

spotlite - February 2019



Wesley Pantomime 2019

Puss in Boots



The pantomime will be performed

**Monday 18th to Saturday 23rd February,
six performances in all.**

**Tickets will shortly be available from
Liz Vaughan as usual on 0121 553 3727
at the bargain price of £5 for adults and
£4 for children aged 12 and under.**

We hope that you will come along and support this years' production which makes a significant contribution to the Church finances and is a good night out as well !

How it all began

I saw the comment by Ian in Spotlite and it set me thinking – how did it all start? One night in 1947 a group of us ‘young people’ were gathered together after Sunday Service and we decided that we should do something to raise money for Gift Day. What should we do? We discussed a Social Evening, a Barn Dance, a Concert and then came up with the idea of a Pantomime. Dorothy Smith volunteered to write it and we were all to be involved.

The script, Aladdin, was written and practices began in January. Harold Wheway was appointed Producer, Minnie Jones was asked to sing between scenes and I was given the part of Abanazer. My sister Janet, Midge Smith, John Hockley and of course Dorothy all had parts but regrettably I can’t remember the names of the principals. The first two scenes were well scripted but the third scene was ‘ad lib’ and caused worry and arguments and finally we called in Millie Newey to help. Costumes were also a problem because Clothing Coupons were still in operation and so we had to ‘make do’ with pyjamas and dressing gowns made from parachute silk and black plaits made from skeins of darning wool which were not on clothing coupon so were in great demand, but we managed to charm the storekeeper in the Market!

The first performance was on February 25th 1948 and my Mother wrote in her Diary *“It was better than I expected in fact Acts 1&2 were very good but Act 3 wanted more practice”* The Saturday performance was much better. In Act 3 Dot had to put someone through the mangle and retrieve a cut out when she turned the handle. On the Saturday she pulled too hard and tore the shape in half. It brought the house down! There were good audiences and we apparently made a good profit.

Over the years I worked with Dot as Dresser for the Principals and the children; Props, Scene Shifter, Prompter and finally coffee maker.

Thank you Wesley for the fun, laughter and tears and the many friends I have made over the years and my good wishes for ‘Puss in Boots’
MOLLIE NEALE.

Wesley Church Christmas Tree Festival 2018

The third Wesley Christmas Tree Festival took place on Saturday 8th December 2018.

This year we had 26 beautifully and imaginatively decorated trees on display in the church **from organisations within Wesley including the three sections of Boys' Brigade, Guiding, Brownies, Choir, Sunday School and the CAC Royal Priesthood Centre** plus a number of individual entries. We were really pleased to have entries from outside of Wesley including Phoenix Collegiate, Trefoil and even one from Oxford.

The Christmas Fair was held on the Saturday and we had a couple of new craft stalls who were very happy and have expressed an interest in attending again.

On the Saturday evening a concert was held celebrating the "Top Ten Wesley Christmas Carols". Thanks must go to Helen and Steve for organising the concert and to the members of The Staffordshire Band who performed during the concert. It was a great evening enjoyed by many.

The Best Christmas Tree competition this year was won by the 5th **West Bromwich Boys' Brigade Company Section** with their tree entitled **"Lest We Forget"**, which commemorated the centenary of the end of the First World War.



THE WINNING TREE

The total raised from the Festival was £1,036.

And £131 was raised for the "Voices of Hope" Choir from the sale of the dove decorations for the Memory Tree. And thank you must go to Terry Price BEM who kindly donated the Christmas Tree.

A big THANK YOU must go to everyone who helped out before and during the weekend to make the Christmas Tree Festival another great success.

Christmas Tree Festival Group

WESLEY CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL 2018



Safco



Pat & Linda



1st West Bromwich
Brownies



Knit & Natter



Phoenix Collegiate



Let's Dance for Life



Keith Llewellyn &
Alan Thompson



Wesley Cleaning Gang



Alan Thompson



5th West Bromwich
Junior Section



Trefoil



Ladies Circle



Wesley Choir



Memory Tree
"Voice of Hope Choir"



4th West Bromwich
Brownies



Wesley Sunday
School

WESLEY CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL 2018



5th West Bromwich
Anchor Boys



Maralyns Tree



Helen & Steve Allen



5th West Bromwich
Company Section



Wesley Mens Group



Pat Thompson



CAC Royal Priesthood



4th West Bromwich
Rainbows



Betty Bonnell



Wesley Guides & Centre
Senior Section



How many weeks till the next

Christmas Tree Festival.....

