

Hilltop

Autumn 2023

Newsletter of The Church at Bents Green

HOW ARE WE DOING?

On 1 July we held a Church Family Day to which everyone connected with church and church groups was invited to attend. During our time together everyone had the opportunity to consider which things they think we are doing well, and what ideas there are for moving forward. A round-up of the suggestions given is:

Things we are doing well!

A resounding number say we are a very friendly, welcoming church, and that we encourage and care for each other.

We are good at spreading joy and love.

People like all the events that we put on and say our activities for children and families are great!

We provide connection for teenagers and we are good at bringing people together and meeting different needs.

Birthday parties, playing, Sparklers and Fun Day were all things to celebrate, as well as a great worship group, lovely food and a strong pastoral team.

This comment: "I like church because it looks after me." Love that!

There were some good ideas for moving forwards too.

More events were asked for, perhaps with a charitable theme like Emma's Fireworks quiz.

There was a call for more work with Special Educational Need & Disabilities (SEND) children and their families and perhaps dyslexia friendly slides/leaflets.

How we recycle was another and also if we could consider a veg/fruit patch in the grassy area on the Knowle Lane side of the church.

Another lovely suggestion was for Katie and Emma to work together as Sunbeams and Sunrise to put on a Nativity at Christmas time, perhaps to invite Dementia cafe along as well. We are definitely up for that!

Thoughts were given to building bridges where we have experienced differences and also concentration on our priorities. Inspiring others to do some of the essential jobs.

A final suggestion was to preach the gospel of truth and repentance. The Leadership Team thought we already do preach the gospel. But what do you think about this and the other comments above?

There is always an open door for comments and suggestions, via the church website (www.bentsgreenmethodist.org.uk) or email/phone to anyone you know.

Let us know what you think the church can do with the community at Bents Green.

Bents Green Leadership Team

On the following pages there are updates from church groups telling us how they are doing and what is planned for the future. Please support these groups as much as you are able.

Two Waves



During the Covid pandemic, I remember being shown a cartoon-like picture which had upon it two waves. There was a small wave on the left, which was moving towards the left, and a much larger wave on the right following it. The left wave was meant to represent the Covid-19 pandemic and its potential impact. The right wave stood for the threat of climate change, suggesting that the challenge it brings to the global community is much larger and will have greater consequences.

This magazine is being produced as a follow-up to the church family day that we had in July to let everyone know some of the plans that the different church groups have for the immediate future. It is also a means by which we hope to show that we have weathered the worst of the Covid-19 storm and are functioning much as we were before it. We continue to be a family-friendly church with lots of activities for families, for children and young people, and for other age groups. We are also an inclusive church where all are welcome.

God said to them ... 'Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.' Genesis 1:28b - NIV

local ones struggling with the cost of living crisis, in particular with respect to feeding their families. We can also recognise that we need to reduce our carbon emissions out of love for poorer sisters and brothers across the world who suffer most from global warming but whose countries have done least to cause it. In this respect it is a matter of justice too.

This magazine will be coming out around harvest-time. One of the things we can reflect upon at this time of year is how we **care for the earth**, which God the Creator has entrusted to us. We do not look after it well if we exploit it simply for short-term gains, threaten the biodiversity that exists, or do not take to heart the need to respond to the climate crisis within which we live. Also, in this harvest season, we may consider how we **love our neighbours**. These include our global neighbours suffering from famine and drought and our

'Whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not

So how can we respond to the second wave which presents a threat to us all? As with all things we can pray – there is a prayer below which you may wish to use. We can as individuals seek to make small changes to our own lifestyles, such as by using public transport or walking more and driving less. We can also take action by writing to our MP requesting that the UK government honours its climate finance commitment (£11.6bn in climate funding by 2026), knowing that individual actions alone cannot be enough.

With respect to our church's carbon footprint, some small things that can be done to reduce it are mentioned in this edition of *Hilltop*, like reminding us to switch lights off when we are the last to leave a room. However, with the challenges that present themselves in order to keep global warming down, we know that medium-term and longer-term goals are necessary. So please consider (if you are able) giving to the fund being set up to insulate the cellar ceiling (see *Making Bents Green Greener*). Besides reducing our energy usage, it should also make the church building feel warmer.

As we face the second wave of climate warming, may God help us to do what we can to reduce our carbon footprint; so that the wave's severity may be less than it might be, and so that we may care for the earth and love our neighbours as we ought.

The Methodist Church in Britain has a goal of becoming carbon neutral by 2030.

Revd Philip Peacock



Sunrise Stay and Play Pre-School Playgroup

We set up Sunrise in February 2023 in response to two beloved community Pre-Schools closing. Sunrise is a chance for children ages 2-4 and their parents and carers to meet their peers and make potential friendships for school.

