

Hilltop

February / March 2017

Newsletter of The Church at Bents Green



Robin Hood

Get your tickets for the Pantomime now!

This *merrie* event will take place on Friday
24th February at 7.30
Saturday 25th February at 7.30
Sunday 26th February at 4.30
Entry is by ticket only, but the tickets are free. First come, first served!

Tickets can be ordered by contacting
Glenn Evans: 235 1057 or
dglennevans@hotmail.co.uk



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Come and join us for breakfast on the first
Sunday of the month
10 am in the church followed by the
morning service

A community church sharing the love of Jesus

Church News

Pokémon Lure Party returns on Sunday 29th March from 2pm - 4 pm. See Cherry Mair for more details.

Possible Arts Festival? Do we want to hold an Arts Festival in Bents Green? It has been suggested that we might have an arts festival instead of the usual Fun Day in the summer. It could include all sorts of crafts, painting, music, dancing, flower arranging - arts in the widest sense. The community could be invited to take part, as well as church groups. Would you be interested in taking part, or helping to organise such an event? **If so, please speak to John Wilkins: 236 1306 email: johnwilkins73@gmail.com**

Christmas donations: A magnificent £265 was raised for Christian Aid at the Carol Service with gift aid adding an extra £35.25! In addition the Girls' Brigade Coffee Morning and donations raised a further £206.90 for Christian Aid. Thank you to everyone for their donations and support for the GB coffee morning.

Sadly we heard in January of the passing of **Ron Bowles** who worshipped with us until recently.

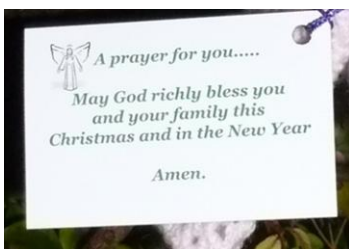
Prayer – If you would like us to pray for you confidentially you can contact us by email reyarp42@sky.com or leave a note in the Prayer Box in the church corridor (side entrance) which is emptied daily.

The angels were the talk of Bents Green!

In December members of the church secretly distributed 500 angels around Bents Green. The angels were knitted by the Games Craft and Chatter group which meets in the church on Wednesday afternoons. Each angel had a label with a prayer that God would richly bless the finder and their family at Christmas and in the New Year.

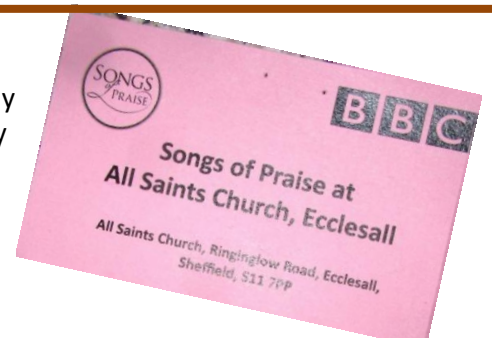
Here are some of the messages that came back to church members.

- I think the knitted angels your church put out were amazing. The children loved finding them on the way to school. In the playground they were all showing each other their angels! Please pass on our thanks to the ladies who knitted them.
 - In the school run the angels were the talk of Bents Green.
 - We found one hiding in a bush at the end of the drive – lovely surprise.
 - Yes we found one and it's now on top of our Christmas tree.
 - On the way to school we walked past lots of these lovely hand knitted angels hung on railings and tied to branches. What a beautiful thing to do for your community.



Recording Songs of Praise in Ecclesall

Songs of Praise came to All Saints Church, Ecclesall in January. On Saturday Graham Kendrick was there and we sang songs he had composed. On Sunday there were songs from other composers, many of which we know well in our own church. Aled Jones joined us for some of the time! The conductor, Ken Burton, made the whole experience worshipful, speaking of his own faith. The recordings will be used in programmes in the near future and particularly in Songs of Praise on Easter day. **Tricia North**



Louise's sabbatical

In the last issue of Hilltop I wrote that between January 16th until the start of May, I will be on sabbatical.

This is something that the Methodist Church say that ministers should take every 7 years. During this time we are not contactable by our church communities. It is a time to rest and dream some dreams, and be reminded about what our calling is all about.

