

Hilltop

December 2016 / January 2017

Newsletter of Bents Green Methodist Church



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Carol Service Sunday 11th December at 6.30 pm

Christingle Christmas Eve at 5.30pm

Christmas Day Service 10.30 am

Girls' Brigade Coffee Morning

***Saturday 3rd December 10 to 12 noon
in the church
Cake stall, games, cards, items the girls have
made and small items of bric a brac
In support of Christian Aid***

A community church sharing the love of Jesus

2 Christmas Events - all welcome!

Messy Christmas and decorating the Christmas Tree: Sunday 27th Nov 2 – 4 pm in the church

Girls' Brigade Coffee Morning: Saturday 3rd December 10 am -12 in the church
(This replaces the monthly Church Coffee morning.)

Carol Service: Sunday 11th December 6.30 pm in the church

Carols at the Hammer and Pincers: Thursday 22nd December 7 pm for 7.30 pm

Christingle: Christmas Eve, Saturday 24th December, 5.30 pm in the church

Christmas Day service: 10.30 am in the church



Church News

Christmas Shoeboxes. Thank you to everyone who helped with the Christmas shoeboxes. The Games, Craft and Chatter group have packed 38 shoeboxes and they go to the warehouse on 30th November. This year the group have made 52 hat, scarf and glove sets, 10 hats, 56 hat and scarf sets, 18 scarves, 7 fiddle quilts, 1 stillborn pouch, 10 bags, 6 hat and mittens, 19 puppets, 19 baby hats, 3 pairs of booties, 12 children's cardigans, 4 waistcoats, over 80 Easter chickens, over 20 owls and hedgehogs, 500 angels and a knitted nativity set. It's been a busy year!

Fairtrade Advent Calendars with a Christian Message are available for purchase at the back of church for £3.75. Please see Ruth Larder if you need more information.

We were sad to hear the news that **Margaret Greene** has died. Her funeral will be held at Bents Green Church on Monday 5th December. Two other former members of Bents Green Church have also died in November: **Bryan North** and **Carol Whyte**. We offer condolences to each of their families.

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

Robin Hood Pantomime

You probably think you know the story of Robin Hood. Oh no, you don't! To find out what really happened around here 920 years ago, you will have to come to our annual pantomime, surprisingly called **Robin Hood**.

It features a cast of outlaws and inlaws, soldiers and knights, beautiful ladies, forest elves, ents, bunnies and hares, as well as old favourites such as Friar Tuck, Maid Marian, Little John, the Sheriff of Nottingham and King John. We also have guest appearances by, amongst others, King Richard, Lucrezia Borgia, Lady Godiva and the Lord and Lady of Bents Green.

This merrie event will take place on Friday, Saturday and Sunday 24th, 25th and 26th February at the end of half term week. Entry will be by ticket only, but the tickets are free. They can be ordered from 1st January (not before!) by contacting **Glenn Evans: 235 1057 or dglennevans@hotmail.co.uk**



A Christmas Quiz

- | | |
|---|--|
| What does Jesus' other name, "Emmanuel", mean? | a) Son of God b) God with us c) Anointed One d) The Shepherd |
| What guided the wise men to find Jesus? | a) An angel b) A star c) Their dreams d) a dove |
| The prince of peace is another name of... | a) A wise man b) Joseph c) Simeon d) Jesus |
| Bethlehem is located about 6.2 miles ___ of Jerusalem | a) North b) South c) East d) West |
| What gift did the wise men NOT give Jesus? | a) Myrrh b) Silver c) Gold d) Frankincense |
| A presentation of Jesus at the temple was done on the 40 th day of his birth to fulfil the law of... | a) Moses b) King Herod c) King David d) Simeon |
| An elderly prophetess was also in the temple, and she offered prayers to God for Jesus. Her name was... | a) Ruth b) Anna c) Rachel d) Hannah |

Nini Brady

A bit of a journey...

If you are planning to travel over the Christmas period, it just may be that you find the train rather full or the roads gridlocked, as people move from one place to the other calling on friends and family, or doing last minute Christmas shopping.

However, spare a thought for the original Christmas travellers. Joseph and a heavily pregnant Mary, maybe on a donkey having to travel to a crowded Bethlehem from Nazareth, a journey that would have been dangerous, and would have taken several days to travel about 70 miles. Or the Magi – following a star. Although we do not know quite how long their journey will have been, it may have been possibly 1,000 miles, a journey of many months travelling perhaps on the back of camels.



