

# Hilltop

February / March 2020

Newsletter of The Church at Bents Green

## ***Come as you are***

### ***Breakthrough!***

***Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at 7.30***

***An evening of encouragement, activity and laughter for women of all ages***

***At Bents Green Church S11 7PU***

## ***Toy Story***

***The annual Bents Green traditional family pantomime***

***Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February at 7.30pm***

***Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February at 7.30pm***

***Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> February at 4.30pm***

***See page 8 for how to obtain (free) tickets***

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## ***Lent Lunches – Sun 1<sup>st</sup> March***

***Bread and cheese lunch after the morning services for 5 Sundays.***

***Donations for lunch will be given to Grace Food Bank. (see p2)***

***Come and enjoy time together***

## ***Mothering Sunday – 22<sup>nd</sup> March***



### ***Bents Green now and then***

***The new Focus and Move studio and a hand coloured photograph from around 1925 (see p5&8)***

A community church sharing the love of Jesus

## Church News

**Come As You Are – Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> Feb at 7.30 pm in Bents Green Church – Breakthrough!** An evening of encouragement, activity and laughter for women of all ages. Tea, coffee and time to chat.

**Christmas collections** from the services came to £347.91 which has been given to the Archer Project. Thank you for your gifts.

**Hilltop editor** – we will be looking at ways of involving new people in producing Hilltop and sharing the production of the newsletter. If anyone is interested in being involved, even in a small way, do get in touch. Email [tnorth2011@hotmail.com](mailto:tnorth2011@hotmail.com)

**Condolences** - We were sad to hear of the death of Peter Swift shortly before Christmas and also of Ruth Seal just after Christmas. We send thoughts and prayers to both families.

**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.

## Holy Habits - sharing

It's good to share. I'm sure most of us have tried to teach our children that. But it isn't always easy. The first Christians were so inspired by Jesus that they were really good at practical daily sharing. Acts 2:44 - 45 tells us that they 'shared their belongings with one another. They would sell their property and possessions, and distribute the money among all, according to what each one needed.' It was one of the things that other people noticed most about them.

In February and March we get the chance to tackle sharing, as we focus on a new Holy Habit called Sharing Resources. I expect preachers and others will find many different ways to encourage and challenge us on this topic, but here are three points as a starter.

1. Jesus shares his resources with us. His resources are endless, but four leap out to me. First, God in Christ made the universe, and he shares his creation with us, to care for it. Second, Jesus shares his endless fund of forgiveness and grace with us, symbolised in the sharing of his body and blood in communion. Third, Jesus promises us eternal life with him – 'There are many rooms in my Father's house, and I am going to prepare a place for you' (John 14:2). Four, Jesus shares his Spirit with us now, day by day – 'I will be with you always, to the end of the age' (Matthew 28:20).
2. We share our resources with each other. In church we share our time, talents and money with each other, to our mutual benefit. Many of us also share pots of tea and meals during the week, and our time and encouragement in supporting those in need.
3. We follow Jesus in sharing our resources with the community. We maintain our premises in good condition, and open them to a wide range of community groups during the week. We give a huge amount of time and energy in running activities for young and old, especially the panto at this time of year (see page 8 for details). And during the year we give money and food to local good causes, including the Archer Project and Grace Food Bank, and give money overseas, mostly through Christian Aid. As well as individual giving in this way, the church annually gives £2000 from its own account to charities nominated by members.



**God in Christ made the universe, and he shares his creation with us**

On Sunday mornings in Lent we want to give practical expression to sharing with each other and the community. On 5 Sundays, starting on 1<sup>st</sup> March, everyone is invited to stay in church after the service and share in a simple meal of bread and cheese, and maybe jam! And then we are invited to give what we might have spent on our normal dinner to the Grace Food Bank. Jackie Butcher from the Food Bank will be here on 1<sup>st</sup> March to tell us more about what they do in caring for people in serious need.

So we're not bad at sharing. But we can each tackle the challenge of expanding our sharing in new ways this year. Perhaps, like the first Christians, other people will notice what we are doing, and want to join in!

**John Wilkins**



## Travel hopefully in 2020

### *Letter from our minister*

I can remember walking up a mountain in Scotland as a child. The idea of getting to the top was exciting, but as we slowly climbed and the legs grew wearier, some of the novelty wore off. Ahead, we could see the ridge of the top, which was an incentive to push on. But when we reached the ridge we saw that it was not the top, there was another ridge ahead. This happened several times, until we had to decide whether we had had enough, and to turn around, wondering whether there was an actual top, or a series of never-ending ridges.

The ancient proverb says: 'It is better to travel hopefully than to arrive.'

