

Hilltop

October / November 2015

Newsletter of Bents Green Methodist Church



***Service for
Remembrance Day
Sunday 8th November
at 10.30 am
Bents Green Church***

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Sunbeams

***New baby and toddler group
Alternate Wednesdays from
7th October 9.15 to 12.00
See page 2 for more details***

Messy Christmas – advance notice!

***Saturday 28th November
2 - 4 pm Activities and crafts for
children aged 2 to 12,
parents and carers welcome***

Sunday Morning Crèche

Toys set out ready for the crèche



Ruth and Krystal welcome babies and toddlers to the crèche on a Sunday morning. Early in the service they take children through to the Music Room where toys have been laid out before the service. Parents are welcome to stay as well but generally the children immediately start playing. Ruth varies the toys depending on the ages of the children. After about 20 minutes there is a story and an activity relating to the Christian faith with something to take home. Sticking on pictures is a favourite. Then it's back to playing.



Sparks Sunday Club

Sparks for children aged 4 to 11 meets at 10.30 every Sunday. It is led by Sue, John and Irene and there are about 10 children who come regularly. The children told me they enjoyed coming and their favourite activities are playing balloon ball, skipping, but especially parachute games.

Each week they have a story from the Bible and do craft activities based on the story. When I visited the story was about Nehemiah re-building the wall of Jerusalem. The giant Jenga set came in handy for the activity and in their books they were busy sticking on pictures of the wall being built.



Sunbeams – a new Baby and Toddler group

Wednesdays at Bents Green Church 9.15 – 12.00

Sunbeams, a new baby and toddler group is starting up in October. We will meet every fortnight in the church hall. Come in through the side door of the church, opposite the shops and the hall is the first room on the left. We start at 9.15 so that you can come in after dropping off older children at Pre-school, but you are welcome to come at any time between 9.15 and 12. There will be toys and activities and tea, coffee, juice and snacks.

For more information contact Katie on 07833086480

Join us on
7th October
21st October
4th November
18th November
2nd December
16th December

Autumn

Autumn is a beautiful season of the year. It is perhaps also the most obvious. It declares its change through the moving colour of the trees, and the gradual drop of the leaves, eventually creating a mush as you walk down the street. It signals yet again that we approach the end of another year.

I was recently looking at a photograph of when we arrived in Sheffield 5 years ago, time which seems to have flown by. The photo was of our boys, Chris and Jonathan, Richard, my husband, and myself when we arrived at the church. The Oil of Olay is trying to fight back time, but..... I do look older now! But our two boys, who are now 24 and 27, look quite different from that picture 5 years ago.

If I think about just the past 5 years that I have been at Bents Green, we have seen quite a few changes in the church and community. We have come to know new friends, babies have been born, we have lost through death some old friends and have given thanks for their lives. We have seen changes to the church building, we have changed Hilltop and the web site. You can now listen to services on podcast from the comfort of your own home.

Throughout the years God is a God who says, 'Behold I am doing a new thing' and he does. Yet He is also our rock and stability in a world that is constantly changing. In fact the writer of Hebrews says that 'Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever.' As you negotiate changes in your life, or if like me the Oil of Olay is becoming a necessity, and as you look at the Autumn leaves and head towards the end of another year, hold onto the love of Christ, the one unchanging reality in a forever changing world.

God bless, Louise



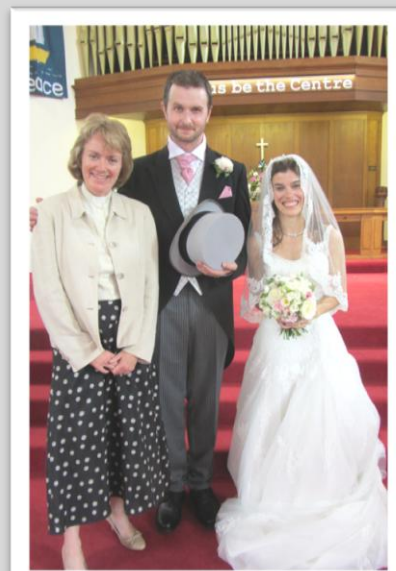
Gathered for the Harvest

The sun sets blood red
overhead
Swallows fly south.
Pigeons cease to call.
Crows mass in fields of stubble.
Days draw in.
Daylight dwindles.
Green leaves turning orange and brown
to fall.
Children small
wading in wellingtons
kicking spent rustling leaves.
Fields of gold ripened corn
harvested by men bronzed by the sun.
Seasons have run.
Apples rose-ripened
fall, eaten by foxes gone to ground.
Purple plums ooze juice
watched by hungry wasps
in striped jumpers.
Rowans bow, branches
weighted in red berries.
Worshippers gather in churches,
sing praises to God.
He has fed the seed and fruit
now gathered for the Harvest.

