



West Bergholt Methodist Church
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THE LINK

FEBRUARY 2020

SUNDAY SERVICES

Please note that we are no longer holding 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 will be led by
 Feb 2nd Rev Ken Chalmers with communion
 Feb 9th Mrs Rachel Allen
 Feb 16th Rev Ken Chalmers
 Feb 23rd Rev Joe Adams

Half term Activities

We will be providing fun activities for young families (children please bring an adult 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 **Monday February 17th**. For further details phone Andrew (242511) - ALL WELCOME.

Saturday 15th February at The Ark, Highwoods:

Circuit Activity Day studying the Gospel of St John. One of the unique features of John’s Gospel is the ‘I Am’ sayings; seven ways in which John shows us Jesus explaining who he is. In the afternoon session these seven sayings will be used as a series of prayer stations prepared by a nominated Church. We at The Well have been asked to prepare a station based on I Am the Resurrection and the Life (John 11:25).

THE WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Will take place on FRIDAY 6th MARCH at **St Mary’s Church**

12-30 snack lunch, Service at 1.30

The Christian Women of Zimbabwe have prepared this year’s service, “Rise, take your mat and walk”. Everyone - men, women and children of all ages are welcome to join this Day of Prayer.

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 February 5th** led by Rev Ken Chalmers All are welcome.

The next **COFFEE MORNING** will be on
 Weds. 12th FEBRUARY 10 - 11.30am

BRING A FRIEND WITH YOU
 Coffee or Tea and Biscuits - 50p

Gifts for Cake and General Stalls
 will be appreciated.

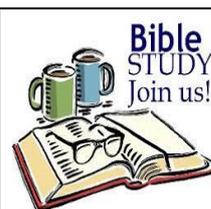


Books & Greetings Cards will be on sale

Thank you for your support,

Results – Christmas Coffee Morning £130-95,
 Dec £34-60, Jan. £17-05
 Total result for 2019 was £485-67 (2018 £589-84)

Many thanks to everyone who helped to raise this amount for our Church Funds.



Bible STUDY
 Join us!

Our Bible Study Book Club meets every third Wednesday, next meeting **Wednesday 19th February at 10.45am** for an 11.00am start at Sylvia & Andrew’s home, 76, Mumford Road. All are welcome

FELLOWSHIP GROUP

Our next meeting will be at 2.30 on **Wednesday 19th February**. The speaker will be Mrs Nikki Bowdidge from the local charity, The Tom Bowdidge Youth Cancer Foundation.



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.

Action for Children (NCH) - A good evening was had by the "singers" entertaining shoppers and the Carol Singing donations raised £25-00.
 Many thanks to all who supported for these results.

Trust: Do not be afraid, believe

Assailed on every side. I long for a more sustaining image of You God. I need you closer than ever, to be with me through these current troubles. Bad news seems everywhere, abuse, cruelty of unspeakable proportions, political divisions and a vortex of hate that creeps into much of what we do. Are You alone in listening? Where am I to find hope? Where should I look? Without direction and fearful of what lies ahead, I come to You, known and yet unknowing, unfathomable God, rising and falling without bearings, bring me to a safe haven, a place where I can begin to hope again to trust again in You and others. Prayer: Almighty God our personal suffering leads us to cry out in pain and we shrink in fear when we experience sickness, anxiety or the death of loved ones. Teach us to trust You. May the churches we belong to be signs of Your providential care. make us true disciples of Your Son who taught us to listen to Your word and to serve one another. Amen

From material for the "Week of Prayer for Christian Unity".

IS CHRISTMAS ALREADY A DISTANT MEMORY?

It was good to prepare for Christmas, to remember the promises of God, his coming in Jesus, and celebrate by sharing love with family and friends. But there is so much more to look forward to! The prophet Isaiah paints a vivid picture of a time when all nations will be at peace, when there will be no more tears and pain, no weapons or division and justice will prevail.

1. The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.
 2. In days to come
the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it.
 3. Many peoples shall come and say, 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.'
 - For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.
 4. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.
 5. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!
- (Isaiah 2:1-5)*

A group of Christians has been taking the words of Isaiah literally in recent years. In places where gun and knife crime are maiming and destroying communities, they have been collecting guns and knives, melting them, and turning them into garden tools, inspired by Micah and Isaiah's vision of God's

people beating their 'swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks.

Advent called us to look at the deeper truths of life. It calls us to see God at work even when everything looks bleak and hopeless. It calls us to see injustice and inequality behind the apparent wealth and ease of our society.

Christian waiting and looking forward is never just a passive thing. It is about allowing our hope for the future to change the world in which we live. It is about being open to the challenge of the Spirit, recognising where God is already at work so we can join in. We are not just imagining the future. We have a God who works today in our lives to make this future a reality and calls us to join in with him.

Archbishop Justin Welby and Rev Isabelle Hamley

QUIZ NIGHT SATURDAY 28th 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)

Lent Course—March 2020

St Mary's are running a 3 Parishes Lent Course on Monday evenings at 7-45pm in the church hall on the following dates: **9, 16, 23 and 30 March.**

The course is based on the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book for 2020, called 'Saying Yes to Life', which has been written by theologian and environmental and social activist Ruth Valerio. Her book takes a fresh look at the biblical story of creation and reflects on how God might be calling us to care for his creation today. It's full of practical ideas for individuals and churches to engage with.

All are welcome to take part in the course, which will be a mixture of listening to a talk and a time for reflection and discussion. You don't have to come to every session, just come to what you can. We will be very pleased to see you!

Memory Worship

Wednesday February 12th 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

- Sat. Feb.15th Circuit Study day
- Mon. Feb.17th Coffee and Craft in Hall.
- Fri. Mar. 7th. World day of Prayer, lunch and service at St Mary's Church from 12-30.
- Sat. Mar. 28th Quiz at 7.00pm

Copy for the March edition should be with Andrew Wilks by the third Sunday in February – Feb. 16th please.

