

# Hilltop

February - March 2016

Newsletter of Bents Green Methodist Church

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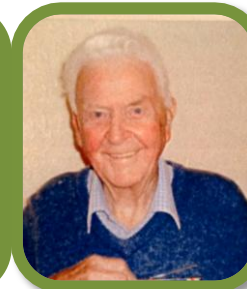
## ***Messy Easter***

***Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2 – 4 pm***  
***Easter crafts and activities  
for children 3 -12 years with  
parents and carers***

## ***Mothers Day service***

***Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> March 10.30 am***

***Celebrating Easter at  
Bents Green See page 2***



A community church sharing the love of Jesus

## Join us as we celebrate Easter at Bents Green Church

### Messy Easter Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> March

- 2 – 4 pm crafts and Easter service for children aged 3 – 12 with parents and carers

### Maundy Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March

- **Maundy Thursday Supper:** 7.30 pm supper with soup and bread.

### Good Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March

- **The Cross Walk:** 9.30 am short service at Bents Green Church and from 10 am walk with wooden cross to Banner Cross
- **Church open for quiet prayer:** 12 noon to 3 pm

### Easter Day Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> March

- **Morning service** with communion 10.30 am  
During morning services there is a crèche for little ones, Sparks Club for younger children and Sunday Club for older children.
- **Evening Service** 6.30 pm

There will be opportunities at all Easter events to make donations for St Luke's Hospice

### *Sing for Spring.*

Spent leaves chased on wind  
To lands anew.  
Black blighted shrubs blasted.  
Wilt and fade.  
Earth waits for light in Spring.  
Renewed reborn replenished.  
Fed and watered by  
Warming yellowed sun  
Gentle wetting shower.  
Birds plead for Spring  
In every song.



### **Church News**

**Sunday morning prayer:** All are welcome to join with others each Sunday at 10 am in the church lounge. If you have a particular request for prayer you can email it to [reyarp42@sky.com](mailto:reyarp42@sky.com). Or post a note in the prayer request box in the corridor by the church hall.

**Thank you** to all who went carol singing with the team of staff and volunteers from **WORK Ltd**. The staff were delighted that so many of us braved the weather, to make it a special time for them, and very much look forward to welcoming us all back, when the Hidden Gem cafe re-opens its doors again, after major refurbishments, on March 16th.

Sadly **Rev Eddie Curliss** died on 11<sup>th</sup> January following illness. We send our thoughts and prayers to Jean and their family. He was previously a minister at Bents Green Church. He moved to Scotland from Sheffield and he and Jean retired to Ardrossan in Ayrshire.

## Don't Become a Better You!

The army has a new advertising campaign. The campaign hopes to encourage new people to join its ranks by telling young people not to join up. It is meant to provoke young people through adverts which declare,

'Don't join the Army, Don't become a better you' and 'Don't learn new skills, and Don't travel the world.'

It is hoped that the adverts may make the potential new recruits stop and think and consider a new life in the army. It is an interesting thought that a negative could be turned to positive, and offer new life. In essence this is what incredibly happened at Easter. Surely nothing could be positive about hanging on a cross. Yet even on the cross Jesus prayed for those who had nailed him there to be forgiven, he promised a thief who was crucified with him that he would be with him in heaven, and he ensured that his mother would be cared for.

Jesus then broke through the darkness of suffering, of crucifixion, and death and into the wonder, and glory of resurrection. Today, 2, 000 years later, the Church, like the Army, could begin an advert campaign that declares 'Don't follow Jesus, Don't live life in fullness', but Jesus broke through negativity on the cross and offers life not death, hope not despair.

So I, and countless other people who love Jesus can only say to you this Easter not 'don't', but 'do'. 'Do follow Jesus', and, 'Do accept His love for you', and in so doing become the 'You' he created you to be, in relationship with Him.

