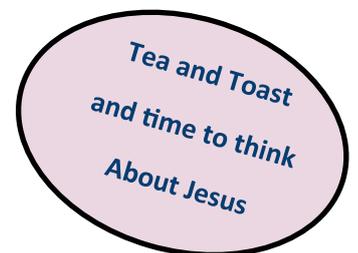


Hilltop

Spring 2025

Newsletter of The Church at Bents Green



Shown above are a small selection of the activities which go to make The Church at Bents Green a place where *all are welcome*.

To find out more about these groups and others read about them in the following pages.

Or

Visit our website at www.bentsgreenmethodist.org.uk

What do you believe?



During the early centuries of the Church's life there was a great concern for defining the orthodox faith of the Church. Such a need arose because of controversies developing within the Christian Church. For example, questions about the relationship of Jesus to God the Father, about whether God could suffer, and about the way the Holy Spirit worked in people's lives, had led different Christians to different conclusions.

So, at particular times in the history of the Church certain statements of Christian belief (creeds) emerged.

The two most important of these are the Nicene Creed (from the fourth century A.D.) and the Apostles' Creed (which is more difficult to date but its development is thought to have begun prior to the Nicene Creed).

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth. (From the Apostles' Creed)

I wonder what sort of creed you might draw up if you took time to do so. What do you believe about God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit? What are the essentials of your belief? What would your creed contain from the traditional statements of belief mentioned here?

For our sake [Jesus] was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again ...
(From the Nicene Creed)

You may ask what has led me to think about creeds. Well, we are in the year 2025 which marks the 1700th Anniversary of the Council of Nicaea (from which the Nicene Creed owes its origin). So, I thought that I could challenge you to reflect upon your own beliefs, as we approach Holy Week and Easter, and then to write your own creed. If you do so, you might like to seek out someone else who has done the same and share your creeds with each other. I wonder how similar or different they might be.

Wishing you a time of fruitful reflection,

Rev Philip Peacock

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Philip".

Worship at Bents Green



The seven current members of the Worship Group (guitars, keys, bass, violin and singers) lead the congregation in worship most Sunday mornings, and occasionally at a Sunday evening service for special events such as Harvest, Christmas, Easter etc.

We meet at church to practice almost every week on a Friday afternoon, usually having liaised earlier in the week, with whoever is preaching, and to offer song/hymn choices according to their theme. We know there are loads of talented musicians and singers, of all ages in Bents Green. So, if you have a heart for service through worship and think you could help us, do please speak with any one of us, or pop into one of our practices on Fridays at 2.00.

Worship is a priority in the church. The band's focus is not about being musically skilled or proficient, or hugely enthusiastic for the songs and their message (although we try!) but it is ALL about our service. Yes, to do our best to glorify God, we do need to practice and prepare, to listen to soundtracks, to study the scriptures behind the songs, to discuss and plan, and to pray together. But like every member of the congregation, our first responsibility is to come to give to God, to minister to God with our worship, and to give Him the praise and glory of which He is so worthy. Our worship is a response to the greatness and grace of God, and we must try to do it no matter what else is happening in our lives. We come as we are, to worship Him, and he clothes us in the dazzling robes of Christ's righteousness – (*In royal robes I don't deserve* – as the song goes) - and he reaches out His hand to draw us into the celebrations. The scriptures tell us that '*He will rejoice over us singing*' and that '*God delights in our praises*'. We are humbled and greatly blessed to be able to serve Him.

A group of experienced volunteers formed Sunrise 2 years ago after the sad loss of 2 local PreSchools. Sadly yet another has closed this year, so we continue to provide space for PreSchool aged children to develop, grow and meet new friends for school.

We provide a relaxed caring environment where parents, carers and Grandparents can make lovely memories with their children and build community. This year we have also become supported by Sheffield Family Hubs, see our article about this for more detail.

Our weekly theme inspires free play, craft activities, messy trays, snack craft, gross motor equipment, role play. We have stories, songs and our Sunrise mascot Sunny loves to join the fun. This spring/summer we will be developing our outdoor area thanks to the Hub.



for more info visit our Facebook group 'Sunrise PreSchool Playgroup'



Or contact Emma on 07707500226

Sparklers

We are a group for 2-4 year old to meet together on a Sunday morning to learn about the Bible and how we can follow Jesus. We start with a show and tell time where the children tell us any news and what they have been doing in the past week. The morning has a basic structure but this can alter depending on the mix and age of the children that morning. During the morning we have a Bible story, do a craft linked to the story, play games and have a prayer time.

