

Hilltop

February / March 2018



Newsletter of The Church at Bents Green

Bents Green Pantomime

Beauty and the Beast

Friday 23rd, Saturday 24th &
Sunday 25th February

See back page for more details

Women's World Day of Prayer

Friday 2nd March at 10.30 am

at Bents Green Church

The theme of the service will be:

"All God's Creation is Very Good"

Refreshments served after the service

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Mother's Day Service

Sunday 10th March at 10.30 am

Service of Healing

Sunday 18th February at 6.30 pm



A community church sharing the love of Jesus

Church News

Consultancy Report now available: In September 2017, Paul & Emma Wassell began a consultancy with the purpose being 'to research effective ways of engaging families on the fringe of the church in the life of faith'. This consultancy concluded on 31st December. A report has been written with the findings of this research and is available to any who are interested in reading this. If you would like to receive a copy please see Daphne Wilkins or contact her at daphnetr@blueyonder.co.uk.

Cherry Mair who is Youth Minister in the church is expecting the birth of her second child in May and is now on maternity leave until 24th June. We wish Cherry, Steve and Phoebe all the best at this exciting time, and pray for God's blessing on the family.

Sarah Rose will be taking over Cherry's duties on Sunday mornings, at Lighthouse, Lampstand and Girls' Brigade. We pray for God's blessing on Sarah as well.

A Service of Thanksgiving and Celebration for the life of Cyril Wood was held at Bents Green Church on Tuesday 2nd January. We send condolences to David Wood and the family.

Congratulations to Anne Reaney and Malc Rhodes who celebrate their wedding on Saturday 27th January.

Advance Notice: The **Action for Children coffee morning** will be held on Saturday 14th April.

Thank you from all the Girls Brigade members. The sponsored **Torch Walk** on November 16th raised £465 for BBC Children in Need. The Coffee Morning for **Christian Aid** on 2nd December raised £178.96 and some money from the sale of crafts and other items was included with the Church totals.

Thank you too to all who made donations at the Christmas services to Christian Aid for the **Enough for Everyone** project. The collection totalled £550. This amount will be doubled by the UK Government.



Enough for everyone: Colette and her husband were trained in how to plant and grow crops and were provided with tools such as a watering can and seeds. She now produces nutritious food to eat and sell, working with her husband, and with her children close by. Eulalie is now four years old and no longer malnourished and her little sister Ornela never has been. Colette is able to sell some of her vegetables to pay for healthcare and clothes for her girls. She plans to extend her garden to pay for her children to go to school.

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.

Introducing Sarah Rose

During Cherry's maternity leave Sarah Rose is to be Children and Youth Worker at Bents Green Church. I asked her to tell us a bit about herself.

Hi Sarah, How would you introduce yourself to the congregation?

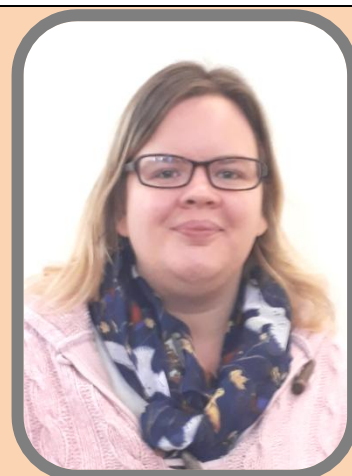
Hello! My name is Sarah, and I will be covering for Cherry during her maternity leave. I have been involved with the Holiday Club at Bents Green for a number of years, and have also helped at Lighthouse and Lampstand and Girls Brigade. I have worked as a teacher but really enjoy the freedom and opportunity that doing youth work brings.

What are you looking forward to as you start the job?

There are lots of things! I am looking forwards to meeting and working with children and young people in a more informal environment (and without the pressure to produce lots of learning outcomes). I am quite a creative person as well, so I am looking forward to finding and planning activities for all the different groups. Most of all, I am looking forwards to being part of a community where everyone can find something meaningful for them, and have fun at the same time.

Sarah will be taking over Cherry's duties on Sunday mornings, at Lighthouse and Lampstand and also helping in Girls' Brigade. She can be contacted via Glenn Evans Tel 0114 2351057

Tricia North



The battle for Mothering Sunday.

Are you a Mother's Day or a Mothering Sunday person? We might ask the same sort of question about several other celebrations in the year; Christmas, is it a chance to be sucked into a consumer festival of excess or a celebration of God coming to us in Jesus? At Easter, is it bunnies and eggs, or the death and resurrection of Jesus. At Halloween, is it witches, ghosts and ghouls or the acknowledgement of the faithful lives of the departed?

