

Hilltop

June / July 2017

Newsletter of The Church at Bents Green

Fun Day at Bents Green Church

Saturday 10th June 11am – 4pm
Bouncy Castle, Ball Pool, Activities
Oughtibridge Junior Brass Band
Refreshments & light lunch

**WELCOME TO OUR FUN DAY AT
BENT'S GREEN CHURCH**

SATURDAY 10TH JUNE 2017 11AM - 4PM



Light Refreshments (Coffee, tea, juices, cakes) All Day
Ball Pool & Bouncy Castle All Day
Oughtibridge (Junior) Brass Band 1pm - 2:30pm
Face Painting All Day
Light Lunches Noon - 2pm

ALL WELCOME - Activities will be indoors if raining

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Sunbeams Baby and Toddler group Every Wednesday in term time

9.15 – 12 in the church hall
Tea, coffee juice and snacks



A community church sharing the love of Jesus

Who does what in the church at Bents Green?

On Sunday morning 5 March the congregation were asked to give their views on how 'healthy' Bents Green church is. Several people said they didn't know how decisions were made, and that communications could be better.

So how does the church work?

The **Church Council** is the central body. It has about 25 members. They are the trustees, legally responsible for all that happens. Louise chairs the Council, and Martyn Read is secretary. It meets three times a year, and takes the key decisions.

The Church Council has four committees or teams. They are:

- **Resources** – responsible for everything to do with property and money
- **Pastoral** – responsible for care of the church family
- **Children and Youth** – overseeing the great range of activities for young people
- **Worship Coordinators** – responsible for organising Sunday services.

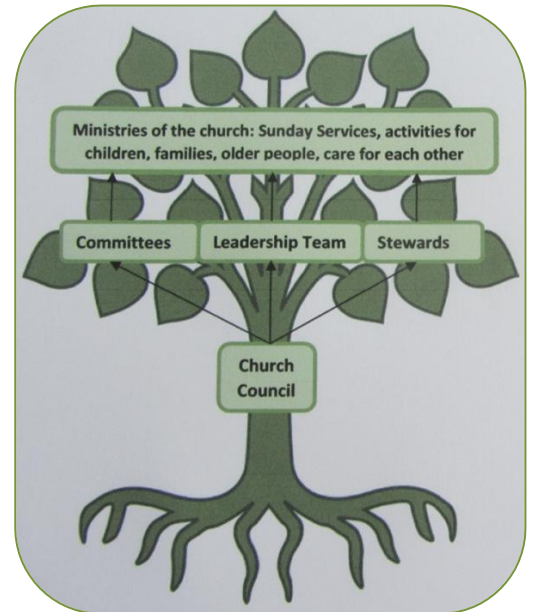
Then there are the **Stewards** – Pete Larder, Debs Barnett and Jonathan Trezise. They are responsible for all the practical things that need to be done for Sunday services to run smoothly, from unlocking the doors to ensuring the offering is counted and banked.

Then there is the **Leadership Team**. Its ten members represent the different aspects of church life. It aims to stand back from the day to day business of running the Church, and take a more strategic view. A current task is to assess how healthy BG Church is, and to propose any action to the Church Council. Improving communications is one task, hence this article.

Finally, there is the **Annual Church Meeting** in the autumn, which everyone is invited to attend. Anyone can also raise any issues with a member of any of the different meetings.

If you were to show this as a 'family tree', it would have the Church Council at the bottom. Its aim is to work through the committees, stewards and leadership team to support each of the ministries of the Church, and each individual member in his or her daily journey with Jesus.

Why do we do it? Because we know God's love in our own lives, and long to share it with our community at Bents Green.
John Wilkins



Recognising Jesus

The journey from Jerusalem to Emmaus would be forever remembered as an important moment for two disciples who met Jesus after his death and resurrection. They were walking together deeply absorbed in their disappointment. They had hoped that Jesus would be the Messiah who would save Israel. As they walked Jesus explained the scriptures, teaching them the written prophecies of his coming to the world. His words stirred their hearts.