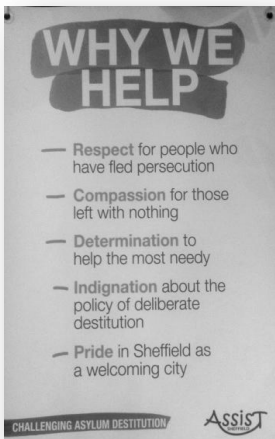
Ken Windle.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Simon Hall and Christèle Evans who were married on 22nd August in Bents Green Church. We wish them all the best for their life together.



Helping refugees in Sheffield - *Assist Sheffield*



At a recent evening service Robert Spooner from **Assist Sheffield** came to speak about how they help refugees. There are a number of organisations in Sheffield which offer help in different ways. The aim of Assist Sheffield is to support destitute asylum seekers. The following information is taken from literature provided and from the website,

Why we help

- **Respect for people who have fled persecution**
- **Compassion for those left with nothing**
- **Determination to help the most needy**
- **Indignation about the policy of deliberate destitution**

-Pride in Sheffield as a welcoming city

How we help

Assist offers destitute asylum seekers in Sheffield...

- **A warm welcome** - A friendly and trusting environment for those who have suffered mistreatment both at home and in the UK
- **A roof** - Accommodation in a night shelter, in a shared house or in the spare room of a volunteer host
- **Money for necessities** - A small weekly welfare payment to those most in need
- **Survival knowhow** - Help with accessing organisations that can provide food, medical treatment and legal assistance
- **Things that make life worthwhile** - Information on free activities including social, educational, exercise and volunteering opportunities

See www.assistsheffield.org.uk and <https://sheffield.cityofsanctuary.org> for more information.

Tricia North

As Jesus looked up, he saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. "Truly I tell you," he said, "this poor widow has put in more than all the others. All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on."

Luke 21:1-4

Giving and receiving

It is worth pondering what it would mean to give away our last penny. We often have the chance to give to the poor but we may never think about the gifts the poor have to offer to us. We may be the poor. Much is hidden in an educated middle-class society. For many it is easy to give money or goods, it is often more difficult to have the humility to receive. How we give or receive matters more than how much. Jesus valued the woman's gift for its utter abandon and trust.

Janet Nowell

Meet Victor 'I am from Harare in Zimbabwe. In 2008 I wrote an e-mail to a friend criticising the corrupt means by which the Mugabe government was re-elected. That e-mail was intercepted and an arrest warrant was taken out against me. As a result, I am seeking asylum in the UK – I cannot return to Zimbabwe because I would face arrest and the threat of violence. It is five years and three rejected asylum cases since I have seen my wife and my youngest son. As a refused asylum seeker I have no right to work or to study, to accommodation, to benefits or to any support from public funds.

The church is now open every Friday morning for anyone who wants to pop in for a chat, a coffee, or for prayer

Lucky Fortune Chinese take-away

Continuing our series about shops and organisations in Bents Green

The Lucky Fortune Chinese take-away at Bents Green has just reopened after being closed for three months from May to the end of August. Some of Peter Pang's regular customers joked that they thought he must have won the lottery and closed the shop, but the reality was not so good.

In May, on his way to collect his sons from their badminton activity, a car travelling at 60 mph or more ran into Peter's car on Ecclesall Road South. Initially Peter seemed to have few injuries but the symptoms got worse and the next day his wife, Julie, called an ambulance. Peter was found to have a ruptured spleen and internal bleeding. His recovery has been slow but he describes himself now as being 90 -95% better with some days being more difficult than others. The shop re-opened on 25th August.

Peter and Julie came to Bents Green in 2002, soon after the birth of their second son.

They had decided to look for a take-away shop to rent which would allow them to work together and enable them to combine work and looking after their young family. Peter's family came to UK from Hong Kong in 1973 and from the age of 7 his family owned take-away shops or restaurants, so he knew all about running a catering business. They looked at several possible shops and chose Bents Green partly because of the neighbourhood and partly because of good local schools which would benefit their three sons.