Following the success of the Christmas Tree Festival, we have a provisional booking for the 14th-15th December 2019. So get your thinking caps on, we want to make this year bigger and better with more trees.

44 WEEKS TO GO....
(at the date of printing)



We would like to say a personal thank you

to all the people who organised and helped at the Christmas Tree Festival.

Whether it was the committee who 'd been working hard for months or the kitchen staff who provided those lovely bacon baps or the people who did the stewarding and the evening entertainment.

It was interesting to find out the most popular Carol but what has impressed us most is the way it has brought people together. The festival has had a knock on **effect for the good, people who don 't normally get involved are now involved.**

Beside raising money for the church, we are helping charities, getting other people **and groups taking part, who normally don' t have a connection with Wesley.**

Thank you to everyone who entered a tree (what a lovely variety, so imaginative) without them there would be no Festival Well done to all.

Maureen and Keith

Ken Dunn

As you may know by now, Ken Dunn has recently retired as an Officer in the 5th West Bromwich after serving 75 years in The Boys' Brigade.



Ken has held a number of positions within Brigade both locally, at Battalion level and also nationally including Swimming Officer at camp, Company and Battalion Band Master and Band Controller at both the West Midlands Band Contest and the Boys' Brigade National Marching Band Contest for many years. He has taught many young people how to play an instrument including side drum and bugle.





We would like to take this opportunity to thank Ken for the many years of service and wish him all the best for a long and happy retirement.



Top 10 Carols

I compiled a list of 85 Christmas carols for members and friends of Wesley to vote for their favourites; a prize must go to the Anchor Boy (Cameron) who was the only person in the 53 people that voted, to choose a carol that was on the list! Cameron chose "Little Donkey".

A total of 265 votes cast; and a total of 63 carols had one or more votes (we're not quite sure whether that is a better turnout than the Brexit referendum, or local elections), however the results, announced in the concert in reverse order and all 10 carols sung at the concert, were:

1	Joy to the World	19 votes
2	Away in a manger, no crib for a bed	18
3	See him lying on a bed of straw	15
4	Come and join the celebration	15
5	It was on a starry night	12
6	Hark! The herald-angels sing	11
7	O come, all ye faithful	11
8	Silent night, holy night	11
9	In the bleak midwinter	10
10	O little town of Bethlehem	8

Thank-you to members of The Staffordshire Band who provided some of the accompaniment for our carols and to everyone who cast their votes, I wonder if there'll be any "new entries" or "non-movers" in this year's Top 10?!

Helen

Church Anniversary

The opening date for "Big Wesley" was 5th June 1835 and cost £3,000 to build; the current building was opened on 16th February 1974, the booklet commemorating 150 years of Methodist witness on the site doesn't record how much it cost to build, but no doubt Derek would be able to tell us how much has been spent maintaining and improving the premises since he has been property steward!

In recent years we have not celebrated our Church Anniversary, but I remember when I came to Wesley in the 1980's that the Church Anniversary took place in February, and I think the choir sang anthems at both morning and evening services, rather than just the evening congregation usually having the pleasure of listening to us!

No doubt there is debate about whether Wesley's Church Anniversary should be celebrated in June or February, however we have a lot to give thanks for and to celebrate and so, following discussions in the "Shaping Faith & Worship" group we wanted to introduce new, and perhaps some old ideas, into our Sunday worship. On Sunday 17th February we are therefore celebrating the Church Anniversary! This will be a celebration of and thanksgiving service for the life of Wesley, as well as looking forward to the future.

The service will be led by our own "Local Preacher on Trial", Steve Allen, who will no doubt include some memories and thoughts from members of the congregation who have been coming to and associated with Wesley for much longer than he or I.

Helen

Palm Sunday

The April Parade Service this year falls on Palm Sunday and we have requested that the service is an "LA" (Local Arrangement).

