



Bunyan Meeting

Mill Street

Bedford

Sunday 20th April 2025

Easter Day



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 this Sunday – Easter Sunday

11.00am Morning worship with Communion
conducted by our Minister

6.30pm Evening worship with Communion
conducted by our Minister

Our services next Sunday

9.30am Christ, Coffee & Croissants, All Age worship

11.00am Morning worship
conducted by Mr Michael Abbott

6.30pm Evening worship
conducted by Mr Michael Abbott

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 for Easter Sunday

The offering for Sunday 13th April was £1255.94 (£505.94 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 Easter Sunday

God of glory,
by the raising of your Son
you have broken the chains of death and hell:
fill your Church with faith and hope;
for a new day has dawned
and the way to life stands open
in our Saviour Jesus Christ.

The Baptist Union

It is Easter and we celebrate hope. If Christ has been raised, anything can happen and no good thing is impossible. Alleluia! Prayer for Easter Morning from *Baptist Praise and Worship*

Congregational Federation

Pilgrims' Way, East Ham

Continued prayers are needed for the building of bridges in our ongoing relationship with the circuit. Pray for the ongoing financial shortfalls in the circuit and property problems. Pilgrims Way Church may be without a minister in 2026, and we pray for guidance as the church and its members consider the future.

Pray for those struggling with health issues, for the bereaved and the upcoming AGM, that people will come forward to play their part.

Harting

We are celebrating 225 years of free church witness in July this year and would like prayer for our celebrations over the coming months.

MORNING WORSHIP at 11.00am
Easter Day

Minister: Christ is risen!

Congregation: He is risen indeed!

Welcome and Notices

Introit

Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

Hymn

1. Christ, the Lord, is risen today, Alleluia!
Sons of men and angels say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!

2. Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Lo! our sun's eclipse is o'er, Alleluia!
Lo! He sets in blood no more, Alleluia!

3. Vain the stone, the watch, the seal; Alleluia!
Christ hath burst the gates of hell: Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids His rise; Alleluia!
Christ hath opened paradise. Alleluia!

4. Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!
Where O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!
Once He died our souls to save, Alleluia!
Where thy victory, O grave? Alleluia!

5. Hail, the Lord of earth and heaven, Alleluia!
Praise to Thee by both be given, Alleluia!
Thee we greet triumphant now, Alleluia!
Hail, the Resurrection, Thou, Alleluia!

CHARLES WESLEY 1697 - 1788

Introduction to Theme

First Reading

I Corinthians 15 v 1 – 11 (page 1155)

Read by Lesley Jones

Hymn

1. Low in the grave He lay,
Jesus, my Saviour;
Waiting the coming day,
Jesus my Lord.

*Up from the grave He arose,
with a mighty triumph o'er His foes;
He arose a victor from the dark domain, And He lives for ever
with His saints to reign:
He arose! He arose!
Alleluia! Christ arose!*

2. Vainly they watch His bed,
Jesus, my Saviour;
Vainly they seal the dead,
Jesus, my Lord.

Up from the grave He arose,

3. Death cannot keep his prey,
Jesus, my Saviour;
He tore the bars away,
Jesus my Lord.

Up from the grave He arose,

ROBERT LOWRY 1826 - 1899

Second Reading:

Luke 24 v 1 – 12 (page 1061)

Read by Sheila Mousley

Anthem

Sermon

Hymn

1. I know that my Redeemer lives!

what joy the blest assurance gives!

He lives, he lives, who once was dead;

he lives, my everlasting head!

2. He lives, to bless me with his love,
he lives, to plead for me above,
he lives, my hungry soul to feed;
he lives, to help in time of need.

3. He lives, and grants me daily breath;
he lives, and I shall conquer death:
he lives my mansion to prepare,
he lives to lead me safely there.

4. He lives, all glory to his name,
he lives, my Saviour, still the same;
what joy the blest assurance gives!
I know that my Redeemer lives!

Samuel Medley (1738-1799) based on Job 19 v25

Prayers of Intercession

Offering, voluntary and dedication

As the offering is brought forward, we stand and sing the Doxology.

Invitation to Communion

Hymn

1. Come, risen Lord, and deign to be our guest;
Nay, let us be thy guests; the feast is thine;
Thyself at thine own board make manifest,
In this our sacrament of bread and wine.
2. We meet, as in that upper room they met;
Thou at the table, blessing, yet dost stand:
'This is my body': so thou givest yet:
Faith still receives the cup as from thy hand.
3. One body we, one body who partake,
One Church united in communion blest;
One name we bear, one bread of life we
break,
With all thy saints on earth and saints at rest.
4. One with each other, Lord, for one in
thee,
Who art one saviour and one living Head;
Then open thou our eyes, that we may see;
Be known to us in breaking of the bread.

George Wallace Briggs (1875–1959)

© Oxford University Press

Communion

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

Hymn

1. Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son;
Endless is the victory, Thou o'er death hast won;
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
Kept the folded grave clothes where Thy body lay.

*Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
Endless is the victory, Thou o'er death hast won.*

2. Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
Lovingly He greets us, scatters fear and gloom;
Let the Church with gladness, hymns of triumph
sing;
For her Lord now liveth, death hath lost its sting.

3. No more we doubt Thee, glorious Prince of
Life;
Life is naught without Thee; aid us in our strife;
Make us more than conquerors, through Thy
deathless love:
Bring us safe through Jordan to Thy home
above.

EDMOND BUDRY 1854 – 1932 Tr. R BIRCH HOYLE 1875 – 1939

The Blessing

Closing Voluntary

EVENING WORSHIP at 6.30pm
Hymns from Rejoice and Sing

Opening Voluntaries

Welcome and Notices

Call to Worship

Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

Hymn

- 1 The day of resurrection,
earth, tell it out abroad!
the passover of gladness,
the passover of God!
from death to life eternal,
from earth unto the sky,
our Christ has brought us over
with hymns of victory.
- 2 Our hearts be pure from evil,
that we may see aright
the Lord in rays eternal
of resurrection light;

and, listening to His accents,
may hear, so calm and plain,
His own 'All hail!' and, hearing
may raise the victor strain.

3 Now let the heavens be joyful,
Let earth her song begin,
Let the round world keep triumph
and all that is therein;
let all things seen and unseen
their notes of gladness blend,
for Christ the Lord is risen,
our joy that has no end.

John of Damascus (c.675-749) tr. John Mason Neale (1818-1866)

Reading

Luke 24 v 13 – 35 (page 1061)

Prayers of Intercession

Hymn No. 240

Jesus, Lord, Redeemer

Sermon

Silent Prayer

Offering and Dedication

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

Hymn

- 1 Among us our beloved stands,
and bids us see his nail-pierced hands,
points to his wounded feet and side,
blest emblems of the crucified.

- 2 When at his table sits the Lord,
what generous food adorns his board;
when Jesus comes his guests to meet,
the wine how rich, the bread how sweet!

- 3 If now with eyes earth-bound and dim,
we see the signs, but see not him,
then may his love the veil displace
and help us see him face to face.

Charles H Spurgeon (1834–1892)

Communion

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

Hymn No. 238

Good Christians all, rejoice and sing!

The Blessing

Closing Voluntary

CCLI Licence No. 3740

Bunyan Meeting News Letter



Jesus Christ Is Risen Today Alleluia!

Loving God, as we celebrate Easter,
renew our faith and refresh our spirits.

May the resurrection of Jesus inspire us to live with
conviction, share your love with others, and walk in
the light of His truth.

Grant us the grace to be faithful disciples, reflecting
your glory in all we do. Amen.

The cross has been placed in the church garden.

We are all invited to place flowers at the foot of the cross on Easter
Sunday morning.

THANK YOU

Katherine, Finn, Peter and Matthew would like to say thank you very
much for the Church flowers and for your prayers. They have brought
much comfort to all of us - thank you.

Thank you for the lovely flowers which I have much enjoyed especially at
such a sad time for all my family.

Alison

First and foremost, a much delayed but sincere and heartfelt thanks to all
who have shown me such support through prayer, encouragement and
kindness particularly since my recent stays in Bedford and Papworth
Hospitals. The impact of that on my life has been unexpected and quite
seismic but it's been the multitude of kindnesses I have been shown that
have made my heart smile on more than one occasion! Thank you each
and every one! Never forget - a smile can change the world. It warms the
heart of lonely people of all ages, from very young to older than me! A
smile, perhaps accompanied by silent prayer, changes the world.

Sue Hammond

BMS (BAPTIST MISSIONARY SOCIETY)

BIRTHDAY SCHEME UPDATE

BMS (the Baptist Missionary Service) works together with global organisations, mission workers and supporters across three key areas to share Christ and nurture disciples; alleviate suffering and injustice; and enable all God's people to play their part in his mission.

HEART FOR THE GOSPEL

Support for BMS World Mission takes the good news of Jesus to where it's hardly been heard so all the world can experience abundant life in Christ. From mainland Europe to northern India, the hill tracts of Thailand to underground churches in North Africa, support makes it possible for BMS to partner with church planters and send people from anywhere to everywhere, building up the Global Church where the need for sharing the gospel is greatest.

HOPE FOR THE WORLD

BMS World Mission helps tackle injustice, where those who bear the least responsibility suffer the most. From sub-Saharan Africa to the forgotten areas of Afghanistan, from Mozambique all the way on Africa's east coast to Sierra Leone in the west, support means BMS can work with partners to improve all aspects of life, including health, access to justice and education. We can do more together than we ever could alone.

HELP FOR THE JOURNEY

BMS World Mission walks with those forced to leave home, in a time where more people than ever before are displaced. From vital work with Palestinians and Syrians forced into Lebanon to coming alongside those landing in Lesbos, from Cypriot refugee camps to work training up new Christians among the displaced; your support means BMS can work to establish partnerships of humanity in places of transit and creating networks of Christian welcome in destination countries.

