



Sunday 22nd August 2021

Twenty first 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

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

Joshua, chapter 24, verses 1-2a & 14-18; Psalm 34, verses 15-22; Ephesians, chapter 6, verses 10-20; The Gospel of John, chapter 6, verses 56-69. (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).

Pastoral / Church Family News:

No details have been received about the funeral arrangements for **Millicent de Souza**, who died on 27th July. However, some of Millicent’s extended family are exploring the possibility of arranging a Celebration of Life service at Priory Methodist Church. Details of this will be shared when they are available. We continue to hold Millicent’s family and friends in our prayers.

Colin Perkins has been in touch to let us know that his mother, **Margaret Perkins**, died on 18th August. Margaret was a member of Priory Methodist Church and, until moving to Sussex a couple of

years or so ago, was resident at Anjulita Court MHA. Arrangements are being made for Margaret's funeral service to be held at Priory Methodist Church; details of this will be shared in due course. We extend our sympathy to Margaret's family and friends, and hold them in our prayers.

Congratulations to **Craig Gaffney and Louise Westoby** who were married yesterday, Saturday 21st August, following several postponements due to Covid-19. Craig led worship at Priory Methodist Church a few times whilst he was a Local Preacher in training in the North Bedfordshire Circuit. Following his Admission as a Local Preacher in June 2019, Craig was accepted for training for ordained ministry in the Methodist Church. He has been stationed as a Probationer Presbyter in the Blackheath and Crystal Palace (London) Methodist Circuit from September this year.

At a Circuit Service on Thursday 2nd September (see separate notices below) **Rev. Chris Sandy** will be welcomed as a Presbyter serving in the North Bedfordshire Circuit. Chris will have pastoral responsibility for Sharnbrook, Oakley, Clapham, Park Road and London Road Methodist churches. We welcome Chris and pray for him as he begins his ministry in this circuit.

We are pleased to hear that Jenny Lloyd's sister, **Gail**, is now home from hospital following surgery for the brain tumour which she was suddenly diagnosed with.

We continue to remember two of the younger people linked to our church, **Freya** and **Jasmine**, as they recover from recent operations.

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 ~ There are so many troubled places and people in our world at this time. We pray for the situation unfolding in **Afghanistan**, especially for any who are afraid about their own future or that of their loved ones. We also pray for the people of **Haiti**, where a tropical storm has increased the damage and suffering followed the recent earthquake. Against this background, we continue to pray and respond to the concerns around **global warming and climate change**.

We pray for the community of **Plymouth** following the tragedy of the recent shootings.

Covid-19 pandemic ~ Aware that the pandemic is still affecting the lives of so many people in Britain and around the world, we continue to give thanks for all those responding to it through healthcare, the vaccination programme, community volunteering, and sharing of vaccines with nations and communities which are less well resourced.

Local residents ~ The people who live in Newnham Avenue.

Local businesses and activities / Community concerns ~ We give thanks and pray for the work of Bedford Borough Council, especially for our local Councillors.

Those who share the church premises ~ We give thanks for the many organisations and groups which use and hire parts of the church premises, especially as they prepare to return or resume their activities over the next few weeks.

The North Bedfordshire Methodist Circuit ~ We pray for Rev. Chris Sandy as he is welcomed to begin his ministry in this circuit on 2nd September.

The life of Priory Methodist Church ~ Give thanks for those who are working hard in the church grounds and gardens.

We pray for God's blessing on Craig Gaffney and Louise Westoby who were married yesterday, and on Craig's future ministry as it begins in the Blackheath and Crystal Palace Methodist Circuit.

People/situations ~ The families and friends of Rev. Dalwyn Attwell, Millicent de Souza, Margaret Perkins, Carl Mapletoft and Graham Rook *who all died recently*; Freya and Jasmine (*recovering from recent operations*); Sharon (*undergoing cancer treatment*); Kady Field (*continued health difficulties*).

Rev. Andrew Hollins is on annual leave from late afternoon of Sunday 22nd August until Monday 30th 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.

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

The Circuit Welcome Service for Rev. Chris Sandy will be held at Kempston East Methodist Church at 7.30pm on Thursday 2nd September. People are welcome to attend in person, or to join via Zoom. Details of the Zoom invitation are included as an attachment to this week's notices. The service will be led by Rev. Dr. David Chapman (Bedfordshire, Essex & Hertfordshire Methodist District Chair).

'Pompoms of Promise' update ~ Over the next week or so the *Pompoms of Promise*, which have been attached to the trees in the church front gardens, will be removed. As these pompoms represent the promise of hope which people have held on to during the Covid-19 pandemic, it doesn't seem right to throw them away. We will keep them, and possibly use them during our worship in the autumn. Please see the separate notice about the next idea for using the trees / church gardens to connect with passers-by and to extend the church beyond our walls.

