



Come on in!

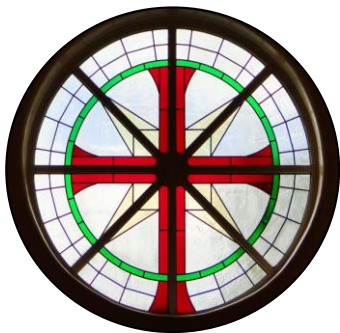
In early August the Church at Bents Green opens its new doors to the community. Now for the first time you can see into our building as you walk past the doors. You can also see inside through our new windows from the top of an 88 bus which also has our famous round window painted on its side. We have kept this landmark window in its new uPVC home. When you look inside,

what will you see? You will see the sunlight reflecting the colours of the stained glass. You will see the new red carpet. On a Sunday morning you will see the 100+ worshippers of all ages from 0 to 93 singing new songs from the new screens, or enjoying a cup of coffee from our new kitchen.

What is more important is what you won't see so easily from the top of a bus – the warmth of our welcome to friends old and new, the friendship that unites us in our love of Christ, the fun and laughter that echoes in our corridors when our 150 children and young people are enjoying our different activities throughout the week, the support that we give to those who are struggling with life or death, the strength and joy and hope we get from putting Jesus at the centre of our lives as individuals and as the church at the centre of Bents Green. (Continued on next page)



Almost finished! Looking through the new, transparent doors



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If you would like to receive Hilltop in full colour by email please email the editor at tn-

Open Day and Harvest Celebration Weekend 27th and 28th September

**Saturday: Open Day 11 am – 4 pm
and Messy Harvest 2 – 4 pm**

Come and see the refurbished church

**Sunday: Harvest Service at 10.30 am followed by
a Faith Lunch**

Holiday Clubs at Bents Green Methodist Church

11th – 15th August: 1.30 – 3.30 pm

(Continued from front page)

We are very grateful for the generosity of those whose financial gifts have made our new incarnation possible, for the skills and hard work of the builders, electricians, architects and others who have created these lovely new surroundings, for the patience of the community when the work has been inconvenient, and above all for God's goodness in lending us this beautiful building for the benefit of the community.



We are pleased that we are now much more transparent, and not hidden away out of sight. We want to be open, friendly, welcoming. If you have never been inside, do come to our official opening on 27th September (details elsewhere in this magazine), or just pop in when we are around. God has blessed this community for 81 years since this church was first opened, and we are now much better placed to be a blessing to Bents Green in the years to come. May God bless you all.

Glenn Evans

Some events coming up soon

Bents Green Church Holiday Clubs from 11th – 15th August: 1.30 – 3.30 pm

Junior Heroes Holiday club for children aged 5 – 11

Come dressed as your favourite Superhero or create your own hero.

Contact Cherry for details or to book in: 07853278612.



Seaside Stories for 3 – 4 year olds

with sand, stories, crafts, songs and **Finding Nemo**. Contact Sue for details and to book: 0114 2307556.

Open Day and Harvest Celebration Weekend – 27th & 28th September

The church will be open on Saturday 27th September from 11 am – 4 pm serving teas, coffee and cakes for everyone to come in and 'have a nosey' round the refurbished building. All are welcome.

There will be a short service together with families from Messy Harvest at 3.30 pm.

Messy Harvest on Saturday 27th September 2 - 4pm in the church hall –

Crafts and activities for children aged 3 – 12 and their parents, grandparents and carers with refreshments and a short service in church at 3.30 pm.

Harvest Festival morning service on Sunday 28th September at 10.30 am followed by a Faith Lunch.

Disciple Course

at Bents Green Methodist Church Ringinglow Road S11 7PU

The course is starting with a taster session on **Wednesday 3 September 7.30pm**

Disciple is a 34 week study of the whole Bible story from Genesis to Revelation. Participants follow a pattern of daily study with a weekly group meeting. Whether you know the Bible from back to front or are just starting, you will be welcome.

Please talk to Graham Wassell on 235 0393 or John Wilkins on 236 1306 if you would like to join the course, or want to know more.



Grand designs

You can't switch on the television these days without watching property programmes such as Grand Designs, or people designing strange sheds or tree houses. Or, for the nosier and more quizzical amongst us, an opportunity to look through the keyhole and consider who may live in the house.

Well for the past few months as this magazine reminds us we have had scaffolding and building work going on at your church here at Bents Green. Admit it, you are a little curious to see what it looks like inside. Well, very soon you will have the opportunity.