Peter grew up in Chesterfield. He was head boy at Edwin Swales School (now The Meadows) and, before opening Lucky Fortune, he worked as a senior manager in the Royal Mail. Their three boys attend High Storrs School. Peter and Julie begin work in the shop at 10.30. They open for school lunch times from 11.15 to 1 pm and offer chilli, sweet and sour, and curry dishes, as well as burgers or sausages and chips, etc.

But in the evening they offer the Chinese takeaway menu. The food is prepared in the afternoon when the meat is marinated and the vegetables prepared. When the orders come in the dish is freshly cooked and either collected (60%) or delivered (40%). All the food is selected by Peter at the wholesale fruit and vegetable market and cash and carries and Chinese supermarkets. Most of the menu is unchanging and customers have their favourite dishes which they order each time. One customer, who places an order twice a week, is gradually working his way through all the choices on the menu and has tried 105 of the 120 dishes and has only found one or two which he would not like to have again!

Peter is happy to accommodate special requests. Once, at school dinner time, he was asked by a school pupil for a whole duck. As the request was made in good time before the rush he was able to supply the duck! Another time someone asked him for a dish she remembered from a long time ago. She described the flavour with a fruit sauce with the result that she now requests the dish regularly. He sometimes caters for special occasions and can supply a whole meal for a dinner party. The largest event he was asked to cater for was lunch for 220 teachers on a training day at High Storrs School. That, he said, was hard work!

He is pleased to be back at work and would like to thank everyone for all the kind wishes and gifts people have sent him. He wants to make sure that everyone knows that Lucky Fortune is open again and happy to take orders.

Contact details: Lucky Fortune, 290 Ringinglow Road, Bents Green, S11 7PX Tel 0114 2630412

Games, Craft and Chatter

Wednesday from 12.30 – 3 pm in the church

Our activities include carpet bowling, jigsaws and table games as well as knitting and crochet. The knitters and crocheters have made scarves, hats, gloves, bags and glove puppets for the Samaritan Purse Shoebox appeal. We knit elephants for sale to fund-raise for the Sheffield Royal Society for the Blind and blankets and baby clothes for premature baby units at Jessops and Chesterfield hospitals. The group has grown since all the new activities began and it has been good to get to know each other while we are busy with knitting or bowling or over cups of tea. We welcome new people to come and join us. **Ruth Larder**



Update from Bents Green Pre-school

Our new starters have been arriving over the last 2 ½ weeks- it's been a staggered start for some and it's been lovely at circle time, welcoming them all. The older children have been fantastic, helping them settle in; showing them what to do when they want their snack and if they want to go outside.

This half term we will be concentrating on getting to know everyone. The photo board has been invaluable this week, with the new children finding their key person and familiarising themselves with other

children and adults in the group.

We harvested our potatoes this week and were delighted to see how many we got this year-Liz cooked them and we had some for snack. Everything else in the garden has been nibbled, despite our best efforts of keeping the slugs away with egg shells.

We need to do a lot of fundraising this year, starting with a cake stall on the 6th October and of course our Christmas fair on 21st November from 10.00-1.00 pm.

Alison



The long summer is over and Friendship Club is back again

Well, the long summer is over. Ours was spent in France as usual. We are so blessed in that we can still travel to France, a country that we really love despite all her foibles, injustices and sheer quirkiness!!! We love the sun, the wine, the food and the way of life. But we wouldn't swap our life in the UK for France despite the weather!

I had time to reflect on our life at home.....the friendships we have made, the security of knowing that there are people on whom we can rely, and the way of life we enjoy.

One of the aspects of our way of life is, of course, Friendship Club. As 'speaker finder' I am responsible for the 'entertainment' we enjoy on Tuesday afternoons. The stresses of this job (will the speaker be good, will the speaker turn up, will the speaker overrun the time etc.....????) supported by the very hard working and dedicated committee, are all worth it. We have such a lovely time and this summer was particularly special for us as it was our Golden Wedding, an event beautifully marked by Friendship Club on the last Tuesday of the summer term. We thank you all for that.