Later on that evening, when they sat with him having a meal, he broke the bread and immediately their eyes were opened and they recognised him before he disappeared from their sight. Immediately they returned to Jerusalem with joy and told other disciples what they had seen. And they said to one another, "Did not our heart burn within us while he talked with us on the road, and while he opened the Scriptures to us?" (Luke 24:32)

We are all on our life's journey and we experience good and bad things. In challenging or sad moments often our eyes are filled with tears and we cannot see Jesus clearly. As Christians our journey is accompanied by him. His Spirit and word guide, teach and instruct us to follow him. He is always with us and we can recognise him and his work if we are willing to see.

Nini Brady



Louise returns from sabbatical

'What's it like to be back?' people keep asking.

I have just returned back to work after a wonderful sabbatical that is offered to Methodist ministers every 7 years. I had had an amazing time of living life at a slower pace than I often do, stopping to chat to people on walks and in cafes. Spending time with, and cherishing friendships and family, reading books and studying, and having the opportunity to walk the Camino Way (see article 'The Way'). There are many stories to be shared of my sabbatical, but also as I come back to work, many stories to hear from those I had left behind.

What's it like to be back? Well I am not going to pretend that I miss the empty diary..... but it is wonderful to come back, and know that God has continued to be at work in people's lives at Bents Green, as He was at work in mine on sabbatical.

To hear the stories of people growing in faith, of thriving groups and community being shared through 'Marathon' Sundays, and working wherever God places us to be, and the joy of Easter, and what it means for us to truly know that Jesus is Alive.

You may be hearing a few more of my stories told, as I speak in weeks to come, but the experience enabled me to learn more about the wonder of God, how to walk at a 'slower pace' despite having to walk a number of miles, and just how much more there is to learn about God and each other.

So let's continue to tell our stories of God on the move, as we experience the wonderful longer days of summer.

God bless, Louise



Translating the Bible - 7



We have now arrived at one of the greatest points of English history and English literature, the publication of the King James Version of the Bible in 1611. This is also called the Authorised Version, but this was only from the 19th Century onwards. It is the Bible that most people over 50 grew up with, and it contains over 250 phrases and sentences (twice as many as Shakespeare) that have become part of normal English life, such as "feet of clay" and "reap the whirlwind".

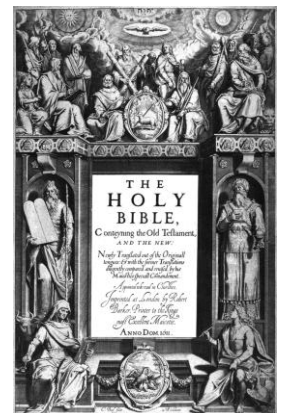
It was created to try to bring the Church of England together. England had gone through a century of religious conflicts, firstly between Anglican Protestants and Roman Catholics, then between the Puritans and the Church of England authorities. Several translations of the Bible had been made during this period, reflecting the preferences of the various groups, and two had been authorised to

be read in churches.

King James VI became King of Scotland in 1567 when he was 13 months old, and became King James I of England, Scotland and Ireland in 1603. He reigned over the 3 kingdoms for 22 years, and the country flourished in many ways in this Jacobean period. In the first year of his reign, in January 1604, he convened the Hampton Court Conference. It would have been even earlier had it not been for an outbreak of plague. He saw the need for the country to be united around a common acceptance of the middle ground of religion, without giving in to the demands of extreme Puritans and extreme Catholics. Has his wisdom something to teach pre-Brexit Britain today?

Crucially, King James realised that the Bible could be the unifying truth of the nation. 47 Anglican scholars were commissioned to write this new translation, working from the original Greek for the New Testament, and from the original Hebrew and Aramaic for the Old Testament. However, they found that often they could not improve on the earlier work of William Tyndale, with 84% of the New Testament and 75% of the Old Testament keeping his translation.

