



Decorating the Christmas Tree

Sunday 3rd December 3 – 5 pm

Crafts and activities for all ages

Refreshments

Carol Service

Sunday 17th December 6.30 pm

Including songs from the Children's Choir

In this issue:

<i>Christmas events in brief</i>	<i>p2</i>
<i>Church news</i>	<i>p2</i>
<i>Oh no...not another sprout</i>	<i>p2</i>
<i>What no turkey!</i>	<i>p3</i>
<i>Friendship Club at Christmas</i>	<i>p3</i>
<i>A Community Church</i>	<i>p4</i>
<i>Pantomime 2018</i>	<i>p4</i>
<i>Funky Divas Salon</i>	<i>p5</i>
<i>History of wills and bequests – talk</i>	<i>p5</i>
<i>Wise Men?</i>	<i>p6</i>
<i>It's that time again!</i>	<i>p6</i>
<i>Regular church activities & contacts</i>	<i>p7</i>
<i>Christmas Preparations</i>	<i>p8</i>
<i>'What's this about Christmas?'</i>	<i>p8</i>
<i>Prayer for Christmas & the New Year</i>	<i>p8</i>

Christingle Service

Christmas Eve

5.30 pm

***Puppets, dressing up,
Children's Choir***



A community church sharing the love of Jesus

Christmas events

Christian Aid Coffee Morning on Saturday 2nd December from 10am to 12 noon. Refreshments, cakes, bring and buy, craft items and games. Please come along and support this effort by our Girls' Brigade members.

Decorating the Christmas tree - Sunday 3rd December from 3pm to 5pm.
Craft activities for all the family. People of all ages are welcome: please bring food to share.

Pre-School Nativity in the church - Tuesday 5th December at 10.30am.

Christmas Café Praise led by the Worship Group - Sunday 10th December at 6.30pm.
A look at the Christmas story in a modern way with some familiar and some new carols.

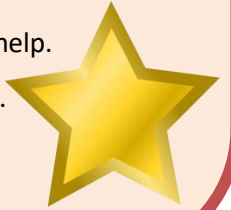
W.O.R.K. Ltd Carol Service in our church - Wednesday 13th December at 10.30am. All are welcome.

Mince pies served to shoppers - Saturday morning 16th December. See Sue Hall for details or to help.

Carol Service - Sunday 17th December at 6.30pm - with 2 items by our biggest ever Children's Choir.

Christingle Service = Christmas Eve at 5.30pm with the Children's Choir

Christmas Day service - 10.30 am.



Church News

Congratulations to Anne Reaney and Malc Rhodes who will be married on Saturday 27th January at Bents Green Church. Everyone is invited to the wedding and to stay for refreshments afterwards.

Oh no...not another sprout!!

We love and look forward to many of our special Christmas foods. But we are all different; some foods we like more than others and some we just can't stand! Our dislikes mean a huge amount of waste. Each year in the UK we throw away 17.2 million sprouts – that's enough to fill 1,000 wheelie bins. We throw away 2 million turkeys and over 74 million mince pies. Our leftover gravy would be enough to fill an Olympic-sized swimming pool!

Maybe this year we could all commit to **NOT** buying at least one thing that we know will be wasted? Even better – we could turn that pledge into a donation to **Christian Aid** and so provide life-saving aid and long-term solutions to hunger and malnutrition (with the UK government matching every £1 you donate!).



Your pledge could help someone like Colette from Burkina Faso. Colette was forced to work at a gold mine every day to feed her family but she could spend days without finding any gold to sell. She made so little money that she was not able to buy nutritious food like vegetables so Eulalie, her little girl, became very ill and weak and was diagnosed with malnutrition. Just when her future looked bleak, Colette's life was changed through a market garden project supported by Christian Aid. Colette and her husband were trained in how to plant and grow crops and were provided with tools such as a watering can and seeds. She now produces nutritious food to eat and sell, working with her husband, and with her children close by. Eulalie is now four years old and no longer malnourished and her little sister Ornella never has been. Colette is able to sell some of her vegetables to pay for healthcare and clothes for her girls. She plans to extend her garden to pay for her children to go to school.

