



West Bergholt Methodist Church

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THE LINK

OCTOBER 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, 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.

The Well Methodist Church – the Methodist churches from Boxted, Mile End and West Bergholt have joined together to form “The Well Methodist Church”. For the present we will continue to worship at the premises in Mile End, while exploring options for mission initiatives in the new developments in the surrounding area. The Rev Ken Chalmers will continue to look after us and he has accepted a Circuit invitation to extend his Ministry here for a further four years until 2024.

WORSHIP at “The Well” at 10-30 am will be led by

Oct 6th Rev Ken Chalmers with communion

Oct 13th Mrs Joanne Eckersley

Oct 20th Rev Ken Chalmers

Oct 27th Local Arrangement

(N.B. British Summer Time ends – do not forget to put your clocks back one hour.)

Memory Worship

Wednesday October 9th at 2.00pm

The Ark, Highwoods Methodist Church, CO4 9FF

Worship for those with and without Dementia takes place on the second Wednesday afternoon of each month. An informal service will last about 30 minutes, followed by refreshments and social time, craft activities and games, providing an opportunity of friendly conversation. If you would like to come along and need transport or just want further information please speak to Andrew (242511).

QUIZ NIGHT SATURDAY 9th November Yes another one!

But please note that this time the quiz will be held in Mile End Methodist Church Hall, Nayland Road, CO4 5ET at 7pm.

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)

350th Anniversary of Susanna Wesley's Birth



Susanna
Wesley

1669 350 2019
ANNIVERSARY

2019 marks the 350th anniversary of the birth of Susanna Wesley, “the mother of Methodism”. Although most known for her influence on her sons John and Charles, Susanna deserves recognition in her own right as an accomplished writer, teacher and theologian. A selection of her writings will be published this year, and celebratory events are planned throughout the anniversary year.

Susanna Annesley was born on 20th January 1669, at Spital Yard, Bishopsgate, London, the youngest daughter of a prominent Presbyterian pastor, Samuel Annesley, who died in 1696. In 1688, she married a young curate, Samuel Wesley. Samuel's parochial ministry took him from London into Surrey, then on to Lincolnshire, where he was Rector of Epworth from 1697 until his death in 1735. Here, Susanna raised a large family, saved Samuel from ignominy on a number of occasions, provided a stable home and education for their children, led groups of local people

in instruction when Samuel was away, and found the time to read widely and write.

Of course, today she is remembered primarily as the mother of John and Charles Wesley. However, she was, for many later Methodists at least, an archetype of evangelical womanhood whose intellectual and spiritual contribution is only now being fully evaluated since the publication of the complete edition of her writings. In widowhood, she wrote some important works in defence of reformed Anglicanism. She was buried in 1742 in Bunhill Fields, London, not far from the Foundry Chapel where a society was established by her son John as a centre for the Methodist work in London.

Several key events informed her spirituality..... Her son John's miraculous preservation (along with the other children) in the fire which destroyed Epworth Rectory in 1709 gave her a special sense of God's providence and grace which marked her and 'Jacky' out as divine instruments. And her holding of 'irregular' services in the Epworth Rectory kitchen while Samuel was away demonstrated how her methodical approach to her own personal life spilled over into an imperative to educate others, family and parishioners. She explained it in terms of a holy stewardship entrusted to her:

A special service to mark the anniversary was held in Wesley's Chapel on 20th January 2019. Rev Jill Baker spoke on "expectations" and extracts of her address follow.

.....Susanna Wesley, we know, had expectations of her son John. Particularly after the fire at Epworth Rectory in 1709 when the five or six year old John (known then as Jacky) was dramatically rescued from an upper floor window, she viewed him as having been saved for a special purpose. Drawing on her wide knowledge of the Bible, she borrowed a phrase from the prophet Zechariah who, in chapter 3, verse 2, describes the high priest Joshua's appearance in a vision as "a brand plucked from the burning" and henceforth she applied that graphic idea to John, believing that God had snatched him from the fire in order to use him in a special way – and of course, in that, she was not wrong!

..... We know that Susanna and John did not always see eye to eye. Many of their disagreements are catalogued in their correspondence – and some are well-known, such as their dispute over the acceptance of lay preachers and of women preachers. John wanted to play by the rules, but his mother chastised him and challenged him to broaden his thinking and see God's hand at work. (I should think so!)

.... Did Susanna expect her children John and Charles to do what they did? Did she expect 'Methodism' to be born? I wonder – to be honest, I doubt it – even a mother's hopes and expectations might fall short of her children being instruments of change and revolution across the nation (and beyond) and giving birth to something which changed the face of Britain in its day and which now today, in 2019, has 90million adherents worldwide.

No, I rather think, despite the expectations Susanna had, she was breathless at what God actually did through her sons.

The above are extracts from information on the websites - www.methodist.org.uk and www.susannawesleyfoundation.org/

OTHER MEETINGS

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

Please join us 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 October 2nd** and will be led by Rev Sue King. All are welcome.

The next **COFFEE MORNING** will be on

Weds. 9th OCT. 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.

September result - £23-75

Come and enjoy a coffee and a chat.

 <p>Bible STUDY Join us!</p>	Our Bible Study Book Club meets every third Wednesday, next meeting Wednesday 16th October at 10.45am at Sylvia & Andrew's home, 76, Mumford Road. All are welcome
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FELLOWSHIP GROUP

Our next meeting will be at 2.30pm

Wednesday **16th October**

Speaker – Mr Andrew Merchant from BBC Radio Essex Sunday Breakfast Team talking on "Faith on BBC Essex ". ALL ARE WELCOME



If you would like to come to any church activities, but would need a lift, please phone 01206 242511 or 241969.

Circuit Study day Saturday October 19th

There will be a Circuit Study Day on Saturday 19th October at The Ark, Highwoods from 9.30am to 4.00pm. The theme for the event is "Courageous Conversations". This is in response to the Methodist Conference encouraging local churches to join in the deliberations on "Human Relationships".

Half term Activities

We will be providing fun activities for young families (children please bring a parent 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 a date to be decided, either **Monday October 28th or Monday November 4th**. Donations of cakes appreciated. For further details phone Andrew (242511).

ALL WELCOME.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wed Oct 2nd Mid week Worship in the Hall 11.00am

Sat. Oct 19th – Circuit Study day, Highwoods

Sat. Nov 9th Quiz at Mile End at 7.00pm

Sun. Nov. 10th Remembrance Day Service in the Orpen Hall at 10.45am.

Sat. Nov.30th Christmas Coffee Morning at 10am.

Sun. Dec.1st Gift and Parade Service at 11am.

Copy for the November edition should be with Andrew Wilks by the third Sunday in October – October 20th

please.