The King James Bible was finished in 1611, and remained the most used and best loved translation throughout the English-speaking world for over 300 years.



Glenn Evans

The Way – The Road to Santiago

Being a trusted follower of all things ‘Sat Nav’, rather than maps and compasses, the Camino de Santiago was a dream to follow. Within a day or so of walking the ‘The Way’ my friend Judith and I had put detailed maps and instructions deep into the bottom of our rucksacks, and were following the yellow arrows that point the way to Santiago. The yellow arrows are marked on walls, lampposts, on roads, and when, through talking, we sometimes failed to see them, became verbal instructions from fellow walkers – ‘You are going the wrong way!’

But why walk 260 kms through Portugal and Spain, following yellow arrows on the road, when you could be at home studying theological books in your sabbatical? The trip itself did give me time to study ‘some’ theological books at home, as the blessing we receive as ministers from the Methodist Church for a sabbatical is 3 months, and the walk was just 2 weeks. But in the months leading up to the walk, I ensured that I was out and about walking, in training for the Camino.



Judith and I were not the only ones who thought walking the Camino would be a good thing to do. The walk is known as the **Way of Saint James** – although there are many different thoughts /myths around Saint James and his end. The Way first came about as a pilgrimage route believing that Sant Iago (Saint James) preached Christ’s message to the pagan population and that it was along this self-same way that his body made its last journey to a place called Libredon, that would in time be known as Santiago de Compostella. Today, as in past centuries, people make a pilgrimage to Santiago, across the many well-known routes of varying lengths that end in Santiago.

People walk it for many reasons, some prayerfully, some trying to come to terms with life and death events, some young people from across Europe walking almost as a rite of passage, some simply as a holiday with a bit of a challenge.

But whatever your reasons for starting to walk the Santiago de Compostella, as you walk you find ‘The Way’ affects you and others you meet on the journey. For those ticking off miles, they find that you come to a place where you realise it’s not about the destination it’s about the journey. The amazing scenery of Portugal and Spain speaks peace to your soul and makes you realise you are simply a small, but precious part of this world in which we live. The noise of traffic is swapped for birdsong, symphonies of frogs in a pond, and the wind in your hair.

The community of The Way restore your belief in humanity, as old ladies dressed in black rush up to hug you saying ‘Santiago? I pray for you.’ People you have never met before share lives and conversations on the road, and rush to help a fellow pilgrim with any health problems – offering compeed (amazing help for blisters), and tips about socks and moisturising the feet that walked so many miles.

My reason for walking and laying down the theological books to follow yellow arrows in the road? Well, it taught me to be a little more ‘present’ in every moment, to not rush on to the next thing or thought. But almost like a spectacularly delicious humbug to savour every moment of this precious life that God gives us.

On arrival in Santiago, and on receiving my **Compostella**, a certificate to say that I had done the walk, that is written in Latin, and where my name became Aloisary Grosberg, I had an unexpected outburst of tears, of being so thankful that we had made it, but actually not wanting it to end. But then perhaps it does not have to?.. **Louise Grosberg**

Thank you to all of you for prayer support during the walk, and for supporting through donating to ASSIST who help refugees and asylum seekers in Sheffield. With gift aid, we have together been able to raise £7000 and more is still coming in. A huge thank you.

News from Grace Food Bank



We have had a Citizen's Advice outreach worker at our Tuesday foodbank sessions for two years now. This is funded by a grant from Sheffield City Council and a Big Lottery Grant. There are currently advice workers in 10 Sheffield foodbanks on a weekly or fortnightly basis, helping clients with benefit claims, appeals, housing and debt issues. The aim is to tackle the underlying problems that have caused someone to be referred to us and to reduce dependence on foodbanks.

The figures for the year ending 31st March 2017 show that, on average, advice workers manage to recover just over £700 for each initial enquiry. Obviously those are broad averages. Some people receive much more money as a result of the CAB worker's intervention, others receive less. But it's an enormously encouraging validation of the worth of the project and its benefit to our clients.

