



Bunyan Meeting

News Letter/59

SUNDAY 13 JUNE 2021

Dear Friends,



Over the last two weeks our Study Circle has met in the church garden and we have concluded the gathering with tea and cake which was such a treat! It is surprising how we took these sort of simple activities for granted back in 2019! Last Wednesday, the Deacons met face to face for the first time in well over a year, whilst our Museum volunteers have held several events as they prepare to re-open the Museum. We also have a regular room letting on Tuesdays

and Thursdays. It feels that Bunyan Meeting is gradually emerging from the long months of lockdown.

Of course, we have held our services periodically during these last fifteen months and more recently have met for worship in the church garden. These outdoor services will continue on the first and third Sunday until the re-decoration of the church is completed. We had hoped to be back in church by the beginning of July but it now seems that it could be mid July before all the contractors have finished their work. Some people commented last Sunday that we ought to continue with an occasional outdoor service even once we are back to our regular indoor services. It is surprising how many people who are walking by, pause for a moment to observe what we are doing.

The recent crisis has thrown many of our certainties, hopes and plans into a state of confusion. To be shaken out of our complacency in this sort of way is not necessarily a bad thing. It is very easy for us to become settled down and comfortable, to get into a certain mindset and become captive to our habits. But Covid has forced us to do things differently and to think creatively. Few of us had heard of Zoom before March 2020, but what a part of life it has become since then! And who could have imagined that we would be live streaming our services and have a screen in the church!

As we look back over our lives, we can often be surprised at the twists and turns our journey has taken and we may sometimes wonder how we endured difficulties, have risen to challenges and adapted to change. Life is unpredictable and is often a great adventure.

So let us take hold of this future with enthusiasm. We never travel alone for God goes with us and invites us to partner with Him in building the kind of world and church that He longs to give to us.

Please keep sending your articles for our News Letter direct to me at chrisdamp@mac.com or by post to the church office for my attention.

Your friend and Minister

Chris

"No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God." Luke 9 v 62



Sunday Worship

We will meet for face to face worship in the church garden on the first and third Sundays during June. The first Sunday of the month will be a communion service and the third Sunday will be our CCC all age service. All services will now commence at 11.00am. If we have rain we will move the service indoors. By the end of July, we hope to resume regular Sunday services back in the church each Sunday at 11.00am.

Our next face to face service in the church garden will be held at **11.00am** next **Sunday, June 20th**.

The weekly services will continue to be distributed by email and delivered to those without access to the internet.

Opportunities for volunteering

Just a reminder that the deadline for the survey of Church volunteers is next Monday, 14 June.

You can either download and print out a copy of the form, or complete it online.

You will find both options here:

<https://www.bunyanmeeting.co.uk/survey>

Please speak to me if you have any questions about the roles we are trying to fill, or to Ian Rowlands on (01234) 405974 / ian.rowlands@ntlworld.com if you have any problems with the survey.

Chris

Thank you from Gilly

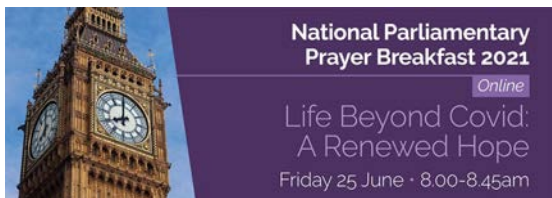
Thank you very much for all the prayers and good wishes for when I had my operation on 29 May. It was a bit more complicated than anticipated but I'm on the road to recovery and feeling a little better each day. Thank you too, for the lovely cards, flowers and phone calls. What a blessing it is to be part of a caring Church family.

Gilly Millbery

Website update

Here are some new resources we've added to the Worship page of the Church website:

<https://www.bunyanmeeting.co.uk/services>



National Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast 2021

The National Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast is an annual recognition of the contribution that Christianity makes to the national life of the UK. This year, due to the coronavirus pandemic, the National Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast will take place online again and will be livestreamed from

8:00-8:45am on Friday 25 June. The event will be chaired by The Rt Hon Andrea Leadsom MP and the main speaker will be The Rt Revd Professor NT Wright, who will address the theme of 'Life Beyond Covid: A Renewed Hope'.

The event is free but you need to book online to attend:

<http://www.christiansinparliament.org.uk/prayer-breakfast/attend/>

International Congregational Fellowship (ICF) Conference

The ICF is holding an online conference from 23 - 25 July. Titled 'The Voyage Continues', its aims are:

- To commemorate the 400th anniversary of the sailing of the Mayflower.
- To share "Mayflower stories" of Congregationalism across the globe.
- To learn from the current activity of the Congregational churches across the globe.
- To enjoy fellowship with international brothers and sisters in Christ.

Have a look at the website to find out more and to register online.

