

# Hilltop

October / November 2019

Newsletter of The Church at Bents Green

**Come as you are**



**A relaxed evening sharing sisterly love and fellowship for women of all ages**

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September at 7 pm  
at Bents Green Church (come in by the main church door)  
Tea, coffee and treats  
More details from Katie 07464824462 or Emily 07939892717

Pray without ceasing 1 Thessalonians 5 v17

***Come As You Are – Movie Night  
Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September 7 pm***

## ***Harvest Service***

***Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> October 10.30 am***

***followed by a bring and share lunch  
and general church meeting***

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## ***Memorial Service***

***Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> November 4 pm***

***a quiet service to remember a loved one***

## ***Bents Green Autumn Craft Fayre***

***Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> October 11am – 4pm***

***Refreshments and craft stalls***

## ***Hilltop Newsletter***

***50 years old this month!***

A community church sharing the love of Jesus

## Church News

**Some events to look out for at Bents Green Church this autumn:**

**Come As You Are - Movie Night** at 7pm on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September

**Bents Green Autumn Craft Fayre** from 11 am – 4 pm on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> October

**Harvest Service** and **Bring and Share lunch** and General Church Meeting on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> October

**Learn about Islam** – speaker: **Chris Hewer**, 10 am – 3 pm on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November

**Remembrance Day Service:** 10.30 am Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November

**Memorial Service**, a quiet service to remember those close to us who have died, 4 pm on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> November

**Congratulations to Mike and Sue Ratheram** who recently celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary. (See photos on the right)

We thank **John Wilkins** for all his work as **Lay Assistant Pastor** in our church. After 5 years in this role he has now stepped down. His article below explains more about how he came into the role and who is going to take over some of the responsibilities. He has made a huge difference in ensuring the church runs smoothly and in encouraging new initiatives and we are grateful to him.



Mike and Sue Ratheram celebrate their Golden Wedding



## To LAM or not to LAM?

In March 2014 Louise asked to have a word with me. She explained that she had been asked to become one of the co-superintendents organising the Sheffield Circuit, and that her particular role would be the care and growth of the 60+ churches in the Circuit. Would I help to pick up tasks at Bents Green that she could no longer do? She didn't know what the pressures or time commitments of her new job would be, so I would need to be flexible. And there was no money involved.

Tina had died just two years earlier, and I was still working out what life was all about, and this invitation seemed to be a call from God to a new dimension in ministry. So I agreed to give it a go, and pitched in, becoming the first point of contact for people within and outside the church. It meant taking on some pastoral tasks, linking with groups in this and other churches, and trying to ensure that things ran well behind the scenes through the Leadership Team, Resources Committee, Worship Coordinators, Pastoral Team and latterly the Holy Habits strategy group. I was given the title of Lay Assistant Minister, but this was changed after a while to Lay Assistant Pastor – a pity, because I preferred being a LAM to a LAP.

Neither Louise nor I had set a time limit to my role, in case it didn't work, but I was willing to support Louise for as long as she was co-super and expected this to be five years. But in the summer of 2017 Louise announced that she was leaving to be a hospital chaplain in York, and Tim would be our minister, on top of the many jobs he already had. So I decided to continue through a transitional phase.

It now seems right, after five years, to stand down from my formal appointment as LAP. I'll be 70 next year (yes, I know it's hard to believe), family commitments are growing, and I would like the time to do new things. People have asked 'who's taking over?' The answer is 'no-one'. Tim knows us well, and Graham is taking a more active pastoral role. But a lot of the things I will continue to do. I will lead worship, continue on the pastoral team, organise meetings, and be a good team player wherever I can in the life of the church.

So I will conclude with thanks to Bents Green Church for the opportunity I have had for a wider ministry. I am so grateful for the prayers and encouragement of so many people. I wish, of course, that I had done more and done it better. But it has been an honour and a privilege to serve God's people in this way. Again, thank you.

