

Hilltop

June / July 2015

Newsletter of Bents Green Methodist Church

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Breakfast at church

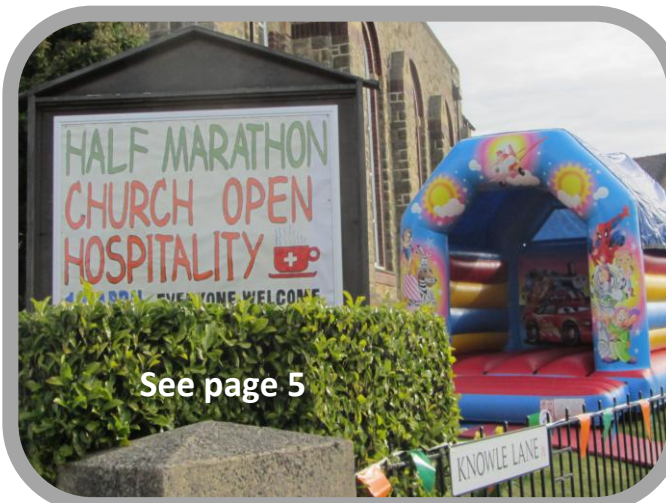
Sunday 7th June from 9.30 – 10.30 am
Coffee/tea/juice and croissants

Oliver – songs from the musical
Sat 4th July and Sun 5th July at 7.30 pm.

Come and enjoy listening to the children and young people singing favourite songs

Service of healing and prayer

Sunday June 14th at 6.30 pm



See page 5



Sunday mornings at church - What do the children and young people do?

Rudo talked to her sister Rumbi (aged 7) about Sunday morning Sparks Club

What's the best thing about Sunday mornings at church?

The best thing is that in Sunday school we get to create different things that are based on the story that we are doing.

What did you do last Sunday?

Last Sunday Sue, John and Irene taught us the story of Elijah and how he proved that Our God was the real God. We made rain drops to show that even when water was put on the rocks God was still able to make the fire.

What is your favourite activity?

My favourite activity is creating different things and talking to my friends too.



And while Rumbi is downstairs at Sparks, Rudo is upstairs with the teenagers:

When we go upstairs on Sunday mornings we first all talk about the different things we have done during the week and then we get out a book which has many different real life scenarios and topics. We read the scenarios and then there are always questions afterwards, for example 'What should a Christian do in this situation?' – We then consult the bibles and we find quotes or stories where there is a similar situation. I really enjoy going upstairs with everyone because everyone is fun to talk to and we have a lot of laughs as well.

Rudo (age 14)

Church news

Action for Children. Thank you to everyone who took part in the collection and supported the Action for Children Coffee morning on Saturday March 28th. The coffee morning and the collecting boxes together raised a magnificent £1,181.95

Christian Aid week. Our annual House to House collection in the Bents Green community this year has raised £1,981.37 (including Gift Aid) for ongoing projects such as providing cows for destitute women and their children in Ethiopia. Thank you very much to all collectors and to all those who have given so generously.

Church Breakfast on Sunday 7th June before the morning service. Coffee/tea/juice and croissants will be available from 9.30 am. A great opportunity to meet and chat with people of all ages in the congregation.

Oliver - Saturday 4th July and Sunday 5th July at 7.30 pm.
Come and enjoy listening to 44 of our children and young people singing such favourites as *Food, glorious food, Consider yourself, I'd do anything...* As always, it will be great fun!

Congratulations to Cherry and Steve on the birth of Phoebe! She was born on April 8th and weighed 7lb 3 oz. She is doing well.



The Giant Sequoia

I promise not to bore you with our recent holiday photos. With the digital cameras we have now there is no stopping us, as to the hundreds of photographs we can produce on a fortnight's holiday. So if it's okay with you just one...

We were very fortunate in May to go on a trip we have dreamt about making for a long time to the Grand Canyon and Yosemite National Park in America. It was more than we could have imagined. In my one picture I offer you a spectacular tree, the Giant Sequoia, the world's largest single trees. This is taken near Yosemite National Park. These trees are almost graceful giants, wondrous to behold and your neck aches a little as you try and look up to where they reach.



