

# Hilltop

April / May 2017

Newsletter of The Church at Bents Green

## Messy Easter for all ages

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 3 – 5.30

Crafts and activities for all ages  
with refreshments

## Coffee morning

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> April 10 am- 12

Cakes, cards, crafts, garden plants & more  
In aid of Action for Children

## Yorkshire Half Marathon

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> April

Watch the Half Marathon from the  
church with Oughtibridge Brass Band

Join us for breakfast from 9.30  
First runners expected about 10 am



## Pokémon Lure Party

at Bents Green Church

### PokeStop

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2 - 4pm

Call in to use the Pokestop and stay for  
refreshments and much more. Join us for:

- Lures (set every 30 mins)
- Crafts
- Pokemon activities
- Refreshments
- Charge your phone

Contact Cherry on 07853278612 for more details

## Easter Day service-

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> April 10.30 am

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A community church sharing the love of Jesus

## Events in April at Bents Green Church. Everyone is welcome.

**Messy Easter:** Crafts and activities for all ages on Sunday 2nd April: 3 till 5.30 pm in the church.

**Good Friday:** The **Cross walk** begins with a short service at Bents Green Church at 9.45 am starting at 10 to walk down to Banner Cross Church and arriving at The Well at 12 noon for a service there.

On Good Friday Bents Green Church will be open between 12 and 3 for quiet prayer.

**Easter Day:** Morning Service at 10.30 am with Sunday Club, Sparks, Sparklers and crèche for young people and children.

**Coffee morning for Action for Children** Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> April 10 am – 12 in the church hall.

**Yorkshire Half Marathon Sunday 9th April:** Watch the Marathon from here! The church is open for breakfast from 9.30 am. We expect the first runners to come past the church at about 10 am.

**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.

## Translating the Bible - 6

Last time we met, 'the most dangerous man in Tudor England' (*Melvyn Bragg*), William Tyndale was executed by the supporters of King Henry VIII for the heinous crime of translating the Bible into English, when the Latin Vulgate was officially the only true version of the Bible. Why was it such a heresy for people to be able to read the Bible in their own language?

The first objection, made amongst others, by the Man for All Seasons, Sir Thomas More, was that it was inaccurate. In reality it was generally as accurate as was possible, given the knowledge available at the time. It was the official Latin Vulgate that was generally inaccurate.

The second objection was that the ordained Priests were much better qualified to understand and explain the teaching of the Bible than the common reader. Maybe they were, but Tyndale felt the Bible was quite capable of speaking for itself.

**Which of these ten common words and phrases were originally coined and first used by Tyndale? (See p 6)**

the powers that be	it came to pass
a moment in time	the signs of the times
scapegoat	my brother's keeper
the salt of the earth	Passover
a law unto themselves	let there be light



The third objection was Tyndale's choice of words which undermined the authority of the Roman Catholic hierarchy. For example, the Greek word "ekklesia" (ἐκκλησία) literally means "those who are called out". This was translated by the official church authorities as "church", but it was translated by Tyndale as "congregation". This (and similar choices of vocabulary) were seen as a direct challenge by Tyndale to the authority of the church hierarchy. This was the heresy that led to his death, but his work lived on. **Glenn Evans**

## Is Your God too small?

- If your God says don't take a risk, play it safe, then your God is too small.
- If your God's job is to obey you and do what you want when you want it, then your God is too small.
- If your God operates on your timetable and if you keep his calendar, then your God is too small.

## **A note from John**

Louise is on sabbatical for three months, and I've been asked to hold the fort. My first thought, probably shared by many others – how can we possibly manage without Louise?

The disciples had similar thoughts at the first Easter when they saw Jesus crucified and later ascend into heaven. How can we possibly manage without him? They discovered they could manage ok. Jesus sent his Spirit to comfort, guide and enable them, and they transformed the world.

At Bents Green we're managing ok too, partly because we have such well organised teams that run everything so well, but also because the same Spirit of Jesus is with us day by day.

