



Bunyan Meeting

Mill Street

Bedford

Sunday 4th May 2025

The Second Sunday after Easter



Welcome to worship at Bunyan Meeting

Bunyan Meeting is an Independent Church founded in 1650 and is affiliated to The Congregational Federation and The Baptist Union.

Following the services tea and coffee will be served in the church foyer.

Children are welcome to use the activities provided in the children's corner and church foyer during morning worship.

If this is your first visit to Bunyan Meeting, please introduce yourself to one of our stewards.

Our services today

11.00am Morning worship with Communion
conducted by our Minister

6.30pm Evening worship
conducted by our Minister

Our services next Sunday

9.30am Christ, Coffee & Croissants

11.00am Morning worship
conducted by our Minister

6.30pm Evening worship
conducted by our Minister

Our services are livestreamed. If you do not wish to appear on the livestream you can evade the reach of the camera by sitting at the sides or in the back two rows of the central seating of the ground floor of the church or in the central back gallery.

You can also join us live at our services on our **YouTube Channel**.

Just go to:



<https://www.bunyanmeeting.co.uk/live>

Please keep silence before our service when the Bible is brought into church and use this time for reflection and private prayer

Our church flowers today



are given by Cherry Protheroe

The offering for Sunday 27th April was £1557.85
(£807.85 was given in Church and an average of £750 in direct giving).

**We pray for members and friends of the church,
remembering especially:**

Samantha Nightingale

Jo-Ann Gaunt

Audrey Mehew

June Barton

Jean Goldsmith

For your prayers

The special prayer for the Second Sunday after Easter

Almighty God, who hast given thine only Son to be unto us both a sacrifice for sin, and also an example of godly life: Give us grace that we may always most thankfully receive that his inestimable benefit, and also daily endeavour ourselves to follow the blessed steps of his most holy life; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Baptist Union

This week we pray for the Southern Counties Baptist Association. Please pray for the Association as they seek to inspire, connect and resource the churches in their area and their leaders by growing and forming healthy churches in relationship for God's mission. www.scba.org.uk

Congregational Federation

Highbury Quadrant

Please pray for our Charity Shop project.

Praise the Lord that our projects in Pakistan are going well.

Future plans of projects & prayer support:

We are looking for likeminded churches, organisations, individuals who have a burden to support persecuted Christians in Pakistan and work together with us.

We intend to

- build a counselling and rehabilitation centre for Christian girls and young women who are abducted and forcefully converted to Islam and married to Muslim men
- do more church planting and establish new Congregational fellowships
- build school and hostel for children
- buy a van for reaching out to all these projects
- build elderly homes for homeless elders

MORNING WORSHIP at 11.00am
Hymns from Rejoice and Sing

Opening Voluntaries

Welcome and Notices

Call to Worship

Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

Hymn No. 379

Awake and sing the song

Introduction to Theme

First Reading

1 Peter 1 v 1 – 21 (page 1217)

Read by Cherry Protheroe

Hymn No. 234

Alleluia, Alleluia

Second Reading

John 21 v 1 – 19 (page 1090)

Read by: The Rev'd Chris Damp

Sermon

Hymn No. 236

Come, ye faithful, raise the strain

Prayers of Intercession

led by the Rev'd Chris Damp

Offering, Voluntary and Dedication

As the offering is brought forward, we stand and sing the Doxology no. 21

Hymn No. 242

Ye humble souls that seek the Lord

Communion

All who love the Lord are welcome to share in the bread and the wine

Hymn

I Alleluia, Alleluia!

hearts to heaven and voices raise;

sing to God a hymn of gladness,

sing to God a hymn of praise:

he who on the Cross a victim

for the world's salvation bled,
Jesus Christ the King of glory,
now is risen from the dead.

2 Christ is risen, Christ the first-fruits
of the holy harvest field,
which will all its full abundance
at his second coming yield;
then the golden ears of harvest
will their heads before him wave,
ripened by his glorious sunshine,
from the furrows of the grave.

3 Christ is risen, we are risen;
shed upon us heavenly grace,
rain and dew, and gleams of glory
from the brightness of thy face;
that we, with our hearts in heaven,
here on earth may fruitful be,
and by angel-hands be gathered,
and be ever, Lord, with thee.

4 Alleluia, Alleluia,
glory be to God on high;
Alleluia to the Saviour,
who has gained the victory;
Alleluia to the Spirit,
fount of love and sanctity;
Alleluia, Alleluia,
to the Triune Majesty.

