



### **Yorkshire Half Marathon**

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> April**

**Watch the Half Marathon from the church with Oughtibridge Junior Brass Band**

**Join us for breakfast from 9.30  
First runners expected about 10 am**

### **Coffee morning in aid of Action for Children**

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> April**

**10 am- 12 noon in the church**

**Cakes, cards, crafts, garden plants  
and more**

### **In this issue:**

<i>Easter and other events in April</i>	<i>p2</i>
<i>How Action for Children works</i>	<i>p2</i>
<i>Church news</i>	<i>p2</i>
<i>Spring has Sprung</i>	<i>p3</i>
<i>God moved into the neighbourhood</i>	<i>p3</i>
<i>Snow again?</i>	<i>p3</i>
<i>Photos from the pantomime</i>	<i>p4&amp;5</i>
<i>Pantomime costumes</i>	<i>p5&amp;6</i>
<i>Andrew Jones, acupuncture and massage therapist</i>	<i>p6</i>
<i>Regular events at the church</i>	<i>p7</i>
<i>Christian Aid week , can you help?</i>	<i>p8</i>
<i>Winter into Spring</i>	<i>p8</i>
<i>Easter poem and prayer</i>	<i>p8</i>

**Quiz night on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> May,  
6.30 - 9.00pm in the church - come  
and join a team and share your  
knowledge!     Donations for Christian Aid**

### **Holy Week services**

**Maundy Thursday 7.30 pm**

**Good Friday walk with the cross 9.45am**

**Easter cafe service 10.30 am    (see p2)**



## ***Easter and other events in April at Bents Green Church. Everyone is welcome.***

**Maundy Thursday service:** 7.30 pm on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March. A reflective service which includes a light meal together.

**Good Friday:** The **Cross walk** begins with a short service at Bents Green Church at 9.45 am starting at 10 to walk down to Banner Cross Church for coffee, leaving there at 11.15 and arriving at The Well at 12 noon for a service.

On Good Friday Bents Green Church will be open between 12 and 3 for quiet prayer.

**Easter Day:** Cafe worship service at 10.30 am with children and young people's groups.

**Yorkshire Half Marathon on Sunday 8th April:** Watch the Marathon from here! The church is open for breakfast from 9.30 am. We expect the first runners to come past the church at about 10 am.

**Coffee morning for Action for Children** Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> April 10 am – 12 in the church hall. (Details below)



Over 148 years ago, Thomas Bowman Stephenson, a Methodist minister, took the time to listen to homeless children living under the arches of Waterloo station. And Action for Children has been listening and taking action ever since. From one family home in Waterloo the charity quickly grew to become in 1908 the National Children's Home (NCH).

Throughout the UK, Action for Children helps disadvantaged children from before they are born until they are into their twenties. This might be through fostering or adoption, or intervening early to stop neglect and abuse. Action for Children also makes life better for children with disabilities. Action for Children also influences policy and advocates change. Their staff and volunteers operate over 600 services improving the lives of 370,000 children, teenagers, parents and carers every year. Action for Children's partnership with the Methodist church continues to grow and through the home collection boxes in 2016/7 over £1.5m was raised.

**"Our ambition is to ensure that any child who needs help gets help"**

So please come and support the **Action for Children coffee morning** on the 14<sup>th</sup> April 2018 at 10am -12pm at Bents Green Church. You will be able to have a coffee and a chat and perhaps bag a bargain from our great stalls selling plants, cakes, cards, bric-a-brac and crafts. I hope to see you there! **Elaine (AFC Co-ordinator, Bents Green Church)**

**Advance notice for Church Fun Day on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> June 11 am - 4pm.** Activities for children including bouncy castle and ball pool, refreshments and light lunches. All welcome

## ***Church News***

**Congratulations to Cherry and Steve Mair** on the birth of **Ivy Elinor**, a sister for Phoebe.

**Congratulations too to Simon and Christèle Hall** on the birth of **Alfred**.

We offer condolences to the family of **Betty Egan** whose funeral will be held on Mon 9<sup>th</sup> April.

**We welcomed Phoebe Howell**, Nancy Rust's great grand-daughter, for a service of dedication on Mother's Day.

**Correction to the article** in the last issue ***The Shack* by Wm Paul Young**: this book is not based on a true story.



**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.

## Spring has Sprung!

At long last, it seems that Spring has sprung. After a cold and belated winter with disruptive snow and freezing temperatures for weeks on end, there are signs of life, colour and fragrance all around. Soon there will be leaves on the trees and nesting birds.

In CS Lewis's book, *The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe*, in the land of Narnia 'it is always winter but never Christmas'. There was never any let up from the icy grip of the wicked witch; until spring began with the return of Aslan, and nothing could stop the power of life returning to the world.