During my sabbatical, I will be walking the Santiago de Compostela with a friend. This is a famous pilgrimage and we will be walking around the coast of Portugal, walking between 10-20 miles a day for a fortnight, and will arrive at Santiago on Easter weekend.

In walking this route I am hoping to raise money for ASSIST Sheffield, who work to provide support to destitute asylum seekers in and around Sheffield. I have set up a web site for donations which is <http://www.justgiving.com/Louise-Grosberg>

But, if the internet is not your preferred way, you can gift the money to me directly for ASSIST. Thank you to those who have already offered gifts.

If you need to contact a minister during this time please first contact John Wilkins (Tel 2361306 or email: johnwilkins73@gmail.com) or a church steward for information.

I look forward to seeing you all again at the start of May and hopefully by then I will be rested and fit!

Every blessing, Louise

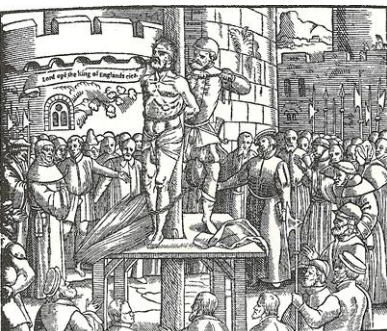


Translators of the Bible 5 – William Tyndale

If Chaucer and Wycliffe created the skeleton of written English from its Norman and Anglo-Saxon ancestors, Shakespeare and Tyndale created the flesh and blood that are the basis of all forms of modern English. We are all familiar with Shakespeare, but not as much with Tyndale whose influence on the language was even greater. So who was he?

William Tyndale was born in Gloucestershire in the mid-1490s, educated at Magdalen Hall, Oxford, became fluent in French, Italian, Spanish, German, Latin, Greek and Hebrew, and died in 1536 in Belgium when only in his early 40s. He was strangled and burnt at the stake, then his body was burned (as illustrated below). Just what had he done to become "The most dangerous man in Tudor England" (Melvyn Bragg)?

He wrote a pamphlet opposing the annulment of Henry VIII's marriage to Catherine of Aragon, but even more seriously he was the first person to translate the Bible into English directly from the original Hebrew and Greek. The recent invention of printing ensured its widespread circulation. As a leading Protestant this brought Tyndale into direct conflict with the Roman Catholic hierarchy in England who still considered the Latin Vulgate as the only true Bible. Henry VIII was seeking Catholic approval at this point so Tyndale stood no chance.



This heresy led to his execution, despite the intervention of Thomas Cromwell. Tyndale's final words were "Lord, open the King of England's eyes". This prayer was answered just 2 years later when Henry authorised the publication of the Great Bible in English, based on Tyndale's translation. Within 100 years the King James Version of the Bible was made, known as the Authorised Version. In fact, 84% of the New Testament and 75% of the Old Testament in the Authorised Version are the work of William Tyndale.

Next time: What exactly was so heretical about Tyndale's English Bible? Plus a quiz to see if you know which modern English phrases were coined by Tyndale. I am sure you do! Glenn Evans



Introducing Rev Gareth Jones

A while ago, Louise asked me if I would cover for her at Bents Green during her sabbatical. I'm delighted to do so, although of course there may not be many things that need covering during this time, especially with the quality of leadership that I know exists within the church. I already know some of you well, but many of you won't know me, so I've been asked to say a few words about myself; and in particular, to focus on my work as Inter-Faith Officer for the Methodist District and my experience of inter-faith relations. So here goes!

I'm the minister of St Andrew's Psalter Lane Church, and when Jean and I first moved to Sheffield in 2012 I was also minister of Horizon Methodist Church. Following Horizon's closure, I had temporary pastoral care of Wesley Hall and Walkley Ebenezer for a year, and am now working with Trinity Firvale until they close in the summer (not that there's a theme emerging, of course!). I don't get around the Circuit very much on Sunday mornings, as SAPLC has a regular pattern of Communion services, but I have enjoyed leading worship at Bents Green a couple of times in the evening.

Much of my ministry before coming here took the form of university chaplaincy, before I took on a new role as Inter-Faith Development Officer for the West Midlands Faiths Forum (WMFF) in 2007, having been involved in inter-faith relations for many years. I had the privilege in this role of supporting mutual understanding and cooperation between people of all faiths across the West Midlands region, with a special focus in Coventry and Warwickshire. The funding for all of the Regional Faiths Forums, including the Yorkshire and Humber Faiths Forum, came to an end in 2011.



