



Girlguiding UK



The Methodist Church 

Dear Friends,

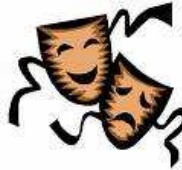
It's Wesley Pantomime season again (oh no it isn't!) and I hope to see you all there! Tickets are available from Liz Vaughan on 0121 553 3727 and cost £3.75 for adults and £2.75 for under 12's. Performances start on Sat 9th Feb and run every night til Sat 16th Feb except Sunday.

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 April 2008 edition is Sunday 6th April 2008.

All items, as usual will be gratefully received.

Matthew.



Humour *(Thanks Bob)*

There were 3 ministers of religion having coffee and talking about the problems they were all experiencing in their churches. All three of them had problems with bats in the belfry. The first minister said you have to be careful these days or you'll get a hefty fine if you disturb them! The second minister added that he had tried but failed to get rid of his bats when the third piped up and said 'I got rid of mine, no problem at all!' It was easy, all I did was baptised them, then made them church members and I haven't seen them since!

Contact the Editor: - Email: - mattclive@advantagewm.co.uk Tel: - 07773 280 876
Address: - 36 The Broadway, West Bromwich, B71 2QQ

Guides

Since our last update, the Guides have been really busy! We went to Manchester's MEN Arena in October for the Annual Big Gig. The line-up included The Hoosiers, Kate Nash, Sophie Ellis-Bextor, Robyn, Natasha Beddingfield and - our personal favourites - McFly!

We followed that in the same month with our Hallowe'en party: filled with traditional activities such as apple bobbing, and less traditional ones including finding the eyeballs in jam and Rice Krispies!

We had one of our busiest days in November, when Jen and Angela were officially enrolled during the Remembrance Day service at Wesley. During the same service the girls had a dress rehearsal for their evening performance at the Remembrance service at West Bromwich Town Hall. They sang a song called "Stop the Fighting", and they were brilliant!

We rounded off the year with a Christmas party, full of music, dancing and food. Seven of the girls also took part in While Shepherd's Watched, providing the drama portion of the performance.

A quiet start to the New Year, with a general sorting and tidy up of Patrol boxes and corners. Well, with 11 out of 14 girls, and all 3 leaders being involved in the Pantomime, we haven't had much time and energy for anything else! We did manage to make, flip and eat pancakes on the 1st of February, with special thanks to our resident chef and Ranger, Sian Dixon, for taking the lead and showing us all exactly what we needed to do!

Over the next few months, we're very much looking forward to a variety of activities, including the Pantomime, Singstar, St. Patrick's Day, continuing with badge work and Go For Its! and camp at Blackwell Court in May.

Forest Gump Goes to Heaven *(Thanks Iris)*

Forest Gump dies and goes to Heaven. He is met at the Pearly Gates by Saint Peter himself. The gates are closed, however, and Forest approaches the gatekeeper.

Saint Peter says, "Well, Forest, it's certainly good to see you. We have heard a lot about you. I must inform you that the place is filling up fast and we've been administering an entrance examination for everyone. The tests are fairly short, but you need to pass before you can get into Heaven."

Forest responds, "It shore is good to be here, Saint Peter. I was looking forward to this. Nobody ever told me about any entrance exams. Shore hope the test ain't too hard. Life was a big enough test as it was."

Saint Peter continues, "Yes, I know, Forest. But, the test I have for you is only three questions. Here they are." And, he read the following questions:

1. What days of the week begin with the letter 'T'?
2. How many seconds are there in a year?
3. What is God's first name?

Forest goes away to think about the questions. He returns the next day and goes up to Saint Peter to try to answer them.

Saint Peter waves him up and asks, "Now that you have had a chance to think the questions over, tell me your answers."

Forest says, "Well, the first one, how many days of the week begin with the letter 'T'? Shucks, that one's easy. That'd be Today and Tomorrow!"

The saint's eyes open wide and he exclaims, "Forest! That's not what I was thinking, but ... you do have a point and I guess I didn't specify, so I give you credit for that answer."

"How about the next one," says Saint Peter. "How many seconds in a year?"

"Now that one's harder," says Forest. "But, I think and think about that and I guess the only answer can be twelve."

Astounded, Saint Peter says, "Twelve! Twelve! Forest, how in Heaven's name could you come up with twelve seconds in a year?"

