

Hilltop

February / March 2019

Newsletter of The Church at Bents Green

Café Church

Sundays 3rd Feb and 3rd March

Breakfast from 10 am

Morning service at 10.30 am

Tea and coffee available

Chitty Bang Bang Pantomime

February 22nd, 23rd, 24th

In Bents Green Church Hall

(see back page for times and tickets)

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Mothering Sunday Service **Sunday 31st March at 10.30 am**

Come as you are



A relaxed evening of friendship, fellowship and fun for women
Tea, coffee and cakes with time to chat
Thursday 31st January at 7.30 pm
at Bents Green Church (come in by the main church door)
More details from Katie 07464824462 or Emily 07939892717



A community church sharing the love of Jesus

Church News

An exciting new event for women in the wider church family: **Come As You Are - Thursday 31st January 7.30 – 9.30 in the church.** Friendship, fellowship, fun with refreshments, chat and activities. For more details talk to Katie Vernon or Emily Ushewokunze.

Holy Habits: Launch of the next topic, Breaking Bread – This is the theme for Holy Habits from February to April. We will hold a Church Prayer Meeting on Saturday, 2nd February, 10am-11am, in the Music Room in the church halls to offer this period to God. Please come!

Grace Foodbank says ‘Thank you’ for helping to provide 150 Christmas parcels for needy families. They emphasise that all food is used - nothing is wasted. Thank you!

Advance Notice: Action for Children coffee morning on Saturday 13th April, 10 – 12 noon.

Thank you to Katie Swift who is taking on the task of distributing Hilltop to groups in the church who give Hilltop to their members and to people who deliver copies to friends and neighbours. Katie also posts Hilltop to over 20 people out of Sheffield to keep in touch with the church.

A **Thanksgiving service** for the life of **Joan Barnard** was held in the church on 10th December. Joan was a member of Bents Green Church for many years and continued attending as long as she was able.

We welcomed Lois and Anne Brookes’ family from Australia to the morning service after Christmas. They led the congregation in a worship song on piano and violins.

World Day of Prayer Service on Friday 1st March 2019 at 11.00 am at St William’s Church (on Ecclesall Road next to the Co-op). The service has been prepared by the women of Slovenia with the theme: **“Come everything is ready”**. Please come and enjoy the service and support all those taking part. This is not just for women - everyone is warmly invited.



Congratulations to Jonathan Evans and Jess Monahan on their engagement. They plan to get married in Scotland in August.

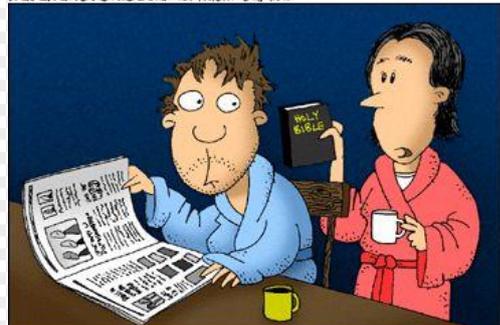
Prayer If you would like us to pray for you confidentially you can contact us by email reyarp42@sky.com or leave a note in the Prayer Box in the church corridor (side entrance) which is emptied daily.

pancake TUESDAY:

IF YOU DID IT RIGHT, YOU WON'T WANT TO SEE ANOTHER PANCAKE UNTIL AFTER EASTER ANYWAY.



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Thanks to Julie Seeto

11-14-2002

WHY DON'T YOU STOP WONDERING WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE WORLD AND READ THE MANUAL

Getting the balance right

A few weeks ago, I noticed our first daffodil was in flower. It was the day before the weather was forecast to get colder with the threat of snow in some parts of the country. The snow drops had been flowering for some time already. Timely reminders that the gloom of winter will not be with us for ever.

The seasonal cycle reflects the need for rest and recovery in order for there to be renewal and energy to live, bear fruit and flourish. As human beings we seem to spend much of our time worrying that we do not get the balance right. We are too tired, too busy, too stressed. And this all takes its toll on our work, our relationships, our wellbeing and our faith.

