

Hilltop

August / September 2019

Newsletter of The Church at Bents Green

Bents Green Holiday Club

August 5th to 9th 2019 1.30 to 3.30 pm

Group for 3 to 4 year olds in Primary Room

To book: Ring Sue 0114 2307556

Group for 5 to 11 year olds in Church Hall

To book: Ring Cherry 07853 278612

Bents Green Church
Holiday Club
Presents

CLOUDY WITH
THE POSSIBILITY
OF CAKE



Join us from the 5th-9th August
1:30-3:30pm
£2 per child ,per session

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Games, Craft and Chat

Wednesdays

from 12.30 to 3pm in the church

Sew and chat

from 11.30 (see page 6 for details)



A community church sharing the love of Jesus

Church News

We are sorry to announce that **Keith Kitchen** our church caretaker and gardener is leaving. He has spent many years at Bents Green, first as assistant to Velma Liversidge and latterly as caretaker himself. His job has involved all sorts of tasks for the church family and for groups in the community hiring our premises. We will miss him and send best wishes him and his family.

Holiday Club 'Cloudy with the possibility of Cake' 5th to 9th August in 2 groups. £2 per child per session

- Group for 3 to 4 year olds in the Primary Room (to book ring Sue 0114 2307556)
- Group for 5 to 11 year olds in the Church Hall (to book ring Cherry 07853 278612)

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.

Activities for children and young people in our church

We are fortunate at Bents Green Church to have a lively selection of groups and activities for children and young people. Cherry, our youth minister, has now been at Bents Green for almost ten years and is involved in different aspects of this work. In the last issue of Hilltop, we highlighted the links which Cherry has made with local schools. But Cherry is also involved with many opportunities for children and young people within the church.

One of the regular groups is Lampstand Youth Club on a Friday evening in term time. About 30-40 young people attend each week and the club takes place in the church building. It welcomes young people from Y7 to 6th form and has a good, relaxed atmosphere with activities and opportunities to chat. To help with running the club, Cherry has become involved with a pilot scheme with Sheffield Prime Time to train new leaders who can qualify with practical skills in leadership. Some of the older members of Lampstand first became involved in helping when Cherry was pregnant and have now continued to help and be part of this scheme.

The Bog-Standard Football Club is another Lampstand activity and plays 5-a-side matches in the Sheffield Christian Youth League. The 8 lads who play are enthusiastic and have really come together as a team. At the end of the year awards are presented for a variety of achievements and all the teams come together to celebrate. Bents Green has been playing in the league for 14 years.

On Sunday mornings in previous years Cherry has run a Bible study and discussion group at the time of the morning service. However, this year there was not a need for this group and instead Cherry has started a monthly group for girls on a Sunday afternoon with games, bible study and activities. It is held in the music room and girls from 12 years and over are welcome.

Cherry is involved with Girls' Brigade on a Thursday evening, working with the teenagers and doing work for badges. She also helps with the Wednesday after-school club, Lighthouse, which offers activities for children of junior school age. There are places available for new members in this group.

At this time of year, as the regular groups finish for the summer holidays, Cherry and many others in the church are getting ready for the Holiday Club, **Cloudy with the possibility of Cake** from 5-9th August, 1.30 – 3.30 pm. They are planning lively sessions with music, drama and many other activities. It is always a busy time with up to 50 children each afternoon and bringing together many members of the church to welcome them and their families.

We are grateful for Cherry and her ministry amongst children and young people in our church and neighbourhood. Thank you, Cherry!

Tricia North



Where are we?

Sometimes, when I preach at a church for the first time, I ask the congregation where their church is. Often, they say 'it's at the top of the hill', or 'opposite the shops'. Sometimes I say 'Where was it 50 years ago? If I keep quiet for a moment, they may give a different answer – 'Well, it's not what it was then'.

So where is Bents Green Church? Well, it's opposite the shops. It's at the top of the hill. It's on the corner opposite the Hammer. But in a deeper sense, where are we? And where are we going?

Asking a few people this question has produced some interesting insights. One person said, 'It's in a prominent position'. That is true physically – you can hardly miss the building. But to what extent are we prominent in the life of the community? Are we making an impact? Are we carrying out God's mission at Bents Green?

