



Sunday 18th July 2021

Sixteenth 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 (1) to wear a face covering, unless exempt, and sanitise your hands; (2) enter via the main double doors into church sanctuary, and leave via the chapel doors at the end of the service – this allows us to maintain the recommended one-way entry/exit system; (3) once you have taken your place in church you should not get up and move around the church, unless absolutely necessary, until the end of worship; (4) unless absolutely necessary, there should be no mingling with and/or talking to anyone outside your ‘bubble’ / those you are seated with inside the church building; (5) doors and windows are kept open to allow the recommended flow of FRESH AIR – this specific requirement has now been added to the precautions to be taken. **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

The Bible readings recommended for this Sunday in the church Lectionary (cycle of readings) are

Jeremiah chapter 23 verses 1-6; Psalm 23; Ephesians, chapter 2, verses 11-22; Mark, chapter 6, verses 30-34 & 53-56. (These readings are recommended, and some/all of them may be used during worship at Priory Methodist Church. The preacher or worship leader may, for various reasons, feel led to use different Bible readings. However, details of the lectionary readings are included here for information and possible use in your personal devotions).

Circuit ‘Celebration of Ministry’ Service TODAY at 4pm ~ During this Circuit Celebration we will admit Meredith Major, Anne Foley and Angie Woodcraft as accredited Local Preachers in the Methodist Church. We will also celebrate the ministry of Worship Leaders around the circuit. Farewells will be

included to, and thanks offered, for the ministries of, Rev. Gill Baalham (who is moving to a new appointment in the Redhill & East Grinstead Circuit), Rev. Caroline Weaver (who is retiring to the West Hertfordshire & Borders Circuit), Rev. Wendy Evans-Wood (who has moved to Northampton), Rev. Kath Pawlett (who is moving to near Huntingdon), and Rev. Clive Larrett (Chaplain at Chicksands military base, who is retiring to Scotland). Following his sudden death, we will also give thanks for the ministry of Rev. Dalwyn Attwell.

The celebration will be hosted by Priory Methodist Church in a hybrid format, i.e. with some people in the building and others able to worship via Zoom. Due to the continuing Covid-19 restrictions numbers of people attending in person are limited to those who have been specifically invited. The Zoom invitation is repeated as an attachment to this week's notices.

10.30am Worship on Sunday 25th July ~ We are planning, weather permitting, to hold Morning Worship (celebratory Songs of Praise style) outdoors in the church grounds. This is in response to one of the suggestions in the 'A Way Forward' proposals. 25th July will be the first Sunday after the revised date for the possible ending of the extended Covid-19 roadmap restrictions. The service will be 'Songs of Praise' style. It will be possible to move some chairs to outside, but it would help if those who think they may need a chair can bring their own, e.g. folding garden/camping chair. If we do manage to hold the service outdoors it will be difficult to also arrange the usual Zoom recording of the worship for the church website. We hope for your understanding with this. Please pray for fine/dry weather!

Pastoral / Church Family News:

The news was shared in church last Sunday morning that, following two weeks in hospital, **Rev. Dalwyn Attwell** died suddenly and unexpectedly late on Saturday 10th July. We continue to pray for his partner, Pete, and their families and friends following this tragic bereavement.

We are sorry to hear that **Hannah Winkworth** tested positive for Covid-19 last week. Our prayers are with Hannah and her family as they are self-isolating.

We pray that **Rev. Jeremy Arthern** will recover well following a further cataract operation.

Please let Rev. Andrew Hollins have details of any significant pastoral / church family news for inclusion in the church notices. Ongoing pastoral needs which we are aware of are included in the 'For Our Prayers This Week' section below.

Praying Together ~ Although we are praying separately and at different times, we pray **together** for various aspects of the life of Priory Methodist Church, and for God's guidance for the church's future. We also pray for the concerns of church members and other people/situations of particular need, for the groups/people who use the church premises, and also for local community life, plus local businesses and residents.