There were many things about Jesus that were counter cultural. One of them was that when he was really busy and under pressure from the crowds bringing all their sick and ailments to him, he would disappear for a while to seek solitude, rest and time with God. Archbishop Desmond Tutu says: 'I am far too busy to pray for less than two hours each day.'



'I am far too busy to pray for less than two hours each day.'

Archbishop Desmond Tutu

We are already past the time for New Year resolutions and may be already regretting saying what we might take on this year. But the Christian Year gives us a constant opportunity to take stock, to try to begin again, and to allow God to work in us so that we might be more faithful in our living.

With a late Easter this year, we have a longer time to prepare for Lent (which begins on 6th March). So you might begin to explore your rhythms for Lent this year. What aspect of your life will you try to get into balance? The links between our mental, physical, emotional and spiritual wellbeing are well documented. Perhaps you might share with someone else how you hope to live Lent this year, or try something with someone else. Let's not be too shy to share and to help each other in our mutual wellbeing.

Peace, Tim

Holy Habits – Food for thought

The Holy Habits programme has now been underway for nearly six months. For the first two months we focused on prayer, but haven't finished with it – rather, we need to continue to make prayer a central part of our lives as individuals and as a church together.

From November to January we focused on Gladness and Generosity, which fits the Christmas theme well. We carried out small acts of generosity, such as giving sweets at the Christmas services, giving mince pies at the shops, and especially yarn bombing – placing 1000 (yes, a thousand) knitted angels around the area one dark evening, so that they would be found by local residents, especially children, in the morning. There were many positive comments on Facebook and elsewhere. This Habit too needs to continue. The Fireworks group in Junior Church have taken the lead, by raising money to support rough sleepers in Sheffield.

In February we move onto a new topic, Breaking Bread, which will continue through Lent and Easter to the end of April. Breaking Bread sounds simple, but has surprising depths. It includes Holy Communion, but invites us to consider the significance of breaking and sharing ordinary bread in our daily lives. Jesus described himself as the Bread of Life, and broke bread on several occasions in the gospels, such as feeding the 5000 and with the two travellers at Emmaus, and each time the presence and power of God was revealed.



When we pray 'Give us today our daily bread', we are asking not just for food, but for everything we need to live a good life, such as housing, clothes, money, health, relationships, a balance of employment or purposeful activity and recreation, and the mental, emotional and spiritual resources that make life worth living. Can we regard all these things as 'bread'? Can we break and share these kinds of bread? For instance, can we break a £5 note and share it with someone in need? Can we break the time of a free evening and share it with someone who may be lonely, and in so doing reveal the love of Jesus? How do you think we could break bread together?

Please share your ideas or questions with Debs Barnett (266 6683), Glenn Evans (235 1057), Graham Wassell (235 0393), Martyn Read (236 0260), Daphne or John Wilkins (236 1306). **John Wilkins**

Fireworks supports the Cathedral Archer Project

We are a small Junior Church Group of young people called 'Fireworks'. We enjoy helping people and collectively our church is exploring generosity and gladness. We were really interested to do something generous to help others especially after we realised how lucky we are to have what we have. We chose to help the homeless and get involved with this project because, at first, we were scared of homeless people, but as we got to know more and more about their lives and personal situations we felt that we could help. It was a challenge for us to help some people who are less fortunate than us, living on the streets.



We had seen a lot of homeless people and were aware that many people like ourselves feel confused and lost in how to best help them. We read some Bible verses about generosity like the feeding of the 5,000 and the Widow's Mite and were challenged to think big and believe that even a small group can have a big impact.

We held a bake sale to raise money to fund our cold weather packs. We raised over £160 and were also able to fund two 'Crisis at Christmas' rooms as well as our cold weather packs, which we are donating to The Cathedral Archer Project in Sheffield. The contents of the packs were socks, shoes, rucksacks, and underwear, washing powder, porridge, canned food and biscuits.



