

# Hilltop

October / November 2017

Newsletter of The Church at Bents Green



## ***Take time to remember***

An invitation to spend a quiet half hour in memory of a loved one who has died recently or many years ago

Light a candle and name a loved one if you wish

At Bents Green Church at 4.00pm  
on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> October

## ***In this issue:***

<i>Church news</i>	<i>p2</i>
<i>'All change!' – Rev Tim Crome</i>	<i>p2</i>
<i>Moving on – John Wilkins</i>	<i>p3</i>
<i>Paul and Emma Wassell (&amp; Joel)</i>	<i>p3</i>
<i>Leaving the King James Bible behind</i>	<i>p4</i>
<i>Finding time to be kind</i>	<i>p4</i>
<i>Sheffield Cats Shelter online shops</i>	<i>p5</i>
<i>WORK Ltd online shop</i>	<i>p5</i>
<i>Charlottesville – a fearful tide rising</i>	<i>p6</i>
<i>'Harvest Festival offering: All we can' and Grace Food Bank</i>	<i>p6</i>
<i>Regular events at the church</i>	<i>p7</i>
<i>Photos from farewell lunch for Richard and Louise</i>	<i>p8</i>

***Harvest Festival Service***  
***Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October 10.30 am***

***Messy Harvest***  
***Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October 3 – 5.30 pm***  
***Crafts and activities for children***  
***aged 2 – 12 with their parents and***  
***carers***



A community church sharing the love of Jesus

## Church News

A farewell lunch was held on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> August just before Louise and Richard left for York. Photos of the event are on the back page.



**Message from Louise and Richard Grosberg:** Firstly, we would like to say a huge thank you for the amazing lunch that was provided for our farewell. It was simply incredible, and thank you for simply coming to be family together. Secondly, we were bowled over by your generosity of gifts, thank you so much. Thirdly, simply keep loving each other, and loving the stranger, as you have loved us. We will always remember your kindness, generosity and love of God. God bless you.

**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOE BOXES:** The **Games, Craft and Chatter** group are again collecting items for this appeal. We would be pleased to have donations of either items or money. There is a box and list of items at the back of church by the card stall. For further information please see Ruth Larder or Sue Ratheram.

We were sad to hear of the death of **Merle Wood** who was known to many in the congregation.

**Prayer** – If you would like us to pray for you confidentially you can contact us by email [reyarp42@sky.com](mailto:reyarp42@sky.com) or leave a note in the Prayer Box in the church corridor (side entrance) which is emptied daily.

## 'All Change!'

Whether we are on a bus or a train, the announcement: 'All Change', indicates that everyone needs to disembark because it is the end of the line. So there is a general movement as coats, cases and luggage of all shapes and sizes are picked up ready to get off and go to the next part of the journey. If the journey has been well planned than hopefully it all goes smoothly. However, sometimes there are surprises on the way. On a recent train trip from Bristol to Sheffield, I was surprised to discover that we made a stop in Newport, Wales on the way!

With the departure of Louise to be a hospital chaplain in York, which was a surprise to all of us, especially Louise, we are facing changes in the way we do ministry together. Some of our plans are still at the thinking and praying stage and so we ask for your patience and wisdom as we engage in the discernment process. More of that elsewhere.

I thought you might like to know a little more about your new minister. I am married to Cathy who teaches at a tuition centre in town, just above the Chinese Fireworks factory! We have four children all of whom are married, living in York, Leeds, Sheffield and New Haven, USA. We have a 6 month old granddaughter and another grandchild is due in January. We are keen gardeners, enjoy the countryside for walks and of course spending time with the family.

I have been a Methodist minister since 1984, and have served in a variety of appointments in Bristol, Ipswich, Birmingham, Dartford and now Sheffield.

I very much look forward to being a part of the Bents Green community. There will be a lot for us all to discover together as we see how best we can offer ministry within our church and within the wider community. One thing we can be sure about as we live out the phrase 'All Change', is that we put our trust in the leading of Christ through uncertainty, in any fresh initiatives and how we can be faithful followers in our everyday lives.

**Peace, Tim**



## Moving On...

Yes, Louise has gone. We said goodbye together after the morning service on 27 August, and over 100 people stayed for a shared lunch in the hall, to say their personal goodbyes (see the photos on the back page).

Louise firmly believed that if God's plan was for her to move on, he also had a plan to bless us at Bents Green. We can already see parts of that plan falling into place. First, Tim Crome is now our minister (see Tim's article on page 3). Second, the Circuit Meeting on 14 September agreed that a lay worker should be appointed to join the ministry team here at Bents Green.

We would like that post to focus on engaging families on the fringe of the church in the Christian faith. We thought initially that we would appoint someone quickly, but realised that we didn't know enough to write a job description and define the qualities and skills that the postholder would need. So the Church Council decided as a first step to ask someone to research practical ways of engaging families and young people, in order to guide us in creating the long term post.

