

Spotlight - October 2008



Girlguiding UK



The Methodist Church 

It Must Be October

The harvest moon hangs round and high
It dodges clouds high in the sky
The stars wink down their love and mirth
The Autumn seasons is giving birth
Oh it must be October
The leaves of red bright gold and brown
To Mother earth come tumbling down
The breezy nights the ghostly sights
The eerie spooky far off sounds
Are signs that its October
The pumpkin yellow big and round
Are carried by costumed clumsy clowns
Its Halloween lets celebrate
Come one come all and don't be late
We know now its October
We'll roast and toast some luscious food
For apples we'll be bobbin
While tales are told around the fire
Of timely ghosts and goblins
Oh how we love October
The moon has grown pale
The stars have grown dim
Our Halloween party is over
With a hi-de-ho homeward we'll go
What a delightful month October



Today's Stock Market Report

Helium was up, feathers were down.
Paper was stationary.
Fluorescent tubing was dimmed in light trading.
Knives were up sharply.
Cows steered into a bull market.
Pencils lost a few points.
Hiking equipment was trailing.
Elevators rose, while escalators continued their slow decline.
Weights were up in heavy trading.
Light switches were off.
Mining equipment hit rock bottom.
Diapers were unchanged.
Shipping lines stayed at an even keel.
The market for raisins dried up.
Coca cola fizzled.
Caterpillar stock inched up a bit.
Sun peaked at midday.
Balloon prices were inflated.
Scott Tissue touched a new bottom.



Don't forget that Spotlight is available for download from the 'Our Church - Wesley' section of the Boys' Brigade website, the address is:
www.5thwestbromwich.co.uk

The deadline for items to be included in the December 2008 edition is Sunday 7th December 2008.

Boys' Brigade - Junior Section

With the summer a distant memory, the new session is well under way. We have many exciting things planned for the coming session, including quiz's, cross country events and many other competitions which you will hear about in the coming editions of Spotlight. We have sent 3 boys up to Company section and have received 4 boys from Anchor Boys. Our numbers currently stand at 17. For the first month of our session we have been working with the local Police Community Support Officer (PCSO), Nicki Yates who has visited us on a Friday evening. The boys have dealt with issues such as bullying, anti social behaviour they also played a game called the 'Truth Game' which involved questions on different topics and depending on how you answered you received points. Our month ended with a visit to Wednesbury Police Station where the boys were shown the cells, had their finger prints taken, they saw a police car and a police dog called Alf. This proved to be a great start to our session and although we did try to leave them, all the boys got home safely from the police station!

Andrew Henson & Julie Dixon

Wesley is getting a New Organ!



For anyone that's been in the church over the last few weeks, you may have noticed that something is missing! The "old" organ console and some of the organ pipes have been taken, and have made space for a new organ.

With guidance from David Gallichan, who has carried out some of the repairs and maintenance to the "old" organ over the last few years, church council has agreed to a new organ being supplied by Rodgers Instruments, which is part of Roland, a company known for the superior quality of keyboards, synthesisers and other electronic audio equipment.

Mick Osborne, Gary Hopkins and I visited a church in Longdon, Worcestershire, who have Rodgers organ; it really was an impressive sound. Thomas Trotter, Birmingham City organist, gave a recital on their new Rodgers organ in September last year.

Rodgers use digital technology to sample sounds to recreate the warmth and clarity of real pipes. Technology is harnessed to deliver the complete pipe organ experience. I challenge anyone, once we have the new organ in place, to come into church, close their eyes and listen. The new organ will sound exactly as a traditional pipe organ would.

Organs built by Rodgers have been used in Worcester Cathedral, whilst one of their own pipe organs was being repaired and in the Royal Albert Hall, to name just two places. If they're good enough for them, then.....

The organ which Church Council has agreed can be purchased is two-manual, but offers the flexibility to include 4 floating solo stops, which is what you would often find on the third manual. The console itself is similar to the "old" console, with stops at the side, full pedals but also with MIDI capability. You could be sitting in church on a Sunday morning or evening listening to me playing the organ while I'm lying by the pool in Greece!

We can also have a small add-on sound module; this will add an extra 70 organ stops, plus about 1,000 other orchestral, organ and piano-type sounds, these can be layered on top of the organ sounds to provide additional flexibility, variety and a bit of fun for the player and listener!

This may all sound very complicated; but Mick Osborne can tell you, for the inexperienced player, it need not be.

The speakers will be situated in the organ loft, and so it will really sound just as if the old pipe organ is still being played. The sound of this organ is not really at all like the smaller digital organs that are used at other churches in the circuit; our new organ will be capable of filling the church with a fantastic pipe organ sound, just as the old organ did.

The new organ will obviously be capable of being moved to other premises in the future should it be necessary.

