



Girlguiding UK



The Methodist Church 

## Boys Brigade - Junior Section.

We are continuing to be very busy and active within the Battalion. On March 12<sup>th</sup> we entered the Cross Country competition where we entered 6 boys and came away victorious with another trophy for our cabinet. Also in March we welcomed Sandwell Youth Jazz Orchestra to Wesley for a fund raising concert, a big thank you to all who supported this event. We have just completed our Friday night theme of transport which has seen us perform great loop the loops in the church with our aeroplanes, make paper boats and float them in a paddling pool to see who could float the longest, race toy cars head to head and finally use construction equipment to build a bridge.

If anyone has a connect-4 game that is no longer required, we are on the look out for some to replace our existing ones.

Julie and Andrew

## 300 miles in 4 days!

From Wednesday 1st June to Saturday 4th June, I will be cycling from London to Paris in aid of the U Foundation.

The U Foundation is a UK-based charity whose main aims are to promote sustainability and self-empowerment for both rural and city communities in Zambia. Their main focus is education, with books, desks, chairs – anything you can think of that our schools take for granted – being distributed to those who are in desperate need of vital educational resources. They recently celebrated the completion of a second Nursery school, with running water, toilets an outdoor play area and vegetable garden and have funded and stocked a library in the town of Mfuwe – providing the whole community with a fantastic learning facility. They have also provided solar powered lighting for some areas of rural Zambia – where it can get very dangerous after nightfall, and solar powered cookers for villages close to Luangwa National Park – to help alleviate the problems of deforestation and lack of fuel, not to mention the hazards of collecting firewood in an area teeming with very dangerous wildlife!

The U Foundation's tireless work could not continue without the support of kind and generous people in the UK, so here's where you come in!

My school is hosting a Line Dancing fundraiser in the near future. Tickets will be available from me soon, so keep an eye out in the notices for further details. Also, look out for the sponsor forms on the church notice boards, and please give whatever you can to support this very worthwhile cause.

Alternatively, you can donate online at: <http://www.justgiving.com/Jennifer-Adams-Barrett>

My aching legs will be very grateful for any support you can give them and you can expect a full report in a future edition of Spotlight!

Thank you,  
Jen Adams Barrett



**The deadline for items to be included in the June 2011 edition of Spotlight is Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2011.**

## Thank You

Thank you to the men who have been rising early on Sunday mornings to help with the felling and clearing away of unsafe branches from the tree at the front of church, by the barrier. Their thoughts have been for our safety - thank you men, you may now have a 'lie in' on a Sunday - until the next time!

## 1<sup>st</sup> West Bromwich Guides

The guides celebrated their 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary at Wesley at the family service on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> March. Thanks to everyone who attended.

## Pantomime - Goldilocks and the Three Bears

A big thank you should be given to everyone who took part in any way, from the producers to the Cast and all behind the scenes. A lot of hard work was put in over the months which resulted in a good production with fun, laughter and a very good evening out.

Carol Osborne

## Editor needed for Spotlight!

With this edition, I will have been producing Spotlight for Wesley for 4 years. I started with the April 2007 edition and have done 25 issues since then on a bi-monthly basis.

With the loss of my job in the coming months, I am losing the facilities to be able to produce Spotlight after the August edition this year, I am therefore asking for somebody to take over the role.

I will of course be able to provide coaching, previous spotlight documents and files and I also have a backlog of funnies, quotes and sudoku's etc. to include in future editions too.

My last edition of Spotlight will be August 2011.

Matthew Clive

## SAFCO

After a break while the pantomime occupied everyone, the SAFCO event on March 16<sup>th</sup> had a country and western theme. After a meal of soup and hot-dogs, with chocolate and marshmallow Wagon Wheels to follow, entertainment was provided by our own very talented Kenny Rogers and Johnny Cash. Another excellent evening arranged by SAFCO.

We're all now looking forward with eager expectation to the next event which will be a Royal Wedding Celebration on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> April with bunting and flags flying to celebrate Kate and Will's special day.

## 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 [mattclive@advantagewm.co.uk](mailto:mattclive@advantagewm.co.uk) and request that you be added to the email circulation list.