Sessions are £3 a child with no need to book at present. Sunrise (2-4yrs) is a sister group to Sunbeams (0-4 yrs) baby and toddler group which meets on a Wednesday 9.15-11.30 also at Bents Green Church.

Since February over 75 different children attended with between 12-30 each week.

The group is run by DBS checked volunteers, most of whom are early years trained.

We have themed activities, free play, snack, craft, stories and singing, in good weather we open the outdoor area for play and exploration.

For more details see our new Facebook group: **Sunrise Pre-School Playgroup** or contact Emma 07707500226 or Katie 07464824462



It is a lovely nurturing group, our parents and carers have given wonderful feedback, expressing how much the group is needed in the community.

We are really excited to continue the group and can't wait to see familiar and new faces on 8th September.



Cherry's update

I have been with Bents Green Church since 2007 when I arrived as a student and haven't looked back since. It is a real privilege to have been able to journey alongside so many young people and their families. I feel very fortunate to be well supported by the church and community. It has made my time here fly by!



Last year was very busy as I have been able to go back working in all local primary & secondary schools. I have been able to return to helping lead Christian Unions as well as offer student mentoring. It has been great to be able to get to know the staff and pupils at the local schools. This year I hope to build on those relationships and see how best to support the staff & pupils in schools.

This year I will also look for opportunities to host and visit other youth groups from across Sheffield. Last year we hosted a Methodist circuit social at the end of term and hope it will be the first of many. I am also looking to start a young leader's course to offer the amazing young people who volunteer the opportunity to gain a leadership qualification.

There is a lot of potential for new things to happen during the year and I look forward to seeing what happens next, so watch this space!

Lighthouse is an after school club which runs on Wednesdays in term time from 3:30-5:30pm. It is designed for children aged 5-11 years old. The cost is £1.50 per child, per session and this includes a drink, snacks and craft materials. Each half term we look at different bible stories and themes. Each week we offer a different bible story, craft, snack, drama, games and activities.

This year at Lighthouse we have looked at lots of different stories from the bible and we've had lots of parties celebrating Light night which is an alternative to Halloween. We had a great time with a Christmas disco, Had a special visit at our Easter party and ended the year with lots of games and food. We have said goodbye to some children who are moving onto big school and we wish them all the best at their new schools. We have been blessed by a wonderful team of wonder helpers who have come as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. They have all passed their hours and are continuing to stay on with us.

Lampstand is a youth club for young people aged 11-17. Lampstand runs on Friday evenings from 8-10pm and is £2 per person, per session. At the youth club we have an array of activities available including; Nintendo switch, Wii, pool table, board games, cards, weekly films on the 3 big screens, dodgeball and much more. The youth club also has tuck shop which offers a wide range of sweets, chocolate, snacks and drinks. We also run regular trips at the end of term to Laser quest, mini-golf, bowling and bounce. There is also an online youth club which runs on a Tuesday evening where we socialise and play games over Zoom. If you would like to know more or join then please contact Cherry.

This year we have welcomed Shiela to our team who regularly attends and provides a variety of craft and jewelry making activities for the young people.

Our youth club football team has completed their final season as part of Sheffield Youth Christian League. They finished 2nd in the league and won a tournament this year. The team are now all heading off to University. We wish them all well as they move onto the next chapter. It has been a privilege being their manager as I have known most of the team since they were in reception. I will now be taking a break from football and looking to see what new projects can begin!

This summer there has been a residential which took place at Marrick Priory for school years 10-13. Our youth club joined with others from across Sheffield. We had a fantastic time doing a range of activities from; getting to know you games, zip wire over a river, high ropes, low ropes, canoeing, paddle boarding, a hike for ice cream, lots of games and a water fight. The provisional date for next year is 8th—11th August 2024.

Please get in touch if you would like to know more or book a place. More details to follow soon.

Cherry Mair - Youth & Children's Minister- 07853278612 - cherry_ade86@hotmail.co.uk



Its Autumn term and time to restart our **Girls' Brigade** meetings on Thursday nights at 6.30 pm. We are looking forward to joining our friends and having fun, learning new skills and discovering more about the Christian faith.

We have four groups N'vestigate who are learning about Autumn; N'Counta and N'spire who are continuing their Interior decoration badge transforming the Vestry into a sensory room, and N'gage. There are badges for each badgework syllabus completed. Our Chaplain Rev Philip Peacock will be presenting our members awards at the Presentation Evening and Strawberry Tea on October 5th

We all hope to take part in our annual sponsored 'Night walk' for Children in Need and we are holding a December Coffee morning for Christian Aid.

