



West Bergholt Methodist Church

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

THE LINK

MARCH 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

Mar. 1st Rev Ken Chalmers
Mar. 8th Mrs Anne Worker
Mar. 15th Rev Lynsey Heslegrave & Rev Ken Chalmers with communion
Mar. 22nd Mr Jonathan Sparkes - Mothering Sunday
Mar. 29th Rev Ron Smith
(N.B. British Summer Time begins – do not forget to put your clocks forward one hour.)

THE WORLD DAY OF PRAYER
Will take place on FRIDAY 6th MARCH at
St Mary’s Church

A Women led service this year prepared by Christian Women of Zimbabwe who call us to:-
"RISE ! TAKE YOUR MAT AND WALK"
Please join us for a Soup Lunch at 12.30pm, followed by a Service at 1.30pm.
All are welcome to join us.

Memory Worship
Wednesday March 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).

.....
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.

OTHER MEETINGS

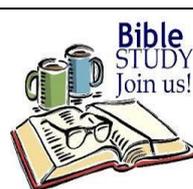
Please feel free to join us at any of these – you will be made most welcome...

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 4th** led by Rev Ken Chalmers
All are welcome.

.....
The next **COFFEE MORNING** will be on
Weds. 11th 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 - £24-60
Come and enjoy a coffee and a chat.



Bible STUDY
Join us!
Our Bible Study Book Club meets every third Wednesday, next meeting **Wednesday 18th March at 10.45am** for 11.00 at Sylvia & Andrew’s home, 76, Mumford Road.
All are welcome

FELLOWSHIP GROUP

Our next meeting will be at 2.30pm



On Wednesday 18th March – The speaker will be Mr Mr Bob Finch speaking on Hong Kong.

.....
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).

Easter Holiday Activities

We will be providing fun activities for young families (children please bring an adult along) at our **Coffee and Craft** morning during the Easter holidays. This will take place in the West Bergholt Methodist Church Hall, Chapel Lane from 10.30 – 12.00 on **Monday April 6th**. All welcome.

Donations of cakes would be appreciated.
For further details phone Andrew (242511)

CHOICES: CHOOSING LIFE

"I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live." Deuteronomy 30:19

Choose life." So says Ewan McGregor's character Renton during his famous monologue in Danny Boyle's 1996 film *Trainspotting*. Tellingly, he goes on to proclaim: "I chose not to choose life." The film brilliantly and unsparingly unpacks what that choice means for him and those around him, who live in a cruel, cursed and deathly shadow world of heroin addiction. It is also an indictment of the prevailing sociopolitical realities of the time, which left so many families and communities mired in hopelessness and despair.

Choices have consequences. The climate emergency clearly sets before us in its starkest form the choice between life and death that God presents to the people in Deuteronomy 30:19. We are also living with the consequences of the Brexit referendum and the general election. What does it mean to choose life when one person's blessing is another's curse?

Changing our choices so that we are a blessing to the planet and to each other, rather than a curse, is the most pressing priority we face. So it is timely to remind ourselves that the Church exists to be an exemplar of what choosing life looks like. It was raised to embody and make real the life-giving blessing of God in Jesus for the whole world.

The Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT) of the Methodist Church, the Baptist Union, the Church of Scotland and the United Reformed Church work together for justice and peace. JPIT has identified 'Six Hopes' which will drive the justice work of the Churches over the next few years:-

- **A just economy that enables the flourishing of all life.**
- **A planet where the environment is renewed.**
- **A society where the poorest and most marginalised are at the centre.**
- **A society that welcomes the stranger.**
- **A world which actively works for peace.**
- **A politics characterised by listening, kindness and truthfulness.**

Some of the biggest issues today – ecological degradation, unsustainable economic models, poverty – are all the result of choices that we made as societies and individuals over decades. None of them is the result of inevitable, unchangeable laws. This means that we do have choices about transforming them.

It is a big task. But start at an individual level. We can examine the choices we make in our homes; how we spend money in local communities or businesses; how we vote to make a difference. We can question whose contributions we really value.

The choices we make, whether small or large, help us to stand together against injustice, to speak of God's love and say another, more hopeful, world is possible.

The Six Hopes involve choices we can make about who we prioritise in our society and who we push to the margins; what following the biblical injunction to welcome the stranger looks like in practice; and how we can renew, not destroy God's creation.

That is why we proclaim our modern identity as a godly people of radical life-affirming choices, expressed in six key hopes for the future. We need to appreciate the cost and necessity of choosing life and of the truth that the One who puts the life-choice before us is the One whose Spirit enables us to take it and make it work. Whatever the choices around us, we choose life.

Extracts from the Connexion magazine of the Methodist Church by David Perry, editor, and Rachel Lampard and Paul Morrison of JPIT.

Saturday 4th April at The Ark, Highwoods:

The Circuit Activity Day studying the Gospel of St John had to be postponed and will now take place as above. 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).

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!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Fri. Mar. 6th. World day of Prayer, lunch and service at St Mary's Church from 12-30.
Sat. Mar. 28th – Quiz evening in the Hall 7.00pm.
Sat. Apr. 4th – Circuit Study day - St. John's Gospel
Mon. Apr. 6th – Easter Coffee and Craft in hall.
Sun. Apr. 12th – Easter Sunday
May 10th – 16th - Christian Aid week.

Copy for the April edition should be with Andrew Wilks by the third Sunday in March – Mar. 15th please.