## Anchor Boys

Since Christmas the Anchor Boys have been very busy working on a piece of artwork for the Battalion Picture Competition. This year the topic was 'David and Goliath', which means the boys have also heard the story from the bible. All the pictures were of a very high standard, and as a result of this Ryan Lal won the younger age group section and his brother Rohan came runner up in the older section. Well done boys. The pictures can be viewed on the Mid Staffs and Sandwell Battalion Boys' Brigade web site.

For Mother's Day the boys invited their mom's to tea at Anchor Boys where they presented them with a painted canvas and together they made an edible hat.

We now have 15 regular members. Alex Swift has also joined us to work with us as a helper. We are always looking for new members, therefore if you know of any boys between the ages of 5 and 7 then please point them in our direction.

During the Easter holidays we will be traveling back in time as we are going to visit The Black Country Museum and spend a day at Ash End farm.

Jane Collett  
Officer in Charge  
5<sup>th</sup> West Bromwich Anchor Boys



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

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**Date for BB awards night:-**

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May in the church

Start at 7:30

**All welcome!**

**Pantomime**

Poet, painter, music-maker, all your treasures bring;  
Craftsman, actor, graceful dancer, make your offering;  
Join your hand in celebration! Let creation shout and sing!

The 2<sup>nd</sup> verse of a hymn from Hymns & Psalms which has been re-named at Wesley "The pantomime hymn". It certainly is true, all ages, many different talents, all combining, working together towards what is a truly wonderful event each year, the pantomime! Where would Wesley be without all the hard work that goes into the week long productions each year?

This years pantomime was a huge success again; most nights sold out, and with just under 200 seats available per night, a total of 6 performances, my calculations are that around 1500 people were entertained this year.

Congratulations to everyone involved; whether making cups of tea, sweeping up afterwards, selling tuck, ice-creams, operating the sound and lights, moving scenery, costume-makers, actors, dancers, music-makers and of course to Ian, Jane and Linda for their direction (and no doubt patience and perseverance during rehearsals), the list is endless, to everyone a huge thank-you for another successful pantomime.

**Dot**

I first met Dot when I started to work at W.H. Keys in 1965 as a, not very good, junior shorthand typist. We soon realised that we had a lot in common including all things Thespian, The Albion and a great love of the ridiculous which gave us much merriment over the years and also got us into trouble on a few occasions. Dot was secretary to Major Keys at the time which was a good thing as she had a deep knowledge of shorthand and was the only person who could read mine back, I certainly couldn't.

She had a car by then but used to entertain me with the stories of "George" (her bike) on which she used to come to work. It wasn't very long before she introduced me to the wonderful world of Pantomime and the goings on at Wesley Chapel which she used to encourage me to join in and so I ended up proof reading the Panto and attending the performance every year.

When we had Jenny in 1974 she encouraged me to have her christened at Wesley and the rest, as they say, is history.

When Major Keys retired she carried on as secretary to Mr Hatton one of the directors but took on a wider role in the export of Keys products. It was very much a man's world but Dot had no time for "pigeon holes" and believed that you could do anything you wanted to if you applied yourself and when I finally gave up on the dreaded shorthand and was offered the job of Assistant Buyer I was undecided as to whether I could do it but Dot said "Of course you can you are as good as the men any day" so I forged ahead and eventually took over as Buyer.

There isn't enough room for all the things I could tell you about Dot's part in my life but I have much to be grateful to her for, my involvement at Wesley which has enriched our lives and given us many lasting friendships but also the confidence she gave me to know that nothing is impossible if you truly want to do it.

So, thank you Dot I will never forget you.

Your Partner in Crime, Linda.

## **Goldilocks, Three Bears and Aunty Dot**

In this edition of Spotlight you would usually expect to read a review of this year's pantomime but this year the success of the production has been somewhat overshadowed by the unexpected death of Dorothy Smith a week and a half after the end of the production (9<sup>th</sup> March).

Dorothy, affectionately known to most of us as Aunty Dot was in the first pantomime, Aladdin in 1948. The pantomime was then very much a Sunday School event organised to raise funds for that area of work within the Church. After that first production Dot decided that she could write a better script than the one used on that occasion and so the pattern for many future pantomimes began.

