

# THE BEACON NEWSLETTER

## JUNE 2011

**A JOINT NEWSLETTER FOR THE FOUR CONGREGATIONS  
OF THE BEACON METHODIST CHURCH**

### **Pastoral Letter**

Dear friends,

Each summer for the past six years or so, I have spent over two weeks on an agricultural showground with approximately twelve thousand other Christians from across the country and from around the globe. The festival is called New Wine and time is spent each day in worship, in seminars and in the fellowship of the campsite. It particularly appeals to charismatics!! Children are very well catered for in different venues for different age groups and many children have told me that it's the best week of the year! Steve and I work at the festival leading one of the children's venues.

Preparation for our venue, The Fridge (the *coolest* place to be on the campsite!), is well underway. We have our theme sorted, activities are being planned and volunteers are applying to be on our team. Each volunteer has to support their application with two references and it was whilst I was reading these that I started to think about encouragement. Some of the things written on the references were so encouraging but the person about whom they were written may never know what was said

about them...

*He leads worship in a sensitive manner, I have confidence in him, if I was picking a team I would definitely want him to be part of it. Intelligent, friendly, determined when necessary, helpful, gentle, one of the biggest and brightest smiles I have ever seen.*

These comments and others had me asking myself what our congregations would be like if we were quick to encourage rather than stay silent or even criticise. Often we think good things about each other but we stop ourselves from sharing it. Scripture tells us to be encouragers as part of our spiritual life. In the Old Testament, encouragement was needed to so that the Israelites could hold their ground in difficult moments and so that they could move forward and take new ground from their enemies. Similarly, in the New Testament the early believers needed encouragement from other believers so that they could face the persecution that surrounded them. 1 Thessalonians 5:11 says

“encourage one another and build one another up”. In my work with children I can see the difference that encouragement makes. I was supervising a game of badminton yesterday and I could see an improvement in one of the seven year old boys. A few weeks ago he couldn't get the shuttlecock over the net, this week it went over most times he served. I called over to the lad that I could see how much he had improved and I could physically see him roll his shoulders back and stand up taller. He served again more confidently.

So how about we make June a month when we are quick to encourage, quick to build up and quick to point out people's successes, talents and strengths? If you are already someone who encourages, great, please carry on! I wonder if there will be a difference in us in a month's time, if we will stand up taller and live more confidently. I also wonder what people outside of the church would make of a church that was quick to encourage?

Yours for His kingdom,

Lisa

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**Rev Tim Bradshaw Tel: 0114 230 5676;**

**Deacon Jan Miles Tel: 0114 230 1338**

## Beacon Matters (because The Beacon matters!)

A few points from the **Church Council Meeting** held on 12th April 2011:

8 February 2011 – safeguarding group met. Modular Training is available on two occasions: Tuesday 17 May 2011 at Broomhill. 9.30am – 12.30pm and Wednesday 15 June 2011 at Broomhill 7.30pm – 10.00pm.

Russell Blackwell has been appointed Church Co-ordinator for safeguarding. Congregational safeguarding representatives are required from Nether Green and Broomhill to work with Russell Blackwell along with other representatives.

It was noted that John Hayes leaves office on 1 August 2011.

A group will take discussions about photovoltaics at Broomhill and Nether Green forward: John Hayes, Chris Iddon, Tim Bradshaw, Neville Flavell.

It was reported that substantial work is needed at Nether Green to maintain the building including boilers, pipework and double glazing. A tree close to the building is rooted at a property which is up for auction. The matter has been referred to solicitors.

Funding and some alterations to job descriptions of the full time Property Manager and half time Youth Worker positions were discussed and agreed.

Danni Yan was approved as gift aid co-ordinator.

It was reported that Lynn Wilson, supported by Trevor Wilson will take on the role of financial representative for Stephen Hill.

There was discussion as to whether there should be an annual Beacon charity or individual congregation charities. Also, should money go to the general Methodist Church Fund or to individual sections within it? Discussions to continue.

It was reported that Philip Godfrey has concluded his time as a steward. Doug Watts is a new steward and replaces Phillip as bank signatory.

Broomhill announced that they are discontinuing their 9.00am communion service, replacing it with a mid-week lunch time communion on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month at 12.15.

It was resolved that Barbara Pye and Lisa Macbeth be appointed Worship Leaders.