We are starting a new project soon, which involves asking people to donate tea, coffee and biscuits because a nice hot drink and a chat can be a lifeline to someone who is homeless. We will be making a collection point which will be a sleeping bag displayed in the church. We are inviting the community to donate as much as possible to fill the sleeping bag, as it will be very helpful. We will deliver them to homeless support services in Sheffield that are short of these supplies.

We got in touch with The Cathedral Archer Project and they are supporting us in our future plans. They told us about the website

helpushelp.uk where we learnt a lot about the homeless and gained inspiration about how we could help more. We are planning some exciting events that are coming up soon, such as a big quiz night and we are going to be visiting 'The Archer Project' ourselves. Look out for our article in the next Hilltop. **Emma Wassell**



New Year = New You?

February can be a rather depressing month. Those summer holidays we booked in January can seem a long way off. And just as we think spring is approaching, the sky dumps a fresh and deeper lot of snow. But there is no rule that says that we must get depressed about everything in February.

Now can be the time to look back over the last year or so and recognise how we have changed. To appreciate all the changes for the better and to be thankful for them.

Many of us spend hours worrying about the future, worrying about what we might mess up, get wrong or just fail to do. And yet we fail to take the same time to cherish the good times, to count our blessings, to value those times when we've gone out of our way to help people.

Those of us who are Christians can take the opportunity to thank God for what he helped us to get right in 2018. I still remember something that I was taught when I became a Christian over fifty years ago: that, as part of God's preparing us for heaven, he expects us to become better people year on year. So, we don't have to let the dark days of February get us down. We can take a moment or two at the end of every day to be thankful for what we've got right that day. Research shows that there is an additional bonus for those who have a positive outlook on life. On average, positive people tend to live healthier lives and tend to cope better if they do fall ill.



So, being positive is good for us! Happy new you!

Derek North

Monument Café and Dovetails Antiques

Monument Café can be found on Ecclesall Road South by the war memorial and close to the path up to Ecclesall Church. Beside the café is another building with an entrance to Dovetails of Ecclesall antiques and furniture restoration. Darren Beedle runs both enterprises, opening the café from 10 – 2 pm and then restoring furniture and French polishing in the afternoon and sometimes into the evening.

Darren has worked in antiques and furniture restoration for 35 years and worked for Peter James Antiques on Abbeydale Road. In 2008 he saw the potential in the buildings at Silver Hill and moved the business here. He refurbished both buildings, doing much of the work himself



and opened as an antiques business. He then decided to turn one of the buildings into a café and, with help from family members, constructed a counter and serving area. He put in a toilet with wheelchair access and baby changing facilities and the café opened three years ago. Much of the furniture was sourced through his antiques business and more recently he has made seats and tables for the café out of old pews from Ecclesall Parish Church.

The café is very cosy and Darren has board games and newspapers inside as well as wi-fi to help customers to feel at home. Some of his regulars come from flats nearby and appreciate the chance to come and spend time there enjoying a good cup of coffee or other hot drinks, cake and activities. Other regular visitors are groups of mums with babies or toddlers. During the hot summer last year his customers were glad to be able to sit outside at the tables in the warmth and fresh air, especially as some local flats do not have a garden. The café gets the sun at all times of day.



In the afternoons he works on furniture restoration and his antiques business. His particular expertise is French Polishing and he has worked in the Cutlers Hall, the Judges Lodgings and for Rolls Royce in Derby. He also repairs old furniture which may involve remaking it. Much of his work comes through personal recommendations. He is part of a network of craftspeople such as upholsterers, strippers and leatherworkers who will each contribute their skills to a project. At present he is working on a 300 year old chair and feels a link with the craftsmen who made or repaired it in previous generations. As he takes the joints apart and cleans off the previous layers of glue, he is aware that others have done this before, perhaps 100 years ago. It is often said that no one is the owner of a grandfather clock, they are the keeper and then pass it on to another.

Darren feels a similar connection to the history of the site of the buildings. The land has had different uses: one map shows a penfold for holding animals, another shows a sexton's yard, another a Sunday school and yet another a quarry office. When refurbishing the buildings he found a stream and old well at the side of the building. The well is marked on an OS map from 1902. He has built a wishing well round it using old wood, glass and metal parts. Darren likes the sense of being part of the history of the site.

