

Spotlight - December 2010



Sunday School Nativity

Sunday
19th December
at 11.00 am



Come and see our Sunday School children take the lead.

Midnight Communion

Friday 24th December
commencing at 11.30 pm



Welcome Christmas Day in with a service of celebration and communion



Carol Service

Sunday
19th December
at 6.15 pm

Come along and join in singing some of your favourite carols

Christmas Morning Family Service

Saturday 25th
December
at 11.00 am



Come and share in worship and fellowship with us on this very special day. Don't worry, you will have time to get home and take the turkey out of the oven before it burns!

Christingle Service

Christmas Eve
Friday 24th December at
6.00 pm



A service aimed at children but enjoyed by all on this very exciting evening. Everyone gets to take a Christingle home

Sunday 26th December

No services at Wesley. You are welcome to join the Hallam Street Church congregation at their 11.00 am service.



Ladies weekend

I was not able to come along to the Saturday evening Ladies weekend food and entertainment, but by all accounts, a good time was had by all, including items from the ladies from various parts of the British Isles. For the Sunday services it was a pleasure and a privilege for me to be able to offer my services to conduct the ladies choir in place of "Aunty Kath" who had unfortunately been taken ill only a few days before the special weekend. The ladies sang their hearts out; I only hope that I did not put them off too much with my arm-waving in front of them!

Thank you ladies for letting me help out and all good wishes to "Aunty" Kath

Helen

The deadline for items to be included in the February 2011 edition of Spotlight is Sunday 6th February 2011.

Pantomime 2011 – Goldilocks and the Three Bears

Yes, pantomime time at Wesley is drawing nigh.

The last time that we performed Goldilocks and the Three Bears at Wesley was in 1996 and so we thought it was about time we had a repeat performance and by the time you read this rehearsals will be well under way.

We have a very auspicious cast, some young and some not quite so young who are all busy learning lines, songs and dances. There will of course be the usual helpings of “oh no you aren’t, oh yes I am”, and “he’s behind you” etc.

We do hope that you will all be able to come along and support our annual pantomime, a tremendous amount of time and hard work is put into it to make the production successful and enjoyable, and it makes an important contribution to the Church finances.

The pantomime will run from Monday 21st to Saturday 26th February 2011 and prices are £4.00 for adults and £3.00 for children under 12 years of age, which is really good value for money.

Tickets are available from Liz Vaughan on 0121 553 3727 and it’s not too early to get your ticket order in.

Ian P Collett
Co-producer



Wesleys Warley Quartet

Music has always, it seems, played a large part in Wesley’s life and worship and this is something that still carries on today. We are immensely proud that 4 of our members are now fully fledged members of Warley Male Choir; Keith Adams has rejoined the 1st tenors after a break from singing, Ken Dunn joined the 2nd tenors in the spring (even-though he has been known to help out in our own church choir in the Bass section!); Michael Barrett became, I think, Warley Male Choir’s youngest member (with the exception of MD Steve Allen and accompanist John Barber) recently joining the Baritone section and Brian Powney is the longest serving Wesley member having joined the Basses shortly after the concert the choir performed in Wesley on the occasion of the dedication of our new organ. Congratulations to them all and we hope they will continue to enjoy their singing.





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

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News from the Choir

Christmas is a very busy time of the year for our church choir, as well as being the "Very Best Time of the Year", or so the title of one of the items they are busy rehearsing says, it is the title of a lovely Christmas melody by one of the choir's favourite composers, John Rutter.

The choir, as has become tradition, will be making the short trip down to the Masonic Hall in Edward Street to lead the singing of carols and also singing some items by themselves. It is always a pleasure for the choir to be able to spread a musical message of the true meaning of Christmas on these evenings to people, many of whom, no doubt, get so tied up in the tinsel, present-buying and festivities of this special time of year.

This year the choir will be performing a new "A Capella" piece entitled "I saw a Star" as well as the John Rutter piece mentioned earlier and a favourite John Bell Carol "God's Surprise".

Having stepped in at late notice last year, the choir will also be helping out at the annual Carol Service at Sandwell Hospital. Rev Pat Horton retires early next year, so this will be the last Carol Service she will be organising at the hospital and she has asked our church choir to lead the singing and also perform two items. The carol service at the hospital is on Wednesday 22nd December in the Hospital Chapel on the 2nd floor starting just after 8pm. It would be lovely to see some Wesley folk in the congregation to help with the singing of favourite carols (there were even mince pies laid on afterwards last year!).

The choir wish everyone a musical "Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year"

Christmas helen@thepedals

In previous years, members of the circuit have sung carols outside on the car-park at Wesley to raise funds towards Methodist Home and World Missions; this year, it has been decided that the warmth indoors is more appealing and so Helen will be playing some Christmas music on the organ, with carols for everyone to join in with on Saturday 18th December from 10.30 am until 12 noon. The format of the morning will be informal as in other "helen@thepedals" coffee mornings and any proceeds will go towards the circuit Home and World Missions funds.

