



**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2021**  
**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

## **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 office.

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.

### **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](http://www.northbedsmethodist.org.uk)

**Guidelines for those attending church for Sunday Morning Public Worship** ~ These guidelines were distributed as an attachment to the notices in recent weeks. If you missed them, or would like another copy, please contact the church office.

### **Pastoral / Church Family News:**

Best wishes to **Rita Say** as she settles in to her new home at Aspley Court.

**Millicent de Souza** is showing some small signs of progress, but remains very poorly in Bedford Hospital.

We hold these people in prayer, along with others whose names and situations we may be aware of.

**A Methodist Way of Life** – Our Sunday worship during May will be exploring *A Methodist Way of Life (MWOl)*. In preparation for this, copies of the *MWOl* Commitment Card and *A Brief Guide to a Methodist Way of Life* were attached to last week’s notices; they are attached again this week. (Printed copies of these will be made available at church when the Covid-19 restrictions mean that it is safe to do so).

**'A Way Forward for Priory Methodist Church'** ~ Thank you to those people who shared in the meeting by Zoom last Tuesday evening. The 'Way Forward' working group will be meeting this week to process the comments and feedback from that meeting. Watch this space for further updates.

**Thank yous** ~ – Dear Priory Friends, once again, a big 'Thank You' to you for the beautiful flowers, cards and messages you gave us for our 60th wedding anniversary (diamond). Very many thanks, too, to Andrew who not only delivered them but who did a lot of detective work to find out the date! We didn't breathe a word about it because we weren't able to have a celebration, not even give you all some special cake and coffee and we knew if you knew, you would be kind enough to give us some flowers, and we felt we had had more than our fair share with all the wonderful flowers you have sent us throughout Les's illness and many visits to hospital and for my birthday! However, thank you so much, the flowers are lovely as are the cards and messages and we really appreciate them. We celebrated with the family in relays! Love from Elaine and Les Leach

To all members of the Priory Church Family. Thank you very much to Rev Andrew Hollins and all members of Priory Church for your continued support and prayers also for the lovely flowers delivered by Rev Andrew. I am slowly progressing, but it has been much harder than I expected and just having to give myself time to recover and get stronger. I am extremely grateful to all the staff at Royal Papworth and all my friends for their care support and prayers. I have found it very emotional to realise that I am now able to breathe while talking and walking round the house. Thank you to you all for your continued love, prayers and support. Love to you all Wendy Hayward -Carter.

**Help needed** ~ During the lockdowns, work on our premises has continued as best as possible but this has relied on the good will of a couple of people. As we come out of lockdown situations we would like to reinstate a working party who could meet up every Friday morning to tackle, initially, the garden (socially distanced of course). We are not requiring 'experts' but members who are willing to have a go - male or female - all help will be appreciated.

Please don't sit back in the belief that the premises looks after itself, it doesn't! Come and join in, make a difference and have a bit of fun at the same time.

Our first session will be 10:00am Friday 7th May. Gardening gloves and your own tools - secateurs, fork and or spade might be useful.

Speak to Gordon Beeden or John Lingings if you are wanting to find out more.

**Church Council** – The next meeting of the Church Council will be held at 7.30pm on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> July. We hope that it will be possible for the Church Council to meet in person on this occasion, but this will depend on satisfactory progress with the government Covid-19 roadmap restrictions.

**Bible study** ~ Our next meeting will be on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm via Zoom, details below.

We will look at the final 4 chapters of the Book of Daniel, which has proved to be a fascinating book. All are welcome to join in, no special expertise is required, just a desire to explore the Bible.

Join Zoom Meeting details are available from the Church office.

**'Creating Safer Space' safeguarding training** ~ Is your *Creating Safer Space* (CSS) training out of date or expiring soon? (The CSS training needs to be done every four years). The Covid-19 pandemic restrictions meant that face-to-face training was suspended, but it is now possible to do the CSS Foundation module training online. (The CSS Advanced module will be available online later this year). CCS Foundation module online/Zoom training sessions are available for booking on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> May (10am to 1.30pm) and Friday 14<sup>th</sup> May (2 to 5pm). For further information please contact the Circuit Safeguarding Officer (Stephanie Field) – [northbedssafeguarding@gmail.com](mailto:northbedssafeguarding@gmail.com) or 07522 928936. Please remember that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility in the church.

