

Hilltop

August / September 2017

Newsletter of The Church at Bents Green

Sunday 27th August 10.30 am

Farewell service to Rev Louise and Richard Grosberg

After the service everyone is invited to a faith lunch in the church hall.



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A community church sharing the love of Jesus

Church Family News

Congratulations to Paul and Emma Wassell on the birth of their son, Joel. Congratulations too to both sets of new grandparents!

The funeral of John Barnard was held on Monday 17th July. John was known to many through his music in different churches and hospital services. We send condolences to Joan, Dorothy and other family members and friends.

Louise and Richard's last Sunday at Bents Green Church will be on 27th August at 10.30 am. The morning service will be followed by a faith lunch in the church hall and everyone is invited to come to say farewell to Louise and Richard.

Prayer morning for the church

On July 22nd a prayer morning was held in the church to give thanks for the many blessings over recent years and to pray for the future of the Church. People who attended were asked to write down thoughts, texts and questions which came to them during the time of prayer

Here are some of the questions that were written down:

- What do we really want as a church? What do we need? What does Jesus want?
- We have been really blessed. Blessings bring responsibility. What is our responsibility now?
- What have we learnt from Louise and Richard? How can we build on their ministry here?
- How do we see ourselves in relation to the wider Methodist Church? Are we self-centred?
- What do we expect of our ministers? What is our role in supporting them?
- Could we have a 'Discover Christ' banner on the railings outside the church?

Show me your ways, Lord,
teach me your paths.

Guide me in your truth and teach me,
for you are God my Saviour,
and my hope is in you all day long.

Psalm 25

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.

Don't let it spoil your day

We may plan our day perfectly, we know what we want to do, but sometimes something unexpected happens which disturbs our day. For example the bus comes late so we end up missing our appointment, a coffee meeting with friends gets cancelled, there is a massive queue at the post office that slows us down from doing other things. Things like these can make us frustrated and unhappy.

I once heard someone say, "Don't let that spoil your day!" I believe this is very good encouragement for all of us. There are many positive things in life that we can focus on instead. In doing so we exercise our mind to be positive and to have a thankful heart for the things that God has done and blessed us with as written in the scripture below.

"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good and his love endures forever" (Psalm 107:1)

A word of encouragement is really powerful to lift up the spirit of a person and to help him/her to see the situation differently. We read in the bible that Jesus spoke with kindness and did his works with compassion and in truth for the people who came to Him for help. I believe as Christians we are commanded to do the same, to be the salt of this earth and to help and encourage others with compassion and truth by the power of the Holy Spirit, to bring hope and joy like Jesus did. **Nini Brady**



Who ? What ? Where?

When our children were small we used to set off on our summer holidays in the car, and then like so many other families we would undoubtedly get asked the question after a few miles, 'Are we nearly there?' So, we would try distraction therapy which can last a little while: we could feed them sugar, which did not always help, or we could imagine what the destination may be like (don't mention it may be another 6 hours). We could think about what we may do when we get there, even though it may never happen.

But we had one trick up our sleeves when that was all finished, and that was a cassette tape (yes we are that old!) that asked **Who? What? Where ?** What was the capital of the UK? Who was the prime minister? And what do you call a small red beetle with

black spots? That sort of thing anyway, and it had a little jingle with it.

Even now of course, questions on journeys are part of life. I was reminded recently that when the Israelites spent 40 years travelling the wilderness, on a very long journey to the promised land, God sent a strange substance to feed them, like 'frost on the ground'. We know this as manna, and although there are a few schools of thought as to what manna means, in essence it is possible that it simply means 'what is it?' This questioning just continues as people journey throughout the bible, as people discovered Jesus and said, "Who is this?" The psalmists cry out "Where can I go for help?" What we learn is that it is right to ask questions, just as it is right to journey as God's people.

Over my travels earlier in the year, I found myself asking questions about my future ministry. Richard and I have loved our time in Sheffield, and we thank God for bringing us here amongst you 7 years ago, but I found myself asking God questions as I was sensing a call to go into hospital chaplaincy. Since I had been a nurse and midwife early on in my life, I believed that this was something I may end up doing. As I travelled, I simply was convicted that I needed to push some doors around hospital chaplaincy and see if they open. What has surprised me, is that doors opened so fast, that I almost fell through them, and I was offered a job as a Chaplain at York Hospital.

