



West Bergholt Methodist Church

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

THE LINK

JULY/AUGUST 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

July 7th Rev Ken Chalmers
July 14th Rev Sue King with Communion
July 21st Local Arrangement
July 28th Anne Worker
Aug 4th Rev Ron Smith with Communion
Aug 11th Local Arrangement
Aug 18th Mr Jonathan Sparkes
Aug 25th Mr Ron Firmin

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.

Methodist Church and Hall The future?

As many of you will be aware the Methodist Church has put the Methodist Chapel and Hall in the village up for sale as we are no longer worshipping in the Chapel each Sunday. Nothing is going to happen overnight and we expect it will take several months to conclude a sale.

Therefore, all activities continue in the hall as usual.

The Parish Council have expressed an interest in the site. There are many rules and regulation they would have to comply with, not least identifying the funding. So there is some way to go but a consultation has started on whether these buildings should be kept available for community use and, if so, what appropriate activities could they be used for? What future the Methodist Church & Hall face depends in significant part on what the community want to happen.

Residents showed lots of interest with 75 attending the recent consultation event. The event produced a stunning array of ideas, some pictorial, others in words. A full report is on the Parish website www.westbergholt.net.

OTHER MEETINGS

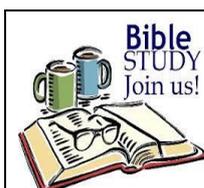
Please feel free to join us at any of these – you will be made most welcome...

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 July 3rd** led by Rev Ken Chalmers and then on **August 7th** led by Mrs Rachel Allen.
All are welcome

The next **COFFEE MORNINGS** will be on
Weds. 10th JULY 10 - 11.30am and then on
Weds. 14th AUGUST 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. June result - £27.40



There will not be any Bible Book Club meetings in July or August. We will resume in September.

FELLOWSHIP GROUP

Our next meeting will be at 2.30pm on Wednesday 17th July – a Garden Party at the home of Judith Fletcher, 85, Albany Road. If the weather is not kind we will meet in the Hall, if in any doubt phone Judith (241969) on the day.
All are welcome.



There will not be a Fellowship meeting in August.

School Holiday Activities

We will be providing fun activities for young families (children please bring an adult along) at our **Coffee and Craft** mornings during the school holidays. These will take place in the West Bergholt Methodist Church Hall, Chapel Lane, CO6 3EF from 10.30 – 12.00 on the following Mondays – July 29th and Aug. 12th. Donations of cakes will be appreciated. For further details phone Andrew (242511).

**Boxted Methodist Church
Saturday and Sunday 6th and 7th July**

With much sadness, the final service at Boxted Methodist Chapel will be held on Sunday 7 July at 3.00pm, accompanied by the Silver Band. This will be a respectful, loving remembrance of all that has been achieved at the Chapel by so many dedicated people since its opening approximately 187 years ago.

During the weekend of 6th – 7th July it is also hoped to have a small display featuring some of the history over the years. On the Saturday open for viewing from 2 - 4pm and on the Sunday open for viewing from 12.30pm, with the service commencing at 3pm. You are most welcome to visit during the above times for what will be a display and service remembering the Chapel and its long-standing association with the village.

PREACHING ABOUT POLITICS

“Love your neighbour as yourself.” “But who is my neighbour?” Luke 10, v. 27 & 29.

Preaching politics is not just another area of life that Christians should cover. It is hugely important. We preach politically because Jesus did. I have often heard people say “These politicians – they’re all the same. They haven’t a clue about what’s going on out here in the real world. Politics does nothing for me. Why should I give them my vote? They don’t care about me”.

I have some sympathy for this view, given the way the media covers politics. But my answer to these statements is to ask, “Do you care about your neighbourhood?” If not, I probably won’t be able to convince you otherwise. But if you do care, then you do care about politics. You perhaps just don’t know it yet.

Jesus said “Love your neighbour as yourself”. So we need to love others in the way we love ourselves. But how do we love ourselves? We love ourselves by a huge variety of mental, physical and spiritual attitudes and practices. We feed ourselves. We clothe ourselves. We communicate with others. We find jobs and somewhere to live. We organise diaries. We find love. We connect with God. Yet even these basic things are not true for everyone.

Loving our neighbour “as ourselves” must therefore mean caring about all these aspects of their lives. It doesn’t get much more complicated than that. You cannot divorce the personal from the social, economic, cultural and political environments in which we live. They have a huge influence on us, and to address personal needs without addressing the context in which a life sits makes little sense and can lead to a lot of frustration. If you care about people you care about politics.

Even if we agree we want to preach like Jesus we sometimes hide behind him, wrongly believing that he wasn’t political. We forget that his challenges to the status quo were innately political, as in his day the religious leaders were also the political leaders. Mary seems pretty clear in her song in Luke 1 that her Son is going to be bringing down the mighty from their thrones and turning the world upside down. Just a little political.

You may say that Jesus was political but not a politician, so we should steer away from party politics.

To that I would say that Jesus wasn’t an airline pilot, or an accountant either, but we’d probably agree Christians should be in those roles. Or are we seriously restricting the only Christian career path to carpentry?

Now don’t get me wrong I understand that a church leader often feels like they walk a tightrope when they are preaching about politics, especially in the era of Brexit. There is a fear of division and nobody wants to say anything that might bring any more angst into an already troubled situation.

At Christians in Politics we have been clear about calling people to disagree well. As Archbishop Justin Welby has said “Politics would be extremely dull if we all agreed on everything. There is joy in diversity, and we should not be afraid to disagree with one another, but in a way that models the reconciling love of Jesus. Good disagreement is a gift that the church can offer the world around it – and our political system could certainly do with a healthy dose of it.”

But our call is not just to find a more polite way to say something. Our ability to disagree well is directly proportional to the strength of our relationships. So we are calling people to intentionally step across cultural divides to build relationships with those who are not like them. Only then can honest dialogue and reconciliation occur. It is all very well to talk about coming together, but how do we come together if we never meet? There is a cultural divide in the UK, exposed more fully by the Brexit vote, but there is danger of cultural chasm forming, akin to the USA. Our preaching must call us to be practical peacemakers as well as debating the finer points of theology and policy.

Let’s dig back into scripture and see again how fundamentally political it is. And let’s boldly grapple with the challenges of preaching politics, to the powers that be, to vested corporate interests, to authoritarian liberalism and to our own complacency. Our silence cannot continue.

From an article in “Preach”, the magazine of the Leaders of Worship and Preachers Trust, by Andy Flannagan, Director of Christians in Politics.

.....
Action For Children - the sponsored walk at Layer-de-la-Haye on Saturday June 8th was enjoyed by eleven walkers (and a dog) despite the weather being a bit breezy and damp! The sum of £673.35 was raised. Much of this excellent sum was also gift aided. Thanks to all who supported.

Christian Aid Week May 12th to May 18th

The sum raised from the village collection was £1,470, including £269 from the “Big Brekkie”. Of the total of £1470 over £800 is gift-aided which will raise a further sum in the region of £200. Thanks to all who helped collect and supported this effort.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sat./Sun July 6/7 Boxted Methodist Church

Sun. July 14th – Action for Children Sunday

Mon. July 29th. - Coffee and Craft in the hall

Mon. Aug 12th - Coffee and Craft in the hall

.....

Copy for the September edition should be with Andrew Wilks by the third Sunday in August – August 18th please.