Over many of the sixty plus years since that first pantomime, Dot has written the script, produced the production and accompanied the musical items on the piano, often doing all three for any one production. Over the years other people have 'had a go' at some of these jobs, but Dot was always there to pick them up again when they moved on. She was very much the force behind the pantomime and is undoubtedly the reason why it is still running successfully today. Her knowledge of the British tradition of pantomime is unrivalled in my experience and her vivid imagination helped to create something that made the pantomimes very enjoyable and great fun.

Over the years the pantomime moved to being a Church pantomime with the cast, chorus and all back stage tasks being performed by members of the organisations or just the church membership in general, but with Dot still at the helm. The pantomime has raised many thousands of pounds over the years for the Church and given enjoyment to thousands of youngsters, and adults for that matter.

The last pantomime Dot produced was Sleeping Beauty in 2006, but she suffered some ill health during the rehearsals months and was unable to make many of the rehearsals, not feeling well enough to come out on the dark and cold winter months. In more recent years she has not been around Wesley as she moved to Burntwood to be near her sister Midge.

In the intervening period since 2006, Dot's participation in the pantomime has continued in that we have still been using scripts originally written by her. We are currently planning to perform Cinderella in 2012, again using a script originally written by Dot.

Dot's contribution to Wesley was of course more than just the pantomime, for many years she was a dedicated Sunday School teacher and she was always very involved with Wesley's entry and participation in the annual Sunday School Festival. She was a regular member of the congregation and had a hand in many other areas of Church too numerous to mention now.

Her funeral took place on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March at Wesley followed by a cremation at West Bromwich Crematorium. The funeral was very well attended by friends from past and present.

Dot will be very sadly missed by everyone at Wesley and our thoughts and prayers go to Midge at this difficult time.

Ian P Collett

## **Olivet to Calvary**

By the time you read this the choir will either be in final preparations for, or will have sung J H Maunders "Olivet to Calvary". This year is a first for Wesley choir and the West Bromwich and Tipton Methodist circuits. Wesley Choir, and friends, have joined with a choir from Tipton and Dudley to present the cantata as part of our Lent and Holy Week offerings. The choir have enjoyed singing this particular cantata which hasn't been sung in its entirety by Wesley Choir since 2000. Thankfully memories aren't too short and so with a few rehearsals all the right notes are just about there. If you're reading this before Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> April, then please come along to Wesley at 7:30pm to show your support to the West Bromwich and Tipton circuits as they continue their journey together. If you've missed Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup>, then maybe you will be able to come along to Tipton Green Methodist Church on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April, again at 7:30pm when the cantata will be presented by the combined choir again.

## **BRITISH NEWSPAPERS**

Commenting on a complaint from a Mr. Arthur Purdey about a large gas bill, a spokesman for North West Gas said, 'We agree it was rather high for the time of year. It's possible Mr. Purdey has been charged for the gas used up during the explosion that destroyed his house.'

(The Daily Telegraph)

Mrs. Irene Graham of Thorpe Avenue , Boscombe, delighted the audience with her reminiscence of the German prisoner of war who was sent each week to do her garden. He was repatriated at the end of 1945, she recalled -

'He'd always seemed a nice friendly chap, but when the crocuses came up in the middle of our lawn in February 1946, they spelt out 'Heil Hitler.'"

( Bournemouth Evening Echo)

## **HEARD ON THE LONDON UNDERGROUND TUBE**

A list of actual announcements that London Tube train drivers have made to their passengers...

