

# Hilltop

October / November 2018

Newsletter of The Church at Bents Green

## **Messy Harvest**

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> Oct from 3.00 – 5.00 pm**

*An afternoon of crafts and activities for children and their families and carers with a short service and refreshments*

## **Take time to remember**

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> November at 4.00 pm**

*An invitation to spend a quiet half hour in memory of a loved one who has died recently or many years ago. Light a candle and name a loved one if you wish*

## **Harvest Service**

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> Oct at 10.30 am**

## **Remembrance Day Service**

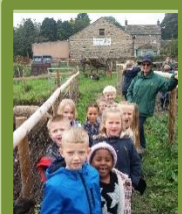
**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> Nov at 10.30 am**

## **In this issue:**

<i>Church News</i>	<i>p2</i>
<i>Wedding anniversaries</i>	<i>p2</i>
<i>Enjoy Today!</i>	<i>p3</i>
<i>Holy Habits - Prayer</i>	<i>p3</i>
<i>Remembrance: reflections and family memories of World War 1</i>	<i>p4</i>
<i>Whirlow Hall Farm</i>	<i>p5</i>
<i>Concluding the series on translating the Bible</i>	<i>p6</i>
<i>Challenges and triumphs for the Holiday Club Admin team</i>	<i>p6</i>
<i>Regular church activities and contacts</i>	<i>p7</i>
<i>Photos from the Holiday Club</i>	<i>p8</i>
<i>A Soldier's plea - poem</i>	<i>p8</i>

## **Service of Healing**

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> Oct at 6.30 pm**



A community church sharing the love of Jesus

## Church News

**Holy Habits –Evening of quiet prayer**, on Friday 19th October from 6.30 to 9.30 at Whirlow Spirituality Centre, led by Rev Joy Adams, especially for Bents Green people. The cost is £3, including the use of facilities and refreshments.

If you would like to receive a regular email about **Holy Habits** with ideas for Bents Green and news of events, please contact Martyn Read (email [martyn\\_read@hotmail.com](mailto:martyn_read@hotmail.com)).

**Appeal from The Friendship club.** By Christmas three of our valued and long-standing committee members will have stood down after many years of service. This will leave only five of us on the committee. Normally this is not a problem but if two or three of us are absent we do have a problem, particularly in the areas of taking the money as people come in, serving the tea and generally just helping out. If anyone feels that they could help from time to time, (specific times will be given in due course) please contact me. We would be very grateful for any assistance. Pat Hutchinson 0114 2497280 or [pathutchinson43@gmail.com](mailto:pathutchinson43@gmail.com)

**A Thanksgiving service** for the life of **Joyce Farmery** was held at the church on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> August. We remember her family and friends in prayer.

**Thank you to Derek Brammer** who has organised the delivery of Hilltop newsletters for about 40 years and now feels it is time to hand over to someone else. When he started he organised a team of people who delivered Hilltop to every member. There is still a small team of deliverers who take Hilltop to those who cannot collect it from church and some copies are posted out to former members by Katie Swift. If anyone would like to take over the job of organising the small number of deliveries please speak to Derek or to Tricia North to find out more.

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

### Diamond Wedding Celebration

Olive and Philip Miles celebrated their Diamond wedding anniversary in August this year with a cruise and a family celebration. Their two children and three grandsons came together to celebrate the occasion. None of them live in Sheffield, so it was quite an achievement to get everyone together! Olive and Philip met at the Greystones Dance Hall in 1955 and married when Philip returned from National Service in 1958. They were married at Endcliffe Methodist Church as shown in the lovely photo of their wedding. They brought a celebration cake to share with us at church and showed us the card they received from the Queen!



### Golden Wedding Celebration

Susan Edwards (née Drake) and her husband, Brian brought their family to Sheffield in August to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary with their extended family here. The wedding photo was taken outside Bents Green Methodist Church and includes all members of the Edwards and Drake families - all were members of the church (with the exception of a couple of spouses). "My sister Katie (Swift) is the lovely young lady on the extreme right of the photo. Bents Green was a huge part of our life and holds nothing but good memories." The photo on the right shows Susan and her husband, Brian, at Bents Green Church this summer.



## Enjoy Today!

In looking ahead to next year, the Easter school holidays happen two weeks before Easter itself. In an attempt to prevent unpredictable and uneven school terms the holidays will not be tied to the variable date of Easter. I wonder whether this is just Sheffield or is it across the country, and will the travel agents alter their holiday prices to suit?

