



West Bergholt Methodist Church

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THE LINK

MARCH 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

- Mar. 3rd Rev Ken Chalmers
- Mar. 10th Rev Mike Cassidy with communion
- Mar. 17th Rev Sue King
- Mar. 24th Mrs Rachel Allen
- Mar. 31st Mr Michael Topple - Mothering Sunday
(*N.B. British Summer Time begins – do not forget to put your clocks forward one hour.*)

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THE WORLD DAY OF PRAYER
Will take place on **FRIDAY 1st MARCH** at
St Mary's Church

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.

Soup'n Snack Lunch at 12.30pm in St Mary's Hall, New Church Road; Service at 1.30pm

Lent Groups, 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. Tea and biscuits will be served from 8.00pm. You are warmly invited to join them.

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 March 6th** led by Rev Ken Chalmers
All are welcome.

The next **COFFEE MORNING** will be on
Weds. 13th MARCH 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.
February result - £40-80
Come and enjoy a coffee and a chat.

	<p>Our Bible Study Book Club meets every third Wednesday, next meeting Wednesday 20th March at 10.45am for 11.00 in our hall. We are looking at 1 Corinthians. All are welcome</p>
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FELLOWSHIP GROUP

Our next meeting will be at 2.30pm



On Wednesday 20th March – The speaker will be Mr Martin Broom on 'Methodism in West Bergholt -the early years'

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.

QUIZ NIGHT SATURDAY 30th March
at 7pm **IN THE HALL**
TABLES OF FOUR at £20

Light Refreshments will be served. You are welcome to bring your own nibbles and soft drinks (sorry no alcohol allowed). Book your table by contacting JUDITH (01206 241969)

GOD CALLS US TO JOURNEY

Regional Learning and Development Officer for the North West and Mann Region, Simon Sutcliffe, sees journeys as adventurous and dangerous acts of faith

In most cases I love to go on a journey; the thrill of discovering something or somewhere new, the joy of arriving at my destination. I particularly love walking in the hills and spending time outdoors. The delight I experience on reaching a summit of a new mountain makes the arduous journey worthwhile. Of course, not all journeys are enjoyable. Walking home in the rain after a busy day at work because the car has broken down might not fill you with the same pleasure as an energising ramble in the Yorkshire Dales!

Faith

I do want to suggest, though, that all journeys have at least one thing in common; they always require an act of faith. In Ian Adams' beautiful little book *Cave, Refectory, Road* (Canterbury Press, 2010) he identifies "the road" – the place of journey – as a space that is both adventurous and dangerous. To journey is an activity that takes you beyond the stability of now into an unknown. No journey is ever identical – so even if you make the same journey every day, there will be different features to it.

I often wonder if Moses' dilemma at the burning bush (Exodus 3) was not simply a lack of self-confidence, but a lack of faith that periodically returned to the Israelites throughout the Exodus. Moses was called to lead the Israelites out of an oppressive present into an unknown future and all he had to rely on was the voice of a divine being who claimed to be the God of his ancestors. Moses, utterly unprepared for the task before him, was asked if he could trust God (who has been faithful in the past) to hold out a future for him and his whole community. When a people accept God's call to journey, they place their trust in God who, through Jesus, not only has promised to be with them in the here and now, but "to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20 NRSV). This is a God who holds out a future before us, however unknown and unpredictable it might be and it is because we can place our faith in a future held by God, that we have hope. To go on a journey is a hope-filled act of faith.

Trust

There is a striking story in Luke's Gospel where this act of faith is given a practical outworking. Jesus sends the 70 disciples "ahead of him ... to every town and place he himself intended to go" (Luke 10:1, NRSV). Notice how Jesus does not go with them or ahead of them, instead they are asked to go on a journey trusting the instructions that Jesus has given. More than that, they are told not to take any supplies with them, no emergency rations, no safety net in case the journey turns out badly for them. They simply have to trust that somehow, whatever this journey has in store for them, it is held within the economy of God.

I find it interesting that these early disciples were not to take anything with them; it meant that they could only survive for a short time before they needed the support and hospitality of others. It reminds me that

the route of the word journey comes from the Latin and French for day or daily. Perhaps when Jesus taught us how to pray "give us this day our daily bread" (Matthew 6:11 NRSV), he was hinting at the same act of faith required by the 70 disciples. Perhaps, in the desert when God commanded the Israelites to only "gather enough [bread] for that day" in Exodus 16 there was a hint of the faith required by Moses to begin this journey in the first place. Perhaps, it is deep within our narrative to trust in a God who calls us to journey into an unknown future, concerning ourselves only with what is needed for today and having hope in a yet-to-come held by God.

I started by telling you about my joy of walking in the mountains. Over the years I've learnt to carry as little as possible in order to make my pack light and manageable.

If God is calling the Church to journey out, maybe we have to learn to do something similar and then simply trust in the God who calls.

***Simon Sutcliffe from the connexion,
the free magazine of the Methodist Church,***
www.methodist.org.uk

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How to cope with Anger?

Anger is one of those horrible emotions most of us would choose to live without. Righteous anger, when an injustice has occurred, can be a force for change but generally it is an outburst that can hurt both others and ourselves leaving us feeling vulnerable and ashamed.

Resentment can often occur when we assume that others have not honoured our love, our good deeds or our very selves.

We feel aggrieved and threatened and then in retaliation we lash out to show our pain, causing even more pain.

There are many ways to control anger such as counting down from ten before you react. But there is another, possibly more effective, approach: if you are feeling anger towards someone who has not handled you with due consideration think of your part in it as having given a gift.

You gifted them with your love and in that space of grace you can let go and heal. You are not the victim of thoughtless behaviour but the bestower of blessings.

A quote about anger - "A saint was asked, "What is anger?" he replied "It is the punishment we give ourselves for someone else's mistake."

(From an article in the Daily Express)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sat. Mar. 30th – Quiz evening in the Hall 7.00pm.
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 April edition should be with Andrew Wilks by the third Sunday in March – Mar. 17th please.