Forest says, "Shucks, there's gotta be twelve: January second, February second, March second ..."

"Hold it," interrupts Saint Peter. "I see where you're going with it. And I guess I see your point, though that wasn't quite what I had in mind. I'll give you credit for that one, too."

"Let's go on with the next and final question," says Saint Peter, "Can you tell me God's first name?"

Forest says, "Well, shore, I know God's first name. Everybody probably knows it. It's Howard."

"Howard?" asks Saint Peter. "What makes you think it's Howard?"

Forest answers, "It's in the prayer."

"The prayer?" asks Saint Peter. "Which prayer?"

"The Lord's Prayer," responds Forest.

"Our Father who art in heaven, Howard be thy name ..."



Thank You

On behalf of Graham, Denise, Lynda and myself, I would like to thank all of our friends at Wesley for their enquiries, messages of sympathy and their attendance at Dennis's (Woody's) funeral service. The support of you all was greatly appreciated on the occasion of our loss.

Once again, thank you all.

Betty

- 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.

Calendar of Events

- **9th - 16th February - Puss in Boots Pantomime**
- **Wednesday 26th March - SAFCO Evening (Content TBC)**
- **Wednesday 16th April - The Harmonies from Warley Male Choir**
- **Wednesday 21st May - SAFCO Evening (Content TBC)**
- **Wednesday 25th June - SAFCO Evening (Content TBC)**
- **Wednesday 16th July - SAFCO Evening (Content TBC)**



Ongoing Fundraisers

- **Fynns Adventures (Contact Jane/Ian on 0121 588 6877)**
- **Copper Collection (Hand full containers to Ian and empty ones available in concourse)**



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

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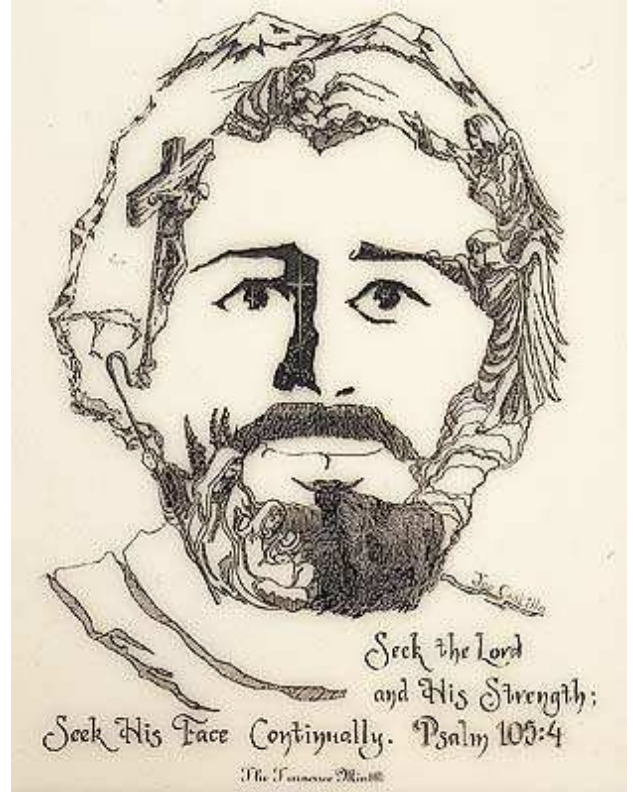
The Boys Brigade was founded in 1883 by Sir William Alexander Smith and is therefore celebrating its 125th birthday in 2008!



Watch out for news as to how the 5th will be joining the celebrations!

The longer you look at this picture, the more you see...

Look at the lines the artist used to draw this picture of Christ. There are scenes from Christ's life.



Junior Section Blue Peter Appeal



As you know, the Junior Section are taking part in this year's Blue Peter appeal which is trying to raise cash to help young carers in this country. These are children that act as carers to a parent / grandparent with a disability. They are hoping to treat these children to a trip or holiday as they miss out on so much because they are carers.

They have been collecting CD's or DVD's to recycle for Cash and can be seen here with some of your generously donated discs.

If you are having a clear out, there is still time to donate those old discs! There is a box at the front of church for you to drop off or hand to Julie or Andrew in person. We do hope you can help as it really is a good cause.

Look out next time to see how many discs we collected and how much we raised in the process!

Thank you once again.



