



## Bunyan Meeting

# News Letter/16

SUNDAY 2 AUGUST 2020

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Dear friends

There is not much news to update you with this week. Several people have responded to say that they would be happy to come along to the ‘physically distanced’ **Manse Garden Party afternoons**. Even if we have to physically sit apart, we hopefully will not be ‘socially distanced’! If you would like to come along to the Manse garden to have a cup of tea and an opportunity for a catch up with other folk from church, please let me or the church office know. I think that we can safely accommodate up to a dozen people at once. I will find a few afternoons during the week of the 9th August, and arrange a convenient afternoon with those people who have indicated that they would like to participate.



Talking of the Manse garden, the garden will be open on **Saturday 8th August** for the **National Garden Scheme** from **11.00am to 5.00pm**. Because of the distancing rules, visitors will have to book a timed slot with the NGS via their website, and there will be no tea and cake available. At least this means that Joy Duthie will be spared having to spend her birthday organising the refreshments! If anyone would like to come along on that afternoon, please do look at the NGS website entry for **1a, St Augustine’s Road**. There will still be the usual plants, jam and eggs for sale.

Over recent weeks, I have managed to visit several of our members in their gardens. It has been lovely to see people face to face. Visits to people in their homes by the minister are still discouraged apart from emergency situations. If you are happy to have an outdoor visit from the minister, please do let me know.

Please keep sending your articles for our News Letter direct to me: [chrisdamp@mac.com](mailto:chrisdamp@mac.com) or by post to the church office for my attention.

Your friend and Minister

**Chris**

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*“Do you not know? Have you not heard?*

*The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.*

*He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom.*

*He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.*

*Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall;*

*but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.*

*They will soar on wings like eagles;*

*they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.”*

Isaiah 40 v 28 - 31

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**Michel Thomas writes:**

I would just like to thank those responsible for the Covid Island Disc. I am led to believe that the idea was conceived by Gwen Gribble and that the technical stuff was down to Ian Rowlands. Well, as far as I am concerned, the end result was really very impressive. The whole thing was such a lot of fun. The choice of music was a good way to while away a lot of spare time. It was really entertaining. I enjoyed the reasons for peoples choices of disc; and who would ever have thought, that a pillow and a hair brush would rank high among the luxury items. Imagine; Brian Cornish and Michael Thomas have something in common.



Well done Gwen and Ian, you have given a lot of people much pleasure, at a time when the country had been kyboshed. Roy Plumley; eat your heart out.

Thank you,

**Michael**

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**Helen Kennedy writes:**

Hi again, I thought you might like to see another feeding station in our garden. Mum and Dad Wren have been working from dawn to dusk to keep their little brood well fed. I hope they don't fledge when we are not looking.

Best wishes to all.

**Helen**

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**A note from the Congregational church in Myanmar**

Greetings and hope this finds you well.

How is your Church and Ministry? I hope that you all are safe. Due to the global case we have had no Sunday's services, no mission activity in almost four months and by God's grace, no one at my church has been affected by the virus. Thank God. Now here is the raining season and due a big rains, Grace Home cooking tent is worse and they could not cook anymore there so the children have much trouble now.

I would be pleased if you and your church kindly have a special prayerful concern for Grace Children's Building Project. As we are newly born church and Mission in Myanmar so the Ministry infrastructure is one of challenges in our Mission.

Please convey my greetings to your church.

Sincerely,

Rev Elvis SaDo



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## Kay Munro writes: Other Dark Days - more memories of World War Two

I have so much time to think these days but no longer many people to share memories with and even fewer due to our ages and the current crisis which keeps us apart.

I have been remembering how our lives in 1939 were turned upside down but somehow we survived as we are doing now, but in different ways.

I remember sitting in the garden one Sunday morning listening to Neville Chamberlain, the Prime Minister, announcing the outbreak of war with Germany.



Meanwhile the first 'tummy turning' air raid warning was sounding from the town and our men folk were digging the air raid shelter ready for our family's use.

Later, similar shelters were built at the side of our school playing fields where we often spent all day after arriving at school during a raid. There we had the luxury of buckets in the corner for loos. Later, at lunch time, teachers who had a car petrol allowance would drive across from school to the shelters and would have their windows splattered with gravy or custard as a reward!

For us, running across the field to the shelters could be hazardous with small shards of shrapnel from our 'ack ack' guns and aircraft. The larger pieces of shrapnel from overhead 'dogfights' and bullet cases would be treasure trove for us children. The Spitfires and Messerschmitts fought above Epsom Downs to keep us safe from the bombers on their way to London.

One day I heard people on my way home discussing the landmine which had fallen in my road while I was at school. We had escaped damage, luckily. I met a far lesser disaster that same afternoon when I went to get my grandmother's armchair cover from her washing line - it was full of bullet holes!