That 'someone' is Paul Wassell. He started work on 11 September, and will work with Emma up to Christmas. See Paul's article below. We look forward to seeing what Paul and Emma can teach us in the exciting task of reaching out to the community around us.

Oh, and I nearly forgot, I remain in my role of Lay Assistant Pastor, and am looking forward to working with Tim, Paul and Cherry in the new team here at Bents Green.

**John Wilkins**

## Paul & Emma Wassell (and Joel)

We have both been connected and involved in Bents Green Church since childhood and have been involved in children's and youth ministry, worship leading and Paul is also a local preacher. Our faith in Jesus guides us in what we do, and we enjoy exploring how we live out our faith with others.

After getting married and spending 5 years in Ghana, we have returned to Sheffield and have just welcomed our first child, Joel, into the world. We are excited to be taking on new roles within the church, specifically looking to engage families and young adults in the area.

There are lots of great things already happening here and we are looking to extend and further meet the needs of the community. We want to help Bents Green to be a safe place for all; that offers practical and spiritual support, facilitates opportunities for people to be involved in the community and to be a place of peace and faith exploration. We hope to be able to provide relevant ways for people to engage in the life of the church, which match people's interests and help to develop relationships amongst people of all levels of faith.

It will be great to meet many of you over the coming weeks to learn how the church at Bents Green can serve you better. We're not yet sure what all this will look like practically, as we are depending on the conversations we have with you to help us understand what is needed and would be helpful. In doing so, we are seeking to find ways of serving this community so that we can all grow as people and as followers of Jesus.

So please do find us and share with us your ideas. **Blessings, Paul & Emma**



## Leaving the King James Bible behind

### Translating the Bible – 9

The last 2 articles in this series have focussed on the King James (Authorised) Version of the Bible. Despite its magnificent turns of phrase and supreme cultural importance, we now have to leave it behind. Many people regret this, but we have no choice. Please let me tell you why.

Language is a living process, and 21st Century English is a very different animal from Jacobean English. For people who are unfamiliar with it, which is the great majority of particularly younger people in this country, this 400-year-old language is an obstacle to understanding and enjoyment. Watching a Shakespeare play brought to life by gifted actors is one thing. Reading the text in a book is quite another thing. Have you read a Shakespeare play since you left school?

Words and concepts have changed in meaning over the last 400 years. St Paul wrote a marvellous poem that is a favourite choice at weddings: 1 Corinthians 13. In the King James Version it ends with these words: And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity. Many people know that the modern meaning of the old word "charity" is "love", but do you know what St Paul means when he tells Timothy, Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation (1 Timothy 4 verse 12, KJV)? The modern translation makes it clear: Be an example to the believers in word and deed. "Conversation" has completely changed its meaning. The correct translation is "Conduct". There are many other examples.



However, the main reason why the New Testament in particular needs to be in modern English is that it was written in colloquial, everyday Greek. Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Peter and Paul were not classical scholars but ordinary people. Acts 4 verse 14 describes Peter and John as Ordinary men of no education. They wrote in simple, ordinary Greek. A faithful translation therefore has to be in simple,

ordinary, colloquial, everyday English. The writers simply wanted people to hear and read the amazing story of Jesus, often for the first time, in words they could understand. That is why there are modern translations that are faithful to the purpose of the original text.

**Glenn Evans**



David Tennant  
as Richard II



Dame Judi Dench  
as Lady MacBeth

## Finding time to be kind

We do, indeed live in a very troubled world. Recent events make us all feel sad and very uneasy. There must be an answer somewhere, sometime.

As Martin Luther King said "If we are to have peace on earth our loyalties must transcend our race, our tribe, our class and our nation..."

However on a Tuesday afternoon at Friendship Club we have a little haven. We find people who are kind, caring and helpful. We have fun, we have a laugh, and for an hour or so we can forget about all the horrid things that are taking place in the world.

We began our new term with a delightful presentation from Mary de Ville who comes all the way from Derby to entertain us. She took us back to the fifties with songs, poems, film clips and adverts to which we could all relate. She will be back in 2018.

We look forward to seeing our friends as well as listening to lovely speakers or musicians. We have a varied programme of historical talks, talks about the cinema and the social history of Sheffield, great music etc..We hope to raise money for Macmillan Nurses by buying and selling cakes on 24th October and we have our harvest celebration on 10th October.

Our club is well named "FRIENDSHIP CLUB", and speakers often comment on how friendly we all are! Everyone is welcome so do come along on Tuesday afternoons at 2 o'clock. **Pat Hutchinson**

In this troubled world, it's refreshing to find someone who still has the time to be kind. Someone who still has the faith to believe that the more you give, the more you receive. Someone who's ready by thought, word, or deed to reach out a hand, in the hour of need.

