



Sunday 15th August 2021

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Priory Methodist Church ~ Notices and News

Worship with Priory

The church premises are now open for 10.30am Sunday worship in person. It is also possible to share in that live worship using Zoom, and the worship will be recorded for access via the church website from later on Sunday. The full text Order of Service will no longer be produced, but words of the hymns and/or worship songs will be distributed with the notices. We will also produce audio recordings of the worship on CD for distribution to those unable to come to church or gain access to Zoom or the church website.

Via Zoom: The link for ALL services is available from the Church administrator.

Via the Priory website. Zoom services will be recorded and posted on the website, usually by late afternoon the same day. <http://www.priorychurch.org.uk>

Via recording on CD: If you would like to receive a recording of the worship on CD, please let Sue Gordon or Rev. Andrew Hollins know. CDs take a while to produce, but they will be delivered as soon as possible during the following week.

We hope that this will enable as many people as possible, whatever our circumstances, to share in the same worship.

For those attending worship in person ~ PLEASE REMEMBER that, although the government lifted the mandatory Covid-19 restrictions on 19th July, we are continuing to take a cautious approach at church. Hand sanitising facilities will still be provided, for those who wish to use them. Face coverings may be worn, and social distancing observed, by those who wish to do so. Please respect the wishes and practices of other people. Congregational singing is now permitted. We will continue to ensure that the premises are well ventilated during worship. It is important to care for ourselves, and also for our neighbours – which, of course, is fundamental to our Christian faith, and not just a factor in responding to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION IN KEEPING EVERYONE AS SAFE AS POSSIBLE.**

Missed something?

If you have forgotten a date or lost some Priory Methodist Church information, you can access the weekly notices for the past five weeks on the church website – click on “News and events” and then “News archive”. The following link <http://www.priorychurch.org.uk/news.htm> will take you there.

Lots of other resources and information about churches in the North Bedfordshire Methodist Circuit can be found on the circuit website – www.northbedsmethodist.org.uk

Pastoral / Church Family News:

We are thankful that Freya’s operation went well and she is recovering.

We are asked to remember in our prayers:

Jasmine Lewis, due to undergo an operation to remove a splinter of metal in her lip after a fall in the playground. We trust that she will recover quickly and that the family will be able to get away for a much-needed break next week.

Jenny Lloyd’s sister Gail who has a completely unexpected diagnosis of a brain tumour and hopes to have surgery soon. We pray for Gail and for all the family at this difficult time.

Congratulations to all those who have received good exams results this last week especially after the last 18 months.

Rev. Andrew Hollins is on annual leave until Monday 16th August (inclusive). For urgent matters requiring the attention of a minister during Andrew's absence, please call the circuit mobile phone (07522 928936) which will be held by a member of the circuit staff. Other contact details for circuit staff are available on the circuit website.

Church Administrator – Sue will be taking Mondays and Tuesdays off on Annual leave during the rest of August.

Sunday Recordings ~ Due to Annual Holiday, the recording of the Sunday service may not be able to be uploaded to the website on Sundays 8th & 15th August but will probably be uploaded during the week depending on finding a source of WiFi. John Lingings

Saturday Job - The Christian Bookshop, 69 Leys Avenue, Letchworth Garden City
Trainee SALES ASSISTANT

To start September 2021, 6.25 Hours per week on Saturdays

National minimum wage applicable

There may be occasional extra hours to cover absences

For Job description and application form email cbstaylor69@gmail.com

Closing date: 1 SEPTEMBER 2021

For further details contact: Chris Foster on tel. 07909591875

Circuit Magazine - The Autumn Circuit Magazine may now be available via the Circuit website
www.northbedsmethodist.org.uk/cgi-bin/home.pl

An urgent plea - So far nobody has offered to help with organising rotas for the tasks which make our Sunday worship work. The current rotas finish at the end of August and if new ones are not made, we will not have people to read the Bible in worship or to welcome us as we come to church. Can you help? The rotas are made for 3 months at a time, so it is an occasional job; if we share the work it is not demanding, but it is important.

Please consider whether you could help with either of these or with a rota for making and serving tea and coffee (you don't have to be one of those making the drinks to make the rota!) We hope to resume refreshments after worship from September, if we have people arranged to prepare them.

If you can help in any way, please contact Liz Little (lizlittlebedford@gmail.com)

Covid News: New rules and important information - As from 16th August, anyone who is fully vaccinated or is under 18 is **no longer required to self-isolate** if they have been in contact with someone with Covid, but they **MUST get a free PCR test** (not a home test) as soon as possible and isolate if that is positive. Anyone currently isolating can also go out from Monday providing they have a negative PCR test.