What marks one day from another depends on all sorts of factors. It might be a special anniversary with happy or sad memories. It might be filled with possibilities and opportunities, or it might entail an awkward conversation or meeting which is full of dread. How we approach another day can be determined by our circumstances, mood or our mental wellbeing.

Dag Hammarskjöld was the youngest General Secretary of the United Nations before his tragic death in a plane crash. He wrote:

"For all that has been, thanks. To all that shall be, Yes. "

This story from Anthony de Mello invites us to look at each day in a different way.

"Aren't you going to wish us a happy Christmas?"

The Master glanced at the calendar, saw it was Thursday and said,

"I'd much rather wish you a happy Thursday."

This offended the Christians in the monastery till the Master explained, "Millions will enjoy, not Today, but Christmas - so their joy is short-lived. But for those who have learnt to enjoy Today, every day is Christmas."

Peace *Tim*



## Holy Habits – Prayer

On 2<sup>nd</sup> September we began a two-year journey at Bents Green studying and practising ten Holy Habits, spending two or three months on each. In September and October, we focus on **Prayer**.

The disciples saw how important prayer was to Jesus. And they, brought up in the heart of the Old Testament tradition of worship and daily devotion, realised that they didn't know how to pray. So they asked Jesus – 'Teach us how to pray'. It's a good thing they did ask, because Jesus's answer gave us the most simple yet profound prayer in the Christian faith. We know it as the Lord's Prayer. Most of us know it by heart and many repeat it daily.

But in a way it's a pity Jesus gave such a wonderful example. It can make us think that to pray we need to express profound sentiments in wonderful words. We don't. Prayer is communication with someone who loves us more deeply than we can imagine. All we need do is talk to God in our normal words. He already knows what we're going to say, but it helps us get things sorted if we talk them out with Him. And we need to listen to what He may say to us.

Like the disciples, most of us don't know how to pray. Robert Warren, former vicar of St Thomas Crookes, and an author of books on prayer, wrote that 'When it comes to prayer, none of us have arrived, and some of us know we are stuck'. This autumn, we have the opportunity to help each other learn how to pray as we focus on our first Holy Habit. Can we help each other to embed prayer more deeply in all we do personally, seven days a week, and in the life we share together at church? Materials are available for the various house activities and fellowship groups, as well as Sunday services.

Mother Teresa was once asked by an interviewer what she said to God in her hours of prayer every day. 'Well,' she said, 'mostly I listen'. 'And God, what does he say to you?' asked the interviewer. 'Well', she replied, 'mostly he listens'. That's the secret - spending time quietly with the person who loves us most in the world. **John Wilkins**

**Holy Habits evening of quiet prayer**, on Friday 19th October from 6.30 to 9.30 at Whirlow Spirituality Centre, led by Rev Joy Adams, especially for Bents Green people. The cost is £3, including refreshments.



Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> Nov 2018 is the centenary of the end of World War 1. Here are some reflections and family memories.

## Dulce et Decorum Est

This is just a short extract from Wilfred Owen's poem, published after his death in the battlefields of France. The translation from the Latin title means: "It is sweet and fitting to die for one's country." This is certainly what Wilfred Owen and thousands of other young soldiers had been led to believe. However, when faced with the horrors of the Somme and Flanders, he and many others swiftly changed their minds and he called it "The Old Lie"

*Men marched asleep. Many had lost their boots,  
But limped on, blood-shod. All went lame; all blind;  
Drunk with fatigue; deaf even to the hoots  
Of gas-shells dropping softly behind. Wilfred Owen:*

The first day of the Somme offensive, July 1, 1916, resulted in 57,470 British casualties. 639 came from the Sheffield Pals and there is a monument to them in the village of Serre.

This all leads me on to wonder about Owen's words and I also wonder what would have happened to all of us if the fighting had not taken place.

During my many years as a French teacher I was fortunate to be able to take hundreds of students to the battlefields of Northern France and Belgium. I personally found these visits very moving as we visited the impressive but tragic monuments and war graves at such places as Thiepval, Beaumont, Hamel, Ypres and Passchendaele. But what struck me most was the effect it had on the young people who were seeing the names and graves of thousands of dead soldiers not much older than they were.