**John Wilkins**



## 'Keep calm and carry on' *Letter from our minister*

'Keep calm and carry on' is one of those slogans which can apply to many a situation. It is ok if you can carry on, if events or people do not disrupt too drastically. But the need to keep calm is becoming more and more sought after. From life style coaches to yoga, from de stressing retreats to endless self-help books, much money is made from a never ending demand. Although following the way of Jesus is no guarantee for a stress free life, there are some proven benefits in terms of wellbeing.

Seeing life and the world as a merger between God's story in humanity and seeing our part in that story, brings a wider focus to life. There are enough suffering and complexities thrown at us each moment of each day to raise many doubts and questions. But there is something within our reach which gives a depth and width of vision and perspective. So the focus is not just on me, but is drawn wider and deeper with different rhythms, insights and awareness.

The Biblical stories are a witness to many generations of faithful people struggling to make sense of the world and life, and of God's place in it all. We might be tempted to think that we should all have learned by now. But I suspect that each generation and each person needs to discover the truth for themselves afresh. Sometimes this means using new language and imagery.



Demand is growing to get away from many of the pressures of everyday living. Having the courage to switch the phone off, the discipline not to respond immediately to every tweet, text or email, to get fresh air and exercise, eat a regular balanced diet, and not to burn the candle at both ends are common sense but are so hard to achieve.

So to be able to find a still quiet space is a gift to cherish. We can overcomplicate our time alone with God by making prayer as busy as the rest of our lives, and thus we push God to the margins and don't have the space just to be in his presence. A simple lit candle and just five minutes of silence can run deeply through us.

We are too polite in this country and in church. We need to be much more open about our faith journeys, either how lost we are, or what works for us. The shared journey of faith can encourage, support and inspire. Some have found aspects of the Holy Habits experience an insightful reminder of some of the basics of following Jesus each day. Nothing complex - just calmly, expectantly, faithfully discovering more and more the place of God in the midst of our living. Keeping calm and carrying on – but with a greater awareness and appreciation.

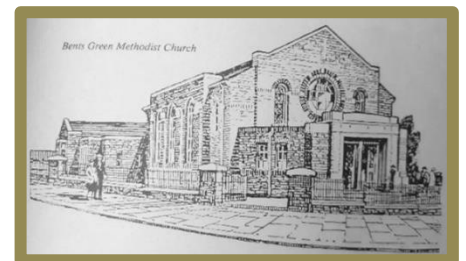
I hope that, in all the turmoil around us, this might be true for us and we find ways to live it out.

**Peace, Tim**

## Hilltop is 50 years old!

The first edition of Hilltop appeared in September 1969 which makes Hilltop 50 years old. The first editor was Graham Wassell who was then 22 years old. The minister of Bents Green Church was Rev Teare and the person who worked with Graham to produce the early Hilltops was Mr Ken Clark. Graham remembers that each month he would go round to Mr Clark's house and sit and prepare the next issue with him.

Early Hilltops consisted of one sheet of folded A4 paper in a different colour of paper each month. On the outside there was a pencil drawing of the church and inside on the left "The minister writes..." and on the right was Church family news and any requests or reports about activities. Graham remembers that the first issue carried a request from Mrs Purdy asking for soap for Sister Celia Clemens, a missionary working in Africa who had been a member at Bents Green. On the back page Graham looked for people to write articles of interest. One early series was by Mrs Hamer who wrote about old Bents Green - how the shops had developed and some of the characters living locally. Everything was handwritten and sent off to a printer in Birmingham who typed it up, printed it, folded it and sent it back to Graham.



Derek Brammer was involved in the distribution of Hilltop from early on, but at the beginning the scouts delivered the leaflet to every member of the congregation. Derek became involved when the scouts stopped. He had a team of deliverers, many of whom were parents of the former scout deliverers. He was presented with a book of all the church members and their addresses and one onerous task was to keep this book up to date!