Then when Jesus was just an infant, and having been visited by the Magi, the family realised they had to flee as refugees from Egypt, as Herod was about to kill infants. That journey with an infant, the flight into Egypt, helps us to reframe our thinking about our journeys, reminding us of the journeys that so many millions of people, fleeing from their homes, have had to make this year around the world.



From mid-January until the start of May, I will be on sabbatical. This is something that the Methodist Church says Ministers should take every 7 years and during this time we are not contactable by our church communities. It is a time to rest, dream some dreams and follow some stars.

During this time, I will also be travelling. I will be going on holiday, and I will be walking the famous **Santiago de Compostella** pilgrimage with a friend. We will be walking around the coast of Portugal, walking between 10-20 miles a day for a fortnight, and will arrive at Santiago on Easter weekend.

I am blest to be able to travel, and to travel because it is something I desire to do. But I am very aware of those who are refugees who have no choice. I would like to ask if you would consider sponsoring me to walk the **Camino de Compostella**? I would like to raise money for those who have no choice in making a journey, through raising money for **ASSIST Sheffield**, who are working to provide support to destitute asylum seekers in and around Sheffield.

I will be setting up a web site which will enable you to give, and I will put the details in the next Hilltop, and on the church web site. But if the internet is not your preferred way, you might prefer to gift the money to me directly for **ASSIST**.

I hope that whatever journeys you may or may not make over Christmas and New Year they may be safe, and as you journey, spare a thought for those first Christmas travellers.

God's blessings for a very happy Christmas and a peace-filled New Year.

Louise

During Louise's sabbatical, if you need a minister, please contact John or Daphne Wilkins (johnwilkins73@googlemail.com , Tel: 236 1306), or one of the stewards, or the Rev. Gareth Jones 2508251.

Translating the Bible

We have now arrived at the first great English Bible translator, John Wycliffe, who lived and worked in the 14th Century. He was a contemporary of Geoffrey Chaucer and together they established English as a written language. Even more importantly, he was a Yorkshireman, from Hipswell near Catterick.

His life was remarkable. He studied and worked at Oxford University. He survived the Black Death, although it marked his thinking. He was the leader of the Lollards, a religious movement which is widely regarded as the precursor of the protestant reformation. His teachings directly influenced Jan Hus and Martin Luther. He died in Lutterworth, where he was buried. About 40 years later, the Pope had his body exhumed and burned, and the ashes scattered in the River Swift, as illustrated in the picture. (cont on p4)



Wycliffe was the leading philosopher and theologian of his century. He wanted the Bible to be translated into the language of the ordinary people, which he achieved in 1382. The translation of the Gospels and perhaps most of the New



Testament were his own work. Others translated the Old Testament under Wycliffe's leadership. They used St Jerome's Vulgate as their original, so it's a translation of a translation. More than 250 original manuscripts, all hand written, survive from over 600 years ago, which makes it the most common medieval manuscript in English.

English was of course a very different language in the 14th century, as those of you who have struggled with Chaucer at school will know. There were no agreed spellings, and words showed their Anglo-Saxon, Dutch or Norman origin. There are examples of all 3 in the Wycliffe version of John chapter 3 verse 16, one of the most famous verses in the Bible: *For God louede so the world, that he gaf his oon bigetun sone, that ech man that bileueth in him perische not, but haue euerlastynge lijf.*

The style of handwriting is also very difficult for us to decipher. See how you get on with the extract on the left! **Glenn Evans**

'This Time Tomorrow'

In a recent Sunday morning service John Wilkins interviewed Chris Stretch and asked him 'What will you be doing this time tomorrow?'

Chris This time tomorrow I've got a week off so I'll be spending time with the children, taking them out! But my usual Monday would be alarm at 5.30, get up, quick breakfast, rush out and drive one and a half hours to work at Selby. I work for a construction firm so we could be here, there and everywhere but at the moment we're up at Selby building an aerobic digester plant!

John *What's that?!*

Chris A plant that takes silage, puts it into big silos and produces gas which is put into the gas system. I've been up there for a year now.

John *So for a whole year you've been getting up at 5.30 and driving to Selby?*

Chris It generally is 5.30 wherever you are. I get home at 6.30 or 7 pm five days a week, sometimes six days. I think it's harder on my wife. So I don't see much of the family during the week. Weekends are the time to see them. A few months down the line I could be working somewhere else. We've just started working in Sheffield, building a car firm. I work for a company at Scunthorpe and we are building the new IKEA out at Carbrook - so I might get that.

