

Hilltop

April/May 2015

Newsletter of Bents Green Methodist Church

Celebrate Easter with us

Good Friday, 3rd April

9.30 am: The Cross Walk from Bents Green Church to Horizon Church, Ecclesall Road

12 noon – 3 pm: Church open for quiet prayer

Easter Sunday, 5th April

10.30 am and 6.30 pm: Easter Services

3 pm: Egg Rolling at Stanage Edge



Join us on Marathon Day
Bents Green Methodist Church

Sunday 12th April

9.30 – 12 noon

Watch the runners

Bouncy castle for children

Croissants and toast
with tea, coffee and juice.



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Celebrating Easter

Maundy Thursday, 2nd April

We have been invited to join our friends at Banner Cross. The service will start at 7pm and will include a light meal of soup and roll. If you are intending to attend please advise Peter Larder by Wednesday 25th March.

Good Friday, 3rd April

The Cross Walk to Banner Cross and Horizon churches will begin with a short service at Bents Green Church at 9.30 am, as in previous years.

This church will be open from 12 noon to 3 pm for prayer, with music and images between times of silence. Hot cross buns will be taken to the shops at 2 pm.

Easter Sunday, 5th April

Services at 10.30 am and 6.30 pm

Egg rolling at Stanage Edge (Meet 3 pm at Hollins Bank car park or 2.40 pm in the church car park)

Quiet Garden at Totley Rise Methodist Church

The Quiet Garden is open every day for quiet contemplation and spiritual renewal. No booking is necessary.

From Good Friday until Easter Monday there will be an Easter Trail for adults and children. This is a good way to explore the Easter story anew.

Transformed by God's love

It's very easy to allow every news programme and article to affect our very beings. So that, as news bombards us with such speed from all corners of the world, we come to a conclusion that society today is deteriorating fast and that there are no answers to violence, poverty, and an overburdened NHS.

We can allow ourselves to believe that we can do nothing, but console each other by talking about the misery of society, that there is no hope, and shut ourselves away in fear from the outside world, and eat cake, even though we are told that sugar is bad for us! In the words of Fraser from Dad's Army, 'We are all doomed!'

The Easter stories have a wonderful account of the disciples who had followed Jesus, and believed in the radical nature of what he preached about, and lived out. The stories tell how he spoke about the Kingdom of God, where there was justice and healing for those who struggled, where the love and grace of God began to transform people's lives. But how following Jesus's death it now all seemed hopeless. They lived in an occupied country, and even feared their own people – their hopes had expired.

So they shut themselves away, locked the doors, and no doubt considered that they were all doomed. Yet, into that place of despair the risen Jesus entered, and brought his peace, and breathed the Holy Spirit on them. Because of resurrection, life in the face of death, the disciples embraced love and hope, and believed once again that the Kingdom of God was near.

After Jesus was present with them for 40 days, following the resurrection, they began to realise that they were called to live out and tell others of God's love and generosity, of how knowing the risen Christ would transform lives, as it had theirs.

We still have that choice today, to lock ourselves away in fear and hopelessness or to open the door, and know that Christ's love can change the most difficult of times.

As well as realising that we are invited to live our lives saying Yes to the hope and love that the Risen Christ ushered in we are also given a political system in this country that encourages us to step out of the fear, and do something by voting in the election. (See the Article – 'Who has my Vote')

Recently a Bishops' letter has been sent out, warning against despair, and in a way bolting your doors and thinking you can do nothing. The letter urges people to vote in the General Election saying, unless we exercise the democratic rights



that our ancestors struggled for, we will share responsibility for the failures of the political classes. It is the duty of every Christian adult to vote, even though it may have to be a vote of something less than a vision that inspires us.

Even when we may see a less than inspirational vision, all of us can choose to believe 'we are doomed' or to open our doors and embrace hope, love and peace, and realise that in each of our lives and communities resurrection is possible.

Have a happy and blessed Easter,

Louise

Welcome to our new youth leader



Our Youth Minister, Cherry Mair, has now started her maternity leave and she and Steve await the arrival of their baby around Easter time. During Cherry's maternity leave **Rachel Saxby** will take over Cherry's work at Lighthouse, Lampstand and on Sunday mornings. Rachel was interviewed by Glenn Evans in the morning service on Sunday 8th March.

Glenn Rachel, you are not from Sheffield, where are you from?

Rachel No I'm not from Sheffield, I'm from Chapel en le Frith in Derbyshire.

Glenn So how come you left Chapel en le Frith? Where were you heading for?

Rachel Originally I was heading for York but then it gradually became incredibly obvious that the place I should have been was Cliff College. I didn't want to go and it was six months after I'd got there that it started to get better. I'm still studying there now and it is only in the last 6 months that I've seen why God wanted me to be there and what God's doing while I'm there.

