

# Hilltop

April - May 2016

Newsletter of Bents Green Methodist Church



**Sunday April 10**  
**Yorkshire Half-Marathon Day**  
**Breakfast at Bents Green Church**  
**from 9.30 am**

**Watch the runners from here**

**Hot and cold drinks**  
**Toast and croissants**  
**Activities for children**  
**Oughtibridge Brass Band**

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## **Saturday April 9**

**Coffee Morning supporting**  
**Action for Children**

**Bents Green Church Hall 10–12**



A community church sharing the love of Jesus

**Coffee Morning in support of Action for Children on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> April**  
**10 – 12 in the hall at Bents Green Church**  
**Coffee and cakes and stalls with cards, cakes, garden plants and more**

**GRACE FOOD BANK SHEFFIELD**  
*helping give hope to those in need* 

After the busy-ness of December, it always feels a bit quiet in January and February when we return to taking about 25 bags of food to each session (at the busiest session in December we had 80 bags to transport). But, apart from two really quiet weeks, it's actually pretty much business as usual.

Steve, the Citizen's Advice worker who comes to the Tuesday foodbank sessions, is very busy. It's great that our clients can get good advice about benefits, debt and housing and when they tell us that their problems have been sorted then we all feel like celebrating.

We are still seeing people with sanctions that have been unfairly applied, with delays to benefits and we're now seeing more people with immigration status problems. Sometimes they are asylum seekers and sometimes they are people who have lived and worked in the UK for a while but are no longer able to access in-work benefits or Job Seekers Allowance if they lose their job. We pack Halal food parcels where they are needed (indeed we packed Halal Christmas parcels this year).

We await the next set of benefit cuts and the introduction of Universal Credit with some trepidation. It's hard to see that the need for foodbanks is going to disappear in the next 4 years. Thank you all for your continued support of Grace Food Bank. We wouldn't be here without all of you!

With best wishes, Jackie

## ***No Faith in Trident***



I went to London on 27 February. I thought it might be Spring. It was freezing. I thought it might be quiet. There were thousands with drums, songs and whistles. I thought we might walk through the park. We walked down Park Lane, round Hyde Park Corner, along Piccadilly past the Ritz, and down to Trafalgar Square.

The Trident campaign is big because of the vast cost of updating our weapons of mass destruction. As well as Christian banners proclaiming peace and love, there were hundreds of others saying 'NHS not Trident', 'Books not bombs', 'Homes not nukes', 'Welfare not warfare' and so on. My own 'Stop Trident' banner was snapped in half by the wind, but I picked up another with a nice picture of a missile on it.

And in Trafalgar Square there were speeches for two hours from about 20 people. To my surprise Nicola Sturgeon was the best, emphatically saying that Scotland wanted to be nuclear-free, and that the money spent on Trident could create far more jobs. Jeremy Corbin popped up on a big screen saying that he was in Sheffield, but he later appeared in person.



Will it make any difference? I don't know. Was it worth going? Yes. Will there be nuclear weapons in God's Kingdom? Definitely not.

**John Wilkins**

## What about lunch?

Recently I have been blessed through hearing a quote or two from Winnie the Pooh, a bear of great wisdom especially when it surrounds the wisdom of honey. You find Pooh Bear (or A.A. Milne to be precise) is able to say profound things, very simply, getting straight to the point.

For instance, 'It is more fun to talk with someone who doesn't use long, difficult words, but rather short, easy words like "What about lunch"?'

Or 'Rivers know this: there is no hurry. We shall get there some day'

We can probably all hear the simple but profound wisdom in these quotes that speak into our sometimes overly complicated lives.

It seems sometimes as people, that what may start off a simple truth becomes regulated and changed to such an extent that it can become unrecognisable.

The Church like any other gathering where people are involved, can be guilty of this as well.

Jesus spoke directly to the society in which he was teaching, often stretching people's imagination. He talked of everyday things like a seed falling into the ground. He spoke about loving our neighbours and explaining just how radical that was in that society. He showed fishermen how to fish in a different way. He told stories that enabled them to remember profound truths, and spent time with people who needed to know that they are loved.

At Pentecost (which we celebrate in the church 50 days after Easter) we are reminded that the message of the love and resurrection of Jesus broke through the language barrier and everyone heard of God's love in their own language. Perhaps in April/May just pick up a copy of one of the gospels, or download it, written in up to date language, or perhaps the 'Message' version of the bible, and let the truth of Jesus speak to you afresh, profoundly and simply today. You may discover God's love once again and these gospels may begin to transform your daily lives, and you too may begin to respond to each day like Pooh – 'My favourite day'!

