



Bunyan Meeting

Mill Street

Bedford

Sunday 12th January 2025

The First Sunday of the Epiphany



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 | CC&C All Age worship |
| 11.00am | Morning worship
conducted by Mr Thomas Dodd |
| 6.30pm | Evening worship
conducted by Mr Michael Searle |

Our services next Sunday

- | | |
|---------|---|
| 11.00am | Morning worship
conducted by our Minister |
| 6.30pm | Evening worship with Communion
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 Patsy Ingray
In Loving Memory of her son Tony, husband Ernie
and her three siblings.

The offering for Sunday 5th January was £967.25
(£267.25 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

The family and friends of Dorothy Yerrill

The family and friends of Monica Hill

Jo-Ann Gaunt

Ruth Blake

The family and friends of Brian Caves

Mike Lazenby (Cherry's older brother)

Sue Hammond

Stephen Sleight's father, Brian

For your prayers

**The special prayer for the First Sunday
after the Epiphany**

O Lord, we beseech thee mercifully to receive the prayers of thy people which call upon thee; and grant that they may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil the same; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Baptist Union

This week please pray for the South West Baptist Association as they seek to support, encourage and enable the 90 Baptist churches in the South West to tell people the good news that Jesus changes lives. www.swbaptists.org.uk

Congregational Federation

Old Coulsdon

.

MORNING WORSHIP at 11.00am
Hymns from Baptist Praise and Worship

Opening Voluntaries

Words of Welcome

Reading from Scripture and Opening Prayer

Call to Worship

Hymn No. 70

Sing praise to the Lord!

Prayers of Confession, Praise and
Thanksgiving

Introduction to theme

Hymn No. 534

Jesus Christ is waiting

First Reading

Leviticus 26 v 1 – 13 (page 130)

Read by Andrew Duthie

Prayers of Intercession

Hymn No. 554

He lives in us, the Christ of God

The Lord's Prayer

Anthem

Second Bible reading

Philippians 3 v 7 – 14 (page 1180)

Read by Wendy Richardson

Hymn No. 537

May the mind of Christ my Saviour

Sermon

Offering and Dedication

Hymn No. 547

To him we come

Benediction

EVENING WORSHIP at 6.30pm
Hymns from Rejoice and Sing

Welcome and Notices

Call to Worship

Hymn No. 69

Lord of all being, throned afar

Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

First Reading

Jeremiah 6 v 1 – 19 (page 762)

Hymn No. 190

Let earth and heaven combine

Second Reading

Hebrews 11 v 1 – 16 (page 1209)

Prayers of Intercession

Hymn

All the way my Saviour leads me.
What have I to ask beside?
Can I doubt his tender mercy,
Who thru' life has been my Guide?
Heav'nly peace, divinest comfort,
Here by faith in him to dwell!
For I know, whate'er befall me,
Jesus fashions all things well.

2. All the way my Saviour leads me,
Cheers each winding path I tread;
Gives me grace for ev'ry trial,
Feeds me with the living Bread.
Tho' my weary steps may falter,
And my soul athirst may be,
Gushing from the Rock before me,
Lo! A spring of joy I see.

3. All the way my Saviour leads me;
Oh, the fullness of His love!
Perfect rest to me is promised
In my Father's house above.
When my spirit, cloth'd immortal,
Wings its flight to realms of day
This my song thru' endless ages:
Jesus led me all the way.

Fanny Crosby (1875)

Sermon

Silent Prayer

Offering and Dedication

Hymn No. 496

Fight the good fight

The Blessing

Closing Voluntary

CCLI Licence No. 3740

Bunyan Meeting News Letter

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2025

Saturday 18 January	2.30pm	St Joseph's Church
Sunday 19 January	6.00pm	St Andrew's Church
Monday 20 January	6.30pm	Polish Church
Tuesday 21 January	12 noon	St Martin's Church
Wednesday 22 January	1.30pm	Bunyan Meeting
Thursday 23 January	12.45 - 1.15pm	Bedford Quakers
<i>(You are welcome to bring your lunch and share time together afterwards)</i>		
Friday 24 January	1.00pm	Christchurch



Many thanks for your support in 2024. With your help we fed 24,244 people with 8,091 of these being children and handed out 200545.98kg of stock.