Many different people pass up and down Ecclesall Road South and have different reasons to stop at the café or the shop. Walkers call in on their way to or from their walk, runners practising for the Half-Marathon stop for refreshment. One young man who had set out to run on a hot day without water, arrived desperate for a drink. Cyclists also stop off and one time Darren came to the aid of someone who had fallen off their bike. The café is always open on the day of the Half-Marathon for runners and spectators. It is also open for the Remembrance Day ceremony at the War Memorial just outside and last year's centenary ceremony was particularly memorable. The Monument café and Dovetails Antiques have become part of the community on Ecclesall Road South with their own unique contribution to the area. **Tricia North**

Contact details: Monument Café, Darren Beedle, Tel 07801278257, Website: www.dovetailantiques.co.uk

Advance notice: Action for Children Coffee Morning

Saturday 13th April 10 – 12 noon
in Bents Green Church, coffee, cakes and stalls

How Action for Children works –

“We help disadvantaged children across the UK through fostering or adoption – and by intervening early to stop neglect and abuse. We make life better for children with disabilities. We influence policy and advocate for change. We succeed by doing what's needed and doing what works for children.”

“ This is a new year. A new beginning. And things will change.

Taylor Swift

Happy New Year!

This is certainly going to be a year of change, but nonetheless it's a new beginning and we must look forward to it.

The snowdrops are starting to flower and there are loads of catkins out. I gaze in amazement every year at the wonders of nature. From the dead, dreary earth of

winter the bulbs push through and we look forward to wonderful flowers and burgeoning shrubs and trees.

Back at Friendship Club, after our Christmas break, we are looking forward to more fun afternoons with our friends. We have lots of musical sessions coming up, as well as a talk about the life of a Farrier, then a talk about our link with Bapaume in Northern France which dates back to the Great War, and also a talk about the Wortley family. We also have a quiz.

So, all in all 2019 should bring lots of things to which we can look forward. Do join us at 2 o'clock on Tuesday afternoons. You will be very welcome.

Pat Hutchinson



Lighthouse after-school club

Lighthouse has places for new members aged between 4 and 11

It meets in term time on Wednesdays from 3.30 – 5.30 pm at Bents Green Church

Enjoy games, crafts, films, drama, stories and make new friends

For more information contact Cherry 07853278612

Command or Invitation?



Have you ever noticed how many commands there are in our lives?

Stop! The sign at the junction demands. No-one in their right mind would ignore it.

Hurry! Don't miss out! will be familiar if you are exposed to advertising in the media.

A command which is meant kindly but can be distressing is **Get Well Soon!** - most of us would if we could!

The Bible is full of commands. So many that it is possible to have a picture of God with a big stick goading us into obedience. That is a negative view of God's purposes. The list of commands known as the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20) was given as a sensible outline for civilised living. Even today much of our own law reflects these.

Jesus was asked which was the most important commandment. The question was reflected back and the answer is life-enhancing: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbour as yourself". (Luke 10:25-30)

But there are times when a command becomes an invitation. "Come to tea, we would love to see you." One of the loveliest of Jesus' invitations was given in this way: "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." When we are tired of keeping the rules or balancing the demands of life, the invitation is there — for each of us.

Janet Nowell

You're Invited!

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 Fireworks 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.

Café worship on the first Sunday of each month. Breakfast from 10.00, with worship at 10.30. This is an informal service, so please make yourself at home. Drinks are available at any time.

Wednesdays at 10 am: Midweek service.