It was noted that '@' be changed to 'at' in church titles and correspondence.

The Council was advised that a new Methodist hymn book 'Singing The Faith' will be available later in the year. Early ordering will reduce the cost. Decisions about such purchases will need to be made at a

Council meeting in either July or October 2011.

A **Mission Meeting** was held on 4th May.

We discussed the strengths, activities, interests and 'weaknesses' of the various congregations

A selection of activities were considered;

Missional teaching input ~ Sunday morning teaching/themed preaching

Running 'explore' sessions ~ in the Autumn

Christmas ~ linking in with 'Open Up Sheffield' to host 'open church' events

New Year ~ running 'Christian life' courses/events

A mission prayer meeting was considered

It was suggested that churches could engage with The Besom Project ~ Lisa has a contact within this organisation.

Opportunities for service were considered, i.e. providing food for parents with children in hospital etc.

The date of the **next meeting** is Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June, 7.30pm at Jan's.

The next **Beacon Church Council meeting** is on the 20th July 2011 at 19.30 at Stephen Hill.

If you would like to receive this **newsletter by email**, please give your email address to one of the representatives on the last page.

## Nether Green Nippers

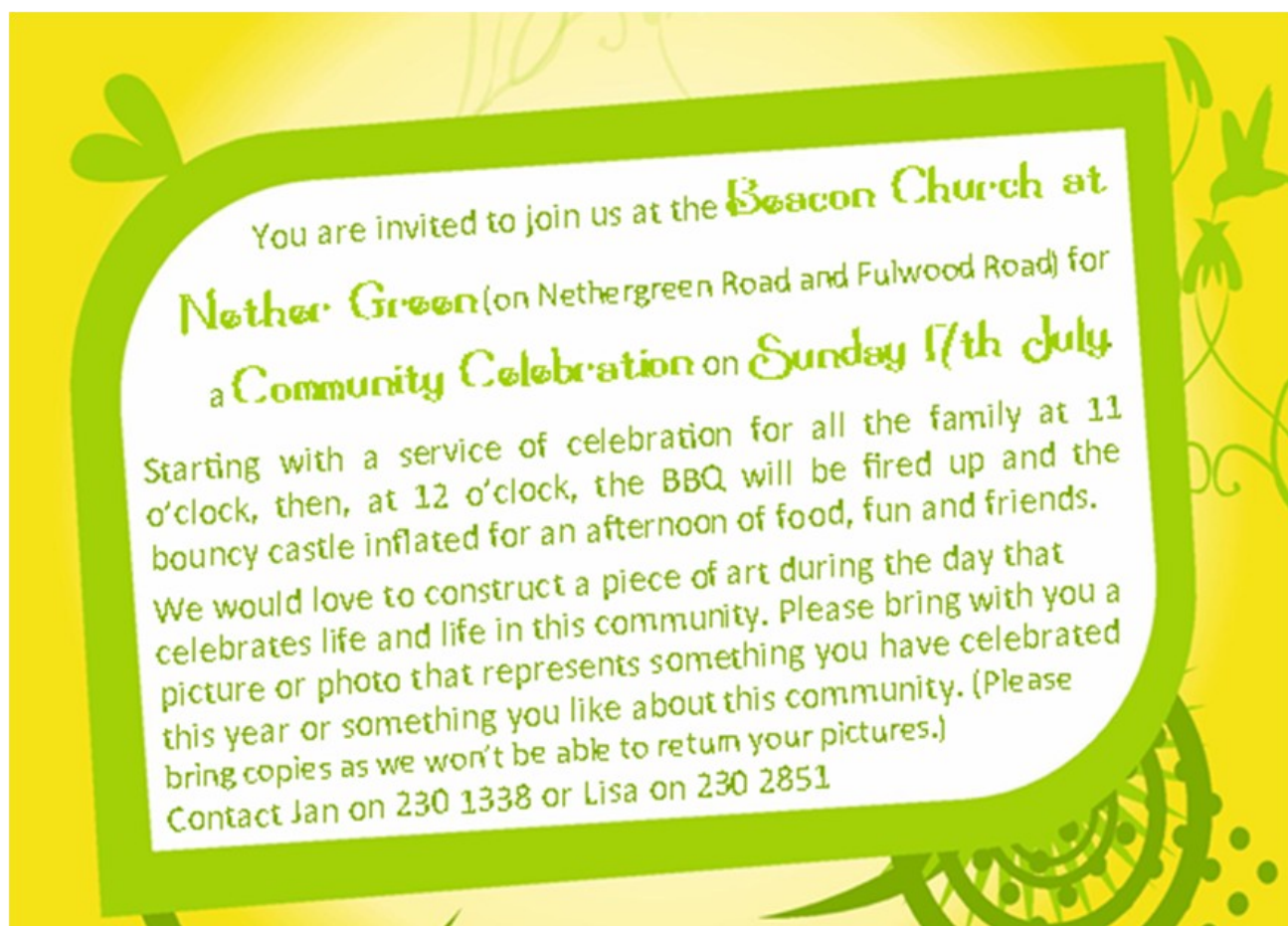
Nether Green Nippers is a weekly group for children aged from 'toddling' to three years old, which meets in the Ark Room at The Beacon Church at Nether Green every Thursday morning during term time. The children (many of whom are graduates from Mumbies, the mother and baby group which meets on Tuesdays) have the chance to join in with creative activities including play-dough, painting and a weekly craft, as well as playing with the wide range of toys available to the group and singing together. Their carers (usually a mixture of Mums, Dads and Grandmas) welcome the opportunity to have a sit down and a chat and drink a cup of tea

