



Bunyan Meeting

Mill Street

Bedford

Sunday 1st December 2024

Advent Sunday



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 CCC All Age Nativity

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 for Advent Sunday

The offering for Sunday 24th November was £1097.89 (£347.89 was given in Church and an average of £750 in direct giving).
£167 was given to Combat Stress

We pray for members and friends of the church, remembering especially:

Samantha Nightingale

The family and friends of Diana Wiser

Amy Cotchin (Jo's daughter)

Dorothy Nicholas

Jo-Ann Gaunt

Ruth Blake

Brian and Heather Caves

Cathy Stewart

Sue Gauley

For your prayers

The special prayer for Advent Sunday

Almighty God,

give us grace to cast away the works of darkness
and to put on the armour of light,
now in the time of this mortal life,
in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great
humility;
that on the last day,
when he shall come again in his glorious majesty
to judge the living and the dead,
we may rise to the life immortal;
through him who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

The Baptist Union

This week we pray for Webnet – the West of England Baptist Network. Pray for their work in helping Christians fully engage in the mission of God in Gloucestershire, Wiltshire, North Somerset, and Bristol.

www.webnetwork.org.uk

Congregational Federation

Iden Green

Please pray for the continuing worship and witness of the church.

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MORNING WORSHIP at 11.00am
Hymns from the Advent Book

Opening Voluntaries

Welcome and Notices

Introit

Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

Hymn No. 12

O come, O come

Introduction to Theme

First Reading

Psalm 25 v 1 – 9 (page 556)

& Jeremiah 33 v 14 – 16 (page 796)

Read by Andrew Duthie

Hymn No. 29

Make way

Second Reading

Luke 21 v 5 – 36 (page 1056)

Read by The Rev'd Chris Damp

Anthem

Sermon

Hymn

1 Blessèd city, heavenly Salem,
vision dear of peace and love,
who of living stones upbuilded
art the joy of heaven above,
and with angel hosts encircled,
as a bride to earth dost move!

2 Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ the Head and cornerstone,
chosen of the Lord, and precious,
binding all the church in one,
Holy Zion's help for ever,
and her confidence alone.

3 All that dedicated city,
dearly loved of God on high,
in exultant jubilation

pours perpetual melody,
God the One in Three adoring
in glad hymns eternally.

4 To this temple, where we call thee,
come, O Lord of Hosts, to-day;
with thy wonted loving-kindness
hear thy people as they pray,
and thy fullest benediction
shed within its walls for ay.

5 Here vouchsafe to all thy servants
what they ask of thee to gain,
what they gain from thee for ever
with the blessed to retain,
and hereafter in thy glory
evermore with thee to reign.

Latin, 7th cent. Tr. by John Mason Neale, 1818 – 66, altd

Prayers of Intercession
led by Cherry Protheroe

Offering, Voluntary and Dedication

As the offering is brought forward, we stand and sing the Doxology

Hymn No. 19

Let all mortal flesh

Communion

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

Hymn No. 13

Lo He comes

The Blessing

Closing Voluntary

EVENING WORSHIP at 6.30pm
Hymns from Rejoice and Sing

Welcome and Notices

Call to Worship

Hymn No. 60
God who spoke

Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

First Reading
Psalm 119 v 1 – 16 (page 617)

Hymn No. 348
Hark, my soul

Second Reading
Luke 3 v 1 – 19 (page 1029)

Prayers of Intercession

Hymn

- 1 Speak, Lord, in the stillness,
speak your word to me;
help me now to listen
in expectancy.
- 2 Speak, O gracious Master,
in this quiet hour;
let me see your face, Lord,
feel your touch of power.
- 3 For the words you give me,
they are life indeed;
living Bread from heaven
now my spirit feed.
- 4 Speak, your servant listens -
I await your word;
let me know your presence,
let your voice be heard!
- 5 Fill me with the knowledge
of your glorious will;
all your own good pleasure
in my life fulfil.

Emily M Crawford (1864-1927)

Sermon

Silent Prayer

Offering and Dedication

Hymn No. 355

Jesus calls us!

