



Bunyan Meeting

Mill Street

Bedford

Sunday 18th May 2025

The Fourth 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

- | | |
|---------|---|
| 11.00am | Morning worship
conducted by our Minister |
| 6.30pm | Evening worship with Communion
conducted by our Minister |

Our services next Sunday

- | | |
|---------|--|
| 9.30am | Christ, Coffee & Croissants |
| 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 Anne McKeegan in memory of her parents
Linda and Bill Garner

The offering for Sunday 11th May was £1154.44
(£404.44 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

The family and friends of Dorothy Nicholas

For your prayers

The special prayer for the Fourth Sunday after Easter

O Almighty God, who alone canst order the unruly wills and affections of sinful men; Grant unto thy people, that they may love the thing which thou commandest, and desire that which thou dost promise; that so, among the sundry and manifold changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed, where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Baptist Union

The Baptist Assembly takes place this weekend in West Bromwich. Pray for those attending, those taking part in leading and those who have organised the event; that it will be a wonderful opportunity to explore what we can learn about local mission using global insight.

www.baptistassembly.org.uk

Congregational Federation

Union Chapel, Islington

- For all the different parts of the Union Chapel body – the church, the deacons, and the work supporting asylum seekers, the trustees and staff of the Union Chapel Project and the Margins Work, Union Chapel Directions, the Friends of Union Chapel, each in their own way playing a part in the life of this place as a spiritual and community hub.
- Pray for
- the search for a new Chair of Trustees for UCP.... may the right person be courageous in taking a step in faith to put their name forward
- all those who have recently received their leave to remain in the UK, who entering a period of extreme vulnerability and uncertainty, and for all those still waiting to hear.
- Cathy Bird, minister, as she continues to settle in to the church and build a relationship with the congregation
- our witness to the people of Islington
- Kentish Town
- 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

Call to Worship

Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

Hymn No. 70

Sing praise to the Lord!

Introduction to Theme

Hymn No. 599

O God of Bethel

First Reading

Genesis 22 v 1 – 18 (page 22)

Read by Andrew Duthie

Second Reading

Hebrews 11 v 1 - 3 & v 8 – 19 (page 1209)

Read by Brian Cornish

Hymn No. 540

O Jesus Christ, within me grow

Sermon

Hymn No. 545

Rock of ages

Prayers of Intercession

Offering and Dedication

Hymn No. 548

When we walk with the Lord

The Blessing

Closing Voluntary

CCLI Licence No. 3740

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 No. 382

Come, let us join our cheerful songs

Reading

Romans 3 v 1 – 31 (page 1130)

Prayers of Intercession

Hymn

I Before the throne of God above
I have a strong, a perfect plea:
a great High Priest, whose name is Love,
who ever lives and pleads for me.
My name is graven on his hands,
my name is written on his heart;
I know that, while in heaven he stands
no tongue can bid me thence depart. *(repeat)*

- 2 When Satan tempts me to despair
and tells me of the guilt within,
upward I look, and see him there
who made an end of all my sin.
Because the sinless Saviour died,
my sinful soul is counted free;
for God, the just, is satisfied
to look on him and pardon me. *(repeat)*
- 3 Behold him there! the risen Lamb,
my perfect, spotless righteousness,
the great unchangeable I AM,
the King of glory and of grace!
One with Himself, I cannot die:
my soul is purchased by his blood,
my life is safe with Christ on high,
with Christ, my Saviour and my God. *(repeat)*

Charitie Lees de Chenez (formerly Charitie Lees Bancroft, née Smith) (1841-1923)

Sermon

Silent Prayer

Offering and Dedication

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

Hymn No. 451

Lamb of God unblemished

Communion

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

Hymn

- 1 Beneath the cross of Jesus
I fain would take my stand-
the shadow of a mighty rock,
within a weary land:
A home within the wilderness,
a rest upon the way,
from the burning of the noontide heat
and the burden of the day.
- 2 O safe and happy shelter,
O refuge tried and sweet,
O trysting-place where heaven's love
and heaven's justice meet!
As to the holy patriarch
that wondrous dream was given,

so seems my Saviour's cross to me,
a ladder up to heaven.

