



Bunyan Meeting

Mill Street

Bedford

Sunday 2nd February 2025

The Fourth Sunday after 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

11.00am Morning worship with Communion
conducted by our Minister

6.30pm Evening worship
conducted by our Minister

Our services next Sunday

9.30am Christ, Croissants & Coffee, All Age worship,
Basement

11.00am Morning worship
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 Jocelyn Harper
in memory of Wendy Cooper

The offering for Sunday 26th January was £1155.80
(£405.80 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

Queenie Murdie

Sue Hammond

Stephen Sleight's father, Brian

Ruth Blake and her family

For your prayers

The special prayer for the Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

O God, who knowest us to be set in the midst of so many and great dangers, that by reason of the frailty of our nature we cannot always stand upright: Grant to us such strength and protection, as may support us in all dangers, and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Baptist Union

Join with BMS World Mission on Sunday 2 February 2025 to spend a day praying for their work and for God's name to be known across the world.

Congregational Federation

Vineyard, Richmond

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

Introit

Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

Hymn No. 127

I'll praise my maker while I've breath

Introduction to Theme

First Reading

Psalm 24 v 1 – 10 (page 555)

Read by Paul Smith

Hymn No. 48

God of mercy, God of grace

Second Reading

Luke 2 v 22 – 40 (page 1028)

Read by: The Rev'd Chris Damp

Anthem

Sermon

Hymn No. 191

Faithful vigil ended

Prayers of Intercession

led by Jenny Gunton

Offering, Voluntary and Dedication

As the offering is brought forward, we stand and sing the Doxology no. 113.

Hymn No. 427

Among us our beloved stands

Communion

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

Hymn No. 618

Christ is the world's true light

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. 566
To God be the glory!

Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

First Reading
Romans 8 v 1 – 17 (page 1134)

Hymn No. 533
I need you every hour, most gracious Lord

Second Reading
Luke 15 v 11 – 32 (page 1048)

Prayers of Intercession

Hymn No. 382
I will sing the wondrous story

Sermon

Silent Prayer

Offering and Dedication

Hymn No. 330

Come let us sing of a wonderful love

The Blessing

Closing Voluntary

CCLI Licence No. 3740

Bunyan Meeting News Letter

Friendship Group Wednesday 5th February 2025

Roger Skipper will be the speaker at our next meeting.

Many of you will remember Roger and Anna when you visited their garden at Wootton Green; they now have a smaller garden and they have both have put their stamp on it.

Please come and join us for this first meeting of the New Year.

You will receive a warm welcome.

Sue Gauley

Wise Words from Ken

Those who bring sunshine to others cannot keep it from themselves.

At the end of a good sermon a person can either feel uplifted or awake refreshed.

Charles Simeon (1759 - 1836) was an English Anglican pastor, author, and theologian. After his conversion, he pastored Holy Trinity Church in Cambridge, faithfully preaching the gospel week-by-week until his death in 1836.

Charles Simeon writes on Colossians 1:16 -18 in a sermon entitled The Glory of Christ

“By him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: and he is before all things, and by him all things consist. And he is the Head of the body, the Church: who is the beginning, the first-born from the dead; that in all things he might have the pre-eminence” (Colossians 1:16-18).

1. Contemplate the excellency of your incarnate God.

Survey the heavens, with all the diversified and stupendous bodies contained in them: and inspect the minutest insect, which nothing but the greatest magnifying power can render visible: and see, both in the one and in the other, his creating hand, and his preserving power. Then say with yourselves, ‘The Maker of all these things is my Friend, my Beloved, yea, my very Head, one with me; not merely as a subject is one with his

political head, the king, but as any member of my body is with my own head. Not any powers which I myself possess are more used for the good of my own members, than all the powers of this Saviour are for me.

For me he became incarnate: for me he died upon the cross; for me he rose, and ascended up where he was before; for me he orders everything in heaven and earth; for me “he has prepared a place” in the mansions of his Father; and for me he is shortly coming again, to “take me to himself, that where he is I may be also. **“Shall I cease for a moment to think of him? Shall anything for a moment stand in competition with him?” My dear brethren, let him have the pre-eminence; let him be seated on the throne of your hearts;** let every Dagon fall before him; and let him “be all your salvation and all your desire.”

2. Awake to the performance of your duties toward him.

Are you not ashamed that this adorable Saviour has held so low a place in your esteem, that even the most contemptible things that can be imagined have had a pre-eminence above him? There is not a base lust which has not more power to sway you, than love to him, or zeal for his glory. There is not a vanity which you have not more desired, nor an object that you have not more feared, nor a device you have not more relied upon, than he. Would you not have thought it impossible, that a Being so glorious in himself, and so gracious unto you, should ever be so despised by you, as he has been?

Oh, humble yourselves before him; and now set yourselves with all diligence to honour and to glorify his name. Let it no longer be a doubt, either in your own minds or in the minds of any that behold you, who has the pre-eminence in your souls. **Give yourselves wholly to him, live altogether for him, let your daily and hourly inquiry be, “Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?” In short, endeavour to begin the life of heaven whilst you are yet upon earth.** When once you are there, “You will follow the Lamb whither-soever he goeth.” Follow him now, follow the footsteps which he trod on earth, follow him, in your affections, to the highest heavens, and look forward to the time when he, who has ascended as your Forerunner, shall come again to take you to himself, and “seat you with him upon his throne, as he sitteth on his Father’s throne.”

From: <https://www.mediagratiae.org/blog/give-yourself-wholly-to-him>
Contributed by Ian Densham

This week at Bunyan Meeting

MONDAY 3rd February

Come & Sing 1.30pm – 3.00pm, Stevington Room

WEDNESDAY 5th February

Prayer meeting 1.00pm, Deacons' Vestry

Lunchtime Service 1.30pm led by Rev'd Chris Damp

Friendship Group 2.00pm, Church

THURSDAY 6th February.

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

The Museum is open 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

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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