

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 (orange), M (red), E (purple).

Billericay Methodist Church

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



Sunday 15th May 2022

Connecting with each other

Dear Friends,

Change can be difficult especially when it threatens what we believe in. Peter's Spirit-inspired vision of a cloth descending from heaven, unrolling to reveal all manner of creatures and the voice of God saying, *"Do not call anything impure that God has made clean."* (Acts 11: 1-18) was a pointed reminder that Jesus' sacrifice was for all, both Jew and gentile and the old ways had been overwritten. Earlier on we read that Cornelius the gentile centurion and his family are baptised into the family of Christ. Peter calmly and bravely retold what he had seen and heard to his critics who were initially affronted by him mixing with non-Jews and even eating with them but soon realised that this was a step towards a new earth, a new way of living in faith together.

This was a huge change for those who lived under so many rules regarding all areas of life. Jesus himself got into much trouble for breaking Jewish rules – such as healing on the sabbath, a non-workday - even his disciples were criticised when they were picking wheat to ease their hunger on the sabbath. Jesus was himself of course a Jew. He attended synagogue, deliberated with the elders, followed the rules but through his life and death he recreated a new way of life and faith. He mixed, talked, ate, healed people from all walks of life. He ultimately bought into being a new heaven and a new earth. In Revelation (21:1-6) we read that *"He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!"*

The good news of the 1st century is just as relevant today in the 21st century.

"Look!" we are directed – "God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

We dream, we have visions, we read scripture, we listen, we discuss, we think, we seek, we continue to keep our hearts and minds open, placing our faith in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. **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

Rex Kemp, Jean Kenway, Barbara Kite.



Let us worship the Christ who draws near to each of us. Let us praise the Christ who loves the worst among us. Let us bless the Christ who shares with the least among us. Let us glorify the Christ who intercedes for all among us. **Amen.** *Ann Griffiths (1776-1805)*



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

Thank you so much for my card. I have been overwhelmed by people's thoughtfulness in the past 6 weeks and incredibly grateful for everyone's prayer support.

Heather B

Services on 29th May : There will be no service at either Herongate or Western Road on **29th May**. Instead worshippers are encouraged to attend morning service at **Emmanuel, Billericay, at 10am.**, details as below.

TEAM COMMUNION SERVICE: We look forward to welcoming Andrew Cannon as our Guest Speaker at the Team Communion Service on Sunday 29 May at 10.00 am at Emmanuel. Andrew, who hails from Liverpool, is the lead speaker for the **Love Essex** event taking place on Sun Corner on Sunday 9 July. Andrew is sure to be a great encouragement to us as we look forward to all that July will bring. The offering will seek to cover Andrews expenses for his visit - any surplus will be given to the Love Essex event.

Pastoral Matters : Lyn B will be unavailable for two weeks from May 20th to June 3rd and Heather A has very kindly agreed to act as the first point of contact for any pastoral matters during my absence.

Online Services : It is looking increasingly likely that the online service on 22nd May will be the last one for some time. We are continuing to explore options for how we might continue with weekly online services. Anyone who is interested in getting involved in the production of such services, please contact us. *David & Rachel*

Notices

Help wanted! Your friendly CWEO editors (David A. and Rachel) are always looking for encouragement and contemplation pieces to balance out the notices. These can be quotes, photos, images (just ensure the images are copyright free or taken by yourself).



Coffee Pot | **& Pause**
for Thought

The Pause for Thought service on May 20th will be an opportunity to give thanks and share our stories of when we have been helped by others. We will also share the gift of



Communion as Jesus set down for us and asked us to do memory of the gift of life we have been given. The service will be led by Janis B and Rev Celia McD. All are welcome.

Encouragement

New life in Lake Meadows



Opportunities to worship together

Services at Western Road and Herongate have a scheduled **10:30am** start but please aim to arrive or join the online service at least 15 minutes before.



Onsite Services

	Queens Park Friday 11:45am	Western Road Sunday 10:30 am	Herongate Sunday 10:30 am
13 May	Rev C McDonald		
15 May		Home Group	No service
20 May	J Bisset		
22 May		I Brown*	
27 May	A Bray		
29 May		Service at 10am @ Emmanuel	Service at 10am @ Emmanuel

* Leading online worship	S Communion	LA Local arrangement	WL Worship Leader
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The Online service on 15th May will be led by R Gallehawk

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 David A.

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: In case of need of a minister contact Rev F Al-Hassan 01268 542822 Pastoral Secretary: Mrs Lyn Bowditch 01277 659530 Pastoral Assistant - St Andrew's Mrs Julie Cristin 01277 656478	web: billericaymethodistchurch.org  @BillericayMethodistChurch  @Methodistbcay
	Notices
	The next edition will be issued on Friday 20th May items for inclusion by 8pm Tuesday to notices@billericaymethodistchurch.org