

Spotlight - December 2008



Girlguiding UK



The Methodist Church 

Reverend Rants

Well Christmas is almost here and I'm as excited as a very excited thing. The Christmas tree has been up since the end of November, the stockings are in place and I'm ready for Santa to call. Not everyone views this Christmas season with such joy. I'm sure that most of you have read the story of "How the Grinch Stole Christmas." If you haven't read the story, perhaps you have seen the movie. If so, you will remember how everyone in Who-ville loved Christmas. Everyone, that is, except the Grinch. The Grinch hated Christmas and made up a plan to spoil the joy of Christmas in Who-ville. His plan was to dress up as Santa Claus and go into Who-ville and steal all of their Christmas presents, all of their Christmas trees, and even the food for their Christmas dinner.

Do you know why the Grinch hated Christmas so much? Well, according to the story, it was because his heart was too small! He was so selfish that he hated to see anyone else who was happy and enjoying themselves. But, as you know, the Grinch's plan did not work. Why? Because the people in Who-ville knew that the real joy of Christmas does not come from the presents, decorations, and food -- it comes from a heart filled with love.



The story of "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" is not a true story, but since the very first Christmas, Grinches have been trying to steal the joy of Christmas. There may be some "Grinches" that are trying to steal your Christmas joy. It will never work -- unless your heart is too small. Make sure that your heart is big enough to share the love and joy of Christmas with everyone you meet -- not just at Christmas -- but all year long.

Details of our Christmas services appear just below this letter, I hope we will make them a priority in our diaries, and that the worship of Jesus will be the central point of all our celebrations.

Love in Christ

Phil

Open House

Phil and his Mom invite you to Open House at 161 Hall Green Road on Saturday 20th December 12-4pm for Sausage Rolls, Mince Pies and drinks after the Carol Singing at Wesley.

Christmas Service Schedule

- Sun 14th Dec (18:15)** – Circuit Service 'Simeon'. This is Roger Jones' Christmas musical telling the story of the nativity through the eyes of Simeon.
- Sun 21st Dec (11:00)** – Sunday School Nativity Service
- Sun 21st Dec (18:15)** – Carol Service
- Wed 24th Dec (18:00)** – Christingle Service
- Wed 24th Dec (23:30)** – Holy Communion
- Thurs 25th Dec (10:30)** – Christmas Morning Family Service
- Sun 4th Jan (13:00)** – Family Lunch
- Sun 4th Jan (16:00)** – Covenant Service



Christmas Fayre

SaFCo would like to thank everyone who helped in anyway at the Christmas Fayre on Saturday 29th November. The total taken on the day was £1,132, which is more than ever before as far as we can remember, so we seem to have bucked the trend given the current economic downturn. The total will probably continue to rise over the next week or two as some of the remaining goods are sold etc. Thanks again to all who had stalls and to those who came along and spent some of their hard earned cash.

2009 Calendars

As part of the Christmas Fayre, I have produced a 2009 Wesley Calendar, which I am printing to order at the bargain price of £1.75. It features 12 pictures, some very much about Wesley, others with a link to Wesley although possibly a little tenuous. Anyway if you would like one, just let me know, all proceeds go into the Christmas Fayre fund.

Ian P Collett

A Word of Thanks ...

From the Birmingham Children's Hospital Kidney Fund Organisers to everyone who has donated items to the fund.

The Appeal is to continue well into the future so please continue to sort out any unwanted items of jewellery, watches etc. and I will forward them to the Birmingham Children's Hospital for a very worthwhile cause.

Many thanks,

Mick O.

Shoe Box Appeal

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the filling of the shoe boxes, well done! I knew you wouldn't let me down. Jane Collett very kindly offered to take them to school to be picked up with their boxes, therefore, saving me a journey for which I am very grateful. I do intend to do them one more time next year so start collecting your boxes, you know what you need to put in them now. I will try to get a DVD or whatever it is they do to show in the New Year. After that I would like to try something else (I don't know what) so any suggestions will be appreciated (nice one's that is!!)

A very Happy Christmas and let us all pray for a peaceful New Year.

Linda

The deadline for items to be included in the February 2009 edition of Spotlight is Sunday 1st February 2009.

