



Billericay Methodist Church 
at Queens Park, Western Road
and St Andrew's, Herongate

Sunday 24th January 2021

Connecting with each other

Dear Friends,

Having looked in week 1 at God's decision to establish a more personal and direct relationship with us and then last time having admitted that we have broken that covenant, today we have the chance to start again. The promises we make today are as open ended as they were last year, and who knew then what the year would hold, so as we look forward into 2021, we again offer ourselves in total trust, whether we are to be 'troubled or at peace', 'having all things or having nothing', to quote the covenant commitment.

And to help us in that we look today at a reading from John 15, which uses the timeless imagery of pruning to encourage new growth and more fruit. To a non-gardener it might seem that 'cutting back' is a sign of failure, and numerical growth is always good, but in spiritual terms as well as in other ways 'less can be more', and quantity may sometimes stand in the way of quality.

Jesus says that when things have 'had their day', we need to prune, so that we can channel the energy of the body of the plant towards those things that will better 'serve the present age', but he also says that those things that are still needed, also need to be pruned; so that they can be at their very best and produce more fruit (such as love, joy, peace etc). For it is that fruit of the spirit that is the real sign that the plant is in good health, and that our discipleship is on track.

So as you consider the commitment form that is with your CWEO, for the final time today, consider how you need to prune your life to produce more fruit, how you need to cut back in some areas to make time and space for things that are more important, and then back up those thoughts and prayers with words and action as you make your response in worship and return your completed form by next weekend. For it is from those responses that we will know where to 'prune as a church' in order to be more faithful and productive as part of the overall body of Christ. David

Please visit the church website billericaymethodistchurch.org for further information.

Theme for the Year – How2Be?

We will revisit every aspect of 'Our Calling'
to 'serve the present age'
and be the people we need to be (Deut. 10:12)



Statement of Mission:

Billericay Methodist Church is called to encourage a living faith in God. Through the power of the Holy Spirit we proclaim the love of Jesus Christ in: worship and fellowship, evangelism and teaching, serving others and working for social justice.

Prayer

Please pray for the following people this week, asking God to meet their every need
Maddy Bartlett, Tom Fitch, Audrey Hacker, Rex Kemp, Jean Kenway, Barbara Kite, Bob and Rosemary Lowe, and Val Noble.



Come and teach us, Lord Jesus: without you we do not know how to worship God with all our heart and mind.

Come and teach us, Lord Jesus: without you we do not know how to pray with commitment and passion.

Come and teach us, Lord Jesus: without you we cannot understand God's word to us.

Come and teach us, Lord Jesus: without you we cannot love ourselves and each other.

Come and teach us, Lord Jesus: without you we do not know how to work for the Kingdom.

Come and teach us, Lord Jesus: so that this church and everyone who is a part of it may become more like you. Amen

(from Seasons and Celebrations)



Praying together at 10am - a time each day when you can know that others are praying with you.

Prayer Chain During the Corona virus crisis please contact Geraldine with any prayer chain requests that you have. Thank you.



Zoom Prayer meeting each Sunday morning at 10.00am and concluding in time for online worship. Please come and join us at any point during that time, as we pray together as God's Church. The zoom prayer link will be in your Friday email each week.

Pam C and Elizabeth H

Notices

FINAL REMINDER - If you have not yet returned your commitment form, please do in the next few days and before the deadline of next weekend. Happy to chat on the phone about any questions you may have, but your form is important as the combined responses will very much guide our decision making in the coming days and weeks. Thank you for your help David B

Pastoral

Changes in membership

Heather Blunt has been in touch to tell me that she has decided to formally transfer her membership to the Baptist Church in Perry Street so that she can help with their work with children and young people. We wish her all the best and thank her for the exceptional service she has given to the children and young people at BMC over many, many years.

At the same time we welcome into membership **Linda Davison** as she transfers from the Church of England to be part of our worship and witness here. We have been delighted to get to know Linda over the last few years and it is great to have her as a confirmed member of our fellowship.

Please also note that **Paul Conroy** has recently resigned as a local preacher and will no longer be leading Sunday worship in our circuit. We wish him every blessing and again thank him for his past service.

David B

Encouragement

Christmas charity appeals – thank you to everyone who made a donation to one of our 3 chosen charities, after adding any gift aid we can claim we are sending £520 to Action for children (this includes £265 from the church donation fund), £919.25 to Changing Pathways (including the £300 we usually donate at the Toy service) and £382.50 to St Luke's Hospice. Lorraine

Kenya Partnership



In the latest update on the Grace Centre Rev Sammy writes 'About 270 books were donated to our community resource/library that we launched last year. When corona virus was taking toll, we had to close down as we adhered to the government restrictions in closure of all organized institutions. Now that information technology is embraced as the ideal virtual tool of instruction and information, this year we want to upgrade the resource center with some equipment to offer free access to eBooks, audio books, movies, music, newspapers, databases, and more. This vast array of digital media will be a lifeline during the pandemic, allowing people to stay entertained and informed at the same time. Once fully equipped, we shall be able to develop linkages and partnership to offer online tuition to students who will otherwise not be able to attend the physical classes.' The full report can be accessed on the [Kenya Partnership](#) page of our website.

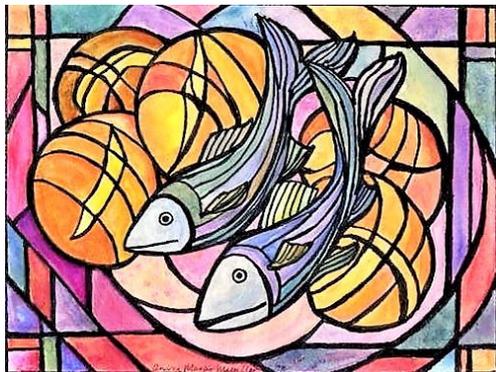


Lord Jesus, meet with me today :
In my darkness, meet with me as Light;
In my uncertainty, meet with me as Vision;
In my loneliness, meet with me as Friend;
In my anxiety, meet with me as Peace. Amen

Chris Blake



Encouragement



'Do all the good you can,
by all the means you can,
in all the ways you can,
in all the places you can,
at all the times you can,
to all the people you can,
as long as ever you can.'

John Wesley

Opportunities to worship together

Link to weekly [ONLINE Worship](#) Sundays at 10.30am

Gathered Worship. With increasing measures necessary to reduce the spread of Covid-19 across the country we have made the decision not to meet for gathered worship during this period of national lockdown.

Printed copies of service material will continue to be provided for those without internet access.

Please visit our [Worshipping Together at Home](#) banner on the church website homepage for links to a variety of worship resources and our [Learning Together about Jesus](#) for all age resources.



Ministry Team

Minister: Rev David Bagwell
01277 623085
david@bagwell.org.uk

Pastoral Secretary:
Mrs Lyn Bowditch
01277 659530

Pastoral Assistant - St Andrew's
Mrs Julie Cristin
01277 656478

Child Contact Centre

07593 028534
bmccc@hotmail.com

Website and Social Media

web: billericaymethodistchurch.org



[@BillericayMethodistChurch](https://www.facebook.com/BillericayMethodistChurch)



[@MethodistBcay](https://twitter.com/MethodistBcay)

Notices



If you would like to put something in our 'Encouragement' slot please email me and I will do my best to include it.

Next issued on Friday 29th January
Items for Inclusion by 8pm Tuesday
Ann Bagwell: ann@bagwell.org.uk