They are also unusual in that they rely on periodic wild fires to effectively grow new seedlings. The fires clear competing vegetation, and the hot air that comes with fires dries and opens the cones allowing the seeds to drop. The ash which covers the ground protects the fallen seeds.

In the Church's calendar we have just celebrated Pentecost which tells of the disciples receiving the Holy Spirit of God. In the Message version of the bible it describes the Holy Spirit not just as a strong gale force wind, but as being like a wild fire spreading amongst the disciples. After this experience they are changed, they find new courage and conviction to go amongst the population and tell people of the love of Jesus. They grow in an amazing way as Jesus' disciples.

Perhaps as we come towards times of rest this summer we can ask God to show us, not through actual fire, how we can look at our lives and see what is competing against us, clutter or busyness in our lives, so that we can make space to really grow to know God, ourselves and the potential that is given to each one of us.

The disciples and the Christian community as they grew learnt how to live together in a spectacularly generous way. Interestingly the giant sequoias can live in close proximity to one another. As their roots are shallow and they spread all around the group of other trees, and they share their resources with one another, together the roots make them stable.

When we get to that place of not being cluttered and into a place of release, then often we can find that our neighbours and friends are appreciated once again, that we have time and space to live with generosity and not defensiveness.

I hope that if you have holidays, or days out, or days of rest, that God will speak to you through the wonders of his creation, and that you may be blessed and refreshed by his love.

God bless, Louise

God's Love	
1. You say : " It is impossible " God says : " It is possible with Me"	"What is impossible with man is possible with God." (Luke 18 :27)
2. You say : " I am too tired " God says : " I will give you rest "	"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. (Matthew 11 :28)
3. You say : " I can't go on " God says : " My grace is enough for you "	"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." (2 Corinthians 12 :9)
4. You say : " Nobody really loves me " God says : " I love you "	For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)

Winners, Losers and election night

We saw plenty of both winners and losers during the night following the General Election. We watched as facial expressions registered hope, disappointment, resignation or jubilation. There is no job security for politicians whatever the colour of the rosette!

It is likely that there will be many political battles ahead during the next five years. There will be much to challenge us all but the people we have elected will bear much responsibility as they debate in parliament issues such as Scottish independence, our place in Europe or the best way to manage the economy, to mention just a few. I suspect that at times even winners will feel like frustrated losers if they don't get the results they desire.

It is not comfortable to be a loser. Winners can be unbearably self-satisfied or worse and gloat over their success. Some of us are poor losers and react badly. These thoughts concern our reaction to competition of any kind from ping-pong to a seat in the House of Commons. However there are deeper aspects to the subject. There are those who feel that they always lose out in the great game of life, that for them, being at the bottom of the pile is natural. However hard they try nothing works out for them. Perhaps you are one of them.

Scripture tells us that God loves us all, winners or losers. The good news is that God chooses or uses even the most unlikely to further his plans for our world.

Janet Nowell

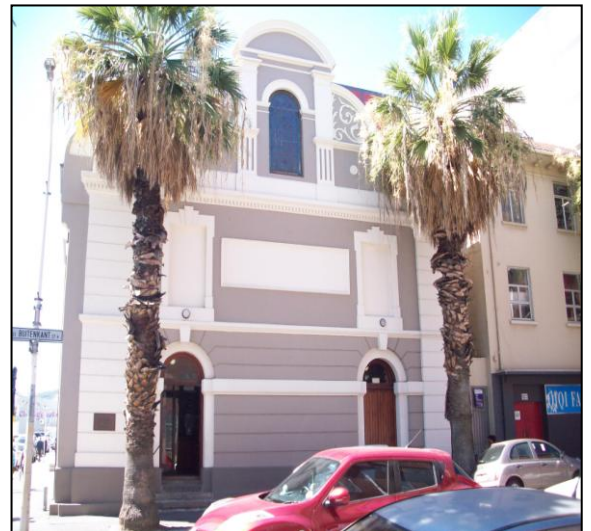
DISTRICT 6, Cape Town

John Wilkins visited District 6 during his recent visit to South Africa

Buitenkamp Street Methodist Church was just down the road from our hotel in Cape Town. It is an old-fashioned building, with a gallery round three sides and a high central pulpit. It used to have 700 members, drawn from the lively mixed community known as District 6.

