

CHRIST CHURCH

SCRIPTURE FOR THE NEW YEAR

"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland". (Isaiah 43.19)

BILLERICAY & LITTLE BURSTEAD TEAM LENT COURSE

The Course will be on Thursday evenings at St John the Divine from 7.30 p.m. - 9 p.m. It will commence on 22nd February and will continue each Thursday until 21 March. We will be following the Bible Reading Fellowship Lent Course "Holy Habits" which includes video, worship, prayer and group discussion. We do hope you will be able to join us as we journey together through the season of Lent.

MEANINGFUL CHOCOLATE COMPANY EASTER EGGS

Easter is very early this year, so we already have a supply of Fairtrade Easter Eggs available on the Welcome Desk at £4.50 each. The eggs are no longer sold by Traidcraft or in supermarkets. There is a new edition of the Easter story in each box which is great for children. Our supplies are limited so once the present batch has been sold no more eggs will be available.

EASTER FLOWERS 2024 IN MEMORIAM

If you would like to buy an Easter lily or rose in memory of a loved one, forms are available on the welcome desk. The cost is £2 per named person. The flowers will be displayed in and around the Church on Easter Day, and names of loved ones will be displayed on the board just inside the Church. Our thanks to Linda Gilbey who organises this for us.

EASTER AND MOTHERING SUNDAY CARDS

A fresh display of birthday and other occasion cards are now available for sale along with Easter and Mothering Sunday cards in the Church lobby. Sales from these cards support the Christian Conference Trust at Mulberry House, Ongar. Our thanks go to Hazel Bench and Jackie Thomas for labelling up and getting the cards ready for display.

PROGRAMME FOR 'ANNA'S PLACE'

On Tuesday 20 February, Pete & Debbie Barnes will be coming along to teach us some more art; on 27 February, Steve Willoughby from Home Instead, will be giving us some pointers on how not to get scammed by telephone callers, emails, or doorstep callers; and, on 26 March Linda Gilbey will be helping us to make an Easter flower table decoration. Do join us if you can!

GREENING CHRIST CHURCH - GARDENING TEAM

When the weather allows, the gardening team work on the Church grounds on a Thursday morning between 10 a.m. - 12 noon to do weeding, trimming back shrubs, or sweeping up the leaves. If you are able to help us and aren't sure whether we plan to meet due to weather conditions, please email Jennifer Anderson jaanderson45@yahoo.co.uk or Margaret Fowler m.j.fowler@btinternet.com. We could really do with some extra help!

LENT LECTURE - BILLERICAY METHODIST CHURCH

The Passion of Joy: Enjoying God in Lent

This will be held on Sunday, 18 February, 6-7.30 p.m. The speaker is Ash Cocksworth, Senior Lecturer in Theology and Practice at the University of Roehampton. Rev Moses Agyam, Minister at the Methodist Church says the Lent Lecture is aimed at everybody and is designed to bring people together to share learning at the start of Lent.

"THE HIDING PLACE"

The Oddments Theatre Company are putting on the play of 'The Hiding Place', which tells the true story of Corrie ten Boom and her Christian family, in their struggle to save Jews from the Nazis during the Second World War. It will be at St Gabriel's Youth and Community Centre, Rectory Road, Pitsea, Basildon, Essex SS13 2AA on Friday, 15 and Saturday 16 March at 7 p.m. Tickets are £12.43 each. To book your tickets visit: <http://oddments-theatre.co.uk/book-your-tickets-here/>.

CHRIST CHURCH AGM - 21 APRIL 2024

If you are involved with a group/activity at Christ Church and would like to have a report in the Christ Church Annual Report could you please email Joy Eayres at dcc.sec@christchurch-billericay.co.uk as soon as you can. Any problems/questions please speak to Joy.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BILLERICAY - LOVE BILLERICAY

The next **Love Billericay** event is at Christ Church on Wednesday, 20 March at 7.30 p.m. This is a great opportunity to worship with Christians of all denominations, and to encourage each other, and pray that the love of Jesus will transform the lives of all who live in Billericay and the surrounding areas.

PROCESS FOR APPOINTING NEW TEAM RECTOR

Please continue to pray for (1) the right person to be appointed to lead our Team Ministry, (2) for all those involved in this process, (3) for those who take on additional workload during the vacancy.

AUTOMATIC NUMBER-PLATE RECOGNITION SYSTEM

Please be alert to any visitors to ensure they enter their registration number when visiting the Church. There is no need to do so on a Sunday between 7 a.m. - 2 p.m.

PLEASE REMEMBER: If you change your vehicle please email: parking@christchurch-billericay.co.uk. However, this email address is not for NEW registrations.

Requests for new permanent registration of vehicles for Church members only should be entered on the list on the Welcome Desk.

ROTARY CLUB OF BILLERICAY - ANTIQUES ROADSHOW CHARITY EVENT AT CHRIST CHURCH

This event will be held on Saturday, 16 March when there will be a Dinner and live music with The Ladybirds. The guest speaker will be Mark Stacey from Stacey's Auctioneers and Valuers. You can bring along your antiques to find out whether they have any value. The evening is in aid of Little Havens Children's Hospice and St Luke's Hospice. Tickets are £35 per person and are available from The Rotary Club of Billericay <https://bit.ly/RCAntiques2024>. If you have any questions please ask Les Sheppard or Rev Margaret Fowler.

