

Spotlight - February 2009



Girlguiding UK



The Methodist Church 

Christmas Charity

You will probably be aware that the offertories taken at the services over the Christmas period are sent to different charities and I thought you might like to know how much we sent and to which charity over the 2008 Christmas period.

The evening service at Wesley on the 14th December saw the Circuit Choir's rendition of Roger Jones' "Simeon" and the offertory taken amounted to £138.39, which was sent to Little Bridge House, a Children's Hospice close to the hearts of Helen and Cliff Parker who of course were responsible for the production of Simeon.

The offertory from our Christingle Service on Christmas Eve was added to the offertory taken at the Girlguiding West Bromwich Division's own Christingle Service also held at Wesley the week before, and a total amount of £260.76 was sent to "Action for Children" (used to be called NCH).

The Midnight Communion Service offertory of £45.34 was sent to "Shelter".

The offertory taken at the Christmas morning service was added to other monies raised at Wesley in lieu of sending Christmas cards etc., and was sent the Radio West Midlands Kidney Kids appeal. The amount was £180.00.

The total amount sent to charities over Christmas was therefore £624.49.

Ian P Collett - Church Treasurer.

A Poem for February

"In winter's cold and sparkling snow,
The garden in my mind does grow.
I look outside to blinding white,
And see my tulips blooming bright.
And over there a sweet carnation,
Softly scents my imagination.

On this cold and freezing day,
The Russian sage does gently sway,
And miniature roses perfume the air,
I can see them blooming there.
Though days are short, my vision's clear.
And through the snow, the buds appear."

Cheryl Magic-Lady

The deadline for items to be included in the April 2009 edition of Spotlight is Sunday 5th April 2009.

1st West Bromwich Guides and Rangers

We now have a few less Guides and a few more Rangers, as two of our girls turned 14 years old in the past few months, and so they have moved onwards and upwards! Another four of the girls are due to move up throughout the year, and so all new recruits will be more than welcome. We have had one new girl join Guides, and in January she became a fully fledged, enrolled member when she took her promise.

As part of the preparation for our centenary launch in September this year, all the girls took part in a competition to design a special badge. The winning design will be turned into badges to be given to everyone who attends the centenary launch, so we wish them all good luck.

The Guides and Rangers celebrated Burn's Night on Friday 30th January, with real haggis, neeps and tatties - some girls appreciated this more than others! Thanks to Keith Adams for being our 'Master of Ceremony', reading the Address to the Haggis in a very convincing Scottish accent! Thanks also to Linda Adams for teaching the girls several very lively Scottish dances.

Minister's Letter

In my old manse we had two blackbirds living in our front garden, about as close to the house as they could get and near to a busy main road and just a couple of feet from the street which was probably the worst place to set up their home. People walked by with their dogs, and cars sped by. A very threatening environment to say the least.

Whenever I went out to my car, or walked to the street the birds got anxious and flew away. Apparently, I'm dangerous! No matter how cautious I was, how quietly and slowly I walked, once I get within 15 feet of the house, the male bird left his perch on top of the house and flew to a nearby tree. And if I kept on walking, the female shot out from the nest and into another tree, but when I got back inside the birds would return to their nest. They were stubborn committed and devoted with their nest.

This isn't something necessarily special about my blackbirds. Birds everywhere build nests in the most precarious places, in the midst of danger: even with predators nearby. Nothing will stop them from building nests. And they can build them anywhere, in any corner, no matter how dangerous. Birds live in a dangerous world, but that doesn't stop them from building nests in the midst of it all. Psalm 23 invites us to be like my blackbird neighbours. Psalm 23 tells an honest story about death and darkness—wandering in a valley of darkness.

"Even though I walk through the darkness valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff—they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, my cup overflows" (vv. 4-5).

The Psalmist is a realist. There's no mistake about it: there are evils all around. We're in a dark valley, surrounded by death. And the good news in the Psalm is that God sets a table for us so we can eat and fellowship in the middle of danger. The good news isn't rescue. No, The good news is that God makes us a nest in the midst of danger. God sets up a table of life in the middle of death; we eat and sit and talk right smack in the middle of enemies.