And..... **Do** have a blessed and happy Easter, Louise



## This Time Tomorrow – John Wilkins interviewed Ben Riddell one Sunday morning

**Ben, here in the church we know you as a family man. We know you as the husband of Rachel and the father of Grace and Charlie, but what will you be doing at 10:45 tomorrow on Monday morning?**



I'm a newly qualified GP over at Rotherham so, around this time tomorrow morning, I'll be wrapping up the morning surgery and getting ready for visits. On a Monday morning we normally have an open access clinic so anyone who is unwell can come to the surgery and be seen so long as they get there before 10:30. It's quite a busy morning and it depends how long that lasts really, but around this time normally we are coming towards the end and looking to do visits to people in nursing homes and people who can't get to the surgery because they are too unwell.

**So you, personally, would see 40 patients?**

Up to that, yes. On Monday mornings, after the weekend, there's normally me and another doctor because it's busier than other days. Regularly we'll see 25 to 30 patients each in the morning. But it has been known to go up to 40 especially at this time of year with all the coughs and colds.

**So does that mean an early start for you tomorrow? And when will you get home tomorrow evening?**

Yes, I normally leave home about 6:40 in the morning and get to work just after 7. I start the paperwork and then start the clinic at 8. I normally get home about 8.30 in the evening. We usually finish clinic just after 6 in the evening and then there is all the work to do that the clinic has generated - all the referrals and things like that. It is a long, busy day, but enjoyable. I get a lot from it. I think it's the challenge you have of not knowing what's coming through the door next and trying to manage each patient and get a satisfactory outcome for them.

**So there are things that you enjoy even in such a busy day?**

Yes definitely. I particularly enjoy the visits and going to see people who are more unwell and unable to get to the surgery and dealing with their long term problems.

**Is there anything you'd like prayer for, thinking of the week ahead?**

Well there are two things. For what happened in Paris [in November]. Also for family: to be grateful for what we've got, how safe our family is and how much we can enjoy them.

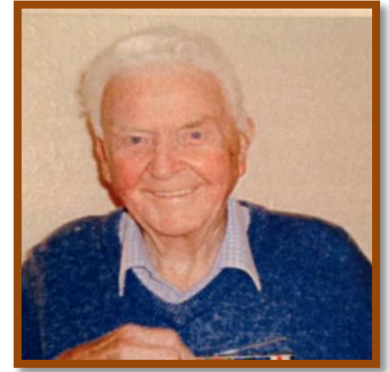
**Thank you, Ben.**

## A local hero

*'When dusk fell, the beachhead became quite noisy and, as the darkness grew upon us, the enemy bombers attacked, dropping thousands of anti-personnel bombs. The flashes from hundreds of guns firing from our naval boats plus the anti aircraft guns.*

*The noise was terrific... not much sleep that night!'*

The above was written about D Day on the beaches of Normandy in his memoirs by Dennis Taylor, our neighbour on Ringinglow Road since we moved there in 1977. He was a most interesting man to talk to, especially about his war time experiences; he spoke philosophically with knowledge and wisdom, always saying how lucky he was that he survived the horrors of war.



'Several months ago he was informed by the French Government that he, along with the other Normandy veterans, was to receive the **LÉGION D'HONNEUR**....the highest military honour in France.

Sadly, at the age of 94, he died in November. Just before Christmas a parcel was delivered to our house addressed to him. We opened it that night with his son, Richard. It contained the **LÉGION D'HONNEUR** and a very grateful letter from the French embassy,

'As we contemplate this Europe of peace, we must never forget the heroes like you who came from Britain and the Commonwealth to begin the liberation of Europe by liberating France. We owe our freedom and security to your dedication, because you were ready to risk your life'

**Pat Hutchinson**

## Andrew Boyden-Hare Opticians

*Continuing the series about businesses and shops at Bents Green*

The Opticians at Bents Green will celebrate its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. Andrew Boyden-Hare set up the business here in July 2006. He wanted to establish an optician service outside the city centre in an area which did not have any other opticians. As he also lives locally, Bents Green was an ideal location. Later the same year he also opened a shop at Fulwood and now divides his weeks between the two practices, attending each on alternate days over a fortnight. At Bents Green two receptionists, Julie and Lindsey, cover the week.