Glenn So what are you studying at Cliff College?

Rachel I'm studying theology which is not as terrifying as it sounds and I love it.

Glenn Can you tell us what theology is?

Rachel Theology is the study of God. I didn't know what it was when I signed up and now I am really excited about it.

Glenn Are you doing anything else apart from working at Bents Green?

Rachel At the minute I am also working at Carterknowle, Mount View and Woodseats in a south west corner of Sheffield as a community outreach worker. That includes a little bit of youth work. I am excited to see how they might all work together, especially in youth work.

Glenn We are delighted you are here, Rachel, and we hope you have a very happy time with us. We will look after you.

Please keep Rachel, and Cherry and Steve, in your prayers.

Church news

Toilet Twinning. We have received this message from CORD:

Thank you for twinning your toilet and helping to flush away poverty! Your gift of £696.51 will be used to help some of the world's poorest people gain access to clean, safe sanitation.

A Thanksgiving service for the life of Ken Anderson was held on Friday 28th February. Ken used to play football on the ground where the church was built and, with his wife Joan, was a very active member of this church. His son has written to say, *"On behalf of all our family I wanted to write and say a huge thank you to the whole of the Bents Green Church Family. You provided such a warm, loving, enthusiastic, caring and compassionate thanksgiving and send off for our Dad, Grand-dad and Great Grand-dad."* Peter Anderson

Who has my vote?

It is hard to escape the fact that we are nearing a general election! Our right to a free vote is precious. It is less than a hundred years since it was granted to all adults over the age of twenty one (later eighteen). Sadly, many people refrain from casting their votes, possibly feeling that it is unimportant or that politics are confusing, even boring.

How do we decide who to vote for? What are the principles and issues or who are the people we feel are worth the effort? Where should we look for guidance?



Jesus' manifesto:

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour."

Luke 4:18&19

Jesus of Nazareth, at the beginning of his ministry, quoted some words from the Old Testament which expressed what he had come to do. It was a kind of manifesto. Mainly it was to do with the poor, the downtrodden and oppressed. Elsewhere he claimed to be the embodiment of the Kingdom of God which has to do with living as God would have us live.

Does the politician or the party they represent hold most of these principles? We need to be comfortable with what the aims of their constitution set out. In government, would they uphold justice, compassion for the vulnerable, freedom of speech and worship, concern for the environment? What is their stance on the European Union? How do they propose to address issues of immigration?

Our vote may seem like a drop in the ocean. Remember that an ocean is made up of innumerable drops of water. Our votes count.

Janet Nowell

Friends

Friends are such an important part of our life, and the experiences we share help to reinforce these relationships.

Sharing laughter, celebrating events, enjoying talks and entertainment all go towards appreciating the company of our friends, especially on a Tuesday afternoon at Friendship Club.

Over the last few weeks we've enjoyed various great afternoons. Unfortunately we were all snowed in when Stephen Gay, our almost resident railway enthusiast, should have come. Worry not, he's hoping to come back in November.

Keith Brown from the Hope Valley showed us some beautiful photography accompanied with lovely music or commentaries...of note, Liverpool, the Botanical Gardens and Hope Church. We had a very entertaining afternoon of 'Chocolate' and a very interesting and moving talk about the Sick Children's Trust given by a lovely young woman called Laura. She is a fund raiser for parents' accommodation when their children are in hospital.....a very worthy cause, indeed.

We still have items to look forward to in the run up to our Easter service on 31 March. Then the summer term begins...old friends like Sally Mosley and Robin and Hugh will be returning and we look forward to welcoming new guests as well.

Our doors are always open on a Tuesday afternoon and we give a warm welcome to new members.

Pat Hutchinson

The Real Easter Egg is the first and only Fairtrade chocolate Easter egg to explain the Christian understanding of Easter. We also give a sizeable donation from profits and Fairtrade Premium fees, to our farmers allowing them to invest in their community buying everything from school books and solar panels to providing fresh water.

<http://www.realeasteregg.co.uk/>



S11 Carpets & Flooring

Continuing the series about shops and organisations in Bents Green

When you enter **S11 Carpets & Flooring** at Bents Green you are immediately aware of the range of choice which is available from the shop. The walls are lined with racks of carpet samples in many shades and textures, the floor space is taken up with stands showing more ranges and samples of vinyl flooring and tiles. Alan Parker will emerge from the back of the shop and welcome customers.

The shop is open from Tuesday to Saturday, however Monday is not a day off, it is the day Alan goes out to measure up rooms and make any other business calls. He can also make visits in the evenings if a Monday appointment is not possible. From Tuesday to Saturday he is based in the shop. On Tuesday he will arrange all the work for the week making appointments with carpet fitters,

ordering carpets and flooring, doing the accounts.

