



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

**Sunday 4th December 2022**

## **Connecting with each other**

**Dear Friends,**

This second Sunday in Advent, John the Baptist brings us a message warning of God's coming Judgement (Matthew 3:1-12). With all the imagery of chopping down of unfruitful trees, separating wheat from chaff, and unquenchable fire, one might well be excused for thinking, "Where is the good news in this?"

Later in verse 11, John promises that someone greater than he is soon to come. He is both more powerful than John; of much higher status; and will baptize with the Spirit and fire. John's expectations for this person are clear. This coming one will bring the judgment of God that John has been warning will come. This judgment will be clear, decisive, and we should do what we can to repent and prepare. Knowing this in advance is good news.

But readers who know Matthew's gospel well will be aware of chapter 11, where in prison, John sends messengers to Jesus asking, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Clearly, Jesus is not acting the way John expected. There seems to be little chopping, little winnowing, and no fire. Jesus is not doing any of the things John anticipated.

The prophet Isaiah, in today's Old Testament reading, speaks to us not a word of judgement but the coming of God's peaceful kingdom (Isaiah 11:1-10). The psalmist too sings of God's coming kingdom of peace (72:1-7, 18-19). And Paul prays that believers would be filled with hope, joy, and peace (Romans 15:4-13).

The major theme in the lectionary is the expectation of the coming of Israel's king to reign in peace, justice, and righteousness. Moreover, the readings give a job description of the coming king, the one who is to be the ideal human representative of God's kingdom. This king will be especially concerned for those in the community who are marginalised for any reason (Psalm 72:2 cf. Matthew 11:4-6).

The challenge for us this second Sunday in Advent is that Jesus invites us to follow him and have our desires transformed and reordered as the Spirit works in us and to share in his just rule for a transformed society. I have no doubt this transformation and reordering will be difficult, even painful, at times. This may be what John means by being baptized with fire. The result of this will render us more truly and deeply ourselves.

Jesus is coming, soon. Will our expectations of him frustrate his working in our lives or will be open to receiving him as he is, even if he does not come as we expect?

**Advent blessings, Moses.**

Please visit the church website [billericaymethodistchurch.org](http://billericaymethodistchurch.org) for further information.

## 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.



**Gracious God**, forgive us for all that prevents us from showing love to you, our neighbours and ourselves. May our faith be lived out in acts of love, kindness and justice that enable others to be drawn to you. **Amen.**

*Gillian Newton, Sheffield District Chair*

**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](mailto:moses.agyam@methodist.org.uk). Please see CWEO email for zoom details.

## Notices

**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*

**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/>

**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>



## Notices

**20 year celebration at Queens Park:** Please come and join us at Queens Park on **Friday 16th December** for Coffee Pot followed at 11.45am by a special Anniversary Service.

It is 20 years since the first service was held in December 2002 at the church. We are welcoming friends old and new and would love for you to join in the Celebration of the work of The Lord in this place.

### Kenya Partnership

**Christmas Food Parcels Appeal.** We are delighted to let you know that we are able to send £2100 to Rev. Sammy - more than we had hoped for and which will enable Sammy to purchase an extra 20 food parcels. Thanks to a generous additional donation, we will also send Sammy money to buy a water storage tank for the community at the Mwakirungi dumpsite (Mombasa). Sammy says he will dedicate this to "all our friends at BMC". The tank will be a life-saver for the families during this time of severe drought. Thank you everyone. *Geraldine, Pam C., Maggie K. & Heather A.*

### **Opportunity to serve as a volunteer chaplain at Basildon Hospital :**

There is the opportunity to serve as a volunteer chaplain at Basildon Hospital following training. See details in poster in the Friday email or onsite posters.

**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.

**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). There could even be a bit of poetry.....



## Contemplation Corner

Father, we pray for the world, your world with all its opportunities  
All its resources and all its potential for good.

....Teach us to remember the obligations that you have  
laid upon us to be good stewards of your world....

We pray for the leaders who are responsible for  
decisions which affect your creation.

May they be reminded that what we have we hold in  
trust.



*Based on Prayer 276,*

*More Prayers for all Occasions David Clowes*

## Opportunities to worship together



### Onsite Services

	Queens Park Friday 11:45am	Western Road Sunday 10:30 am	Herongate Sunday 10:30 am
<b>2nd Dec</b>	<b>Rev C McDonald S</b>		
<b>4th Dec</b>		<b>Rev M Agyam S</b>	<b>No Service</b>
<b>9th Dec</b>	<b>A Bray</b>		
<b>11th Dec</b>		<b>I Brown P TS</b>	
<b>16th Dec</b>	<b>Rev M Agyam</b>		
<b>18th Dec</b>		<b>Rev C McDonald</b> <b>6:30 Rev M Agyam</b> Carols by Candlelight	<b>Rev M Agyam CS</b>
<b>23rd Dec</b>	<b>11:15 Rev M Agyam</b> <b>CS</b>		
<b>25th Dec</b>		<b>Rev M Agyam</b>	
<b>P Parade</b>	<b>S Communion</b>	<b>TS Toy Service</b>	<b>CS Carol Service</b>

### 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](#).

<b>Ministry Team</b>	<b>Website and Social Media</b>	
<p>Minister: Revd. Moses Agyam 01277 623085 <a href="mailto:moses.agyam@methodist.org.uk">moses.agyam@methodist.org.uk</a> (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: <a href="http://billericaymethodistchurch.org">billericaymethodistchurch.org</a></p> <p> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/BillericayMethodistChurch">@BillericayMethodistChurch</a></p> <p> <a href="https://twitter.com/Methodistbcay">@Methodistbcay</a></p> <tr> <th style="text-align: center; background-color: #e0e0e0;"><b>Notices</b></th> </tr> <p style="text-align: center;">The next edition will be issued on</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Friday 9th December</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">items for inclusion by <b>8pm Tuesday</b> to <a href="mailto:notices@billericaymethodistchurch.org">notices@billericaymethodistchurch.org</a></p>	<b>Notices</b>
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