Andrew went to university in Birmingham and, on qualifying in 1980, came to work in Sheffield at the Coop opticians on the Moor. He has worked in a range of different practices in and around Sheffield including Barnsley, Ripley and Chesterfield and was a director at the Hallamshire Opticians on Glossop Road. He is pleased now to be settled in his own practice and has built up a good local service, as well as maintaining contact with several clients who have followed him from his other workplaces. The furthest distance a customer travels for his appointment is New Zealand (he has been a customer since 1985), another comes from Switzerland. The age range of his customers is from 2 to 102 years!

The practice is part of PEARS, the Primary Eye-care Acute Referral Service, where local doctors refer patients directly to be seen quickly, rather than sending them to the hospital where it may take longer.

Each year all the staff attend Optrafair in Birmingham and stock up with new ideas, frames, equipment. Andrew has found it best to maintain a good relationship with a small number of firms selling frames. This gives better back-up and the possibility of replacing frames which become damaged. He

orders lenses over the internet, mostly from a firm in Wrexham, and orders come back very promptly. More specialised orders may take longer. He offers a service for eye-tests and spectacles but refers on for contact lenses. He also refers on to other colleagues if someone is in need of a home visit but as this service requires portable equipment. For wheelchair access to the shop they have a ramp which can be brought out.



The window displays at the shop have become a feature at Bents Green. These are the collaborative work of Andrew's wife Anne, his daughter, the two receptionists and Andrew himself. There is a growing stock of props for future use stored in the cellar!

Andrew finds that his name causes problems for some and has been called 'Baden-Powell' or 'the one with the beard' but mostly just Andrew. His favourite optician's joke happened to a friend of his in his first week of work. A woman brought in her daughter and asked, "I'd like my daughter's legs bending so that they fit behind her ears." His friend was so overcome with laughter that he had to ask a colleague to take over!

**Tricia North**

## ***Hello from Virginia!***

*Our former Minister, Rachel, now back in Virginia, has written to Anne and Lois, and given permission for her email to appear in Hilltop. Rachel writes firstly about her battles with health:*

Hiya Everybody! I'm doing pretty ok, seeing as I'm on my 5th chemo in 18 months. The last one didn't work at all, and the tumours got a bit out of hand, so we're fighting back with a new one. I had a follow-up CT scan on 27 Jan, and unfortunately the results were mixed. So I'm staying on the current regimen but at a higher dosage for now while my oncologist decides what to do from there. Currently I go once a week for two weeks, then have a week off. My doctor is fabulous, and I've made friends with several of the nurses. The Chemo Infusion Centre has a therapy dog who visits Tues-Thurs and free hand massages every weekday for patients. I am very pampered! I get so much work done during infusions, either crafting (I've recently taken up needle felting - very therapeutic!), or reading, or simply staying in touch with people via Facebook. My current infusion takes about three hours. So far I've handled side effects well, thanks to the therapeutic benefits of coffee!



Robert's church is brilliant, very understanding, and loves us to bits. I've preached several times since we moved here in 2012, most recently an all-age service and the midnight Communion service on Christmas Eve. I've also been teaching the older adult Sunday School class before church, which has been a lot of fun to do. I try to help out at the church-run Clothes Closet (gently used clothes free to whomever needs them) and the church's Soup Kitchen, which serves up hot homecooked meals to the homeless, poor and working poor in our community. That one is hard work, so I have to do it on a rest week, but very, very rewarding. We have cook teams on a rota, and a really great director. I do prep work and serve food, mostly.

I've been trying to go to the gym three times a week, though my doctors all want me to up that to 30 minutes of activity a day. I've started taking a Pilates class, and am looking for other classes to take on my "off" days. I'm also taking an online course in psychology on Wholehearted Living. It's fascinating, and I'm really enjoying it.