Surplus CDs needed ~ Do you have any CDs which you no longer need? If so, we would be pleased to have them for use in our next project with the trees / church front gardens. The plan is to offer people the opportunity to write messages on the CDs and hang them on the trees. As the surplus CDs are being 'recycled' for this purpose, we are inviting messages related to climate change and our care for God's creation. This will fit with the celebration of harvest-time, and also the *Great Big Green Week (18th to 26th September)*. It will also lead in to the COP26 UN Climate Change Conference which the UK will be hosting in Glasgow from 31st October to 12th November this year. Please put any CDs which you are willing to donate in the MINISTER pigeonhole in the church Welcome Area. Thank you.

Bedford Christians Against Modern Slavery ~ This group has been formed by Christians from some other local churches. They are inviting others to get involved, and extending an invitation to a series of five interactive Thursday evening sessions, beginning of Thursday 9th September, on *Women in UK Slavery*. For further information or to get involved please email antislavery.bedford@gmail.com or link up with the group via Facebook - <https://m.facebook.com/breakingchainsinbedford>

An Online Mental Health Forum is being organised on Zoom from 2pm to 4.30pm on Thursday 9th September. The objective is to bring together residents of Bedford Borough, mental health service users, commissioners, service providers, and voluntary sector partners to understand the new framework in which mental health services are being developed, and the impact on local services and service users. A flyer about this event is attached to this week's notices. Places are limited; anyone wishing to express their interest should email shanice.d@healthwatchbedfordborough.co.uk or send a text/SMS message to 07936 083362. The event will also be available via Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and the *Bedford Healthwatch* website.

We will be celebrating Harvest Festival on Sunday 26th September. Following the success of our recent Open Air worship, the provisional plan (weather permitting) is to hold our 10.30am Harvest Festival worship in the church grounds.

Bedford Borough Covid News - The good news is that cases have dropped from 331.2 per 100,000 to 288.0. However, there has been a slight rise in Covid patients in hospital, some of whom have been double jabbed. Whilst they are expected to recover, this is a reminder that we cannot afford to become complacent.

Only 386 first jabs were given in the last 7 days, a drop of nearly 100 from the previous week; this compares to 4,068 2nd doses this week. 64.3% of over 16's in the Borough have been fully vaccinated, but this slowing rate of uptake is a concern. If you know anyone over 16 who has yet to get jabbed, please encourage them to do so. Drop in sessions are available; go to www.bedford.gov.uk/vaccinations or www.blmkccg.nhs.uk/drop-in

Bible Readers and Welcomers - We are grateful to Barbara Barlow and Jenny Lloyd who have offered to co-ordinate the rotas, Barbara for Bible readers and Jenny for welcomers.

If you are already on the list for either of these roles, **or if you offered to take one on in response to the Way Forward survey**, you will find a sheet in your pigeonhole at church THIS SUNDAY to give your availability. Please can you return this as soon as possible.

You can also ring Barbara or Jenny and give them your dates that way. Thank you.

Coffee after church - There are no plans at present to serve coffee after worship. If this is to recommence, we need folk willing to organise it. If you miss coffee, are you prepared to help make it happen?

Food and Fun - 7 families attended the session on 12th August based on the story of Jesus walking on the water (told with much audience involvement!). We were able to use the garden at the back of church now vacated by the pre-school and great fun was had, with water play, magic painting and decorating anchor biscuits and pastry boats proving particularly popular. For the first time since before Covid, we were able to serve lunch too, which was much appreciated.

Our 2nd summer session will be on 2nd September. Please pray for this event; we are also in need of help with moving tables and chairs before and at the end of the session (which runs from 11am – 1.30pm) and a male helper at the session would be appreciated as we have a number of boys who come regularly. If you can help, please let Liz Little know (lizlittlebedford@gmail.com)

Thanks - I thank everyone very much for the wonderful, wonderful card sent to me from Priory following the death of my mother, Millicent de Souza. The words were so heart-warming, thank you.

Paul de Souza.

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 (tel. 354183) 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.

Pastoral Meeting - There will be a Pastoral Meeting on Monday 13th September at 2pm. I will let you know nearer the date as to whether it will be on zoom or in Priory. If you are unable to attend please send your apologies to Jenny Lloyd.

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

Tuesday 7th and Wednesday 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 who need to do the training, and who are able to do so online, are encouraged to book for these sessions. (Stephanie Field, Circuit Safeguarding Officer)

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. There are no restrictions on numbers of people attending, but wearing masks and observing social distancing is highly recommended. The service will also be live-streamed via the following link -

<https://vimeo.com/588866561/20a7dff6e4>. The church service will be followed by a private committal.

Anyone who is planning to attend the church service and stay for refreshments afterwards is asked to contact Joanne Heslop (joanne@theheslops.org) to help with catering provision.

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.

Trees 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-boroughcouncil>

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	22-Aug-21	
10:30 - 11.30	Worship	Church
Monday	23-Aug-21	
14:00 - 15:00	Juna Yoga	Small Hall
19:30 - 20:30	Supple Strength	Small Hall
Tuesday	24-Aug-21	
20:00 - 21:30	Line Dancing	Main Hall
Wednesday	25-Aug-21	
18:30 - 19:30	Zumba	Main Hall