God bless, Louise



**'What day is it?'**

**'It's today,' squeaked Piglet**

**'My favourite day', said Pooh**

## An Easter message of forgiveness and restoration

Every year Christians around the world celebrate Easter, the most important festival in the Christian faith. Through the crucifixion and the resurrection of Jesus Christ there is forgiveness and restoration of life. Take a look at one of the parables in the bible, the prodigal son in the Gospel of Luke 15:11-31. We read in the parable that the father gave both sons an equal portion of his wealth. The older son was faithful and respected his father, enjoying his life in his father's house. Meanwhile the younger brother travelled away and soon squandered his inheritance.

When famine struck, the younger brother went hungry and wanted to return to his father. He realised his mistake and went back to his father's house. He missed his father's presence. He repented of the sin he had committed and asked for forgiveness. His father received him back with open arms and celebrated the arrival of his lost son with a thankful heart.

The lesson I have learned from the story is that our Father in Heaven knows everything. When we make mistakes or fall away He wants us to come back to Him. Sometimes a feeling of unworthiness, shame or guilt prevents somebody from coming to God. It is important to understand that God's love does not change – it is us that changes.

We must not rely on our own strength to make things right. We must not try to be good first before we come to God, rather we should allow the Spirit of God to work in us. No matter how bad the situation we are in, the Lord will restore our walk with Him if we are willing to surrender, to trust Him and to submit to His authority.

***"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."***  
**1John** **1:9**

This Easter let us remember the love of our Lord Jesus Christ. He came to forgive, to redeem and to restore our lives.

**Nini Brady**

## ***Making Music: Interview with David Wood***

**In the time you have been here at Bents Green, David, you have become a central member of the worship group, providing music for services in church. How did you first become interested in music?**

I began taking piano lessons from the age of 7 - although I was only interested in playing the songs I liked, rather than the scales and exercises in the book. This continued through school. I joined the school's music group to play for assemblies – it was a promotion of sorts, as we were allowed to sit on chairs, and rest the music on the tables. Those old school floors had many splinters! Then, at senior school, I took up violin and clarinet –although the clarinet won, I never could sound as good as Acker Bilk.



Being an active member of the Boys' Brigade (BB) at a church in Woodseats, I became a drummer, and also learned to play the Bell-lyre – rather like a xylophone, but played upright. We were successful both at local and national levels, winning a couple of trophies, which spurred me on to want to take up playing piano once more – this time realising if I'd have practised those scales, playing would have been a lot easier by now.

From accompanying our local BB Company, the opportunity arose to play the organ at a Christmas Carol service, and from then on, I was hooked. People used to come up and say things like: "I haven't heard it played like that before – very interesting!" One reason for that being, and admitting it openly now, I rarely play what is written in the books! Instead, I prefer to hear the music, then interpret it – some may frown at that, and if I'm honest, I do too sometimes. Yet, having developed the skills to actually read the words, and try to imagine singing the verses, sometimes you find it more powerful to react with the music, when the words move you. I guess it's like reading a good book sometimes. You just have to go with the flow to make any sense of it.

***Do you mainly play in the worship group at church or do you also play in other groups?***



Playing in the Bents Green Worship Group occupies most Sundays, but I'm also a member of another Worship Group called Outcry, a group of Christian musicians and singers, from multi-denomination churches throughout Sheffield. It was set up just over 10 years ago. We meet, practise and take the Christian message, in music form, to churches and institutions where a modern-day music group is required to lead a specific service. We also do outreach services at prisons making the point of affirming that, even though they may have done wrong in society, God still loves and cares for them. This is a most rewarding time for us, as we get to chat with some of the inmates, and listen to stories of their struggle.

***What do you enjoy about playing in a group?***

The most enjoyable parts of being in a worship group are those moments we share, in faith, worship and fellowship, working together and communicating, to try and bring out the best in everyone, as each of us has a vital role to play. Being musicians and singers together can sometimes be a challenge, as each of us can interpret the music in a different manner, so it's important to be able to discuss how we can achieve the best results so that the end result, which is what you normally hear on a Sunday, sounds something like a recognisable tune, and we all start and end on the right note! That's the plan, anyway! What do you think?

***What led you to join the worship group at Bents Green Church?***

Moving from our previous church at Carterknowle, just down the road from us, I made the classic error of mentioning that I played piano, organ etc, and was there a place for another player in the group? Apparently, prayers had been going round at Bents Green for another piano player! The group are really friendly and supportive, so slotting into a group like this is relatively easy – until you play a wrong note – then everyone hears it! Ah well, back to the practising for another week.