As ever, many thanks for continuing to support the work of the foodbank. We really are enormously grateful.

Community Nursing in Bents Green

Continuing the series about organisations and businesses working in Bents Green

The Community Nursing Team for Bents Green is based in Nether Edge and covers a wide area of South West Sheffield. Sally Sharrard, whose children regularly take part in the Bents Green Church Pantomime, is one of the team. I met with her to find out more about Community Nursing locally.

Sally joined the local team in 2014. Previously she had worked in a hospital but she then had a break from nursing while her children were younger. When an older relative chose to be cared for at home at the end of her life, Sally was so impressed with the care and the professionalism of the Community Nursing team that she decided this was what she wanted to do when she returned to work. She re-trained and loves the job!



Community Nurses are employed by Sheffield Teaching Hospitals but work closely with local GP practices and other health professionals such as Physios, OTs, dieticians. They also have good links with the local Community Support Worker who acts as a bridge between the health and social care services and can advise on local activities and practical help.

Sally feels it is a great privilege to be invited into people's own homes to give nursing care. She is also aware that some patients are isolated and the nurse's visit may be their only contact in the day.

New developments in treatment have changed the role of the Community Nurses and increased their workload. They still make visits to change dressings, give catheter and bowel care and treatments such as insulin injections. But in addition patients are now discharged from hospital much more quickly and their follow-up care is given at home. The nurses have had to develop the specialised knowledge required. It is very helpful when patients are happy for appropriate information to be shared between the nurses and the GP so that care can be joined up and a joint care plan agreed.

The team communicates amongst themselves and in team meetings they will share information with colleagues to avoid the need for patients to repeat everything to each nurse involved in their care. They have an ethos of care and compassion, to be non-judgemental and to respect confidentiality.

The nursing team is led by a Team Manager who helps to manage the team's workload and is aware if visits take longer than expected and can arrange additional support. They also have a Clinical Administrator who orders equipment and carries out a huge number of other tasks. Patients get to know her too as she is the one who rings to let them know if a nurse has been delayed. Another member of the team is the Community Matron who is able to prescribe medicines and review treatment where needed. Many of the nurses have a particular expertise (Sally's is ear care) so, although mostly they work mainly in one locality, they give specialist care across the whole area.

The team are available from 8am – 6pm but there is a city-wide team to give cover for the rest of the 24 hours. Patients are given phone numbers for both the local and the city-wide team in case they need urgent help.

Tricia North

Reducing waste: fed up of junk mail?

If you want to reduce the amount of waste paper that comes through your letterbox, help is at hand!

- **Royal Mail Door to Door 'Opt Out' Service:** Ring 0345 266 085, or email your name and address to: optout@royalmail.com.
- **Mailing Preference Service:** Online: www.mpsonline.org.uk or 0845 703 4599.
- **Stay tick box alert:** whenever you buy a product that requests name and address take a moment to read any small print. The tick boxes give you the opportunity to 'opt out' of more mail.
- **'No junk mail' stickers:** reduce flyers distributed locally. Stickers available from 0114 273 4567 or sheffieldenquiries@veolia.co.uk

For more information see: www.veolia.co.uk/sheffield/reducing-your-waste



Exciting times at WORK Ltd and the Hidden Gem Cafe

It is so lovely to report that we are going from strength to strength at WORK Ltd. We have been blessed to have been introduced to some very generous people.

The cafe was totally refurbished in 2015/16 and then it was time to turn our attention to upgrading our students' facilities. This was made possible by our second successful ball held at Baldwins Omega. Following the ball a Sheffield businessman came to visit us to see what he and his construction company could do to help us.



The work started in December where walls were knocked out and then rebuilt in our

Resource classroom, a new room for glass work was built into our main workshop and a new classroom built where our locker room once was. They also put in new lighting and ceilings. This has created a brighter workspace and some students can now complete their work more easily because of the additional light. They have not stopped there and are working on sound-proofing the cafe as well as building a large shed at the side of the greenhouse for equipment needed for a new on-line project. All this has been done for us free of charge.