Are we missing Louise? Yes! Will we be glad to see her back? You bet! But we are ok, thanks be to God.

**John Wilkins**



**Louise writes:** During my sabbatical, I will be walking the Santiago de Compostela with a friend. This is a famous pilgrimage and 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. In walking this route I am hoping to raise money for ASSIST Sheffield, who work to provide support to destitute asylum seekers in and around Sheffield. I have set up a web site for donations which is <http://www.justgiving.com/Louise-Grosberg>. Or you can gift the money to me directly for ASSIST. Thank you.

## **Loneliness**

Over recent months there are been various articles and reports about how many people are feeling lonely. People are living longer and may live many years after a spouse has passed away, families are mobile and relatives may be far away, family breakdown splits the family unit. Fewer people walk and driving is not a sociable activity. While loneliness is a problem of the elderly it actually affects many younger people as well. It is a very complex issue.

What role does the church have? Is this something we accept, and who might be responsible for helping to reduce the problem? In this area churches and charities provide activities that people may attend but, however many activities a person does, they can still feel lonely if there is nobody at home to keep them company, and people can still feel lonely when with others if they don't really feel they belong.

In years past (say 40 or 50 years ago) there were women who did not have jobs outside the home, whose children were at school, or who had the freedom of later middle age, who were very happy to do 'church visiting' – to regularly visit those who lived on their own or who had particular need. In our area most women are back at work, often full time. This has removed many hours that have previously been given to the church and other voluntary organisations.

It is understandable if those who have previously provided care on a voluntary basis now feel some resentment that the same is not being given to them when they would appreciate it. So, what CAN we do? Although it can be very difficult to tell somebody you are feeling lonely, or just that you would like somebody to talk to, this is a very important first step. At Bents Green Church the pastoral team is made up of people who have volunteered to give support and anybody listed on the front of the Church Directory can be approached. If a person finds this too difficult, perhaps they can ask a friend to do it for them. Daphne Wilkins, as the pastoral team co-ordinator, would also be willing to find somebody for you. It may be that a visit is hard to arrange but telephone calls are possible. Even email correspondence can be used to develop relationships. How do YOU deal with times of loneliness? What can we learn from each other, and what can you offer to support those who would like a bit more human contact than they are getting at the moment?

**Daphne Wilkins, Pastoral Coordinator**

The world is so cold,  
Windows covered in frost.  
I've got no one to hold  
And I'm feeling so lost.

Is anyone listening,  
As I stand out here.  
Hoping and wishing  
For some kindness or cheer.

I long to be happy  
But how could I be?  
Everyone is too busy  
And no one sees me.

No visitors come.  
Are your hearts made of  
stone?  
Trapped in my home,  
All on my own. **Anonymous**



♪ ♪  
**Robin Hood, Robin Hood,  
riding through the Glenn ...**

♪ ♪  
Yes, those of us who came to this year's pantomime saw this happen! We also saw the evil Sheriff of Nottingham shoot an arrow right through Friar Tuck's head. In stark contrast we enjoyed 4 beautiful baby rabbits playing tig, Maid Marian splitting Hares, Elves making the leaves of the forest sparkle, and Tree Ents slowly fleeing Sheffield.

As well as these visual delights, we learned some really useful historical facts, such as King John's wife Isabella stabling her horses at Edale. You did not know that, did you? In fact, the audience's knowledge of history was shown to be sadly lacking every night, but at least they found out in the end who was the real Robin Hood.

As well as visual delights and historical learning, we also met all sorts of interesting characters, including Saladin and his fellow Salads, Sheik Rattlenroll, the Persian Spice Girls, Sir Lancelittle and other Knights in Shining Armour, Foreign Envoys from 4 continents, Lord and Lady Grosberg, the Sheriff's Soldiers, the Royal Court of England, and of course Robin Hood, Little John, Friar Tuck, and the Merrie Women, as well as the two Kings mentioned below.

We all enjoyed the singing, dancing and acting of the 70 young people who took part, and we are very grateful to the 50 helpers who made it all possible.