Our first meeting back after the summer recess, we were very well entertained by Hugh Finnigan who is now one of our regulars, and Mary, a lovely singer. At the same time, we organised a Coffee Afternoon for Macmillan Nurses. We were thrilled with the outcome of this. Members very generously donated cakes etc... and gave generously too; we raised over £100 . I shall be extremely pleased to pass the money on to this very worthy cause, one that is so close to my heart, as Bob's best friend, Arthur, was very well cared for by a Macmillan nurse in Basingstoke.



And so we face the autumn and winter with renewed energy, looking forward to lovely Tuesday afternoons amongst our friends.

We always welcome new members.

Pat Hutchinson

Pre-school Christmas Fair
Saturday 21st November
10.00 am – 1.00 pm.
In Bents Green Church Hall

Jesus says “Do not worry “

Someone says that worry is like sitting on the rocking chair: you are moving, but it doesn't take you anywhere. It is true, when we are worried about something we keep thinking about it, we become restless, sleepless and even lose our appetite. Sometimes our anxiety affects other people around us and they too join the worry club.

We are sometimes worried about our future, our children's future, our health, our finances and even about things that are happening around us. There are many reasons for us to worry but there is always one reason for us not to. It is to trust God completely over our lives.

Jesus says : “ *Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat and what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing*” (Matthew 6:25).

We need to learn to trust God about everything. When we do this we shall enter his rest, we shall receive his strength, guidance and wisdom to go through those difficult times or even to solve the problems we are facing. Something that helps me so much when I am facing difficult situations is to think that God is more able to solve my problems than I am. He can do things beyond my limitation or my imagination. He has a thousand ways to handle my case. He is the creator of the universe.

Nini Brady

This reflection about war was written for the Creative Writing group at Horizon church in November 2014 and was printed initially in the Briefing magazine at Horizon Church. The accompanying picture is of the Poppies Wave installation at the Yorkshire Sculpture Park until 10th January 2016.

War

I've always regretted staying a three letter word. I deserve to be a four letter one. I'm worth it.

Many fear me, loathe me. Others embrace me, desire me for what I can do for them.

Many have tried to put an end to me. Millions died in the attempt, but I survived, I became great.

I've evolved. I'm far smarter now!

I've embraced technological change, I've computerised, I've globalised. I can now deliver my packages anywhere within 45 minutes.

I've gone nuclear. I've plans to go viral!

I've embraced modern western thinking. I actively seek to include women and children in all my activities.

I'm the travel agent of choice for black and underprivileged Americans . They now travel to countries they've never even heard of. New destinations to die for!

I also cherish traditional cultures and their practices, such as beheading.

I'm open to people of all faiths or none. I've had ringing endorsements from archbishops and ayatollahs.

I used to make the countryside bloom. Now, I'm kept busier on urban regeneration. Last month Gaza City, this month Kobane.

I'm really proud of the way I remodelled Dresden, Stalingrad and Hiroshima.

I'm responsible for massive advances in surgery and psychiatry.

I'm credited with creating Post Traumatic Stress Disorders.

I can bring out the worst in anybody.

Remember how I turned Bambi Blair to the dark side.

Some say I'm sick.

But I say, “You've not seen anything yet.”

“JUST SEE WHAT I CAN DO WHEN I MASTER SPACE TRAVEL.”

Derek North



Feedback: Last month's article about the bombing of Hiroshima elicited some feedback and a reader wrote in taking issue with the view expressed by the former US Air Force chaplain quoted in the article. He responds ~You can be a saint on the Farne Islands as long as the Vikings keep away. But who will keep the Vikings away? ...Would the Good Samaritan have stood and watched the stranger be killed?" **Editor**

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. The series in autumn services is **Everyday heroes, God at work in his people**

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 October 11th at 6.30 pm

Activities for Children and Young People

New members are welcome at these activities at the church.
Contact the named person for more details.

For younger children

Crèche	0-3	Sun 10.30am	Ruth	2686507
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

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

OCTOBER 6	SHEFFIELD CASTLE, SHEFFIELD PARK & MANOR LODGE
OCTOBER 13	HARVEST & AGM
OCTOBER 20	VOICES IN HARMONY
OCTOBER 27	"MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE I'M A LONDONER"
NOVEMBER 3	BENTS GREEN SINGERS
NOVEMBER 10	MIKE SPICK
NOVEMBER 17	STEPHEN GAY :RAILWAYS IN CORNWALL
NOVEMBER 24	TOFFEMUSIC

**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 Sunday 15th November 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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