whilst it's still hot!

The maximum group size is twenty, and children can remain in the group until the term after their third birthday (when they become eligible for a free nursery place). Since Christmas we have said goodbye to a number of long-serving members and welcomed seven new children and their families. The group operates a waiting list but we currently have places available, so if you know anyone who would like to attend, please ask them to contact Cassie on the number below.

In the past the group relied heavily on the Children and Families Worker, but with Emma moving on and the change in the role last

summer, we have become a bit more self-sufficient with a number of the Mums taking on roles in organising the group. We are extremely grateful to the members of the church who help to run the group – Mary, Anne, Barbara, Muriel, Rosemary and Pam – and to Jean for doing the accounts, as well as Ann Greenwood and Louise Emm, and particularly to Anna from the nursery next-door, who each week gives up one of her mornings off to come and help us. We would be delighted if anyone else would like to join the rota – please speak to Lisa or contact Cassie on 230 7952 if you are able to help.



## Godly Play at Nether Green

About two years ago Kathryn Lord, a godly play teacher and national trainer from St. Stephen's Netherthorpe, came to Nether Green church to present a godly play session to us. From the moment it began I was impressed. Kathryn's calm and focused storytelling, the equipment she used, the materials for response time, all these things were attractive. But above all, it was the atmosphere generated in the room which made the deepest impression. Here was something for children that didn't have to be loud or frenetic, busy and entertaining, but which could still hold their attention and give them the time and space to respond to stories from the Bible. It was agreed that this was something we wanted to offer at Nether Green and the congregation very generously provided funds for us to buy some equipment. Jo Mitchell and I trained with Kathryn over a three day course held at St. Stephen's and in September 2010 we began

holding godly play sessions on the second Sunday of the month.

Each story we tell is carefully scripted and choreographed using some beautifully produced materials and the cycle of stories takes us on a journey of faith from creation to Pentecost. Each session consists of a story and time for response to the story. We begin with the children standing outside the door to the room, being greeted and asked if they are ready. They come in one at a time and sit down making a circle with the storyteller. When all are ready the focus turns to the story, as the storyteller keeps her gaze on the story unfolding before her. Once the story has been told, the storyteller looks up and begins the "wondering" part of the session e.g. "I wonder which part of the story you liked best", "I wonder what was the most important part of the story". She listens respectfully to each answer and never calls one answer good or another wrong. This is a personal



response time, a time for the listeners to think, speak if they would like to, and be affirmed. Response time then continues using any of the materials we have to offer (paint, clay, fabric, books etc). We always try to include time for a "feast" (usually a home-baked goodie and a drink) and this is shared in the circle again so that prayers can be said before we eat. Finally, it's clearing away time and all the children help to clean the tables and sweep up any crumbs before saying goodbye until next month. Godly play can readily be adapted for use with adults - we had a very successful "grown-ups only" time at a Crossroads service. If you would like to know more please contact me by email [allysonmerryeather@hotmail.com](mailto:allysonmerryeather@hotmail.com) or phone (2304215).