Family News

Congratulations to Matthew Clive and Helen Parker on taking part and completing, the Birmingham Half Marathon on Sunday 24th October, while the rest of us were in church! Both completed the gruelling 13.2 miles in acceptable times, despite the steep climb towards Five Ways roundabout just after mile 10!

Congratulations Margaret Price!

Remember Margaret going to the palace garden party? Once again the Red Cross has honoured her, this time it is the 30 years service award. Well done Margaret.

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.

Boys' Brigade – Global Fellowship, Young Leaders Workshop, Ghana

In the last edition of Spotlight, I asked where you thought this picture was taken and the answer is Ghana, Western Africa. I was fortunate enough to be chosen to represent BB UK on the global fellowship young leaders workshop which is held in a different country each year and only two representatives from each member nation are allowed to go. I had to write to state my case as to why I thought I should be chosen and what I thought I could add. The other representative from the UK was Dave Smith from the Isle of Wight battalion, who I met for the first time as we were flying out together from Heathrow airport.



There were nearly forty people who arrived in Ghana to take part in the cross cultural week of activities from 15 different countries. There were people from Bahamas, Benin, Cameroon, Denmark, Finland, Ghana, Malawi, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, UK, Zambia and Zimbabwe.



I arrived in Ghana on Friday 20th August and stayed until Saturday 28th August and saw a lot of things I'd never seen before, met a lot of nice people, did a lot of things I've never done before and shared many experiences with people from all over the world.

The first thing that I noticed when I got there was the levels of poverty I saw and the different way that people live. During my stay, I lived in comparable luxury, with two cooked meals of chicken and rice a day, clean water and intermittent electricity. Even that seemed so far away from home, with hardly any running water and no choice of food but compared to compacted mud huts with straw roofs that people were living in and to children who had no toys and were playing in the dust, it was luxury.

Each morning we had worship that was led by a different country which was good to see how many styles of worship there were. We also went to a church in a local village on Sunday morning. It was a Methodist church but the service bore no resemblance to Wesley at all! The service started at 9am with the marching in of the colours and finished at 12:30pm with lots of singing and dancing. There were many parts to the service with people coming and going throughout and a couple of the sermons were in the local Ghanaian dialect.



The main benefit I got from the week was meeting so many different people that I have been able to stay in contact with through text, email or facebook. We had lots of time to get to know each other from playing games together (I beat six consecutive nations at table tennis with a makeshift table using upside down cans and a stick for the net, I think that makes me a world champion!), discussion exercises (very interesting and sometimes quite heated!), trips together and time to reflect on our times in BB together.

We did a lot during the week including visits to local villages where I saw wild goats and a huge public funeral, had a BB band come and play for us, played a football match with a local BB company (score was 2-2), climbed to the highest point in shai hills, watched antelope and monkeys in a game reserve. We also visited the Akosombo Hydroelectric Dam which produces 80% of Ghana's electricity needs but displaced 80,000 people when they flooded the Volta River and we visited Accra the capital city of Ghana.

It was certainly a week I'll never forget.



SAFCO

As always, SAFCO having been busy in the kitchen and arranging most enjoyable entertainment; as reported in the last edition of Spotlight, the entertainment for the October evening was to be the Ladies Choir from the Halesowen Circuit, unfortunately, at short notice they were not able to come, however SAFCO put their thinking caps on and invited Yvonne Lowe to come along and entertain everyone with some lovely singing. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the entertainment, so much so that by popular demand she has been invited back to provide some of the entertainment for the December "Christmas Crackers" evening. Our own church choir will lead the first part of the entertainment in December with some traditional carols for everyone to join in with and some items which they will also be singing at their regular annual carol-singing sessions. Of course, the food will have a Christmas theme with turkey baps and mince pies for all.

What Scottish Evening would be complete without Haggis, Neeps and Tatties? The evening organised by SAFCO in November had all the compulsory Scottish ingredients, including Scotch broth for starters and Scottish Shortbread to complete the meal. Everyone then joined in a sing-song led by Helen on the piano; some of the Scottish songs chosen were a little more well-known than others! Hilary then led the energetic amongst us in a cèilidh, finishing with that old favourite "The Gay Gordons". The evening finished with some more singing with a finale of 5 verses of Auld Lang Syne (I'm not sure any of us had ever heard verses 2, 3, 4 or 5 before).

January's event will be held on 19th January, details to follow. Tickets for "Christmas Crackers" on December 15th are available, as always, from Liz Vaughan on 0121 553 3727.

Thank you to everyone for their support of SAFCO evenings during 2010, the committee wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Contribute!