We would love you to come to our 'Church warming' / harvest weekend on Saturday and Sunday 27th – 28th September. The invitation is for coffee, tea and cakes on the Saturday, come for a nosey, bring a friend, come and meet us. Help us celebrate all that God is doing. Or come with the children and grandchildren for Messy Church on the Saturday afternoon, we will have a short service of thanksgiving for all age groups at 3.30pm. You are very welcome.

It is also our Harvest Thanksgiving weekend, when we thank God for all his good gifts, and we are aiming to twin our brand new toilet with a toilet in Bangladesh, or Burundi or another country that doesn't take toilets for granted like we do, and where millions still die through poor sanitation. So, spend a penny or two in giving some money to provide someone else with a basic toilet. The Harvest service will be at 10.30 am on Sunday 28th September.

But you don't have to wait until that weekend to find out who is at the centre of all that we are in this church; you don't have to look through a keyhole. Come in anytime and chat to us, worship with us, and we will tell you about Jesus, the one who amazingly turns everything upside down by saying 'I am the one knocking at your door, If you open the door I will come in and eat with you.'

Hope to see you soon, have a great summer. God bless, Louise



Rev Louise Grosberg



Thank you for your support for Christian Aid Week 2014

A very big thank you to everyone in the Bents Green community who contributed in Christian Aid Week in May this year. At a time when money is tight for many people, you generously gave a record amount to this most worthwhile of charities.

Next an equally big thank you to the intrepid band of 16 collectors who brought in this record total during Christian Aid Week from the homes all around Bents Green Church. It is not easy knocking on doors, but the great majority of people are willing to give, and some give very generously indeed.

The money raised this year is primarily going to support life-changing projects in war-torn South Sudan, Columbia and Syria, where ordinary families are suffering intense hardship. In Columbia alone there are still 5 million people displaced by the civil war. To quote from this year's poster: *War tears lives apart. Love can piece them back together.* As Christians we are directly called to show Christ's love for the poor, the dispossessed and the powerless. Collecting for Christian Aid is one way in which we do this.

Thank you again to all of you who have contributed to this expression of love.

Anne Evans

This table shows the money raised in Christian Aid Week in the Bents Green area in recent years. The totals include money received from Gift Aid.

2011	£1674.22
2012	£1580.00
2013	£1818.42
2014	£1976.44

Memories of Le Tour in Yorkshire



It was a glorious summer weekend when the greatest free sporting event in the world came to Yorkshire for the first time in its 101 year history.

A group from Bents Green church went to Leeds early on the Saturday morning. We mingled with the crowds on the Headrow and found vantage points to see the riders sign in, to watch a huge screen nearby, and to see the riders line up for le Grand Depart.



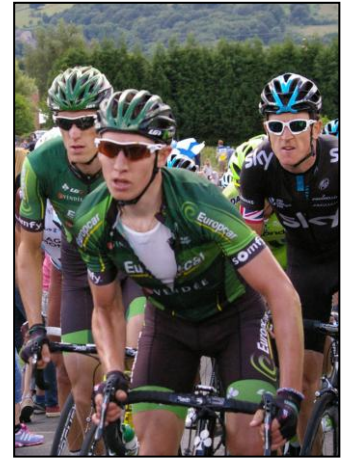
On the Sunday afternoon several of us went to the top of Jawbone Hill, between Oughtibridge and Grenoside, to see the race. The atmosphere was superb. The procession of sponsors' vehicles, police motor-bikes etc took an hour and a half to pass, each vehicle loudly cheered. And with mounting excitement, and helicopters clattering overhead, the race itself, by then in four main groups each a few minutes apart. The riders were within touching distance, going relatively slowly at the top of the long, steep Côte d'Oughtibridge.

It reminded me of scenes in the Bible (Luke chapter 19) when crowds lined the roads to see Jesus pass through Jericho, and enter Jerusalem. The same sense of anticipation and excitement, some finding vantage points on walls or trees, the crowds cheering and waving palm branches, or the modern equivalent, flags and banners.



This was probably the only chance in our lives to see le Tour close to home. It would have been easy to watch it all on TV, but I'm really glad I made the effort to go. Jesus is passing by too. He offers not a fleeting glimpse of celebrity, but eternal friendship. Let's not miss the chance to meet him!

John Wilkins



Leaving the past behind and looking to the future

The one thing I do, however, is to forget what is behind me and do my best to reach what is ahead. So I run straight toward the goal in order to win the prize, which is God's call through Christ Jesus to the life above. (Philippians 3:13)

St. Paul, one of the early followers of Jesus, wrote the words above in his letter to the church in Philippi, a city in eastern Macedonia in Greece. He was a bitter Hebrew persecutor whose mission was to destroy the church of Christ with violence and cruelty. His heart turned to the love of God when he had an encounter with Jesus. He received a revelation of Jesus Christ and he became a new man with a new focus in life. He was released from his guilt, his shame and the sin that bound him. He understood that all old things are passed away and all things had become new. We know that his teachings of the revelation of Jesus Christ our Saviour and his influence has changed the lives of many Christians in his time and in this present time. What an incredible transformation!!