## Your Favourite Hymns and Readings Come and join us!



Sunday 19th June at 11am

### The Beacon Church at Nether Green

To have your favourite hymn included or to offer a reading or poem, please get in touch with Graham on 255 1221 or [graham@wilkinsonmusic.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:graham@wilkinsonmusic.fsnet.co.uk). You could also speak to one of the stewards or pick up a slip from the porch of church. All requests in by Sunday 12th June please.

### ***A Great Night Out***

Do you remember Rev Dr Maggie Stringer and her husband Rev Dr David Stringer?

Maggie introduced the wonderful women of CLEM Bolivia to our Sheffield West Circuit in 2000 when she launched the Friends of CLEM charity to which so many of you have given your support.

**On Friday 15<sup>th</sup> July at 7pm at the Beacon, Nether Green**, the Friends invite you to celebrate 11 years of fund-raising for CLEM, a unique women's group in Montero, Bolivia, who are committed to improving the lives not only of their own families, but also those of other poor women in their town. With the generous support of

Sheffield's famous **Dore Male Voice Choir** a Gala Charity evening will be held in the church at Nether Green. Tickets (price £7 with £6 concessions and to include refreshments) are available from Pam Flavell (2305362) or at the door.

As things get more difficult for us in the UK we remember how much greater the financial crisis is for the poor in Bolivia where people are taking to the streets in protest at the rising price of bread. CLEM need our support more than ever, especially if they are to maintain the running of their clinic and achieve the dream of building a second storey on the Casa

CLEM to house a Domestic Violence unit.

When one of the women was asked "What next for CLEM?" she had a ready answer. "We must establish a refuge for battered women and children. It won't happen tomorrow, but visitors a few years hence will, please God, see yet another dream realised".

CLEM's objective remains: to make a difference, to make the impossible possible.

Do come along and help us partner the Women in achieving this dream.

[www.friendsofclem.org](http://www.friendsofclem.org)



**Bluebell Wood**  
CHILDREN'S HOSPICE



The Beacon Methodist Church at Stephen Hill &  
The Church of St. Columba  
Warmly invite you to an evening of:

*Songs from the Shows*

*Songs from the Sixties*

*And much more.*

Sung by the Talented Leah Rhodes

St. Columba Church Hall  
Manchester Road  
Crosspool

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> July.....7-30 pm

Tickets £5 each



## What's Lisa Been Up To This Month?

This term Groundbreakers (junior school children) are working hard to raise some money to buy some 'gifts' for some of the poorest people in the world. This follows on from looking at the Bible and discussing the kind of people Jesus would like us to be. There is more information about how they are hoping to raise the money in this newsletter. Breakthrough (year 7 and 8s) have continued their Wednesday night fun and discussions have centred on the book of Mark. The Lunch Club at Nether Green Junior School continues each week and we

are thinking about some of the big questions we have about God.

Personally, I have been involved in planning and taking part in Crossroads services, safeguarding training for the Beacon with Nel, an assembly at the infant school (we thought about everyone being precious treasure to God), planning and hosting X:Site (a city-wide children's event) and LifePath planning.

Sadly, LifePath for this area of Sheffield had to be cancelled due to the lack of take up by local schools but

LifePath Rotherham is still going ahead and I'm pleased to still be able to be involved with the team so that we can learn from this year's event and make LifePath Sheffield a big success next year.

Outside of my 'work life', my essay writing continues (slowly), preparations for the New Wine summer conference that Steve and I are involved in leading are well underway and we are looking forward to celebrating our 13<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary with a trip to Cornwall for a friend's wedding.



### CROSSPOOL FESTIVAL 2<sup>ND</sup> – 10<sup>TH</sup> JULY

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> July Gardens' Open Day, 10.00am-5.00pm – A chance to look round different styled gardens in Crosspool, have a sit and enjoy some refreshment. Programmes will be on sale through Roger Kite (2306194) and at Stephen Hill Church.

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> July – Crosspool Open Air Market to be held in Selbourne Road from 12 noon-4.00pm.

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> July – A family walk meeting at Stephen Hill at 7.00pm and returning at 8.00pm for light refreshments.

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> July – Morris Dancing outside the Sportsman Pub to be followed at 8.15pm by a Folk Night in the Forum at Stephen Hill. Limited tickets are available from Bob Hodges (2303207)

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> July – Crosspool Fayre at Coldwell Lane.

