



West Bergholt Methodist Church

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THE LINK

DECEMBER 2019 / JANUARY 2020

GIFT and PARADE SERVICE on Dec. 1st at 11.00am,

In the Hall with Rev Ken Chalmers. Gifts donated will be distributed to the homeless at THE NIGHT SHELTER, BEACON HOUSE, & NEXT CHAPTER (formerly the Women's Refuge), making their Christmas a more joyful occasion. Everyone is welcome with the uniformed organisations of the village to make this a very special day.

SUNDAY SERVICES

WORSHIP at 11 am

Dec. 1st GIFT & PARADE SERVICE will be led by Rev Ken Chalmers in the Hall

Please note that we are no longer holding regular Sunday morning services in our Chapel. Transport will be arranged to a service at The Well Methodist Church, 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”.

WORSHIP at “The Well” at 10-30 am (except as noted) will be led by

- Dec. 8th Rev Ron Smith
- Dec. 15th Rev Ken Chalmers with communion
- Dec. 22nd Rev Alan Jenkins
- Dec. 22nd Rev Ken Chalmers Carols at 4.00 pm
- Dec. 25th CHRISTMAS MORNING SERVICE with Rev Ken Chalmers at Highwoods at 10.15
- Dec 29th Mr Alan Beesley
- Jan. 5th Rev. Ken Chalmers COVENANT SERVICE
- Jan. 12th Rev Paul Howes
- Jan. 19th Rev Lynsey Heselgrave
- Jan. 26th Mrs Jo Eckersley

There will not be a **Christmas Morning Service** at our Church, but there will be services at the following:-

- Highwoods Methodist Church at 10.15am, Rev Ken Chalmers.
- St Mary's, service at 9.30am, with communion.

Christmas Fayre, Mile End Saturday December 7th from 10.00 to 2.00

There will be various stalls, Model Railway display, and refreshments, including light lunches – jacket potatoes or soup.

All Welcome

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 each month at 11.00am. The next such event will be on **Wednesday December 4th** led by our Minister, Rev Ken Chalmers. There will **not** be a mid week service in **January**, we will resume in February. All are welcome.

The next monthly **COFFEE MORNINGS** will be on Weds. 11th Dec. and Weds. 8th Jan. 10-11.30am

BRING A FRIEND WITH YOU

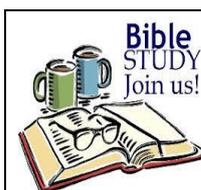
Coffee or Tea and Biscuits - 50p

Gifts for Cake and General Stalls will be appreciated.



Books and Greetings Cards will be on sale

Thank you for your support, Nov. result £27-91



Bible STUDY
Join us!

Our Bible Study Book Club usually meets every third Wednesday, next meeting **Wednesday January 15th at 10.45am** for an 11.00am start at Sylvia & Andrew's home, 76, Mumford Road. There will not be bible study in December.

All are welcome

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP



Our next meetings will be at 2.30pm on

Wednesday December 18th Christmas Carols and tea
Wednesday January 15th a speaker to be advised.

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.

MAKE SPACE FOR JESUS THIS CHRISTMAS

Make space for Jesus. What would it be like to leave a place for him at the table for the Christmas meal? To open the door and welcome him in to "our" Christmas, in our homes, our churches and the world around us (just like Jewish people often leave a cup and open the door to Elijah at a Passover meal)? Would he rush in and lift our spirits, the life and soul of the party? Or slip in quietly, warm and gentle, meek and mild, like a kindly uncle?

Or would he come in as a guest and then take over as the host, as he did with the two disciples walking on the road to Emmaus in the aftermath of his crucifixion and resurrection? For it is not "our" Christmas, but his. And he tends to come in unexpected ways, and therefore often unrecognised, the extraordinary appearing in the ordinary, a flicker of light that is often overlooked.

"Longing for light, we wait in darkness", as the hymn by Bernadette Farrell puts it. A world in which people are forced to move on from place to place. A world in which people try desperately to get to safer and better places for themselves and their families in leaking and sinking boats across the Mediterranean; or flee as refugees from persecution or oppression in places like Iraq and Syria. Just like Mary and Joseph who were forced to go and be registered in a distant place. Just like, later, they had to flee with their child from the power of Herod and go to Egypt.

Some people wait in the darkness of their own lives. Grief, pain and sorrow. Broken relationships, hopes and prospects. People excluded, marginalised or stigmatised - sometimes because of mental illness that is beyond their control. Christmas can be a hard time for those who are lonely or down.

Yet to each of these situations, Christ comes like he did in the birth which we celebrate. Unlooked for, or searched for, or longed for or prayed for, he comes. Not tearing the skies apart. Not as a mighty alpha-plus person. Not as an alien being. But as a tiny baby, born into poverty and need, human, vulnerable and dependent.

God comes to the heart of our human experience in Jesus. The divinity of Christ is clothed with our humanity so that our humanity can be clothed in his divinity. As Charles Wesley wrote:

"Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, Hail the incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with man to dwell, Jesus our Emmanuel!"

So make space for Jesus this Christmas. Look for him in the ordinary things, the light in the darkness that the darkness has never managed to extinguish. Celebrate him there. Respond to him there. Become like him. Let the light of his love show through the way you treat others.

May our lives and our churches be places of true joy and peace this Christmas time. May the grace that

came into the world that first Christmas fill us and connect us together.

The blessing of God be with us all this Christmas time and throughout the coming year.

*Revd Ken Howcroft and Ms Gill Dascombe -
www.methodist.org.uk*

JOIN US FOR CAROL SINGING

We are looking for volunteers to sing Carols:-
In West Bergholt:-

We will be outside the Co-op store on **Friday December 20th from 6.15-7.30pm**. More voices are always welcome so please come and join us. We will be raising funds for Action for Children. Followed by coffee and mince pies.

In Mile End - Churches Together:-

- Saturday 7th December at 6.30pm at the Dog and Pheasant,
- Sunday 8th December at 4.30pm at Tall Trees Care Home

If anyone is able to come to some or all the venues then please speak to Andrew.

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 **Friday 20th December**. Please note change of day. Look out for our posters nearer the time for further details or phone Andrew (242511). **ALL WELCOME.**

Memory Worship - Christmas Carol Service Wednesday December 11th 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).

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sun. Dec. 1st Gift and Parade Service at 11am
Wed. Dec 4th Mid week service at 11.00am in hall.
Sat Dec 7th Christmas Fayre, Mile End 10.00-2.00
Fri. Dec 20th Coffee and Craft in hall 10.30-12.00
Fri. Dec. 20th Carol Singing outside the Co-op 6.15pm
Sun. Dec 22nd Carol Service at Mile End at 4.00 pm
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Sun. Jan 5th Covenant Service led by Rev. Ken Chalmers at Mile End

Copy for the February edition should be with Andrew Wilks by the third Sunday in January– Jan. 19th please.