Christopher Wordsworth (1807-1885)

The Blessing

Closing Voluntary

EVENING WORSHIP at 6.30pm
Hymns from Baptist Praise and Worship

Welcome and Notices

Call to Worship

Hymn No. 88

Jesus stand among us

Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

First Reading

Acts 3 v 1 – 20 (page 1094)

Hymn No. 259

When fear and grief had barred the door

Second Reading

Luke 24 v 36 – 53 (page 1062)

Prayers of Intercession

Hymn No. 261

The strife is o'er

Sermon

Silent Prayer

Offering and Dedication

Hymn No. 245

Christ is risen! Alleluia!

The Blessing

Closing Voluntary

CCLI Licence No. 3740

Bunyan Meeting News Letter

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED – CAN YOU HELP?

Volunteers needed for
Lifepath of John Bunyan
(20/5/25 - 22/5/25)



Areas of need:

- Workshop leaders & helpers
- Group guides
- Musicians
- Creative Prayer workshop
- Craft helpers
- Refreshment helpers
- Timekeeper

If you would like to get involved please contact:
trish@impactbedford.org.uk
becky@impactbedford.org.uk



We had a Lifepath planning meeting recently and it is wonderful to hear that **nearly a thousand** children will be joining us over the three days of Lifepath John Bunyan at Elstow Abbey this year. The event will be running from 20 – 22 May which is less than a month away.

The Lifepath of John Bunyan doesn't just cover Bunyan's life but also covers local and national history, literacy, music, RE and more and will add to and reinforce teaching done in the classroom through drama, various workshops and activities.

Thanks to those who have already registered to volunteer.

Unfortunately, our volunteer numbers are very low in various areas, which means we would not be able to run the event with the current numbers we have. This is where we need your help, please. Whether you can be involved for a day, two or three, or know of family and friends who would be interested in helping, please get in touch.

If you'd like to get involved, please email me, so that I can send you the link to register.

If you need any more information, please contact Becky or me.

kindest regards

Trish Impact Schools Worker
m: 07301 020620 trish@impactbedford.gov.uk
becky@impactbedford.gov.uk

PS: Nicola, our Museum Director is involved with this and has a team of museum volunteers who will be holding object handling and costume sessions; so, you would not be alone!

Cherry Protheroe

THANK YOU

A very big 'Thank You' to all who donated to the fund in Memory of Brian. The total amount raised was just over £900.00; this has been sent to the Bedford Hospital NHS Charity.

A grateful 'Thank You' to you all. May God Bless each one of you. Please continue to pray for us.

Heather, Rachael, Julian and the family

Friendship Group

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 7 May at 2pm. We look forward to hearing from our speaker, David Walker.



VE DAY Celebrations 5 to 8 May 2025

On 8th May we celebrate 80 years since the end of World War Two; not many of our congregation will remember the trauma we all experienced and the joy, that peace was to return.

In those days we had no mobile phones or the Internet but the BBC spread the news. Many people, including me, walked into town; the Market Square and Embankment was a mass of people cheering and hugging each other in celebration ... and did some people have too much to drink? No, because the pubs and hotels were so low in stocks of drinks they ran out and closed at 7.00pm!

Ken Wells


THANK YOU from SMART Prebend Centre


We just want to take a moment to say '**Thank You.**'


Because of your regular support, we've been able to make a real difference at the Prebend Centre - and beyond. Your on-going


commitment means that people experiencing homelessness don't just get through the day - they begin to rebuild their lives.


Here's what your support has helped us achieve over the last financial year:


 **1,300 breakfasts served** Every weekday, people arrived to a warm space and a proper breakfast. It's more than food - it's a sign that someone cares.


 **5,980 hot lunches** For those who don't know where their next meal is coming from, this is a lifeline.

 **3,840 support sessions and 1,203 prevention sessions** These one-to-one conversations often spark the first steps toward recovery and stability.

 **2,860 showers** A chance to feel human again. To get clean, get warm, and get ready for what's next.

 **670 medical sessions** Vital GP and nurse appointments for people who might otherwise go without.

 **624 volunteer-led sessions** Games, quizzes, chats, and a sense of community that reminds people they're not alone.

 And thanks to your support, we've been able to kit out our kitchen and keep it stocked with fresh ingredients via FareShare - so every meal we serve is both filling and nutritious.

But your impact doesn't end there. This year we opened our 'female only' support clinic. The only one of its kind in our area.

Getting Away from the Streets

Some of the women we meet through outreach or at the Prebend Centre don't sleep rough in doorways or parks. Many are hidden - sofa surfing, or spending nights with people who expect something in return. Some are caught in cycles of exploitation or survival sex work, often with nowhere safe to turn.

At SMART, we're creating ways out.

We offer a women-only drop-in space - somewhere quiet, safe, and welcoming. It's a place to talk, and access medical support without judgement. A place to get clean clothes, food, and the support to make decisions about what's next.