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> July – We will be joining with other churches in the area and local people for an open air

'Picnic in the Park' on Lydgate Green, complete with brass band.

St Columba's Church will also be hosting a number of events including: an evening with Richard Taylor, presenter of the BBC 2 series 'How to Read a Church' (2<sup>nd</sup> July); a 'Crosspool's Got Talent' night (4<sup>th</sup> July); a local art exhibition (4<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> July); and a family barn dance (8<sup>th</sup> July).

Programmes giving further details about all these events are available in the Craft Angels Shop in Crosspool.

## Calling all cake makers

Do you understand how an army marches on its stomach?

Would you like to bless the LifePath Rotherham team?

Would you make us a cake?

If you answered yes to these questions, especially the last one, the LifePath team would love to receive a

cake from you. We have a large team coming to Rotherham to help the school children who come to the event and we would like to keep their energy levels up! If you can make a cake for us (no nuts in them please, just in case), please could you deliver it to Nether Green building on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> June between 9am and 12.30pm.



# Enthusiastic Imaginative Energetic

## Volunteers needed at Hallam Rainbows!

Our local unit is desperate for women (18+) of any age to volunteer!

We are a group of sixteen girls aged between 5-7 who meet every Tuesday at Beacon Methodist Church at Nether Green to have fun. We follow the Rainbow principles of Look, Learn, Laugh and Love! We'd love to meet you and show you why we love Rainbows so much!

For more information contact Megan:

Email - [hallamrainbows@gmail.com](mailto:hallamrainbows@gmail.com)

Mobile - 07581512634



**Girlguiding UK**



**Rainbows**



The Broomhill Festival runs from Saturday 4th to Sunday 19th June, raising money for charity. There are many events, at a wide range of local venues, to suit all tastes & interests.

As mentioned in last month's newsletter, on the 4th June Broomhill host the 12th Annual Jazz Praise Service, at 10.30am.

The following highlights are also held on the Broomhill site:

8th 19.30 An Evening of Crime Writing with Danute Reah & Stephen Booth - £5

9th 19.30: The Wisdom of Birds - Prof. Tim Birkhead, FRS - £5

16th 10.30: Coffee Concert with the Chelsea Palm Court Trio & Brenda Heap - £3

17th 10.30 Gardeners' Question Time - with a local panel of experts - £3.50

Full details are in the Festival Guide available [free] in BMC & local shops. Please pick up a copy, come, support & enjoy.

# GROUNDBREAKERS

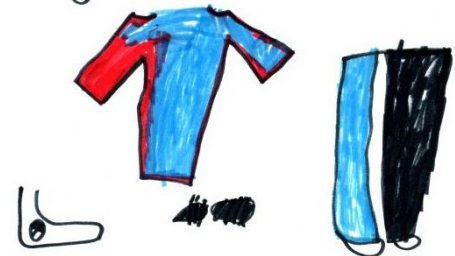
We are the Groundbreakers based at Nether Green and we would like to raise **£34** to buy 'gifts' for some of the poorest people in the world – a **chicken** for a family in Zimbabwe, a **birth certificate** for a child in Bolivia, a **TB screening kit** for a person in Somalia and a **mosquito net** for someone at risk of malaria.



## Can you help us?

We are going to take a car boot to a **car boot sale**. So please save your unwanted stuff!! Lisa will let you know when to bring it to Nether Green.

*Please save your unwanted stuff*



*come and see the Groundbreakers*  
**TALENT SHOW**

We are also going to show off our **talents** on Monday

**11<sup>th</sup> July** at 7 - 8pm at Nether Green.

Entry will cost 50p per person.

Special Guest: **Magician Steve Macbeth**

Please invite all your friends and family.

We'll also be holding a **cake sale** at the talent show for people to munch as they watch our talent and to take home as well. Please come prepared to eat!

COME TO OUR CAKE SALE!!!

*Please make cakes! 11<sup>th</sup> July monday money raised for children in africa our aim is to raise £34! by olive morgan, groundbreakers.*



**PLEASE MAKE\* CAKE FOR US** \*make!!

We'd love to sell your cakes to help raise money so please bake a cake for us and bring it to the Nether Green building on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> July between 9am and 12.30pm.