The service will be led by Helen and Steve Allen with help from members of the Youth Organisations and we hope that it will be a little different, involving everyone.

We are exploring ways that the youth of our church can work with members of the congregation during the service to "Prepare ye the way of the Lord" making palm branches to celebrate and remember Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem at the start of Holy Week. We probably won't have a donkey, but hope that everyone will be willing to be involved in re-creating the story.



Sudoku

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



Moodle! Virtual Learning for Worship: Leading & Preaching (Stephen Allen's Blog)



Hi all !

As part of my training to become an accredited Local Preacher, in addition to my theological studies online, I prepare and lead worship throughout the circuit. On occasion, my services are assessed by another Local Preacher and congregational member as part of my portfolio. One of the forms that I have to complete is a Service planning and reflection form, which asks me to answer and share my thoughts on how I prepare for a service and then reflect on how a service was received and how did I feel.

I thought I would share with you some brief notes on a service I took last year at Methodist Centre;

Lectionary Readings; 2 Kings 4:42-44, Ephesians 3:14-21, John 6:1-21

Theme;

The readings from Kings and the Gospel of John really demonstrated to me the abundance of God's goodness, and that he is there to sustain us and provide for us with what we need if we respond to him in faith and with prayer. Paul's letter spoke to me of how we can come to God through prayer, and that God through Jesus can be the nourishment for our lives. If we respond to him, he will sustain us and give and continue to give us so much more. We should look to accept God as our father, to be our solid rock in our lives, to want to know his love, and be part of our every day life so we can know more of his greatness and find fullness in his love.

What Hymns did I choose and why?

Great is thy faithfulness

an opportunity to praise God whose faithfulness, mercy and love is constant and sustains us.

I sing the almighty power of God

this Hymn gives us a view of God's creation. It enables us to come in awe and praise as we contemplate God's power, wisdom, abundance of goodness. He is ever present and eager for us to respond.

Break thou the bread of life

It centres on wanting to learn the truth of God's word and linked to John 6 (thou didst break the loaves beside the sea)

May the mind of Christ my saviour

This hymn echoes a prayer asking that the word of God, peace of God, and love of Jesus lives in our hearts each day.

Lord of Creation

Finally, the reading from Ephesians finished glorifying God. We can give praise for his deeds, and offer a commitment of ourselves to God and as this was the final hymn, go out with Joy in our hearts to fulfil whatever God wants us to do.

Every blessing, Steve Allen

2019 Update on Wesley

Charity Status

At its meeting last October the Church Council agreed to 291 Community Association applying to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). When approved this will widen the scope of funders that can be applied to for grants.

There is a lot of work in bringing this application forward but it is progressing well with thanks to Stuart Ashmore of Sandwell Council Voluntary Organisations who has been a great help with advice whilst the application is being prepared.

The Trustees will be Rev. Philip Thomas, Derek Percival and Don Anderson.

Stuart advised that it is necessary that the majority of the Trustees should be Church Council members so that there will not be any conflict of interest. As each of the Trustees are members of Church Council this will not be a problem.

It is hoped that the application can be submitted soon so that David Russell our fund raiser can again apply for grants.

291 Creative Hub

Dawn is doing an excellent job overseeing and coordinating; and the activities are running well. The Hub is assisted by a number of Wesley volunteers who attend and provide a friendly atmosphere to chat and have a cup of tea etc. By providing a number of different activities run over 4 days of the week enables many people to enjoy a pleasant social facility that gives them an improved life and reduces their loneliness and isolation. Financially it is progressing well. Those attending make a small contribution which shows their appreciation for what is being provided.

You will remember that we were fortunate to obtain 6 months funding from the Lottery "Awards for All" which has enabled the Hub to continue until the end of March 2019.

However, because of going for charity status we are in no man's land with regard to applying for grants at present.

Please pray that the application for Charity status is successful so that we can apply for grants to continue this important work.

Property Steward

You will remember that in 2016 I gave 4 years notice that I intend to stand down at the end of August 2020. To date no one has come forward to show any interest in taking on this role.