When we celebrate God's gift to us – the birth and life of Jesus – we can also give a gift of life this Christmas. As we respond to the hungry and needy, we will reflect the light of Christ. **Alison Trezise**

Isaiah 58:10 *'Feed the hungry and help those in trouble. Then your light will shine from the darkness.'*

Christian Aid Christmas Appeal : This Christmas, the UK Government will match every pound you give. Will you ensure there is enough for everyone?



What no turkey!

This year for the first time in our married lives, we will wake up on Christmas morning with no one else in the house. We will go to family later in the day, and the isolation will not last beyond a day before we are invaded by different combinations of our tribe. However, it is a first for us.

Another first is that instead of having the usual Christmas lunch with all the trimmings, we have been promised a cheese fondue. Now I am all for trying new things, and I am not the greatest turkey fan, but I must admit that moving away from the traditional takes a little getting used to. I am not really sure how I feel.

Christmas is perhaps the time of the most traditions. In our homes and families we carefully negotiate whose turn it is to host this year; whether it is Christmas cake, Yule log or both, and we juggle a few variations on a theme. We live with them and we adapt to keep people happy, to share responsibilities and to enjoy ourselves. In our churches we like to have something new and different, as long as it is the same! Especially when it comes to singing favourite carols.

We easily overlook the point that the Christmas story is all about God breaking into our human experience to erode traditions and practices and beliefs which put barriers between people of different cultures and backgrounds. The birth of Jesus is all about God creeping in beside us in such a way that we might not notice, becoming like us, thinking breathing crying fearing and wondering. Jesus undid most of the commonly held traditions and expectations of God throughout his life and ministry, from birth to death and beyond.

To say that 'God is closer to us than we can imagine' is a good summary of Christmas. But all too quickly we clear up the signs of our celebration and appreciation of the closeness of God with all the wrapping paper and decorations. We get back to ordinary living and routines where it is all too easy to miss the presence of God, the determination of God to express love, joy and peace within our human experience.

So as I eat a Christmas cheese fondue, maybe I will try to grasp something of how God wishes to reveal himself in the coming New Year. Will I notice God in the ordinary, the mundane, and will I be able to appreciate events and people as God sees them? And dare I believe in that transforming power of love seen in the baby, the man and the Risen Lord Jesus?

Whatever appears on your plate at Christmas I hope that you have a very enjoyable time and discover the nearness of God with us.

Peace, Tim Crome

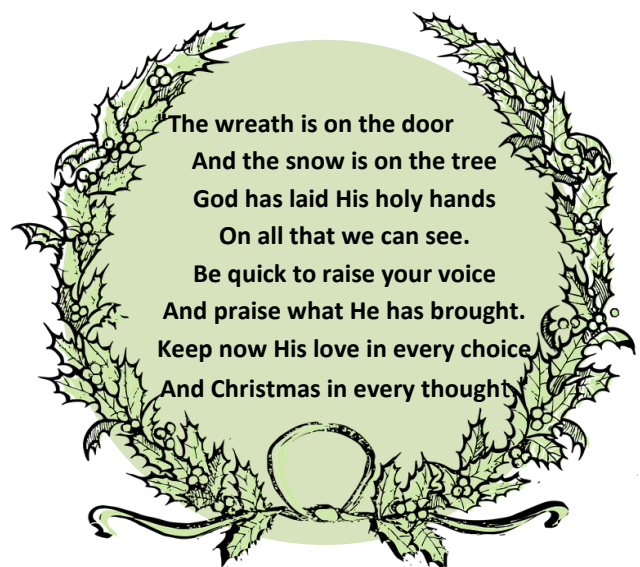


Friendship Club at Christmas

And so we look forward to Christmas. Throughout the land there will be lots of gift buying, tinsel, trees, crackers, parties, enormous quantities of food and drink and all the commercialism that seems to go with Christmas! Is this what it's all about? At Bents Green we think not! Yes we look forward to festive fun at Friendship Club...we will have a brass band playing carols, Sheaf Singers will entertain us and we will have our own celebration.