We are asked to address these questions seriously this summer. The Circuit wants to decide how to use its resources, both money and people, to best effect. Where is God working? Which churches have a clear view of their mission? The Church Council will at its July meeting try to get answers, and in the autumn try to set aims and targets for the next year. Resourcing from the Circuit may depend on how we answer these questions.

So where are we? We like to think that the church is prominent in its community. Our buildings are well used by community groups, families and young people come to the Pre-School, the panto and our various Sunday and midweek activities.

Membership has been steady for almost twenty years, when most churches have declined. We have more babies and toddlers than for many years. We are said to be welcoming to young, old, to people with learning disabilities and those suffering from dementia. We have a talented worship group and good preachers. We have modernised our buildings to be transparent, so that it's easier to enter. We have a declared aim of engaging families on the fringe of the church in the life of faith. But in some ways we may be at a cross-roads, and not sure where we're going.

What about you? Do you feel engaged or left behind? Are you enthusiastic about changes at church, or not sure? As part of this review of our role and mission, we want to hear from all sectors of the church. What do you think? Please let me or anyone on Church Council have your views.

John Wilkins *Lay Assistant Minister*



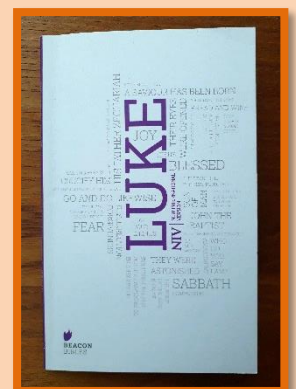
Holy Habits — Biblical Teaching

This next Habit began in July and it follows on from the Habit of Fellowship, the two of them going together in the text from Acts 2, "they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship."

At first, I struggled to understand how we could all engage with Biblical Teaching in the way that we have previously engaged with the Habits of prayer, gladness and generosity, breaking bread and fellowship. Then I read a paragraph from the Holy Habits booklet which made it clear to me.

"When practised together, the Holy Habit of Biblical Teaching is perhaps best described as the people of God, gathering around the word of God and sharing their insights into the gospel in order to discover the Holy Spirit's insights among the people."

By sharing Scripture together, in fellowship, we may discern God's word to us so as to change our lives and the world around us. During these coming two months, we're all invited to share together in reading the Gospel of Luke, hopefully with opportunities to read together and to share those all-important insights. God communicates with us in various ways, but undoubtedly, one of the main ways is through Scripture. When we read it prayerfully, with imagination and together in fellowship, this provides God with a real means to lead us forward as his church. Let's not neglect it. **Graham Wassell**



Copies of the Gospel of Luke are available for those who would like to read the whole gospel.

Bents Green Friendship Club

If anyone is poor among your fellow Israelites in any of the towns of the land the Lord your God is giving you, do not be hardhearted or tightfisted toward them. Rather, be openhanded and freely lend them whatever they need.

Deuteronomy 15:7-11 New International Version of the Bible

The writer of Deuteronomy was actually advocating generosity and action to eradicate poverty. I am not so naive as to believe that we can eradicate poverty although that would be a wonderful thing.

When I read that 33 tonnes of food were donated to The Grace Food Bank, I was heartened to realise that Sheffield people are so generous, especially the people of Bents Green.

Then I began to think of how fortunate we are here. We live in warm, comfortable homes and we always have enough to eat. We have no problem in paying our dues every week at Friendship club and enjoy a cup of tea, a biscuit and lovely people who come to entertain us.

Recently we had a great afternoon with Anne Featherstone who gave us a super presentation on Old Time musicals and we all joined in with the old songs! Ann Fotheringham came to sing to us, and she is always lovely. Suzanne Bingham talked to us about the poverty in Sheffield in the nineteenth century (at one stage the average age of death of a Sheffield grinder was 34).

As I say constantly to my 12 year old grandson" CYB".... Count your blessings!