Later editors of Hilltop were Tony Manning, Paul Jackson, Lynne Bingham, Janet Nowell, Paul Davis and then I took it on in 2010. Methods of producing Hilltop evolved over time. Janet remembers that contributions came to her either in typescript or



handwritten and Jenny Simpson typed it. The content was a mixture of articles and church information. Some people were regular contributors. Pictures, cartoons, jokes and puzzles came from the pages of a publication that the church paid for. She did a lot of cutting and pasting by hand and then took a pile of papers to the printers to be photocopied and made into a booklet. When he took over, Paul Davis transferred the production to computer. Alan Jones saw the possibility of having a church photocopier which would do the work and he took on the job of copying and stapling each issue. At that time Hilltop came out each month so this was all a considerable amount of work.

In 2013 our minister, Louise, had the vision of a new look for Hilltop which would be of interest to local people and not just for church members to keep people in touch with what we are doing in Bents Green Church. Every two months the newsletter is printed and distributed to all the local shops and can be read in the hairdressers, the opticians, the Hammer and Pincers, Monument Café and the library. Electronic copies of Hilltop (in full colour) are also sent out by email to many people. Otherwise we depend on members of the congregation to give Hilltop to neighbours and spread the information. Please take a copy!

Tricia North

## Holy Habits – Making more disciples

Regular readers of Hilltop will know that the Church at Bents Green is in the middle of a two-year programme of study called Holy Habits. This is based on how the very first Christian church behaved in Jerusalem after its birth on the Day of Pentecost. We read in the Bible that 3000 people joined the church that day, and also that day by day more people were added to their number (Acts chapter 2 verses 41 and 47). The current Holy Habit is “Making more disciples”.

We may be surprised by the number of 3000, but we are not surprised that the church was looking for new followers. We are used to that idea, but in fact it was completely foreign to the people of Jerusalem. It was not part of the Jewish religion to recruit new followers. To this day you become a Jew simply by being born to a Jewish mother. Of course, anyone can decide to become a Jew, but Judaism does not campaign for new followers. The fact that Christians from the very beginning sought and welcomed new followers was one of the many revolutionary ideas that Jesus taught.

It is because of that new idea that there is a Church at Bents Green, because that idea was taken on by St Paul, St Augustine, Martin Luther, John Wesley and many others. You will have heard of all four of those just named, but you will not have heard of Messrs JN Hallam, T Bowker, WJ Hale, FH Waddy and S Allcard. Who are they? They were the committee who managed the purchase of the land where the church stands and then its building. However, the money for the land and some of the building was raised by the “Ladies’ Sewing Meeting” who are unnamed. The real saints of this world are seldom named.



The church was opened on 30th April 1932. This photograph was taken in 1933, before houses were built on Knowle Lane. The church has remained at the heart of the community ever since, and many more than 3000 people have been part of its life. The current members and worshippers are all here because someone once told us about Jesus. It may have been our parents or friends or Sunday School teachers. If those people had not been interested in “Making more disciples”, the church at Bents Green would not have survived and flourished. We owe them a great debt of gratitude. However, the key person in our history is someone else. Can you guess who that is?

Although the Church at Bents Green is filled with friendly people of all ages, and we all get on surprisingly well, the most important person in our past, present and future is Jesus Christ. It says in big letters at the front of the worship area, **Jesus be the Centre**. He is the reason the church is there, and the people of the church worship Him and serve Him.

Yes, Christ’s teaching was revolutionary and still inspires. Yes, the power of His love could achieve miracles and yes, He died on the Cross but came back to life on that first Easter day. Yet none of that would be known if it were not for billions of people telling other people that His love and power can still transform lives and give the peace and the purpose that all human beings need. “Making more disciples” has literally changed the world, and we commend Jesus to you.

Glenn Evans

## Porter Valley Dementia Café

Hello everyone, my name is Josée and I run the Dementia Café at Bents Green Church. We meet on the first and third Thursdays of the month. It started up in December 2018 and we all feel it's going from strength to strength. Originally set up by Dementia Alliance at the request of several local GP practices, hence the name, it's now under the management of Age UK Sheffield.