Finally we strained chronological accuracy a little by bringing King John and King Richard together for the only time in history, as we celebrated the return of the True King, just as Christians look forward to doing when that time comes.





**Pantomime  
2017  
Robin Hood**  
Colour pages kindly given by  
Ecclesall Print



## The Women's Institute at Bents Green

Something new has happened at Bents Green. The WI has landed!

The WI began in Canada in 1897 when Adelaide Hoodless addressed a meeting for the wives of members of the Farmers' Institute. The first British WI meeting took place on 16 September 1915 at Llanfairpwll on Anglesey in North Wales. The WI was originally set up in the UK to revitalise rural communities and to encourage women to become more involved in producing food during the First World War.

A group of ladies in our area got together to discuss forming a WI group here. When they made this public, well over 100 women said they'd like to join! As a result, two groups have been formed:

Bents Green WI meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm. (Unfortunately this group is now full.)

Hilltop WI Meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month at 7.30pm. (Spaces are still available.)

Bents Green WI started on the 8<sup>th</sup> February 2017 with a meet and greet evening. There were plenty of delicious cakes, teas and coffees and lots of fun getting to know each other better with quizzes and games. We of course finished off the evening by singing a resounding rendition of 'Jerusalem'!



Our second meeting was on the 8<sup>th</sup> March when we had a community choir call Glee Bah Gum, whose motto is 'If you are in the room you are in the choir'! We were put through our paces singing a range of popular songs past and present. The evening ended with us wanting more!

If you are interested in joining the WI then please send an email to [bentsgreenwi@gmail.com](mailto:bentsgreenwi@gmail.com).

Elaine and Ruth.



## Education at Friendship Club!

I found this poem about education and thought how right it is. How lucky we are in this country to have the right to education. As a student, my nephew did some voluntary work in Africa and if the children came to school without their money to pay for classes they were sent home. We visited a school in the bush in Kenya. The children of all ages were crowded into a single storey hut and were very eager to learn.

We in the U.K. take education for granted, and yet, many is the time I have heard pupils say "What are we doing this for!"!!!!

But education is for life and on a Tuesday afternoon at Friendship Club we have sometimes learned all sorts of things from our speakers. We have had some really interesting talks so far in 2017.

We heard about the life of a middle class VAD nurse in The Great War. How traumatised she must have been to see the horrors coming out of the trenches. We learned lots about the life of Joseph Paxton who created the wonderful gardens at Chatsworth. A retired journalist told us about the cut and thrust life in his profession.

Amongst all this "Education" we also have fellowship, companionship and laughter. We are very fortunate to have this club in Bents Green and we look forward to more talks and music in the months to come.

Pat Hutchinson

A fundamental foundation  
for any country, state or nation.  
Education  
A thick line between right and  
wrong  
A ladder that takes us to the  
height where we belong  
Education  
Mother of all professions  
That helps to acquire all our  
possessions  
Education is our right  
For in it our future is bright.

Answer to Quiz on page 2: Which phrases were coined by William Tyndale? All of them! Glenn Evans

## 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

#### 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	07464824462

#### 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 4 <sup>th</sup> April	Let's have a laugh
Tues 11 <sup>th</sup> April	Easter
Tues 25 <sup>th</sup> April	Swing Music – Russell Weaver
Tues 2 <sup>nd</sup> May	Video Varieties – Don Alexander
Tues 9 <sup>th</sup> May	Away from it all: The heritage of holiday resorts
Tues 16 <sup>th</sup> May	Yorkshire teabags
Tues 23 <sup>rd</sup> May	Assist(Asylum Seekers) – Robert Spooner
Tues 30 <sup>th</sup> May	No Meeting

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

**Minister: Rev Louise Grosberg**

**(on sabbatical)**

**Lay Assistant Minister: John Wilkins**

Tel 0114 2364916

Email:johnwilkins73@googlemail.com

**Church website:**

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

Church office answerphone:

0114 2361912

**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 21<sup>st</sup>

### 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

## Running the Yorkshire Half Marathon

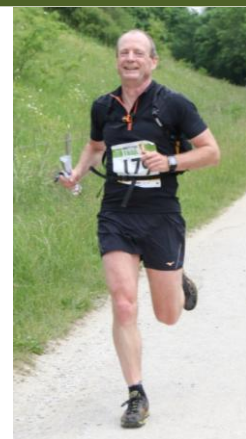
The Yorkshire Half Marathon is held in April each year and this year thousands of runners will make their way round the 13.1 mile course on the 9<sup>th</sup> April. Since its inception in 1982, the race has been run over several different courses around Sheffield. A new, much hillier course was devised in 2015. Starting in the centre of Sheffield, the route heads out along Ecclesall Road, past Hunters Bar and Banner Cross and then turns right up Knowle Lane passing Bents Green Church on the way. It then continues up Ringinglow Road to The Norfolk Arms where it turns left before joining Hathersage Road returning to the centre of Sheffield via Ecclesall Road.

As the route passes our Church, it gives us a great opportunity to open our Church to spectators for refreshments and helps us get to know our neighbours better.

I have participated in the Sheffield Half Marathon for many years and I have raced over the new course the last two years. From a runner's perspective it is a very tough course as the first half is a long uphill slog! Ecclesall Road is a steady climb and at Hunters Bar the gradient kicks up. By the time you pass Banner Cross Church you're gasping for breath and your legs don't seem to want to work anymore. The only respite from the constant climbing is a short downhill section just before Bents Green Church but spirits are revived by the enthusiastic cheering of the crowds outside the Church. The slog continues up Ringinglow Road but from the Norfolk Arms it is nearly all downhill back to the finish.

Last year I was fortunate enough to win my age group category in the race so I hope to defend that title again. I've received sponsorship from family, friends and generous members of Bents Green Church to raise funds for Christian Aid.

**Jonathan Trezise**



## Bents Green Pre-school

Continuing the series about organisations in Bents Green

Coming into the church building on a weekday morning you are immediately aware of a hive of activity at the far end of the corridor spilling out through the building into the garden. Bents Green Pre-school has occupied these rooms since 1969 and provides a caring, homely environment for small children to play and learn.

I met with Alison Donaldson, Pre-school leader to find out more. I arrived only half an hour after the children had left and was amazed at the calm, organised feeling in the room. Six of the seven staff are always there to look after the 28 children who come each day from 9.15 – 12.15 and, on a Monday from 12.15 to 2.45. All the staff have worked there for several years and know each other well. Work-experience students are also welcomed and many come because they have fond memories of being at the Pre-school here themselves.

Each child has a key person and meets them, first at the pre-school then at home before starting at Pre-school. The key person and Alison, or her deputy Michelle, visit and chat to the parents and play with the child finding out their favourite toys or activities. For a child who enjoys playing with animals, the key person will make sure that animal toys are out on their first day and plan an imaginary play activity such as a visit to the vet. Every child has a file of their own learning journey. A lot of photos are printed each week to be used in children's learning records. It is hard sometimes to keep track of which photo goes where! Each key person takes a turn in planning the sessions for the week in a seven week rota. They take into account the interests of the children in their care and plan activities which will interest them but also extend learning.

The garden is a much valued part of the activities. Staff have walkie-talkies to communicate with each other as two of them are in the garden, a third is taking children backwards and forwards. In this way children can have the choice of which activity they want and move from one area to the other as they want.



Pre-school is run by a committee of parents who meet each month. They work very hard to fundraise for preschool because although the local authority pays an allowance for each child, it doesn't cover all the costs that go into running a pre-school. They plan fundraising events throughout the year.

Alison values the links with the church and the friendliness of the caretaker and church members who are in and out of the building during the week. She has appreciated being consulted when changes are made to the building such as the forthcoming installation of a new heating system. The laying of carpet leaving a vinyl flooring section for messy play has made a huge difference to the daily task of setting up and putting away for pre-school. <http://www.bentsgreenpreschool.co.uk/>