Friendship Club meets on Tuesdays at 2 o'clock. You will be made very welcome. **Pat Hutchinson**



Methodist Women in Britain, Sheffield District

Who is that lady who attends morning worship at Bents Green occasionally? Some of you may be beginning to wonder that. May I offer you a little bit of background on myself? I am currently a member of Gleadless Methodist Church and, until last September, I was one of the Circuit Stewards. As a member of the circuit Holy Habits steering committee I found myself attached to the Bents Green group and have thoroughly appreciated their involvement.

I live locally and have recently made the decision that perhaps it would be more sensible for me to worship at a church nearer home; hence the reason for attending your church every month. I feel that eventually I will transfer my membership. I do feel a very warm welcome when I attend worship with you all,

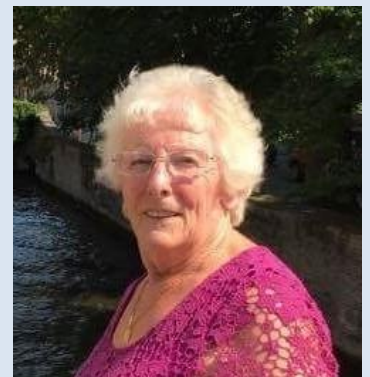
I am at present Vice-President of the Sheffield District Methodist Women in Britain and in October this year will become President. To this end I would like to give you some information about MWiB. Perhaps you didn't know that if you are a woman and a member of the Methodist Church then you are automatically a member of MWiB; you don't have to apply to join!



In conversation with Debs Barnett about MWiB she pointed out that all events take place during the daytime which wasn't encouraging younger ladies to join us. We find it very difficult to ascertain when is the best time for events as older people prefer not to come out at night. So, please, please, any suggestions and any fresh ideas to make us more interesting to you all would be greatly appreciated.

Perhaps you are not aware that in April each year the whole Connexion of MWiB have a conference at The Hayes in Swanwick. This is very enjoyable, and I can thoroughly recommend coming along. Approximately 250 people attend: there are workshops, speakers, services and much fun and laughter.

Locally, we raise funds for different projects/partnerships, alternating between home and abroad. The project chosen by our present president for 2016/2018 was for toilet twinning. We raised £2150.20. From October last year, the partnership I have chosen for my project is The Children's Air Ambulance. So far we have raised £2,000 and this will continue until 2020. I would encourage you, as a church in the Sheffield Circuit, to support MWiB. We are a friendly group. Our next meeting is to be held at the Upper Chapel in Norfolk Street on 19th August 11am-1.00pm. We shall be deciding next year's programme of events during this so your ideas and suggestions would be very welcome. **Pam Meek**



Artizan International, Ecuador

In a recent Sunday morning service Lydia and Mark Trezise, who have recently returned from working in Ecuador, told us about the work they were doing there

What took you to Ecuador?

We moved to Santo Domingo in Ecuador, working as volunteers for Artizan International, to set up a craft based social enterprise to provide training and work opportunities for differently abled people. Differently abled people are often pushed to the edges of society and Artizan International wants to change this by not only teaching practical skills but also showing and sharing the love of God to those in need. Having had previous connections with the Director of Artizan International, Susie Hart, through Neema Crafts in Tanzania (a similar project) we decided that we were at an ideal time in our lives to have a break from 'normal' work and take the opportunity to move to another country, learn a new language and serve others.

Where did the inspiration for the project come from?

The inspiration behind the project we set up, Artizan Ecuador, came from a place of compassion and frustration that differently abled people are not given the same opportunities as others. In Ecuador it is especially difficult to find work if you are physically disabled. It can also be very difficult to complete or continue education due to illness, medical appointments, transport issues and low finances. This lack of education and job prospects often traps differently abled people in poverty and state support is very low, if available at all. We teach simple craft skills that the artisans can then use to earn a living, to support their families and restore pride and purpose to what was once a desperate situation. The crafts also give space for the artisans to express their creativity and the positive impact on their mental wellbeing can be just as great as the financial gains.

What were some of the joys and difficulties of the work?

We had many joyful moments working in Ecuador! Meeting new people and making friends with our artisans, getting to know their families and seeing how their new fulfilling focus and income was making a real difference in their lives. Many of our artisans live in really poor conditions, they do not have the same kind of facilities you and I would take for granted (an indoor toilet for example). It was especially difficult to hear that after a night of very heavy rain a few of our friends' homes were flooded.