Well, that's me at the moment. I'm always happy to hear what's going on in Sheffield, and I'm so glad that Bents Green is rolling along. I have every confidence in you guys - always have - and think about/pray for/talk about you all constantly. Seriously, my Sunday School class is tired of hearing about you! You all were such an integral part of my time in the UK, and I thank God for the privilege to serve you every day. God bless you for all you do, and all you are.

**Rev Rachel Downs-Lewis**

## 2016!

How far have we come? If we compare life in 2016 to life in 1916 (incidentally the year of the Battle of the Somme) we find it difficult to comprehend the way people lived then.

How far have we come!!! I'm drawn particularly to the bathing and shampooing of 1916. How many gallons of water and bottles of shampoo, bubble bath, and shower gel are used by the average household today! And as for the telephone!

How many people these days don't have a phone, let alone a mobile phone, a mobile phone that can send messages (with pictures!) all over the world with one press of a key! I like the 10 mph in cities too, especially as I was apprehended by a young policeman recently whilst driving (on a country road, I might add) too slowly! I was doing 25 mph!!!!

How far have we come... or have we? Yes, technology has developed wonderfully and we are much healthier, but the basic rules of life are just the same... care and compassion for our family, friends and neighbours. We care what we do on a Tuesday afternoon at Friendship Club. We enjoy the sense of community so important in our modern lives. We enjoyed lovely Christmas celebrations together with a festive meal prepared by our hard working committee members, a pantomime and songs choreographed by Nancy. I'm quite sure similar events would have taken place in 1916.

And so we look forward to new beginnings in 2016. We have a full programme and we are always pleased to welcome new members at 2 o'clock on a Tuesday afternoon.

**Pat Hutchinson**

### Some statistics for 1916:

The average life expectancy for men was 47 years  
 Fuel for cars was only sold in chemists  
 Only 14% of homes had a bath  
 Most women only washed their hair once a month  
 Only 8% of homes had a telephone  
 The maximum speed limit in most cities was 10 mph  
 The average British wage was £15 per year  
 Sugar cost 2 pence a pound  
 Eggs cost 10 pence a dozen

## Just a little bit about Indonesia...

*After news of bombings in Jakarta we asked Nini Brady to tell us something about the city.*

Sitting down in front of the fire in the winter evening, my memory took me back to the place where I come from: the capital city of Indonesia, Jakarta. The archipelago of Indonesia contains almost around 18,000 islands (big and small volcanic islands in some part) with tropical weather, humid hot and rainy seasons. There are 27 provinces and 27 languages recognised by the law of nation and one national language called "Bahasa". Jakarta is located on Java Island.



There are five major religions recognised in the country: Islam, Christianity, Roman Catholicism, Hinduism and Buddhism. Almost 80% of the population are followers of Islam. Under the country's constitution people are expected to respect and live side by side with other religious followers. A religious celebration of Eid can last for weeks. As for Christians, people normally start celebrating Christmas a week before Christmas Day. It is not their tradition to buy or exchange Christmas presents, people just get together and celebrate at home with families/friends or in church.

You may have heard recently about the bombing in Jakarta by IS followers. They follow a wrong doctrine and determine to destroy the peace of nations. When I heard about the news I was concerned, the location of the bombing right in the centre of Jakarta is not far from the workplace of one of my brothers. In the same area many years ago I met my husband (Steve). I hope this action won't continue. There have been some religious conflicts between the Muslims and Christians in some islands around Indonesia. Generally I can say, this country is a safe place to live and visit. You may agree with me that everywhere in the world there are always people who want to create problems and intimidate others with fear.

As a Christian I believe that we must always remember to keep our heart at peace through prayer and trusting God. Jesus never promised that we would never face challenges or difficulties in life. He promised to give us strength in whatever circumstances we are in. He is the source of our peace and strength, our defender and our deliverer forever....