**Thank you**, love from Groundbreakers

## Noodle Soup for the Soul

*The Holy, and less so, ramblings of an errant in China*

May has been a quieter, familial affair, liberally sprinkled with wonderful people. Perhaps most of the reason it seemed so full was that a close Chinese sister, Shasha, and her 5-month old Samoy, stayed with Mathilde and I for three weeks. Our little flat was certainly replete! Prince, just a puppy (albeit a big, strong, polar-bear-puppy), took some time to settle in and learn the house rules - but by the time Shasha went away for a four-day business trip, he and I had a good thing going.



*Prince the hippo-pup, cruelly pulled from the mire one hot day.*

May also saw picnics and BBQs - the weather at the moment hovers with oppressive humidity between 25C and 35C, sometimes birthing a thunderstorm. Prince and I have been enjoying those cooler nights. Apart from those, there have been the innumerable socials and dinners at home with close friends and strangers both. I am pleased to enjoy some very relaxed relationships with sisters both Chinese and international, and they know they are welcome.

One particular week I chose the verse for Mathilde's and my weekly calendar: "Do not forget to entertain strangers...", which proved to be apt. That week Shasha brought various colleagues home for dinner and even to sleep, a friend's friend (Vicky) was using my dorm room, whilst at the same time Mathilde's boyfriend stayed at the flat for the weekend. Vicky was visiting for a wedding, and that long-weekend met a lot of people I am close to. She especially clicked with myself (fortunate indeed!) and a close American sister, Anna. I later found out that Anna's doorkey had snapped, and she had also therefore enjoyed my hospitality, at the invite of Vicky. The encouraging conversations and ability to

host were a real blessing, and although such a full week would not have been my own plan, when the Lord works it all out himself I do not mind so much!

My Easter choirs were a success, and I was very pleased with them. It took a lot of time and positivity to work with the musically-untrained women, but more importantly than the music, we were learning love and patience. Perhaps one of the aspects that I count most successful was delegating to one particular sister, that in the future she might be able to grow those 'skills'. I am very aware that although I do not have much experience myself in leadership, we are called to love and mentor even so, to draw out God's image in others, and that my role as a foreigner within the Chinese church is one of facilitating and uplifting.

After Easter, I was granted a month and a half 'holiday' at the Chinese church (I had asked for some time off) and I rediscovered my enjoyment of the Wednesday night studies again. When I had pressured choir rehearsals twice a week it was easy to forget how much I love simply being with the family there. Over this 'holiday' I have been given wonderful friendships with newcomers and new Christians there, and we celebrated two marriages of faithful brothers and sisters I know from 2008 - it is an exciting place to be! In June I will be back on the speaking and music rota again. Both God and the leaders dare to entrust me with much, and it is therefore perhaps where I am growing most.

Studies are more fun too, now that I am less busy with other things. I have begun reading proper for my thesis on the portrayal of Africa within Chinese contemporary literature, which is satisfying indeed. I set a new record for myself in reading-speed of a Chinese book (a memoir based in Tanzania, since you ask). I am counting my successes!

My own Thursday group has seen a new influx and burst of energy this month. Two of the group (a Chinese-American mixed couple, both mid-twenties) were married in mid-May.

Since we are mostly expats here temporarily, we all rely on each other. Therefore, the best man was another member of the group (asked the fortnight before), as was the bridesmaid, who organised the hennight the day before, after getting her essays handed

in.

I am privileged to live in such intimacy with so many people. God is absolutely serious when he promises that he will place the lonely in families. David was not exaggerating when he stated that all his delight is in those saints in the land. Yet Paul, too, could write to those far away and say, "you whom I love and long for, my joy and my crown." I realise that I have failed to reply to many emails and letters, though I certainly have not intended to neglect you. [NB: foreign emails are basically inaccessible currently.] You are in my thoughts and dreams often. I am persuaded that he who began a good work in you will complete it, that he will guard all that you have entrusted to him. May he fulfill your every good purpose and every act prompted by your faith; may he whisper sweet-nothings to you in the night, and awaken you with strands of his unflinching love.



*Enjoying a bamboo forest on May Day.*

### ROSIE RECOMMENDS:

- R T Kendall's *The Anointing*.

*Secondhand Lions* - a witty family movie. Prince liked the pig.

### FOR NEXT TIME...

- Studies, studies, studies: essays again, argh!