At the same time we think of the true meaning of Christmas and what its significance is in this uncertain world. There is still so much hardship and unhappiness throughout the world and we appreciate the fact that we are so lucky at Bents Green. At Friendship Club we have sent a cheque for £50.00 to Macmillan Nurses, raised through our coffee/tea afternoon and accompanied by a talk about illnesses and poverty between the wars given by Suzanne Bingham. How lucky we all are today with health care and immunisation though this not the case in the developing world. We are also collecting for the local charity HARC who help the homeless at Christmas. And again there is a collection for the Grace Food Bank when we remember the needs of many families here in Sheffield. Bents Green is a caring community. Long may it continue whilst we count our blessings and remember those who are less fortunate, particularly during the festive season.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS! Pat Hutchinson



A Community Church

Over the past months as Emma & I have been engaging more and more in the life of the church, we have become increasingly aware that Sunday morning is only a part of our life as a church community. Sunday morning will always play an important role in the life of the church, as a time to gather together as a community to celebrate our faith in Jesus, but it has also been a great blessing to us to witness many of the ways God's love is shared throughout the week at Bents Green.

We describe ourselves as a community church, and just as communities are diverse, the church also needs to have diverse expressions for people to engage with. Whether it's through house groups, Sunbeams, Harbour & Pantomime café, Games, Craft & Chatter, Men's group, Tea & Toast, Sunday evening or Wednesday morning services or Messy Church, we've enjoyed getting to know a variety of people and sharing in the journey of faith with them.

We have been particularly encouraged on the occasions where people have had needs, and the community here at Bents Green has been ready to respond. What do people value most? Often it's the quality of relationship we have with each other and the meeting of practical and emotional needs. Not only do people like to have their own needs met, but we have also loved to see the fulfillment people find in meeting the needs of others.

It has been a reminder to us of the value of relationships in building community and how important it is to show love during the darker times of life. Our encouragement to all is to engage in the variety of activities during the week at Bents Green and to get to know different people.

As we look forward to Christmas, we pray to see the light and love of Jesus shine brightly in the community of Bents Green.

Paul & Emma Wassell



Pictures from Games, Craft & Chatter



Pantomime 2018

Our next pantomime is Beauty and the Beast, with 75 children and young people already practising hard to bring you unforgettable family entertainment.

There will be timeless songs, peerless dancing, faultless acting and hopeless jokes. There will be amazing costumes, astounding visual effects, astonishing spectacle, and appalling jokes. There will be wolves, cats, mice and a fearsome Beast. There will be all the objectified members of the Prince's palace, plus some whom you will never have seen before. There will be villagers, enchantresses, Gaston's fan club and henchmen, and a selection of Parisian ladies and princesses having Disney spells! You will even get the opportunity to improve your French. What more could you want? How could you miss it?

The performances will be in half-term week on Friday 23rd February, Saturday 24th February and Sunday 25th February. Entry is by ticket only, but there is no charge for tickets. Generous and other donations will be

welcome for our youth activities at Bents Green.

Tickets may be ordered by the cast in December, by the church family in January, and by other fine and discerning readers of Hilltop in February. Just phone Glenn on 235 1057, or email dglennevans@hotmail.co.uk À bientôt!

Funky Divas

Continuing the series about businesses and organisations in Bents Green

Funky Divas Salon opened at Bents Green this summer and I went along to find out more about them and the services they offer. I felt a bit daunted approaching the shop as I didn't feel I fitted the description in their title! However once I opened the door I immediately felt welcomed. The shop is bright and spacious and the staff are very welcoming and friendly.