At Bents Green, our little haven of peace and tranquillity, there must be lots of families with stories related to The Great War. Jackie Smith, a Friendship Club Committee member tells of her uncle who enlisted at the age of 17, lying about his age as many young lads did. He was blown up on the Western Front. Miraculously he was unscathed but buried under a sea of soil. He, terrified, I'm sure, was certain he was going to die of suffocation but, amazingly, he was discovered and dug out by his fellow soldiers and went on to survive the war.



We must also remember the work done back in the UK, and again Jackie tells the story of her aunt who worked in a munitions factory where there was an explosion and two of her friends were killed.

Arthur Blacklock, another Committee member, tells of his great aunt whose two brothers were killed in France. She nursed the wounded who came back to South Wales, but unfortunately, she contracted an illness whilst doing this and sadly died. Her name is on the local war memorial and is the only female named there.

Sad stories indeed. How fortunate we are to be free of such atrocities and heartache and at Bents Green we will thank God on the 11th of November 2018 for peace and show gratitude to all those young people who gave their lives in such dreadful circumstances. **Pat Hutchinson**

**Eileen Tattersall writes:** On September 7<sup>th</sup> 1917 my mother's brother, James, was killed near Arras in Northern France. Their mother received a telegram merely stating, 'Killed in action'. There it would have ended had it not been for a letter from another soldier injured in the same incident who was in hospital in Preston and who could tell the family how James had died if they could visit him.

James and five others were sent as stretcher bearers into no-man's land – the ground between British and German forces – to pick up the injured. Behind them, British gunners were ordered, very mistakenly, to fire – with dire results. The injured soldier wanted James's family to know what a good Christian man their son had been and how much he had been respected by the men. After James's death the family received a belated letter in which he had written out the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm.

In 2008, by writing to the War Graves Commission, I was able to find Brown's Copse Cemetery near Fampoux, near Arras and made a visit there with other family members. Although I never knew him, I found it quite emotional to stand in front of the well-kept grave of James Ashworth.



## Whirlow Hall Farm

### *Continuing the series about businesses and organisations in Bents Green*

On a recent summer Saturday the Bottom Yard at Whirlow Hall Farm was full of activity in the sunshine. The tables outside the cafe were well-filled and, across the yard, families were coming and going from the new playground area which opened at Easter. The shop was busy too with visitors making purchases of the farm produce and other locally produced food and drink. The Bottom Yard is open to the public and visitors are welcome.

To see inside the sheds and see more of the animals you need to join a tour. At weekends there are tours of the farm every hour between 11 and 4 led by volunteers. In the spring the focus is on the lambing shed but later in the year the main attraction is the pigs. They are a lively lot, inquisitive and eager to see what is happening!

Whirlow Hall Farm Trust leases the farm from the City Council. The Trust was formed in 1979 to provide opportunities for children from city backgrounds to spend time on a farm. All the schools they help are in disadvantaged parts of Sheffield. Many of the children have never visited the countryside or seen farm animals and have little idea where their food comes from. During term-time the two residential buildings at the farm are in constant use Monday to Thursday providing a residential experience for primary classes where children can take part in the work of the farm.

The farm also provides an alternative hands-on practical education for children who have been excluded from school and aims to put these children on the right path for the future. Another programme for autistic young adults called 'Whirlow Life' combines vocational training with opportunities to develop life skills for independent living. Teenagers and college students also come to complete practical studies as part of their school or college environmental and agricultural courses. On some days there can be as many as 100 young people at Whirlow Hall Farm helping with the work and learning about farming.

Looking out across the farm you can see that the fields are used in different ways. One field is ready to receive a flock of turkeys. In another field there are Christmas trees and, in another, pumpkins are growing ready for Harvest activities. Soft fruits such as raspberries and blueberries are grown for sale in the farm shop. In the corner of one field a well has been drilled which will provide water for some of the farm. Other fields provide grazing for the animals: cows, sheep, hens (which lay 300 eggs a day), geese, a small herd of beef cattle, ponies and livery, goats, rabbits and guinea pigs.

Many of the farm buildings are very old and some are listed. New archaeological discoveries have found that the land here has been farmed for as long as there have been farmers. Following these discoveries Sheffield University archaeology students are building a round house and an area is being developed for older breeds of pig and sheep to show farming methods which were used in the past.

The trust hosts many events during the year. The annual Summer Fayre took place in July and drew many people with lots of activities for children and adults as well as a farmers' market, music and a variety of food. The next event is a Beer and Bangers Comedy Night on Saturday October 6<sup>th</sup> (Book tickets online at [www.whirlowhallfarm.org](http://www.whirlowhallfarm.org)). The barn can be hired for events or, for smaller occasions, there is the Cruck Barn and catering is available too.