One of the many things that subsequently drew me to my current appointment was the awareness of St Andrew's Psalter Lane's links with other denominations and faith communities. As well as being a Local Ecumenical Partnership, SAPLC also has a very good relationship with the Nether Edge Quakers who worship every week in Shirley House. Still more broadly, there is the Shirley House Interfaith Centre, which provides opportunities for people of different faiths to meet together in friendship. As the Methodist District's Inter-Faith Officer, I seek to be a resource for the District, and enjoy the

opportunity to build relationships with many different places of worship and faith groups in Sheffield, such as the Sikh Gurdwara, the Hindu Temple, the two Jewish congregations and some of the forty or so mosques in the city.

I'm very happy to be contacted if needed over the next few months, while Louise enjoys her well-earned sabbatical. And in any case, do get in touch any time if you'd like to explore inter-faith relations further. **Gareth Jones**



Celebrating Girls Brigade



In January Hazel Wassell retired from Girls Brigade after about 70 years in the Bents Green GB company! It seemed a good time to look back and reminisce about the busy life of GB over the years.

Hazel joined the company as a girl of about 8 when it was being led by Mrs Hamer who had started the group in 1938. She loved all the activities and adding badges to the sleeve of her uniform. There were events such as parades locally in Latham Square or joining all the other Sheffield companies in a parade in the city centre. Hazel remembers one wet parade in her uniform wearing an old-style GB hat which had an upturned brim: when they all bowed their heads in prayer the rain water poured off their hats!

Emma Hall wrote this tribute to Hazel in 2003:

**So today we thank you for all that you do,
From the smallest Explorer to the Officer crew
For Pantomimes, talent shows, musicals too,
For badges and cooking and for just being you.**

She became an officer in GB during the time when Enid Cartwright was captain. Then, in 1980 Hazel herself became captain of the company, a daunting but rewarding role which she held until she retired at 65 and handed the position on to Marian Haley. However she continued to help with GB, welcoming girls

as they arrived for each meeting.

Enid Cartwright took over the leadership of the company when Mrs Hamer became ill. Enid was only 18 and had to wait until she was 21 before becoming captain. Joan Staniforth became lieutenant shortly afterwards. The company had over 50 members and took in girls from the Deaf School and the Open Air school bringing the total to nearly 90 members for a short while.

Enid brought her love of drama to the company and began the tradition of the Bents Green pantomime with parts for all the girls. She also involved the company in Arts festivals run by the churches in the Methodist Circuit. She describes the company as very active and competitive. They took part in city-wide and national events, including making several trips to the Albert Hall in London for an annual GB reunion (and sight-seeing). She retired as captain in 1978 to care for elderly parents and the church asked Sue Fox (Alexander) and Angela Walker (Rust), both ex GB girls, to come and run the company which they did successfully until Hazel was able to come back in 1980.



Former members - for those 'of a certain age' the highlight was being a May Queen or an attendant. May Queens were chosen by the company and other **GB** members became their attendants. There were three days of celebrations in the church with musical concerts and sketches culminating in a parade to Endcliffe Park for celebrations. In the park all the May Queens from different churches sat together and a Park Queen was chosen. One year Hazel received this honour.

The most vivid memories from others are of small incidents which happened in the course of GB activities. **Joan Staniforth's** earliest memory of GB is how she and her friend, Christine, pestered Mrs Hamer, the GB captain, so much that she allowed them to start at 3 years old! But generally the starting age was 8, changing later to 5. **Margaret Cole** remembers a first aid course and being a 'patient' on a stretcher when the bearers dropped her. **Hazel and Marian** remember breaking a bottle of prescription medicine which one of the girls needed on a trip out, they obtained a second bottle but that broke as well. The embarrassment of having to go back yet again to the pharmacy still lives with them! On one of the trips to London someone's hat landed in the Thames and somehow they managed to fish it out again! There are also many memories of travelling to events in other churches and getting lost on the way in the dark in Gleadless or Handsworth, known to Emma Hall's generation as 'Hazel's Mystery Tours'. Emma remembers a GB celebration in Blackpool. 'We went on rides down the pier and did some sightseeing. There was a talking fish in the foyer, where someone was controlling what the fish said and how it responded, it really picked on Hazel, I've never seen her laugh so much as that!'