John *What do you actually do on the site?*

Chris I help to manage the site. I set the works out - I'm the guy with the theodolite. I order materials and do the day to day running from working with the guys in the trench who are digging holes to the architect who is designing the building. I try to bring it all together.

John *A lot of responsibility.*

Chris Yes and a lot of stress at times. A lot of very tight deadlines and not always getting the information you need - so a lot of guesswork.

John *What do you like about the work?*

Chris The varied people I work with from every walk of life. Plus I'm outdoors a lot keeping active out in the wind and rain. One of the good things is that once you finish one project you put it all behind you and go to a new project and a nice fresh start.

John *Are there things you don't like about it?*

Chris Yes, the stress. I've been doing it for about 30 years now. Getting up at 5.30 is sometimes a bit of a drag but I think of the people worse off than me who would love to be doing what I'm doing.

John *Is there anything you would like us to pray for?*

Chris The safety on the site. When you see people working at height or in trenches that always makes my stomach turn. We work very safely, obviously, but you don't want anything bad to happen to people. Our aim on the sites is that people come to work in the morning healthy and leave the same way they arrive. That's what I always pray for. I'd also like to ask for prayer for the family. I have a disabled daughter and, with me being away a lot, it is quite difficult. A lot of people have helped and I'd like to say thank you for that. It's been fantastic.

WORK LTD annual Christmas Fair on Saturday 3rd December, 10 am – 4 pm
Rear of Bents Green School, Ringinglow Road, Sheffield, S11 7TB A date not to be missed!



Celebrating Christmas

During the 1950s I had several interesting and different experiences due to the fact that my mother was the local district nurse. She came to Dronfield in 1948 to help start the National Health Service in the area. As children, my brother and I often went round the district with my mother in her little Morris Minor. We would visit the homes of some of the patients. I remember the lady at the top of Princess Road whose house was full of stuffed animals!!! I remember a lady on Fanshawe Road whose house had no electricity and so she had little gas mantles for lighting.

Another "favourite" patient was Old Mrs Hubbard who lived in a tiny cottage in Coal Aston. She had no children and was entirely alone and I remember my mother plating up a Christmas dinner for her and a couple of other lonely patients and taking these dinners out to them before we sat down to ours.

This all brings me on to look forward to Christmas, but we also need to think about the true meaning of this special time. In October I was horrified to see Christmas trees and decorations in a couple of well known department stores. Is this the meaning of Christmas? A resounding NO. But sometimes we get swept up in all this glitz and glamour. We have to stop and think. And so I hark back to my mother and her kindness to the lonely people whom she nursed. This is the spirit of Christmas.

We are looking forward to Christmas celebrations at Friendship Club. We have a Brass Band coming, we have our usual lovely choir and we have our own 'in house' celebrations. Brenda, our wonderful 'resident' pianist will be playing the well known carols for us and we will share a happy time with one another. We wish everyone season's greetings and good health in the New Year.

Pat Hutchinson



Bronze Age arrowhead found at Whirlow Hall Farm



Many of you will know already that over June and early July an archaeological dig was taking place at Whirlow Hall Farm. The dig was organised by *The Time Travellers* – an archaeological group who meet regularly in Dore for walks, talks and a range of projects of which the Whirlow dig was our most ambitious.

Thanks to Heritage Lottery funding we were able to return to a site first excavated back in 2011. At that time Whirlow Hall Farm had set out to prepare a time line of their historic farm for use with visiting schools.

The most startling find in 2011 was a Romano-British Enclosure, dating from the Iron Age (300BC) with Roman evidence in the form of walling on top of a massive ditch. Dating analysis placed this phase of occupation at 1ST Century AD. Then time ran out and for 5 years the secret of this part of Whirlow Hall Farm lay sleeping.

Back in April we started the project off with Field Walking: looking for any artefacts that had been brought to the surface by the plough. What did we find? Early on an exquisite Bronze Age flint arrowhead was picked up. A mere 4000 years old it was in pristine condition and must have been sorely missed by the owner. Then the oldest find of this phase of work was a 10,000 year old flint scraper. Flint is not local to our area, the nearest source being Lincolnshire or East Yorkshire. Many more flint tools were revealed: from tiny microliths that would have been fixed onto an arrow shaft to bigger scrapers. Are they easy to spot on the soil? Flint does seem to stand out especially if the day is rainy rather than blazing sunshine.