If you haven't written anything for Spotlight before, why not give it a go? You could share your holiday experiences, review a local theatre group production, thank friends for kind deeds, review a SAFCO event, share memorable experiences, or anything else you choose to share! Simply send it to the editor for inclusion.

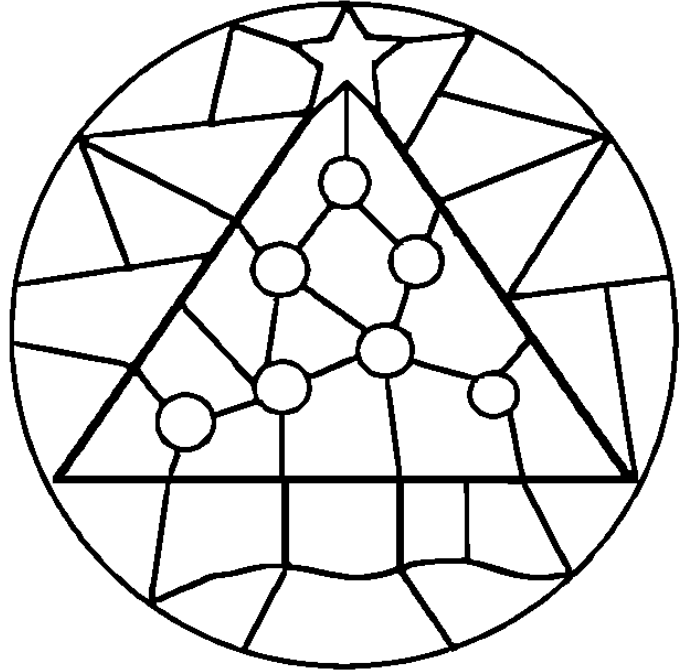
Did You Know?

1. Apples, not caffeine, are more efficient at waking you up in the morning.
2. Alfred Hitchcock didn't have a bellybutton.
3. People do not get sick from cold weather; it's from being indoors a lot more.
4. When you sneeze, all bodily functions stop even your heart!
5. Only 7% of the population are lefties.
6. 40 people are sent to the hospital for dog bites every minute.
7. Babies are born without knee caps. They don't appear until they are 2-6 years old.
8. The average person over fifty will have spent 5 years waiting in lines.
9. The toothbrush was invented in 1498.
10. The average housefly lives for one month.
11. 40,000 Americans are injured by toilets each year.
12. A coat hanger is 44 inches long when straightened.
13. The average computer user blinks 7 times a minute.
14. Your feet are bigger in the afternoon than the rest of the day.
15. Most of us have eaten a spider in our sleep.
16. The REAL reason ostriches stick their head in the sand is to search for water.
17. The only 2 animals that can see behind itself without turning it's head are the rabbit and the parrot.
18. John Travolta turned down the starring roles in "An Officer and a Gentleman" and "Tootsie".
19. Michael Jackson owns the rights to the South Carolina State anthem.
20. In most television commercials advertising milk, a mixture of white paint and a little thinner is used in place of the milk.
21. Prince Charles and Prince William NEVER travel on the same airplane just in case there is a crash.
22. The first Harley Davidson motorcycle built in 1903 used a tomato can for a carburettor.
23. Most hospitals make money by selling the umbilical cords cut from women who give birth. They are reused in vein transplant surgery.
24. Humphrey Bogart was related to Princess Diana. They were seventh cousins.
25. If colouring weren't added to Coca-Cola, it would be green.

Sudoku

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

Colour in the Christmas Tree Glass Window



Christmas Word Search

G	J	H	I	N	S	J	N	I	N	B	R	U	B	M
V	N	X	F	A	C	K	F	E	L	C	O	K	J	G
P	Y	R	N	T	K	C	M	D	Q	O	H	H	P	I
S	K	W	Z	I	P	E	R	L	I	P	R	K	W	S
E	U	K	U	V	S	G	J	F	E	B	P	L	E	A
C	M	Y	J	I	T	K	D	S	M	O	X	I	D	Z
I	N	R	W	T	C	B	O	O	R	X	M	P	S	M
O	A	A	C	Y	D	J	B	Z	E	F	E	N	Y	Z
J	E	M	V	S	I	U	O	G	G	Z	H	N	H	Y
E	O	M	K	Y	W	Y	F	H	N	T	E	I	C	Q
R	J	R	A	Y	K	X	P	T	A	R	L	I	P	S
A	S	H	E	P	H	E	R	D	M	E	H	X	U	V
S	J	B	Q	B	H	K	N	W	X	Y	T	S	E	H
P	D	S	L	F	P	Z	Y	U	Q	L	E	W	H	O
Z	W	U	Q	D	O	Q	V	Q	B	J	B	H	M	A

Joseph

Bethlehem

Mary

Jesus

Manger

Nativity

Inn

Rejoice

Shepherd

Wise Men

List of Church Contacts

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