For more information please contact Marian Haley 01142361316 or Annie Russell 07739468826 or Cherry Mair 07466614759. **We have room for new members.**

Sparklers

Sparklers meets every Sunday morning whilst the morning service is being held. Children aged 2 to 6 meet to have fun together learning about the Bible and how we can follow Jesus. The morning has a basic structure but this can alter depending on the mix and age of children that morning. The numbers can vary each week but average 6 a week.

We start with 'show and tell' where the children tell us any news, what they have been doing the past week and show us anything they have brought with them. We usually have a game and then have story time. This is usually a visual story where it is told by using materials and objects and the children can take part.

During the morning we have craft time, prayer time and games. This past year we have covered many topics including Creation and the Miracles of Jesus. The children are always keen to come and learn and enjoy sharing and caring for each other.

Any child aged 2 to 6 is welcome to join us.

Spotlight

Our next annual pantomime for children and young people is Shrek, with getting on for 60 people taking part. It will take place in February half term as usual. We managed to continue during Covid, following all the rules and restrictions scrupulously, and having no known transmissions. You can see some photos from our last show, Aladdin, earlier this year.

We make our rehearsals as much fun as possible, and take them very seriously at the same time. We provide the Café Panto for parents who wish to stay during the practices. We have a marvellous team of around 40 adult helpers, some every week, others from time to time, and still more for the performances. All helpers have DBS checks, and have been trained in safeguarding.

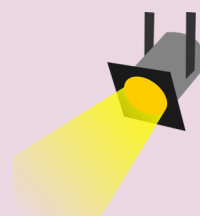
Our aims are:

- For everyone to enjoy themselves and have fun
- For everyone to achieve the best they can in acting, singing and/or dancing
- For everyone to get on with, and look after, each other, for all ages
- For everyone to grow in confidence and feel good about themselves.

Our pantomimes are traditional family entertainment, with lots of old jokes and a few new ones, lots of audience involvement, lots of songs and dances, and lots of political incorrectness. As a church activity, we also include a Christian element within the pantomime in a way we hope will be acceptable to everyone watching.

It is not too late for you to join the cast for Shrek. We write your part to fit your age and personality as much as possible. The practices are on Saturdays, usually between 4pm and 8pm, occasionally a little earlier or (for older ones) a little later. If you would like to take part or to know more, please email dglennevans@hotmail.co.uk

We also have a children's choir who sing 2 or 3 carols at our Christingles and Carol services. Practices start in October, and usually take place on Sunday late afternoons, or occasionally on Saturday late afternoons. If you would like to take part or know more, please email christele.hall@outlook.com



Methodist Women in Britain Sheffield District is moving forward after the effects of Covid. As President since 2019 it has been difficult to move forward, but this last year I feel we are gradually getting there. This last year saw our 1st Advent Quiet Day which was led by Rev Lisa Quarmby and Deacon Annabell Terry. Everyone enjoyed making Christmas Wreaths and had time to reflect on of what Advent meant to each one of us.

Mwib Annual Conference in April saw 4 new ladies from Sheffield District join us, everyone agreed they had thoroughly enjoyed the time at Swanwick where the main speaker was Pam Rhodes.

This year we have planned an interesting programme so look out for these events in the church notices. The 1st of these will be on Friday October 13th, the Rededication of the President at 11am. Rev Romeo Pedro will officiate at the service which will be followed by a bring your own lunch, after which our projects for the next year will be launched of which one is, "Street Pastors". John Wilkins will speak about this. Also "Roundabout", is a charity that helps young people who are homeless and a member of Roundabout will be speaking about this Sheffield Charity. I encourage you to come along. Everyone is welcome and it would be great to see you there.

Pam Meek

Games, Craft and Chatter

is a group which meet weekly on Wednesday from 12.30 to 3pm. We take part in a variety of activities which include, knitting crocheting, jigsaws, sewing, jewellery making, bowling and chatting. Some people bring their own crafts to do in the group. Others knit or crochet items for charity.

Last year members made blankets for Sheffield Council of Churches for Community Care which they gave out last Christmas. We have made knee blankets for care homes, hats for the homeless, scarves, hats and gloves for shoe boxes and knitted cardigans for the children's hospital.

Last Christmas group members, church members and members of the Girls Brigade hung over 1400 knitted angels all around the community with a Christmas prayer and a note saying they were free, please take them. These had been knitted or crocheted and were well received by the local community

At the moment we are making blankets, hats scarves and gloves for Link to Hope Family and Elderly Shoebox appeal. The boxes are to be sent to Romania, Moldova, Ukraine and Bulgaria. A leaflet and instructions for creating a box are on the table in church or can be obtained from Ruth Larder.

The group has about 30 on the register ranging in age from 14 (who come in school holidays) to late 80s and our average attendance is about 20. Lots of friendships have been made that carry on outside of a Wednesday afternoon. We always stop for a meditation during the afternoon and can offer individual prayer if asked. New members are welcome.

