



# Bunyan Meeting

## Mill Street

## Bedford

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2025

The First 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**

- 9.30am Christ, Coffee and Croissants, All Age worship
- 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 Michael and Pauline Searle

**The offering** for Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> April was £1232.10 (£482.10 was given in Church and an average of £750 in direct giving).

£213.80 was given on Good Friday in support of the Samaritans.

**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 First Sunday after Easter**

Almighty Father, who hast given thine only Son to die for our sins, and to rise again for our justification: Grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness, that we may always serve thee in pureness of living and truth; through the merits of the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **The Baptist Union**

Earth Day was on 22 April – a day to raise awareness of the importance of looking after our environment. Please pray for the Baptist Union Environment Network (BUEN) which exists to inspire and enable Baptists Together to recognise the goodness of God's creation and share in God's mission to care for it, seeking justice for both creation and people. [www.baptist.org.uk/buen](http://www.baptist.org.uk/buen)

## **Congregational Federation**

### Herstmonceux

Please pray for the continuing worship and witness of the church

### Higham

We praise God for a steady number of visiting worshippers and for many opportunities for engagement with the village community, notably a campaign to keep open a GP surgery in the village.

Please pray for progress with the replacement of the sanctuary roof. It is an immediate necessity, but the professional support is very slow.

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 No. 391

*Tell out my soul*

Introduction to Theme

First Reading

Psalm 140 (page 629)

Read by Julie Barker

Anthem

Second Reading

I Samuel 17 v 1 – 10 & 38 – 51 (page 288)

Read by Rev'd Dr Janet Wootton

Hymn No. 380

*How firm a foundation*

# Sermon

## Hymn

1 'We rest on Thee', our Shield and our Defender!

We go not forth alone against the foe;  
Strong in Thy strength, safe in Thy keeping tender,  
'We rest on Thee, and in Thy name we go.'  
Strong in Thy strength, safe in Thy keeping tender,  
'We rest on Thee, and in Thy Name we go.'

2 Yes, 'in Thy name', O Captain of salvation!  
In Thy dear Name, all other names above;  
Jesus our Righteousness, our sure Foundation,  
Our Prince of glory and our King of love.  
Jesus our Righteousness, our sure Foundation,  
Our Prince of glory and our King of Love.

3 We go in faith, our own great weakness feeling,  
And needing more each day Thy grace to know:  
Yet from our hearts a song of triumph pealing;  
'We rest on Thee, and in Thy name we go.'  
Yet from our hearts a song of triumph pealing;  
'We rest on Thee, and in Thy Name we go.'

4 'We rest on Thee', -our Shield and our Defender!

Thine is the battle, Thine shall be the praise;  
When passing through the gates of pearly splendour,

Victors, we rest with Thee, through endless days.

When passing through the gates of pearly splendour,

Victors, we rest with Thee, through endless days.

Edith A G Cherry (1872-1897)

## Prayers of Intercession

## Offering and Dedication

## Hymn

I See the Conqueror mounts in triumph,  
see the King in royal state  
riding on the clouds, his chariot  
to his heavenly palace gate!  
Hark! the choirs of angel voices  
joyful alleluias sing,  
and the gates on high are opened  
to receive their heavenly King.

2 He who on the Cross did suffer,  
he who from the grave arose—  
he has vanquished sin and Satan,  
he by death has spoiled his foes:  
while he lifts his hands in blessing,  
he is parted from his friends;  
while their eager eyes behold him,  
in the cloud the Lord ascends

3 You have raised our human nature  
on the clouds to God's right hand;  
there we sit in heavenly places,  
there with you in glory stand:  
Jesus reigns, adored by angels;  
Man with God is on the throne!  
mighty Lord, in your ascension  
we by faith can see our own

Christopher Wordsworth (1807-1885)

## The Blessing

## Closing Voluntary



EVENING WORSHIP at 6.30pm  
Hymns from Rejoice and Sing

Welcome and Notices

Call to Worship

Hymn No. 67  
*Immortal, invisible*

Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

First Reading  
Psalm 89 v 1 – 18 (page 597)

Hymn No. 43  
*I sing the almighty power of God*

Second Reading  
2 Samuel 7 v 1 – 29 (page 310)

Prayers of Intercession

Hymn No. 94  
*Give to our God immortal praise*

Sermon

Silent Prayer

Offering and Dedication

Hymn No. 54

*A sovereign protector I have*

The Blessing

Closing Voluntary

CCLI Licence No. 3740

# Bunyan Meeting News Letter

## Visiting Minister

Today we welcome Mr Michael Abbott to lead our worship

“It’s good to be visiting Bunyan Meeting again after speaking at an evening service in November. Today we will be considering events in the life of King David and seeing him both as a picture of Christ and as a pattern for our learning

I currently attend two churches, an Evangelical Church at the Wixams on a Sunday morning and Providence Baptist, Bedford, in the evening. I am also Chairman of Pilgrims’ Friend Society, a national charity that runs Christian care homes and housing schemes for the elderly, including Dorothea Court in Park Avenue, Bedford.”

## EASTER HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES 2025



Thanks to the work of Trish and Becky from **Impact** Bedford, we ran two very successful ‘Easter Holiday



Activities’ sessions on Tuesdays 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> April. 29 children and 22 adults participated, and we gave out 39 free lunches! There was a wide variety of crafts



available over the two days all based around the Easter story and 4 prayer stations depicting scenes from the Easter story: Palm Sunday, the Last Supper, Good Friday [quite dramatic to see the nails and a huge hammer] and the empty tomb on Easter Day. [Personally, I thought the latter was very moving]. These were left



in the church for Palm Sunday so that our congregations could see them. I hope you had a look.