For some the battle lines are drawn, so that the true meaning of these festivals can be seen and recognised, and not be just thoughtlessly adding to the profits of the commercial sector.

But it has forever been thus. Jesus made a scene in the Temple driving out the money lenders who were exploiting the poorest and making it harder for them to worship. Throughout history pilgrimage routes were full of people who gained their income by feeding, accommodating and serving the faithful pilgrims travelling to express their faith. But without them the pilgrims would not have been able to do their pilgrimage.

So the invitation for us is to remember and celebrate the deeper things of faith in the midst of the distractions and temptations which are all around us. Mothering Sunday takes us back to the places and people who have loved us and nurtured us in life and in faith. Back to those who have helped us to discern our way through the challenges of our lives, and have revealed the way of the kingdom here and now. May this Mothering Sunday and the season of Lent help us to do so.

Peace, **Tim Crome**



Women's World Day of Prayer – Friday 2nd March at Bents Green Church at 10.30 am

Women's World Day of Prayer is a worldwide movement of Christian women who come together to observe a common day of prayer held on the first Friday in March each year, and who, in many countries, have a continuing relationship in prayer and service. The Day of Prayer begins as dawn breaks over the islands of Tonga in the Pacific and continues across each continent until the last Services of this special day are held back in the Pacific on the islands of Samoa, circling the world in prayer for about 36 hours.

The service this year has been prepared by women in Suriname, a small country in the north eastern part of South America. The theme is **All God's creation is very good**. Refreshments will be served after the service.

Mother's Day in Indonesia (Hari Ibu)

Every year some people in Indonesia celebrate Mother's Day on 22nd December, three days before Christmas day.

It originally started with a women's conference on 22nd December 1928 in the city of Yogyakarta to unite all women's organizations in the country. The purpose of the conference was to value their work and their roles in their families and the country.

Ten years later this date was officially declared as Mother's Day by the decree of the Indonesian President at that time.

These days, the celebration is usually packed with all kinds of activities, competitions and women's conferences throughout the country. The activities such as sports, cooking (especially baking) and fashion competitions are interesting to see. It is obvious that this is not just a day for mothers but also for all women. When it is possible families and friends get together to celebrate the day with nice meals. Perhaps this will give you some ideas what you would like to do on Mother's Day. Whatever it is, I hope you will enjoy it! **Nini Brady**



Some thoughts for Mother's Day

I like to think that everyone's mother is the epitome of what Agatha Christie said all those years ago but I know that that is not true. From time to time one reads of dreadful events involving mothers, mothers who, I'm sure, are damaged in some way.

However, most of us at Bents Green will have fond memories of our mothers.....the caring, loving figure that was always there for us, bathing our cut knees, reading us stories, sharing the baking bowl with us, taking us to the park, wrapping us in warm towels, spoiling us on our birthday and teaching us how to live our lives. When I look back I realise how selfless my mother was, always putting my brother and me first. She also took this caring role into the community, nursing the sick and visiting the lonely.

This motherly caring attitude is alive and kicking in Bents Green, certainly in Friendship Club on a Tuesday afternoons. We look out for one another, we chat to one another and we share fellowship with one another. Do come and join us. You will be most welcome.

Pat Hutchinson

Love and instructions!

Some of you may remember when we were little our mothers (parents) gave us some basic rules to follow, such as "Always look both ways before crossing the road", "Don't speak to a stranger", "Look back before you leave the place just in case you leave something behind" or "you are not allowed to have desert until you finish your main course". I must say the last instruction was the hardest one!!

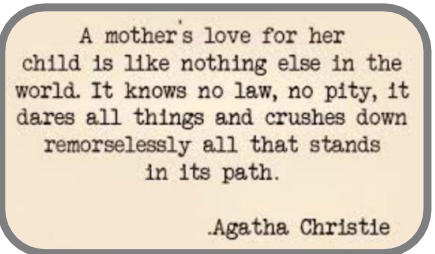
These instructions have been passed through generations. I have seen some of my friends giving the same instructions to their children. I didn't understand then why mother gave me these instructions and I needed to be reminded over and over again. But now I know that it was because she loved me and wanted to protect me from any danger or from making wrong decisions.