But District 6 is close to the centre of Cape Town, and in 1966 the South African authorities declared it a whites only area. The 60,000 residents were to be moved to townships in the barren, windswept areas miles from the City.

The Church became a focus for resistance and challenge, but the houses were bulldozed and families dispersed. A man we spoke to was moved with his parents to one township, while his grandparents were sent to another and uncles and aunts to a third. The aim, he said, was to break the spirit of the community. For a time the church kept the community alive, as those moved out travelled back to church on Sundays to see friends and families.



Times have changed now, and people can live where they choose. But property prices in District 6 are so high that the former residents cannot afford to move back, and continue to travel in to work from the distant townships. The church closed too, when all its congregation had moved away. But it is famous internationally now as a museum commemorating the people and community of District 6, and illustrating how the Methodist Church fought for truth and justice through the troubled times of South Africa. Under God's guidance we must continue to do so. **John Wilkins**

Under God's guidance we must continue to do so. **John Wilkins**

Running the Half-Marathon

I've been running around Bents Green and Ecclesall for several years now, mainly to get fit and combat middle aged spread! I was thinking of running the Sheffield half marathon in 2016, but when I found out that the route had changed and was coming up to Bents Green, I found it hard to resist!

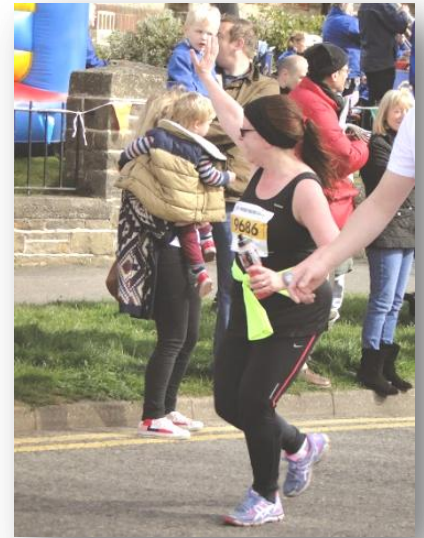
I hadn't run more than 8 miles before, and never thought I'd be fit enough to do a half marathon. So I took advice, and gradually increased my distance until I could run 12.5 miles, rather than concentrating on speed.

I took it slow and steady, especially as there was a 958 foot hill to climb from Ecclesall Road to Sheephill Road at Ringinglow(honestly!). It was very windy from Bents Green onwards, but at least it didn't rain. Although it took me 2 hours 33 minutes, I was the 1904th female, and 123rd female over 50 to finish!



The most amazing part for me was the support from the crowd. People lined the streets along almost all of the route. Coming up Knowle Lane, it was lovely to hear the band playing at Bents Green and the loud cheering and waving as I ran past Bents Green Church was fantastic!

I would like to thank everyone at Bents Green who supported and encouraged me throughout my training, and especially anyone who sponsored me. I raised £239 for Sheffield Council of Churches for Community Care (S4C's). This is a charity who (amongst other things) help support elderly people who leave hospital, especially if they have no support from relatives or friends. **Debs Barnet**



What does Friendship Club mean to you?

This was the question given to our members on a lovely sunny afternoon in April.

The response was overwhelming.

So many people wrote that they come to the Club to meet people and to make friends in a warm, friendly, welcoming atmosphere which is more or less on their doorstep.

"I just love the people and the friendly atmosphere."

To some it means, "Enjoyment and talking to people, maybe for the first time in several days".

"It also means that I get out on a regular basis."

One member wrote, "It opened a door of kindness and caring for me after loss".

Many members were very appreciative of the "diverse and entertaining subjects, including the opportunity to listen to choirs and musicians".

"I learn a lot from the good talks that we have." "It's a place of learning."

The special events were also much appreciated....Christmas, Easter, Harvest, Strawberry teas etc...

"I look forward to Tuesday afternoons."

And...."Lastly, but certainly not the least important factor is the chance to pray and praise God for bringing us all together."

May we go on from strength to strength.