Thank you for your ideas for new web resources; they are always very welcome! We'd also love to receive any feedback you have about these web pages.

Ann Davies, Ian Rowlands, Lydia Saul, David Walker, Janet Wootton

Songs of Praise Service

The Local Congregational Churches Songs of Praise Service for 2021 will be held at **Roxton Congregational Church** on **Sunday September 5th** and will begin at **3-00pm**.

Bunyan Meeting have been asked to provide a favourite hymn to be sung at this service. But what is our favourite hymn?

Please send a note of your favourite hymn and we will then chose the most popular hymn to be included in this service. Your choice can be sent to the Minister at: chrisdamp@mac.com

If you would also like to write a little piece about why you have selected a certain hymn, we could perhaps include something about our favourite hymns in a future news letter.

Town Centre Churches

The Town Centre Churches will also be holding a **Songs of Praise service** in the garden at **Bunyan Meeting** on **Sunday 8th August at 6.00pm**. Please make a note of this date.

Thank you Cath



Whenever we attend church on each Sunday of the year, the first thing we are likely to notice, are the flowers that are on either the communion table or on the pedestal, together with a posy on the pulpit. The chances are, that these flowers would have been arranged by Cath. These arrangements are more often than not, a personal tribute in memory of a loved one and each arrangement is special. Cath, you have given so much pleasure to so many people and your skills will be sorely missed. Thank you for the help you have given to me personally. You will be a hard act to follow. Love and God bless.

Pearl Thomas

Roses in memory of Peter and Janet

After Mum passed away last September Evan said that the Flower Arranging Group members wanted to provide something in memory of Mum and Dad. We decided that



planting roses in the Church garden would be very fitting. Dad was passionate about gardening all his life and he filled their garden with rose bushes because Mum loved them so much. As we've been going through Mum and Dad's things we came across a receipt from a nursery in Kimbolton Road dated 1952. It was for the Peace rose and Ena Harkness rose and we thought these would be the ones to buy as they would have had them in their garden. So last Monday Alan and I gathered in the Church garden with Chris, Andrew, my brother Nicholas and members of the Flower Arranging Group. Chris gave a lovely tribute to Mum and Dad, speaking about their faith and the influence they had on Nicholas and I and the friendship they gave to so many people during their lives. After the roses were planted Chris said a beautiful prayer. It was a lovely occasion and so special to share it with friends from Bunyan. This was the first time I had met with many of the people there in 15 months and it was so good to be able to talk in person rather than over the phone or on Zoom.

We want to say a very big thank you to Evan for suggesting this and to the members of the Flower Arranging Group for this lovely gesture. We must also thank Andrew for preparing the ground for planting and helping to plant the roses. And a special thank you to Chris for the wonderful tribute he paid to Mum and Dad. Now each time we visit the garden we shall have a reminder of Mum and Dad and their friends that made this possible.

Gilly and Alan Millbery

Dreaming

Chris's piece about dreaming a few weeks ago, how he had clashing appointments reminded me of a dream I had some years ago. It was whilst working at a Crown post office. We used to balance once a week and thankfully before that Horizon system where many postmasters fell foul. Everything was done manually on a large A2 four page balance sheet. We were allowed up to 25p to be out or we had to sign a paper for the Overseer. If you had three losses or an over in a specified period you had to attend an interview and it went on your record.

We closed at 5:30 and were allowed two hours to complete the balance. One evening I was £74 over and despite checking and re checking, and getting assistance from colleagues who had completed their balance, I went home recording the over. I hoped it would come out the next morning when all the balance sheets and documents were amalgamated. That didn't stop me thinking about it. I woke suddenly in the early hours with the transaction in front of me. In those days, if someone had a bulk posting they could bring the letters in, pay the postage and it was franked at the sorting office. I had forgotten to note it on my balance sheet on the day. I could see the actual transaction in front of me.

Now I always believed that your dreams were about things that were on your mind and I disclose this particularly for members of the Church who will understand. When I first lost my wife I could not understand why I did not dream about her as obviously she was always on my mind. Six months later I did dream of her. I was sitting in my armchair and must have fell asleep when she walked through the lounge door opposite

me, held out her arms and said, “I am okay.” I went to hold her and was surprised how warm she was. That dream sustains me when I do have some sombre moments. You might say there is hope for me yet.

Ken Thomas

The Rev'd Angus McCormick

Shillington Congregational Church have invited us to share in a special service on **Sunday 27th June at 10.30am** to mark the 50th anniversary of the ordination of their minister, the Rev'd Angus McCormick. Angus is known to many of us at Bunyan as he has often occupied our pulpit over the years,

If you would like to attend this service please would you notify the church office as soon as possible so we can let Shillington know how many of us hope to attend.