In the same way, because God loves us so much, He gives us instructions for us to follow, to protect us and guide our lives. He knows what is best for each of us, his children if we can only trust Him. The scripture clearly says that God is love His love is endless and eternal.

"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, his love endures forever." 1 Chronicles 16:34.

Let us embrace the love of Jesus, our Lord, in the way that we embrace the love of our mothers, Happy Mother's Day!

Nini Brady



A Prayer for mothers

Amidst the cards, flowers and joys of Mothering Sunday/Mother's Day it is easy to forget that there are mothers for whom it is not necessarily a happy day. I would like to suggest that we pray for them or be mindful of them, especially any known to us.

Our prayers: Lord we bring those mothers who are weighed down by difficulties such as loneliness, a sense of inadequacy or other emotional issues.

- We pray for those with material needs; poverty or homelessness.
- We remember those whose children have gone astray and are in trouble with the law.
- Adult children may be distant because of work or other circumstances. Help mothers who are anxious for them.
- Mothers may be facing sickness in their children, themselves or even death. We ask that they may receive comfort, support and healing.

Thank you Lord that even when life seems tough, you offer your presence to strengthen and sustain. May families be richly blest as they celebrate this special day.

We ask these prayers in the name of Jesus Christ whose Mother Mary cared and loved to the bitter end, even the Cross.

Mayfield Alpaca Farm

Continuing the series about businesses and organisations in (and around) Bents Green

My first visit to the Mayfield Alpaca Farm was on Christmas Eve when our family wanted a trip out which would appeal to all age groups. We thoroughly enjoyed the visit and our three year old grandson was delighted that the alpacas were so friendly and that he could feed them with food bought from the farm centre. We found there are also a range of other animals such as pigs, goats and llamas outside and, in the farm centre, several small exotic animals such as meerkats, degu, tarantulas, tiny harvest mice, a tortoise and many more.

This week I braved the snowy conditions and went back to the farm to find out more. I met Keeley and Andy Jonas and Keeley told me that they first came to Mayfield Alpacas for work experience to learn about caring for alpacas and llamas from Elaine and Nigel Sharp who set the farm up in 1998. When Elaine retired in 2014, Andy and Keeley took over the running of the farm. Elaine was able to hand over the business to people she knew.

Keeley and Andy met when teaching on an animal management course at Rotherham College. They are both very interested in exotic animals: Andy has worked in zoos and Keeley is a veterinary nurse. Since taking over the business they have begun to open it to the public and increased the range of animals. They are gradually becoming known and visitors come from far and near. The farm has become especially well known among Chinese visitors who travel to Sheffield to see the alpacas, or include a visit to the farm in a tour of the UK.



There are 34 alpacas on the farm. They are friendly animals and there is no fear of being bitten when feeding them as they only have teeth on the lower jaw. The upper jaw has a divided lip which helps them to scoop up the food held out on a flat hand. Packets of food are available in the shop at the Farm Centre. Their fleece keeps them warm in the winter but needs to be sheared in the summer. The technique for shearing an alpaca is different from a sheep, and a specialist team of shearers from New Zealand tour the world each summer and spend a day at the farm in Sheffield to shear the animals. The farm advertises the fleece and anyone can buy some of it. They have a range of shades from white to natural shades of brown. Alpacas live outside all year round but need a shelter in the field for rainy weather. The grass in the field provides them with enough nutrients most of the year, but their diet needs to be supplemented in the winter with Vitamin D to compensate for getting less sunshine than in their native South America.

There are other animals in enclosures outside. Many have been rescued from situations where they were not getting the care they needed. Inside the farm centre are many small and exotic animals. They are also mostly rescued, but one group of meerkats came from a zoo where their group was becoming too large. The farm needs to have a licence to keep any animal which is not native to the UK and careful records need to be kept which are inspected by the Animal Welfare Officer from the city council.

Not all the animals are on view to the public, but some of these can be seen on **Encounter Days** which are held in school holidays. These are advertised on the farm's Facebook page and do not need to be booked in advance. This is a session run by the farm staff where children have the opportunity to handle some of the smaller exotic animals such as a raccoon and a skunk. The next Encounter days are the 19th and 25th February.

A **toddlers' club** meets each Tuesday from 10 to 12 for children and a parent or carer. The toddlers feed the alpacas and spend time in the play area and the mud kitchen. They come in all weathers and have a wonderful time! The cafe and the farm also host **children's parties** in a room at the back of the cafe with food and party bags. The children have a tour the farm and feed the alpacas in the field. An additional possibility is to include a session of animal handling.



