



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

Sunday 28th November 2021

Connecting with each other

Dear Friends,

Today is the first Sunday in Advent, and we begin our preparations for the great day itself. This year Christmas Day is on a Saturday and with Bank Holidays, could herald the start of a very long weekend that for many will see indulgence go off the scale. But does it have to be that way? Indeed should it be that way if what we are celebrating is the birth of the Saviour of the world? The one who became flesh that we, and the world as a whole, might be saved and have life in all its fulness. (John 1:14, 3:16, 10:10). Is it not more fitting to be marking this wonderful time not by generating 30% more waste and landfill than in a normal week, but by generating less? And do we have to indulge and gorge to have fun or can we enjoy ourselves in other ways? I was struck by the actress, Emma Thompson's introduction to one of the Earth Shot prizes when she said that the origin of the word 'thrift' is the verb 'to thrive'. Can we this Christmas 'thrive through thrift', and just to say that phrase swiftly is a sure test of whether we have already had too much to drink!

I'm not advocating a 'scrooge like' approach to the festive season, we can still enjoy the 'odd treat or two', but is there any need to have 'three or four or even more'. A thrifty approach is a measured approach with moderation still the watchword, and our health and wellbeing as well as our faith and spirituality will thrive through such a thrifty attitude.

So in the coming days look afresh at what you are ordering on line or being tempted to buy on the supermarket shelves, and choose wisely. Let us consider what is needed to joyfully celebrate the birth of Jesus with every part of our being rather than what we want to temporarily fill a spiritual and emotional void, before the reckoning comes with the bank and credit card statements in the new year. Oh, and whilst looking after your own wellbeing you will of course be doing your bit for the salvation of the world, by not adding to the current problems of waste management and unsustainable living.

David

Please visit the church website 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
Audrey Hacker, Rex Kemp, Jean Kenway, Barbara Kite, Rosemary Lowe and Val Noble.



FIRST SUNDAY OF *Advent*

Lord help us to seek you always in the bustle of our Christmas preparations. Help us not to overdo things, be it food or spending and to respect the earth and all within it and to remember others who find this time of year so difficult. Amen. (RKG)

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.



Notices

Celebrating 140 years of witness and worship in Herongate.

This is an invitation to join the congregation at St. Andrews Church, Herongate on Sunday 28th November at 10:30am for a special service with Revd. C McDonald. A very warm welcome awaits you.



Concert in WR Church on Saturday 4 December at 7.30 pm This is Billericay Choral Society's 50th Anniversary Concert – A Choral Christmas including excerpts from Mozart's Requiem and Zadok the Priest. Tickets at a cost of £10 are available from Maggie K and Brown Sugar/Slipped Discs in the High Street.

VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED please! For serving tea and coffee and mince pies, also welcoming at the door, in St Marys, High Street during the Christmas Market on **Sunday 5th December**, we need to cover from **11am to 4pm**. This year there will be carols and clips playing all the way through, but no minister leading anything – just a place to sit and relax and soak up the peace of St Marys, God's house. Donations of mince pies would be most appreciated. *Lorraine*

Notices

Kenya Partnership

Christmas food parcels appeal. UPDATE: Thanks to the wonderful generosity of our church family, we have reached our target of £1500 which we shall send immediately to Rev. Sammy Kagwi. This will be sufficient to purchase over 200 parcels of basic food items such as rice & maize flour which will each sustain impoverished families at the dumpsites in Mombasa for several weeks. We are always grateful to receive donations for the Grace Centre. Please mark/reference these "Kenya". Gifts can be given as a cheque made payable to Billericay Methodist church, by BACS into the church account or by cash to Lorraine H. Thank you again. The Kenya team.

BILLERICAY FOODBANK are this year organising delivery of Christmas 'bag for life' donations – please see the posters on the notice boards, or I can email you the request. They are currently feeding 67 families every week and any extra bags will be delivered to those on their own or families brought to their attention by their volunteers or churches. If you want to chat about Foodbank then pop to Queens Park on a Friday morning when Jim or the volunteers will be happy to chat. *Lorraine*

Toy Service/Parade service -12th December WR

There is a planned toy/parade service taking place at WR led by Mark Smith with donations going once more to Changing Pathways (Woman's Refuge). Zoe will be coming along to give us an update on their work throughout a very difficult time with Covid lockdowns and they plan to make Christmas as happy as possible for all their resident families.

If you would like to make a donation they can only now accept new toys (sadly because of covid restrictions), toiletries, gifts sets for the mums and teenagers, cleaning materials and any baby related items such as wipes, baby's toiletries and nappies. They would also appreciate gift vouchers for the older children.

On Christmas Eve we will be holding our **Christingle service at 4pm**. I am looking for volunteers for stewarding and welcoming at the service, plus to pack the Christingle bags 2 or 3 days before the service. Many thanks in anticipation.

Lorraine

CWEO NOTICES

Please note that with 2 editors it is hard to keep track when people request notices to be included in multiple editions of CWEO. The reliable way to get your notice included is to send a copy in each week that you want it to appear. *David & Rachel*

Contemplation Corner

"Christmas gift suggestions: To your enemy, forgiveness. To an opponent, tolerance. To a friend, your heart. To a customer, service. To all, charity. To every child, a good example. To yourself, respect." - Oren Arnold, author.

Opportunities to worship together

Sunday Services at Western Road and Herongate 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 .



CHRISTMAS GIVING:

This year we will again be focussing on giving to others in December as follows:

ST LUKE'S HOSPICE - Queens Park Coffee Pot donations throughout December plus the 10:30am Joint Carol Service COLLECTION at QP on the 19th December

CHANGING PATHWAYS – collection on the 12th December Toy & Parade service to which we will add our annual donation from Church funds of £300.

ACTION FOR CHILDREN – collection at Herongate on the 19th December, Collection at Western Road on the 19th December 6:30pm Carol service, 24th December 4pm Christingle service and Christmas Day 10:30am service

KENYA CHRISTMAS appeal – see separate notice

Donations to any of the above charities can also be made online with the charity as your reference, cash or cheque payable to Billericay Methodist Church in an envelope marked with your name and the nominated charity. If you want any further details please do not hesitate to contact me. Lorraine and the Finance Team

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 david@bagwell.org.uk	web: billericaymethodistchurch.org
Pastoral Secretary: Mrs Lyn Bowditch 01277 659530	 @BillericayMethodistChurch
Pastoral Assistant - St Andrew's Mrs Julie Cristin 01277 656478	 @Methodistbcay
Child Contact Centre	Notices
07593 028534 bmccc@hotmail.com	The next edition will be issued on Friday 3rd December items for inclusion by 8pm Tuesday to notices@billericaymethodistchurch.org