What we can learn from St Paul's life is to free ourselves from anything that is stopping us from progressing in life to fulfil God's purpose. We may have made a wrong choice, we may feel guilty and ashamed of what we have done in the past. We may have not been able to forgive someone who hurt us or even to forgive ourselves. Whatever it is, the grace of our Lord Jesus can remove all these barriers from our heart so we can move on if we can only trust Him. Jesus has paid the price on the cross so we can be free. We have to make a decision to release ourselves and allow the Holy Spirit to teach us daily.

Nini Brady

Bents Green Nurseries

It was a, warm, sunny afternoon, a perfect time to visit a nursery with fragrant and colourful flowers filling the shelves, tubs and hanging baskets. I met with Philip Smith, owner of Bents Green Nurseries to find out a little about the life of the nursery.

Philip's first contact with the nursery on this site was when he was 9 years old and he used to come and help out on Saturdays and loved being there. However it was several years before he returned here and took over the business. On leaving school he went to work at Geest Industries in Wisbech and attended college there but then returned to Sheffield to work in the Parks department and continue his training.

When Bents Green Nurseries became available he moved there to run the nursery, initially renting but then buying the business in the 1980s. The nursery has changed a lot and only one shed remains of the old buildings. Philip has developed the facilities over the years and said there is no nicer place to work.

Philip's day starts any time after 5.30 am when he deals with business matters until his staff arrive at 7.30 am. The early jobs are usually watering the plants and going to the wholesale markets to buy and sell plants. As the day progresses they attend to other tasks. The core staff are Lindsey, Neil and Stewart each of whom have worked at Bents Green Nurseries for well over 10 years. The team are involved in garden maintenance for over 60 different gardens locally and also provide a landscaping service. In the summer the staff numbers increase and, on the day I visited, 7 staff members were out working on gardens. Some school pupils come for work experience and return to work here in the holidays: in one family all three sons have returned year after year through school and university and become skilled members of the team.

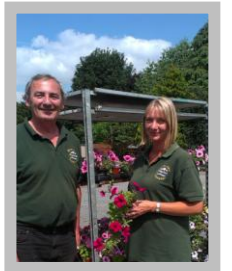
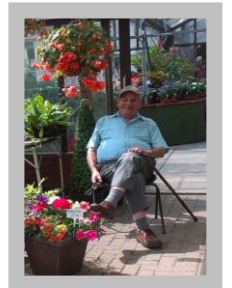
Gardening has changed over the years and Philip described current approaches as 'impulse gardening'. Most of us will buy a plant in flower on impulse. We look for plants for tubs and hanging baskets and don't plan our gardening year as carefully as previous generations. His advice is to buy a plant in flower each month which will result in colour in the garden throughout the year.



Philip stressed that without the loyalty of local people the Bents Green businesses would not survive. He invites us to come and have a look round and try Bents Green Nurseries before going to bigger places. He and his staff are happy to give advice on gardens and if we have specific requests he is generally able to supply what is needed. It was obvious that, although running the nursery is very hard work, he loves the job and would not want to be anywhere else.

Tricia North

For more information please contact J. Philip Smith tel: (0114) 2304 101/ mob: 07765 573489 How to find Bents Green Nurseries: from Ringinglow Road, turn opposite the 'Hammer & Pincers' pub, up Muskoka Drive, turn 2nd left into Muskoka Avenue and go to the end of the cul-de-sac.



A Cyclist explores



Philip Larkin's poem *Church Going* is about a cyclist who stops off at a church just to look round.

The cyclist, Larkin reveals, is a non-believer, certainly a non-church-goer and, in deceptively but deliberately simple verse, he describes his thoughts as he wanders

through the church. He starts from the very visual and almost derogatory line:

"Sprawlings of flowers, cut for Sunday, brownish now: some brass and stuff up at the holy end"

But he ends with a much more thoughtful comment:

Eileen Tattersall

*"A serious house on a serious earth it is
in whose blent air all our compulsions meet
Are recognised and robed as destinies
And that much never can be obsolete
Since someone will forever be surprising
A hunger in himself to be more serious"*
Philip Larkin

Church News

Message from Rev Louise Grosberg: From September I will continue to be the minister at Bents Green Methodist Church, but I am going to have some of my time diverted into being the Co-Superintendent of the Sheffield Circuit. John Wilkins is going to be working amongst us on a part time basis of approx 10 hours a week as a Lay Assistant Minister. We welcome him to this role.

