



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

Sunday 20th November 2022

Connecting with each other

Dear Friends,

This Sunday we stand on the brink of what was and what is to be. It will be the last Sunday before Advent known traditionally as the Feast of the King. I always find it an uncomfortable contrast at this time of year to read Luke's account of Christ being crucified (Luke 23:33-43) even as the world has already begun to crowd in on us with a deluge of Christmas adverts for seasonal food, parties, decorations and presents. But it is appropriate to read the final earthly moments of Jesus as we hold the tension between the end of the greatest story ever told and the beginning of it.

We celebrate Christ as ultimate King over all creation, including us. We follow a crucified King – the reverse of what the world would consider a King. Surely to die that way was no victory but a failure? Yet as Jesus is cruelly crucified on a cross, bearing the weight of our sins, both past, present and future he offers forgiveness to all, even to one of those who repents and is on the brink of death next to him. This is no failed King; this is a King come fully into his own. The Christ hymn in Colossians today (1:15-20) is an ancient confession of faith for Christ who is the “visible image of the invisible God” and “who existed before anything else, he holds all creation together”.

The story of Jesus Christ is not about defeat or failure. Quite the contrary – it is weakness winning over strength. It is triumph which reverses all the world's values – even the nature of Kingship itself. Looking around us today we can see the different types of leadership traits echoed in worldly tensions and how far short they often fall. But time and time again Jesus displays traits of true Kingship and even calls leadership out from others – whether washing his disciples' feet or engaging with the Samaritan woman at the well. As the famous hymn “O little town of Bethlehem” says “the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee...” never more so than now perhaps. So we sing together “O come, O come Emmanuel” - God is with us!

Blessings, 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

Elizabeth F, Alec G, Rex K, Jean K, Barbara K.



Come, O Christ the Light, and lead us. Come, O Christ the Life, and revive us. Come, O Christ the Physician and heal us. Come, O Christ, the Fire Divine, and kindle in our hearts the flame of your love. **Amen.**

Dimitri of Rostov (1651–1709)

Praying together at 10am - a time each day when you can know that others are praying with you.

Prayer Chain Please contact Geraldine H with any prayer chain requests that you have.



Weekly online prayer meetings: Every Thursday from 7:30pm to 8:00pm. If you have any questions, need the zoom link, trouble getting into the meeting, or ideas for community prayer and would like to lead prayer time, please send an email to moses.agyam@methodist.org.uk. Please see CWEO email for zoom details.

Notices

Kenya Partnership

Christmas food parcels for Kenya. A reminder that our appeal for monetary donations to send to Rev. Sammy in Mombasa is ongoing. We hope to send sufficient for Sammy to purchase basic cooking ingredients for up to 200 families in time for Christmas.

We'd be so grateful for your help & your gift can be channelled through our church accounts- by cash into the offertory, by cheque to "Billericay Methodist church" or by BACS into the church account. Please clearly mark your donation "Kenya food parcels". Thank you in anticipation. *The Kenya team*.

HELP needed for Churches Together in St. Mary's in the High Street at the Billericay Christmas Market on **Sunday 4th December from 11am-5pm**. There will be refreshments, carols, short Advent Bible Readings, poems and reflections read at intervals during the day. The Church will be laid out cafe style this year. We would appreciate offers of help to serve refreshments, welcomers and readers, donations of mince pies would also be most welcome. There is not a timed rota for each church this year, volunteers will be mixed throughout the day, according to offers of help. Please contact me if you would like to help, thank you. *Lorraine H*

Church Council Meeting : The second part of our autumn Church Council is **Wednesday, 23rd November 2022, 7:30 pm, at Western Road**. This is an open meeting, and all are welcome to attend, but only the members of the Church Council (the trustees) are allowed to vote. *Moses.*

Notices

CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH 2022 - Anna L thinks she has someone who is willing to take on the rôle of chief meal preparation person ! So thinks it's game on for lunch this year, venue **Emmanuel**, however she needs enough **volunteers** to proceed by **November 20th (this Sunday)** so if you want to be involved please contact me **before then** so that I can pass on your details to her. Many thanks. *Lorraine*

Toy Service 11th December Western Road : Once again we are supporting Changing Pathways (woman's Refuge) this year for our Toy Service and Zoe Mckey will be attending to give us an update on their work. Changing Pathways can accept used toys but they will need to be in excellent condition and not too big as they are short of storage. Currently they have a variety of ages with them but the age range that often gets missed is the 10-14 year olds both male and female. If anyone would like to put a donation on a voucher they can collect these and add them together to get this age range of gifts. For the ladies Zoe has suggested Throws and toiletries. Toiletries and baby related items are always acceptable as the refuge is full at the moment . *Pam S*

Bible Readers' Rota.: Please could you let me know if you would like to read a lesson at Western Road on a Sunday morning. If so i would be very happy to add your name to the existing rota. Many thanks. *Lyn*

Membership Cards for 2022-23 are now ready and will be distributed by Cell Group leaders and Pastoral Visitors where applicable. Remaining cards can be collected from Western Road over the next few Sunday mornings. Thank you. *Lyn*

Weekly service sheets: Following the cessation of the online services we will be distributing copies of 'The Vine at Home' produced by Twelve Baskets with the Friday email and as hard copy to the housebound. The material contains a short Sunday service plus daily 'Prayers and Prayer pointers' for the week. *David A*

Billericay Choral Society's Christmas Concert which includes 'A Ceremony of Carols' by Benjamin Britten and other festive pieces will be held on **Tuesday 13 December at 8 pm** at the **United Reformed Church** in Chapel Street. Tickets £10 are available from Maggie K, Brown Sugar/Slipped Discs 57-59 High St or online from our website <https://www.billericaychoral.co.uk/>

On **Tuesday 29 November** Billericay Choral Society invites you to come along to an Open Rehearsal in Western Road Church at 7.30 pm as we prepare for Christmas. Come along and listen or join in if you like. No obligation, no booking, just walk in. For more information contact Maggie K.

Contemplation Corner

There exists only the present instant... a Now which always and without end is itself new. There is no yesterday nor any tomorrow, but only Now, as it was a thousand years ago and as it will be a thousand years hence. *Meister Eckhart*

Opportunities to worship together



Onsite Services

	Queens Park Friday 11:45am	Western Road Sunday 10:30 am	Herongate Sunday 10:30 am
18th Nov	Rev C McDonald		
20th Nov		R Gallehawk	
25th Nov	I Brown		
27th Nov		G Hanton	Rev C McDonald
2nd Dec	Rev C McDonald		
4th Dec		Rev M Agyam S	No Service
9th Dec	A Bray		
11th Dec		I Brown P TS	

P Parade	S Communion	TS Toy Service	WL Worship Leader
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Online Services Archive

The Church website has an [archive](#) of online services from April 2020 to November 2022 plus [all-age materials](#) in addition to links to other [worship resources](#).

Ministry Team	Website and Social Media
Minister: Revd. Moses Agyam 01277 623085 moses.agyam@methodist.org.uk (Please note the Minister's day off is Monday).	web: billericaymethodistchurch.org  @BillericayMethodistChurch  @Methodistbcay
Pastoral Secretary: Mrs Lyn Bowditch 01277 659530	Notices
Pastoral Assistant - St Andrew's Mrs Julie Cristin 01277 656478	The next edition will be issued on Friday 25th November items for inclusion by 8pm Tuesday to notices@billericaymethodistchurch.org