The children are always keen to come and learn and enjoy caring and sharing with each other.



We are keen to welcome any children aged 2 to 6 who would like to join us. Further details from Ruth Larder 07891071705

Sparks

Sparks is a group for 6 to 11 year old which meets every Sunday 10.30 -12 pm. We offer games, find out about Jesus through bible stories, crafts and friendship. All children are made welcome.

Fireworks youth group

Fireworks is a group for 11+ year old young people to meet, discuss life, ask questions, explore faith, the Bible and build supportive friendships.

We have enjoyed watching 'The Chosen' together and exploring our thoughts and responses to it. We love our young people to share their passions and causes for us to explore and inspire what we do.

CRAFT *Games*

Fireworks meets on Sunday mornings 10.30-11.30am in Bents Green Church lounge.

Prayer WALKS

RAISE MONEY FOR CHARITIES

for more information contact Emma 07707500226

Games, Craft and Chatter

The group meets weekly on a Wednesday from 12.30 to 3.00pm and is a Welcome Place registered with Age UK Sheffield Welcome Space providers in SW Sheffield.



We take part in a variety of activities which include knitting, crocheting, jigsaws, sewing, jewellery making, games and of course chatting!

Some people bring their own crafts to do in the group while others knit, sew or crochet items for charity. We have made knee blankets and fiddle mats for care homes, and scarves, hats and gloves for Link for Hope shoeboxes.

Last Christmas group members, church members and members of the Girls Brigade hung 1500 angels all around the community. Each had a Christmas prayer and a note saying they were free to take. These had been knitted or crocheted by group members over the previous 18 months

We have 35 on the register ranging in age from 15 (who come in school holidays) to early 90's and a average attendance is about 24. Lots of friendships have been made that carry on outside of a Wednesday afternoon. We always stop for a short meditation during the afternoon and can offer individual prayer if asked for.

We welcome anyone to join us . Contact Ruth Larder 07891071705



Girls' Brigade meet on Thursday nights at 6.30 pm. We are looking forward to joining our friends and having fun, learning new skills and discovering more about the Christian faith.

For more information please contact Marian Haley 01142361316 or Annie Russell 07739468826 or Cherry Mair 07466614759. **We have room for new members.**

Children's Christmas Choir

The choir is made up of around 20 children and teenagers and is open to anyone aged between 5 and 18. We usually split into two groups by age - each group learns one song plus all the children learn a second song which both groups sing together. The choir performs as part of the traditional Carol Service and on Christmas Eve as part of the Christingle Service. Every child who wants to can sing one line by themselves into a microphone as a solo, as well as singing sections all together as a group.

The choir usually practices for an hour a week during most weeks from October to December. Practices take place on either a Sunday tea time or Saturday afternoon or evening (times chosen to fit around the Church pantomime practices).

Since the first choir was formed in 2013, the Christmas choir has been enjoyed by many local children and teenagers. It has become a traditional part of Christmas at Bents Green Church. For more information, please speak to Christèle Hall or contact us via the Church website.



Bents Green Church

Lampstand

Youth club for Y6 - Y11

Join us every Friday
in term time!
7:30pm - 9:30pm
£2 entry per person

WELCOME TO ALL

- Dodgeball
- Badminton
- Table tennis
- Games consoles
- Crafts
- Tuckshop
- Games
- Films
- Trips
- Summer Residential

For more information
contact Cherry on
07466 614759
or
cherry.bgmc@gmail.com

Tuckshop
has sweets
and treats
from 5p to £1!

Lampstand is going really well! This year we have had an influx of young people. We welcome 40 young people each week.

As we have grown in numbers to help ensure we keep numbers manageable we now ask parents to book in young people.

We have set a youth club Whats App group also to make keeping in touch and booking in go smoothly. We are planning to run a residential this summer with other youth groups from across Sheffield.

If you would like to know any more then please get touch with Cherry.

Lighthouse

After school club



Join us Wednesdays
in Term time
3:30 - 5:30pm
£2 per child per week

Each week we offer;

- Crafts
- Bible Story
- Drama
- Snacks
- Games
- Film
- Games Consoles a and much more!

For more information or to book a space.
Contact Cherry on
07466 614 759 /
cherry.bgmc@gmail.co.uk

Lighthouse is an after school club which runs on Wednesdays in term time from 3:30-5:30pm. Lighthouse is a afterschool club designed for children aged 5-11 years old. The cost is £2 per child, per session and this includes a drink, snacks and craft materials. Each half term we look at different bible stories and themes. Each week we offer a different bible story, craft, snack , drama, games and activities. This half term we are looking at the Easter story and will be making lots of Easter themed crafts. We currently have a few spaces at Lighthouse.