Congratulations to Davina and Martin Smith on the birth of their baby. They have sent us this lovely photo:

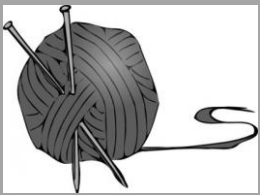


The preaching series during July and August is entitled *Cruise around the Mediterranean* following the journeys of Paul and Barnabas described in the book of Acts in the Bible. If you are holidaying at home pop in for a Summer Cruise on a Sunday.

September services will focus on *Fruitful Frontlines*, when we are going to discover how to make a difference as disciples where God has planted us. This will be followed through in many house groups as well.

A thanksgiving service for the life of John Rust was held at Bents Green on Wednesday 25th June. We remember Nancy and her family in prayer.

Date for putting in your diary: On November 1st at 7.30 there will be a concert at Bents with Philippa Hanna and Godfrey Birtill. More details later.



KNIT, NATTER, CRAFT AND CHATTER

This new group meets on Wednesday afternoons between 12 noon and 3.00pm in the Music Room at Bents Green Methodist Church. Either bring your own activity or come and use the materials provided.

FRIENDSHIP CLUB

You have blessed us, O God,
with the gift of friendship,
the bonding of persons
in a circle of love.

We thank you for such a
blessing:

for friends who love us,
who share our sorrows,
who laugh with us in
celebration,
who bear our pain,
who need us as we need
them,

who weep as we weep,
who hold us when words fail,
and who give us the freedom
to be ourselves.

The summer is upon us and we've had a really good 'term'....Lots of good, fun speakers and entertainers including The Meersbrook Light Orchestra, and later on their conductor, Judy Wallace, talking about 'My Clarinet and I'. There are many talented people out there and we feel very blessed that they are prepared to share their talent with us on Tuesday afternoons. Suzanne Bingham, another one of our regulars gave us a very interesting talk about how 'Shopping' has evolved from the Middle Ages up to the present day. We had a lovely dog to visit us, along with his owner who gave us a good talk on the work of the RSPCA.

We still have our Strawberry Tea to look forward to and a couple more speakers, ending the 'term' with a concert by Robin and Hugh who are always very entertaining.

As we recharge our batteries over the summer holidays we thank the members for their continued support and the Committee for their hard work. We look forward to more lovely afternoons spent in love and friendship on Tuesday afternoons. The prayer on the left is what our club is all about....meeting together in love and friendship and we certainly experience that as we meet together every week. We always welcome new members

Pat Hutchinson

OZ

Did you travel with us to the wonderful world of Oz in June? About 250 people packed the church hall to join the journey with Dorothy and Toto to meet Elphaba, born with green skin and therefore victimised until her good nature was destroyed, her sister Nessarose and the other Munchkins, Glinda (or should that be Galinda?), the good and popular witch, and all the other inhabitants of that mysterious, emerald world, including a tin man, a talking scarecrow, a cowardly lion, and of course the fearsome Wizard himself.

We saw them in school and grown up, we saw them dancing, we saw them looking for a heart or a brain or for courage, and we heard them singing old favourites from the film (including *Somewhere over the Rainbow*, *Follow the Yellow Brick Road*, *We're off to see the Wizard*) and beautiful new songs from the successful West End show *Wicked* (including *Popular*, *I'm not that girl*, *I've been changed for good*).

Many thanks to the cast and to the helpers, and especially to Christèle Evans who put the show together and directed all the music.

Spotlight's next production is *Alice in Wonderland*, the annual pantomime in



February half term 2015. If you would like to get involved with this, please contact Glenn Evans (235 1057).



Quiz – can you fill in the blanks by checking these verses in the Bible?