Many thanks to my team of “crafty helpers”:

Veronica Gerig, Pearl Thomas, Anne Price, Doreen Watson, Jenny Gunton, Sheila Mousley,

Ann Rowlands; to Julie Smith and Doreen from the Coffee Shop for making the lunches; Jocelyn who gave us ‘a few notes’ on the organ each day; and of course, our “resident photographer” Ruth Blake [who is also my right-hand woman]. Thanks to our caretaker Jo for setting up and clearing away each week.

It was good to have Matt Farley (Scripture Union, Revealing Jesus) with us for the second Tuesday as well as one of the Trustees from **Impact** Bedford. It is true to say they were both very impressed with what they saw.

I sincerely hope this will be the start of more work in the future at Bunyan Meeting with **Impact**.

## **MISSION & OUTREACH**

### **Primary – Secondary School transfer**

Do you have or know family, friends or neighbours who have children or grandchildren moving from primary to secondary school this summer? Throughout my 36 year career in teaching, I was always involved in the process of working with teachers, parents and the children who would be moving up to my secondary school each year. It can be a difficult and stressful time for some children and for parents too. Moving from a comparatively small primary school of perhaps 90 pupils (some of the village schools have just one class of 30 pupils!) to a secondary school with 1500 or more students aged 11 – 18+, who are big, can be daunting. Scripture Union have produced an excellent full colour A5 booklet “It’s your move” to help with the transfer process. This is what **Impact** is doing in Bedford.

➤ **Could Bunyan Meeting help with this? I hope so.**

If you would like to sponsor a booklet (or two) at £1.38p each or make a donation towards the cost of the booklets, that would be wonderful. Details are below, or you can *pass your donation to me*, and I will ensure it gets to the **Impact** Treasurer. I have a copy of the booklet if you would like to see it.

Thank you in anticipation,

*Cherry Protheroe* Lead Deacon for Mission & Outreach



## It's Your Move 2025

Every year we run transition activities for around 700 Year 6 pupils about to move to secondary school.

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. Even though we get a Mission Partner discount, the 700 books we need do cost a lot so could help us to fund them by making a donation?

With our 50% SU Mission Partner discount it costs £13.80 per pack of 10, so even if you can only donate that amount it would be a big help. You can donate via the QR code or the link below. Thank you.

[www.impactbedford.org.uk/donate](http://www.impactbedford.org.uk/donate)



## THANK YOU

My restricted mobility prevents me from joining you all at church each Sunday but even at my age, modern technology is available to help. I am able to share Sunday Services with you all by using my computer, even at my age this modern technology maintains the quality of life!



Can I also say 'Thank You' for the nice flowers sent to me to welcome me into my new residence.

*Ken Wells*

## 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*

### UCB Bible Notes



The new copies of the Bible Notes (May to July 2025) are now available in the church foyer. Please take copies for your own use and those to give to friends and neighbours.  
**All free.**

## Church Flowers at Easter

A huge thank you to everyone who helped with decorating the church for Easter – those who fetched, carried and prepared the spaces, those who arranged flowers and those who helped to clear up afterwards. We have an amazing team of flower arrangers and although not everyone could be there, we still had 13 on the day, creating the most beautiful arrangements in celebration of our Risen Lord. And thank you to those who gave donations towards the cost of the flowers.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 14 May at 7.30pm in the hall. It's a practical session entitled *Sweetly Scented*. Your challenge is to create an arrangement in any style but using flowers and foliage either of which are scented (preferably sweetly scented).

All are welcome.

*Gilly Millbery*

# This week at Bunyan Meeting

## **MONDAY 28<sup>th</sup> April**

Come & Sing 1.30pm, Church

## **TUESDAY 29<sup>th</sup> April**

Study Circle 1.00pm, Foyer

## **WEDNESDAY 30<sup>th</sup> April**

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

Prayer Meeting 1.00pm, Deacons' Vestry

Lunchtime service 1.30pm, Church

## **THURSDAY 1<sup>st</sup> 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](http://www.bunyanmeeting.co.uk/planning-your-visit)

## **BASEMENT AT BUNYAN**

The Basement Gallery

*The next exhibition: Giacomo and Cameron*

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May – 24<sup>th</sup> May 2025

Opening times: as Museum



# Contact Information

Bunyan Meeting, Mill Street, Bedford MK40 3EU

<b>Minister:</b>	<b>Rev'd Christopher J Damp MA BD</b>
<i>Day off: Monday</i>	
<b>Tel: 01234 353465</b> (Office) <b>01234 353730</b> (Manse)	<b>email:</b> minister@bunyanmeeting.co.uk
<b>Acting Church Treasurers:</b>	Brian Cornish, Andrew Duthie
<b>Acting Organist</b>	Jocelyn Harper LLCM, ARCM
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<b>Basement @ Bunyan Coordinator:</b>	Anne-Marie Abbate <b>Tel:</b> 07775 973501 <b>email:</b> amabbate@yahoo.com
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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](mailto:jos.harpy@ntlworld.com) Tel: 406969 by 6pm on Tuesday for inclusion in the Sunday newsletter. Thank you

Bunyan Meeting Charity No: 248195