Mousa told BMS about the influx of thousands of people who arrived in his town seeking refuge, displaced by violence in the fighting between Israel and Hezbollah in Lebanon. Serving at a church supported by BMS World Mission's partner Thimar, Mousa felt desperately for people he could see with nowhere to go, forced to shelter and sleep in their cars. "We didn't even have cups to give people water," he said.

Thank God, BMS supporters stepped in. Because of the support of BMS, Mousa's church was there to help when women like Hafra* (not her real name) arrived at their doorstep. Hafra's story can be read on the BMS website to see the amazing difference such support makes.

Literally, every penny counts - it's from drops of water that puddles, streams, rivers, lakes, seas, and oceans are formed!

The BMS Birthday Scheme

If you wish to support the important work of BMS World Mission, please contact Sue Hammond for details of their Birthday Scheme. It's a great way to celebrate a birthday as well as helping a great cause.

'Happy Birthday'

Jesse Smith	28 April
Esther Gordon	29 April
Sue Gauley	1 May
Peter Ormerod	5 May
Ian Rowlands	6 May
Brian Stevens	10 May

Sue Hammond

Basement at Bunyan

Last week we held an exhibition by Bedfordshire Arts Society; they pass on their thanks to everyone who supported this. They had over 300 visitors through the doors and sold over £700 worth of art. They have booked their next exhibition for November.

We have a few spaces available on the Wednesday Workshops. All classes are aimed at beginners so you do not need any experience; if you would like to come along and get creative with a friendly group, please get in touch with Anne-Marie amabbate@yahoo.com or 07775973501.

April 2025

Impact



Prayer & Praise



Trish

Praise: Give thanks for the Easter Activity sessions held in different schools. We used various resources: an Out of the Box Easter story, Easter Pass the Parcel, making crafts as well as having a creative response time. The children had some great questions and thoughts, which came through in their creative process. Please pray for the children and staff to be inspired by the Easter story and to be reminded of the things they have heard.

Prayer: Please pray for the Easter activities that Becky and I will be helping with over the Easter holidays. Pray for all our wonderful volunteers, who give their time to help with events, RE workshops, creative prayer and lunch clubs. Please pray for Becky and I to be refreshed physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually over the Easter holidays. Thank you.



Becky

Praise: We give thanks for an amazing week of Easter Experience. God blessed us with great weather and a fantastic team of wonderful people who helped bring the true story of Easter alive for over 300 children and staff. One child said they wished they could come back every day. A teacher said it was such a valuable experience for the children, that they learn so much more than just hearing the story read to them. Please pray that they will recall the things they learned over the Easter season.

Prayer: May diaries are mostly filled with Lifepath John Bunyan activities: the 3 days of Lifepath itself but also visiting schools beforehand to help get them prepared for the event, teaching them songs and actions and generally getting them excited about the whole event. Please pray for Trish and I as we visit the schools, that we will not only be able to teach them the songs and actions in a clear and simple way but also that we will be able to share some of Bunyan's passion for God too.



Looking ahead: Please pray for schools as we contact them next term for the transition assemblies, workshops, prayer spaces and retreat days for their Year 6 pupils. For these, we use the It's Your Move book from Scripture Union. They are invaluable for helping pupils through that potentially difficult time of change and also sharing how God can support them. Please see the separate flyer.

Please pray for our Church Champions as they continue to raise awareness of Impact's work within their churches. Pray that their church leadership and congregations will be receptive to hearing about us and supporting our work through prayer, volunteering and donating. Thank you.

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
He was with God in the beginning. John: 1 verses 1,2*

Bedford Area Schools Christian Support Trust (Registered charity number 1010412)
www.impactbedford.org.uk

Wednesday Workshops - Art for Wellbeing Spring 2025



Art for wellbeing workshops at Basement at Bunyan are back after the Easter break. 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-12noon (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 MK40 3 EU

This week at Bunyan Meeting

WEDNESDAY 23rd April

Wednesday Workshops 10.00-12noon & 1.00-3.00pm, Harrowden room

Prayer Meeting 1.00pm, Deacons' Vestry

Wednesday lunchtime service 1.30pm, led by Rev'd Dr Janet Wootton

Museum Committee 5.15pm

THURSDAY 24th April

Knit & Natter 11.00am – 12noon, Coffee Shop Foyer

SATURDAY 26th April

Brahms at the Tavern talk 6.00pm, Church

The Hungarian Connection Concert 7.30pm, Church

Both events part of the Bedford Music Club 'Brahms at the Red Hedgehog'

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

Next Exhibition:

Giacomo and Cameron, Tuesday May 19th – 24th 2025

Opening times: as Museum

Contact Information

Bunyan Meeting, Mill Street, Bedford MK40 3EU

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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