Healing Services at 6.30 pm on Sunday 17th Feb and Sunday 17th March led by Rev Peter Edwards

Contact Details:

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

Minister: Rev Tim Crome
Tel. 0114 4389012
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 am	Ruth	2686507
Sparklers	4-5	Sun 10.30 am	Ruth	2686507
Sunbeams	0-4	Wed 9.15-12noon	Katie	07464 824462

For children and young people

Sparks	5-11	Sun 10.30 am	John	2307556
Fireworks	12-14	Sun 10.30 am	Emma	07707 500226
Sunday Club	15-18	Sun 10.30 am	Sue	2307556
Girls' Brigade	5-18	Thurs evening	Marian	2361316
Lighthouse	5-11	Wed 3.45 pm	Cherry	07853278612
Lampstand	12-18	Fri 8-10 pm	Cherry	07853278612
Craft Services	3 -12	Festivals	Sue	2307556
Drama group	All ages	Various	Glenn	2351057
Pantomime	All ages	Annually	Glenn	2351057
Musical	All ages	Special events	Christèle	07912207661
Holiday Club	4-11	August 5 th -9 th 2019	Lesley	2686461

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

Please send material for the next issue to the editor by Sunday 24th 2019.

If you would like to receive **Hilltop** by email please email the editor: tn-bg@live.co.uk

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 – especially men and women over 60.

Tues 5th Feb	QUIZ
Tues 12th Feb	HISTORY OF WHIRLOW
Tues 19th Feb	LIFE OF A FARRIER
Tues 26th Feb	BUSKIN BUDDIES
Tues 5th March	CELLAR V PLAYS MUSIC
Tues 12th March	BELIEVE IT OR NOTMUSIC
Tues 19th March	ROGER GLEW SINGS GEORGE FORMBY
Tues 26th March	SHEFFIELD'S LINK WITH BAPAUME AFTER WW1

**For more information contact Pat 0114 2497280
or Jackie Smith 0114 3483069**

Chitty Bang Bang – Bents Green Church Pantomime, Feb 22 – 24 2019

Coming very soon to Bents Green are the four people you see in the photo. They are, from left to right, Jeremy Pott, Jemima Pott, Caractacus Pott and Truly Scrumptious. In the photo you also get just a glimpse of their car - the original Chitty Bang Bang designed by Count Zborowski, re-created by Bents Green's own amazing designers and engineers. Watch her float and fly!



If you want to see this amazing spectacle, you will have to come to our annual Pantomime on Friday 22nd February at 7.30, Saturday 23rd February at 7.30, or Sunday 24th February at 4.30. There you will also meet the evil Baron and Baroness Bombast and their child catchers, toy makers, spies, famous inventors, pirates and courtiers. As if that were not enough, we have a Lord, a tax-dodger, an eccentric, a good number of brave villagers, some exciting fairground entertainers, and talented singers and dancers.

You will need tickets to get in, which can be ordered from: **Glenn Evans** (235 1057 or dglennevans@hotmail.co.uk) Tickets are free, but we welcome generous donations on the night

FREE ENTRY

PV Dementia Cafe

PORTER VALLEY DEMENTIA CAFE

Social- Snacks and refreshments
Fun- A range of activities
Educational- Relevant speakers and guests

- To be held on every 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month 2pm-4pm at Bents Green Methodist Church, S11 9SJ- starting 6 December.
- Accessible by number 88, 83 and number 4 buses and lots of free road parking available.
- All welcome including carers.
- Please contact Kath Horner on kathmhorner@gmail.com or 07757 619009 for more information and to confirm your attendance.



Porter Valley Dementia Café

Thursday 7th March 2019

2pm-4pm

“Sing Something Simple”

An enjoyable musical hour where we are all the entertainment.....

Join Sheffield's own vocalist

SUSAN ST NICHOLAS

in a communal sing song where we help to choose and learn a selection of great standard songs from yesteryear and simply enjoy ourselves

Porter Valley Dementia Café

The Dementia Café opened on Thursday 6th December at Bents Green Methodist Church. GPs in the Porter Valley area recognised there are few activities their patients could access in the local area and are providing 18 months of funding for the new café.

The café offers a social afternoon with snacks and refreshments, a range of activities and relevant speakers and guests. It is for people with dementia who live in their own homes, and for their families and carers.

It is held on the first and third Thursdays of the month from 2 – 4 pm in the church (come in by the main door of the church).

More details are available from Kath Horner, the Chair of Sheffield Dementia Action Alliance, 07757 619009 or email kathmhorner@gmail.com