



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

Sunday 26th June 2022

Connecting with each other

Dear Friends, Pilgrimage is very much back in fashion in Britain today and not only as a religious practice. Television schedules include a variety of programmes in which celebrities and others are challenged to make a pilgrimage of some sort. In planning a pilgrimage, two key questions need to be considered – ‘Where am I heading?’ and ‘How am I going to get there?’ Luke’s Gospel is often seen as a gospel of journey, of pilgrimage, and today’s passage offers some interesting answers to these two questions. Luke makes it very clear that for Jesus, the destination is not in doubt – indeed, the whole gospel can be seen as a journey to Jerusalem, and here we are told that Jesus, knowing that the end of his life is approaching, ‘set his face to go to Jerusalem’. That expression suggests mixed emotions – both longing and resignation perhaps. We know that Jesus felt compelled to go to Jerusalem and that he felt great love and compassion for the city. It is clear too that Jesus knew it would be in Jerusalem that he would face the final challenges of religious and political opposition and that it would be in Jerusalem that he would die.

Let’s pause and reflect on our situation now. Today within British Methodism is Conference Sunday. Those who will be received into Full Connexion and ordained this very day have, in a way, set their faces towards a particular destination and may need something of this sense of resolution themselves as they travel a path which will not always be smooth. Indeed, all of us, ordained or lay, are pilgrims on a journey. Over the next few days, the representatives gathered in Telford from across the Connexion will be considering all sorts of questions about our journey, our pilgrimage, as a denomination. Both connexionally and locally we all have to return again and again to the same two pilgrimage questions, ‘What is our destination?’ and ‘How are we going to get there?’ They are not easy questions to answer at a time like this but do we need to hear something of the commitment and urgency of Jesus’ replies to these would-be followers? Do we need to note the willingness of Jesus to embrace sacrifice and rejection? If we are going to travel the same path as Jesus, we too need to set our faces towards a future which might involve challenge, change and conflict.

An edited version of a reflection by Jill Baker published in The Vine at Home

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 plus Moses, Diana and family (as they prepare to move to Billericay).



Give to us, Lord, the peace of those who have learnt to serve you, the joy of those who are glad to obey you and the delight of those who rejoice in your praise; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.** *Aidan of Lindisfarne (d.651)*



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. If you would like a message put in the Prayer Chain over the next two weeks, please contact by email, or on my mobile phone. Thanks, Geraldine.

Notices

HAPPY BIRTHDAY. We send our love and congratulations to Heather A as she celebrates a special birthday this Saturday, 25th June. We wish her a very happy weekend with family and friends.

Bradwell pilgrimage and gathering: Saturday 2nd July 10:30-4pm. Commissioning of pilgrims at St Thomas Bradwell at 10:30am followed by a walk to St Peter- on-the-Wall. Full details here: <http://bradwellpilgrimage.co.uk/>

A Service of Remembrance for the life of **Thomas George Leask** will take place at Western Road on **Friday, 8th July** at 1.30pm. The service will include the Scattering of Ashes in the Memorial Garden. Ian Leask and his wife Margaret extend a warm welcome to members of the Church Family who would like to attend the service which will conclude with Refreshments served in the hall afterwards.



LOVE ESSEX is a Churches Together event at Sun Corner on **Saturday 9th July** from 2pm to 7:30pm. This is an outreach event for Christians to enjoy, but also for you to invite family, friends and colleagues to come along to. It is free, please bring along your own chair or blanket - stay as long or short a time you

Billericay Choral Society presents 'Music for a Summer's Evening', an informal concert to include Gilbert & Sullivan choruses, on Tuesday 12 July at 8 pm at Western Road. Tickets £5 are available from Brown Sugar/Slipped Discs 57-59 High or St, Maggie Kingston 07939 129445 or online from our [website billericaychoral.co.uk](http://website.billericaychoral.co.uk)

Encouragement



I am pleased to report that, Peter G has very kindly, refurbished the cross at QP, it was looking very sad and unloved, it is now looking great. Thank you, Peter.

Helen H



Some pictures of flowers to brighten the day.



The pastoral letter talks about pilgrimage. I encourage you to read the full text and the questions posed that are in this week's service sheets. Jill Baker points out the basic questions about pilgrimage are 'Where are we going' and 'How do we get there'?

These seem very pertinent questions for us in this time of *almost-post* COVID and a time of interregnum. Individually and as a church we had a life and activities before COVID. Then almost everything stopped or was drastically changed. Probably we have restarted many, but not all, activities and events in our personal lives. Similarly, as a church, only some events and activities have restarted.

Jill also reminds us that we are all individually and as a church a [pilgrim people](#). We now have the this space, as we look forward to September and the arrival of a new minister, to reflect on those two very important questions about how the future might look. Perhaps it can be a time when we can [have visions and dream dreams](#).

Where are we going? and How do we get there?

DA

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
24 June	E Hardy		
26 June		G Hanton	
1 July	Rev C McDonald		
3 July		Rev K Allen S	Rev C McDonald S
8 July	E Hardy		
10 July		R Gallehawk	

P Parade	S Communion	LA Local arrangement	WL Worship Leader
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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
<p>Minister: In case of need of a minister contact Rev F Al-Hassan 01268 542822</p> <p>Pastoral Secretary: Mrs Lyn Bowditch 01277 659530</p> <p>Pastoral Assistant - St Andrew's Mrs Julie Cristin 01277 656478</p>	<p>web: billericaymethodistchurch.org</p> <p> @BillericayMethodistChurch</p> <p> @Methodistbcay</p>
	Notices
	<p>The next edition will be issued on</p> <p>Friday 1st July</p> <p>items for inclusion by 8pm Tuesday to</p> <p>notices@billericaymethodistchurch.org</p>