God wants us to put our trust in a hope that's precarious, that sits in the darkness and shines light. To live like those black birds, who go ahead and build and return to a nest near the street where dogs walk and cats wander, and where I park my car.

That's also the story of John's Gospel. It's a story about building a community of love in the midst of death. John writes a love story. It's a dangerous kind of love. It's about a life of love that gets killed; and the community of love, the beloved community, that lives on in Jesus' wake.

John writes this story about Jesus to a people who are surrounded by darkness. John's community is persecuted by religious and political authorities. They are a marginalized people, living on the edge, in the valley of the shadow of death—a persecuted people living in places that kill hope.

When darkness is all around, when evil seems to have won, when danger lurks around every corner, the temptation is to think that mere survival is the only possibility. The best we can do is survive, to hang on, to barely get by. But that's not what Jesus offers. John writes

"I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly" (John 10:10). *Abundant life.*

Those birds build nests wherever they can, even in dangerous places, and provide space for abundant life—for life upon life. Those remarkable birds came through every danger and I had the joy of seeing their young ones fly the nest.

That's how we build nests of hope; that's how we turn Easter into a verb. We turn Easter into an activity of hope. We embody God's presence. We are the Easter message we live out the abundant life Jesus promises for us. Abundant life is about people, it's about a community, and it's about you serving one another, finding God's life as you give your life. It's about turning Easter into a verb, making hope

Psalm 23 ends with hope. This Psalmist who walks through death, who eats in the presence of enemies, takes us into God's abundant life. The Psalm closes with this line: "I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long" (Psalm 23:6). And God's house is a nest; we build it anywhere, like birds; our praying and sharing together is this nest. And these nests are a sign of Easter.

Yours in Christ

Phil



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

**Contact us for all your insurance needs
Personal and Commercial**

Phone: 0121 553 4791

Fax: 0121 500 5972

Web Site: www.ault.co.uk

E mail: enquiries@ault.co.uk

Family News

Prayers

Our prayers for Jack Neale, Fred Wilkins, Iris Reynolds and Jean Brown.

Birthdays

Happy Birthday to Bob Spencer who will celebrate his 70th birthday on 28th February.

Thank You

I would like to thank all of my friends at Wesley for their kindness during my recent stay in Hospital. As you may know I went in 'overnight' and stayed for exactly six weeks! During that very tedious time I was sustained by the messages, cards, visits and presents from members of Wesley – in fact I was the envy of the ward. Thank you all very very much. With much love,

Aunty Dot



What fool had this in their garden at Christmas?!

Joke

One day I met a sweet gentleman and fell in love. When it became apparent that we would marry, I made the supreme sacrifice and gave up the beans.

Some months later, on my birthday, my car broke down on the way home from work. Since I lived in the countryside I called my husband and told him I would be late because I had to walk home.

On my way, I passed by a small diner and the odour of baked beans was more than I could stand. With miles to walk, I figured that I would walk off any ill effects by the time I reached home, so I stopped at the diner and before I knew it, I had consumed three large orders of baked beans. All the way home, I made sure that I released all the gas.

Upon my arrival, my husband seemed excited to see me and exclaimed delightedly: 'Darling I have a surprise for dinner tonight' He then blindfolded me and led me to my chair at the dinner table. I took a seat and just as he was about to remove my blindfold, the telephone rang. He made me promise not to touch the blindfold until he returned and went to answer the call. The baked beans I had consumed were still affecting me and the pressure was becoming unbearable, so while my husband was out of the room I seized the opportunity, shifted my weight to one leg and let one go. It was not only loud, but smelled like a fertilizer truck running over a skunk in front of a pulpwood mill. I took my napkin from my lap and fanned the air around the room vigorously. Then, shifting to the other cheek, I ripped off three more. The stink was worse than cooked cabbage. Keeping my ears carefully tuned to the conversation in the other room, I went on like this for another few minutes.

The pleasure was indescribable. When eventually the telephone farewells signalled the end of my freedom, I quickly fanned the air a few more time with my napkin, placed it on my lap and folded my hands back on it feeling very relieved and pleased with myself.