Rodgers don't use salesmen, Mark Underwood, who has been, and will continue to be, our contact at Rodgers, prior, during and after the installation, is himself an accomplished organist.

Where's the money coming from? I'm sure some of you are wondering! The lead being stolen off the organ loft roof meant the roof leaked; this caused severe water damage to the organ, rendering it irreparable, an insurance claim was therefore made, this has enabled the church to purchase the new instrument.

We will be arranging a concert, or maybe more than one, which will feature the organ and hope you will all support this exciting development in the life of Wesley.

Helen Parker

- 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 and it can be arranged.



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

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SAFCO

We've certainly ploughed the fields and scattered well this year at Wesley. Our Harvest Festival this year was celebrated on Parade Sunday in September, during the morning service, led by Rev Carole Holden, a pizza was made and shared. Meanwhile, Liz and Helen were busy in the kitchen cooking a harvest lunch of soup followed by a lamb dinner with all the trimmings and a selection of deserts for members of the church. A good time sharing food and fellowship was had by all who attended. The lunch was then followed by an afternoon Harvest service led by Mike Vaughan.

Harvest celebrations continued on Wednesday, when about 80 people shared in a meal of bangers and mash, followed by entertainment led by our friends from Charlemont Choir. Many old favourites were included and people joined in with the singing.

Thanks again to SAFCO for organising these enjoyable events and we look forward to good food, fun and fellowship at the next SAFCO event on 22nd October when the entertainment is somewhat a mystery, being advertised as "Locally Produced"! There's only one way to find out what it is – come along! I'm sure Liz would be only too happy to sell you a ticket!

Details of all SAFCO events are on the Notice Board in the concourse at the front of church.

**ADVERTISE HERE!
CONTACT EDITOR FOR
DETAILS!**

Humour – Church Bulletin Board

The following appeared in church bulletins or were announced at church services:

- The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water.' The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'
- Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.
- Don't let worry kill you off – let the church help.
- Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again', giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.
- For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.
- Irving Benson and Jessie carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.
- Potluck supper Sunday at 5pm – prayer and medication to follow
- At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice

Wesley Bonfire – 7th November

Wesley is holding its annual bonfire and fireworks evening on the 7th November and we would like some wood to burn! If you have any wood or wooden items that you are getting rid of could you please put them next to the fire bin at the back of Wesley? If you have some things that would burn but would have difficulty in getting them to Wesley, please give me a call on my mobile and I will arrange a time to come and collect it in the trailer.

Everyone is welcome to attend to keep warm by the fire and watch the fireworks and there will be refreshments and snacks available from the kitchen.

Matthew Clive – 07773280876



This one should keep us all thinking

This is a true story of something that happened just a few years ago at USC.

There was a professor of philosophy there who was a deeply committed atheist. His primary goal for one required class was to spend the entire semester to prove that God couldn't exist. His students were always afraid to argue with him because of his impeccable logic. Sure, some had argued in class at times, but no one had ever really gone against him because of his reputation. At the end of every semester on the last day, he would say to his class of 300 students, 'If there is anyone here who still believes in Jesus, stand up!' In twenty years, no one had ever stood up. They knew what he was going to do next. He would say, 'Because anyone who believes in God is a fool'.

If God existed, he could stop this piece of chalk from hitting the ground and breaking. Such a simple task to prove that He is God, and yet He can't do it.'

And every year, he would drop the chalk onto the tile floor of the classroom and it would shatter into a hundred pieces. All of the students would do nothing but stop and stare. Most of the students thought that God couldn't exist. Certainly, a number of Christians had slipped through, but! for 20 years, they had been too afraid to stand up.

Well, a few years ago there was a freshman who happened to enrol. He was a Christian, and had heard the stories about his professor. He was required to take the class for his major, and he was afraid. But for three months that semester, he prayed every morning that he would have the courage to stand up no matter what the professor said, or what the class thought. Nothing they said could ever shatter his faith...he hoped.

Finally, the day came. ! The professor said, 'If there is anyone here who still believes in God, stand up!' The professor and the class of 300 people looked at him, shocked, as he stood up at the back of the classroom. The professor shouted, 'You FOOL!!! If God existed, he would keep this piece of chalk from breaking when it hit the ground!'

He proceeded to drop the chalk, but as he did, it slipped out of his fingers, off his shirt cuff, onto the pleat of his pants, down his leg, and off his shoe. As it hit the ground, it simply rolled away unbroken. The professor's jaw dropped as he stared at the chalk. He looked up at the young man, and then ran out of the lecture hall.

The young man who had stood, proceeded to walk to the front of the room and shared his faith in Jesus for the next half hour. 300 students stayed and listened as he told of God's love for them and of His power through Jesus.

Please pass this along to your Christian and non-Christian friends, giving them encouragement we all need every day.