Cases are rising once more cross the Borough (from 264.9 per 100,000 to 331.2, a bit above the regional average). The main rise is amongst 23 – 39-year-olds and there is also a rise amongst under 10's. Whilst there has been no increase in deaths, the number of inpatients with Covid is now 23 and rising; this may lead to more deaths later.

Please continue to wear masks in crowded spaces, especially indoors, and to limit your contacts with others.

School pupils and those in regular contact with others are urged to continue to test at home regularly.

Vaccinations - The number receiving a first dose of vaccine is falling, which is a concern. Pregnant women and those under 40 are particularly urged to come forward.

Vaccines are now mainly being given at Manton Heights and via pharmacies.

Anyone **over 17yrs 9 months** can book an appointment via the National Booking System
www.nhs.uk/covid-vaccination or by phoning 119.

From this week, **16 & 17-year-olds** will be able to get a Pfizer jab at walk-in centres, details on
www.blmkccg.nhs.uk/drop-in

New plans for Church flowers - Those attending Church in person will have noticed that in recent weeks there has been a simple vase of flowers instead of the previous more elaborate arrangements. This provision has proved beneficial as there are only two arrangers readily available, and it is much easier for delivering flowers to members when required. It is now proposed to make this a permanent system.

Anyone wishing to provide flowers in church is asked to let Sue Butler know any preferred date and she will keep a diary. The suggested sum is £10 which will provide sufficient flowers to fill a vase on the stand. You can either do that yourself before the start of the Sunday morning service, or let Sue have the money and ask her to ensure the flowers are provided. It is hoped this new system will encourage more people to participate in this ministry of flowers.

These new arrangements will commence from 5th September and Sue looks forward to hearing from you.

Thank you - Our grateful thanks to Justine Green who worked hard to clean and tidy the large hall kitchen now that the playgroup has left.

Responding to climate change - We have been reminded once again of the urgency of this issue and we have a responsibility as Christians to take care of God's creation. The coming COP 26 conference in November is a valuable opportunity to focus everybody's attention on what we can all do to help. We have received the following email from Tom Otley at St Paul's Church, Bedford – is there anyone (or more than one...) who would feel able to represent Priory in such a group? If so, either Sue Gordon or Liz Little can pass you Tom's address.

"I am writing because I am hoping to create a list of contacts of people who might be interested in forming a local group on the church and the environment.

Councillor Lucy Bywater, Chair of Bedfordshire Climate Change Forum. has asked if St Paul's and other churches would like to arrange an event for the Great Big Green Week which is taking place nationally in the run up to COP 26 in Glasgow in November. The dates for the GBGW are September 18-26th.

Bedford is taking part and there will be a series of events and activities by various groups from schools and charities to faith groups and community groups, we

hope. <https://bedsclimatechange.org/2021/06/14/great-big-green-week-september-2021/>

I would like to arrange a meeting between as many local churches as possible to share knowledge on what we can do to 'green' our buildings and help with the biodiversity of our churchyards, and also publicise what we have been doing and hope to do"

Launch of new local ministry - The Resources Cupboard launched our charitable ministry in July, supporting the local church in their work with children, young people and families both locally in Bedfordshire, and across the UK. theresourcescupboard.co.uk

In particular, we are sharing the news of our Retreat Day in September. This event is open to all children's, youth and family workers, whether employed or volunteer. Tickets need to be booked in advance and are limited. There is more info (and ticket booking)

at <https://theresourcescupboard.co.uk/special-projects> See the poster attached to these notices.

Creating Safer Space Foundation Training Online - During September we will continue to offer Creating Safer Space Foundation Training online as follows:

Tuesday and Wednesday 7th and 8th September. - Tuesday will be 7pm to 8.30pm and Wednesday will be 7pm to 8pm, attendants will have to attend both evenings.

Here is the link to book: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/165116799793>

Thursday 9th September 9am to 12noon

Here is the link to book <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/164000242139>

I hope to offer another session, but that is still in the planning.

Please encourage people who can to book a session. Stephanie Field, Circuit Safeguarding Officer

Footfall Survey Reminder: All who offered to help with the footfall survey should have received a letter or email from me about how we are doing this. If you offered and did not get a message from me, please let me know. If anyone can help during August and has not been in touch I would love to hear from you either on heap10@btinternet.com or 07749832585. Many thanks. Stephen Heap

The Funeral Service for The Reverend Dalwyn R Attwell will be held at **2.00pm** (NOT 2.30pm, which was the provisional time which some of you may have picked up from other sources) on Tuesday 31st August at Trinity Methodist Church, Shortmead Street, Biggleswade, Beds. SG18 0AP.