The Blessing

Closing Voluntary

CCLI Licence No. 3740

Bunyan Meeting News Letter



COFFEE SHOP NEWS

A massive **THANK YOU** as always to the wonderful team of volunteers who have kept the Coffee Shop going for another year; we couldn't have done it without you!

In **December** we will be serving a few extra festive treats, including Iced Christmas Cake, Stollen and Spiced Buns.

There will be bread rolls every day to enjoy with a warming Cup of Soup, and freshly made sandwiches on Wednesdays.

Saturdays 7th and 14th December

We are only open until 12.30 pm.

Our last day before the Christmas break is Wednesday 18th (NO sandwiches that day but lots of Mince Pies)!!

The Coffee Shop will re-open on Tuesday 7th January 2025.

WISHING EVERYONE A PEACEFUL CHRISTMAS TIME

Julie Smith

THANK YOU

Thank you all for the beautiful flowers I received last Sunday. It means a lot to know how supportive and caring everyone is.

Maria Noto

Come & Sing

Come & Sing invite you to *Music & Mince Pies* on Monday 9th December at 2.30pm. Admission is £5.00 and includes a cuppa and mince pies afterwards. Donations will be split between Living it up and Bunyan Meeting.

Friendship Group

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 4th December at 2pm.

This will be a Christmas 'Get Together' with 'Bring & Share' refreshments. All are welcome.

Bedford Foodbank

Thank you for your continued support which has helped us feed over 22,296 people this year, which is a 1% increase on last year.

We continue to hand out over 18 tonnes of stock each month.

The warehouse will be closed from Monday 23rd December to Thursday 2nd January 2025 for dropping off donations.

Thank you so much for your support; have a lovely Christmas and all the best for the New Year.

Kind regards

Andrea, Bedford Foodbank Tel: 01234 268569

ADVANCE NOTICE

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

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

Impact - message from Trish, Impact Schools Worker

We are doing an evening performance on the 4th December at 6pm.

If you want to invite family and friends you can now book tickets. Last year the tickets went very quickly.

The link to book is:

<https://impact-schools-workers.eventcube.io/events/69285/live-nativity/>

More Wise Words from Ken



If you want to be a roaring success, you must be prepared to do a lion's share of the work.

Open your mind before you open your mouth.

OBITUARY

We were shocked and saddened to learn of the sudden death of Diana Wiser. We pray for Peter and all the family at this sad time. More details will follow.

Request received Please contact our Minister if you can help:

I am writing to inquire about a potential opportunity. I am from Poland and have visited your Bunyan Museum twice. I have two students from a Polish school whose father is my colleague and a fellow teacher. He would like to send his daughters to England for the summer to explore the country and practise their language skills.

We are looking for accommodation not with a Polish family, but with an English family who could rent them a room or a space in their home. This arrangement would allow them to have direct contact with native English speakers and practise their English in a practical setting. They explore the local area independently, while having a stable place to stay, of course for a fee, for one or two weeks.

As we are concerned about their safety, we are reaching out to you as a Christian community of believers to ask if you know of any families who could provide such an opportunity.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to your response.

Yours faithfully,

*Adam Dragan
Poland*

This week at Bunyan Meeting

MONDAY 2nd December

Come & Sing 1.00pm – 3.00pm, Church

WEDNESDAY 4th December

Wednesday Workshops 10-12 & 1-3, Harrowden room

Prayer Meeting 1.00pm, Deacons' Vestry

Lunchtime Service 1.30pm led by Rev'd Chris Damp

Friendship Group 2.00pm, Church

THURSDAY 5th December

Knit & Natter 11.00am – 12noon, Coffee Shop

SATURDAY 7th December

Museum & Coffee Shop volunteers End of Season Meeting

11.00am – 12noon and lunch 12.00noon – 2.00pm

COFFEE SHOP

Open Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 10.00am – 1.00pm
(2.00pm on Wednesdays and 3pm on Saturdays)

JOHN BUNYAN MUSEUM

The Museum is now **CLOSED** and 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)
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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