Whirlow Hall Farm is a busy place with a small team of staff and 160 volunteers who help to run it. New volunteers are always welcome, both young and older. One area that the volunteer organiser wants to develop is tours about the history of the farm and its buildings, but there are lots of jobs needing to be done throughout the year which volunteers help with. And all contribute to the aim of the trust which is to help children and young people to develop their potential.

**Tricia North**

**Contact details: Whirlow Hall Farm, Whirlow Lane, Sheffield S11 9QF,  
Tel 0114 2352678, Website: <https://www.whirlowhallfarm.org>**





## My preferred version

### Concluding the series about translating the Bible – 15

I wrote last time that I would tell you where I stood on what is the best modern translation of the Bible into English. The answer is that it depends! It depends on the context (where I am using the Bible), the purpose (why I am quoting the Bible) and the particular passage.



For example, for my grandson's baptism in early September I chose the New International Version for the reading from Psalm 139. You will remember that the NIV tries to reflect closely the vocabulary of the original language, in this case Classical Hebrew. The reading started: *For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made.* I felt this reflects the poetry of the original, and it retains the well-known phrasing from the King James (Authorised) Version about being *fearfully and wonderfully made*. I accepted that the word "fearful" has changed in meaning, with "awesome" being a more accurate translation.

I also really enjoyed the reading of Matthew chapter 6 verses 9-13 from the Message, which was used for our September Café Worship: *Our Father in heaven, reveal who you are. Set the world right; do what's best - as above, so below. Keep us alive with three square meals. Keep us forgiven with you and forgiving others. Keep us safe from ourselves and the Devil. You're in charge! You can do anything you want! You're ablaze in beauty! Yes. Yes. Yes.* Did you recognise the Lord's Prayer? The Message is an interpretation, rather than a translation, but it made me think, especially as the usual version is so familiar.



However, neither the more literal approach nor the interpretative approach is my usual preference. My personal view is that public worship should be accessible to everyone, including people who will not understand the more technical religious words that regular worshippers are used to. I also think a good translation should reflect the meaning and the style of the original. Since the New Testament was written in everyday, colloquial Greek, a good translation should be in everyday, colloquial English. That is why my choice would normally be the Good News Bible.

But as I also wrote last time, I am certain as a linguist that we can have full confidence in every modern version of the Bible. And this is a good place to finish this series of 15 articles about translating the Bible. I have enjoyed researching and writing it. I hope you have enjoyed reading it. Much more importantly, I hope you enjoy reading the Bible regularly, and that God will speak to you through the most important book in the world. **Glenn Evans.**

## Challenges and Triumphs for the Holiday Club Admin Team

The Admin Team consisted of Peter, Krystal, Patrick and myself (Susan). Each of us had an important job to do

Peter collected the £2 entry fee and supervised the signing in, and signing out, of all children. This was essential if we were to have an accurate list of those present, in case of emergencies.

Krystal was responsible for giving every adult a "receipt" for each child they were due to collect. This was necessary because every child needed to be collected by their designated adult. Krystal also did a brilliant job to inform me of any additional need among the children attending.

Patrick was in the porch to welcome and direct visitors. He also made sure that no child left the building without permission. This role had its challenges, but he was very effective and efficient.

My job was to make sure that the registration process was as hassle-free as possible, to manage the unexpected and keep Cherry and Lesley informed. In addition, I was responsible for the entrance into Holiday Club so that no-one passed through without the authority to do so!

The week was demanding, exhausting and amazing. There was an air of excitement and expectation in the Church as the children arrived for each session. A record number of children attended. It was a huge privilege to welcome so many families into our premises. I am grateful to all who worked with me to make the Admin process so successful: I couldn't have done it without them! Next year, why not come and join us?

**Susan Rose**



## Regular church activities and contact details

### Services at the Church at Bents Green

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 Fireworks and Sunday Club for older children and young people.

**Sunday evenings at 6.30 pm** - An informal service often including tea, coffee and time to chat about the Christian faith.

**Café worship** on the first Sunday of each month. Breakfast from 10.00, with worship at 10.30. This is an informal service, so please make yourself at home. Drinks are available at any time. Sit or stand as you wish.

