



Bunyan Meeting

News Letter/13

SUNDAY 12 JULY 2020

Dear friends

This week's News Letter is a little shorter than usual. Please do send a contribution for a future edition, for without your contributions we would not have this publication.

There have been many positive comments about our News Letter and several people have requested that we keep on publishing once we resume face to face services. We could perhaps combine this weekly News Letter with our notice sheet? Your views would be welcome.

Speaking of your views, please remember to return your questionnaire about our Sunday worship. Several responses have been received, but we would appreciate more.

We have had many messages from people beyond our normal Sunday congregation who enjoy sharing in our services either online or on paper. We must consider how we can continue to embrace our new worshippers once we return to worship at Mill Street.

The church has always adapted to changed circumstances and it has been wonderful to see how Bunyan has adapted to the current situation in which we find ourselves. Church life will never be quite the same again, and there is much that we have learnt and done during these last few months that will shape Bunyan Meeting into the future.

The Deacons will meet this coming Wednesday afternoon to consider some of the challenges facing us as we go forward. The journey of faith is always a great adventure and we are confident that with Christ leading us onwards, we cannot go far wrong.

All items for our News Letter should be sent direct to me: chrisdamp@mac.com or by post to the church office for my attention.

I hope that you are all keeping safe and well.

Your friend and Minister

Chris

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day - and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

2 Timothy 4 v 7 - 8

Heather Maull writes:

Many thanks to everyone involved with our service sheets and News Letter and to Isabelle my 'postie'. I look forward to receiving them, Sunday morning would not be the same without them. I look forward to when we can all be together again.

Heather



Audrey Mehew writes:

Thank you once again very much for the lovely service today and the News Letter. I found it very moving.

Also my thanks to Gilly for the photo of the primroses placed on the communion table in memory of Bill. Bill's family came from Great Staughton and every Good Friday the woods there were open to the public. Bill came from a large family and we all met up at his aunt's house each year and took food with us and placed it in the kitchen and adults and children traipsed off to the woods and picked primroses. When Bill died we had a woodland scene on the top of his coffin with primroses planted in the earth, and the next day Sarah came with me to Bunyan Garden and we each took a root and she has planted hers in the West Midlands and this spring once again mine have come out in my garden in Oakley, so it was lovely to see primroses from Gilly's garden.

Audrey



Chat, Coffee and Croissants

We will gather for a Zoom chat over coffee **next Sunday, 19th July at 10.15am**, the time when we would normally have coffee following our Christ, Coffee and Croissants service.

Zoom is free to download and use and can be installed on desk computers, tablets and laptops <https://zoom.us> You just need to click on the link in next week's News Letter. Zoom is secure due to passwords and waiting rooms so no one can enter the meeting without the host allowing them in.

If you haven't used it before and would like a trial run please contact Ann Davies: andd Daviesbedford@gmail.com



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 coming week, **Jocelyn Harper** celebrates her birthday.

Members of the Scheme can make donations online: bmsworldmission.org quoting our church reference number which is 7.

Or you can send your donation to Margaret Ormerod: 32, Wheathouse Close, Bedford. MK41 8JX. Or simply wait until we are back at church and hand it to me there.

Many thanks

Margaret

Who is it?

So far, we have had three answers submitted to the "Who is it?" item which appeared in the last News Letter. Please do respond as each correct answer will provide another £5 for our Special Projects Fund. The mystery individual will be revealed in next week's News Letter. Please send your answer to bunyanmeeting@gmail.com or telephone through to the church office on **01234 213722**.





Covid Island Discs

I have really enjoyed looking at and listening to all the entries submitted for the Covid Island Discs. It has been good to re-visit some old favourites I had forgotten about and to discover some new pieces of music. It's interesting to see what people's tastes are and to read their comments about each item. Thank you to everyone involved in this and to those who came up with the idea, especially to Ian for all the work he has put in behind the scenes.

Gilly

If you have not picked your disks, Ian will still welcome further entries. Please see the church website.

How did you to come to Bunyan Meeting?

From the age of seven until I got married I went to Bury Park Congregational Church, Luton. I was very happy there and it provided most of my social life. I will always be grateful for those years (except when my pal and I were thrown out of the Sunday School!). We used to ride to Bedford for County Cub dos! (I was mates with Joe Wheatley) and for Bedfordshire Congregational Youth Club. We thought of Bunyan Meeting as dark, snobbish and rich.

When I came back to Bedford, via Wiltshire and Co. Durham, I went to Howard Congregational Church. When it was suggested that Bunyan and Howard should unite to form a community chapel centre, I thought it was a wonderful idea and voted for it, but it was not to be, and so I went to St. Luke's which also folded up.

I did not fancy St. Peter's and so came to Bunyan. I did not settle easily. I thought I would like a larger congregation but I didn't. I volunteered for Open Doors so that I would get to know a few people and I did duty with Brenda Carter (we got on so well). She suggested that I went upstairs into the gallery where there were fewer people. This worked until my hearing got worse and so I had to come downstairs and I have remained in a Bunyan Meeting, that is not now dark, snobbish - and certainly not rich!

Having read about Michael and Pearl Thomas's wedding, how's this for another wedding mishap?

Bob had to do National Service (later than most) and so we arranged to get married on his leave between his initial six weeks and first posting. There was some sort of hitch and the six weeks was lengthened and so we got married on a 48-hour pass - and I spend some of my honeymoon on my own!

Barbara Harburn





Poem for Lockdown (with apologies to Wordsworth)

*I wandered lonely as a cloud
Two meters from the madding crowd,
When all at once my name was called
To enter Waitrose hallowed hall.*

*This was the pensioners' special hour
I'd gone to get a bag of flour,
But I forgot, when through the door,
What I had gone to Waitrose for.*

*The Waitrose staff are extra kind
I told them it had slipped my mind.
They asked what else I had forgot
They clearly thought I'd lost the plot.*

*I phoned my wife again to ask
She reminded me of this special task;
"I need some flour to bake a cake
with all that cream you made me take."*

*"Ah yes, I recall", I had to lie,
I dared not ask what flower to buy,
But then I saw them next to the tills
A bunch of golden daffodils!*

(Author unknown)

The difference between knowledge and wisdom is with knowledge you know a Tomato is a fruit but with Wisdom you know not to add a Tomato to a Fruit Salad.

The time for a women to raise a family is about one hour before they are due to get up.
For every youth with a spark of genius there are a dozen with ignition trouble.

Submitted by **Ken Wells**

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 **Ruth Blake, Wendy Carter, Delia O'Halloran, Holly, Janet Barratt;** and **Denise Browning**, and the rest of her family, on the death of her mother, **Rita Long**.



Bunyan Meeting

Mill Street

Bedford MK40 3EU

email bunyanmeeting@gmail.com

website www.bunyanmeeting.co.uk