We then carried out some more Geophysics work, just like the Time Team. That was when the most amazing discovery was made of a Roman watch tower and signal station on the highest elevation of the farm, Bole Hill. The current theory is that it may have had military significance, been a base for provisioning troops and forts elsewhere.



Work was done on the Enclosure ditches. We found a range of types of pottery from rough thrown terracotta cooking pots to Derbyshire Greyware and also Samian ware and shards of Roman glass. To find out more see our Facebook page: **We Dig Whirlow** or website <http://discoverancientwhirlow.co.uk>. Adapted from an article by Dorne Coggins, The Time Travellers

Loulou Hair Studio

Continuing the series about shops and organisations in Bents Green

Loulou's Hair Studio opened at Bents Green seven years ago. Louisa opened the salon, upstairs above the pharmacy, on 7th January 2010 in one of the snowiest spells of weather we have had in recent years. On her first day, as she struggled through the snow, a van ran into the back of her car and it took her hours to get to work. It stands out in her memory as a dreadful day but she did get to work and she has not missed a day since, despite travelling from the other side of the city.

She was familiar with Bents Green in her twenties when, after training at La Coupe on Fargate, she worked as a mobile hairdresser around here. Subsequently she moved to a salon on West Street and then to a hairdresser at Crosspool. Some of her clients have followed her through each of these moves over the last thirty years.

She first heard about the empty shop at Bents Green from a client who lived locally. The premises have been a hairdressing salon for eighty years or more. One of their clients, now in her eighties, remembers climbing the stairs aged 3! Because of Louisa's local links and, knowing that many of her clients from Crosspool, Lodge Moor and Fulwood would be able to continue to come to her here, she decided to take the step of moving to Bents Green and opening her own salon. Two colleagues, Karen and Carlye, were happy to come with her. They have known each other for many years and worked together in West St and Crosspool. Currently Carlye only works on Saturdays as she has small children. Karen works Tuesday to Saturday.

Although the shop is tucked away above the pharmacy, nevertheless they have built up a busy workload of clients ranging from families with young children, to elderly people in their nineties. There is a cheerful, welcoming atmosphere in the salon with lots of laughter. Over years of regular appointments they hear a lot of what is going on in people's lives and they have been through many ups and downs with clients. Louisa and Karen's wish is that people will feel better for visiting.

The stairs to the salon present a challenge to some. The stairlift, which had been there previously, had to be removed as the stairs are not wide enough to accommodate it and leave room for walking up and down. However there is a second handrail to give additional support..

November is a quiet month as clients count down to their Christmas hair appointment. But it will soon be time to decorate the salon and get in a stock of mince pies and chocolates in preparation for the busy weeks leading up to Christmas and the New Year.

I asked Louisa and Karen whether they have much contact with people who work in the other shops in Bents Green. I discovered that a special relationship has developed between Louisa and the butcher who have now been partners for three years despite many jokes from friends about 'the hairdresser and the butcher'. So Louisa's move to Bents Green had unexpected advantages along with the establishing of a successful hairdressing business!

Contact details: Loulou Hair Studio, 294a Ringinglow Road, Bents Green, Sheffield S11 7PX Tel 0114 2306483



Message in a bottle

Veolia and Sheffield City Council are calling on residents to recycle more plastic bottles following news that we only recycle HALF of the ones we use.

You can recycle nearly ALL clear and coloured plastic bottles from around the home (except those containing chemicals such as anti-freeze). Remove any pumps from the bottle and dispose of these in the rubbish bin. For cleaning product bottles (e.g. bathroom cleaners, bleach etc) triggers can be left on to be recycled. Skin care product bottles, shampoo and shower gel bottles, fizzy and non-fizzy drinks and water bottles, milk bottles can all be put in your blue recycling bin. For ready-to-use plant food and pesticides bottles check the label.

Leaflets with more details available from Ecclesall Library

Regular church activities and contact details

Services at Bents Green Methodist Church

All are welcome at these services

Sunday mornings at 10.30 am

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

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

Healing Service: Sunday 8th January

Wednesdays at 10 am: Midweek service

Activities for Children and Young People

New members are welcome at these activities at the church.

Contact the named person for more details.