Some friends were telling me about their experience last autumn of travelling the Camino (pilgrim route) to Santiago de Compostella. They walked 500km across Spain over 6 weeks. They described what it felt like to get up early each day, with the prospect of another full day of walking ahead of them. They had the challenge to cut down on non-essential luggage, because they had to carry all their stuff on their back. Each night the accommodation was in one of the many hostels along the route where they met other pilgrims from all over the world, each with a different reason for walking.

These friends of mine do not share a faith perspective, yet they talked about how the act of pilgrimage had changed their view.

They shared the sense of continual movement, the sense of being in the open air, the rhythm of plodding through each day, day after day and the stimulus of meeting others in the same 'bubble' of doing the Camino. The return home and reflection on the experience has taken some adjusting, and they will never be the same again.

Whatever 2020 brings as a year, I hope that you can travel with a sense of a transforming rhythm, a wider perspective than before, an openness to new ideas and challenges, and a sense of belonging and connectedness to others you have not yet met.

**Peace, Tim**



## The Wednesday morning service

On most Wednesday mornings of the year at 10 am there is a gathering of about twenty people in the main part of Bents Green Church. They sit in a circle with someone offering leadership. This is the Wednesday morning service.

We gather for a short time of worship, prayer, teaching and sharing. Someone plays the piano for the singing. Once a month we have a Holy Communion service.

Those attending are mainly senior citizens and include folk from other churches. At the end of the service there is an opportunity for coffee and conversation. All are welcome.

The service began in the 1990s with a former minister, Rev Eddie Curliss. He led the service every week. It was formal and often included thoughts on a psalm. The organ was used and we sat in rows. Over the years the pattern changed and the service was led by a variety of local preachers or ministers. Eventually, the current pattern was established. At times there is interaction between the leader and the group but it is a choice to join in or not. We stay seated throughout, which adds to the informality.

If you would like to come along to find out if this appeals to you, then please do. You are welcome.

**Janet Nowell**

**In 1999 teenagers were gathered at Wedgwood Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas for a prayer rally when Larry Gene Ashbrook entered with two handguns...**

This feeling  
whether it lasts  
of an hour  
intoxication of unbridled power  
this  
of over springing all boundaries  
of human existence  
demolishing  
all resistance  
if  
I can put it this way  
is  
for the person who has no say  
in their daily chore  
this  
of playing God  
people die for

**James Ogden**

## Fireworks

Fireworks is a group of 11-15 year olds who meet on a Sunday morning to chat, explore faith, support each other, be creative and help others. Over the last couple of months, the Fireworks have continued to explore 'Holy Habits' with the rest of the church and have maintained their commitment to raise money for homeless charities; holding another bake sale, which raised just over £130 (see photo).

They also began a new intergenerational project where they invited older members (Fountains) of the congregation to share in Bible journaling, food, stories and fellowship. They have had 4 of these Sundays and we have all been really blessed by the relationships forming with our new 'fountains'.

On two occasions we invited our special guests to share their stories with us. We heard stories of God always being there for them and in some really difficult and challenging times. Also they made us look at Bents Green in a new light, as one person shared amazing stories of being a child in World War 2. They attended school in peoples' homes (because the air raid shelter at the former Ecclesall Junior School was too small) and told tales of anti-aircraft guns being mounted on High Storrs field.

Just a small handful of people, each with unique and inspiring stories, it made us wonder how many more there are amongst people in the rest of the community, powerful stories that bring us together, something we should all do more!

Look out for an announcement coming soon for the date of the next **FIREWORKS QUIZ NIGHT**. Last year was a huge success, raising more money for great causes and bringing lots of different people from the community together. It was lots of fun too; we would love you to come along and support us.  
**Emma Hall**



## Helping others at Friendship Club

The new year at Friendship Club started with a fascinating and amusing talk by Rosemary Beney about HATS... the history of hats From Egyptian and Roman times right up to the fantastic hats that we see at Ascot. Rosemary also commented on the fact that we were a lovely, friendly group!

Totally different was the next week's talk about HARC.... Homeless and Rootless at Christmas. This is a charity which, at Friendship Club, we have been supporting for many Christmases. It was started thirty years ago to cater for the lonely and vulnerable at Christmas when several of the other charities close down.

It was a very interesting and humbling talk. We take our lovely Christmases, delicious food and warm homes somewhat for granted, but this is certainly not the case for the guests for whom HARC cater.

HARC is in association with several other charities including The Archer Project. This last Christmas 150 dinners were served on Christmas Day! It is run almost entirely by volunteers.

At Friendship Club we support a variety of charities; we have a glass jar in which our members put money each week, and when it is full it is donated to a charity.

However, the main purpose of Friendship Club is in the title!!! We meet to chat with our friends, to be entertained, and to enjoy fellowship in a warm, convivial atmosphere.