Feel free to come and have a chat with any of our group, and you'll find a very friendly bunch of people, just keen to do their best in praising God – enjoy!

## Well Pharmacy

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

The **Well** pharmacy at Bents Green occupies a site which has been a pharmacy for about 50 years. Currently the pharmacy is going through a time of change as Bents Green Surgery, with which it has had close links, closes at the end of March. Miriana, the manager of the pharmacy, is busy developing their services to adapt to the changes.

Miriana has worked at Bents Green for two years since **Well** pharmacies took over from the previous Coop pharmacy. Although she is originally from Romania, she has been in Sheffield for some time and worked in several pharmacies including Lloyds and Sainsburys at Archer Road. When she heard about the job at Bents Green she applied for it as she liked the area and she was happy to get the job of pharmacist and manager. She works four days a week and alternate Saturdays.



There are six staff at **Well** all working part time as pharmacy assistants and health care assistants. They form a team and work closely to make sure they provide a good, friendly service. **Well** pharmacies aim to be “warm, approachable and caring” and “to see the person first and not the process”. Miriana hopes that this is what people experience when they use their services.

In preparation for the closure of Bents Green Surgery, the pharmacy is developing closer links with all the local surgeries. Their driver will visit Falkland, Ecclesall and Greystones surgeries daily to pick up prescriptions for patients who attend these surgeries and who have nominated **Well** at Bents Green as their preferred pharmacy. It would be helpful if patients moving from Bents Green Surgery could let the pharmacy know which practice they are

moving to.

As well as dispensing medicines the pharmacy offers a walk-in service to advise on minor ailments. Flu jabs are also available here, both on the NHS (for those who are over 65 or in high risk groups) and privately - all that is needed is to make an appointment. They also offer a medicine use review: when someone starts on a new medicine Miriana will ring after a fortnight to see how it is going and discuss any issues.

Local surgeries are gradually moving to an electronic prescription service where the surgery can email a prescription to a pharmacy nominated by the patient. When this is in place patients will be able to nominate the pharmacy they wish to use and their prescription will be sent there electronically. For those unable to collect the medication the driver will deliver it to them at home.

The pharmacy also stocks a useful range of toiletries. These are standard in all their branches but if there is a particular item or brand required they are happy to order it in. **Well** pharmacies are a national company with over 800 shops nation-wide. But, as at Bents Green this month, each shop needs to find the best way to work in its own community especially in a time of change.

**Tricia North**



## Easter Quiz

**Remind yourself of the story of Easter by looking at these chapters in the Bible: Matthew 27, Mark 15, Luke 23, John 19 and 20 and Acts 1. Then complete these sentences and answer the questions.**

1. The soldier placed \_\_\_\_\_ on Christ's head at his crucifixion
2. The writing above the cross was \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_ was the name of the person who requested Jesus' body for burial
4. The number of pieces of silver Judas used to betray Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_
5. The name of the disciple who wanted to see the imprint of the nails before he would believe was \_\_\_\_\_
6. Who carried the cross for Christ?
7. With what was Jesus' side pierced?
8. Pilate offered to release one prisoner - which prisoner did the Jews request to be released?
9. Who was first on the scene at the tomb after the resurrection of Christ?
10. For how long did Jesus remain after his resurrection before he ascended into heaven?

## COMMUNICATION.....OR NOT!

The quotation on the right is particularly meaningful to me as, towards the end of February, I lost my voice completely for three days (laryngitis!). My husband, Bob, was quite happy about this!!!!

How frustrating it was...I couldn't talk to anyone either in person or on the telephone, and I felt a sense of isolation. As human beings we were given the gift of speech – we are the only animal that has this – and it is so important. We need to communicate with our fellow human-beings in order to express our feelings, our wishes, our news, our grievances....the list is endless. Yes, there are other ways of communication: we have other possibilities these days with internet, emails, social media etc....BUT it is not the same as communicating face to face or voice to voice.

There's certainly lots of communication on a Tuesday afternoon at Friendship Club. There's always lots of chatter before, after and about the speaker/entertainer. Since Christmas we have been communicated to by some really interesting speakers and entertainers. Robin and Hugh are always fun with their lovely music and sense of humour. We have heard about gardening in the Highlands, the Tudors at Christmas, Rambling in the Peak District, the period between the two World Wars etc.... and we look forward to more great communicators in the months to come.

Yes, as human beings we are so lucky to be able to communicate with one another. Let's try to make sure it's always positive!