Wishing you all a good 2025.

These items are needed at present please:

Tinned meat/tuna	UHT Milk
Tinned fruit/veg	Cereals
Tinned puddings	Long Life fruit juice
Cooking sauces	Jam
Coffee	Laundry tablets

Kind regards

Andrea

Bedford Foodbank Office 01234 268569
8/9 Murdock Road, Manton Industrial Estate, Bedford, MK41 7PE

New Year Greetings

We wish you all a Happy New Year.

Enid and Lilford Tatham

Bible Notes ALL FREE

We have several copies of Bible Reading notes available in the church foyer – perhaps confusing to some of you!

1 UCB (United Christian Broadcasters)

These copies are for the three months:

December/January/February.

2 Our Daily Bread

These copies are for the three months:

January/February/March.

If these are not suitable for you there are many other Resources available. If you are able to access the Internet you could look at Scripture Union's '**Word Live**' readings. These follow through certain passages and look at the way in which these might be relevant to us each day. The two mentioned above jump from one or two verses one day to a completely different passage the next day.

If you know of other Bible Reading resources that you find particularly helpful, please let us know – it would be good to share this information.

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.

Apologies for the late greetings!

'Happy Birthday'

1 st January	Alan Millbery
5 th January	Brenda Cornish
7 th January	Cath Stewart
17 th January	Pat Stevens

Obituaries

We have received news of the deaths of several of our friends at church; we pray for all family members and friends that they will know God's love and comfort.

Mary Binder, a loyal volunteer in our church coffee shop died between Christmas and New Year.

Jean Bodger died between Christmas and New Year. Her funeral is at Wellingborough Crematorium on Thursday January 16th at 3pm.

Brian Caves, our organist and choir member for over 50 years died on New Year's Eve. His funeral will be on Monday 27th January at 12.30pm followed by refreshments in the Hall.

Monica Hill, wife of the Revd Dr Clifford Hill died on Christmas Eve. A memorial service will be held at Bunyan Meeting on 7th March at 2.00pm.

Dorothy Yerrill, a regular member of our congregation for several years, died on 28th December.

Wise Words from Ken

A birthdate is a reminder to celebrate a life as well as to update the life. Those who sow courtesy reap friendship and those who plant kindness gather love.

Storage areas

A few weeks ago the Deacons undertook a walk round of the storage areas and were amazed at how much is stored to the point that a radical clear-out is needed.

Therefore we want every group within the Church to look at what they are keeping. To that end, sentimentality must be left outside - just because Great Auntie Gladys donated something at the turn of the century, doesn't mean it has to be kept. If it is not used then either bin it, or if it may have an auction value, then add it to the collection that is in the basement gallery area.

So that is the challenge to the Flower group, Museum/Library and even the Deacons/Trustees, or anyone else who is using the storage areas, if it is used regularly or will be in the next 6 - 12 months then it can be kept, otherwise, get rid.

The timescale for the clear-out is, if at all possible, by the end of the month. We accept that it may not be possible to complete the task in the timescale, but please, make every effort.

The Deacons

Church Directory

The 2025 Directory is available for collection after church.

True Disciples Hold Fast to the Truth

Horatius Bonar (1808-1898) was a Scottish minister, author, and hymn writer, penning nearly 150 hymns in his lifetime. Today, Bonar is still widely renowned for his work as a hymn writer, as churches across the world continue to sing the hymns he wrote, including I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say, 'Come unto Me and Rest.'

The following excerpt is taken from Bonar's work, *Follow the Lamb*. May it strengthen the resolve of all true-hearted disciples to hold fast to the Word of life.