FOR OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

International concerns ~ We pray for the unrest in **South Africa** and in **Haiti**, resulting from recent political and military actions and decisions. We also pray for the situation in **Afghanistan** with the withdrawal of US troops. Our prayers are also with the people of **Germany** and **Belgium** following the adverse weather and flooding which has caused major disruption and loss of life.

We also give thanks for the **Olympic Games** (Tokyo, 23rd July to 8th August).

Covid-19 pandemic ~ As the restrictions are eased from July 19th we pray that people will continue to behave sensibly, thinking of the safety of their neighbours as well as themselves. We also pray for continued uptake of the vaccines, giving thanks for everyone who has helped with the vaccination programme. Our prayers are with those who are vulnerable or feeling anxious about the Covid-19 pandemic against the background of the easing of restrictions.

Today is observed as **Rural Mission Sunday**. We pray for the work of *Rural Mission Solutions* for whom today's preacher, David Wells, works. We pray for all rural churches exercising their mission, especially for the rural churches in our own North Bedfordshire Methodist Circuit.

Local residents ~ The people who live in **Greenshields Road**.

Local businesses and activities / Community concerns ~ We give thanks for those who work hard to clear away and process our refuse and recycling.

Those who share the church premises ~ We give thanks for the **Rainbow Preschool**, which has met at Priory Methodist Church for around 20 years. As the preschool finishes this week, we pray for the children, families, staff and management at this difficult time.

The North Bedfordshire Methodist Circuit ~ We give thanks for the ministries which will be celebrated at today's Circuit Celebration Service,

The life of Priory Methodist Church ~ Pray for the *A Way Forward* group as it meets to progress the future direction of the church.

People/situations ~ Les and Elaine Leach (*following Les' recent fall*); Rita Say & family (*Rita's brother died a couple of weeks ago*); Peter Clarkson (*following the death of Rev. Dalwyn Attwell*); Sue Butler, Christine Botterill, Ria Thomas and Toby Winkworth (*all recovering from recent falls/injuries*); Lodewyk Nel and Jeremy Arthern (*recovering following surgery*); Millicent de Souza (*extended period in hospital*); Wendy Hayward-Carter (*recovering from major surgery*); Sharon (*undergoing cancer treatment*); Kady Field (*continued health difficulties*); Hannah Winkworth (*tested Covid-19 positive*).

A Thanksgiving Service for the life of Roger Wood will be held at Priory Methodist Church at 11.30am on Wednesday 28th July. As music was such a major part of Roger's life, we hope that the final stage of the Covid-19 roadmap will have removed the restriction on singing. We also hope that there will be no restrictions on numbers attending. The service will be followed by light refreshments.

Thank you so much to my Priory Methodist Church friends for the beautiful flowers which were delivered to me by Andrew following the recent death of my brother, Keith. I have settled in nicely at Aspley Court. Everyone here seems very friendly, but I won't recognise any of them when we are allowed to discard our masks! (Rita Say)

Thank you for me for my card and lovely flowers, thank you. Christine Botterill

Smart Prebend Day Centre

We will no longer be collecting items for Smart Prebend

PLT made the decision to remove the box from the front entrance because the SMART Prebend Centre is currently unable to operate as a homeless day centre due to COVID-19 restrictions. It is temporarily running its homeless services from a local hotel and continues to provide support and compassion for people experiencing homelessness in Bedford.

They are not able to accept our usual donations. Prebend are still accepting donations of toiletries but not clothes as they have very little storage facilities.

I took the clothes that were in the box to Emmaus, another local homeless charity in Carlton.

Lynne Gound

The Pilgrim's Progress film is being shown at The Quarry Theatre at 12noon and 7.30pm on Monday 26th July as part of BedFringe2021. Bookings can be made by phone (01234 362337) or online - <https://bedfringe.ticketsolve.com/shows/873622125>

Zimbabwe Victims' Support Fund – The July Prayer Focus is attached to this week's notices. It includes a lot of information to inform our prayers for the people of Zimbabwe and the work of ZVSF.