We, like so many people before us, are simply taking a step of faith now, knowing that there are so many questions ahead of us that can't all be answered before we get to live them out. Trusting that God will provide that 'what is it?' along the way.

You too, in your own lives, journey with these questions, and as a church there are of course questions as we leave. But we all, as people of faith, need to just put our hand in God's hand and keep stepping out, knowing that He will provide for all of us along the way, and what a privilege it is to travel with Him, and what surprises and opportunities there are along the way.

So, thank you for your friendship, and for journeying with us both over these years. We will not forget you, but we know that God has good plans for you, as well as us.

God bless

Louise and Richard

Reading from the Celtic Book of Prayer 2

*Have patience with everything unresolved
in your heart,
And try to love the questions themselves
As if they were locked rooms
Or books written in a foreign language
Do not search for the answers, which
could not be given to you now,
Because you would not be able to live
them.
And the point is to live everything
Live the questions now
Perhaps then, someday far into the
future,
You will gradually,
Without noticing it, live your way into
the answer.*

Rainer Maria Rilke



Our new minister at Bents Green from September 2017

We welcome **Tim Crome** as our minister from September. Tim knows the area well as he has been minister at Banner Cross and Dore for five years. At the start of September he will continue to have pastoral charge at Banner Cross and Dore, and so we ask that any queries about support that is required go to John Wilkins who will continue to be our lay pastor over this next year - 0114 236 1306 or johnwilkins73@gmail.com

The King James Version - a landmark in the history of Bible translation

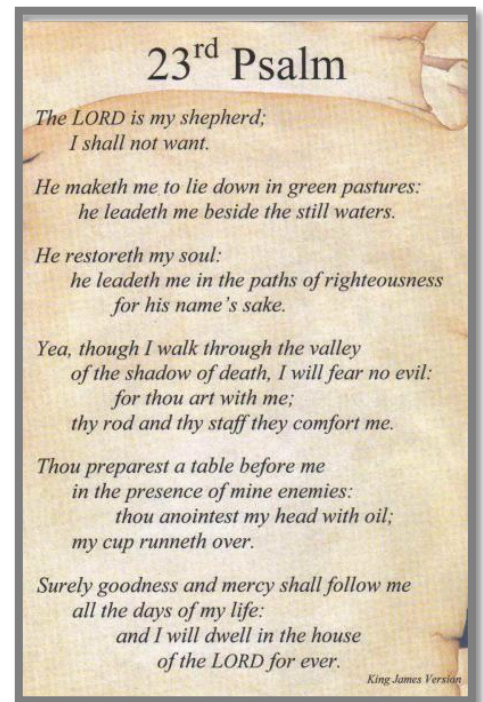
Translating the Bible – 8th in the series

When you climb a mountain, do you stop on the way up and look at the view? Today we are doing just that. In the previous article we reached the King James (Authorised) Version of the Bible, and we are going to pause and look at it today. It was such an important landmark in the history of Bible translation, and it is such a major influence on both English literature and Western culture, that we need to do some justice to its genius.

Do not take my word for just how important it is. Just before the 400th anniversary of the publication of the King James Bible, the Guardian wrote this: *As well as selling an estimated 1 billion copies since 1611, the KJB went straight into our literary bloodstream like a lifesaving drug. Whenever we put words into someone's mouth, or see the writing on the wall, or go from strength to strength, or eat, drink and be merry, or fight the good fight, or bemoan the signs of the times, or find a fly in the ointment, or use words such as "long-suffering", "scapegoat" and "peacemaker", we are unconsciously quoting the KJB.*

About the same time, the BBC magazine wrote: *No other book, or indeed any piece of culture, seems to have influenced the English language as much as the King James Bible. Its turns of phrase have permeated the everyday language of English speakers, whether or not they've ever opened a copy. The Sun says Aston Villa "refused to give up the ghost". Wendy Richard calls her EastEnders character Pauline Fowler "the salt of the earth". The England cricket coach tells reporters, "You can't put words in my mouth." Daily Mirror fashion pages call Tilda Swinton "a law unto herself".*