Most of his customers are local and this is an advantage as he and the fitters do not have to travel far. Alan works with two other carpet shops and between the three they have accounts with all the major carpet manufacturers. Sometimes a carpet is delivered to another shop through their account and Alan arranges collection. He is able to supply a wide range of carpets and flooring. The three shops share the services of three carpet fitters who can usually pick up the work promptly within the week.

He finds most people have a clear idea about what they want and this differs with the age groups: the over fifties are looking for a good quality carpet which will last for years. Those under fifty expect to change their carpet each time they redecorate. And generally the carpet will be beige!

Alan has not spent his whole career in carpets. His previous life was as a milkman, a job which he did for 26 years enjoying the active life, the regular contacts with customers and the freedom to have time off in the day. However he was constantly tired with working from 1.30 am to 7.30 am and, when the supermarkets began to sell milk more cheaply than the delivery round, he decided to move on.

A friend in the carpet business offered him employment and taught him the job. There was a lot more to learn than he expected! He found his way round the intricacies of underlays, carpet pile, carpets that should never be used on stairs, vinyls, tiles, laminates, adhesives and much more. Four years ago he was ready for a change, spotted the empty shop at Bents Green and opened **S11 Carpets & Flooring** in August 2010. Although the job is very different from his previous milkround, there is one aspect which remains the same, the contact with customers. Alan enjoys meeting people and has found that everyone has a story to tell which often starts with, "I need a new carpet because..."

Tricia North



Games, chat and crafts

Wednesdays 12.30 to 3 pm
in the church

Wednesdays 12.30 to 3 pm in the church. Indoor bowling, scrabble, chess, dominoes, jigsaws and cards, knitting and crafts. If you want, come at 12.30 and bring your lunch and have time for a chat before starting activities at 1 pm. Contact Ruth: 2686507 or Sue 2682334





Alice in Wonderland

500 people left Bents Green in February half term to travel down the rabbit hole past the antipathies all the way to Wonderland. There they met a whole pack of cards plus the joker, the entertaining White Rabbit and all sorts of animals and birds, as well as famous people like the Mad Hatter, Tweedledum and Tweedledee.

They witnessed Alice change size and morph her appearance, a bright green talking caterpillar on a huge mushroom, an exciting game of croquet with rolling hedgehog balls and upside-down flamingo sticks, a gryphon and a real mock turtle (or was it a mock real turtle?), a mad tea-party, a grin without a cat, incompetent ladder-handlers, soldiers, gardeners, courtiers, princesses, not to mention some beautiful singing and some excellent dancing, even from the visiting hula dancers from the South Seas.

This adventure was made possible thanks to 90 children and young people and 20 adult helpers. Everyone played their part, but perhaps a special mention is due to Annie Russell and her team for the amazing costumes, to Mike Ratheram for his brilliant visual effects, to Christele Evans for the music and to the choreographers. Thank you to everyone for enchanting and delighting us.

Glenn Evans with photos by Martyn Read





Where does the chocolate in your Easter Eggs come from?



Hands full of cocoa beans

Chocolate is one of the world's favourite foods but growing cocoa is a hard task.

The international price of cocoa beans is currently rising in response to high demand for cocoa products as the industry wakes up to a potential long-term shortfall in global supply. Farmers aren't benefitting sufficiently from the rise in prices and remain in poverty as their incomes fail to

keep up with rising production costs and household expenses.

Fairtrade helps to make cocoa farming in places like Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana more sustainable through payment of the Fairtrade Minimum Price and an additional Fairtrade Premium to invest in business or community projects so farmers can better provide for themselves and their communities.

But on average Fairtrade Cocoa farmers in Côte d'Ivoire are only able to sell around 13% of their cocoa on Fairtrade terms and only get the benefits of Fairtrade for this percentage even though all their cocoa is grown and certified to Fairtrade standards. **If we all bought more Fairtrade chocolate this percentage would go up.** (from: <http://www.fairtrade.org.uk>)

Comfort Kwaasibea, a cocoa farmer from the co-operative, says: 'Fairtrade is a good thing. Things you take for granted may be hard to come by in Ghana. Fairtrade is good to the farmer and makes us happy. We would like to sell more cocoa to Fairtrade so more farmers can taste a better life.'

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 April 12th at 6.30 pm

For Easter services see page 2

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 14 th April	A Walk in the Park, Sally Moseley
Tues 21 st April	Magic, Brian Varley
Tues 28 th April	Can you come quickly doctor?
Tues 5 th May	Christine Jenkins sings
Tues 12 th May	Robin and Hugh Trio
Tues 19 th May	The Sheffield Chronicles, JP Bean

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

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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 Sun 17th May 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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