Family News

- For those who remember Alison Hill of Wesley Panto fame some 10 years ago, she has recently married Richard Banks on the 55th floor of the Empire State Building in New York. A group of 18 family & friends met up there and had a wonderful weekend, the reception was on board a boat which took us down the Hudson River to the Statue of Liberty. (But you still would never get Alison in a Dress) – Ann Hill
- We continue to pray for Jack Neale, Fred Wilkins, Phyllis Ault, Jean Dean, Jean Woodcock and Aunty Dot who is now home after her stay in hospital.
- Congratulations to Helen Parker and Rev. Carol Holden on gaining their degrees!
- Special Birthday wishes to Adam Davey who will be 18 on the 19th December and Helen Parker who will be 40 in January.
- Belated Birthday wishes to Linda and Keith Adams who were 60 in October and to Lois Hunt who was 80 in November.
- Also, congratulations to Stacey and Justin on their engagement!
- Get well soon to Kirsty Dixon who recently broke her collar bone.



Our Church Family



We are proud to have had strong links with Wesley Methodist Church for many years

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Thank you to **PP Services** who provided us with the vast majority of our wood for the bonfire!

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Wesley Pantomime 2009 – Goody Two Shoes

We are busy rehearsing for our 2009 pantomime Goody Two Shoes, which will be performed as usual during the school February half term holiday, the dates being Saturday 14th February, and then Monday 16th to Saturday 21st February, seven nights in all.

Goody Two Shoes is not one of the better known pantomimes, but the story is good and although rehearsals are still at an early stage, it promises to be a good and enjoyable production. And of course you wouldn't want to miss seeing our new Superintendent Minister in his first Wesley production would you? Oh no you wouldn't etc.

Tickets will be available soon from Liz Vaughan on 0121 553 3727 at a remarkably cheap price – you will not get better value for money anywhere so make sure that you book your tickets soon.

In the meantime I'll go back to learning my script. Yes I shall be making a brief appearance again in this production – but it doesn't get any easier leaning lines as you get older!

Ian P Collett

Boys' Brigade – Junior Section

The Junior Section lads have once again been busy. We have increased our numbers further with two new members joining in the past few weeks which takes our numbers up to 22. In October we had our Halloween party where ghoulish costumes were the order of the night. We had fun and games all night, with prizes given for the best fancy dress. We also entered the Battalion Cross country competition where we finished runners up in the team event. Well done to Josh, Jack and Jordon. Finally we decided to do our bit for Children in need. On the night, we made cakes and biscuits and played party games. At the end of the evening we sold our goods to parents and friends and raised £73! Many thanks to all who supported us. The fun isn't about to stop either as we have an active programme of events planned for the New Year.

Julie and Andy



4th West Bromwich Rainbows

We have had a very busy and exciting year. As many of you know, this year has marked the 21st year of Rainbows. We have celebrated by having a Division disco, a County day out to Twin Lakes Park in Leicestershire, where we met up with over 3000 other Rainbow girls and we had a special Parade service, taken by Carol Holden, where many of our girls took their Promise, and became fully fledged members of our Unit.

During the year, along with our weekly meetings, we have had many trips, including: Wesley Pantomime, Showcase cinema, Dudley Zoo, and Cannon Hill Park and Nature reserve. We met again with the Division for a Christmas Activity morning and are looking forward to the Division Christingle service.

During the year we decided to take part in 'The Children's Marathon Challenge'. The girls decided to do 26 active activities. We managed to raise £364.70, and donated £182.35 to 'Children with Leukaemia'. We were very proud of the girls for all their hard work.

We are looking forward to our Christmas party and are starting the New Year with a trip to see 'High School Musical on Ice'.

Here's to more fun, games, trips and friendships in 2009.

Rebecca Lilly and Jemma Anderson – 4th Rainbow Unit.



Contact the Editor: - Email: - mattclive@advantagewm.co.uk Tel: - 07773 280 876
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- If you know of anybody who should receive a copy of Spotlight in the post please inform Ian Collett.
- If anybody would like a copy emailed to them please inform the editor.

With Love at Christmas

May this Christmas end the present year, on a cheerful note and make way for a fresh and bright New Year. May all the sweet magic of Christmas conspire to gladden your heart and fill every desire.

Christmas waves a magic wand over this world, and behold, everything is softer and more beautiful. A silent night, a star above, a blessed gift of hope and love.