Wesley Pantomime – History

The first pantomime was Aladdin in February 1948 and was put on by a group of young people from Wesley to raise some funds for the Sunday School as it was short of money. The cast, chorus and helpers were largely drawn from members of the Sunday School. The pantomime was performed in the Akrill Hall, at the rear of the old Church.

Two of the young people who took part in that first pantomime, Dot Smith (Wishee Washee) and Mollie Neale (nee Bee) (Abanazer), are still both Church members today.



Costumes were not easy to come by as clothing vouchers were still in force from the war. An entry in Mollie Neale's mother's diary from a day in February 1948 says "the costumes were pyjama trousers and Japanese dressing gowns and they didn't look very handsome". They also wanted pigtails and ended up making them from darning wool which could be obtained without using clothing vouchers.



The scripts used in the early days were borrowed, but Dot Smith reckoned that she could do better, and so in the early 1950's she started writing the scripts, a job which she has retained every year since including this 60th year's production of Puss in Boots.

And then in the 1960's Dot also took over producing the pantomime and has continued to produce it for most of the productions since with just a few gaps when other people have "had a go". She produced her final production in February 2006, Sleeping Beauty.



In the early 1970's the pantomime was performed for a couple of years in the hall at Lyng Methodist Church, whilst the old Wesley Church was demolished and the new current building built. When the new building was completed the pantomime moved back to the Akrill Hall which had been retained and joined on to the new Wesley Church, although the stage was now a temporary one and was the opposite end of the hall. From the original one. For several years the pantomime continued to be performed in the Akrill Hall, but then in the early 80's it moved onto the stage which had been built into the new Church. This meant a "move around" in the Church and services on the Sunday in the middle of pantomime week had and still have to be held facing a different direction.





Over the years the pantomime changed from being a Sunday School production to being a Church production with cast, chorus and helpers being drawn from various areas of the Church such as the Boys' Brigade company, Girl Guides, congregation etc., etc. This is still very much the case today. Also help has been drawn from other local Methodist churches, particularly Charlemont Methodist Church, who have on occasions provided additional members for the cast and help with such things as musical accompaniment.

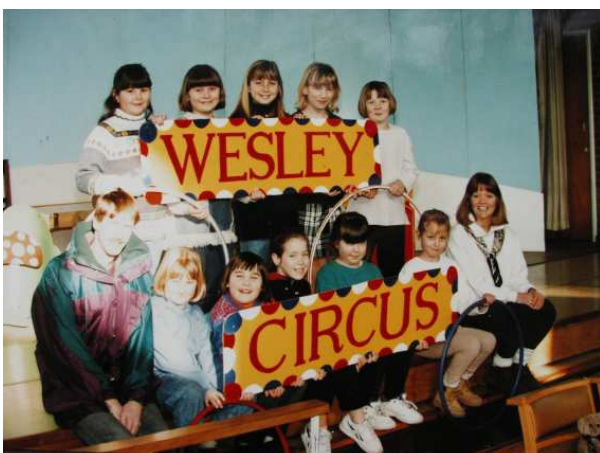
The production is currently performed seven times, Saturday to Saturday excluding Sunday, and is well supported by local groups of Rainbows, Guides, Boys' Brigades, Cubs and Beavers.

Over the years a lot of money has been raised for Church funds and the weeks production currently raises something in the region of £3,500 profit.

This year, the 60th anniversary is being celebrated by a reunion on the Sunday following the last performance of this year's production, Sunday 17th February. This will be held at 4.30 pm., in the Akkril Hall, and will be followed by a service of thanksgiving at 6.15 pm. Anyone who has been in the pantomime over the years is welcome to attend and letters of invitation have been sent out where we know addresses. The whereabouts of many of the unknown so anyone who has been in the pantomime but has not had an invitation should get in touch with Ian Collett on 0121 588 6877 for more details.



This year's pantomime is Puss in Boots, performances start on Saturday 9th February, and then on Monday 11th through to Saturday 16th February. Tickets are priced £3.75 for adults and £2.75 for children under 12 years of age and can be obtained by phoning 0121 553 3727.



Guiding Trip to see Santa in Lapland

On Sunday 9th December 2007, after 12 months of planning, 116 Brownies and Guiders from the West Bromwich Division of Girlguiding UK, went on a day trip to Lapland to Santa Claus. The party included 4 brownies from the 1st West Bromwich pack at Wesley, Bethany Williams, Priya Verma, Emily Pitt and Monica Rani, together with also from Wesley, Maureen Llewellyn, Kath Homeshaw, Rachelle Gould, Joshua Gould, Jane Collett, Ian Collett, Ruth Collett, Beryl Price and Liz Vaughan.

