



# Bunyan Meeting

## Mill Street

## Bedford

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> August 2025

The Tenth 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<br>conducted by Rev'd Dr Ian Densham |
| 6.30pm  | Evening worship<br>conducted by Rev'd Dr Ian Densham |

## **Our services next Sunday**

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| 11.00am | Morning worship<br>conducted by Mr Michael Abbott |
| 6.30pm  | Evening worship<br>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 by Wendy Richardson  
in memory of her parents

**The offering** for Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> August was £1071.13  
(£321.13 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

# For your prayers

## **The special prayer for the Tenth Sunday after Trinity**

Let thy merciful ears, O Lord, be open to the prayers of thy humble servants; and that they may obtain their petitions make them to ask such things as shall please thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **The Baptist Union**

This week we pray for the Northern Baptist Association, committed to equipping and enabling churches, missional communities and ministers to thrive in their local context.

[www.thenba.org.uk](http://www.thenba.org.uk)

## **Congregational Federation**

### Bethel, Isle of Sheppey

We ask you to pray for Minster, Bethel Church and its congregation – we are a small church with a lesser congregation than we had in past years, but we move forward in faith. Due to the difficulty in getting visiting preachers, the deacons often take the services, but they are always well received. Also, prayers for our Girls and Boys Brigade and for the amazing work the captain and leaders do with the young people; prayers for the many outside organisations that use our premises; and lastly prayers for the people of Sheppey - this lovely island that we live on.

### Isleworth

Prayers for continued support of the Holy Spirit through the year ahead, especially since the death of Antony our retired pastor.

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. 121

*The God of Abraham praise*

Introduction to Theme

First Reading

Isaiah 35 (page 719)

Read by Jenny Gunton

**Hymn**

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound

That saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found;

Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
And grace my fears relieved;  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils and snares,  
I have already come;  
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,  
And grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,  
His Word my hope secures;  
He will my Shield and Portion be,  
As long as life endures.

Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail,  
And mortal life shall cease,  
I shall possess, within the veil,  
A life of joy and peace.

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow,  
The sun forbear to shine;  
But God, who called me here below,  
Will be forever mine.

When we've been there a thousand years,  
Bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise  
Than when we'd first begun.

John Newton, 1725-1807

## Second Reading

Revelation 21 v 1 – ch22 v 5 (page 1249)

Read by Julie Barker

## Hymn

There is a hope that burns within my heart,  
That gives me strength for every passing  
day;

A glimpse of glory now revealed in meagre  
part,

Yet drives all doubt away:

I stand in Christ, with sins forgiven;

And Christ in me, the hope of heaven!

My highest calling and my deepest joy,

To make His will my home.

There is a hope that lifts my weary head,  
A consolation strong against despair,  
That when the world has plunged me in its  
deepest pit,  
I find the Saviour there!  
Through present sufferings, future's fear,  
He whispers 'courage' in my ear.  
For I am safe in everlasting arms,  
And they will lead me home.

There is a hope that stands the test of time,  
That lifts my eyes beyond the beckoning  
grave,  
To see the matchless beauty of a day divine  
When I behold His face!  
When sufferings cease and sorrows die,  
And every longing satisfied.  
Then joy unspeakable will flood my soul,  
For I am truly home.

Stuart Townend & Mark Edwards, (*composed 2007*)



# Sermon

## Hymn

The sands of time are sinking, the dawn of  
Heaven breaks;

The summer morn I've sighed for—the fair,  
sweet morn awakes:

Dark, dark hath been the midnight, but dayspring  
is at hand,

And glory, glory dwelleth in Immanuel's land.

The King there in His beauty, without a veil is  
seen:

It were a well spent journey, though seven  
deaths lay between:

The Lamb with His fair army, doth on Mount  
Zion stand,

And glory, glory dwelleth in Immanuel's land.

O Christ, He is the fountain, the deep, sweet  
well of love!

The streams of earth I've tasted more deep I'll  
drink above:

There to an ocean fullness His mercy doth  
expand,

And glory, glory dwelleth in Immanuel's land.

With mercy and with judgment my web of time  
He wove,  
And aye, the dewes of sorrow were lustred with  
His love;  
I'll bless the hand that guided, I'll bless the heart  
that planned  
When throned where glory dwelleth in  
Immanuel's land.

The Bride eyes not her garment, but her dear  
Bridegroom's face;  
I will not gaze at glory but on my King of grace.  
Not at the crown He giveth but on His pierced  
hand;  
The Lamb is all the glory of Immanuel's land.