- 1. Pentecost Sunday is celebrated in many churches to mark the coming of the Holy Spirit to Jesus' apostles. In what form did the Holy Spirit come? (Act 2 V 1-3)**
 - a. A dove
 - b. 7 horsemen
 - c. Tongues of fire
 - d. A voice from Heaven
- 2. What miraculous thing did the apostles do when they received the Holy Spirit?(Act 2 v 4-13)**
 - a. They began to speak in "tongues."
 - b. They drove a "legion" of demons out of the visitors in Jerusalem.
 - c. They walked about the city with their feet not touching the ground.
 - d. They healed all the sick in Jerusalem.
- 3. This hope does us, for God has poured out his love into our hearts by means of the Holy Spirit, who is God's gift to us.(Romans 5 v 5)**
 - a. give zeal
 - b. not give zeal
 - c. Disappoint
 - d. not disappoint
- 4. Fill in the four blanks in proper order: "The _____ of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the _____ of God, and the _____ of the Holy Spirit be with you all. _____ ." (2 Corinthians 13 V 14)**
 - a. love, grace, peace, Amen.
 - b. grace, love, communion, Maranatha.
 - c. grace, love, communion, men.
 - d. fellowship, grace, fullness, Hallelujah.
- 5. _____ is NOT mentioned in the New Testament as one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit? (1 Corinthians 12 v 7-10)**
 - a. Faith
 - b. Wealth
 - c. Healing
 - d. Speaking in tongues
- 6. The Spirit of God has made me, And the breath of the Almighty gives me _____ (Job 33 V4)**
 - a. Power
 - b. Desire
 - c. Life
 - d. Purpose

Services at Bents Green Methodist Church

Services are being held in the Church Hall during the building work. We hope to be back in the church in early August

All are welcome at these services

Sunday mornings at 10.30 am

During morning services there is a crèche for little ones, Sparks Club for younger children and Sunday Club for older children

Sunday evenings at 6.30 pm

An informal service often including tea, coffee and time to chat about subjects relating to the Christian faith.

Wednesdays at 10 am: Midweek service

Minister: Rev Louise Grosberg

Tel. 0114 2363157

Email:

Louise.Grosberg@btinternet.com

Church website:

www.bentsgreenmethodist.org.uk

Church office answerphone:

0114 236 1912

For Room Bookings contact:

Peter Larder

Tel. 0114 2686507

Hilltop Editor:

Tricia North

Email: tn-bg@live.co.uk

Please send material for the next issue to the editor by Sun 14th September 2014

Activities for Children and Young People

New members are welcome at these activities at the church.

Contact the named person for more details.

For younger children

Crèche	0-3	Sun 10.30am	Ruth	2686507
Mums & Toddlers	0-4	Wed 10.00am	Irene	2660612
See & Know	0-4	Fri 1.30pm	Ruth	2686507

For children and young people

Girls' Brigade	5-18	Thurs eve	Marian	2361316
Football	11-18	Fri 5-7pm	Glenn	2351057
Holiday Club	5-11	Summer	Cherry	07853278612
Lighthouse	5-11	Wed 3.45	Cherry	07853278612
Messy Services	3-12	Festivals	Sue	2307556
Sparks	4-11	Sun 10.30	John	2307556
Sunday Club	12-18	Sun 10.30	Sue	2307556
Torch	Teens	Tues 6.30	Cherry	07853278612
Lampstand	12-18	Fri 8-10	Cherry	07853278612
Badminton	All ages	Tues eve	Don	2662218
Drama group	All ages	Various	Glenn	2351057
Pantomime	All ages	Annually	Glenn	2351057
Musical	All ages	Annually	Christèle	07912207661

Friendship Club Programme:

Tuesdays at 2 pm in the Church Hall (enter by side door opposite the shops). A warm welcome awaits any who would like to come along – especially men and women over 50

Tues 2 nd Sept	ANNE HUGHES & FRIENDS ENTERTAIN
Tues 9 th Sept	THE LOST CHORD
Tues 16 th Sept	A DOCTOR SPEAKS
Tues 23 rd Sept	CHRISTINE SPENCER & FRIENDS ENTERTAIN
Tues 30 th Sept	TRAVELS ACROSS AFRICA IN A LAND ROVER

For more information contact: Pat Hutchinson: 0114 2497280
and Jackie Smith: 0114 3483069

Coffee Mornings:

On the first Saturday of every month from 10.30 – 12 in the Music Room (enter by side door opposite the shops).

Knit, Natter, Craft & Chatter:

Wednesday 12 – 3 pm every week
Bring your knitting or come and knit with patterns and wool provided. In the Music Room.

Harbour Coffee:

On Wednesdays in term-time from 3.30 – 5.45 pm in the Music Room

Tea, Toast & Time 4 Thinking:

Thursdays @ 1.30 pm fortnightly.
Upstairs in the Church Lounge.
A time to reflect on what following Jesus is all about. A place for all those seeking answers. Carers of young children especially welcome.

Contact Sue: Tel 0114 2307556

House groups

Many people in the church belong to a house group and meet regularly to pray together, read the bible and talk about the Christian faith. If you are interested in joining a house group contact Sue: Tel 0114 2307556

Bents Green Methodist Church, Ringinglow Road, Sheffield S11 7PU

Church office answerphone: 0114 2361912 Church website: www.bentsgreenmethodist.org.uk