It is possible that restrictions on numbers attending may need to be put in place; further information about this will follow when known. The service will also be live-streamed; details of how to access this will be shared once they are available.

Dalwyn's funeral service will be followed by a private committal.

Dalwyn requested that donations in lieu of flowers should be made to support the *All We Can* charity. A special JustGiving page has been set up for these donations:

https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/dalwyn?utm_source=Sharethis&utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=dalwyn&utm_campaign=pfp-email&utm_term=fd607e3b02ad443cae1c7a31281312b2.

Donating through JustGiving is simple, fast and totally secure. Once you donate, they'll send your money directly to All We Can, so it's the most efficient way to give - saving time and cutting costs for the charity. Please continue to hold Pete (Dalwyn's partner), Pat (Dalwyn's Mum) and the family in your prayers.

Trees for streets ~ One way in which we can all help to combat climate change is to plant more trees. We are lucky that Bedford is well supplied with trees and open spaces, but we also know that trees are beneficial for people AND for the environment.

Bedford Borough Council is working with a national charity, Trees for Streets, to encourage us to plant more trees. There are 2 options:

- Plant a tree on a street near you – outside Priory maybe? That costs £200 if we commit to water it, £300 if we want the council to water it. The Council will select a tree suitable for the location.
- Plant a celebration tree in one of our parks to remember a loved one or a significant event. This costs £300 and the Council will maintain the tree. Plaques will not be offered; the tree itself is the dedication.

Tress will be planted this winter. You may want to consider the scheme for yourself; if you feel that Priory could support the project as a church, please let the Leadership Team know via

lizlittlebedord@gmail.com,

More details of the project can be found at <https://sponsor.treesforstreets.org/provider/bedford-borough-council>

Gardening Working Group ~ Thank you to those who have come along to help with the gardening sessions on recent Friday mornings. We hope that those visiting/passing the church premises can see the evidence of the work which was done. The group will continue to meet on Fridays each week, at 10:00 am, All are welcome to join us but please bring your own gardening tools.

Getting in touch ~ You can contact Rev Andrew Hollins via northbedssuper@gmail.com, Tel 340167 and Sue, our administrator, via office@priorychurch.org.uk Tel 353523 or 309254

If you have any concerns about members of the Priory family, or would simply like to have a chat, please contact your Pastoral Link, our Pastoral Coordinator (Kathy Lewis –) or the Pastoral Committee Secretary (Jenny Lloyd –).

'Cuppa & Chat' ~ Time to catch up with church friends can be a good support during these times of lockdown. You will have to make your own cuppa, but you can join others to share news, chat and a smile over in our Zoom Coffee Morning – what some people have been calling ZOFFEE!. All are welcome. We meet via Zoom from 10.30 – 11.30am every Wednesday; you can join at any time in the hour and stay for as long or short a time as you are wish / are able. Why not give it a try? Just follow the Zoom link which is available from the Church office.

Church Premises ~ Sue Gordon, the Church administrator, will be working mostly from home but is generally going into Church Thursday mornings. Access to the church premises is for **essential** purposes only, anyone entering the church premises must either complete their details on the Test & Trace list OR use their mobile phone to scan the displayed QR code.

Bedford Foodbank Request ~

Thank you for your support of Bedford Foodbank. We are still feeding over 800 people per month and fed 9185 people between April 2020 and March 2021.

These are the items we are requiring the moment - Cup a Soup, Long Life Milk, Jumbo Hotdogs
Tinned Tuna, Tinned Fruit, Tea Bags, Shampoo, Washing Up Liquid, Anti Bac Spray, Shower Gel
Deodorant, Pot Noodles

Thank you, Andrea - Office 01234 268569

Weekly Diary

Sunday	15-Aug-21	
10:30 - 11:30	Worship	Church
Monday	16-Aug-21	
09:30 - 12:00	Baby College	Small Hall
14:00 - 15:00	Juna Yoga	Small Hall
19:30 - 20:30	Supple Strength	Small Hall
Tuesday	17-Aug-21	
20:00 - 21:30	Line Dancing	Main Hall
Wednesday	18-Aug-21	
18:30 - 19:30	Zumba	Main Hall
Saturday	21-Aug-21	
10:00 - 13:00	Carers In Beds Wellbeing	Small Hall & Kitchen, Room 2,
11:00 - 13:00	Young Carers	Room 3