Do join us on a Tuesday afternoon at 2 o'clock; you will be most welcome.  
**Pat Hutchinson**

**Help Us Help** is a collaboration between services who support those who find themselves begging on the streets. Many have complex needs and Sheffield services have the experience to address these issues.



## Focus & Move

Many of you will have noticed the new business which has recently come to one of the shops at Bents Green, **Focus & Move**. The shop has stood empty for some months, since **A1 Sounds**, a hi-fi shop, closed. Sue Coult has now taken on the lease and opened a new Pilates and Yoga studio. She was very pleased to find these premises as she was keen to have a permanent base in this area where she has been running classes for almost 10 years.

The shop at Bents Green provides just the right facilities for her needs with a large room at the front for group classes and a small room at the back which can be used for massage and individual treatments. It took some months to obtain the necessary permissions to change the use of the premises. Then there was a lot of work to do to transform it from a hi-fi shop into a Pilates and Yoga studio. One of the biggest tasks was to have soundproofing installed so that the music which accompanies some classes does not disturb others. Now, instead of the original dark walls and dim lighting the studio is a spacious, bright, sunny room with room to store equipment conveniently at one end.



Sue originally trained as a physiotherapist and worked in the Royal Hallamshire Hospital and the Northern General as well as Rotherham Hospital. She worked part time in the hospitals which allowed her to begin to run classes and build up Focus & Move using rooms at Ecclesall Parish Church halls. Many of those who attend her classes are from the Ecclesall area and value having local classes, so it was essential to find premises in the same area. The shop at Bents Green is ideal.

In addition to her professional training as a physiotherapist Sue is a Level 3 Pilates teacher and qualified to level 3 in sports massage and aromatherapy massage. She also has certificates in scar release and holistic core restore ®. Other therapists also run some classes at the studio which means that there are also classes in Yoga and Hatha Yoga and Somatic movement available and more possibilities for the future.

Some one-off workshops are also planned: supporting health with natural solutions, pelvic floor workshop, green cleaning workshop and a release workshop using spikey balls and rollers and ending with relaxation.

If you are interested in any of these classes or workshops ring Sue and she will be very happy to discuss them with you.

**Contact details: mobile: 07877307930; website: <https://focusandmove.co.uk/>**



### Sue Coult *"Wellness through life"*

(Trained physio)

Pilates classes and 1:1

Pregnancy and postnatal

Pelvic floor and Diastasis recovery

Sports and aromatherapy massage

Essential oils for health and emotions

Tel 07877307930 [focusandmove.co.uk](https://focusandmove.co.uk)

**Congratulations** to Don Alexander who recently celebrated his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. He has lived in Bents Green for most of his life and I asked him about his memories of growing up here. When he was born his family were living in Bents Green Road and although they moved lower down the hill to Ecclesall Road for a short period, this house remained their family home. He attended Ecclesall School and also remembers coming to Sunday School at Bents Green Church. At that time the Sunday School was held in the Tin Chapel on Trap Lane. Don has a painting of the chapel on his wall at home, painted by Anne Brookes along with an old photograph of Ringinglow Road which he hand coloured (see page 8)

He qualified for High Storrs school for his secondary education and then, when he left school, he went to work at Firth Browns. He studied for his metallurgy qualifications on day release at the Sheffield Technical College. He joined the Research and Customer Liaison department and had opportunities to visit many countries where steel from Sheffield was exported. He visited India many times. He also went to South America, New Zealand and Norway.

He and Dorothy met locally at Parkhead Cricket Week. He was there with his friends and she with hers. Dorothy lived at Endcliffe and attended Endcliffe Methodist Church and it was there that they were married in 1954.

He was a keen cyclist and did a lot of cycling in Derbyshire. He was also a keen badminton player and ran the church badminton club for many years. He became very interested in photography and learnt from his uncle how to develop and print his own photographs. His interest in photography has continued and he still attends the Sheffield Moviemakers and has made many videos. Photographs of the pictures of old Bents Green are shown on the back page. **Tricia North**

## GAZE – an exhibition at the Graves Art Gallery

Many of you will remember my sister Margaret, who regularly worshipped with us in 2016-2017. Her daughter Lorna May Wadsworth is a professional portrait painter, and there is currently a major exhibition of her work, called GAZE, in the Graves Art Gallery in town. The Gallery is on the top floor of the Central Library, and it is open on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 11am to 4pm, and on Wednesdays from 1pm to 6pm. It is free to go in. The exhibition is on until 15th February.

The people she has painted include actors, politicians, singers, and other famous people, as well as ordinary people. Amongst the actors are Derek Jacobi and both David Tennant and Michael Sheen as the main characters in Good Omens now on BBC 2. The politicians include Margaret Thatcher, Tony Blair and David Blunkett. The other famous people include Liam Gallagher, the author Neil Gaiman and the former Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams.