**Wednesdays at 10 am:** Midweek service.

## Contact Details:

**Lay Assistant Minister: John Wilkins**  
Tel 0114 2361306 (First contact)  
Email: [johnwilkins73@googlemail.com](mailto:johnwilkins73@googlemail.com)

**Minister: Rev Tim Crome**  
Tel. 0114 4389012  
Email: [Tim47Crome@msn.com](mailto:Tim47Crome@msn.com)

**For Room Bookings contact:**  
Peter Larder Tel. 0114 2686507

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

**Church office answerphone:**  
0114 2361912

## 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	07464 824462

### For children and young people

Sparks	5-11	Sun 10.30	John	2307556
Fireworks	12-14	Sun 10.30	Emma	07707 500226
Sunday Club	15-18	Sun 10.30	Sue	2307556
Girls' Brigade	5-18	Thurs evening	Marian	2361316
Lighthouse	5-11	Wed 3.45	Cherry	07853278612
Lampstand	12-18	Fri 8-10	Cherry	07853278612
Craft Services	3-12	Festivals	Sue	2307556
Drama group	All ages	Various	Glenn	2351057
Pantomime	All ages	Annually	Glenn	2351057
Musical	All ages	Special events	Christèle	07912207661
Holiday Club	4-11	August 6 <sup>th</sup> -10 <sup>th</sup>	Lesley	2686461

## 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 60.**

<b>Tues 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct</b>	<b>SHEFFIELD FAMILY: SUZANNE BINGHAM</b>
<b>Tues 9<sup>th</sup> Oct</b>	<b>RAY LAWRENCE &amp; FRIENDS ENTERTAIN</b>
<b>Tues 16<sup>th</sup> Oct</b>	<b>PREPARING FOR RETIREMENT: ANDREW RAFTERY</b>
<b>Tues 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct</b>	<b>SCUPPERED PLAYS MUSIC</b>
<b>Tues 30<sup>th</sup> Oct</b>	<b>IAN MORGAN TALKS HISTORY</b>
<b>Tues 6<sup>th</sup> Nov</b>	<b>THE WOODHEAD TUNNEL PART 3:STEPHEN GAY</b>
<b>Tues 13<sup>th</sup> Nov</b>	<b>UKELELE BAND</b>
<b>Tues 20<sup>th</sup> Nov</b>	<b>THE RATION BOOK</b>
<b>Tues 27<sup>th</sup> Nov</b>	<b>MARY DE VILLE ENTERTAINS</b>

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

## Regular church activities

### Games, chat, crafts

Wednesdays 12.30 to 3 pm in the church.  
Indoor bowling, scrabble, chess, dominoes,  
jigsaws and cards, knitting and crafts.  
Contact Ruth: 0114 2686507

### Coffee Mornings in the Church:

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

### 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

### Hilltop Editor:

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

Please send material for the next issue to the  
editor by Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> Nov 2018.

If you would like to receive **Hilltop** by email  
please email the editor: [tn-bg@live.co.uk](mailto:tn-bg@live.co.uk)



## Holiday Club Photos



The younger ones singing



The older ones singing



Our actors!



The 5 year olds



The 6-7 year olds



The 8-11 year olds

In Holiday Club for the 3 and 4 year olds we had the most children we have ever had: 28 across the week, some coming for 5 days, a few just for 1. It's a joy to share stories of Jesus with these little ones and to see them skipping down the corridor to get in. We aim to give them the best time and have a good range of toys and activities, crafts etc. A big 'Thankyou' to all our helpers. **Sue Hall**



## A soldier's plea World War 1

Is this the end,  
Have we turned the bend?  
No more trenches to defend.  
Do we fight or befriend?  
Who is our foe  
Do we truly know?  
We kill in mud or snow.  
Pals company always on the go.  
How much ground have we won?  
Kill, take up your gun.  
He was someone's husband or son.  
Over the top but never, never run.  
We've taken it all,  
Bullets, gas and shell.  
How much more can befall,  
We've given our all

We can take no more,  
This hideous war  
What is it for,  
This war.  
We've let the rats from the bag,  
We choke and we gag.  
Follow the flag  
Day to day a drag.  
Till our spirits sag.  
We've lost the will to fight  
Our God-given right  
To claim it's not right  
From daylight to night,  
We stand and fight  
Fight the good fight  
Do not take flight.

Is this the end?  
Have we turned the bend?  
Do we fight or befriend?  
It's time to build and mend.  
**Ken Windle Sept 2018**

