




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

Sunday 26th September 2021

## Connecting with each other

### The Garden

Dear Friends,

I'm enjoying my garden this year. The grass is lush and green, and the plants have flourished with the alternate rain and sun. However, it takes more than good weather to have a beautiful garden, or productive allotment. They need to be planned, the ground cleared of weeds and obstacles, and paths laid.

Our Spiritual lives can become like the forgotten garden, as everyday demands take over. Weeds and obstacles get in the way of time with our Lord, blocking pathways He has laid out for us. Psalm 25, asks the Lord to teach us His paths and guide us in His truth. Do we sit in despair, or open ourselves to Him in prayer and bible reading, so He can speak to us, showing the way forward, transforming us into someone beautiful for Him? The bane of a gardener's life are pests, - greenfly, caterpillars, slugs etc. In us and in our journey with God we need to encourage the good things, the "Fruits of the Spirit" - love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. These fruits will destroy all that threatens to impede the growth of our lives in Christ.

Gardens and allotments need lots of maintenance. The ground must be prepared, watered, and fertilizers are necessary. Many plants would flop to the ground without support. Fruit crops become a tasty meal for birds without the protection of nets. Pruning gets rid of the old, and encourages renewed growth, flowering, and fruiting. Without continuous maintenance, our relationship with God can fall away and die. We need the support of fellow believers, in the tough times, and to support us in new journeys of faith. Our "Miracle Grow" fertilizer is God's word in the Bible, and in the time we spend with Him in prayer. He gently prunes away everything that is unworthy of Him, allowing us to grow stronger. His Holy Spirit throws a net of protection over us, giving us strength to resist the evils surrounding us. God wants us to be fruitful and productive *for Him*. To lead others along the footpath to Him, so that all may rest in his garden of Love. So, are you ready to create that garden?

Geraldine.

Please visit the church website [billericaymethodistchurch.org](http://billericaymethodistchurch.org) for further information.

### Theme for the Year – Caring for God's World

We will actively engage with the TearFund Climate Change Emergency declaration process and continue to explore other ways as individuals and as a church to better care for God's world. (Genesis 1: 27-28)



## 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**

Tom Fitch, Audrey Hacker, Rex Kemp, Jean Kenway, Barbara Kite, Rosemary Lowe and Val Noble.



Holy Spirit, you are depth, silence and wholeness, Into a noisy, tiresome world, speak your word of calm. Into troubled, fretful hearts, let your peace descend. Into relationships fractured by misunderstanding and hurt, bring your reconciling love. And thus may our faith find depth, silence and wholeness. **Amen.** (The Word in the World, Book 2 Donald Hilton)



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

**Prayer Chain** Please contact Geraldine with any prayer chain requests that you have. Thank you.

## Funeral service for Maddy Bartlett

The service will be held at St Mary the Virgin, Rectory Road, Little Burstead, CM12 9TR on **Friday 1st October at 11am** followed by burial in the churchyard - All friends are welcome to attend under current restrictions, but if you are not able to do so please note the date and time now, and then pause and remember and give thanks at that time in your own way. - David B.

## Notices

**Billericay Litter Pick:** Following on from David's message and example last week there is a group organising a litter pick in **South Green on Saturday 18th September** (11:30-13:00) and **Perry St on Sunday 19th September** (09:30-11:00) as part of [World Cleanup Day](#). The Perry Street group will meet up at the Queens Park roundabout (next to QP) outside of the fish and chip shop at 09:30.

The group has a facebook page with more information and where you can sign-up to participate. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/374404133446966/>

**New Servery Area at WR:** We are looking for more help with serving tea and coffee at the Sunday morning service from the new servery area at the back of the church starting 10th October. Brenda M is doing the rota soon so if you can help in any way please let her know.

**Harvest service on the 10th October:** As part of this service we would like to start using the new servery and serve some cake in an appropriate way. Can you offer to make 'a cake with a green message', or just 'a green cake' (lime/lemon?) - if so then let me know. *David B.*

## Notices



Billericay High Street market returns at St Mary's on the High street October 9th and Nov 13th

Anisha Grange arranged a 'Superheroes' event and here is Len on the day, a very real superhero.



## Encouragement

Pam C shares this photo of a robin returning to "His garden!" after a summer of dining on the abundance of the woods. But he is a frequent visitor in winter.



## Opportunities to worship together

Services at all three sites have a scheduled **10:30am** start but please aim to arrive or join online at least 15 minutes beforehand, and be aware of current Covid guidance on mask wearing.



### Onsite Services

	Western Road	Queens Park	Herongate
<b>26th Sept</b>	<b>G Hanton ***</b>	<b>Friday 24th Sept</b> Pause for Thought @11.45am	No service
<b>3rd Oct</b> 3rd October Online	<b>S Stubbs</b> Rev D Bagwell***	<b>Friday 1st Oct</b> Pause for Thought @11.45am	<b>A Williams</b>
<b>10th Oct</b>	<b>Rev D Bagwell ***</b> Harvest	<b>Friday 8th Oct</b> Pause for Thought at 11.45am	No service
*** Also preparing online worship		LA Local Arrangement + = WC	S Communion

For those who are unable to attend services and who are without internet access, printed copies of online services will continue to be provided, and DVDs can be requested by contacting Ann Bagwell.

### Online Services

Our weekly [ONLINE Worship](#) continues each Sunday at 10.30am

A reminder for those with Internet Access that the Church website has an [archive](#) from the last year of services plus [all-age materials](#) in addition to links to other [worship resources](#).

Ministry Team	Website and Social Media
Minister: Rev David Bagwell 01277 623085 <a href="mailto:david@bagwell.org.uk">david@bagwell.org.uk</a>  Pastoral Secretary: Mrs Lyn Bowditch 01277 659530  Pastoral Assistant - St Andrew's Mrs Julie Cristin 01277 656478	web: <a href="http://billericaymethodistchurch.org">billericaymethodistchurch.org</a> f <a href="https://www.facebook.com/BillericayMethodistChurch">@BillericayMethodistChurch</a> t <a href="https://twitter.com/Methodistbcay">@Methodistbcay</a>
	<b>Notices</b>
<b>Child Contact Centre</b>	The next edition will be issued on  <b>Friday 1st October</b>  items for inclusion by 8pm Tuesday to <a href="mailto:notices@billericaymethodistchurch.org">notices@billericaymethodistchurch.org</a>
07593 028534 <a href="mailto:bmccc@hotmail.com">bmccc@hotmail.com</a>	