Faith makes all things possible,
Hope makes all things work,
Love makes all things beautiful,
May you have all three this Christmas.

May the spirit of Christmas bless your home always. May all those you hold dear, always be near and warm your heart and may your lives always be bright with cheer. May your Christmas sparkle with moments of love, laughter and goodwill...

May the year ahead be full of contentment and joy. May you feel God's presence in the candles, that softly spread their glow at Christmas and may you experience the wonder of His abiding love, as he guides you through each day of the coming year.

May God's Blessings be with you.
At Christmas and New Year!

Some short smiles

- **The Photograph** – The grandson had just taken a photograph of his ancient grandmother who'd come to stay for Christmas and was celebrating her 89th birthday on the same day. 'Granny, I sure hope I'm around next year to take you picture on your 90th birthday'. 'Why wouldn't you be? You look healthy!' She shrugged.
- **The Careful Driver** – He was a careful driver during the Christmas period. At the railway crossing he stopped, looked and listened. All he heard was the car behind him smashing into his boot!
- **Thank you** - 'Thanks very much for the beautiful jumper' said Charles, kissing his grandmother dutifully on the cheek. 'Oh, there's nothing to thank me for' she murmured. 'That's what I thought, but Mum said I had to'.
- **The Strangers** – The ministers came home after church on Christmas morning looking very satisfied. 'Many people in Church?' asked his wife, bustling around the kitchen. 'Yes, and we had at least three strangers, though I didn't see them. 'Then how do you know?' 'Because there were three £10 notes in the collection plate'.

The Boys' Brigade – Report on the 5th's 125th celebrations

You will no doubt be aware from the October edition of Spotlight, that at the 5th West Bromwich Company, we were celebrating the 125th year of The Boys' Brigade over the weekend of the 11th and 12th October, and we report now on the celebrations.

On Saturday 11th October, 44 boys and 10 staff went to the Old Vicarage Adventure Centre at Stottesden and had a really fun day. The lads took part in various events including orienteering, gladiator jousting and got very wet and dirty taking part in a course which took them through the woods and stream.

The next day company members led the morning service at Wesley which we thought went off very well. We hope that those of you who attended the service thought that it was a suitable act of thanksgiving and worship. We particularly thought that the release of 125 balloons on the car park to end the service was a very spectacular and appropriate end and it was a great site watching the balloons ascend high into the blue sky.



To date we have had four balloon labels returned to us, from Sleaford, Coleby and Dowsby in Lincolnshire and one from Recklinghausen in Germany.



After lunch at Wesley, on a beautifully warm and sunny October afternoon, all the boys and staff took part in the sponsored walk in Sandwell Valley where we successfully managed between us to walk a total of 125 miles. The money raised is for the charity adopted by the Boys' Brigade nationally for this 125th session, the Association of Children's Hospices, which of course care for children who are terminally ill and who will never reach adulthood.

At the time of writing this article, we have had a total of £853 in for this sponsored event, with some more still expected. If you didn't sponsor any of the lads, but would like to donate to this very worthwhile charity, we will willingly accept your donation, (cheques payable to The Boys' Brigade, 5th West Bromwich Company).

Here's to the next 125 years!

Ian P Collett

Christmas Card Charity

This year's Charity for the Christmas Card will be the BBC WM Kidney Kids Appeal. The post bag will be in the concourse from 7th December. All donations to Beryl.



Ladies Circle

The ladies circle meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:45 and has just released its 2009 programme! It includes a party and quiz in January, California or Bust by Keith Llewellyn in November and many other excellent guest speakers throughout the year. For the full programme, see Iris or download it from the 'Wesley – Our Church' section of the Boys' Brigade website.

www.5thwestbromwich.co.uk

Humour

Patsy had been determined to get it right at Christmas, after all it couldn't have been simpler. George had told her that he wanted a Jigsaw, Patsy was sure he'd like the picture she had chosen. When the store reopened after the holidays, Patsy stood in the refund queue. It turned out he wanted a power tool not a puzzle! - **Iris**

Quotes

"The important thing is this: To be able at any moment to sacrifice what we are for what we could become." - **Charles du Bois**

"The only limitation in your life is the limitation of your own thinking." -- **James A. Ray**