Let the righteousness of the Righteous One be your daily covering
Beware of changeableness; be not carried about with diverse and strange doctrines; it is a bad sign of a man when he is frequently shifting his ground and adopting new opinions. 'It is a good thing that the heart be established with grace' (Heb. 13:9); and it is good to hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end (Heb. 3:14). The 'righteousness of God' was that which you began with, and you found it an ample covering and a sufficient resting-place. God's reckoning your sin to Christ, and His righteousness to you, was joy and peace, when you found the burden of your grief too great for you to bear. Never let go your hold of this truth.

Continue to rejoice in this blessed exchange. Let the righteousness of the Righteous One be your daily covering.

Love of novelties has been the shipwreck of many a soul

When a man gets wearied of what is old, and is always catching hold of what is new, it looks as if he had been beguiled from the simplicity that is in Christ, and had lost his relish for the things of Christ; nay, almost as if he had never been 'rooted and grounded in love.' Love of novelties has been the shipwreck of many a soul. 'Some new thing' is the craving not of the men of Athens only, but of many in the Church of God. They are restless; and are carried about with diverse and strange doctrines. Old truths get tame and stale (Eph. 4:14; Heb. 13:9; 1 John 4:1). Take care of 'itching ears' (2 Tim. 4:3), and of 'heaping to yourselves teachers' (2 Tim. 4:3).

Along with this we often see the love of controversy, which is almost equally pernicious, even when it takes the side of truth. The man who likes better to be fighting about his food than eating it, is likely to remain lean enough. Disputes, like offenses, must sometimes come, but, like David's 'sharp razor' (Ps. 52:2), they 'work deceitfully' and are difficult to handle safely. They often eat out love, even when they do not destroy faith.

Don't dally with error, and don't tamper with truth

Yet cleave to the truth; nay, if error does assail you, 'contend earnestly for the faith once delivered to the saints;' 'that which ye have already, hold fast, that no man take thy crown.' Satan, either as the prince of darkness or as an angel of light, resist, 'steadfast in the faith.' Don't dally with error, and don't tamper with truth. 'Buy the truth' (Prov. 23:23) at any price; but 'sell it not' for all the gold and silver of earth.

From:

<https://www.mediagratiae.org/blog/true-disciples-hold-fast-to-the-truth>

Contribution from Revd Dr Ian Densham

This week at Bunyan Meeting

MONDAY 13th January

Come & Sing 1.30pm – 3.00pm

WEDNESDAY 15th January

Bunyan 400 Steering Committee 10.00am

Prayer Meeting 1.00pm, Deacons' Vestry

Lunchtime Service 1.30pm led by Micheal Searle

THURSDAY 17th January

Knit & Natter 11.00am – 12noon, Coffee Shop

SATURDAY 18th January

Bible Study Group 10.00am – 11.30am, Deacons' Vestry

COFFEE SHOP

Open Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday
10.00am – 1.00pm (2.00pm on Wednesdays)

JOHN BUNYAN MUSEUM

The Museum will reopen Saturdays only from 11th January until Tuesday 18th February 2025, when it will open full time again.

Normal Museum's opening times:

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

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

BASEMENT AT BUNYAN

The Basement Gallery is now CLOSED for the winter

Contact Information

Bunyan Meeting, Mill Street, Bedford MK40 3EU

Minister:	Rev'd Christopher J Damp MA BD
<i>Day off: Monday</i>	
Tel: 01234 353465 (Office) 01234 353730 (Manse)	email: minister@bunyanmeeting.co.uk
Acting Church Treasurers:	Brian Cornish, Andrew Duthie
Organist & Choirmaster:	Brian S Caves ATCL Tel: 01234 767776
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 email: amabbate@yahoo.com
Caretaking Team:	Jo Stapleton Alfie Stijelja Mick Dashwood (Saturdays)
Caretakers' mobile:	Tel: 07704 779513
Administrator: Church Office	Sue Stewart Tel: 01234 213722 email: bunyanmeeting@gmail.com
Website:	www.bunyanmeeting.co.uk
News Letter Editor:	Jocelyn Harper Tel: 01234 406969 email: <u>jos.harpy@ntlworld.com</u>

[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