## Regular church activities and contact details

### 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

**Minister: Rev Louise Grosberg**

**Tel. 0114 2363157**

Email:

[Louise.Grosberg@btinternet.com](mailto:Louise.Grosberg@btinternet.com)

**Church website:**

[www.bentsgreenmethodist.org.uk](http://www.bentsgreenmethodist.org.uk)

Church office answerphone:

0114 2361912

**For Room Bookings contact:**

**Peter Larder** Tel. 0114 2686507

**Hilltop Editor: Tricia North**

Email: [tn-bg@live.co.uk](mailto:tn-bg@live.co.uk)

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 13<sup>th</sup> March 2016.

### 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
Sunbeams	0-4	Wed 9.15-12	Katie	07833086480

#### 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	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 evening	Don	2662218
Drama group	All ages	Various	Glenn	2351057
Pantomime	All ages	Annually	Glenn	2351057
Musical	All ages	Annually	Christèle	07912207661

### 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

### 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**

<b>Tues 2<sup>nd</sup> February</b>	Rambling in the Twenties
<b>Tues 9<sup>th</sup> February</b>	I did it my way – Big Ron Clayton's reminiscences & regrets
<b>Tues 16<sup>th</sup> February</b>	The Long Weekend
<b>Tues 23<sup>rd</sup> February</b>	Ray and Jen Duo
<b>Tues 1<sup>st</sup> March</b>	Footpaths, Kings and Highwaymen
<b>Tues 8<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Our experiences as Gamesmakers at the Olympics
<b>Tues 15<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Policing Sheffield in the 60s
<b>Tues 22<sup>nd</sup> March</b>	Easter Service

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

## Sunbeams! Baby and Toddler group

Sunbeams started up in October, run by Katie Vernon and a group of friends. They felt there was a place for a mother and baby group which was open throughout the hours of pre-school, from 9.15 to 12 noon. The church leadership was enthusiastic about the idea and Katie has been very encouraged by the support and prayers she has received from church members. I went along to find out more.

From the first I was aware of the warmth and welcome in the group. The hall was laid out with rugs and cushions, with small tables with craft materials, lots of toys and push along vehicles. Katie and her group, along with Keith, the caretaker, set it all up before they open at 9.15 am. During the morning some helpers are in the kitchen providing cups of tea and drinks and serving healthy fruit snacks for the children mid-morning. Other helpers are in the hall ensuring that everyone who comes is welcomed and included.

I spoke to several of the people there with children. Some were mothers, some grandparents and childminders. Many had heard about the group through word of mouth, others through Hilltop, or fliers on the church notice-board. They liked the flexible timing of the group which means you can drop in at any time. One mum had only been able to come for 45 minutes but was glad to come and meet friends before going on to collect another child elsewhere.

They also liked the structure of the group which provides activities for the children. During the morning Katie brings the children together for story-time, and then later on they come together again and sing action songs and use percussion instruments. The craft activities throughout give interest for older children. Meantime there is plenty of time for parents and carers to sit and chat, exchange news and find support in the group.

**Tricia North**



### The Snow Queen

**Fri 12<sup>th</sup> at 7.30, Sat 13<sup>th</sup> at 7.30, and Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> February at 4.30**

**Would you like to meet Princess Elsa and Princess Anna?**

**Or 20 Reindeer, including Sven? Or 15 fierce Trolls (proper ones, not the Disney version)?**

**Would you like to see 14 beautiful Snow Ladies and 14 pretty Snow Petals?**

**Would you like to hear some of your favourite songs?**

**Would you like to laugh your head off (not literally, except in Olaf's case)?**

If the answer to any one of these and lots of similar questions is "Yes", come along to our annual pantomime in February half term, on Friday 12th at 7.30, Saturday 13th at 7.30, and Sunday 14th at 4.30. You can only get in with a ticket, but the tickets are free. There are still tickets available for the Friday and Saturday, but Sunday's tickets are like gold dust. Don't despair if you can only come on Sunday, as there may well be a few cancellations.

**To obtain a ticket, please contact Glenn Evans: telephone - 235 1057, text - 07814 905883, email - [dglennevans@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:dglennevans@hotmail.co.uk)**