— Helen Steiner Rice —

## Sheffield Cats Shelter online shops

*Continuing the series about businesses and organisations in Bents Green.*

When her children started school Emma Fry made the decision not to return to teaching modern languages and instead began work as a volunteer with the Sheffield Cats Shelter in Broomhall. She spent a day in the Cats Shelter charity shop on Ecclesall Road and half a day looking after the cats. To her surprise she found that she enjoyed the retail side of the work best. She loved delving into the bags of donations, never knowing what you were going to find.

Emma had previous experience of selling antique and vintage items on Ebay and realised that many of the items being brought in to the shop could fetch higher prices if they were sold online. She began to pick out some items from the donations and to advertise them on Ebay and Amazon.

She now runs online shops on behalf of the Cats Shelter on Ebay and Amazon which have many regular followers and customers. She often leaves the shop with large wheeled bags full of items to sell (while making sure there is good stock left to sell in the shop as well). At the moment she has 70 items for sale in the Ebay shop and 800 on Amazon! There are many more waiting to be added.

Recently she sold a left-handed banjo on Ebay. The chances of a left-handed buyer spotting that in the shop on Ecclesall Road were small but by putting it online she was able to find someone who needed one and get full value from the sale. She once put a Disney doll on Ebay with a price of 99p only to find that it had a much greater value and when the bidding closed it was sold to someone in France for £102!

Where possible, customers collect their purchases from the shop but Emma spends a lot of time packaging up parcels and taking them up to Bents Green Post Office to post. She tries to go at quiet times but sometimes a queue forms behind her while all her packages are weighed and stamped. It is a busy job and she sometimes feels as though it takes over her life and her house. However the online shops bring in a lot of income for the charity and make the most of the donations which come in from supporters.



Emma and her family also foster cats and kittens for the Cats Shelter. They keep them until they become used to being with a family and until they have been vaccinated, neutered and de-wormed and are ready to be adopted. Over the years they have fostered 50 cats and quite a few of these now have homes around Bents Green. At the moment they have four cats of their own and two foster cats. One particular challenge was fostering two feral cats who would not come near humans. They arrived at 6 weeks old and one of them bit Emma puncturing the skin and required a visit to A&E to update her tetanus jabs. By the end of their time with Emma they were willing to come and take food from her hand although they were still very wary.

It's a busy life but very worthwhile!

**Tricia North**

The **Sheffield Cats Shelter** at 1 Travis Place in Broomhall is celebrating its 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. The shop is at 285 Ecclesall Road, opposite M&S. Ebay shop is <http://stores.ebay.co.uk/sheffieldcatsshelter/>



### Message from WORK Ltd

#### Our online shop is officially open!!!!

We're all very excited... On 11th August we completed our first set of online Etsy orders! We've all been so excited to send them off to our customers. We packaged them up, walked down to the post office and shipped them all off! Fingers crossed for more orders coming.

Find us at [https://www.etsy.com/uk/shop/WorkLtd?ref=shop\\_sugg](https://www.etsy.com/uk/shop/WorkLtd?ref=shop_sugg)



## Charlottesville – a fearful tide rising

*Rev Robert Lewis was circuit superintendent and minister at Banner Cross Methodist Church. He is now pastor at Hinton Avenue United Methodist Church in Charlottesville. He writes about the events which made headlines in August.*

It's been a month since Charlottesville made international news for the violence and destruction of August 12<sup>th</sup>. You will have seen and heard terrible things from our small city and may have wondered how such vile and noxious behaviour came to us. Sadly, it's nothing new or surprising, but rather a predictable outgrowth of the white supremacist ideology that has been present since Virginia was settled at Jamestown in 1607.

Although over 80% of the white supremacist demonstrators came to Charlottesville from out of town and out of state, the organizers had local roots. Jason Kessler, who led the rally, lives in Charlottesville and is locally well known. Richard Spencer, who you may have seen as having led the "Heil Trump!" cheers at a gathering not long after the election, lives in Northern Virginia but attended UVA. Both tap into and exploit a vitriolic white supremacy that targets not just African Americans, but indigenous peoples, Jews, Muslims, immigrants, LGBTQ folks, women, the disabled, and anyone else they deem "less than."

Those of us in Charlottesville paying attention were in no way surprised at the size, scope, or aims of the rally. For weeks, an internet subculture had been boasting, strategizing, and gloating at all the ways they would come out of the woodwork, demonstrate their real-world power, provoke and commit acts of violence, and terrorize this town. Even the idea of using vehicles as weapons was much discussed on white supremacist chatboards. The guns, shields, armour, and chemical weapons for which the police seemed unprepared weren't unexpected: they were part of the script.