Some of the physically disabled artisans used hand bikes as transport and they were unfortunately involved in several accidents whilst we were there, ending in surgery and lengthy expensive stays in hospital. These difficulties were not experienced by us personally, but witnessing these things as they happen to people you have come to care about was hard.



Group photo at our second graduation. Pictured Mark & Lydia with (L-R) Ramon, Federico, Pedro (who graduated previously) & Douglos, Luis, Steven, Alejandro & Mauro.

If you would like to know more, please visit artizaninternational.org where you can find out about our projects and how you can support them.

If you would like to buy the cards, they are available at "Good Taste – The Sheffield Fair Trade Shop" in Broomhill, Sheffield.



Palm tree card: a handmade paper card using recycled paper and banana leaves, incorporating traditional Ecuadorian fabric.

The Bad, the Good and the Ugly

Most weeks I buy a TV paper. When I get it home, I often put it on the table with its front cover facing downwards. The reason is because the images and captions usually portray negative messages: “deadly siege”, “Jack goes on the rampage”, “revenge!”. That’s just a sample. On the plus side it is cheap!

It is well known that we are a society saturated in noise of all kinds and screens filled with innumerable images. Who hasn’t nearly collided with someone whose ears are plugged with headphones, concentrating on a mobile phone? Deaf and blind indeed! Love it or loathe it, this is our world.

Of course, this is not the whole story. Modern technology has brought benefits beyond measure. We can applaud that and be grateful. There are, however, aspects of it which need us to be wary. One example is enough: the on-line bullying and abuse of young people which can have such tragic outcomes.

What are we absorbing from all this seeing and hearing? Is it wholesome? Is it helping us to be better people? Does it enrich or debase our relationships? There are probably many more questions to ask. Long ago, St. Paul pondering similar issues of seeing and hearing in his society, albeit one free of the internet, advised:

“... I’d say you’ll do best by filling your minds and meditating on things true, noble, reputable, authentic, compelling, gracious—the best, not the worst; the beautiful, not the ugly; things to praise, not things to curse.”
Philippians: 4: 8 in The Message (a modern version of the Bible). It is a challenge for us all. **Janet Nowell**

Give Peace a Chance

In the 1980s there was a widely used poster that said: *‘To feed, clothe, house, educate and supply clean water to all the world’s needy people would cost a great deal of money. About what the world spends on weapons of war every two weeks.’*

At the end of the 1980s the collapse of the Iron Curtain prompted talk of the ‘peace dividend’. We wouldn’t need so many weapons. We could achieve those great humanitarian aims. We could eradicate poverty.

It hasn’t worked out like that. Politicians and generals have found new reasons for armies, ships and planes, bombs and weapons. Britain has decided to renew its nuclear weapons at vast expense, (according to latest figures, over £3000 for each man, woman and child), to enable us to destroy millions of people in minutes. As I write the contenders to be Prime Minister propose to increase our defence budgets. And the UK remains one of the world’s leading manufacturers and sellers of weapons of war.

What can Christians do? Most of us think it’s beyond us and close our hearts and minds to what is being done in our name. But should we at least be aware of what is going on, and pray about these issues?

We have an opportunity to talk, listen and share ideas on **Friday 26th July, 7.30pm, at Banner Cross Methodist Church**. Dan Woodhouse, a Methodist minister from Leeds, will talk about his experience of putting the protest back into Protestantism, and the theology behind his beliefs.



For information, or if you would like a lift to Banner Cross, contact **John Wilkins**, 07807 471846, johnwilkins73@gmail.com

Games, Craft and Chat is growing

Craft and Chat has added another branch to its already busy set of activities – sewing.

So far our sewers have made a beautiful pink dress, Japanese knot bags and (most importantly) a cover for the church amp. We have also had a go at appliqué, free motion embroidery and fabric painting. Ruthy is the teacher of the group. She is an experienced sewer who can perform magic with her three (yes, three) sewing machines. (If you get a chance you should definitely ask her what the secret to shortening curtains is.)