Conference Business Digest - find attached the Conference Business Digest, which we hope provides a helpful summary of the decisions of the Conference.

Recent Appeals – I can now confirm that the response to the 2 recent appeals for donations resulted in the following.

1. Cost of new battery and pad for the defibrillator was £254.40 with donations received of £225

2. Cost of AV upgrade / new camera for Sunday worship was £238.40 with donations received of £550, where the excess donations have been allocated to general church funds.

Can I take this opportunity of thanking everyone who were able to contribute to these 2 appeals.

Keith Gaunt, Priory Treasurer

Jam and Jam Jars ~ If anyone has any jam jars, with lids and are able to bring them to church I will leave a suitable cardboard box for them in the welcome area under the table.

I now have gooseberry, raspberry, blackcurrant and strawberry jam for sale £2 per pot, proceeds to the Brian Tumour Charity. Janice Dawson-Taylor

'A Way Forward' survey responses ~ Thank you to everyone who has returned their survey. The 'Way Forward' group would be pleased to receive any further responses. An overview of the survey results was shared at the Church Council meeting on Thursday 15th July. Thank you to those who volunteered to help in various ways. Your offers will be followed up over the next few weeks, either by members of the Way Forward group or by those who coordinate various aspects of church life

More opportunities for Safeguarding 'Creating Safer Space' Foundation Training~ Below are the links to book for further Creating Safer Space Foundation Training online (via Zoom) events. Please book as soon as possible. (Training needs to be renewed every four years).

Wednesday 21st July 9am

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/creating-safer-space-foundation-training-on-zoom-tickets-159963239355>



Prayer 2021 we are asking God to work through all that is done in 2021.

Evangelism in all its many forms

Neighbourhood **transformed** as people come to know

and love the Lord Jesus for themselves.

Wednesday 21st July 2021 at 20:21pm

Precious heavenly Father, we are grateful You haven't left us to face our battles alone, we are surrounded by your love, covered by your armor and equipped by your truth. Help us to stay tender to your leading and courageous enough to keep obeying you.

In Jesus name. Amen (Ephesians 6:11)

Watch this space for news of the date of our next community Litter Pick.

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, from 4th June onwards. All are welcome to join us but please bring your own gardening tools.

Bible study ~ The Bible study group will be taking a break in August. Our next session will be at 7pm on Friday 3rd September, when we hope to be able to hold a hybrid meeting (some people meeting in person, with others joining via Zoom). We have agreed to study the Second Letter of Peter. All are welcome to join in – no special expertise is required, just a desire to explore the Bible.

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 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.

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

Church Premises during Lockdown ~ Sue Gordon, the Church administrator, will be working mostly from home. The Rainbow Preschool will be continuing, as this is permitted under the lockdown rules. There is to be NO entry via the side door when Preschool are present (0800-1600 Monday to Friday). Other access to the church premises, for **essential** purposes only, is to be via the main door. 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.

Weekly Diary

Sunday	18-Jul-21
09:30 - 11:30	Morning Worship
16:00 - 17:00	Circuit Celebration
Monday	19-Jul-21
09:00 - 15:00	Rainbow Pre-school
09:30 - 12:00	Baby College
14:00 - 15:00	Juna Yoga
19:00 - 20:00	Yoga
19:30 - 20:30	Supple Strength
Tuesday	20-Jul-21
09:00 - 15:00	Rainbow Pre-school
20:00 - 21:30	Line Dancing
Wednesday	21-Jul-21
09:00 - 15:00	Rainbow Pre-school
18:30 - 19:30	Zumba
Thursday	22-Jul-21
09:00 - 15:00	Rainbow Pre-school
18:00 - 19:00	Rainbows
Friday	23-Jul-21
09:00 - 15:00	Rainbow Pre-school