There are many more examples of such words and phrases. There are just as many examples of writers and others testifying to its importance, including Tennyson, TS Eliot, Seamus Heaney, VS Naipaul, Raymond Chandler, PD James, Theodore Roosevelt and Charles Dickens, who said that the New Testament is "the very best book that ever was or ever will be known in the world". We will look in the next issue at why we generally use different versions today, but it is right to finish this article by letting the King James Bible speak for itself in the words of Psalm 23. **Glenn Evans**



Reflections on Friendship Club

It's that time of year again...the end of the academic year (I still call it that....old habits die hard!). It's a time when we can step back from the last few months and reconsider where we've been and where we want to go. We dream of changes that will make us happier and healthier. But we need to pause.... Pause to reflect. Pause to take inventory. And pause to see what you can learn from this past year. Self -reflection is not what we tend to do! We're very busy. We're tired. We look for relaxation through books, hobbies, television and maybe a holiday. On a personal note it's great just to STOP! Life is busy despite being retired. There are always responsibilities, duties, deadlines and everyday jobs.

So when we come to a stop at Friendship Club we can look back on the last year and reflect on the successes and the good times. We finished the year with our old favourites Robin and Hugh who delighted us with their lovely Palm Court music before we enjoyed our strawberry tea.

We loved listening to Andrew Raftery, a retired kidney transplant surgeon , who talked us through the history of the NHS but also entertained us with amusing stories and often tongue in cheek anecdotes. We have enjoyed delightful music from a variety of musicians.....Meersbook orchestra, Buskin Buddies, Yorkshire Teabags, Woodseats Theatre company, Friends in Harmony as well as others. We have had talks on history and a quiz and enjoyed celebrations for Easter, Christmas and Harvest. And so, in September, after our break, we look forward to another year of welcoming back old friends as well as welcoming new ones. Do come and join us on Tuesday afternoons at 2 o'clock. You will be assured of a warm welcome. **Pat Hutchinson**

Ecclesall Rangers Football Club

Continuing the series about organisations and businesses in Bents Green

Ecclesall Rangers has recently been in the local news as their chairman, Martin Windle, has been awarded the British Empire Medal for services to football and the community.

Ecclesall Rangers first came into existence following a comment from one father to another when collecting their children, Oliver and Jonathan, at the gate of Ecclesall Infants School in 1989. Oliver's father said to Martin, 'It would be great if we had a football team' and from that small beginning Ecclesall Rangers was born.



At the start there were just two teams playing on Saturday and Sunday. Martin was the coach and it was hard going while also working a 6 or 7 day week. In the first year there were 23 children playing friendly matches. But by the second year the news had got round by word of mouth and children began to come along from different parts of the city. Martin was always keen to have a mix from different schools and areas as his own background is not in Ecclesall. Initially they played on the field near Folkwood School but it was uneven and muddy and players were likely to lose a boot during the game. In their first game they lost 23-1 and comforted each other that at least things couldn't get any worse!



Photo: In 1990 THE FIRST EVER [Ecclesall Rangers](#) squad. Martin Windle: back row, middle; Paul Wassell: front row 2nd from right

Martin said that he had to learn a lot very quickly about coaching and managing the teams. Ecclesall Rangers has grown hugely since those early days and the organisation has had to grow with it. Now, on a Sunday morning in the season, Ecclesall Rangers are playing 29 matches. Parents are very involved not only as supporters but also providing refreshments and fundraising for their team. Each team has two managers and Martin and the other managers are always on the lookout for Mums and Dads who might become coaches and be sponsored by the club to do the Level 1 FA coaching course.

Martin is very moved by the award of the British Empire Medal. He has received many letters and comments. One six year old asked 'Will Martin be the Queen now?' Another former player, now a young man, said that knowing Martin had changed his life and made him a better Dad to his own children.

Last year was a difficult one as Martin had to have treatment for cancer. He found that his faith was very important especially when he felt very ill and low. He described how he prays at any time and in any place and had the experience one night during his treatment of feeling very low but being lifted from despair to feeling encouraged. He said that, although his faith has always been there, accepting Jesus as Lord has changed his life.

In football coaching he often makes use of sayings such as "Pain is only temporary, Victory is forever". The saying which has meant a lot to him recently is,

"Fate whispered to the warrior 'You cannot withstand the storm'. The warrior whispered back, 'I AM the storm'".