If you would like to come and give it a try or find out more then please get in touch with Cherry.

PAINT THE RAINBOW



an art group for neurodiverse children
to have fun experimenting with art

you will have the opportunity to try

- making bead animals
- rock painting
- sticker making
- fidget toy making
- reverse colouring book
- clay

Drinks
and
snacks
provided



£1 entry

For 11 - 16
year olds

Starting in January 14th
every Tuesday 3:30-5:00pm

At bents green Methodist church

Please email cherry.bgmc@gmail.com

Only 10 spaces available



Tea ,Toast and
Time to think
about Jesus

We are a group of ladies who meet
on Thursday mornings during term
time in the upstairs lounge at
church, 10.30 - 12.15ish.

We meet for fellowship , to look at
the bible together, ask questions
and pray.

All are welcome.

Sunbeams runs every Wednesday during term time from 9.30-11.30.

It's a very relaxed, friendly and welcoming group where you can come and go to fit in to suit.

We have on average, 30 parents, grandparents and carers attending every week during term time and 40 babies and toddlers. My own granddaughter comes now which is wonderful! I've been running Sunbeams for ten years now and it continues to be an enormous privilege to do so.

Every week we have a wide range of toys and play areas set out. We have a story that fits with our theme and a craft to do after that links in. We have a snack time while the children are listening and this is always well received! We always finish with singing and playing of musical instruments which the children love and don't seem to mind that I absolutely can't sing!! Haha!

Refreshments are served throughout by my wonderful team, my mum, my mum in law and sometimes even my dad! It's a family affair! And I couldn't do it without them.

Every year we participate in Christian Aid's Big Breakfast, offering delicious food and all proceeds and donations on the day going to Christian Aid. We also have performed a nativity in the church for the last two years at the Wednesday morning service. I am always so proud of this group of little 0-4 year olds who confidently stand at the front and 'perform'. It has been very well received by the congregation and all those who come along to support.

Sunbeams provides not only a place for grown ups and their children to meet, make friends, have fun and enjoy a cuppa! It also is a great platform to introduce everyone to our church and all the amazing things we offer here. I am constantly told of how comfortable people feel here, what a welcoming place this is and how lovely folk are. I know they are thankful for the events we put on throughout the year too- Messy, Family fun day, Panto etc.
Katie x



The Church at Bents Green

New Sheffield Family Hub Representative



Good News!

We are pleased to announce that the Church has recently been successful in becoming a Family Hub Representative. Bents Green Church will now be able to draw upon the resources, support and expertise from the family hub and it's professionals.

How it will impact our church and community

New Resources

We are accessing advice and funds to gain new resources for our children and youth groups. These will appeal to all, encouraging development and exploration of the world with an emphasis on SEND resources and developing a nurturing environment for infant feeding.

Our volunteers will have access to free courses, training and events which aim to enhance and advance our volunteer's skills and ability to signpost and advise families.

New Training

New Events

Free courses and events for our community. Opportunities to learn more about a wide range of family wellbeing issues. See the table below for examples.

To find out more visit:



Family Hub - Events | Sheffield
Family Hubs are accessible, welcoming, and warm spaces. We...
sheffielddirectory.org.uk

<https://www.sheffielddirectory.org.uk/sheffield-family-hubs/family-hub-events>

What is a Sheffield Family Hub?

There are 7 family Hubs in Sheffield, our nearest one is the **Sharrow Family Hub** situated in Highfield library. The hubs offer a huge range of support to families with children aged 0-19 or up to 25 for those with special educational needs and or disability.

Support Offered

Sheffield family hubs offer a wide range of free support from financial advice to supporting those with special educational needs to running fun activity sessions.

Examples of support

Birth and Beyond Courses	Early language and home learning support	Parenting support and training
Financial and Employment Advice	SEND Support Groups	Breastfeeding Support Groups
Shelter Housing Advice	Baby Massage Groups	Baby and Toddler Groups
Toilet Training Seminars	Weaning Seminars	Domestic Abuse Support

How can I help?

Use our groups, tell others about them and **use one of our registration forms to sign up** to your local family hub when you visit us.



Registration Form

These forms are like registering with your doctor, they put you on the system and open up a bank of support whenever you might need it.

UPDATE

So far this year we have welcomed visits from the **Infant Feeding Team**, who were impressed with the work we are already doing and gave us some advice about what we could do to make our spaces even more welcoming for parents feeding their babies.