I've wrestled on towards Heaven, 'gainst storm  
and wind and tide,  
Now, like a weary traveller that leaneth on his  
guide,  
Amid the shades of evening, while sinks life's  
lingering sand,  
I hail the glory dawning from Immanuel's land.

Anne R. Cousin, 1824-1906

Prayers of Intercession

Offering and Dedication

Hymn No. 668

*There is a land of pure delight*

The Blessing

Closing Voluntary

CCLI Licence No. 3740

EVENING WORSHIP at 6.30pm  
Hymns from Rejoice and Sing

## Welcome and Notices

### Call to Worship

Hymn No. 732

*O Lord, thou art my God and King*

### Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

### First Reading

Daniel 11 v 40 – ch12 v 4 (page 898)

Hymn No. 37

*We give immortal praise*

### Second Reading

Galatians 1 (page 1168)

### Prayers of Intercession

Hymn No. 657

*Rejoice, the Lord is King*

Sermon

Silent Prayer

Offering and Dedication

Hymn No. 656

*Lo! He comes*

The Blessing

Closing Voluntary

CCLI Licence No. 3740

# Bunyan Meeting News Letter

## Coming soon to a church near you!

As we move towards September and harvest, we will be holding a **Stewardship Campaign** at Bunyan Meeting. This will be an audit of the TIME, TALENT and SKILLS of our fellowship: all the members and friends of Bunyan Meeting who join us for worship on a regular basis. We all have something to offer either to the worship life, the learning life, the leadership life, the generous life, the participating and volunteering life; or perhaps you have a hidden skill or talent.

When you arrive at 10.50 or even 10.55 on a Sunday morning there have been a number of people preparing for the service since just after 10.00am. Without them, the church wouldn't be unlocked, the lights put on, communion prepared, the hymn books and orders of service put out and the live streaming wouldn't be alive! It is the same for the evening services.

There are a number of areas in the life of Bunyan Meeting where we are struggling to 'fill the gaps' e.g. welcoming visitors and stewarding at church services; providing a church presence in the basement gallery when there is an exhibition; having that much needed cup of coffee or tea ready at the close of the service. And of course there are new things we could be doing.

So, don't hide your light under a bushel, give some prayerful thought as to how you might be able to help in the future. Where needed, training will be given and there will be those long-standing volunteers to guide you through your first few weeks.

What could you give to your church, God's church, to Bunyan Meeting? Please give it prayerful consideration.

The stewardship campaign will be an opportunity for us to give serious thought as to what we can do in the future at Bunyan Meeting.

Thank you.

*Cherry Protheroe*

## **Church rotas**

We are about to start drawing up the Church rotas for the fourth quarter of the year - **October to December 2025**.

Could you please let us know **by Monday 25 August** if there are any dates you know you definitely **won't** be available?

Thank you

With warm regards

*Ian and Ann*

## **THANK YOU**

I would like to thank all my church family for the lovely Get Well cards and kind thoughts when I was in hospital and in The Taymer nursing home. I am blessed to be at home now.

I am looking after myself now, after a determined battle to get better. God bless all of you.

*Cath Gipson*

## **More Wise Words from Ken**

For many, God only begins to be thought of when everything else has failed.

You only live once but if you do it right, once is enough.

## **Wednesday Workshops**

The Workshops begin again on the 17<sup>th</sup> September – details below:

# 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 17<sup>th</sup> - October 22<sup>nd</sup> (6 weeks) £42

November 5<sup>th</sup> - December 10<sup>th</sup> (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](mailto: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)



## The Basement at Bunyan

Our next exhibition is prints and paintings by Chris Lock.  
See details below:



### 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](http://chrislockartist.com)



# This week at Bunyan Meeting

## **TUESDAY 26<sup>th</sup> August**

Renew Wellbeing 10.00am – 1.00pm, Coffee Shop

## **WEDNESDAY 27<sup>th</sup> August**

Prayer Meeting 12.45pm, Deacons' Vestry (NB Change of time)

Lunchtime service 1.30pm, Church led by Rev'd Dr Janet Wootton

## **THURSDAY 28<sup>th</sup> August**

Crafty Thursdays 11.00am – 3.00pm, Hall

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**

### **Summer exhibition: 'Roger W Martin: a collection'**

*The museum's summer exhibition showcases books, pictures and objects collected by Roger W Martin during his lifetime and donated to the John Bunyan Museum & Library in 2000.*

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> July – 30<sup>th</sup> August 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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**Acting Organist** Jocelyn Harper LLCM, ARCM

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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](mailto:jos.harpy@ntlworld.com) **Tel:** 406969 by 6pm on Tuesday for inclusion in the Sunday newsletter. Thank you

Bunyan Meeting Charity No: 248195