Bedford High Street Past and Present by Ken Wells



A friend of mine recently gave me a book of Bedford premises in 1906. It contained many addresses including some of the High Street shops, although not all.

As the work begins to change the layout and to regenerate this part of the town, we surveyed the High Street and recorded the present mix of shops today to draw a comparison. The results are shown below.

We also discovered the information board located in the market square showing the original architecture and describing some of the old shops.

Description	Quantity in 1906	Quantity Now	Goods or Service
News Agent / Stationers	6	3	G
Jewellers	2		G
Furniture Store	3		G
Grocer / Store/ Mini Supermarket	3	3	G
Beer/Alcohol Off Licence	3		G
Ironmongers / Hardware	3	1	G
Chemist	2		G
Shoe Shop	1		G
Picture Framers	1	1	G
Confectioner	1		G
Music Shop	1		G
Coffee Shop & Cafe		8	S
Barbers / Hairdressers & Beauty		8	S
Charity Shops		5	G
Bakers		1	G
Betting Shops		3	S
Men's / Ladies' Clothes Shops		4	G
Empty Shops		8	-
Banks		3	S
Escape Rooms		1	S
Restaurants & Take-aways		11	G
Public Houses / Bars / Entertainment		10	S
Estate Agent		1	S
Dental Practice / Clinic		3	S
Educational Establishment		1	S
Tobacconist / Vape Shop		2	G
Apartment Entry Shop Front		1	S

In 1906 all the shops (i.e. 100%) were selling goods. Today just over a third (i.e. 37%) are selling goods the rest selling services.



Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF)

Our chosen charity for the final quarter of this year at Bunyan Meeting is JDRF, however, on the last weekend of this month, **Lesley Cornish** will be undertaking a 25 mile sponsored trek along part of Hadrian's Wall for the charity. The trek was originally planned for June last year, due to COVID-19 she transferred onto this year's trek. Lesley is also completing a virtual walk from Land's End to John o'Groats.

If you would like to read her story, and perhaps sponsor her, go to www.justgiving.com/fundraising/lesley-cornish4

But for those who cannot access the internet, we have printed Lesley's story below:

On Wednesday 14th February 2001 I was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes Mellitus.

I had lost 2 stone in 6 weeks and was constantly tired and thirsty, 3 of the main symptoms of undiagnosed Type 1 Diabetes. I had blood tests that morning and after school received a phone call telling me to go to A&E as soon as possible and the on-call Registrar was waiting for me. When I got there the nurse was adamant that I needed a wheelchair to get me to the ward and was shocked when I refused and told me that my glucose levels were so high I should have been in a coma! Me being me, I pointed out the obvious that I wasn't and I could easily walk to the ward as I'd been at school all day and walked home.

I was admitted to hospital for 2 days and was discharged on the Friday lunchtime, in time to go and watch the England A vs Italy A match at Bedford rugby club that evening.

I was started on multiple daily injections and two different types of insulin plus multiple finger prick glucose tests a day. At one point I was on three different types of insulin a day. I now use one type of fast acting insulin via an insulin pump and I have a glucose sensor which sends reading to an app on my phone which means fewer finger prick tests.

I refuse to let T1D stop me from doing anything. Since being diagnosed I have failed my A levels (3 months after being diagnosed) but graduated from Uni with a BSc, completed multiple Race For Life races, completed the Liverpool to Maloy (Norway) leg of the 2008 Tall Ships Race, had surgery to break and straighten my right leg and learn to walk 'normally' again and completed a 25 mile trek along part of the Jurassic Coast in 2015.

Type 1 diabetes is an autoimmune disease whereby the pancreas stops producing insulin. No one knows why yet and there is currently no cure just treatments and technology to help keep it under control.

JDRF fund research purely into finding ways of treating and ultimately curing Type 1 Diabetes and preventing it.

By sponsoring me to take part in this challenging you will be helping JDRF with their vital research, which hopefully one day, will mean no more finger prick blood tests, no more canular/pod changes and no more sensor changes.

Thanks for taking the time to visit my JustGiving page. **Lesley**

Donating through JustGiving is simple, fast and totally secure. Your details are safe with JustGiving - they'll never sell them on or send unwanted emails. Once you donate, they'll send your money directly to the charity. So it's the most efficient way to donate - saving time and cutting costs for the charity.



Study Circle

Our next Study Circle will be held on **Thursday 17th June at 2.00pm.**

Study Circle is Bunyan Meeting's Bible Study group. Our meetings usually last about an hour and a half and in more normal times they conclude with tea and cake. Please do come along. Everyone is welcome.



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.

For Your Prayers

Please remember: **Bob Allen; Jocelyn Harper; Joy Ansell; Linda Garner; Brian Sleight**, Stephen's father.



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