"Aim not for what you are, but for what you could be." -- **Lucas Hellmer**

Fun and Games

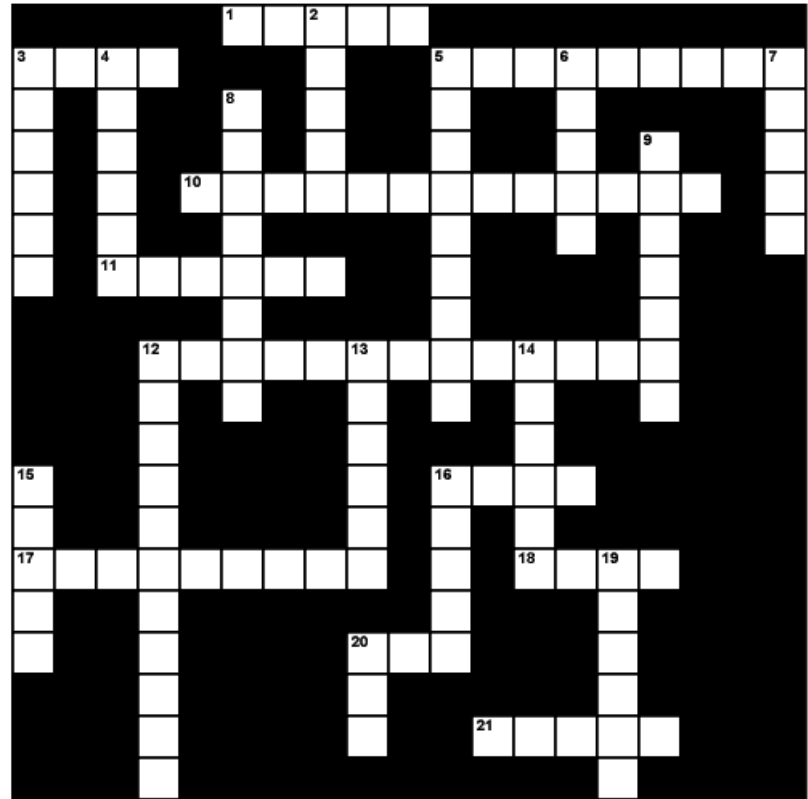
Answer from the October Su-Doku:

5	9	1	6	2	3	4	8	7
2	4	8	9	7	1	6	5	3
3	6	7	4	8	5	2	9	1
1	7	4	8	5	6	9	3	2
6	5	3	7	9	2	8	1	4
8	2	9	3	1	4	5	7	6
7	1	5	2	4	8	3	6	9
9	3	2	5	6	7	1	4	8
4	8	6	1	3	9	7	2	5

Riddle from Sarah Clive (Answer next time)

They call me a man but I'll never have a wife!
 I was given a body but not a life.
 They made me a mouth but didn't give me breath.
 Water gives me life but the sun brings me death.
 What am I?

A Christmas Crossword



Across

- 1 Christmas hymn (5)
- 3 The wise men's guide (4)
- 5 The town where Jesus was born (9)
- 10 The original Santa Claus (5,8)
- 11 The bird traditionally eaten for Christmas dinner (6)
- 12 A tradition introduced by Prince Albert (9,4)
- 16 A lot of angels (4)
- 17 evergreen plant with white berries (9)
- 18 Gift from the shepherds (4)
- 20 Climbing plant (3)
- 21 One of Santa's reindeer (5)

Down

- 2 Small brown thrush with a red breast (5)
- 3 Where Joseph and Mary had to stay (6)
- 4 The four weeks leading up to Christmas (6)
- 5 The day after Christmas Day (6,3)
- 6 The king visited by the wise men (5)
- 7 Gold, frankincense and (5)

8 A popular addition to the Christmas table (8)

9 Name of the archangel (7)

12 A decorated orange (11)

16 Deck the halls with boughs of (5)

19 Baby Jesus' bed or crib (6)

20 No room for Mary and Joseph here (3)

13 Christmas lasts for days (6)

14 A Christmas tree decoration (6)

15 The army occupying the land at the time (5)

List of Church Contacts

Stewards: -

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 Eric Fieldhouse - 01922 620 704 Michael Vaughan - 01922 643 199 Delroy Henry

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Church Services are held every Sunday at 11:00 and 18:15