- 3 There lies beneath its shadow,
but on the farther side,
the darkness of an awful grave
that gapes both deep and wide;
and there between us stands the cross,
two arms outstretched to save,
like a watchman set to guard the way
from that eternal grave.
- 4 Upon the cross of Jesus
mine eyes at times can see
the very dying form of one
who suffered there for me;
and from my smitten heart with tears
two wonders I confess-
the wonders of his glorious love,
and my own worthlessness.

Elizabeth Cecilia Clephane (1830-1869)

The Blessing

Closing Voluntary

CCLI Licence No. 3740

Bunyan Meeting News Letter

RENEW WELLBEING at BUNYAN MEETING

If you read the paper I wrote for the last church meeting in February you will already know something about Renew Wellbeing.

“Renew Wellbeing is a national organisation helping churches open spaces of welcome and inclusion for over 18's. Renew spaces are simple café style spaces run by churches where hobbies and activities are shared or co-produced and where there is a prayer space for sharing ‘inner habits of wellbeing’.”

I am delighted to report that Ruth Blake and Sue Hammond have volunteered to lead on Renew Wellbeing at Bunyan Meeting. It will launch on *Tuesday 20th May* in our coffee shop and will run from 10.00am to 1.00pm. It was Ruth who first told me about Renew so it is good that she is going to be involved from the outset and that Sue will be supporting her. Thanks to both of them.

Renew Wellbeing is as much about the health and well-being of our own fellowship as it is about the local community. So, why not call in on a Tuesday morning for coffee and companionship; tea, talk and cake; in a safe supportive space; and find time for reflection? Board games and art materials will be available and we have a children's corner. Please spread the word to friends, family and neighbours. Posters and flyers are available (thanks to David Walker) so please take some, as we want to advertise this widely to all age groups, from young people, to mums with toddlers, as well as to the older age-group.

Our CC&C service last Sunday was looking at the church as a garden, so we are now planting some new seeds. Please help us nurture them and let's see this new venture in the life of Bunyan Meeting grow and thrive. Please pray for Ruth, Sue and Renew at Bunyan.

Tuesdays 10.00am to 1.00pm - drop in when you can.

Thank you

Cherry Protheroe Lead Deacon for Mission & Outreach

Church Rotas

We are about to start drawing up the church rotas for the third quarter of the year - **July to September 2025**.

Could you please let us know **by Monday 26 May** if there are any dates you know you definitely **won't** be available?

Thank you, With warm regards

Ian and Ann

Memories from Ken

The passing of V E Day reminded me of those war-time years.

A pal of mine and I went to a dance on a Saturday night in a 'works canteen' in Kempston.

On one occasion I danced with a lady who said her name was Kirsteen; we danced there for many years and occasionally one of the dance bands were eight lads from the American band of Glen Miller. The band was based at the American Army/Air Force Headquarters in Milton Ernest Hall, near Bedford.

Kirsteen's friend worked at the Hall and was there when Glen Miller flew out of Twin Woods to Europe - never to be seen again!

THANK YOU

Thank you so much for the lovely flowers that Alison brought to me; I appreciate them so much, I am very grateful.

Cath

Thank you so much for the flowers from the communion table. It was so lovely to see Margaret and Cath who brought them.

The sacrum is a very hard bone to heal, and it is certainly true in my case. Sitting is very painful and becomes hard to bear after just a short time. I do hope to be back at church soon. Thank you for your good wishes and prayers.

Love and God Bless.

Pearl

FUNERAL

The funeral service for Dorothy Nicholas will be held at Bunyan Meeting on Friday 30 May at 10.30am.

This week at Bunyan Meeting

MONDAY 19th May

Come & Sing 1.30pm, Stevington

TUESDAY 20th May

Renew Wellbeing in church & coffee shop 10.00am-1.00pm

WEDNESDAY 21st May

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

Prayer Meeting 1.00pm, Deacons' Vestry

Lunchtime service 1.30pm, Church led by Rev'd Chris Damp

THURSDAY 22nd May

Knit & Natter 11.00am – 12noon, Coffee Shop

Friends of Bunyan Museum 7.00pm, Church

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

Paintings by Giacomo and Photography by Cameron

Tuesday 19th May – Saturday 24th May 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

Tel: 01234 353465 (Office)
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email: minister@bunyanmeeting.co.uk

Acting Church Treasurers: Brian Cornish, Andrew Duthie

Acting Organist Jocelyn Harper LLCM, ARCM

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 Anne-Marie Abbate **Tel:** 07775 973501

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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