Similar right-wing tides have risen across Europe, and they will continue to swell in response to the mounting pressures of technologically-driven job loss, economic migration, and climate and conflict refugees. The undercurrents of this movement, however, are not economic – as much as our politicians would like to assure us that they are. They are driven by the human heart and its fears. May God give us each the grace to recognize the fears and suspicions that lurk within us, the courage to challenge and confront them, and the holy boldness to lift our heads and our voices to defend and embrace those most vulnerable to the latest wave of this hateful tide.

**Rev Robert Lewis**



**Our Harvest Offering will go to "All We Can", the new name for the Methodist Relief and Development Fund. Gifts of food will be given to the Grace Food Bank in Lowedges, Sheffield.**

**All We Can** helps find solutions to poverty by engaging with local people and organisations in some of the world's poorest communities to end the suffering caused by inequality and injustice.

- We support and strengthen local organisations, churches and emerging initiatives that share our vision and values – to implement effective and sustainable solutions for people living in some of the world's poorest and least served communities
- We respond to humanitarian crises with emergency support and help communities to be better prepared for disasters
- We engage in advocacy and education, both in Britain and internationally, to tackle some of the systemic causes of poverty.

**Grace Food Bank, Sheffield** The Grace Food Bank is a community group covering the Sheffield 8 postcode area: Lowedges, Norton, Batemoor, Jordanthorpe and the surrounding areas. We provide food parcels to families / individuals who find themselves in short term financial crisis.

**Things we regularly use:** Tinned Food (tinned meat, fish, vegetables, soups and puddings), Jars of Pasta Sauce, Rice, Breakfast Cereal and Porridge Oats. UHT Milk, Tea, Coffee, Sugar, Biscuits and Snacks.



## Regular church activities and contact details

### Services at the Church at Bents Green

All are welcome at these services

**Sunday mornings at 10.30 am** During morning services there is a crèche for little ones, Sparklers and Sparks Clubs for younger children and Sunday Club for older children and young people.

**Sunday evenings at 6.30 pm** - An informal service often including tea, coffee and time to chat about the Christian faith

**Wednesdays at 10 am:** Midweek service

**Service of healing: Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> Nov. 6.30pm**

Rev Peter and Rita Edwards

### Contact Details:

**Lay Assistant Minister: John Wilkins**

**Tel 0114 2364916 (First contact)**

**Email: [johnwilkins73@googlemail.com](mailto:johnwilkins73@googlemail.com)**

**Minister: Rev Tim Crome**

**Tel. 0114 438 9012**

**Email: [Tim47Crome@msn.com](mailto:Tim47Crome@msn.com)**

**For Room Bookings contact:**

**Peter Larder Tel. 0114 2686507**

**Church website:**

**[www.bentsgreenmethodist.org.uk](http://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 60**

**Tues 3<sup>rd</sup> Oct THE PLAGUE DOCTOR**

**Tues 10<sup>th</sup> Oct HARVEST**

**Tues 17<sup>th</sup> Oct MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS: DAVID TEMPLEMAN**

**Tues 24<sup>th</sup> Oct SUZANNE BINGHAM TALKS ABOUT A SOCIAL ISSUE IN SHEFFIELD**

**Tues 31<sup>st</sup> Oct THE SILVER SCREEN: MIKE GIDERSLEVE**

**Tues 7<sup>th</sup> Nov THE MISTRESSES OF HENRY V11:MAUREEN TAYLOR**

**Tues 14<sup>th</sup> Nov BUSKIN BUDDIES**

**Tues 21<sup>st</sup> Nov IAN MORGAN**

**Tues 28<sup>th</sup> Nov CHRISTINE SPENCER ENTERTAINS**

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

#### Hilltop Editor:

**Tricia North Email: [tn-bg@live.co.uk](mailto:tn-bg@live.co.uk)**

Please send material for the next issue to the editor by Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> Nov.

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

## Farewell lunch for Louise and Richard Grosberg



“Please hold” ....  
 “We will connect you  
 as soon as possible....”  
 Music plays....  
 “For this press....  
 for that press....  
 for the other press...”

### Help Line

We have all been there.

For a generation with the means of connecting to practically anyone, it is surprisingly difficult to get through to a person, moreover to a person we can understand. Recently, I was connected to an automated voice which assured me that it was “fully interactive”. I gave up!

It is reassuring to know that the lines of communication to God are never unavailable. We do not have to wait in a queue or hold until we are connected. He is always there and ready to listen.

Janet Nowell

Hear my prayer, Lord; let my cry for help come to you.  
 Do not hide your face from me when I am in distress.  
 Turn your ear to me; when I call, answer me quickly. *Psalm 102*