The busy, refurbished cafe has enabled us to meet people interested in our work. Some new students have started coming to WORK Ltd through contacts made at the cafe. We were also fortunate to meet a lovely lady who has been able to help with applications to trusts for other projects we are planning.

We are very grateful for all the help and commitment which has been given and enables us to offer better facilities for the students. It has made us aware that there is a lot of kindness and generosity in the world.

Memories

The sentiments in Maya Angelou's text are so important in shaping the way we live. As we get older it is so easy to dwell on the past, and how often do we say, 'It didn't used to be like this'!!!!

Having said that, the past is what makes us ... our family, our schools, our jobs, our friends and our experiences are the things that we love to talk about with one another. As I often say, tongue in cheek, when my husband, Bob, is talking about his sporting past, 'We're just living history' !!!! His favourite quote is, 'The older we get, the better we were'!!!!

Tuesday afternoons at Friendship Club give us the opportunity to chat, and often we talk about our lives in days gone by. We sing the lovely hymns we sang when we were young, we are entertained sometimes by singers who sing the songs we enjoyed as teenagers. Recently we were very pleased to listen to Russell Weaver who sang the songs from the 50's and 60's that we all know so well.

So, although we all love the past and relish our fond memories, it is so important to enjoy what we are doing now and to look forward to happy days to come. Do come and join us on a Tuesday afternoon at 2.0'clock. You will be assured of a warm welcome.

Pat Hutchinson

I have great respect for the past. If you don't know where you've come from, you don't know where you're going. I have respect for the past, but I'm a person of the moment. I'm here, and I do my best to be completely centered at the place I'm at, then I go forward to the next place.

Maya Angelou

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 6 th June	Friends in Harmony
Tues 13 th June	Meersbrook Orchestra
Tues 20 th June	Music of the 50s: Pat Hodges
Tues 27 th June	The NHS – Then and Now: Andrew Raftery
Tues 4 th July	Woodseats Musical Theatre
Tues 11 th July	Quiz with Pete Chatterton
Tues 18 th July	Palm Court

Pat Hutchinson: 0114 2497280 and Jackie Smith: 0114 3483069

Minister: Rev Louise Grosberg

Tel. 0114 2363157

Email: louise.grosberg@btinternet.com

Lay Assistant Minister: John Wilkins

Tel 0114 2364916

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Peter Larder Tel. 0114 2686507

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If you would like to receive Hilltop by email please email the editor. Please send material for the next issue to the editor by Sunday 15th July

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

Sunlight

You lightened my room.
 Distilled the gloom.
 Banished doom.
 Quelled shadows of night.
 Bringing forth light.
 Stepped upon the stage.
 Into a world beset by rage.
 Drove winter into retreat.
 So did defeat.
 Turned all that was grey.
 Into radiant new day.
 Raised birds from their rest.
 Coaxed them to nest.
 Hastened Spring on its way.
 Held darkness at bay.
 Earths champion star.
 So near yet so far.
 Melting the snow.
 Onwards as you go.
 Raising the mood.
 Of the human brood.
 So let us dance.
 Locked in romance.
 You with your light.
 Us with our plight.
 Battling darkest night.

Ken Windle

A Prayer from South Africa

It is not true that violence and hatred shall have the last word and that war and destruction have come to stay forever.

This is true: To us a child is born, to us a son is given in whom authority will rest and whose name will be the Prince of Peace

May the God who shakes heaven and earth,
 whom death could not contain,
 who lives to disturb and heal us
 bless you with power to go forth and proclaim the gospel.

Where there is kindness and love, there is God.

Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est

Song from Taize sung in a recent morning service

Christian Aid Week collection:

Thank you again to everyone who gave, prayed or collected. The total so far (including Gift Aid) is £1824.81. Your generosity is appreciated.

Action for Children Coffee morning held in the church in April.

