



Bunyan Meeting

Mill Street

Bedford

Sunday 31st August 2025

The Eleventh Sunday after Trinity



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.

On the first and third Sunday there is Communion and a box for the communion offering will be placed in the Foyer.

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

Our services today

- | | |
|---------|---|
| 11.00am | Morning worship
conducted by Mr Michael Abbott |
| 6.30pm | Evening worship
conducted by Mr Michael Abbott |

Our services next Sunday

- | | |
|---------|---|
| 11.00am | Morning worship with Communion
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 Heather Caves
"in memory of my dear husband Brian"

The offering for Sunday 24th August was £982.73
(£232.73 was given in Church and an average of £750 in direct giving).

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

Brian Sleight, father of Stephen

Pam Jameson

Chris Damp, for rest and refreshment during his holiday

Richard Crane

Anna Shaw

Robert Gauley, Norman's brother

Adam, 14 year old relative of Gilly and Alan, undergoing treatment for a very rare cancer.

For your prayers

The special prayer for the Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

O God, who declarest thy almighty power most chiefly in shewing mercy and pity: Mercifully grant unto us such a measure of thy grace, that we, running the way of thy commandments, may obtain thy gracious promises, and be made partakers of thy heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Baptist Union

Baptist Colleges prepare women and men for pastoral and missional leadership: they train the next generation of accredited Baptist ministers and pioneers; they enable those wishing to specialise in chaplaincy, evangelism, counselling, pastoral supervision and children's, youth and families; they provide a broad range of courses to enhance the skills of local church leaders; and they facilitate theological learning at every level from beginners' studies to doctorates. Please pray for the staff and students at our Baptist Colleges. www.baptist.org.uk/colleges

Congregational Federation

Union Chapel, Islington

Please pray for the continuing worship and witness of the church.

Kentish Town

Please pray for the continuing worship and witness of the church.

MORNING WORSHIP at 11.00am
Hymns from Baptist Praise and Worship

Opening Voluntaries

Welcome and Notices

Call to Worship

Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

Hymn

1. Jesus! the Name high over all,
In hell or earth or sky;
Angels and men before it fall,
And devils fear and fly.

2. Jesus! the Name to sinners dear,
The Name to sinners giv'n;
It scatters all their guilty fear,
It turns their hell to Heav'n.

3. Jesus! the prisoner's fetters breaks,
And bruises Satan's head;

Power into strengthless souls it speaks,
And life into the dead.

4. O that the world might taste and see
The riches of His grace!

The arms of love that compass me
Would all the world embrace.

5. His only righteousness I show,
His saving grace proclaim;
'Tis all my business here below
To cry "Behold the Lamb!"

6. Happy, if with my latest breath
I may but gasp His Name,
Preach Him to all and cry in death,
"Behold, behold the Lamb!"

Charles Wesley (1707 – 1788)

Introduction to Theme

Hymn No. 350

'Man of sorrows', wondrous name

First Reading

Genesis 4 v 1 – 16 (page 6)

Read by Cherry Protheroe

Second Reading

Hebrews 11 v 1 – 10 (page 1209)

Read by Brian Cornish

Hymn No. 220

All you that pass by

Sermon

Hymn

1. Glory be to Jesus,
Who in bitter pains
Poured for me the life blood
From his sacred veins!

2. Grace and life eternal
In that blood I find,
Blest be his compassion
Infinitely kind!

3. Blest through endless ages
Be the precious stream
Which from endless torment
Doth the world redeem!

4. Abel's blood for vengeance
Pleaded to the skies;
But the blood of Jesus
For our pardon cries.

5. Oft as it is sprinkled
On our guilty hearts,
Satan in confusion
Terror-struck departs;

6. Oft as earth exulting
Wafts its praise on high,
Angel hosts, rejoicing,
Make their glad reply.

7. Lift ye then your voices;
Swell the mighty flood;
Louder still and louder
Praise the precious blood.

Anon translated by Edward Caswall 1814 - 1788

Prayers of Intercession

Offering and Dedication

Hymn

- 1 My faith looks up to thee,
thou Lamb of Calvary,
Saviour divine!
Now hear me while I pray,
take all my guilt away,
O let me from this day
be wholly thine.
- 2 May thy rich grace impart
strength to my fainting heart,
my zeal inspire.
As thou hast died for me,
O may my love to thee
pure, warm and changeless be,
a living fire.
- 3 While life's dark maze I tread,
and griefs around me spread,

be thou my guide;
bid darkness turn to day,
wipe sorrow's tears away,
nor let me ever stray
from thee aside.

4 When ends life's transient dream,
when death's cold sullen stream
shall o'er me roll,
blest Saviour, then in love,
fear and distrust remove;
O bear me safe above,
a ransomed soul.

Ray Palmer (1808-1887)

The Blessing

Closing Voluntary

CCLI Licence No. 3740

EVENING WORSHIP at 6.30pm
Hymns from Baptist Praise and Worship

Welcome and Notices

Call to Worship

Hymn No. 328

And can it be

Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

First Reading

Romans 5 v 1 – 17 (page 1132)

Hymn No. 233

When I survey

Second Reading

I Corinthians 15 v 20-22 & 45-57 (page 1156)

Prayers of Intercession

Hymn

I. High in the heav'ns, eternal God,
Thy goodness in full glory shines;

Thy truth shall break through every cloud
That veils and darkens Thy designs.

2. Forever firm Thy justice stands,
As mountains their foundations keep;
Wise are the wonders of Thy hands;
Thy judgments are a mighty deep.

3. Thy providence is kind and large
Both man and beast Thy bounty share;
The whole creation is Thy charge,
But saints are Thy peculiar care.