The farm has good links with local schools. Some pupils from Bents Green School come three times a week to help on the farm. They feed the animals and clean out stables and sheds and have the opportunity to handle the animals. Other pupils have come from Silverdale school for work experience.

11 people work in the farm or the cafe. Many of the farm workers have attended the animal management course at Rotherham College and Andy and Keeley knew them at the college. It has been hard work getting to know the business and establishing the farm as a visitor attraction but they love the work and now, in their fourth year at Mayfield Alpacas they feel more settled. They are keen to expand the range of animals and enjoy sharing them with visitors.

Tricia North

Mayfield Alpacas Tel 0114 2630033 Open 10-4 daily: Adult £3.50, child 3-13yrs £1.50, Annual ticket £15/£7.50



Translating the Bible – 11

Word for word translation or translating the meaning?

When I was 11 years old I stayed with my uncle and aunt in Holland. My uncle was Dutch but usually spoke good English. However, on one occasion, he told us to sit “on the table” when he meant “at the table”. We did what he said word for word, perhaps because my favourite poffertjes were not being served, and it was the only time I ever saw him angry. It was also of course the only naughty thing I ever did.



Poffertjes

“On the table” was a word for word translation of the Dutch “op de tafel”. Our instinct tells us that word for word translations are bound to be the best, but the reality is different. In the early days of computer translations, somebody asked a program to translate the proverb “out of sight out of mind” into Russian. Out of curiosity, they then asked the computer to translate the Russian back into English, and up popped “invisible lunatic”.



NIV Fill your horn with oil
GNB Get some olive oil

Words and phrases are so full of nuance that it is very difficult to make word for word translations work. Some compromise is always necessary. Translations like the New International Version make as few compromises as possible. For example, God tells Samuel to “fill your horn with oil” when he goes to Bethlehem to choose one of Jesse’s sons to replace Saul as king of Israel. In the Good News Bible, God tells Samuel to “get some olive oil”. In the same story, the NIV has “heifer” while the GNB has “calf”.

As we saw last time with the various translations of the Wise Men, the choice of which Bible to choose is really more a question of preference than of accuracy. Some people prefer to keep as close as possible to the original vocabulary and phrases, and accept the slightly unusual phrases and more technical words that result. That is a perfectly proper approach. However, it can sometimes be a problem to people who are not familiar with Christian jargon.

When Paul writes in Romans chapter 5 verse 1 (NIV) that “we have been justified through faith”, are you sure what he means? The GNB might be clearer: “we have been put right with God through faith”. Should the Bibles we use in church be the version that Christians like and understand, or should they be the version that visitors are more likely to understand? Is it better to have a word for word translation that is more faithful to the original, or is it better to get the meaning across? What do you think?

Glenn Evans

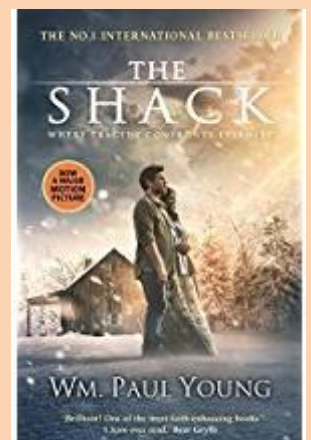
“The Shack” by Wm Paul Young

How are mums like glue? ... when they help families stick together!

In our evening services we have had a series on “The Shack”, a book which is based on a true story. We have looked at events in the life of Mack. Mack experienced years of suffering: he watched his mother being beaten, repeatedly, by his father. He was also badly beaten by his father which resulted in him leaving home at the age of 13. In later life, he achieved some happiness through his marriage to Nan. However, this happiness was shattered when his youngest daughter, Missy, was abducted and murdered by a serial killer.

As a result of the death of his daughter, Mack experiences the “Great Sadness”. At this time he believes that his wife's love and care saved his life. Throughout all that happens to their family, Nan is the one whose love surrounds her husband and four remaining children, and whose care and support helps to keep the family unit together. She is enabled to provide this steadfast love because of her strong faith. She calls God “Papa”, and this reveals how close she feels her relationship with God to be. This living relationship with God is a key part of her character.

Read the book to discover how Mack, through an encounter with God, is able to come to terms with the unbearable suffering that he experienced throughout his life.



Susan Rose

Regular church activities and contact details

Services at the Church at Bents Green

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 and young people.