After a 4.00 am start from West Bromwich Bus Station, the 3 hour flight from Birmingham Airport landed at a cold snow covered Rovaniemi in Northern Finland where we were met by Santa elves. Once changed into the necessary outdoor clothing we were transported to Santa's Winter Wonderland where we spent several hours taking part in various activities which included snow mobiling, sleigh ride pulled by husky dogs, slay ride pulled by reindeer, tobogganing, an Artic Circle crossing ceremony, making Christmas crafts with Mrs Claus, and of course, visiting Santa Claus in his grotto. Somewhere in amongst all of that a meal was enjoyed in the restaurant, cooked by Santa's helpers.



The day ended with a visit to Santa's village for some shopping to buy the inevitable souvenirs and a visit to Santa Claus Main Post Office to send postcards home, and then back to the airport to catch our flight back to Birmingham. We eventually were back in West Bromwich Bus station at 11.00 pm., after a very full and exciting day.

Ian P Collett



Wesley is alive with the Sound of Music

The choir have been very busy during December. They made their usual visits to the Masonic Hall in West Bromwich, where they led carol singing and also sang 3 solo items. The challenge of a new gospel style carol, Goin' to Bethlehem sung unaccompanied was rewarded with rapturous applause on all 3 evenings! I'd like to add my special thanks to the choir for their hard-work and support, especially in fitting rehearsals at odd times around my very busy diary.

In addition to the carol singing, the choir (and friends) also took part in a day's workshop, preparing Roger Jones' "While Shepherds Watched". Thanks again to the choir, and other church members and friends that joined us on the day. Not only was it good to share in learning music together, but also to share an excellent lunch, prepared by Mom (Liz Vaughan), thanks Mom! It was a bit of a family affair, and I must also thank Cliff for rehearsing the choir, I think everyone enjoyed the time we spent together.

The performance of "While Shepherds Watched" on the Sunday before Christmas was somewhat an experiment. We were joined by the guides, who performed the drama alongside the choir's singing. It was a new venture for all concerned, it was good to see youngsters from Wesley taking part in worship together with some of the older, and not so, members of the church, true "All-age" worship. Well done girls and thanks to Jenny and Angie.

We will be holding another all-day workshop on Saturday 15th March, from 10am to 4pm, this time rehearsing Roger Jones' "Jerusalem Joy". This will then be presented as part of evening worship on the following day, Palm Sunday. It is hoped that on this occasion that we will be joined by other members of the circuit.

All are welcome; all that we ask is that you tell either Liz or myself that you will be coming along to the workshop so that we can ensure there is enough lunch for everyone. To cover the cost of refreshments and lunch, there is a small charge of £2.50 for the workshop day.

Helen Parker



Fynn's Adventures - A very well travelled bear!

Here are a few of his pictures taken on his travels throughout the world! He has so far travelled approximately 65,670 miles and raised £80 for Wesley!