Chatting to Hazel, Enid and others it's clear how much fun and laughter there was in the company and how much they all still enjoy getting together and keeping in touch. Many former members have gone on to lead young people's groups in their churches and communities and to be active church members where they are. Their friendships have been strengthened by reunion dinners every ten years in Bents Green Church Hall with 50 or more attending.

Marian Haley is now the Team Leader of Bents Green Girls Brigade. There are 17 members in two groups – one group led by Irene Williams (**n:vestigate** for 5 - 8yrs and **n:gage** for 7 - 11yrs are run together) and **n:counta** 10-14yrs and **n:spire** 13-18yrs form the other group led by Annie Russell. Members come from a wide area as there are now fewer companies in the city. Now that Hazel has retired from her role as welcomer the group has need of more people to help. Two other helpers, Emma and Leonora will soon be away temporarily on teaching practice and help will be needed to cover their roles. Marian would welcome offers of help (Tel . 0114 2361316)

Tricia North



Recycling in Sheffield

Did you know that Sheffield's black bin rubbish is recycled to make heat and electricity?

The waste from our black bins is taken to **Veolia's Energy Recovery Facility (ERF)** where it is burnt at temperatures over 850°C in a specially controlled environment. The heat created from this process is turned into steam and used to generate heat and electricity. Up to 60MW of heat is supplied to over 140 buildings in Sheffield connected to the District Energy Network. The plant also generates up to 19MW of electricity for the National Grid; supplying enough electricity to power around 22,600 local homes!

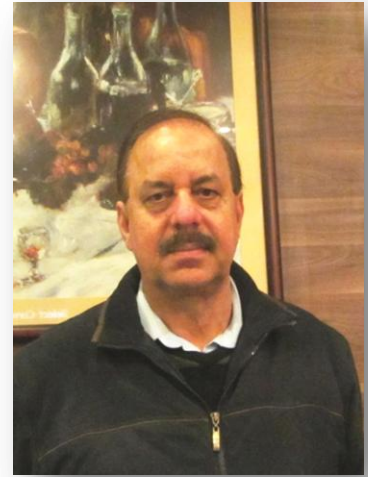


Village Balti House

Continuing the series about shops and businesses in Bents Green

The Village Balti House opened twelve years ago in Bents Green. Mr Yasin previously had a restaurant in Wakefield but, as he lives in this area, he was finding the travelling too much and was glad to move to Bents Green. He is now well known in this area and has many regular customers.

The chef worked with him in his Wakefield restaurant and moved with him to Bents Green. As well as serving restaurant-quality food to take away, they are able to provide a catering service for events. They have catered for birthday parties and also for a funeral with 70-80 people.



Another member of the team makes deliveries and they are happy to deliver within a 4 mile radius. Weekends are their busiest times but they are happy to take orders any day of the week between 5pm and 11pm.

Contact details: Village Balti House, Ringinglow Road, Sheffield. Open daily 5 – 11pm Tel 0114 2351773

He was lost... (Short story)

Lunch time on Christmas Day: "We can't find Jesus anywhere! We've looked everywhere in church and he's nowhere to be found!" Flo's husband didn't seem to understand what his wife was saying. He just smiled and replied, "I thought unbelievers were supposed to go to church to find Jesus. How can they do that if even the church stewards can't find Jesus in church?"

Flo exploded, "It's no laughing matter! The crib scene was all set up before the Christingle service, but nobody checked whether the baby Jesus was actually in the manger! The shepherds were there, the sheep were there, even the three kings had turned up early, but Jesus was missing when I looked this morning. Luckily we found an old rag doll in the toys for the crèche and used that instead, but it didn't feel right. It wasn't the same as having the little wooden carving of the baby Jesus!"

Flo's husband just smiled, "Jesus is bound to turn up somewhere. Perhaps the minister left the child at the pub, like David Cameron did? Perhaps you should search the synagogue: didn't the real Jesus get left behind at the synagogue by his parents?"