Pat Hutchinson

Friendship is not a big thing... It is a million little things

Tompkins Hair & Nail Studio

Continuing the series about shops and organisations in Bents Green

The week before a bank holiday and half term is a busy one in a hairdressing salon. I went to meet Julie Tompkins in her salon at Bents Green in the week before Spring Bank holiday and just after school home time. Bents Green was busy and people were popping in to the salon with or without appointments to have their hair done or to see if their children could have a hair cut before the holiday. Tompkins Hair and Nail studio has a wide range of customers from small children through to people in their 90s.

Julie used to pass through Bents Green on her way to work at her salon at Bradwell. One day, 7 years ago, she had the thought that it would be a good place to have a hair salon. The next day, a Friday, she drove past and was amazed to see that this shop had a 'To Let' sign up. She rang up first thing on Monday and has been here ever since. She loves the feeling of community at Bents Green. People know each other and are caring, asking after each other and noticing when someone hasn't been around. There is a good community spirit.



Julie has three salons which are in Bradwell, Bents Green and Hillsborough. She also has a bridal business which runs mainly through pop-up shops. It is advertised on Facebook. The service offers bridal dresses and also prom dresses and the stylists can come to the house, the hotel or the wedding venue. In preparation Julie offers a free trial at one of the salons.

The business employs 11 staff including her three daughters. Julie works one or two days a week at each of the salons. The stylists at Bents Green are Chloe, Katrina and Savannah with Julie here on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. The stylists are all trained to Level 3 standard in cutting and colouring and have barbering certificates. From time to time they undertake courses outside their own business which bring in new ideas which can be shared with all the stylists. One of the stylists is soon to go on a course for long hair and bridal styles. Julie stressed that you don't need to go into the city centre

to find well trained and talented stylists and her prices are more reasonable. Between cuts they offer free fringe trims and the senior 'treat' rate is available all week, including Saturdays.

Over the 7 years that the salon has been here, the staff have got to know their clients well. Many pop in for a chat or to sit and recover from walking up the hill. Sometimes stylists will give an elderly client a lift home after their appointment.

Julie and her staff are happy to support local events and last year they volunteered to do the hair for High Storrs School's production of Grease at the Lyceum Theatre. She will also literally go the extra mile, travelling to Cornwall when a client was getting married and didn't want to risk using another hairdresser. Julie added a few days on and made it a short, well-deserved holiday.

Tricia North

April update from CHAD

(Children with Hope and Destiny, Malawi)

We welcome you to our April update with warm greetings and deep gratitude to you for your love and commitment over the years! May the Lord's blessing rest upon you and yours!

Quite suddenly our precious "little children" are not so little any longer!! Only a few are still in high school, most in college and work. We don't hear any wedding bells yet though, not even in the distance! It seems all are focused on a decent education and gaining some experience in the work field for which we are grateful indeed!

Currently we have eight still completing high school, some repeating to attain better results; seven are at college, including Janet and Charity who are both working five days a week while attending college at weekends! They are so focused and determined, not wasting a minute in pursuing a higher education. Currently five are employed and a few in between college and employment.



Susan, Samuel and Moses

Our oldest son Paul (pictured to the left), is now independent, able to use his skills in mechanics to make his living. He is very happy and while he is currently working alongside other mechanics in different locations, he still is working towards realizing his dream of one day opening his own garage and we believe he will!

Malawi Floods

Devastating floods have drowned at least 170 people in our beloved Malawi this year and displaced more than 200,000 people! These storms and floods were worst in the month of January and targeted the Southern parts of the country though we had isolated heavy and destructive storms in other parts



of the country too. As a family we were able to send some maize to the South to help with food relief as the country rallied together, collecting donations of all kinds to transport to the worst hit areas.

Heavy floods washed away more than 64,000 hectares of cropland and therefore the price of maize is climbing which in turn affects the prices of other commodities and the economy of the country. Progress in Malawi is hard and slow as businesses are also greatly affected, including our own car hire as tourists and visitors to Malawi postpone their trips due to the country's situation.