There were so many stories involving Doodlebug raids and food and clothes rationing, it was fascinating for my children when I was teaching. They were almost unbelieving, especially when I told them how many sweets per month were allowed for children!

I went to Sainsbury's with mum one week and they asked if she would like the month's sausage ration for our little family. They gave us three!

Over those years there were so many sad, funny and happy times. We lived through bombings, Doodlebugs and the frightening V2s. But it is hard to share the reality of such memories except with those who experienced them too.

**Kay**

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## Bob Allen writes:

All the Sunday Service sheets that the Team prepare for us are excellent, but I thought today's were great, particularly the singing of Love Divine to Blaenwern, from St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast (Thank you Brian). I have to confess, that being of strong Presbyterian stock, I recall being in the building on only one occasion, a parade of all the Youth Organisations in Belfast, we were part of the Boys Brigade, Belfast Battalion.

The mention of Presbyterian church reminds me in a round about way to recount how we came to Bunyan Meeting.

As some people in Bunyan will know, Edna and I came from our beloved Woodvale Park Presbyterian church (where we met and married) to Green Lane Presbyterian in Derby where we, in the the late Sixties, were members of the only Presbyterian church left in the Midlands. We joined Brickhill Baptist Church after a short time at St Luke's but after about 12 years of membership there (our daughter was due to be married there) we became disenchanted with the extreme charismatic form of worship they had adopted. As I recall, we were in Mill Street one day in early November, when Edna read the billboard outside Bunyan announcing their forthcoming Remembrance Service on the following Sunday, and said to me "We should attend that"; which we duly did. We were made very welcome and felt very "at home" with the atmosphere and the form of service.

The Reverend Glynn Evans was the minister, and his wife Marion, soon asked if we would consider joining the choir; I accepted, but Edna, who had a lovely voice, declined on the grounds that she could not read staff music! That was just over 30 years ago; and as is often said "... the rest is history"!

**Bob**

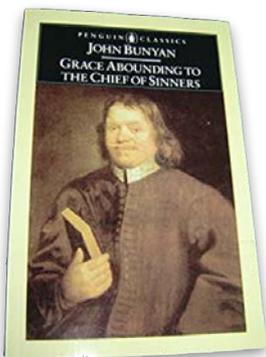
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### Seventy Years of Membership for Edith Wells and Pat Stevens

August 2nd 1950 **Edith Wells** and **Patricia Stevens** were taken into membership at Bunyan Meeting with several other young people including **Robert Hart**.

**Brian Stevens**

Membership Secretary.



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### Ingrid Richard writes from France:

In 1990-91, the University of Lille accepted my request to send me to Bedford as a language assistant to prepare my M.A. on John Bunyan. The book I was working on was *Grace Abounding to the Chief of Sinners*. I went to Bunyan Meeting every Sunday and I really appreciated the people and the atmosphere. It was so different from the church I used to attend when I was in France. Peter Protheroe was the minister and I must confess he was the best minister I've ever heard. His sermons were so enthralling and so outstanding and he was such a charming man!

I met many people there but Jean and Dave Bodger were my true family in Bedford. I was very often welcomed (with Michaela, the German language assistant) for lunch on Sundays. We had a wonderful time with Jean and Dave but also with Jane, Louisa and Melissa who sang and danced musicals for us. Today I'm 56 and I'm still in touch with Jean thirty years later. I call her my 'English grandmother' because I've never known my grandfathers and my grandmothers did not have time to take care of me.

Bunyan Meeting reminds me of such moving moments in my life and I know that I will never forget you.

Thank you for your warm welcome and God bless you all and congratulations for your Facebook page! I'm sure you'll get a lot of virtual friends too!

Best regards,

**Ingrid Richard**

France (near Rouen)



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## The BMS Birthday Scheme

If you wish to support the BMS through their Birthday Scheme, please contact Margaret Ormerod. It's a great way to celebrate a birthday. Thank you for your support.

This week **Pearl Thomas, Naomi Sherman** and **Joy Duthie** all celebrate their birthday.

Members of the Scheme can make donations online at [bmsworldmission.org](http://bmsworldmission.org) quoting our church reference number which is 7. Or you can send your donation to Margaret Ormerod at 32, Wheathouse Close, Bedford. MK41 8JX. Or simply wait until we are back at church and hand it to me there.

Many thanks

**Margaret**

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A man who opens the car door for his wife has either got a new car or a new wife.

A women who dresses to kill often cooks the same way.

Submitted by **Ken Wells**

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## Daily Hope - 0800 804 8044

Daily Hope offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone line.

The line – which is available 24 hours a day on **0800 804 8044** – has been set up particularly with those unable to join online church services during the period of restrictions in mind.

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## For Your Prayers

Please remember **Ruth Blake, Wendy Carter, Delia O'Halloran, Janet Barratt** and **Julie Hake**.



## Bunyan Meeting

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