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

Service of Healing:

Sunday 18th February 6.30pm, Rev Peter Edwards

Contact Details:

Lay Assistant Minister: John Wilkins
Tel 0114 2361306 (First contact)
Email: johnwilkins73@googlemail.com

Minister: Rev Tim Crome
Tel. 0114 4389012
Email: Tim47Crome@msn.com

For Room Bookings contact:
Peter Larder Tel. 0114 2686507

Church website:
www.bentsgreenmethodist.org.uk

Church office answerphone:
0114 2361912

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
Lighthouse	5-11	Wed 3.45	Sarah	contact Glenn 2351057
Messy Services	3 -12	Festivals	Sue	2307556
Sparks	5-11	Sun 10.30	John	2307556
Sunday Club	12-18	Sun 10.30	Sue	2307556
Lampstand	12-18	Fri 8-10	Sarah	contact Glenn 2351057
Drama group	All ages	Various	Glenn	2351057
Pantomime	All ages	Annually	Glenn	2351057
Musical	All ages	Special events	Christèle	07912207661

Regular church activities

Games, chat, crafts

Wednesdays 12.30 to 3 pm in the church.
Indoor bowling, scrabble, chess, dominoes, jigsaws and cards, knitting and crafts.
Contact Ruth: 0114 2686507

Coffee Mornings in the Church:

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

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

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 60

Tues 6 th Feb	THE PEAK DISTRICT:SALLY MOSELEY
Tues 13 th Feb	ANNE FOTHERINGHAM ENTERTAINS
Tues 20 th Feb	HISTORY OF LIFE ON THE CANALS: SUZIE LITTONWOOD
Tues 27 th Feb	STREET PASTORS: JOHN WILKINS
Tues 6 th March	UKELELE BAND : ANN BEEDHAM
Tues 13 th March	HOPE COMMUNITY VILLAGE INDIA, CHERYLE BERRY
Tues 20 th March	THEATRE TO THEATRE: ANDREW RAFTERY
Tues 27 th March	EASTER CELEBRATION

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

Hilltop Editor:

Tricia North Email: tn-bg@live.co.uk

Please send material for the next issue to the editor by Sunday 18th March 2018.

If you would like to receive **Hilltop** by email please email the editor.

Beauty and the Beast Pantomime – Feb 23rd, 24th, 25th

The Pantomime version of **Beauty and the Beast** will be performed during February half-term by Spotlight at Bents Green, the Church's project for engaging children and young people in the performing arts.

Who is in the pantomime? About half of the 75 performers in the pantomime and almost all the adult helpers attend activities at the church. The other half come from other local churches or the wider community around us. There are no restrictions whatsoever on who can take part, nor is there any financial charge. Our aim is to help children and young people enjoy performing to a reasonably high standard, and to develop confidence and self-esteem.

What will it be like? Beauty and the Beast is a traditional family pantomime where the emphasis is on both the young people and the audience having as much fun as possible. We also bring out a Christian message that flows naturally from the story line that we hope is neither out of place nor obtrusive.

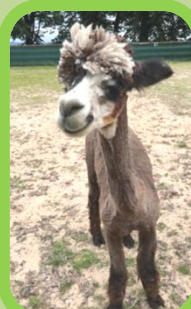
Are there any tickets left? It will be performed on Friday 23rd February at 7.30pm, Saturday 24th February at 7.30pm and Sunday 25th February at 4.30pm. Unfortunately all the tickets for the Sunday performance have gone, although there is a waiting list for returns. There are still tickets available for the Friday and the Saturday performances. Tickets are required because seating is limited, but there is no charge for tickets. Instead we ask for voluntary contributions (gift aided if possible) on the night, or via any church member. **Glenn Evans**

To get tickets or more information, contact Glenn Evans on 235 1057 or dglennevans@hotmail.co.uk

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Sheffield City Council will soon be enforcing a 20mph zone on the roads around Greystones and Bents Green. The signage and road markings will be completed by March 2nd at the latest, at which point the speed limit will go live. Some routes are exempt from this speed limit (e.g. Knowle Lane and Bents Road). (Information from Ecclesall Forum minutes)

Some of the animals which can be seen at Mayfield Alpaca Farm (see p5)



Zeb (Alpaca)



Raccoon



Elsa (Reindeer)



Leopard Tortoise



Harvest mouse



Meerkats



Red Knee Tarantula



Royal Python



Little red fox



Chris (Rhea)