The centrepiece of the exhibition is Lorna's 14-foot long altarpiece called "A Last Supper" (the preparatory charcoal drawing for this is on display in the Cathedral for the whole of 2020). I think it is a moving reinterpretation of Jesus saying farewell to His disciples. For example, Lorna has made Judas the most innocent-looking disciple in the act of touching the hand of Christ. This painting has been displayed in St Martins-in-the-Fields in Trafalgar Square, and was commissioned for Nailsworth Parish Church in Gloucestershire.



Some of the young men modelling the 12 disciples also feature in other paintings, as Lorna seeks to challenge the convention of male artists and female models. Two rooms are given over entirely to her paintings, while the Gallery has also placed 3 more paintings alongside similar works in their permanent collection in other rooms. I am very proud of my niece Lorna, and I have been pleased to write this article in response to a request from Tricia, the editor of Hilltop.

Anne Evans.

## If you love chocolate, read on.....

It may be hard to swallow but behind the sweet delight of chocolate lies the bitter taste of exploitation. The UK chocolate industry is worth at least £4 billion each year. And yet the average cocoa farmer in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana, where 60 percent of all cocoa is grown, makes less than 75p a day. This is well below the extreme poverty line of around £1.40 per day.



Meet Lucia, who is a cocoa farmer in Sierra Leone. She belongs to a Fairtrade co-operative of farmers called Ngoleagorbu, who live around the edge of the Gola rainforest. This forest-edge community became Fairtrade certified in 2019, which means they grow their cocoa according to Fairtrade Standards.

Farming in the rainforest is tough. During the night, chimpanzees wreak havoc, hollowing out the ripe, sweet cocoa beans from the pods, destroying the whole crop and leaving the farm strewn with empty shells. Not only this, but the hot, wet climate provides ideal conditions for the rapid spread of disease, which can lead to food shortages. Lucia has seen many farmers turn to mining, logging or rice farming as alternative sources of income. But she has also seen the destruction these activities bring to her beloved forest.

Will you support women like Lucia? As consumers we have the power to help to bring change by the choices we make when we are shopping. If we choose Fairtrade we are showing companies that people in the UK expect them to go much further to pay living income prices to farmers – and Fairtrade is the most trusted way to show it. <https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/>

***'What does the Lord require of us: to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God.'* Micah 6:8. Alison Tresize**

## 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.

**Healing Service on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> February at 6.30 pm**

### 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

### 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 4<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	<b>THE BUSTLE LADY: ANNE MARPLES</b>
<b>Tues 11<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	<b>MARY DE VILLE ENTERTAINS</b>
<b>Tues 18<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	<b>CONCEALED OBJECTS&amp; HIDDEN CHARMS; ELAINE PERKINS</b>
<b>Tues 25<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	<b>JOHN TAYLOR TALKS</b>
<b>Tues 3<sup>rd</sup> March</b>	<b>ANNE RITCHIE ENTERTAINS</b>
<b>Tues 10<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>ROBIN &amp; HUGH</b>
<b>Tues 17<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>THROUGH THE KIRTON TUNNEL</b>
<b>Tues 24<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>GLENN TALKS ABOUT JAPAN</b>
<b>Tues 31<sup>st</sup> March</b>	<b>ANNE FEATHERSTONE</b>

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

### 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 at 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 22<sup>nd</sup> March**.

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.



## Tickets for TOY STORY - The annual Bents Green traditional family pantomime

Toy Story, the annual Bents Green traditional family pantomime takes place on

- Friday 21st February at 7.30pm,
- Saturday 22nd February at 7.30pm
- and Sunday 23rd February at 4.30pm,

as advertised in the last Hilltop.

You must have a ticket to come, but the tickets are free. Just google **bentsgreenspotlight.org**, click where it says to order tickets, fill in the simple form, then press submit. You will have a great time.



## Pictures of old Bents Green – as mentioned on page 5.



An artist's impression of the tin chapel on Trap Lane, painted by Anne Brookes. Don remembers going to Sunday School here.



Ringinglow Road at Bents Green around 1925/7 before the houses were demolished to make way for a row of shops. Hand-coloured by Don Alexander.

**Come as you are  
Breakthrough!**



Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> Feb 2020 at 7.30

An evening of encouragement,  
activity and laughter  
for women of all ages.  
Tea, coffee, cakes & time to chat

at Bents Green Church  
Ringinglow Road S11 7PU  
More details from  
Katie 07464824462  
& Emily 07939892717

*Tell all the nations – Our God Reigns*  
Psalm 96v10