Tricia North

Sea Sunday

Each July Margaret and John Cole, members of our congregation at Bents Green Church, mark **Sea Sunday** in support of the Mission to Seafarers. Their son is in the Merchant Navy and they are very aware of the many dangers which face seafarers. Margaret commented how easily we forget that almost all of the goods that are for sale in the shops have been brought to UK by sea. We also rarely think about those who sail the ships and the dangers they face.

The Mission to Seafarers, which supports Sea Sunday, has chaplains or volunteers working in more than 200 ports in 50 countries and offering help to crew members on the ships. Many container ships only spend 12-18 hours in a port. The Mission to Seafarers offers facilities to enable seafarers to contact their families or to find financial and legal advice as well as spiritual support. Seafarers are often away from home for up to 9 months at a time and can feel isolated and lonely. A ship's crew may come from many different countries with many different cultural backgrounds.



The chaplain in Dubai writes in a recent newsletter: *A lot of recruitment is done through India where a number of criminal manning agents persuade unqualified seafarers to hand over up to £4000 to get a job on a boat. Many end up here in Dubai already in great debt and without the wages they were promised. Perhaps the hardest part of my job is speaking to desperate crew members who are anxiously waiting to be paid so they can send money home to feed their families. It's a sad fact that seafarers bear the human cost of globalisation. We rely on them to transport the mobile phones, televisions, cars, clothes and food we all take for granted and yet they are themselves so often forgotten.*

Each week three or four crews are abandoned by their ship owners in Dubai. Since unions are not allowed in the Gulf we often find ourselves acting as a 'union by proxy' to gain justice for these mistreated seafarers.

With thanks to John and Margaret Cole for the information from Flying Angel News and also see more information on the website of the Mission to Seafarers at <https://www.missiontoseafarers.org>.



Art Group on Friday nights

The Art Group which meets on Friday nights in Bents Green Church halls is looking for new members. They meet from 7.30 to 9.30 pm in the music room and bring a painting they are working on. They emphasised that they are not an art class with a teacher but they provide time to make progress on a painting. Sometimes it's hard to settle down to painting at home and coming to the group means that the evening is set aside. When I visited several members were working on a picture using oil paints, acrylics or water colour. Another person was drawing and one was using sketches and photographs to plan a picture he wanted to paint. They enjoy seeing each others' paintings develop and also value being able to ask advice from each other. Some of the members exhibit and sell paintings in local art shows. Others see themselves more as beginners. They are a friendly, welcoming group and would be happy for others to join them. If you would like to know more about the group please contact **Brian, tel. 01246 418552**.

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

Contact Details:

Minister: Rev Louise Grosberg

Tel. 0114 2363157 (until end of August)

Email: louise.grosberg@btinternet.com

Lay Assistant Minister: John Wilkins

Tel 0114 2364916

(First contact from September)

Email: johnwilkins73@googlemail.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	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

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 50

Tues 5th Sept SHADOWS OF THE PAST: MARY DE VILLE

Tues 12th Sept SO YOU THINK YOU'RE BRITISH: JOHN TAYLOR

Tues 19th Sept CHAT SHOW:BENTS GREEN

Tues 26th Sept VINTAGE VOICES

Tues 3rd Oct THE PLAGUE DOCTOR

Tues 10th Oct HARVEST

Tues 17th Oct MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS: DAVID TEMPLEMAN

Tues 24th Oct SUZANNE BINGHAM: A SOCIAL ISSUE IN SHEFFIELD

Tues 31st Oct THE SILVER SCREEN: MIKE GIDERSLEVE

**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 17th Sept.**

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



**Photos from
Bents Green
Holiday Club
2017**

A wonderful variety of people...

Over the years I have been privileged to enjoy friendships with many people. Some have endured from my teens. Then there were friends who were part and parcel of marriage, joint friends. Overall a wonderful variety of people have shared the walk of life with me, some for a season, and others for life.

Regularly I spend an afternoon with two friends. Together we make up a 'prayer triplet'. We share concerns and then pray about the issues that have been raised. The conversation ranges widely. We often laugh and sometimes we weep, but always there is underlying trust and mutual care for one another. It is invaluable.

In one of our meetings I found myself thinking about stained glass windows with the sun shining through illuminating the pattern or picture in the glass.

If there is a wall, then the light spills onto it projecting colours and shapes.

Friends can be like that, each one offering different qualities to make up a kind of pattern to enjoy. **Janet Nowell**