In light of the many jokes we send to one another for a laugh, this is a little different:

This is not intended to be a joke, it's not funny, it's intended to get you thinking.....

Isn't it funny how simple it is for people to trash God and then wonder why the world's going wrong.

Isn't it funny how we believe what the newspapers say, but question what the Bible says.

Isn't it funny how everyone wants to go to heaven provided they do not have to believe, think, say, or do anything the Bible says. Or is it scary?

Isn't it funny how someone can say 'I believe in God' but still follow Satan (who, by the way, also 'believes' in God).

Isn't it funny how you can send a thousand jokes through e-mail and they spread like wildfire, but when you start sending messages regarding the Lord, people think twice about sharing.

Isn't it funny how the lewd, crude, vulgar and obscene pass freely through cyberspace, but the public discussion of Jesus is suppressed in the school and workplace?

Isn't it funny how someone can be so fired up for Christ on Sabbath but an invisible Christian the rest of the week?

Isn't it funny how I can be more worried about what other people think of me than what God thinks of me.

Will YOU pass this on? I did



The Boys' Brigade – 125 years old in 2008

You will no doubt be aware from the previous edition of Spotlight, that the Boys' Brigade as the oldest uniformed voluntary youth organisation is 125 years old this year.

We mark this milestone with some photos and a few words in this edition of Spotlight, as it is the nearest edition to the actual anniversary.



The Boys' Brigade was founded by *William Alexander Smith*, who at the time was 29 years old, was a volunteer Officer in the Lanarkshire Rifles and also a member of the Free College Church.

He taught in the Sunday School but found it difficult to keep the older boys interested and under control, whilst on a Saturday afternoon on the drill ground as a officer in the Lanarkshire Rifle Volunteers, he found no problem in making a hundred men obey his every command. It was then that he had the idea of turning the boys from the Sunday School into a volunteer band or brigade with discipline, self-respect and obedience at the very heart of his new organisation, not to mention religion of course.



So on Thursday 4th October 1883, together with two of his friends from the YMCA, William Smith invited the boys from his Sunday School to the *North Woodside Mission Hall* not far from the Church, to the first meeting of what was to become the 1st *Glasgow Company of The Boys' Brigade*.



And so The Boys' Brigade was born and the rest, as they say, is history.

The Brigade spread very quickly throughout Scotland, England, Wales and Ireland and overseas.

William Smith was knighted in 1909 and died in 1914 barely 60 years old after collapsing at a BB Executive meeting in London.

Our own Company here at Wesley, the 5th West Bromwich Company, was started in 1924 by *Harry Rowley* who was the first Captain. It is the oldest Company in West Bromwich and we are immensely proud of our strong tradition and history, and the work that we have been doing as part of the outreach of Wesley Church for the last 84 years.

Ian P Collett
Officer and ex Company Captain



Birmingham Half Marathon – 26th October

As some of you will have heard on the radio, Birmingham is hosting its first ½ Marathon sponsored by EDF Energy on the 26th October. The course starts at the Alexander Stadium in Perry Barr and works its way through Aston and the Jewellery Quarter with the finish line at Centenary Square having come up the Hagley Road and Broad Street. The course is the traditional distance of 13.1 miles and Angela Hall has decided to run it in aid of Cancer Research UK. A very worthwhile cause, one day we will beat cancer! If you would like to sponsor her, you can do it online at www.runningsponsorsome.org/angelahall2 or by adding your name to her sponsor form on the notice board at the front of Wesley.



Fun and Games

Another brand new Su-Doku for you this month because I know how much you like them! Remember; put the numbers 1-9 in each row, column and 3x3 box and there's only one solution! Also, an autumn themed wordse

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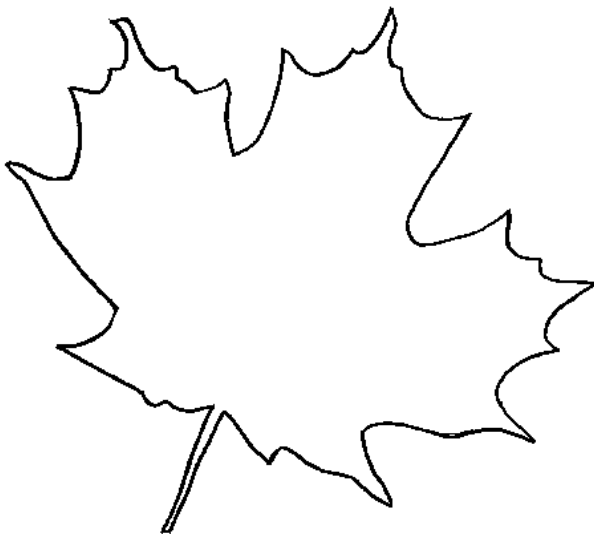
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| OCTOBER | ORANGE | PUMPKIN |
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Colour in the Maple Leaf



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