Funky Divas Salon is owned and run by Sheffield-born Andrew Rodgers. He started out in 2003 with a nail desk in a small unit at Crystal Peaks Market but this grew and the first **Funky Divas Salon** was born. This has grown over the years and the Funky Divas Brand now has 5 salons across Sheffield including Hillsborough, City Centre and City Road. They are also one of the Redken Elite Salon Chains, being 1 of only 3 salon companies in Sheffield who offer Redken NYC Color.

The salon at Bents Green is the first one on this side of the city. They offer unisex services to all clients and offer a wide service list including ladies hairdressing, gents barbering, a nail bar including acrylic extensions and gel polish, shaping and tinting and a stand up sunbed. For special events such as Weddings or School Proms package deals which can include several hair and beauty treatments. These packages are also popular in the run up to Christmas and it is a good idea to book well ahead.

Sam, who is manager of the Hillsborough Salon and oversees the Bents Green branch told me the salon is building up nicely welcoming some of Funky Divas already loyal customers as well as new clients coming through the door. He has noticed the salon name can sometimes make new clients assume it is ladies only. However they welcome both men and ladies to the salon and all the stylists are fully barber trained as well as being qualified in ladies hair (while I was there both customers were men). They welcome all age-groups from young children to older clientele and on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday there is a reduced rate on hair appointments for OAPs.

There are over 40 staff members across all branches, including 2 Redken Certified Haircolorists, and the team regularly receives training from some of the leading trainers in including Redken NYC to make sure they are ready to offer the next seasons colours and trends right away. They thrive on making sure they are able to offer the newest services and trends to all clients. This means they can offer anything from rainbow hair, bright bold colours and the new unicorn/mermaid trend to the more natural highlights, ombre and full head colours. The Bents Green branch is also an official stockist for some of the leading hair industry brands including Redken NYC, Paul Mitchell, MUK and GHD.

The salon is open Tuesday - Saturday, and has a late night on Wednesdays. They look forward to welcoming new clients and are happy for anyone to pop in and take a look around. You can also visit their website to view the team at Bents Green and the service listings and pricing.

Contact details: **Funky Divas Salon, 286 Ringinglow Road, S11 7PX. Tel 0114 3491359, website www.funkydivassalons.com**



A look through the history of Wills and Bequests throughout history

Meeting at Bents Green Methodist Church in the Music Room on Thursday 18th January 2018 2 pm - 3

You are cordially invited to what is a very fascinating look at the history of will writing throughout the centuries and the importance of making a will. Tea and coffee will be provided as well as a quiz at the end. All ages welcome and if you have a historical will or document please bring it along to show.

Talk given by Dr. Andrew Jansen,
Peace of mind will writing services

For Information Tel: 07825 575748 Gmail : andrewajansen@gmail.com,
www.peaceofmindwillwritingservices.co.uk



Wise Men?

Translating the Bible series – 10

The last century has seen many different translations of the Bible into modern English, with remarkably different results. For example, take Matthew 2 verse 1. The Authorised (King James) Version reads: ***Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem.***

Now look at these 3 modern translations of that verse, and decide which you prefer:



1. After Jesus was born in Bethlehem village, Judah territory— this was during Herod's kingship—***a band of scholars*** arrived in Jerusalem from the East.
2. Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem in Judea, during the time when Herod was king. Soon afterward, ***some men who studied the stars*** came from the East to Jerusalem.
3. After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, ***Magi*** from the east came to Jerusalem.

All 3 of these translations have been used for readings in our church in 2017, and you can see that none of them uses the traditional phrase "Wise men". This is because there are 3 modern approaches to translating.

Some people think it is important to get as close as possible to a word for word translation. Others think it is best to try and get the meaning of the original across. Finally, there are people who try to match the original text with modern everyday English as much as possible.

Which of these three approaches do you prefer: Word for word? The meaning? Everyday English?