Myself and a very willing and able body of volunteers set up and run the café. The volunteers are very much a part of the café and offer a range of support, from making tea and coffee, to setting up and putting away and, most importantly, offering a listening ear. We have also had some dementia-friendly training from Elspeth, Age UK, Sheffield. I feel we are well supported by them and it is good to be a part of such an organisation.

We offer a wide variety of activities and often have a themed session. Our June one was all about weddings and courtship. We watched a short film, highlighting several royal weddings. We had fizz to drink and wedding cake and bubbles. I had hired a reminiscence box from the Montgomery Theatre, which was displayed, and people could handle the items. I am sure it brought back memories.

We then had a sing-along featuring people's memories of their wedding hymns and love songs that were meaningful to them. David Wood put this programme together and played for us. So many people commented that they had really enjoyed it.

We are quite a large group, usually around 40 people and we regularly have games, puzzles, carpet bowls, colouring, word searches and quizzes to stimulate minds, music to soothe and encourage movement and tea and cake and plenty of time to chat. We often have health professionals visit to offer advice and guidance and have a range of leaflets on many appropriate subjects and a book swap. The service manager and the volunteer coordinator from Age UK Sheffield, came to meet everyone last week and joined in the chair exercises.

I do feel we are very lucky to have the beautiful church in which to hold these sessions and am grateful for the help and resources which are to hand, in making the café as successful as it is and there has been regular fund-raising by the patient participation group to provide appropriate materials. Please feel free to pop in at one of our sessions and see what we do, you will be most welcome.

**Josée Rollett**

## Thoughts from Friendship Club

New beginnings happen in the autumn. It signals the end of summer but it heralds the beginning of the harvest when we are so thankful for all the crops and fruits yielded every year in our fertile land.

Friendship club celebrates harvest with poems and songs, and then we look forward to a new term of speakers and entertainers. By then we will have listened to our railway enthusiast, Stephen Gay, who is one of our favourite speakers. We will also have listened to a talk by Daniel Kalman about the Kindertransport. This is when we really count our blessings. To have been transported as a child to a foreign country, leaving one's parents behind, just because of one's race, beggars belief.

We then look forward to several musical afternoons including our popular ukulele band, as well as nature talks by Sally Moseley and Steve Drinkall.

Tuesday afternoons at 2 o'clock are times of entertainment, chat and laughter when we can be thankful for fellowship and fun. Do join us - you will be most welcome.

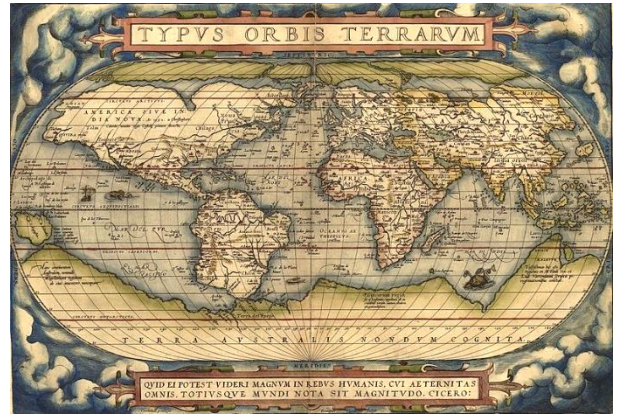
**Pat Hutchinson**



## Here be Dragons

Have you ever seen really old maps drawn without scale or accuracy? They are often delightfully illustrated. Where knowledge of the area being mapped becomes hearsay or imagination, there can be pictures of monsters or mythological creatures. Wikipedia says there is no record of 'Here be Dragons' on such maps. It is still a fun idea.

Life can be a bit like those old maps with scary unknowns looming. We know our way round the familiar patterns of daily routine; we can even feel comfortable with straightforward plans for a holiday or other event a bit ahead. It is not so easy when matters are unpredictable, and we are out on the edge of our 'map'. Personal issues such as the death of a



loved one or some other life changing situation can send us into 'dragon territory'.

Nationally we are facing immense uncertainties at this time. Fear, anger, distrust and confusion stalk our society. Dragons indeed.