If you want to learn to use an overlocker, make a dress that actually fits, mend or adjust clothes you already own or just want to try something new why not come along and join us? The sewing group runs from 11:30 every Wednesday in the church. Everyone is welcome from complete beginners to experienced sewers. We have a couple of sewing machines and overlockers which you are welcome to use and we have lots of fabric too, or you can bring your own machine and fabrics. **If you have any questions please ask Ruth Braisby or Sue Ratheram, or email us at jickypeggs@gmail.com**

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 Fireworks 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.

Café worship on the first Sunday of each month. Breakfast from 10.00, with worship at 10.30. This is an informal service, so please make yourself at home. Drinks are available at any time.

Wednesdays at 10 am: Midweek service followed by coffee

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 am	Ruth	2686507
Sparklers	4-5	Sun 10.30 am	Ruth	2686507
Sunbeams	0-4	Wed 9.15-12noon	Katie	07464 824462

For children and young people

Sparks	5-11	Sun 10.30 am	John	2307556
Fireworks	12-14	Sun 10.30 am	Emma	07707 500226
Sunday Club	15-18	Sun 10.30 am	Sue	2307556
Girls' Brigade	5-18	Thurs evening	Marian	2361316
Lighthouse	5-11	Wed 3.45 pm	Cherry	07853278612
Lampstand	12-18	Fri 8-10 pm	Cherry	07853278612
Craft Services	3-12	Festivals	Sue	2307556
Drama group	All ages	Various	Glenn	2351057
Pantomime	All ages	Annually	Glenn	2351057
Musical	All ages	Special events	Christèle	07912207661
Holiday Club	4-11	August 5 th -9 th 2019	Lesley	2686461

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 – especially men and women over 60.

There are no meetings in August

Tues 10th Sept RAILWAYS: Stephen Gay

Tues 17th Sept KINDERTRANSPORT: Danny Kalman

Tues 24th Sept CHAT SHOW

**For more information contact Pat 0114 2497280
or Jackie Smith 0114 3483069**

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

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

Hilltop Editor:

Tricia North Email: tn-bg@live.co.uk
Please send material for the next issue to the editor by Sunday 22nd September 2019.

If you would like to receive **Hilltop** by email please email the editor: tn-bg@live.co.uk

Porter Valley Dementia Café offers a social afternoon with snacks and refreshments, a range of activities and relevant speakers and guests. It is for people with dementia who live in their own homes, and for their families and carers. It is held on the first and third Thursdays of the month from 2-4 pm in the church (main door of the church).

Thank you for your support for the Fireworks Quiz night!

On the Saturday 25th May, Bents Green Fireworks group continued their fundraising efforts for the Archer Project. We held a big quiz night, which was a huge success. It was really difficult putting the questions together because we didn't know if people would find them too easy or too difficult.

We had 6 rounds: riddles, celebrities, anagrams, the Archer Project, film and music. The riddles round proved to be the most difficult with questions like: What am I? I am greater than God, more evil than the devil, the rich want me and the poor have me, and What am I? What is more useful when it is broken?

The Archer Project Round helped everyone to learn more about the project with some interesting facts about the support that they have provided over the years. For example last year they served over 11,000 breakfasts and supported over 1,300 people. The music round was the most entertaining, with Phil Hall giving us the tunes to guess on his kazoo, now the stuff of legends!

So many kind people from the church congregation helped and we would like to say a huge THANK YOU to everyone, for those who helped with the food on the night to those who baked, moved chairs and washed up. Our small group of 6 young ladies managed to raise over £550 for the Archer Project, thank you SO much to everyone in the community who supported the night and encouraged the group in their efforts. The charity was excited to learn that such a small group, with the support of the community, could achieve such big things. Look out for our next event sometime in the Autumn. **Emma Wassell.** (Answers, 'nothing' and 'eggs')

Reflections#2 In praise of creation

Here she comes
the Big Red
out of the East
right on the retina
right on time
colours gather
birds bugle
she sets
in the west
tomorrow
and ad nauseam
no moratorium
ad gloriam

* * *

O, glistening field
of yellow corn
that lifteth up my head
this dawn!

James Ogden

All-age cricket and rounders

The games were held on High Storrs field. A good time was had by all! And, despite the threatening clouds, the weather stayed dry!