If you prefer the word for word approach, you should have chosen version 3 above. This is the New International Version (the blue Bibles in our church) which keeps technical religious words like Magi. If you prefer focussing on the meaning, you should have chosen version 2 above. This is the Good News Bible (the brown Bibles in our church), which gives the meaning of Magi. If you prefer everyday English, you should have chosen version 1 above. This version is the Message, occasionally chosen by preachers who want to freshen up a familiar passage.

I guess most of us would use, and probably prefer "Wise men", even though that is not an accurate translation of the original Greek text. Perhaps most of us therefore believe that translation is an art (and therefore a question of taste and preference), rather than a science (where logic and evidence rule). What do you think?

Glenn Evans

It's that time again!

It is the time of year when companies and business are getting ready for their financial year-end in December. It is also the time when employees are taking their final holiday before their Christmas break and I am one of them!

As Christmas is approaching, we are all busy preparing and getting ready for the celebration. Some of us have started making a list of "jobs to do". Christmas time can be very hectic and busy for some people, but for others can be a special moment to remember their loved ones who are no longer with them.

It is important for us to remember the meaning of Christmas itself. It is about the love of God for humanity through Jesus Christ. God himself came down to this world in human body to save the world.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life". (John 3:16)

This Christmas let us celebrate God's love and his goodness for all of us. Let us share the love of Jesus with one another, with our families and friends. A precious time that we all need to cherish...

Nini Brady

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

Covenant Service: Sunday 14th January 10.30 am - Rev Tim Crome

Contact Details:

Lay Assistant Minister: John Wilkins
Tel 0114 2364916 (First contact)
Email: johnwilkins73@googlemail.com

Minister: Rev Tim Crome
Tel. 0114 438 9012
Email: Tim47Crome@msn.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 60

Tues 5th Dec	DEEPCAR BRASS BAND
Tues 12th Dec	SHEAF SINGERS
Tues 19th Dec	CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES
Tues 9th Jan	WOODHEAD, THE LOST RAILWAY, STEPHEN GAY
Tues 16th Jan	THE RATION BOOKS, JANET STAIN
Tues 23rd Jan	LUCKY ALL MY LIFE, ALBERT HATTERSLEY
Tues 30th Jan	THE ISLE OF MULL, STEVE DRINKALL

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 21st Jan 2018.

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

Christmas Preparations at Games, Craft and Chatter

Over the last few weeks there has been a lot of planning for Christmas at Games, Craft and Chatter. Several Christmas Shoe boxes have been filled with many small useful items. Other activities have centred round knitting square leaves which will be put together to make a Christmas tree. Some of the group have taken on the task of devising the tree-shape to attach the leaves to and this is where the plastic bottles come in! We look forward to seeing the finished result! Once the tree has leaves attached then Christmas decorations will be attached to it and many handmade decorations have been prepared. Finally, after Christmas is over the 'leaves' will be sewn together to make a blanket to keep someone warm through the rest of the winter.



What is this about Christmas

All that rush and stress
Big spending, shopping
Finances in a mess
Gullible consumers fighting
purchasing tack
Struggling making ends meet
With funds they clearly lack
Childhood memories disappearing
Enter monetarism its ugly head
rearing
Noel Noel the carollers sing
Whilst revellers in their hedonistic
fling
Count their coins for one last drink
Oblivious of the world around
Failing to hear Christmas's calling
sound
Peace on earth
Mercy mild
In Iraq another child
In death defiled
Look the lights of Christmas
Glowing all around
Happy music singing
Peace on earth abounds
Little children smiling with gifts newly
found
Up to bed contented
Asleep in minutes no sound
Ken Windle



A prayer for Christmas and the New Year

Father God in heaven,
this is the time for us to celebrate the birth of Your Son our Lord Jesus,
this is the time where we meet our families and friends to express our
love for each other, the season that we always look forward to.
Father, we ask you to open our hearts and to give us understanding of
the Christmas message: the message of God's love for humanity.
Help us and teach us to know you more and more and, as we welcome
a new year, may you lead our lives on the blessed path of your love in
Christ Jesus. Amen