4. My God, how excellent Thy grace,
Whence all our hope and comfort spring!
The sons of Adam in distress
Fly to the shadow of Thy wing.

5. From the provisions of Thy house
We shall be fed with sweet repast;
There mercy like a river flows,
And brings salvation to our taste.

6. Life, like a fountain, rich and free,
Springs from the presence of the Lord;
And in Thy light our souls shall see
The glories promised in Thy Word.

Isaac Watts (1674 – 1748)

Sermon

Silent Prayer

Offering and Dedication

Hymn No. 562

Praise to the Holiest

The Blessing

Closing Voluntary

CCLI Licence No. 3740

Bunyan Meeting News Letter

We welcome Michael Abbott who will lead our services today.

I am pleased to be back with you again today. I regularly preach in a number of churches in the area, as well as doing open-air work in Bedford and Luton with Andy Little from the Open Air Mission. I also chair the Pilgrim's Friend Society which runs Dorothea Court in Park Avenue (as well as other housing schemes and care homes around the country). We were pleased to welcome some of you on a visit to Dorothea Court recently and we are grateful to Chris for his support of the work there.

One thing I find fascinating about the Scriptures is seeing the link between Old Testament characters and the Lord Jesus Christ. This morning, we will be thinking about Abel as a type or picture of Christ. In the evening, we will look at Christ as the 'Second Adam' and note the contrast with the first Adam. There is a close link between the two: Abel found acceptance with God through the offering of a Lamb, and Jesus is 'The Lamb of God' who came to offer Himself for the sin of Adam's race. As the hymn writer put it: "Abel's blood for vengeance pleaded to the skies, but the blood of Jesus for our pardon cries".

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

This week we launch our **Stewardship Campaign** at Bunyan Meeting. Listen out and look out!

Next Sunday, 7th September, there will be an envelope for you to collect from the church foyer (if you usually worship with us from home then it will come with your weekly posting).

The theme is "**Exalting Christ, Equipping God's People, Engaging the World**". Please think about and pray as to how you might fulfil this, as a member of the worshipping community at Bunyan Meeting 'A Community of Christians seeking to show God's love for the world through their life, work and worship'.

Are you musical, creative, sociable, a good orator, practical, outgoing, an organiser, good aurally, financially comfortable, technical, historically and

culturally inclined, comfortable working with children, artistic, a thinker? Or is there something else you could bring to the life of our church? We all have our own particular gifts and talents to bring to the life of the church so please do not be shy in coming forward.

If we want Bunyan Meeting to thrive and grow then we all need to contribute a little more, if we possibly can.

As was said last week, training will be given where needed and there will be those long-standing volunteers to guide you through your first few weeks. So, when you get your Stewardship form to complete, do please give it prayerful consideration and ✓ a few boxes and return it to the box in the church foyer not later than Sunday 21st September 2025.

Thank you, we look forward to a fruitful harvest.

Cherry Protheroe on behalf of the Minister and Deacons

THANK YOU

Thank you for the beautiful flowers given to us on Sunday evening. They are being much appreciated and enjoyed.

Ian and Liz Densham

Wise Words from Ken

We are all in the gutter, but some of us are looking at the stars.

Friendship Group

The first meeting of the new session is on Wednesday 3rd September, beginning at 2.15pm. We look forward to hearing from Mrs Pat Roberts. All are welcome to join us.

Wednesday Workshops

Art for Wellbeing

Autumn 2025



Wednesday Workshops at Basement at Bunyan (now in its eighth year) are back after the summer break. We deliver a variety of arts and crafts workshops by different local artists each week. All classes are guided, fully accessible and aimed at a beginner's level within a welcoming social environment.

Only £7 per week. All materials and refreshments are included.

September 17th - October 22nd (6 weeks) £42

November 5th - December 10th (6 weeks) £42

There are two classes each Wednesday.

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

Basement at Bunyan, Mill Street, Bedford MK40 3EU

(Please use the John Bunyan Museum entrance – the museum is open Tues – Sat 11am-4pm)



CHRIS LOCK

Exhibition of Paintings and prints

Basement@Bunyan Art Gallery

Mill Street Bedford MK40 3EU

September 2-9 11- 4pm (exc. Sunday)

Meet the artist September 2nd 6-8 pm

chrislockartist.com



This week at Bunyan Meeting

TUESDAY 2nd September 2025

Renew Wellbeing 10.00am – 1.00pm, Coffee Shop

WEDNESDAY 3rd September

Deacons Meeting 9.30am, Harrowden Room

Prayer Meeting 12.45pm, Deacons' Vesty

Lunchtime service 1.30pm, Church led by Ruth Broomhall

Friendship Group 2.15pm, Church

THURSDAY 4th September

Knit & Natter, 11.00am-12noon, Coffee Shop

SATURDAY 6th September

Bible Study 10.00am, Deacons' Vestry

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

2nd – 9th September

Exhibition of Paintings and prints by Chris Lock.

Opening times: as Museum

Contact Information

Bunyan Meeting, Mill Street, Bedford MK40 3EU

Minister:

Rev'd Christopher J Damp MA BD

Day off: Monday

Tel: 01234 353465 (Office)
01234 353730 (Manse)

email: minister@bunyanmeeting.co.uk

Acting Church Treasurers: Brian Cornish, Andrew Duthie

Acting Organist Jocelyn Harper LLCM, ARCM

Church Secretary: Sue Gauley **Tel:** 01234 306772

email: gauleysusan@gmail.com

Museum Director: Nicola Sherhod **Tel:** 01234 270303

email: curator@bunyanmeeting.co.uk

**Basement @ Bunyan
Coordinator:**

Anne-Marie Abbate **Tel:** 07775 973501

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Caretaking Team:

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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