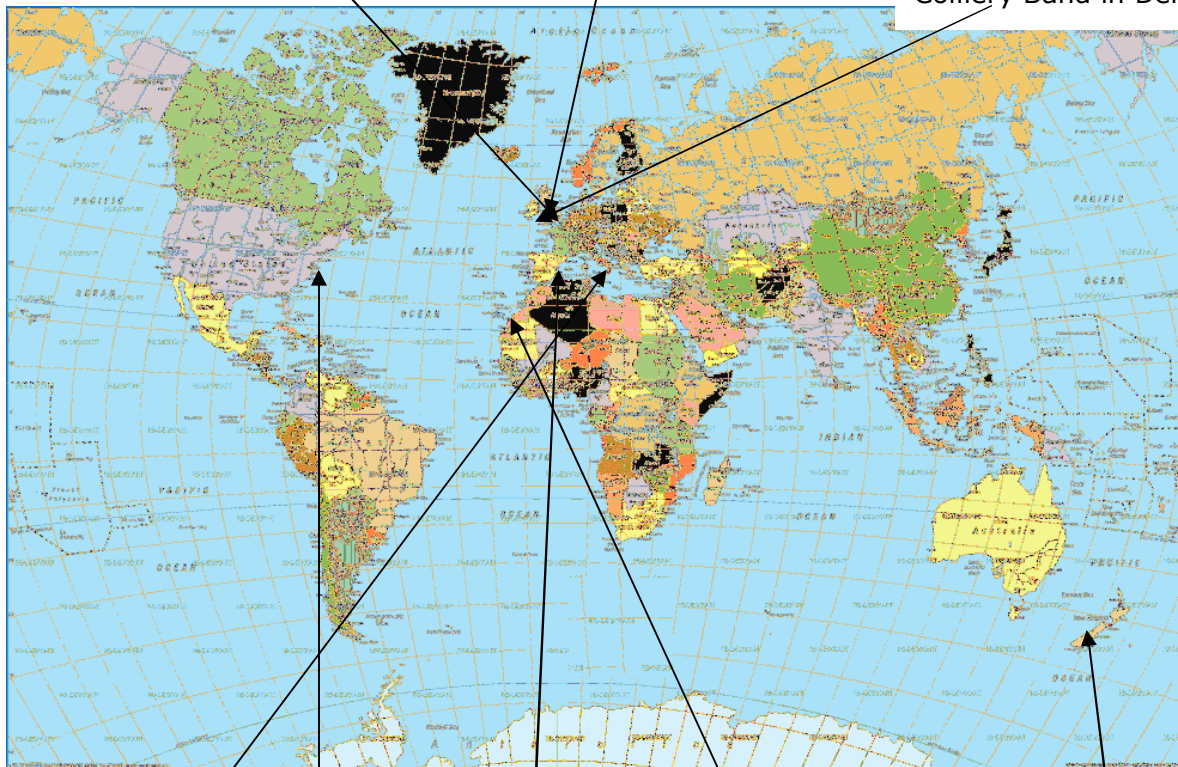
Fynn in Wales at New Year



Fynn walking in Cumbria



Fynn with the Grimthorpe Colliery Band in Derbyshire



Fynn skiing in Italy



Fynn in Menorca



Fynn in New Zealand



Fynn in New York



Fynn in the cockpit of a Boeing 707 at Fuerteventura Airport

Fun and Games 1

Su-Doku Answer from Decembers Spotlight:

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

SAFCO

SAFCO as always have been busy, an excellent social at Christmas was held, including entertainment from a quintet made up of players from Langley Band. An excellent meal as always of soup followed by baps with turkey excellently carved by myself! What with Warley Choir, Langley Band and Wesley Choir, I've had a rather busy time in December, but from a personal point of view, it was good to be able to form a quintet and play carols on "home-ground" and I hope everyone enjoyed the evening including singing along to the carols and swaying to Schneewaltzer.

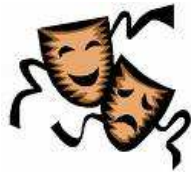
Thanks to SAFCO for organising this evening, and all the other social events they organise throughout the year. Check out the Wesley Notice Board for details of forthcoming events!

Helen Parker

Fun and Games 2 - Word Search

Find all the words relating to this years special sixtieth Pantomime - Puss in Boots!

- Boots
- Dame
- Fairy
- Fun
- Magic
- Memories
- Music
- Ogre
- Pantomime
- Peter
- Puss
- Scenery
- Script
- Wesley



S	C	E	N	E	R	Y	N	A
E	L	O	G	R	E	M	A	D
I	I	C	E	L	T	U	E	S
R	G	B	S	I	E	S	C	C
O	T	E	O	F	P	I	I	R
M	W	Y	A	O	U	C	G	I
E	M	I	M	O	T	N	A	P
M	R	A	P	U	S	S	M	T
Y	T	X	I	S	U	E	I	A

List of Church Contacts

Stewards: -

Beryl Price - 01922 635 891 Iris Reynolds - 0121 553 4506 Anita Warner - 0121 553 5135
 Eric Fieldhouse - 01922 620 704 Michael Vaughan - 01922 643 199 Delroy Henry

Caretaker & Room Booking: - Evelyn Gough. Tel: - 0121 588 4111

Minister of Wesley: - Rev Carol Holden. 0121 358 1423



Superintendent Minister:-

Rev Alan Jenkins, 72 Dudley Street, West Bromwich. Tel: - 0121 553 2085 Email: alandjenkins@yahoo.co.uk

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