Flo went very quiet. "It was the temple, not a local synagogue. Another word and your Christmas lunch won't get cooked."

The twelfth day of Christmas: "We've found Jesus! He was still in the box of Christmas decorations, hidden under some extra straw for the manger!"

Flo's husband just smiled. "Good!" was all he said. "Now you can forget all about Jesus until next Christmas."

He started singing, "Jesus once was lost and now he's found". He stopped singing and went on to remark, "That could make a good line for a hymn. Or even the theme for a Christmas sermon!"



Derek North (loosely based on a true story at a nearby church)

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, Sparklers and Sparks Clubs 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 the Christian faith

Wednesdays at 10 am: Midweek service

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 10.30 | Ruth | 2686507 |
| Sparklers | 4-5 | Sun 10.30 | 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 5-7 | 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 | 5-11 | 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 |
| Drama group | All ages | Various | Glenn | 2351057 |
| Pantomime | All ages | Annually | Glenn | 2351057 |
| Musical | All ages | Special events | 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 7 th February | Buskin' Buddies |
| Tues 14 th February | Christine Spencer and Friends |
| Tues 21 st February | Street Detective |
| Tues 28 th February | A VAD nurse goes to war |
| Tues 7 th March | Sheffield Notables |
| Tues 14 th March | Cilla Tribute |
| Tues 21 st March | Bess of Hardwick |
| Tues 28 th March | Peter Slater |

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

**Minister: Rev Louise Grosberg
(on sabbatical)**

Lay Assistant Minister: John Wilkins

Tel 0114 2364916

Email: johnwilkins73@googlemail.com

Church website:

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

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 18th March 2017.

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



'The Way' - a reflection for Lent

Lent begins on Wed 1st March - a time to focus our thoughts on our walk with God

In the early church, Christians were often known as people of 'The Way'. These were the followers of Jesus Christ. The label suggests a journey, movement towards a destination. Journeys have a starting point and this one begins with an invitation given by Jesus himself: in the Gospels we find him saying "Come follow me".

No one in their right mind would want to accept such an invitation without some understanding of who was giving it and why. Followers of Jesus believe that he was not only a man but uniquely God. They believe that he came to build a new kind of society known as the Kingdom of God. For this to happen people need to change. The journey includes acknowledging that the death by crucifixion of Jesus and his coming back to life is the beginning of those changes in us.

On the way there will be resting places. Many others will be on the journey as well. Not all will travel at the same pace but there will be companionship, love and laughter. At times the going will be difficult and diversions all too easy. However, this is a journey into Life in the company of Jesus Christ who described himself as 'The Way, the Truth and the Life'.

Janet Nowell

An Invitation to Friendship Club

January can seem, to me anyway, to be a very long month. I don't know whether it is because the weather is often dull, as in this year with a few bright periods, or you know there are still quite a few weeks to go before the weather really turns around or whether the joy of Christmas seems but a memory.

There are though hopeful signs. Snowdrops are coming through and it won't be long before they are cheering us up. Daffodils are starting to show signs of life, even appearing in the shops. And the magnolias are starting to bud. So reasons to be cheerful.

But for many of us there is an additional weekly joy. The Friendship Club of course! At the time of writing we have had some lovely songs from the 50s and 60s from the Banana Man (don't ask) and a most interesting illustrated talk about the Silk Road. Next week it's about holidays with more music, including a tribute to Cilla, and talks about a VAD Nurse going to war and Bess of Hardwick amongst others.

Any gloom about the weather or what is happening in the world is set aside once a week as we all meet up, chat, enjoy real friendship and of course have tea and biscuits! I am sure the weeks will fly past as we look forward to our Easter celebrations. So if you'd like to relax, chat and be entertained on a Tuesday afternoon, come and join us.

Arthur Blacklock

Robin Hood

There is still a chance that you can get a ticket for our Annual Pantomime, but only if you are quick! At the time of writing, just half a dozen tickets remain for the Saturday, a few more for the Sunday, and a few more again for the Friday. If you fancy an evening of family fun, with songs and dances, jokes old and new, and traditional audience involvement, just come along. Over 70 children and young people will be delighted to entertain you.

**Tickets can be ordered by contacting Glenn Evans:
0114 235 1057 or dglennevans@hotmail.co.uk**

