



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

**5th February 2023**

## Connecting with each other

**Dear friends,**

In last Sunday's gospel reading, Matthew gave us seven (the biblical number of wholeness) beatitudes of Jesus. The beatitudes are 'wisdom teaching' – Jesus' model of a fully alive human being – Jesus' way of being human.

In today's gospel (Matthew 5:13-20) Matthew adds extra teaching about the qualities of the followers of Jesus. These qualities are given in three images (or metaphors) – salt, light, and a city built on a hilltop.

'You are the salt of the world'. Early Christians saw salt as an appropriate symbol of Christian living: salt gives taste and flavour. But in the ancient world, salt was also important for preserving food. One early Christian writer wrote: 'Christians are the soul of the world – for they are responsible for its continuance in life'. But how does salt lose its saltiness? Have you lost your (Christian) saltiness? Have we as a church lost our saltiness? Can the saltiness be restored – how?

'You are the light of the world'. The image of light presents a contrast between 'the light' and 'the world', understand as a place of darkness. Just as Jesus is the light of the light shining in our lives, so his followers are to be light bearers for a dark world. 'A city built on a hill'. Although I've separated them, the two images of light and the city on a hilltop belong together. In Isaiah 49:6, the prophet had declared it to be the destiny of Israel to be a 'light to the nations'; and the symbol of this destiny was the city of Jerusalem set on a hill, to which the peoples of the world would one day come to worship the true God.

Jesus' fellows now share this destiny of attracting the world or others to Jesus the light of the world.

Although all these images come together to form a completely rounded Christian, you may find that you're drawn to one more than the other. Find a quiet space and time this week to read through Matthew 5:13-20 slowly and thoughtfully and reflect on which of these images speaks to you and why.

**God bless,  
Moses**

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



**Theme for the Year – The Fruit of the Spirit**

By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit. *Galatians 5:22-25 (NRSV)*

## 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, David G, Rex K, Jean K, Barbara K.



**Let your good spirit watch over us, O Lord**, your love ever rule in our heart and your mercy and forgiveness ever keep us in body, mind and soul. **Amen.**

*John Wesley (1703–1791)*

**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

**Church Council Meeting :** Our Spring Church Council is this Wednesday, 8th February 2023, 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.

**Warm Space** - we are continuing to open the Church as a Warm space each Thursday through February from 9.30 am to 2.30 pm. We will be providing hot drinks, cakes and soup at lunchtime. We need donations of cakes please and we need volunteers who can perhaps help set up or give an hour to help serve drinks and chat to people who visit. All are welcome to join us for a drink, or if you are aware of anyone who would benefit from having somewhere warm to spend a few hours, please let them know. Please pray that we will be able to offer a warm space to those who need it.

If you can help, or if you require further information please contact Rev Moses Agyam or Gill or Dave R. Thank you

**Seeking volunteer chaplains for Basildon Hospital :** A training course for volunteer chaplains at Basildon Hospital commences on **22 February**, and anyone who would like to know more is welcome to email the chaplain volunteer co-ordinator [Caroline Smith](mailto:Caroline.Smith) or phone 01268 524900 ext 3503)

## Notices

**Lent talk** kickstarts the journey of Lent by inviting people from across Billericay, Wickford, Basildon and beyond to gather at Western Road Methodist Church to share an experience of learning together. The aim is to make cutting-edge scholarship accessible to lay people by bridging academia and church/faith and learning to inspire fresh thinking and enable the people of God to encounter afresh the transforming power of the cross of the living and active Jesus.

The first talk entitled **'The Christian's Journey: The Ancient Biblical Practice of Being Almost Clueless'** will be on **Sunday 26th February, 6-8pm at Western Road** when the speaker will be **Dr Conrad Gempf**, Lecturer in New Testament Studies, London School of Theology



**Faith at the Frontline** : Are you aged 18 - 30 or do you know people who are and may be interested in exploring what it means to live, tell, share faith in all sorts of contexts and places? Join us for Frontline and explore with other young adults - ask questions, share learning, bring challenges. Whatever your experience or confidence level, you are welcome. Gathering at Cliff College 11th & 12th March. <https://www.methodist.org.uk/frontline>



## Contemplation Corner



O Jesus,  
Be the canoe that holds me up in the sea of life;  
Be the rudder that keeps me on a straight course;  
Be the outrigger that supports me in times of great temptation,  
Let your Spirit be my sail that carries me through each day.  
Keep my body strong, so I can paddle steadfastly on in the voyage of life.

*From Oceans of Prayer, Maureen Edwards and Jan Pickard*

## Opportunities to worship together



### Onsite Services

	Queens Park Friday 11:45am	Western Road Sunday 10:30 am	Herongate Sunday 10:30 am
<b>3rd Feb</b>	<b>Rev M Agyam S</b>		
<b>5th Feb</b>		<b>T Sanger</b>	<b>Rev M Agyam S</b>
<b>10th Feb</b>	<b>E Read</b>		
<b>12th Feb</b>		<b>Rev M Agyam S</b>	
<b>17th Feb</b>	<b>I Brown</b>		
<b>19th Feb</b>		<b>A Williams</b>	<b>G Hanton WL</b>
<b>24th Feb</b>	<b>M Smith</b>		
<b>26th Feb</b>		<b>Rev M Agyam</b>	

**WL** Worship Leader

**S** Communion

**P** Parade Service

### 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 <a href="mailto:moses.agyam@methodist.org.uk">moses.agyam@methodist.org.uk</a> (Please note the Minister's day off is Monday).	web: <a href="http://billericaymethodistchurch.org">billericaymethodistchurch.org</a>  <a href="https://www.facebook.com/BillericayMethodistChurch">@BillericayMethodistChurch</a>  <a href="https://twitter.com/Methodistbcay">@Methodistbcay</a>
Pastoral Secretary: Mrs Lyn Bowditch 01277 659530	<h4>Notices</h4>
Pastoral Assistant - St Andrew's Mrs Julie Cristin 01277 656478	The next edition will be issued on <b>Friday 10th February 2023</b> items for inclusion by <b>8pm Tuesday</b> to <a href="mailto:notices@billericaymethodistchurch.org">notices@billericaymethodistchurch.org</a>