DATES FOR DIARY

- 19 Feb** PCC, Christ Church 7.30 p.m.
- 20 Feb** Anna's Place, 10.30 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- 22 Feb** Team Lent Course (1) St John the Divine, 7.30 p.m.
- 26 Feb** Christ Church DCC 7.45 p.m.
- 27 Feb** Anna's Place, 10.30 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- 29 Feb** Team Lent Course (2) St John the Divine, 7.30 p.m.
- 3 Mar** Messy Church 10 a.m.
- 3 Mar** Methodist Church Centenary Celebrations 3 p.m.
- 4 Mar** Pensioners' Praise 2 p.m.
- 14 Mar** SMB AGM
- 16 Mar** St Mary's High Street Market
- 16 Mar** Rotary Club Antiques Roadshow Dinner
- 17 Mar** Street Pastors AGM, Hub, High Street 7 p.m.

SPECIAL PRAYERS

For Rev Margaret Fowler:

Please pray for Margaret as she continues to prepare for Lent and Easter.

For children and young people: Please pray for the Messy Church team and All Age Service planning.

SUN

MESSY CHURCH

First Sunday of the month 10 a.m. in the Hall.
Contact Angela Wood for details.

Next Messy Church: 3 March

MON

PENSIONERS' PRAISE - 2.00 p.m. First Monday of the month. All welcome. You don't have to be retired!

Next service: 4 March

TUE

MORNING PRAYER - 9.30 a.m. Join us in Church.

'ANNA'S PLACE' 10.30 a.m. – 2 p.m. A warm welcome and activities every week in the Church hall for older people. Refreshments and lunch included. Just come along. Free.

WED

HOLY COMMUNION AT ST MARY MAGDALEN

"The Church in the High Street" at **10 a.m.**

PRAY TOGETHER 7.45 p.m. An opportunity to pause, reflect and pray wherever you are. See the Christ Church Facebook page.

THU

LADIES ON THURSDAY (LOTS) Fortnightly at 9.30 a.m.

Next meeting: 29 February

FRI

CHRIST CHURCH TODDLER GROUP

10 - 11.30 a.m. Contact Church Office for details.

SAT

DAMBUSTERS

For dads and children under 5. Third Saturday of the month at 8.30 a.m.

Next meeting: 16 March

PARISH PRAYERS ON WEDNESDAY

We meet together in prayer on **Zoom at 6 p.m** to pray for the parish and the wider world. Contact Parish clergy for details.

CORNERSTONE COFFEE-SHOP

The Coffee Shop is closed for half-term and will re-open on 27 February

Prayer Focus

If there is an urgent prayer request to be sent round our prayer circle please email the Church Office:- office@christchurch-billericay.co.uk

For our Mission Partners:

St Francis Church Ciamanda & Ciamanda Primary School, Kenya; Pappy Daniel (Light of Hope Mission, India); Verity Butt (YWAM); Aaron Stanbury (CMS); Barnabas Fund, LMDC, Schools Ministry Billericay; Street Pastors Billericay, Prison Fellowship, Anvil House, Church Urban Fund, St Luke's Hospice

Associate Priest: Rev Margaret Fowler Tel: 07974 720510
Email: m.j.fowler@btinternet.com
Days off: Tuesday and Friday
Church Wardens
Jennifer Anderson jaanderson45@yahoo.co.uk
Chris Davis cjdavis27@hotmail.com
Church Office & Hall Bookings
Open Monday to Thursday 9.15 a.m. to 12.15 p.m.
Tel: 01277 630144 Twitter: @ChristChCM12
Email: office@christchurch-billericay.co.uk
Website: www.christchurch-billericay.co.uk

Christ Church, Billericay
"To know Jesus better and to make Jesus better known"

18 February 2024 - First Sunday of Lent

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion
Lead/Preside: Rev Margaret Fowler
Preach: Pete Fisher
Bible Readings: Genesis 9: 8-17 & Mark 1: 9-15

10.00 a.m. Celebration Sunday
Lead: Rev Margaret Fowler
Preach: Pete Fisher
Bible Reading: Mark 1: 9-15

Worship Songs:
SCREEN Ho Hosanna
SOF 975 Over the Mountains and the Seas
SOF2065 The Splendour of the King
SOF 1676 Your Love is Amazing

Collect for the First Sunday of Lent

Heavenly Father, your Son battled with the powers of darkness, and grew closer to you in the desert: help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer that we may witness to your saving love in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

25 February 2024 - Second Sunday of Lent

10.00 a.m. Family Communion
Lead/Preside: Rev Margaret Fowler
Preach: Catherine Benbough

OUR 10 A.M. SERVICES ARE LIVE-STREAMED

HEARING LOOP AVAILABLE

NO PHOTOGRAPHY DURING THE SERVICE PLEASE

CONTACTLESS DONATIONS ACCEPTED

We do not pass a collection plate around during the Service, but if you would like to make a donation to Christ Church, the card machine and collection plate are next to the Welcome Table.