We also had a visit from Kirsty to our **Sunrise PreSchool Playgroup** who shared activities and ideas from the **Play, Chat, Learn/Making it REAL (Raising Early Achievement in Literacy) Team** encouraging fun opportunities for learning in the home, she is also booked in to visit our baby and Toddler group very soon.

We are also investigating building community with our **SEND families** and hope to offer increased support with the help of the Hub.

Some of our volunteers will be attending a **conference in May** and we are also **exploring courses** we can attend on a variety of interesting and useful topics.

Contact Us

For further information, please reach out to us

Bents Green Methodist Church

Address: Bents Green Methodist Church, Ringinglow Road, Bents Green, Sheffield, S11 7PL

Website: www.bentsgreenmethodist.org.uk

Facebook group search: Bents Green Church

Sharrow Family Hub

Address: Sharrow Family Hub, Highfield Library, London Road, S2 4NF

Phone: 0114 205 3471

Website: [www.https://www.sheffielddirectory.org.uk/sheffield-family-hubs](https://www.sheffielddirectory.org.uk/sheffield-family-hubs)

Facebook group search: West Sheffield Family Hubs





OH YES IT IS!

Oh yes, it is the Bents Green annual pantomime, now over 50 years old.

These days, we have returned to our Girls Brigade roots, and just have children and young people taking part, 60 of them, aged 4 to 18.

This year we put on The Greatest Showman. We used the songs and music from the film, but told much more of the true story of PT Barnum. We met the people he met, including James Bailey, Abraham Lincoln, Queen Victoria, Jenny Lind, General Tom Thumb, and the Bearded and the 160-year-old Ladies. We also saw Clowns, Acrobats, Dancers, and all the traditional circus acts. We even threw in some Trolls and some Aliens.

Well over 400 people came to watch, and sing to Sweet Caroline and Barnum's other daughters, and laugh at the new jokes, groan at the old ones, and cheer and boo, usually at the right times. We included Barnum's criminal conviction, and his Christian convictions about the Truth of God's love for all of us.

Lots of people of all ages helped, and everyone had fun, as you can see from the brilliant photos taken by Matthew Sier. If you want to be in the next pantomime, just email dglennEVANS@hotmail.co.uk





Weekly Art classes at Bents Green

Local Artist Celia Bennett has been running weekly art classes for adults at Bents Green since June 2024.

The 3 x Wednesday classes have proved so popular that Celia has now added an additional class on Tuesday evenings. The classes are run and relaxed in an encouraging and supportive environment.

There are 3 mixed media classes, which vary from week to week from acrylics to watercolour or pastels, and sometimes drawing with pencils or charcoal.

Tuesday evening 6.30 - 9pm

Wednesday morning 10am till 12.30

Wednesday evening 6.30 - 9pm



The mixed media classes are £20 each, payable in advance for each 5 or 6 week term.

There's also a watercolour class on Wednesday afternoon from 12.45 till 2.45pm, which costs £15 per class, payable in advance each term. Students provide their own watercolour and acrylic paints, paper and brushes.

The groups are mixed abilities from beginners through to very experienced artists. Celia works step by step and gives lots of individual support. The age range is very mixed from circa 20 right through to some students who are now retired and finally have time to unleash their inner artist at last! Currently, the Wednesday morning and evening class are full, but you can request to be put on the waiting list in case a place comes up.

For more information, please email celia@artbyceliabennett.com.



Rhythm Time run FUN, EDUCATIONAL MUSIC CLASSES at Bents Green Church on Monday mornings!



Join Rachel for our weekly group classes for little ones and their parents or carers that are designed to bring out the best in them and promote a love of music that will last for the rest of their lives!



Our individual classes for babies and toddlers are full of exciting multi sensory activities that have been created to enhance their development. These fun, structured music classes help brain development, balance, concentration, listening skills and language which in turn help with reading, writing, maths, co-ordination and socialising.

Rhythm Time also helps develop knowledge of specific musical concepts such as rhythm, pitch and listening. It's the perfect foundation for school and future music making!

You also get UNLIMITED classes as part of your booking, so as well as your primary class booking, you are welcome to come to as many classes as you like at any of our other venues!



More information and booking is on our website rhythmtime.net/sheffield-north-derbyshire or contact Jess on 07748 589 468 or jess.r@rhythmtime.org

LEADERSHIP AT BENTS GREEN

The Church Council takes the big decisions at Bents Green. It meets three times a year, makes appointments, receives reports and makes sure that all is in order regarding money, the buildings, safeguarding, worship, pastoral care etc.