Jesus said quite a lot about the dragons of anxiety and fear. He was not diminishing those things but encouraging his hearers to share the burdens with him. There is a whole section in Matthew's gospel about worry. It concludes:

"Therefore, do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own." (Matthew 6:34).

**Janet Nowell**



## Invitation from Pearls Group

### *An opportunity to study the books of Daniel and Revelation*

This autumn, Pearls House Group, will be commencing a dynamic study of the books of Daniel and Revelation, scriptures which are distinctly prophetic. An understanding of Daniel is considered extremely useful to achieve a better understanding of Revelation. So, upon completion of studying Daniel's book we hope to continue our study of Revelation over the winter months.

With God's help, we shall see what God was saying to Daniel in his visions and dreams, visions that predicted the destiny of empires and described important prophetic events that shaped Israel's history and the Church. We shall see what Jesus revealed to the churches to sustain them in 'latter-days' and how Jesus in Revelation will overcome powers and empires to establish His Kingdom.

We shall discuss as part of the study which events are historical and which are future (or both) and when scripture is being literal or symbolic and what the symbols represent. If you have a sincere interest in God's plan, and would like to share in this study and discussion group, which is usually informal and relaxed, you will be welcome. Whether you are a Bents Green member or a visitor from another church.

We shall take the study at a pace everyone is comfortable with and to allow an opportunity for discussion and prayer, not to mention tea and biscuits.

Pearls Group meets at 8pm until 9.30pm on the second Wednesday of each month, in the upstairs lounge of Bents Green Methodist Church.

**Glynn Williams**





## 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 followed by coffee.

### 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 2020	Lesley	2686461

### 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.

<b>Tues 1<sup>st</sup> Oct</b>	<b>YORKSHIRE TEABAGS</b>
<b>Tues 8<sup>th</sup> Oct</b>	<b>POTTY ABOUT THE PEAKS: SALLY MOSELEY</b>
<b>Tues 15<sup>th</sup> Oct</b>	<b>HARVEST: UKELELE</b>
<b>Tues 22<sup>nd</sup> Oct</b>	<b>BENTS GREEN SINGERS</b>
<b>Tues 29<sup>th</sup> Oct</b>	<b>NATURE: STEVE DRINKALL</b>
<b>Tues 5<sup>th</sup> Nov</b>	<b>BUSKIN BUDDIES</b>
<b>Tues 12<sup>th</sup> Nov</b>	<b>ANNIE FOTHERINGHAM</b>
<b>Tues 19<sup>th</sup> Nov</b>	<b>SONG AND DANCE : AMI EVANS</b>
<b>Tues 26<sup>th</sup> Nov</b>	<b>ARAGON by MIKE GILDERSLEVE</b>

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

### Contact Details:

For pastoral matters: Rev Graham Wassell  
Tel. 0114 2350393

Minister: Rev Tim Crome

Tel. 0114 4389012

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

Youth Minister: Cherry Mair

Tel 07853 278612

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 17<sup>th</sup> November 2019.**

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

**Porter Valley Dementia 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.

## Holiday club photos



## Reflections #3

## Songs of Triumph

A plastic bag from Tesco  
dancing the flamenco  
with seagulls on a landfill  
is awe-fill  
refusing  
to be refuse  
flying in the face  
of its disuse.

\*\*\*

Beauty is not in the eye  
of the Beholder  
Beauty is that the eye  
is in the Beholder

Psalm 139v14

## James Ogden

## Bents Green Autumn Craft Fayre

We are very excited about our upcoming Craft Fair. It is to be held at Bents Green Church on Saturday, 12th October, 11am to 4pm. There will be a variety of craft stalls including jewellery, woolies, candles, dog collars, toys and books.

This will be the perfect opportunity to get special and unique gifts. There will also be games organised by Girls' Brigade and, of course, refreshments. Monies raised from this fair will go to the church and to the Dementia Cafe that runs at the church.

If you wish to help and/or donate cake (or other edible items) please contact either Nicky Partridge (07790 061130) or Jane Higgs (07932 790076), preferably by text. We look forward to seeing you there.