- 1) 'Ladies and Gentlemen, I do apologise for the delay to your service. I know you're all dying to get home, unless, of course, you happen to be married to my ex-wife, in which case you'll want to cross over to the Westbound and go in the opposite direction.'
- 2) 'Your delay this evening is caused by the line controller suffering from E & B syndrome: not knowing his elbow from his backside. I'll let you know any further information as soon as I'm given any.'
- 3) 'Do you want the good news first or the bad news? The good news is that last Friday was my birthday and I hit the town and had a great time. The bad news is that there is a points failure somewhere between Stratford and East Ham, which means we probably won't reach our destination.'
- 4) 'Ladies and gentlemen, we apologise for the delay, but there is a security alert at Victoria station and we are therefore stuck here for the foreseeable future, so let's take our minds off it and pass some time together. All together now.... 'Ten green bottles, hanging on a wall.....!'
- 5) 'We are now travelling through Baker Street ... As you can see, Baker Street is closed. It would have been nice if they had actually told me, so I could tell you earlier, but no, they don't think about things like that'.
- 6) 'Beggars are operating on this train. Please do NOT encourage these professional beggars. If you have any spare change, please give it to a registered charity. Failing that, give it to me.'
- 7) During an extremely hot rush hour on the Central Line, the driver announced in a West Indian drawl: 'Step right this way for the sauna, ladies and gentleman... Unfortunately, towels are not provided.'
- 8) 'Let the passengers off the train FIRST!' (Pause ) 'Oh go on then, stuff yourselves in like sardines, see if I care - I'm going home....'
- 9) 'Please allow the doors to close. Try not to confuse this with 'Please hold the doors open.' The two are distinct and separate instructions.'
- 10) 'Please note that the beeping noise coming from the doors means that the doors are about to close. It does not mean throw yourself or your bags into the doors.'
- 11) 'We can't move off because some idiot has their hand stuck in the door.'
- 12) 'To the gentleman wearing the long grey coat trying to get on the second carriage -- what part of 'stand clear of the doors' don't you understand?'
- 13) 'Please move all baggage away from the doors.' (Pause..) 'Please move ALL belongings away from the doors.' (Pause...) 'This is a personal message to the man in the brown suit wearing glasses at the rear of the train: Put the pie down, Four-eyes, and move your golf clubs away from the door before I come down there and shove them up your backside sideways!'

## Easter Celebrations

### Holy Week Services

17 <sup>th</sup> April - Psalm Sunday	11.00am 6.15pm		Rev Mike Claridge (Holy Communion) Rev Carole Holden
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> April to Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April	7.30am		Early Morning Prayers @ Charlemont Methodist Church
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> April	7.30am		Olivet & Calavany Tipton & Dudley Augmented Choir With Weoley Choir Tipton Green Methodist Church
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> April	12.30pm 7.45pm		Holy Communion followed by Lent Lunch, soup cheese and bread Sunday School Teachers Easter Anthology
21 <sup>st</sup> April – Maundy Thursday	7.30pm		Circuit Service Beeches Road Methodist Church
22 <sup>nd</sup> April – Good Friday	10.30am 11.00am 7.30pm		Church Together Good Friday Walk of Witness St Michaels RC High Street, Short Service Walk of Witness Circuit Service Charlemont Methodist Church
23 April	8.30am		Early Morning Prayer Charlemont Methodist Church
Easter Sunday	11am 6.15pm		Ms Joan Higgins Rev. Philip Thomas (Holy Communion)

Rejoice that the Lord is Arisen!

### The Easter Lily

Once you learn about the Easter Lily, you'll never look at one with the same eyes. There are many symbols around us in the church on Easter Sunday. Do you know what a symbol is?

It is something that reminds of something else. The decorated evergreen trees remind us of Christmas and the lilies remind us of Easter. The important part of a symbol is to remember what it stands for. The Easter egg is a symbol of Easter because, at the right time, an egg can break open and we have a new life in the chick that is born.

Let's look at the Easter Lily and see what symbols are here. The flower is like a trumpet that proclaims this great day. White is the colour of maximum light and reminds us of Jesus, who said, "I am the light of the world" (John 8:12).

Inside the flower we specks of gold. Jesus said that he came so that we might have abundant life (John 10:10). Gold is a symbol of richness and abundance.

See this little thing, in the centre of the flower, which has three bumps on it? It is one thing but it has three parts. It reminds us that we know God in three ways as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Green is the colour of things growing. The green leaves remind us that we are to grow into true life with Jesus, for the son came to help us see the true nature of God. The lily grows from a bulb, which is like a tomb, and bursts forth with new life at Easter. So the lily is a good symbol to help us remember what we celebrate at Eastertide. In Jesus we have a new, rich, beautiful life; we have life as God wants it to be.

If you would like to donate an Easter Lily in memory of a loved one for the Easter Garden please see Beryl.