It is necessary to explain that this role at present is voluntary. However, if no one comes forward then it will be necessary to pay someone to do it.

The role that I do is twofold - General maintenance and Major refurbishment

The major refurbishment will need someone with a knowledge of buildings and may best be progressed by paying our Quinquennial inspector or some such professional to carry out this work.

The General maintenance could be overseen, and/or carried out, by anyone who has some knowledge of DIY; i.e. changing light bulbs, small repair, etc.

I am now coming under a lot of pressure by many people, as well as my long suffering beloved, that I hand over and step back where I can. It is therefore becoming more important that a decision is taken as to what the future for this role is.

Please give it serious thought and pray about it. I would like to know your thoughts at the Annual Church Meeting.

God Bless
Derek

Friday - 1st March 2019

World Day of Prayer



2.00pm - Blue Ribbon Mission

20 Taylor's Lane, West Bromwich B71 4AL

Come - Everything is Ready!

Luke 14:15-24

At the core of the theme for WDP 2019, an invitation – Come. And to enable the response – Everything is ready. Come to praise, thank, and proclaim the kingdom of love.

The invitation is grounded in the parable that Jesus told about a great dinner which was attended by the ones called off the streets, as the ones invited excused themselves. The community formed around the table is not enough to fill the house – there is still room. Who are missing from the table in your community?

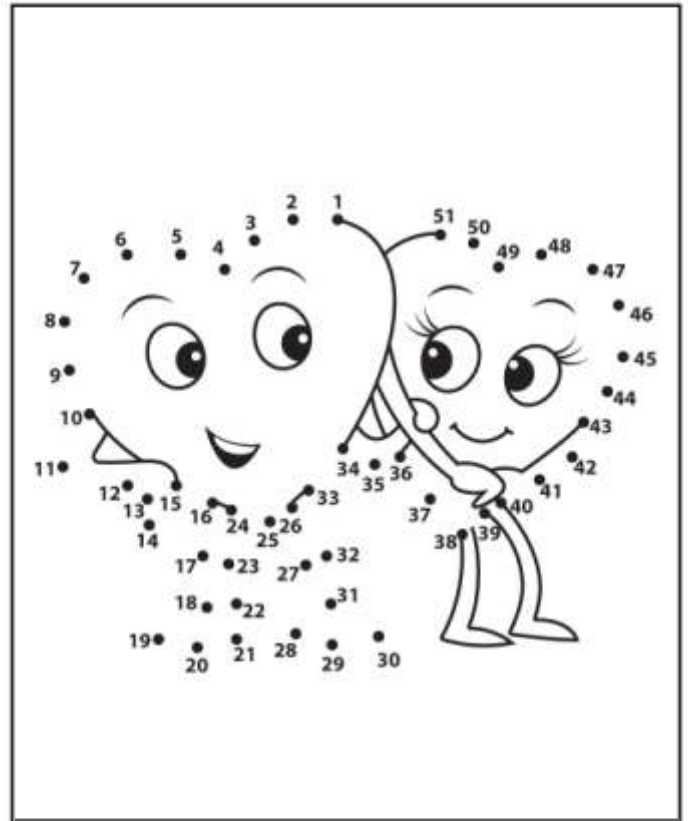
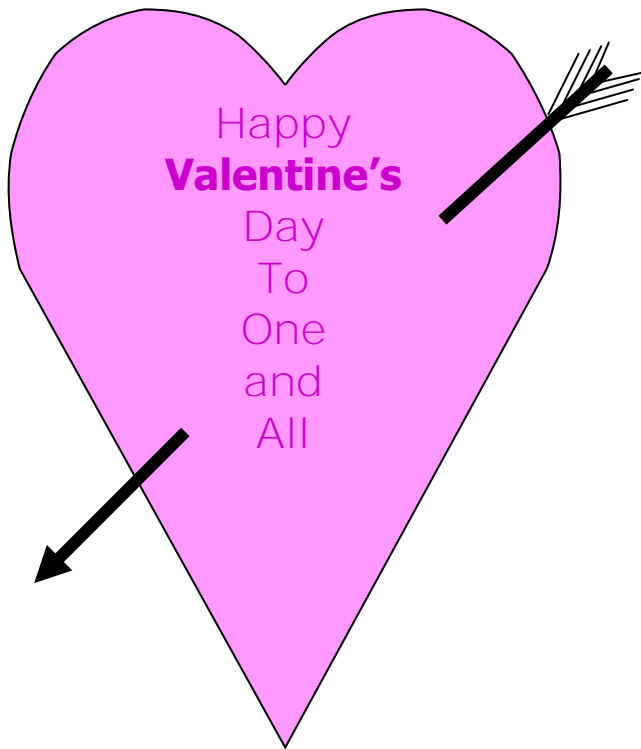


