



Sunday 29th August 2021

Twenty second 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:

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.

At a Circuit Service on Thursday 2nd September (see separate notices below) **Rev. Chris Sandy** will be welcomed as a Presbyterian 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.

Rev. Andrew Hollins is on annual leave 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.

Thank you - Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers delivered by Andrew last Sunday and the kind messages of sympathy and prayers from Priory friends on the sad loss of my daughter Sharon.

Jill Richards

Read any good Christian books lately?

Many Priory folk and visitors enjoy borrowing books from Stella's shelves in the corridor. We now have extra bookcases and would like to set aside an area specifically for Christian books. If you read a book with a Christian theme recently which you would be willing to share with others, or have books about faith which you think others would find helpful, please leave them in the box under the table in the welcome area. Thank you.

Bible Study - We will meet again via Zoom on Friday evening 3rd September at 7pm. The details are below and all are welcome. This is a very informal group and no expertise is required, just an interest in exploring the Bible. We will be looking at the 2nd letter of Peter.

Link is available from the Church administrator.

Local Worship - The service on 12th September will be a Local Worship. All members of the congregation are encouraged to be involved in planning and taking part in Local Worship services. I am happy to facilitate this, so please get in touch at marianeknights@gmail.com as soon as you can so we can plan the service. Marian Knights

Jam Jars – Thanks to all those who have left jam jars for me. The box is being removed today, any I cannot use will be recycled or passed onto someone else who can use them. Many thanks, Janice



4th September 10.30 – 2pm At Kempston East Methodist Church, Raising money for Christian Aid
Do come and join us, Stalls including Cakes, Produce, White Elephant
Come and enjoy a cup of coffee or stay for a BBQ, Bouncy castle and much more

Millicent - a tribute - The family would like Priory friends to contribute to their record of the Celebration by making a tribute to her memory. Please would friends send an email to Pauline Williams at pwilliwoo@gmail.com or call her. It can be serious, it can be a funny memory; it can be a few sentences, it can be shorter - a 'flavour' of who she was and what she meant to us. The date by which this is needed is Tuesday next, 31st August. These thoughts will then be gathered into a Priory Tribute which will go into a booklet they are making. Thank you. Millicent's family.

Notices – Next week's notices will be for two weeks as the Church Administrator, Sue, is taking annual leave from 10th until the 13th September inclusive.

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).



On **Tuesday September 7th**, at 7.30 pm, Luke Lerner will give talk entitled: 'Journey from action to organising, working collaboratively for the common good' Luke is ordained in the Church of England, and based in the centre of Bedford. He is passionate about Jesus and Justice, particularly in the areas of homelessness, peace-making, and interfaith collaboration. Luke is currently studying for a doctorate in Practical Theology, researching with Christians involved in Community Organising and is a big fan of Saint Francis.

The talk, via Zoom, may finish at around 8.15 pm and will be followed by an opportunity for questions. Please use the following link: Bedford Council of Faiths is inviting you to a talk

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83408033751?pwd=WUNmdE9RZjVEQWNBVIZuSDYwRUk2QT09>

Meeting ID: 834 0803 3751 Passcode: 668410

The talk will be followed by a BCoF business meeting finishing no later than 9pm.

Covid Snapshot - The latest figures from Public Health show that cases are rising again in the Borough, up from 288 per 100,000 to 351.4 This affects most wards and there are some cases in all age groups except the over 90's, although most infections are in the under 60's. There has been a slight rise in hospital admissions, but also a rise in the number of first jobs given.

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.

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)

'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.

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

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.

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?

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.

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.

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"

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)

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 **29-Aug-21**

10:30 - 11:30 Worship

Tuesday **31-Aug-21**

10:30 - 11:30 Way Forward Meeting

20:00 - 21:30 Line Dancing

Wednesday **01-Sep-21**

18:30 - 19:30 Zumba

Thursday **02-Sep-21**

11:00 - 13:00 Food and Fun