Our minister Philip chairs the Council. It has 15 members, representing the varied aspects of the life of the Church. Members and friends of the Church are welcome to suggest matters for consideration, and to attend meetings as observers.

The Leadership Team supports the Council. It has 8 members, and meets about six times a year. It decides lots of practical things, such as what we do at Christmas and Easter, the date of the Fun Day etc. It also gives fuller consideration to topics that go to the Council for decision. A good example is our Mission Action Plan, (below) which embraces the main aspects of Church life, and which the Council updated in November 2024. A copy is on the Noticeboard in the corridor. It defines our purpose as being - 'A community church sharing the love and light of Jesus'.

The members of the Leadership Team are Cherry, Christele, Daphne, Jonathan, Katie, Pete, Philip and John. We like to take turns to chair and take the notes.

BENTS GREEN METHODIST CHURCH

Mission Action Plan 2024-27 (revised November 2024)

We believe we are in the middle of Bents Green community for a reason, and that we are specifically called to be a Church at the heart of the community. Our purpose is to be

A Community Church Sharing the Love and Light of Jesus

We affirm what we already do, and aim to build on our strengths, especially in work with children and families in the following ways over the next three years.

Worship and Prayer

Continue to seek to meet the needs of all our community through relevant worship and teaching for all ages, accessing relevant times and themes. *Ongoing*

Provide a variety of means to stimulate thought, prayer and praise in different parts of the church *From November 2024*

Continue Café worship monthly. *Ongoing*

Learning and Caring

Develop understanding across the church of Scriptural teaching on wellbeing.

Small groups to continue to provide learning and caring in a supportive environment *Ongoing*

An annual church event of some sort to celebrate the year and look forward. *From Summer 2023*

Eco Church – a range of actions to build on our Eco Church Bronze Award. *From 2023*

Evangelism

Use appropriate resources as an introduction to the Christian Faith, and encourage growth in discipleship. *2024 onwards*

Continue to build links in appropriate ways with local schools/shops *Continue*

Continue to use social media to stimulate community links. *From 2023*

Service

Seek closer links with the groups that use our premises *Ongoing*

Hold an annual Fun Day for the Community *Ongoing*

Provide our present wide range of activities for children and young people *Ongoing*

Offer support to the community in times of loss/bereavement, and regular services of wholeness and healing

What's on over Easter

Messy Easter 13 April, 2.00-4.00pm

Easter fun for all the family with crafts, and food.

Maundy Thursday 17 April

Tenebrae Service at Banner Cross at 7.30pm

A service of quiet reflection following the path to the cross.

Cross Walk on Good Friday starting at 9.30am at Bents Green and finishing at Hunters Bar

A walk of Christian witness with a stop at Banner Cross for coffee, hot cross buns and a short service.

Easter Sunday 20 April morning service at 10.30am (with separate groups for children)

Celebrate the risen Lord.

Rooms available for hire

The Church at Bents Green has large and small rooms available for hire, either on a regular or one-off basis.

Suitable for:

- Community groups
- Clubs & societies
- Classes for adults, children or babies
- Parties
- And more!

For more information see our website:

bentsgreenmethodist.org.uk

Or ring: 0114 2686507

Our website also contains information on weddings, christenings, dedications, funerals, memorial and celebration of life services.



Ringinglow Rd / Knowle Lane, S11 7PU



SERVICES AT

THE CHURCH AT BENTS GREEN

Sunday morning at 10.30 am. During morning service there is a creche 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 at 10.30 am on the first Sunday in the month. This is a more informal service where you can make yourself feel at home with drinks available at any time during the service.

Wednesdays at 10.00 am.
Midweek service followed by coffee.

CONTACT US

Minister: Rev Philip Peacock, Tel - 0114 4389012

Youth Minister: Cherry Mair- 07853 278612

Church website: www.bentsgreenmethodist.org.uk

By email If you would like to contact us by email you can do so by completing the form on our website at www.bentsgreenmethodist.org.uk

Facebook You can also send us a message via our Church facebook page and 'like' @BentsGreenChurch on facebook for information on special events and other updates.

By phone The Church office telephone number is (0114) 2361912 but this is not manned. Answerphone messages are checked periodically but we would recommend one of the other methods above for getting in touch with us if possible.

Room booking enquiries The church has a number of rooms available for hire of varying sizes and shapes. Details of the room facilities are available on the church website. For room booking enquiries you should contact Peter on 0114 2686507.

Bents Green Methodist Church, Ringinglow Road, Sheffield S11 7PU. Registered charity No 1135850.

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