The artist, Rezka Arnuš, wanted to present two topics with her artwork pictured on the right. The country of Slovenia and the main biblical story of the worship service. At the top there are women dressed in national traditional costumes. The semi-circular ornament with Slovenian folk embroidery represents a plate or a table with their best known national dish - *potica* - and grapes from various wine producing vineyards. Partly under the table, one can see the children from the margins of the society. They heard the invitation to the feast. The red and white colours used reflect Slovenian folk embroidery. The green background colour emphasizes the green Slovenia, fields and forests. The warm colours of children express the joy of heartfelt invitation.

**The WDP Slovenia
Committee**



**Join in Prayer with
members from other
Churches in West Bromwich**



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

Sudoku Solution

Valentine Facts

- Every year, more than 36 million heart shaped boxes of chocolates are sold across the country.
- Don't forget about your pets! Every year, around 9 million people buy their pets a Valentine's Day gift.
- February 14th is the second largest card giving day of the year, just after Christmas. This year, it's expected that 1 billion cards will be exchanged around the world.
- Teachers receive the most Valentine's Day cards, followed by kids, mothers, wives and girlfriends.
- Hallmark was one of the first to mass produce a Valentine's Day card, all the way back in 1913.
- The only other day that beats Valentine's Day in floral sales is Mother's Day.
- And the most likely flower to be purchased? Red roses of course!
- Who says you can't be your own Valentine? In 2015, 18% of women sent themselves flowers.

Wesley goes surfing

Wesley has finally made it onto the world-wide web!

The following two websites are now live and will include information about Wesley and all that happens here

www.wesleywestbrom.co.uk
www.291communityassociation.co.uk

THURSDAY MORNING COFFEE

10.00am – 12 noon

Come and enjoy a cup of coffee and a chat with friends on Thursday mornings at Wesley.
Coffee/Tea and biscuits 25p.



Family News

Our Thoughts and Prayers for:

Olive and Frank Brookes, Mollie Neale, Ray, Evelyn Gough and Family
Helen Tildesley (Nee Finnigan) and Family



Special Birthday Wishes to:

Jean Brown celebrated her 87th Birthday on 14th January and has been a member of Wesley for over 70 years. Congratulations Jean.

Birthday Wishes to:

Liz Vaughan, Hayley Machin, Keith Llewellyn, Evelyn Gough, Andrew Machin, Rev. Carole Holden, Betty Bonnell.

We said goodbye to Betty Bonnell on Sunday January 22nd, as she moves to Devon. We wish her well in her new home.



**Next Edition
April**



If you have any items you would like published in Spotlite, please send to me :

patxthompson@btinternet.com

Thank You

**ALL ITEMS TO ME BY
MONDAY 8TH APRIL PLEASE**

Rooms for Hire Rooms for Hire

Contact Details

For bookings and general enquiries for the use of the building please contact:

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The websites:

www.291communityassociation.co.uk

www.wesleywestbrom.co.uk

Wesley – www.wesleywestbrom.co.uk

291 – www.291communityassociation.co.uk

Email Circulation

If anybody who currently receives Spotlight by post would prefer to save paper and save us postage costs, you could get it by email instead. Simply send an email to patxthompson@btinternet.com and request that you be added to the email circulation list.

The next issue of Spotlight will be April if you have anything to go into this issue please let me have your notices by Monday 8th April LATEST Thank you.

Contact the Editor: Email: - patxthompson@btinternet.com
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via Linda and Keith Adams

- 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.

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