village this year. There will be a Good Friday Reflective Service at 10am held at St John's Church, Great Horkesley, Elstar Lane CO6 4FE, a contemplative service focusing on the events of the crucifixion,.
- Walk of Witness in town centre, meet at 11.45 in Essex Street to begin walk at 12.00, finishing at Lion Walk.
- Service at Mercury Theatre at 7.30 pm. Led by Seeking God's Blessing for Colchester & Cantus Firmus choir. Speaker Rt Rev Roger Morris, Bishop of Colchester.

Easter 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 Monday 15th April. For further details phone Andrew (242511). Donations of cakes would be appreciated.

ALL ARE WELCOME.

*Lyrics originally released by the Christian band MercyMe in *I can only imagine* (Bart Millard, The Worship Project 1999, © Simpleville Music/Small Stone Media BV Holland (Admin by www.songsolutions.org))

EASTER MESSAGE

The Revd Loraine N Mellor, last year's President of the Methodist Conference, focuses on the Resurrection.

There is a song that I like called *I can only imagine*. It reminds me of that first Easter Sunday morning when Mary and the women went to the tomb, and I often wonder what their faces would have been like. At first they would look afraid, sorrowful and their faces would have betrayed the inner emotions of grief and sadness. Then, as realisation dawned, their faces would have turned to smiling and happy in incredulousness at what they had just witnessed and now what they had to do.

Can you just imagine the scene, the Easter Resurrection story we know so well? As we read it and hear it once more, what do our faces say today, and what would our faces have been like as we encountered the risen Christ? "I can only imagine what it will be like when I walk by your side. I can only imagine what my eyes will see when your face is before me, I can only imagine."*

No resurrection erases the tragedy of the Cross. Nothing erases the violence and the horror of Good Friday, but now is a time for joy and of hope; of great rejoicing as the Resurrection symbolises divine intention for life to survive. It is a mistake to say that Jesus' death was a good thing: it was and should be seen as a tragedy. But, it is now time to rejoice and to smile and for our faces to display hope, for the tragedy of the Cross could not shut holy love out of the world. The death of Jesus shows how the world responds to a life with love at the centre. As Christians today, we claim the last words as God's – and those last words are life, hope, love, grace, truth, and blessing. "I can only imagine. Surrounded by your glory what will my heart feel?"*

And what will our faces say when we wake on Easter Sunday morning? As Christians today, our hope is in a God who raised his Son from death to life in order that we too can have life and life in all its fullness: a life rich in variety, a life of hope and of grace and of truth and of love. So whatever our circumstances today and for some that will be very difficult, we can know ourselves loved, cherished and having hope in eternal life.

Let your faces this Easter display your joy, your worship experience, your thankfulness for what God has done through Jesus. Let's rejoice and be glad, the Lord is risen, he is risen indeed, alleluia!

Happy Easter!

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 April 3rd** led by Rev Ken Chalmers
All are welcome.

The next **COFFEE MORNING** will be on
Weds. 10th APRIL 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. March result - £19-70

BREXIT DISCUSSIONS.

The President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference have released the following statement in relation to the ongoing Brexit discussions.

The Westminster Parliament continues to struggle with the Brexit process. Like no other issue of our time, Brexit has divided our politics, our society and our communities. The coming days and months harbour uncertainty and, for many, even fear.

We know that faithful Methodists hold a spectrum of views on Brexit, as they do on many other issues that shape our country and world. We do not minimise the challenge of responding to this hugely emotive issue. Yet we believe that, as Christians, we are bound to one another in Christ, whatever our differences. And we are called to serve our communities even, perhaps especially, in these troubling times.

Churches around the country have been providing safe spaces of welcome, reflection and conversation. Places where name-calling and abuse are not acceptable, but where differing views can be heard. Offering such a gift of welcome to our communities is not always easy. We hold each other in prayer as we try to serve others at this time.

We also pray for the politicians and civil servants, in this country and in the EU, who are at the centre of this storm and must make important decisions. We pray for those with whom we disagree as much as those who share our personal views.

While we may feel at sea, blown about by a chaotic political process, we believe that we have an assurance that flows from the faithfulness of God. And therefore we can offer love, practice compassion and speak justice to the communities we serve.

Rev Michaela Youngson, President of the Methodist Conference
Mr Bala Gnanapragasam, Vice-President of the Methodist Conference

Circuit Weekend April 27th/28th "Better Together"

There will be a Study day on the Saturday and a United service at Castle at 11.00 am on Sunday. Further details will be made available shortly.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Sun. Apr 14th – Palm Sunday with Rev Ruth Ridge
- Mon. Apr. 15th – Easter Coffee and Craft in hall.
- Sun. Apr. 21st – Easter Sunday
- Sat. Apr. 27th – Circuit Study day "Better Together"
- Sun. Apr. 28th – United service at Castle Methodist
- May 12th – 18th - Christian Aid week.

Copy for the May edition should be with Andrew Wilks by the third Sunday in April – Apr. 21st please.

<p>Bible STUDY Join us!</p>	<p>There will not be a Bible Study Book Club this month. We resume next month on Wednesday 15th May at 10.45am in our hall. We are looking at Corinthians. All are welcome</p>
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WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Our next meeting will be at 2.30pm



On Wednesday 17th April – And the speaker will be Mrs Marjorie Culham from Guide Dogs for the Blind.

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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.

<p>WORLD DAY OF PRAYER took place at St Mary's on FRIDAY 1st MARCH Thanks to all who took part in the service, written by the women of Slovenia, and supported us at our Soup'n Snack lunch and service attended by 40 people. Our collection raised £258-00.</p>

Christian Aid Week - May 12th to May 18th

Volunteers are needed for distribution and collection of envelopes around the village. Please contact Andrew Wilks if you can help.

Lent Groups, 2019

St Mary's Lent Groups are continuing on Wednesday evenings at 8pm in the church hall on the following dates: **♦ 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. Tea and biscuits will be served from 8.00pm. You are warmly invited to join them.