Ruth Larder



FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Autumn Program
2023:

12th September - Buskin Buddies.
26th September - Jim from Olive's choir sings
and plays the guitar
10th October - Robin & Hugh.
24th October - Songs &
Fun with Penny Bun.
7th November - Nature
21st November - Mary De Ville
5th December - Christmas Celebration

Sessions start at 2pm and is £3 per session including refreshments.

For more information please contact :
Pat Hutchinson - 07757471940

MAKING BENTS GREEN GREENER!

EcoChurch is a national award which addresses all aspects of a church's life, from worship on a Sunday to all the midweek activities, and how we use our building.

One key aspect is reducing our consumption of fossil fuels. Could we be carbon neutral by 2030?

In March we received a report by EcoEnergy. They had surveyed the church premises thoroughly, and studied our utility costs. They made many recommendations. Some are relatively easy to implement, such as putting signs on doors asking people to switch off lights when they leave, including lights in the loos, and improving draught exclusion on some external doors.

Other recommendations have the potential to make significant savings in the future, but require investment in the short term. For instance:

Insulating the cellar ceiling, to prevent cold air penetration – cost £5-6k;

Replacing the gas boiler in the kitchen with an air source heat pump – cost about £10k;

Installing solar panels on the flat roof over the lounge – cost £10 – 12k. In time solar panels could be installed on the south facing church roof too.

We are in a very tight financial situation at present, and expect to overspend our budget for 2023/24 by about £25k. We cannot therefore fund any of these additional costs from the main church fund.

We are therefore inviting donations to a separate ring-fenced fund for reducing our carbon footprint.

Donations can be made by:

BACS, with the reference ECO – sort code 40-41-18, account number 8128 8857; this is the most helpful way for us to keep track of how much is in this special fund;

Or by cash or cheque, labelled ECO, for instance on an envelope.

Gift aid can be claimed for such donations separately, without the need to fill in a new gift aid form, unless a donor has not previously signed one. Gift aid on cash donations below £30 can be claimed without completing a form.

We are also exploring the possibility of external funding, such as Government or commercial grants for these purposes, and would welcome any suggestions.

We already have a quote for insulation to the cellar ceiling. It would be good if we can proceed with that soon!

John Wilkins

A quote:

"Future generations will never forgive us if we miss the opportunity to protect our common home. We have inherited a garden; we must not leave a desert for our children."

Joint statement from Pope Francis, the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and Archbishop Justin Welby of Canterbury.

A prayer:

God of all creation,
as the seas rise and the air changes,
when the storms rage and the crops die,
do you still call it good?

Jesus our Saviour,
as the birds change their flight,
and the lilies of the field are coated with dust,
do you still tell us not to be anxious?

Holy Spirit, source of life,
as we see what we have done,
and hear the cries of the hungry,
Give us a vision of a hopeful future,
for an earth renewed and restored,
good for everyone. Amen.

From 'Prophetic Voices: Calling for Climate Justice',
© Christian Aid, June 2014

Regular church activities for the young at heart

Games, Chat, Crafts

Wednesdays 12.30—3.00pm in the church. Indoor bowls, scrabble, chess, dominoes, jigsaws and cards, knitting and crafts. Contact Ruth: 0114 2686507

Tea Toast & Time 4 Thinking

Thursday at 10.30, upstairs in the church lounge. A time to reflect on what following Jesus is all about. A place for those seeking answers. Contact Sue: 0114 2307556

Harbour Coffee

On Wednesdays in term time from 3.30—5.30pm in the music room.

Friendship Club—Fortnightly

Tuesdays at 2.00pm. A programme of speakers on a variety of subjects.

SERVICES AT THE CHURCH AT BENTS GREEN

Sunday morning at 10.30 am. During morning service there is a creche 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 at 10.30 am on the first Sunday in the month. This is a more informal service where you can make yourself feel at home with drinks available at any time during the service.

Wednesdays at 10.00 am.
Midweek service followed by coffee.

CONTACT US

Minister: Rev Philip Peacock, Tel - 0114 4389012

Youth Minister: Cherry Mair- 07853 278612

Church website: www.bentsgreenmethodist.org.uk

By email If you would like to contact us by email you can do so by completing the form on our website at www.bentsgreenmethodist.org.uk

Facebook You can also send us a message via our Church facebook page and 'like' @BentsGreenChurch on facebook for information on special events and other updates.

By phone The Church office telephone number is (0114) 2361912 but this is not manned. Answerphone messages are checked periodically but we would recommend one of the other methods above for getting in touch with us if possible.

Room booking enquiries The church has a number of rooms available for hire of varying sizes and shapes. Details of the room facilities are available on the church website. For room booking enquiries you should contact Peter on 0114 2686507.