In our western part of the world the natural seasons echo the gospel pattern of death and resurrection. Through darkness and suffering there is new life and hope all around us. It is a welcome change from the dreariness of winter and helps to lift the spirit. We may not be able to precisely predict when winter finishes and spring begins, but it will happen, nothing can stop it.

Living in the Easter season is about celebrating the reality of God alive and active in our world. Nothing can stop God's passion and drive to express his love for us and creation. Many of the Easter stories involve surprise, and shock. Not all are easily understood, but at their heart is the expression that nothing can prevent God's transforming love and grace present in life.

We can ignore or take for granted the signs of life all around us if we choose, or we can appreciate its reality, wonder at the mysterious beauty and accept the constant invitation of God to join in his transforming way of life. Peace *Tim*



## God moved into the neighbourhood Translating the Bible – 12

How many English versions of the Bible are there? The Bible Gateway website lists over 50. A few of them are very colloquial, focussing on lively, accessible language, rather than word for word translation. There are two important reasons why this is a valid approach, and one major difficulty.

The first reason is that it grabs people's attention, and makes the Bible come alive. I guess that most of you reading this are unlikely to read the Sun, yet more people in the UK read the Sun than any other newspaper – over 1½ million in 2017. No doubt the English in the Times is more classical, but under half a million read the better English in this newspaper. Should the Bible only be for well-read and better educated people?



The second reason is that the New Testament was written in colloquial Greek. Acts 4 verse 13 describes Peter and John as "ordinary men of no education". They did not write as literary scholars. They just wanted to share the Good News of Jesus. They wrote as they spoke. Communication was far more important than literary merit. It may therefore be fair to say that colloquial versions are actually more faithful to the intentions of the New Testament writers than more formal or word for word translations.

There is a big difficulty, however. Colloquial language is alive. It changes rapidly. The words commonly used by one generation are rejected by the next. As with computer technology, once you buy it, it is out of date. Colloquial language is often geographically limited as well. Not many of us like Americanisms in our English. It is impossible to have a colloquial version of the Bible that suits all generations and all places.



Nevertheless, there are some lovely turns of phrase in versions like the Living Bible and the Message. John 1 verse 14 says in the King James (Authorised) Version that God "dwelt among us". The New International Version says that God "made his dwelling among us". The Good News Bible says that God "lived among us". The Message says that God "moved into the neighbourhood". I would argue that the first 3 translations are mundane descriptions of something amazing, but that the Message catches our attention. What do you think? **Glenn Evans**

**Snow again?** It has been difficult for many of us recently with the extreme cold weather and snow. It has affected many parts of our daily activities. However, the snow has also transformed our landscapes, especially when we see the reflection of sunlight which makes it more beautiful. The snow is also nice for our children (maybe also adults) to play and have fun! A few weeks ago in our Sunday service John Wilkins spoke about the uniqueness of a snowflake, that every snowflake is unique. It is interesting to know that a snowflake is formed from tiny ice crystals that grow into different shapes. In the same way God creates us differently and each of us is uniquely formed to fill and shape the life of this world according to God's purpose. Every gift/skill/ability we possess is something to be shared with the others for the benefit of our society (the world). It adds beauty to life that all can enjoy. So, next time when you see the snow just remember you are created uniquely and wonderfully made:



"I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well" (Psalm 139:14)

Nini Brady



# Beauty and the Beast

## *Tale as old as time, song as old as rhyme*

75 children and young people brought this tale to life in February, as the pictures in this newsletter prove, and as witnessed by nearly 500 people. Some of the characters you will recognise: the Beast and his Household Objects, Gaston with Lefou plus Fan Club and Henchmen, Belle and her father and the other French villagers, the Sorceress and Monsieur d'Arques.

However, we also had the village mice being chased by the village cats being chased by the forest wolves, with the audience singing on a similar theme. We had young Enchantresses using their talents for good rather than for evil, and changing into elegant Parisian ladies, Cancon dancers and Disney Princesses. And some of the Household Objects you will never have seen before.

The tale unfolded to its happy conclusion, with the Prince and Belle in love, and Gaston and the Sorceress running off to Paris together. And along the way we saw the Biblical themes of self-sacrifice and becoming a new creation illustrated in action. The only downside was the audience's abysmal knowledge of French!

