



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

**Sunday 14th August 2022**

## **Connecting with each other**

**Dear Friends,** Through Luke's Gospel, we hear Jesus giving his disciples and followers instructions about *how* to follow him. But in our reading today, Jesus is speaking of his own personal mission. We get a sense of Jesus showing human emotions – longing, distress, frustration and anger.

Jesus reminds the crowd he has come to bring the cleansing fire of the Holy Spirit. Then He talks of his death and resurrection. Luke writes that Jesus is “constrained” during this time of waiting. Jesus seems to long for his mission to be complete. Do we expect Jesus to share our humanity and have those human emotions that we might experience when we are “waiting” for something to happen? Emotions which can make us vulnerable.

Jesus knows what is to come, the injustice and the brutality he will have to go through before his resurrection to save God's people. It is His mission from His Father and must be completed. Jesus is challenging us to take up our crosses and follow him whatever the consequences and pain.

Then Jesus turns everything upside down. He tells the people he has come to bring division not peace! Surely the Messiah is the “Prince of Peace” who would save the people? Jesus is very specific about this, saying family members will turn against each other. Are His words harsh? Following Jesus will bring division and conflict. Our Christian values and views will set us apart from the secular world around us.

Then Jesus calls the crowd “hypocrites”! They can read the signs about the weather but not about the time they are living in. “Reading” the weather was important for a good harvest. But do you sense Jesus' frustration, even anger, with the crowd that they are concentrating on their own needs rather than seeking a fairer society? Jesus' message of love and justice for all brought him into conflict with the Jewish leaders. We are called to stand up for Christian values today whatever the risks.

So, what are the signs of our times? Do we only concentrate on the things that are directly relevant to us? Jesus was urging the crowd to respond to the events around them. What is He urging us to do today? **Anna**

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**

Elizabeth Forward, Rex Kemp, Jean Kenway, Barbara Kite plus Moses, Diana and family (as they prepare to move to Billericay).



**O Lord our God**, you rule over all things and you accomplish all things. You never remove your hands from your works, nor ever shall. Guide us, we pray, with the power and the wisdom with which, from the beginning, you have loved and made all things; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Julian of Norwich (c.1343-c.1416)*



**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.

## Notices

**Reminder: The funeral for MICHAEL WOOD** will take place on Friday 12 August with a committal at Bentley Crematorium at 10.30 am followed by a Service of Thanksgiving at Emmanuel at **12.30pm**, followed by refreshments in the church hall. Everyone is welcome to attend both services.

**Dorothy Boswell:** Last week we received the sad news from Philip Boswell that dear Dorothy had died at her care home where she has lived for the last nine months. Philip & Dorothy were much loved, respected, and very active members of Western Road for many years before moving to Oakham and later Market Harborough. Dorothy will be remembered for her Pastoral work, prayer ministry and as a Church Steward. They both continued to serve our Lord taking on various church roles and doing missionary work on the island of Likoma in Malawi.

**Greetings** - The Sabbatical is now over, and retirement beckons in our new home which is so close to family in both Bracknell and Guildford. Thank you for all your greetings and good wishes by cards and email, and thank you for all the work done by the leadership team and others to make this sabbatical possible. We are now unpacked, and today will add those final touches of lampshades and pictures on walls. We have had a wonderful welcome both from our local church which is 5 minutes walk away, and from our terraced neighbours. We moved, on the two hottest days ever, and are now praying for rain to keep our plants healthy as we begin to design and construct our new user-friendly garden. We pray for Moses, Diana and the family as they arrive and we know you will make them very welcome. We also hope to see some of you sometime, if you are ever in the Woodley area - but give us a ring first.

Every Blessing - *David and Ann*

## Notices

**Graham Kendrick is coming to Billericay:** Yes it's true and get your tickets quickly as he sold out within 4 weeks last time. It was a great concert. He and his band will be at Emmanuel Church on Sunday 11th December, 2022 7pm. Lorraine H has offered to get tickets if you do not have access to the internet <https://www.wegottickets.com/event/552781>

**2019 church directory:** Mike T is attempting to update this, so he would be grateful if you would send him any amendments/deletions for inclusion. This could also include any offices that you do/do not hold currently. If you are not in the church directory and would like to be please let him know and he will send you the appropriate GDPR documents. Many thanks. Mike.

**Welcome Service for Moses, Diana and family.** We do hope as many of the church family as possible will be able to come and welcome our new Minister and the family to this special service on Saturday 3rd September at 3pm at The Christian Link, Queens Park. The service will be led by our District chair, Rev. David Chapman, and will be followed by afternoon tea and a chance to meet Moses and the family informally. **See you there!**

**URC Magazine :** We have received a copy of the latest URC Newsletter. Please contact Liz Read if you would like a copy.

## Encouragement



Coral Neale shared these photos of a recent visit she and Brenda Moore made to Len Hale. Coral says they had a wonderful time together.

## Contemplation Corner

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup> Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. <sup>4</sup> In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. *John 1:1-5*

## 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<br>Friday 11:45am | Western Road<br>Sunday 10:30 am | Herongate<br>Sunday 10:30 am |
|------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>12 August</b> | <b>E Hardy</b>                |                                 |                              |
| <b>14 August</b> |                               | <b>A Williams</b>               |                              |
| <b>19 August</b> | <b>Rev C McDonald S</b>       |                                 |                              |
| <b>21 August</b> |                               | <b>I Brown</b>                  | <b>No Service</b>            |
| <b>26th Aug</b>  | <b>J Cristin</b>              |                                 |                              |
| <b>28th Aug</b>  |                               | <b>I Brown</b>                  |                              |

|          |             |                      |                   |
|----------|-------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| P Parade | S Communion | LA Local arrangement | WL Worship Leader |
|----------|-------------|----------------------|-------------------|

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: <b>In case of need of a minister contact</b> Rev F Al-Hassan<br>01268 542822<br><br>Pastoral Secretary:<br>Mrs Lyn Bowditch<br>01277 659530<br><br>Pastoral Assistant - St Andrew's<br>Mrs Julie Cristin<br>01277 656478 | web: <a href="http://billericaymethodistchurch.org">billericaymethodistchurch.org</a><br><a href="https://www.facebook.com/BillericayMethodistChurch">@BillericayMethodistChurch</a><br><a href="https://twitter.com/Methodistbcay">@Methodistbcay</a> |
|  | Notices  |
|  | The next edition will be issued on<br><br><b>Friday 19th August</b><br><br>items for inclusion<br>by <b>8pm Tuesday</b> to<br><a href="mailto:notices@billericaymethodistchurch.org">notices@billericaymethodistchurch.org</a>                         |