Pat Hutchinson

Words are singularly the most powerful force available to humanity.

We can choose to use this force constructively with words of encouragement or destructively using words of despair.

Words have energy and power with the ability to help, to heal, to hinder, to hurt, to harm, to humiliate and to humble.

**Brainyquote.com**



### **Praying Hands** – A short story based on the painting 'Praying hands' by Albrecht Dürer.

Father Patrick Dolan, now seventy two years old had grown up in Limerick and entered into the Roman Catholic Church as a teenager to the delight of his parents. As a priest, prayer was of vital importance and he soaked himself in prayer. He had read of Mother Teresa of Calcutta who it was claimed prayed some ten hours a day. Prayer was a lifeline to God thought Father Dolan and he prayed for his parishioners on every occasion through the good times and the bad times, and always looked to God for an answer. He spent long times in silent prayer kneeling in the church locally referred to as the "cathedral".

From the late sixties onwards the sectarian troubles escalated in many regions. Father Dolan never gave up on his prayers to the Lord. He prayed for an end to violence amongst the people of the political and religious divide. He agonised at the idea that men who claimed to worship the same God waged war on each other and were capable of murder. Father Dolan knew in his heart that the bible spelled out "Perfect love drives out all fear". He prayed that the love of God would drive all fear from the hearts and minds of the men of violence.

He listened to the confessions of men with heavy consciences. From gunmen and informers and those guilty of dark crimes. He prayed with them, loving the men, but hating the crimes they had done. "What am I to do Father?" they pleaded. "Pray for mercy and forgiveness. Ask the Lord for guidance and purpose in your life. Lean on him and trust him to show you the way forward." He indicated that these men should seek out a quiet place and clasp their hands together in fervent prayer.

Over the years Father Dolan saw many prayers answered. Men of violence became men of love through the power of God's love, their lives changed forever. Some became ambassadors for God and peace, instruments for God's will. Father Dolan caught glimpses of these men praying. He saw hands clasped together and the cross of Jesus framing the background. He dreamt of praying hands with prayers rising up on the wings of eagles. He took this as confirmation that God answered prayer.

**Ken Windle**

## Regular church activities and contact details

### Services at Bents Green Methodist Church

All are welcome at these services

#### Sunday mornings at 10.30 am

During morning services there is a crèche for little ones, Sparks Club for younger children and Sunday Club for older children.

#### Sunday evenings at 6.30 pm

An informal service often including tea, coffee and time to chat about subjects relating to the Christian faith

#### Wednesdays at 10 am: Midweek service

#### Service of Healing: Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> May 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
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 5 <sup>th</sup> April	QUIZ
Tues 12 <sup>th</sup> April	CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE FAMOUS KIND
Tues 19 <sup>th</sup> April	ENTERTAINMENT WITH MARY DE VILLE
Tues 26 <sup>th</sup> April	WORKING WITH CHILDREN IN MALAWI
Tues 3 <sup>rd</sup> May	THE BOTANICAL GARDENS
Tues 10 <sup>th</sup> May	BENTS GREEN SINGERS
Tues 17 <sup>th</sup> May	HISTORY OF THE ORIENT EXPRESS
Tues 24 <sup>th</sup> May	A CAMERA WALK WITH SALLY

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

**Minister: Rev Louise Grosberg**

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**Church website:**

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

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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 15<sup>th</sup> May 2016.

### 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 Snow Queen

### Bents Green Church Pantomime

### February 2016

The Snow Queen took over Bents Green in February half-term, bringing with her 70 children and young people, snow petals and snow ladies, trolls, assorted Frozen characters, reindeer and even Father Christmas. We heard how Gerda travelled to the ice palace to save her friend Kai, and the parallel adventures of Elsa, Anna, Kristoff, Sven, Olaf and the evil Hans and Duke of Weselton. We met the Flower Witch and her magic flowers, the Troll King, a real King and Queen, a Princess and several Princesses, a Band of Robbers, the Lapland and Finmark Ladies, and the Dame and her family. We saw Pavlova and others dance beautifully, Ravens talking, Trolls captured. We heard lovely singing, awful jokes, and the Christian message from the original story.

You will have guessed that this was our annual Pantomime, based this year on Hans Christian Andersen's famously frozen story, and watched by hundreds - thank you for coming. If you missed it, these photos give you a glimpse. Thank you as well to all the adults who worked so hard to welcome the Snow Queen and bring her story to life in Bents Green. Thank you most of all to all the children and young people taking part - your talent, joy and enthusiasm touched all our hearts