One woman we support had been exchanging sex for somewhere to stay. She was referred to us by another woman in the same situation. At first, she came just for a shower and something to eat. After a few weeks, she stayed to chat. Eventually, she asked for help getting into supported accommodation. Today, she's in a safe, stable place and is reconnecting with her children.

This might seem small from the outside - but it can change everything. At Rogers Court, we've hosted **52 breakfast mornings**, delivered **252 in-depth support sessions**, and helped **6 residents move on to stable homes**.

Through our outreach team, we've connected with **443 people sleeping rough** - offering food, water, and the first steps towards safety and support.

We know times are tough for all of us right now. As the number of people facing homelessness continues to rise, there are days we feel out of our depth, wondering how we can keep going. And then your donation arrives. It reminds us that we're not alone, others really care too.

We want you to know that every penny you give is spent prudently and in the best possible place. That's our commitment to you. What you give is more than just money; it's the push we need to keep going, to take those steps so that others can take theirs toward a better future.

We couldn't do any of this without you. Thank you for being part of this work.



More Wise Words from Ken

Problems are sent to us to make us think - not to make us worry.

All you need is love, but a little chocolate now and then doesn't hurt!

Christian Aid Week 11 – 17 May 2025



Seven days, so many ways. How will you make lasting change this Christian Aid Week?

Push back against the inhumanity of poverty.

Please make a difference today by donating via Bunyan Meeting's e-envelope:

<https://fundraise.christianaid.org.uk/envelope-2025/bunyan-meeting>

or using this QR code



Your donation is anonymous but we will be able to see how much Bunyan Meeting has raised, including Gift Aid.

If you are unable to give online please call 020 7523 2269 to donate over the telephone or by using the paper envelopes available in the church foyer.

Watch the Christian Aid Week 2025 film here:

<https://youtu.be/0JS7n0RLp8>

Thank you

Ian and Ann

Wednesday Workshops - Art for Wellbeing

Spring 2025



Art for Wellbeing workshops at Basement at Bunyan are back. We deliver a variety of arts and crafts workshops by a different local artist each week. All classes are guided and aimed at a beginner's level.

Only £7 per week, all materials and refreshments included. Activities this term include lino cutting, Wycinanki, silk painting, screen printing and stitched landscapes.

April 23rd - May 21st (5 weeks) £35

There are two classes each Wednesday.

10am-12pm (2 available) and 1pm-3pm (5 spaces available)

Please state your preference and get a booking confirmation before paying.

Contact Anne-Marie Abbate to book your place or to ask for more details

email amabbate@yahoo.com or tel 07775 973501

Payment can be made by cash, cheque or BACS to Bunyan Trust 60-02-13 71205837
Basement at Bunyan, Mill Street, Bedford.



BASEMENT AT BUNYAN
MILL STREET BEDFORD MK40 3EU

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cwscrimgeour@gmail.com

19 - 25
MAY

PV: MAY 19
6PM-8PM

This week at Bunyan Meeting

MONDAY 5th May

May Day Bank Holiday, Church, Office and Museum closed

TUESDAY 6th May

Study Circle 1.00pm, Foyer

WEDNESDAY 7th May

Wednesday Workshops 10.00am-12noon & 1.00pm-3.00pm

Prayer Meeting 1.00pm, Deacons' Vestry

Lunchtime service 1.30pm, Church led by Rev'd Chris Damp

Friendship Group 2.00pm, Church

THURSDAY 8th May

Knit & Natter 11.00am – 12noon, Coffee Shop

COFFEE SHOP

Open Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday

10.00am – 1.00pm (2.00pm on Wednesdays)

JOHN BUNYAN MUSEUM

Museum's opening times:

Tuesday to Saturday 11am to 4pm (last entry 3.45pm).

www.bunyanmeeting.co.uk/planning-your-visit

BASEMENT AT BUNYAN

The Basement Gallery

The next exhibition: *Paintings by Giacomo and
Photography by Cameron*

Tuesday 19th May – Saturday 24th May 2025

Opening times: as Museum

Contact Information

Bunyan Meeting, Mill Street, Bedford MK40 3EU

Minister:

Rev'd Christopher J Damp MA BD

Day off: Monday

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01234 353730 (Manse)

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Acting Church Treasurers:

Brian Cornish, Andrew Duthie

Acting Organist

Jocelyn Harper LLCM, ARCM

Church Secretary:

Sue Gauley **Tel:** 01234 306772

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Museum Director:

Nicola Sherhod **Tel:** 01234 270303

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[Any views expressed in articles in the News Letter are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent church policy or the views of the Minister, Officers of the church or the News Letter Editor]

News Letter deadline

Please send items to the Editor, Jocelyn Harper,

email: jos.harpy@ntlworld.com Tel: 406969 by 6pm on Tuesday for inclusion in the Sunday newsletter. Thank you

Bunyan Meeting Charity No: 248195