The amazing costumes, the songs as old as rhyme, the dances, and the brilliant video special effects all added to the spectacle. A big thank you to all who took part, all who helped, and all who came. **Merçi mille fois.**

**Thank you also to Ecclesall Print who have printed these pages in colour in support of the pantomime.**



The Prince and Belle



Gaston, Maurice & Lefou



Agathe



Gaston's fan club



Gaston's henchmen





The Village Worthies



The Mice



Their even worthier wives



The Household Objects



The Disney princesses



The Parisian Ladies

## The Pantomime Costumes

Have you ever wondered how the costumes for the pantomime are designed and made? They are the result of an amazing amount of research, work and imagination by Annie Russell. Annie became involved in pantomime costumes many years ago through her involvement in Girls' Brigade. In those days she only had to find clothes for the dancers from GB who supported the main actors in the pantomime. However, as the pantomime evolved into a much bigger production, Annie's task has increased enormously. But she finds great satisfaction in all the research and work of designing and making the costumes. This year she has made 168 costumes for the production of **Beauty and the Beast**! There were 75 young people in the cast, but many of them had two or even three costumes for their different scenes or roles.

The pantomime is performed in February and Annie begins to plan the costumes in December. She talks with Glenn who writes the script and finds out how he envisages the play. For example, **Beauty and the Beast** is set in France and so the postman needed to have a French postman's uniform. She also looks for ideas on the internet. But she generally waits

until January to make the costumes since there are often changes in casting and script in the early rehearsals.

Annie has some help from family and friends, but she doesn't work from patterns so it's hard to pass on tasks to other people. All her spare time in January and February is used in costume-making. She has an attic full of crates of fabric and other useful items and keeps costs down as far as possible. She can sometimes reuse costumes from previous years but these may need adjustment because the actor is a completely different size and age.

The teacup costume was made from her sister's old laundry basket, foam insulating tubing, a wire coat-hanger, white and purple fabric and floral fabric left over from her bridesmaid's dress from 25 years ago. She cut out the base of the basket and made straps to fit over the actor's shoulders.



Teacup costume

The costumes for Belle and the Beast included two items ordered from China which took some time to arrive. The yellow dress was just what was needed and cost less than Annie could have made it for. The head of the Beast was a challenge as normally she would have used make-up but he needed to change instantaneously. She found the mask on the internet and ordered it from China. The full mask would have muffled the actor's words so Annie cut a slit for the mouth to enable him to be heard.

On performance nights Annie, her sister Sue and a team organise the costumes to enable quick changes and make sure the performers have all the extra items such as hats. They often iron the costumes between performances as they feel it is very important for each of the actors to look their best each time they are on stage to perform their parts. **Tricia North**

## Andrew Jones Acupuncture and Tui Na Massage

*Continuing the series about shops and businesses in Bents Green*

The newest business to come to the Bents Green shopping area is **Andrew Jones Acupuncture and Tui Na Massage**. Andrew opened his business here in September 2017. The premises are tucked back from the road, but Andrew has placed signs on the pavement and on the fence to ensure that passers-by are aware of the service he offers. I went to find out more.

Andrew described how he had become interested in massage and acupuncture. He has always had an interest in other cultures through family links and through studying foreign languages at university. His interest in Chinese medicine developed when he was working in London. He began to attend a Tai Chi class which he very much enjoyed. His interest grew and he wanted to understand how the underlying principles applied to maintaining good health. At the time he was working in a business which researched ethical investments. Although he enjoyed the job and respected the ethos of the company, he decided he wanted to move into a job which was not desk-based and in which he could use skills to help others. He considered a number of options and chose to train in acupuncture and massage.



He studied in London from 2005 to 2009 and then returned to Sheffield to set up his practice. He worked initially in the north of the city and still offers sessions in Ecclesfield. He has also had a room alongside other businesses on Ecclesall Road, but he is happy to have realised his aim to have his own premises in Bents Green.

He offers both acupuncture and massage and says that the two go together well. Andrew says it is often possible to treat the same things with acupuncture or with massage, depending on personal preferences. Andrew has treated a wide range of conditions, but most frequently encounters muscular pains, headaches, digestive discomfort, insomnia and stress. Initial treatment usually involves several consecutive sessions. Where possible Andrew shows clients how to use massage for themselves, and he always considers the part of diet and activities in health. Most of his clients have come to him through personal recommendation from people who have had treatment from him themselves.

When someone comes to him for the initial appointment Andrew spends time getting a general picture and finding out about the conditions they suffer from and any medication they are on. He also asks about other factors likely to play a part such as sleep patterns and digestion. The first appointment is often longer to allow time for this assessment.



Andrew's interest in Tai Chi continues alongside his work as a therapist. He runs a Tai Chi class in Bents Green Church hall on Thursday evenings. His current class is learning the Wu Tai Chi form, and he hopes to advertise a new beginner's class again soon.

Alongside developing his practice as a therapist Andrew has had to learn all the complexities of establishing his own business. This has been an interesting progression. He described the process as akin to initially being in deep water and struggling to swim. He has learned a lot along the way and now he feels he is standing confidently on the beach. He has found his feet in running his own business and is looking forward now to developing his practice in his own premises here in Bents Green.