## **LOL (Laugh out Loud)**

If you're not familiar with Steven Wright, he's the scientist who once said: "I woke up one morning and all of my stuff had been stolen... and replaced with exact duplicates!" His mind tends to see things a bit differently than the rest of us and here are some of his gems:

- 1- I'd kill for a Nobel Peace Prize.
- 2- Borrow money from pessimists - they don't expect it back.
- 3- Half the people you know are below average.
- 4- 99% of lawyers give the rest a bad name.
- 5- 42.7% of all statistics are made up on the spot.
- 6- A conscience is what hurts when all your other parts feel so good.
- 7- A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.
- 8- If you want the rainbow, you gotta put up with the rain.
- 9- The early bird may get the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese.
- 10- I almost had a psychic girlfriend, but she left before we met.
- 11- How do you tell when you're out of invisible ink?
- 12- Depression is merely anger without enthusiasm.
- 13- When everything is coming your way, you're in the wrong lane.
- 14- Ambition is a poor excuse for not having enough sense to be lazy.
- 15- If Barbie is so popular, why do you have to buy her friends?
- 16- Eagles may soar, but weasels don't get sucked into jet engines.
- 17- What happens if you get scared half to death twice?
- 18- My mechanic told me, "I couldn't repair your brakes, so I made your horn louder."
- 19- Why do psychics have to ask your name?
- 20- If at first you don't succeed, destroy all evidence that you tried.
- 21- A conclusion is the place where you got tired of thinking.
- 22- The hardness of the butter is proportional to the softness of the bread.



## **Family News**

Thoughts and prayers to Jack & Mollie Neale, Phyllis Ault and Muriel Knight (Aunty Dot's Sister)

Birthday Wishes to Mollie Neale, Ann Taylor, Andrew Machin, Ian Collett  
Special Birthday Wishes to Evelyn Gough on her 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday.

Also Congratulations to Evelyn and Ray on their Golden Wedding Anniversary and Pat & Alan Thompson on the safe arrival of their Granddaughter.

## **1st West Bromwich Guides**

Each year on 22 February Girl Guides and Girl Scouts all over the world celebrate World Thinking Day.

World Thinking Day was first created in 1926 at the 4th Girl Guide/Girl Scout International Conference. Conference attendees decided that there should be a special day when Girl guides and Girl Scouts all around the world think of each other and give thanks and appreciation to their "sister" Girl Guides and Girl Scouts.

The 1st West Bromwich Guides have been working towards earning their World Thinking Day 2011 badge. To earn this badge the Guides had to complete 6 activities including at least 1 fundraising activity.

The fundraising activity that the Guides undertook was to carry out chores around the home for a period of 2 weeks for a fee.

The Guides raised £85.00 which has been donated to World Thinking Day.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the girls for their efforts and this was certainly reflected in the amount of money that they raised.

Lucy  
1st West Bromwich Guider

## Margaret Price & the Red Cross

Margaret Price has been volunteering with the British Red Cross in the West Midlands for more than 30 years and has been awarded the badge of honour. This is what the Red Cross said about Margaret:

For approximately 16 years, Margaret was Centre Organiser for the West Bromwich group, and showed excellent qualities of leadership for that group. With the amalgamation of West Bromwich with the Warley Group, she has now taken on the role of Duty Officer for this new centre, where again, she can be relied upon to do an excellent job.

She is an exceptional Event First Aider, and some of the duties she has volunteered for are: the annual tennis tournament, race walking and the 'Britain's Got Talent' competition. For many years, Margaret has been a key Event First Aid team player at the West Bromwich Albion matches, where she is responsible for one of the First Aid rooms. Margaret is very well thought of by both the West Midlands Ambulance Service and the West Bromwich Albion Club authorities, helping to promote the Red Cross Appeal Week collections and other 'emergency' collections as needed.

For approximately the last seven years – to assist the Events First Aid Co-ordinator – Margaret has been coming into the West Midlands office as a Volunteer, one day a week, to give support in dealing with some of the extensive administration work, by compiling duty packs, filing returned duty paperwork, and making phone calls to Volunteers. More recently Margaret has helped with the huge task of archiving. Her Line Manager regards her as a loyal, hardworking Volunteer, who does the very best in every situation.

Margaret is also a fund-raiser, and helps with the Red Cross Appeal Week collections and other 'emergency' collections as needed.

She had a Branch Commendation in 2001 for Meritorious Service, and a Badge of Honour for Devoted Service in 2003. Margaret is a worthy recipient of the Badge of Honour for outstanding service, as this is what she continues to give to the Red Cross, year on year.



Coming soon to Wesley



in concert

Details to be announced soon

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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.

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