



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

Sunday 27th November 2022

Connecting with each other

Dear Friends,

Consider the poem "Advent Calendar" by Rowan Williams:

He will come like last leaf's fall.
One night when the November wind
Has flayed the trees to bone, and earth
Wakes choking on the mould,
The soft shroud's folding.

He will come like frost.
One morning when the shrinking earth
Opens on mist, to find itself
Arrested in the net
Of alien, sword-set beauty.

He will come like dark.
One evening when the burning red
December sun draws up the sheet
And penny-masks its eye to yield
The star-snowed fields of sky.

He will come, will come,
Will come like crying in the night,
Like blood, like breaking,
As the earth writhes to toss him free.
He will come like child.



It is not a comfortable read. Images of autumn turning to winter, of darkness, of arrested movement as the frosts set in and painful childbirth, both nature and creator writhing together. But there is promise, the repeating phrase "He will come". Janet Morley writes about the poem's mood in her book "Haphazard by Starlight": "*The Christchild will come, but not until the world is at its darkest....The preparation involves a stripping down, a facing of fear, and an acceptance of the dark. It will be both ordinary and apocalyptic.*" 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, David G.



'O consuming fire, O Spirit of love, descend into our hearts and there transform us until we are fire of your fire, love of your love, and Christ himself is formed within us. Amen.

Elizabeth of Schonau (d. 1184)

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 Appeal. Thank you for the wonderful response we have received. It will make Christmas a little easier for the many desperately poor families living around the Mombasa dumpsites. We'll close our appeal after this weekend & plan to send Rev. Sammy enough to purchase at least 200 food parcels. If you would still like to donate, money can be channelled through the church accounts- as cash, by cheque to "Billericay Methodist church" or by BACS. Please reference your donation "Kenya food parcels". Many thanks. *The Kenya team.*

Dates for diaries:

The Forging Men Carol singing will take place on Thursday 15th Dec start time and location TBC.

Billericay Foodbank - if you would like to donate a Christmas 'bag for life' please see the leaflet sent out with CWEO, or look for the posters at church.

New Address. Geoff & Elizabeth F. have now moved to: 17, Southwood Court, Southend Road, Billericay CM11 2RA. Their phone number & email address are unchanged. Elizabeth is currently receiving residential care, but Geoff hopes she'll be home for Christmas. Our thoughts & prayers are with them both.

Notices

Intergenerational Prayer cards: A handy pack of 52 creative prayers for all which involves actions and interaction available from Methodist Publishing for £4.99. Rachel G has a pack if wish to view.

<https://www.methodistpublishing.org.uk/books/EGIPC22/intergenerational-prayer-cards>



Contemplation Corner

Gates of Paradise - Steve who used to be in Rachel's creative writing group and a retired graphic designer has created and designed this incredible wooden artwork which has taken a few years. It now is at West Leigh Baptist Church. Steve has written notes about the design which were attached on the CWEO weekly email for those interested to know more.



Advent Prayer

Lord, as Advent moves on and Christmas dawns,
may we know your closeness,
open our lives to you and share your love with others,
in the name of Jesus Christ.

From Seasons and Celebrations no 29

Opportunities to worship together



Onsite Services

	Queens Park Friday 11:45am	Western Road Sunday 10:30 am	Herongate Sunday 10:30 am
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	
16th Dec	Rev M Agyam		
18th Dec		Rev C McDonald 6:30 Rev M Agyam Cbc	Rev M Agyam <i>Carol Service</i>
P Parade	S Communion	TS Toy Service	WL Worship Leader

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
<p>Minister: Revd. Moses Agyam 01277 623085 moses.agyam@methodist.org.uk (Please note the Minister's day off is Monday).</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> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Notices</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The next edition will be issued on</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Friday 2nd December</p> <p style="text-align: center;">items for inclusion by 8pm Tuesday to notices@billericaymethodistchurch.org</p>