**Contact details:** Andrew Jones Acupuncture and Massage; Tel. 07538 065665; [info@acupunctureandmassage.net](mailto:info@acupunctureandmassage.net); Westfield registered, contact to make an appointment



## 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, Fireworks 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 22<sup>nd</sup> April at 6.30 pm

### 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	07464 824462

#### For children and young people

Girls' Brigade	5-18	Thurs evening	Marian	2361316
Lighthouse	5-11	Wed 3.45	Sarah	contact Glenn 2351057
Craft Services	3 -12	Festivals	Sue	2307556
Sparks	5-11	Sun 10.30	John	2307556
Fireworks	12-14	Sun 10.30	Emma	07707 500226
Sunday Club	12-18	Sun 10.30	Sue	2307556
Lampstand	12-18	Fri 8-10	Sarah	contact Glenn 2351057
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 60

<b>Tues 10<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>CURIOSITY</b>
<b>Tues 17<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>FROM PINEWOOD TO HOLYWOOD:Trevor Dempsey</b>
<b>Tues 24<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>CHAT SHOW + Dean Winfrow [alarms]</b>
<b>Tues 1<sup>st</sup> May</b>	<b>PAT HALL ENTERTAINS</b>
<b>Tues 8<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>WOODSEATS MUSICAL THEATRE</b>
<b>Tues 15<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>SALLY MOSELEY TALKS ABOUT THE PEAK DISTRICT</b>
<b>Tues 22nd May</b>	<b>MEERSBROOK ORCHESTRA</b>
<b>Tues 29<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>SPRING BANK : NO MEETING</b>

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

## Contact Details:

**Lay Assistant Minister: John Wilkins**  
**Tel 0114 2361306 (First contact)**  
**Email: [johnwilkins73@googlemail.com](mailto:johnwilkins73@googlemail.com)**

**Minister: Rev Tim Crome**  
**Tel. 0114 4389012**  
**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**

## 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

### 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 13<sup>th</sup> May 2018.**

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



## Can you help make a real difference?

**Christian Aid Week runs from 13th to 19th May 2018** and we urgently need someone to organise this year's house to house collection in Bents Green. This involves distributing envelopes and materials to the collectors, then receiving, counting and banking the money. Last year we received nearly £2000 from our community.

This year the money raised will be used to help the survivors of the devastating earthquake in Haiti in their on-going task of rebuilding their lives when they have lost everything. £2000 will make a real difference to the lives of needy families.

If you would like to find out more about making a real difference in ordinary people's lives, please contact [anne-evans@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:anne-evans@hotmail.co.uk) or 235 1057. Anne will give you full details and maximum support. Thank you. **Anne Evans**



## Winter into Spring and on to Summer

I wonder whether the spring bulbs know what has hit them. Just as they start to bring forward their welcome colour to brighten up our lives winter decides to come back with a vengeance and bring snow and some very low temperatures. Although I suspect many of us with long memories will be able to recollect snow at Easter, and in my case the first day of the cricket season being affected by snow, we still like to think that March/April should be the start of something better.

Which of course it is as Easter, with its Easter story and amazing hymns and music, brings the promise of hope. Although the Friendship Club has had to cancel a couple of meetings this year already, I know that its members look forward to Tuesdays' meetings with hope, expectation and anticipation of an enjoyable, friendly and relaxing afternoon. We have already had some wonderful talks, some with slides and music; and as ever we will break for Easter with a programme of words and hymns, this year welcoming Tim Crome to talk with us.

Elsewhere in Hilltop, on page 7, you will find the programme leading up to the summer break. It looks as engaging as ever, thanks to Pat Hutchinson. So if you don't already come on Tuesdays at 2:00, please join us. All are welcome.

**Arthur Blacklock**



### Easter morning

Darkness  
Quiet, cold, still darkness  
No movement, sound or light  
No life?

Patience  
Wait, be patient.  
The time has not yet come.  
Just wait.

Morning.  
Sunrise, birdsong, light  
An empty grave – not death,  
But Life.

### A prayer for our world

*O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder,  
consider all the works thy hand has done*

And yet our great God is not distant and unknowable, but here, now, with us. Lord, we have many things on our hearts.

We bring before you all the nations of the world where there is conflict, where the powerful fight for still more power, and the weak, the poor and the innocent are caught every day in the crossfire. Have mercy Lord, and wrap your loving arms around those suffering and in need; bless the peacemakers as they negotiate day after day to bring an end to war.

There are so many hurting people in our community; some are hurt by others, or by circumstances outside themselves. Bring relief for their pain Lord, and your comfort which passes understanding. Where the pain is not physical, ease their minds and give them the knowledge of your all-surrounding love, your forgiveness and your continuing presence. All these our prayers we bring in the name of your son, Jesus Christ.