For younger children

Crèche	0-3	Sun 10.30	Ruth	2686507
Sparklers	4-5	Sun 10.30	Ruth	2686507
Sunbeams	0-4	Wed 9.15-12	Katie	07833086480

For children and young people

Girls' Brigade	5-18	Thurs evening	Marian	2361316
Football	11-18	Fri 5-7	Glenn	2351057
Holiday Club	5-11	Summer	Cherry	07853278612
Lighthouse	5-11	Wed 3.45	Cherry	07853278612
Messy Services	3-12	Festivals	Sue	2307556
Sparks	5-11	Sun 10.30	John	2307556
Sunday Club	12-18	Sun 10.30	Sue	2307556
Torch	Teens	Tues 6.30	Cherry	07853278612
Lampstand	12-18	Fri 8-10	Cherry	07853278612
Drama group	All ages	Various	Glenn	2351057
Pantomime	All ages	Annually	Glenn	2351057
Musical	All ages	Special events	Christèle	07912207661

Friendship Club Programme:

Tuesdays at 2 pm in the Church Hall (enter by side door opposite the shops). A warm welcome awaits any who would like to come along – especially men and women over 50

Tues 6 th December	MUSIC
Tues 13 th December	SHEAF SINGERS
Tues 20 th December	CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

Tues 10 th January	THE BANANA MAN
Tues 17 th January	THE SILK ROAD
Tues 24 th January	WOT I DID ON MY HOLIDAYS
Tues 31 st January	40 YEARS OF WORKING IN THE MEDIA

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

Minister: Rev Louise Grosberg

Tel. 0114 2363157

Email:

Louise.Grosberg@btinternet.com

Church website:

www.bentsgreenmethodist.org.uk

Church office answerphone:

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For Room Bookings contact:

Peter Larder Tel. 0114 2686507

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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 22nd January 2017.

Coffee Mornings in the Church:

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

Games, chat and crafts group

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

Contact Ruth: 0114 2686507

Harbour Coffee

On Wednesdays in term-time from 3.30 – 5.45 pm in the Music Room

Tea, Toast & Time 4 Thinking:

Thursdays @ 10.30 am each week. Upstairs in the Church Lounge.

A time to reflect on what following Jesus is all about. A place for all those seeking answers.

Carers of young children especially welcome.

Contact Sue: Tel 0114 2307556

House groups

Many people in the church belong to a house group and meet regularly to pray together, read the bible and talk about the Christian faith. If you are interested in joining a house group contact Sue: Tel 0114 2307556

With Love From.....

It's that time of year again! Christmas is the time when exchanging gifts is common to huge numbers of people worldwide. It's the time to give and receive presents.

Christmas presents have their roots in the wise men who brought their gifts to the Christ child. In our time the practice has become a huge commercial enterprise. Thankfully, that is not the whole story.

We usually want to show generosity and love. We like people to be grateful though. Yes, we say that it's the thought that matters, but how do we react if we are given some ghastly ornament from Auntie? What if we consider the gift to be of less value than the one we gave?

Sometimes we have a feeling of obligation. If I give to you then do I expect you to give to me? What if the value of my gift is less than the one you gave to me? How does it feel if you give to me but I can't reciprocate?

Sometimes it is easier to be a giver than a receiver. Being at the receiving end takes grace and humility, it's difficult to be grateful if you are made to feel dependent in some way.

There is a lot in the Bible about giving. In one place we are instructed, 'Give liberally and be ungrudging when you do so, for on this account, the Lord your God will bless you in all you undertake.' How we give is more important than the gift. Saint Paul wrote: 'If I give away all my possessions ... but do not have love. I gain nothing.'

At Christmas we have the opportunity, through our giving and receiving, of responding to the gift of Jesus Christ to the World.

Janet Nowell



Some Christmas Cracker jokes!

No umbrellas at the North Pole

Q: Why are Comet, Cupid, Donner, and Blitzen always wet?

A: Because they are rain deer.

Reindeer Lessons

Q: Did you hear that Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer never went to school?

A: That's right—he was elf taught.

Great White Christmas

Q: Who delivers Christmas presents to good little sharks when they're sleeping?

A: Santa Jaws!

Oh, iGet It

Q: What do you get when you combine a Christmas tree with an iPad?

A: A pineapple!

Laughing All the Way!

Q: What is a lion's favourite Christmas carol?

A: Jungle Bells.



From the Readers Digest with permission: <http://www.rd.com/jokes/christmas-jokes>