**Bedford Borough Council Covid News** ~ The latest figures show a slight rise in cases; we have moved from 18.5 per 100,000 to 25.4, which is close to the national average. 44 new cases were recorded in the last week, predominantly amongst those aged under 49. It is important to keep on our guard, remembering hands – face – space – fresh air.

**Rapid Lateral Flow tests** can help to identify COVID-19 in people who don't have symptoms, but a negative result doesn't necessarily mean you're clear of the virus. If you get a negative result, continue following guidance to slow the spread of Covid-19.

You're now able to collect rapid home testing kits from Bedford Central, Kempston, Putnoe, Bromham and Wootton libraries. Kits are also available from participating pharmacies, local testing centres and for order online.

**Pompoms of promise** ~ Following the success of our tree of love and tears, which clearly resonated with the community, we are proposing to invite people to tie woollen pompoms to the tree starting at Pentecost (23<sup>rd</sup> May). For Christians, Pentecost is a time of hope and promise as we celebrate the coming of God's Holy Spirit. The pompoms will represent our hopes of better times to come (17<sup>th</sup> May should mark the next stage on the roadmap out of lockdown), the promise of the changing seasons and our thanksgiving for the things we can enjoy again.



For this purpose, we will need lots of pompoms in **red, orange and yellow**, to represent the flames of God's spirit at Pentecost. Can you make some? You can use plastic kits, cardboard circles or even your hand – see diagrams below. These can be left in the vestibule at church over the next 3 weeks. Alternatively, can you provide any wool in those colours? This can also be left in the vestibule.

If you can't get to church, please let Sue Gordon in the church office know initially and we will find someone to collect.

([Office@priorychurch.org.uk](mailto:Office@priorychurch.org.uk) , Tel 353523 or 309254)

**Thank you** ~ A big thank you to the cleaning team who turned out in force on Saturday 17th April to clean / Hoover / wipe down the premises and weed the path in readiness for returning to worship at Priory last Sunday morning. A rota has now been set up so the cleaning of certain parts can continue every week

**Save the Date (1)** ~ North Bedford Churches Together, to which Priory Methodist Church belongs, are planning a picnic at 4pm on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> July in the paddock at St, Mary's Church, Goldington. A short act of worship to renew our commitment will also be included. Depending on the adjustment of the Covid-19 restrictions, it is likely to be a 'bring your own picnic' event.

**Save the Date (2)** ~ A Circuit Celebration at 4pm on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> July will include the admission of Meredith Major, Angie Woodcraft and Anne Foley as Local Preachers, thanksgiving for the ordination of Rev. Dalwyn Attwell, and farewells to Revs. Gill Baalham and Caroline Weaver. Due to Covid-19 restrictions we are uncertain about the exact details of the service. More details to follow, but please save the date!

**Tackling loneliness** ~ One of the effects of lockdown has been loneliness and this is likely to continue even as we gradually emerge. The Red Cross has a wide range of resources to help with this problem. The link below focuses first on loneliness among young people, but if you scroll down, you will also find help for adults. Thank you to Jenny Lloyd for passing this on.

<https://www.redcross.org.uk/get-help/get-help-with-loneliness/tackling-loneliness-in-young-people>

**Churches Together in Bedfordshire's Annual Forum** ~ See attached flyer.

We will be holding Churches Together in Bedfordshire's Annual Forum on Monday 10th May 2021 at 7pm on Zoom. Contact Priory Church office for Zoom details.

We are delighted that our guest speaker is Rev Dr Paul Goodliff, General Secretary of Churches Together in England. His talk is entitled:

*Picking up the threads of life after Covid — The Church as Weaver of the Tapestry of Mission.*

There will be a short AGM before Paul talk.

**'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 wish / are able. Why not give it a try? Just follow the Zoom link that is available from the Church office.

**Getting in touch** ~ You can contact Rev Andrew Hollins via [northbedssuper@gmail.com](mailto:northbedssuper@gmail.com), Tel 340167 and Sue, our administrator, via [office@priorychurch.org.uk](mailto: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 ).

### **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 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.