

The word "WELCOME" is written in large, colorful, block letters. Each letter has a small icon of a person standing next to it. The colors are: W (blue), E (yellow), L (green), C (purple), O (red), M (orange), E (purple).

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

Sunday 23rd January 2022

Connecting with each other

Dear Friends,

I wonder if we value our freedom more now since having some of our basic freedoms – to exercise, see friends and family, to worship God – curtailed in one way or another through COVID-19 restrictions? I know I do. The Jews certainly valued theirs as time and time again in scripture they were overpowered by successive empires determined to destroy their structures and orders of life, even making them slaves. But through their psalms, songs, prayers, and scripture they dreamed and hoped and prayed for the coming of the Lord to liberate them. So, when Jesus stands up in his hometown synagogue and boldly declares after reading Isaiah 61 – no more waiting, here I am, the Lord, right here, bringing sight to the blind, good news to the poor freeing people from oppression and prison - they were I would think shocked, and maybe also fearful? Was the good news after all good news for everyone? Certainly not those who perhaps were rich or privileged, and comfortable with how things were. Something for us all to reflect on today.

But what is true freedom and how does it manifest itself? We only need to look to Jesus and his relationships with others, overturning several conventions and taboos of his times, with regard to whom he talked to or ate with or healed or helped. So what shackles us, what prevents us from being free? Freedom comes in many shapes and sizes and so do prisons. Our prisons can be physical, mental or spiritual but as Paul reminds the Corinthians “where the spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom ((2 Cor:3: 17).

How do we know when we are free? If we believe in Christ as the Son of God, then we already are free. Like those in Nehemiah we share that freedom through sharing our faith and love through joy and worship and tears as a community. We also share our faith and love with others in practical ways such as food and drink which I always feel the Methodists are good at. I also believe that as we mature in our faith, freedom lives in our soul and through the power of the Holy Spirit we are released to be free to serve God wherever he places us.

Rachel

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.



Grant us, O Holy Spirit, wisdom and understanding that we may receive your light; prudence and strength that we may persevere in faith; knowledge and awe that we may rest in you alone, fear and delight that we may rejoice in your love. **Amen.** *Bonaventura (c.1217-1274)*



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

A very big thank you to my Church family for my beautiful flowers, cards and good wishes for my birthday. Love, *Brenda B.*

Help is urgently needed : At a meeting of the Leadership Team it was agreed that help is urgently needed if many of the best aspects of our current pattern of worship, communication and care of the housebound are to continue after Easter.

A final decision will be made by the Church Council on the 10th February but before then we need to find the following if we are to prevent a 'significant reduction' in what we provide for one another and the wider community week by week. **Training will be provided.** If you can offer help (as part of a team on a rota) in any of the following three areas, or want further information please contact me in writing a.s.a.p. and no later than the **7th Feb.** – Thank you in anticipation – *David B* david@bagwell.org.uk

Technical support in editing together (with given software) PowerPoints and Videos produced by worship leaders and then uploading their online services to YouTube – regular Online services and associated material for the housebound can only continue after 1st May with this support.

Website management to keep everything up to date on our primary means of publicity. Could also involve production of new website banners, prayer material etc; and help with **digital signage** material at QP and WR.

Photocopying of current CWEO notices and worship material. Could also involve help in production of some CWEO material, or distribution of 'Vine' material if other options are not possible (see above).

Notices



Christmas food parcels appeal.: We have received the following message from Rev. Sammy Kagwi in Mombasa.



The total number of people reached with food aid support during Christmas is 274. We started distributing food from 1st December and ended on 24th December.

During the distribution days, we visited a widow who happened to be deaf and her 3 children were also deaf. It was a humbling experience sharing the love of Christmas with them. We sought to know from the neighbours about the family and we were informed that they moved to mwakirunge in October 2021 to scavenge for food. The families we visited and shared food with were all happy and very appreciative particularly at this time when poverty is taking a toll on many families due to hard economic times

Please accept our thanks for supporting our Christmas

appeal 2021 which was a success story to us and the families we helped. Mungu Awabariki Sana. **Sammy.**

Vinesong is an international, interdenominational team of Christian missionaries. Their songs include "Let your Living Water flow over my soul" and "Peace like a River". Vinesong will sing and team leader Daniel Kok will share a short word of encouragement. They will be appearing at Emmanuel on Sunday 30 January at 6.00 pm – who are hosting on behalf of Mulberry House. <https://nationwidechristiantrust.com/events-and-training/music-and-ministry-evening>

Contemplation Corner

**The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has not overcome it.**
John 1v5

'We have forgotten that night is simply an opportunity to anticipate another sunrise.'
Gideon Heugh, Alive Lent Devotional

The High Street Market
at St Mary's
A Community Market for Billericay
ST MARY MAGDALEN
"The Church in the High Street"
Saturdays 10am-4pm
from
JAN 22
FEB 26
MAR 19
More info from: Pauline Randall: 07939 102445; paulinerandall@aol.com

The indoor market will be at St Mary Magdalen on: Saturday 22nd January, 26th February and 19th March running from 10am to 4pm.

Opportunities to worship together

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 on mask wearing.



Onsite Services

	Queens Park Friday 11:45am	Western Road Sunday 10:30 am	Herongate Sunday 10:30 am
21st Jan	Rev D Bagwell		
23rd Jan		R Gallehawk *	
28th Jan	M Smith		
30th Jan		Rev D Bagwell	Rev F Al-Hassan *
4th Feb	Steve Mayo		
6th Feb		I Brown *	G Hanton

* Also preparing online worship

LA Local Arrangement + = WC

S Communion

For those who are unable to attend onsite 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 david@bagwell.org.uk Pastoral Secretary: Mrs Lyn Bowditch 01277 659530 Pastoral Assistant - St Andrew's Mrs Julie Cristin 01277 656478	web: billericaymethodistchurch.org f @BillericayMethodistChurch t @Methodistbcay
	Notices
	The next edition will be issued on Friday 28th January items for inclusion by 8pm Tuesday to notices@billericaymethodistchurch.org
Child Contact Centre	
07593 028534 bmccc@hotmail.com	