*"...The love thy bleeding cross displays, The hardest heart subdues; Here furious lions while they gaze, Their rage and fierceness lose. Yet are we but renewed in part, The lion still remains; Lord, drive him wholly from my heart, Or keep him fast in chains."*

John Newton, *The Olney Hymns*, Book 2, Hymn 93

## Congregational Notice Boards

### BROOMHILL



**CTBB Work with Older People** Subcommittee meeting 6th June, Wesley room, 9.30pm



The **Women's Network Summer District Day** is on the 14th June (See Broomhill noticeboard for details)



The venue for the **Ecumenical Contemplative Prayer Group** meeting at 8pm on Thur 2nd June is 1, Campsall Drive and on Wednesday the 29th it is held at 68 Endcliffe Hall Ave. Contact Donald Smith, Tel:- 266 2491



The **Monday Group (19.30)** subjects and venues are as follows:  
6th June (1 Campsall Drive): 'The Senses - Sound'  
20th June (Fitzwilliam Ct.): Summer Words & Music  
4th July (Fitzwilliam Ct.): The Periodic Table  
Contact Donald Smith, Tel:- 266 2491



There will be **no service** at Broomhill on the 12th June. Instead, we are all joining The Ecumenical Pentecost Service on 12 June at St. Mark's at 10am will be followed by a Bring and Share Lunch. Broomhill folk are asked to bring puddings/desserts that can be shared. St. Mark's will provide the main course



We are sad to record the death on 20th May of Rene Watchorn, a long-standing member of Broomhill's congregation and Stephen Hill's Lunch Club. As yet, details of the funeral are not to hand. Our thoughts and prayers are with Stuart, her husband, and the rest of the family.



Margaret Robinson is collecting items for a bottle stall for the Broomhill Festival Garden Party on St Mark's Green on the 18th June at 2pm.



Wed 29th June: **From Street to Home - how churches can help.**


A conference on housing and homelessness at Sheffield Quaker Meeting House. Cost £15 including lunch. Contact Janet Bryer 0113 244 3413 (see noticeboard at Broomhill for more details)

## Congregational Notice Boards


### STEPHEN HILL





2nd June - **Ladies Thursday Meeting**  
- "Twins" - Mavis Sanderson



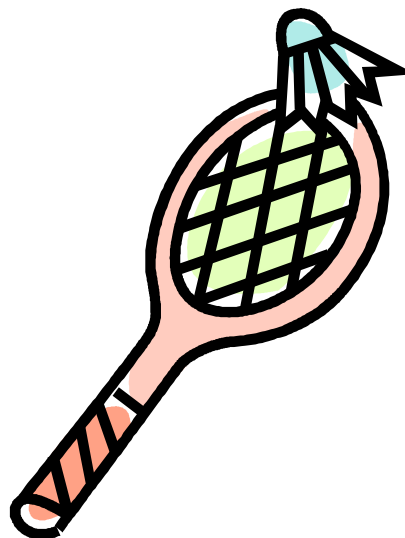
6th June - **Ladies Monday Club** – Mrs Carol Bowser will speak about Windthrop Park. This will be the last meeting until 5th September. Visitors are welcome on 6<sup>th</sup> June and when we meet again in September.



The **Thursday Badminton Group** finished on 27<sup>th</sup> May for the Summer Break and will resume on 8th September.

The **Babies, Bairns and Bumps Group** for children, parents and carers has been open at Stephen Hill for approximately 2 months and now has 8/9 'mothers' who attend with their children on a Tuesday morning from 10.00am to 11.30am. If you are a mum/carer with a child and free on a Tuesday morning, you will be most welcome to come along and join us. If you know of anyone who might wish to come along, please tell them about us. Just 50p a session, including a drink and biscuits.



**Items for The Beacon newsletter** to any member of the communications team:

**Broomhill:** Paul Freemont (in person),

**Crookes Valley:** Jen Sloan: jenmsloan@yahoo.co.uk or 2855626 (leave a message). Last minute items taken up to the Wednesday before the last Sunday of the month.

**Nether Green:** Steve Macbeth: sjmacbeth@gmail.com,

**Stephen Hill:** Kath Smith: kath@ksmith25.orangehome.co.uk

Last minute items can be given to Jen Sloan up until the Wednesday before the last Sunday in the month.