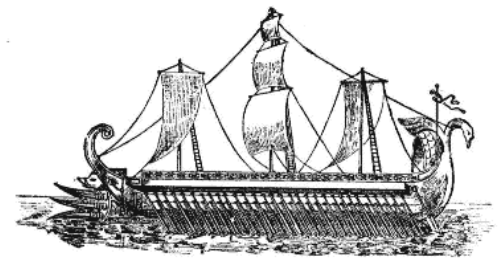
We wish to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to you as a friend and partner of *Children with Hope And Destiny* over the many years! Your support in every way is not taken for granted, but so greatly appreciated. Raising a family like this is only possible with encouragement from friends as well as practical/financial support. We realize it is a team work from beginning till end and we are honoured by your commitment to partner with us. May the LORD reward you!! **Samuel and Hannah Kayuni**

The church supports CHAD with an annual grant. Samuel has visited Sheffield twice in the past and bought new cars for his car hire business through which he supports his large adopted family. However, due to the situation in Malawi he has been unable to do this. He writes: "businesses are at a stand still. I used to travel to UK to purchase vehicles for re-sale at least once a year but our current situation is almost impossible. Please inform the church that all funds sent will be used for education."

Quinquireme of Nineveh

Eileen Tattersall reflects on images in poetry and biblical passages

"Quinquireme of Nineveh from distant Ophir" is the opening line of John Masefield's poem, *Cargoes* which I had to learn when I was about ten years old. I did not know what all the words meant but I liked the sound of them, conjuring up images of exotic places. And what a cargo:



<http://persweb.wabash.edu/>

With a cargo of diamonds

Emeralds, amethysts

Topazes and cinnamon and gold moidores.

There has been public discussion recently about rote learning – some for and some against. But why it is not possible to have a bit of rote and a lot of the rest is beyond me. What is clear is that young minds are like sponges which soak up knowledge and information. But unlike sponges, the knowledge does not seep away. It is there for life, can be recalled and often is.

Whilst it is important to understand what we read, there are certain lines or passages from poems, books and the Bible for example which are best memorised and appreciated in a different, more mysterious way.

Take the 23rd Psalm:

"Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil for thou art with me: thy rod and thy staff they comfort me"

These lines are not crystal clear to our modern minds but the metaphor is powerful, memorable and we get the gist. The words bring reassurance that God is with us. "Now we see through a glass darkly".

It was years before I knew what a Quinquireme was. (See picture above!)

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want;
He makes me lie down in green pastures.
He leads me beside still waters
He restores my soul.
He leads me in paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.
Even though I walk through
the valley of the shadow of death,
I fear no evil;
for thou art with me;
thy rod and thy staff,
they comfort me.
Thou preparest a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
thou anointest my head with oil,
my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy
shall follow me all the days of my life;
and I shall dwell in the house of
the Lord for ever. **Psalm 23**

Services at Bents Green Methodist Church

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

Service of Healing: Sunday June 14th at 6.30 pm

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

For children and young people

Girls' Brigade	5-18	Thurs evening	Marian	2361316
Football	11-18	Fri 5-7pm	Glenn	2351057
Holiday Club	5-11	Summer	Sue	2307556
Lighthouse	5-11	Wed 3.45	Sue	2307556
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	Anna	07983452613
Lampstand	12-18	Fri 8-10	Lesley	2686461
Badminton	All ages	Tues evening	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 June	Songs of the 50s and 60s, Anne Fotheringham
Tues 9 th June	Meersbrook Orchestra
Tues 16 th June	Members day
Tues 23 rd June	Life in the Fire Brigade
Tues 30 th June	Strawberry Tea
Tues 7 th July	Quiz
Tues 14 th July	What makes me laugh twice, Trevor Page
Tues 21 st July	Robin and Hugh

For more information contact: Pat Hutchinson: 0114 2497280
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If you would like to receive Hilltop by email (and in colour) please email the editor.

Please send material for the next issue to the editor

by Sunday 19th July 2015

Coffee Mornings in the Church:

On the first Saturday of every month from 10.30 am – 12

Games, chat and crafts group

Wednesdays 12.30 to 3 pm in the church. Indoor bowling, scrabble, chess, dominoes, jigsaws and cards, knitting and crafts.

Contact Ruth: 0114 2686507

Harbour Coffee

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

Tea, Toast & Time 4 Thinking:

Thursdays @ 10.30 am each week 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

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Printed by Ecclesall Print, 237a Ringinglow Road, S11 7PU. Website: www.ecclesallprint.co.uk