My face must have been a picture of innocence when my husband returned, apologizing for taking so long. He asked me if I'd peeked and I assured him I had not. At this point, he removed the blindfold, and twelve dinner guests seated round the table chorused 'Happy Birthday!' – I fainted!!!!!!!!!!!!

Quote

Think 'impossible' and dreams get discarded, projects get abandoned, and hope for wellness is torpedoed. But let someone yell the words 'It's possible,' and resources we hadn't been aware of come rushing in to assist us in our quest. I believe we are all potentially brilliant and creative -- but only if we believe it, only if we have an attitude of positive expectancy toward our ideas, and only if we act on them." -- Greg Anderson

SAFCO

SAFCO have been busy again, not only with their usual monthly events, but also Bonfire Night. In October, an evening of "Locally produced entertainment" was shared. Many came along wondering what it was all about! Good-old English Fish & Chips was the meal on offer, followed by entertainment led by some of our own people. A quiz on the local area had been ably put together by Linda and really showed up who were the real locals! Followed by Iris' own unique style of entertainment and a special guest appearance from Dolly Allen. It wor arf a gud nite! A rite lofff!

In November, we were privileged to be entertained by members of the Langley Youth Theatre, proving to us all that there is plenty of talented youth around. Many popular songs from shows were sung from shows old and new and introduced by our friend Mike Jones. They're a busy lot as they then performed in their own concert at the Barlow Theatre in Langley for two nights on the weekend following their appearance at Wesley, and we understand they will be appearing and producing a show "The Pyjama Game" at the theatre next year. Congratulations to all the youngsters who performed (including our own Helen who accompanied their tutor, Lucy, for a couple of items).

SAFCO would like to thank everyone for their support during 2008 and wish you all a prosperous 2009

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

- 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.

Take a bear on holiday



I'm sure that you will all know about taking Fynn on holiday with you and paying £5 to Wesley for the privilege, not to mention submitting a photograph of Fynn whilst on his holidays. The winning photo will feature in Spotlight!

Originally the idea was that this would be just for the year of 2007, but he has proved to be very popular throughout last year as well and so SaFCo have decided to continue with the idea for 2009.

So, Fynn has his case packed again, his passport is in date and has plenty of spare pages in it and he would really like to visit some new exciting and exotic places that he hasn't that he hasn't been to before.



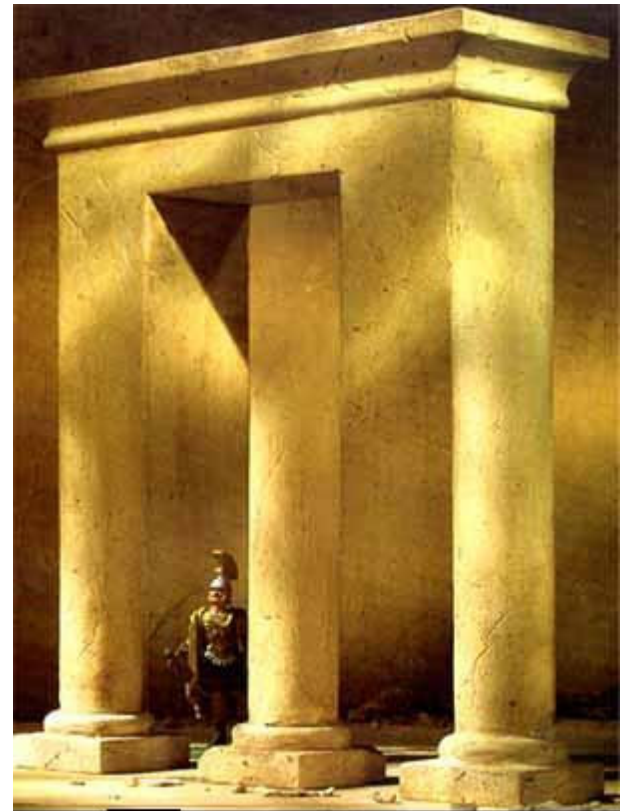
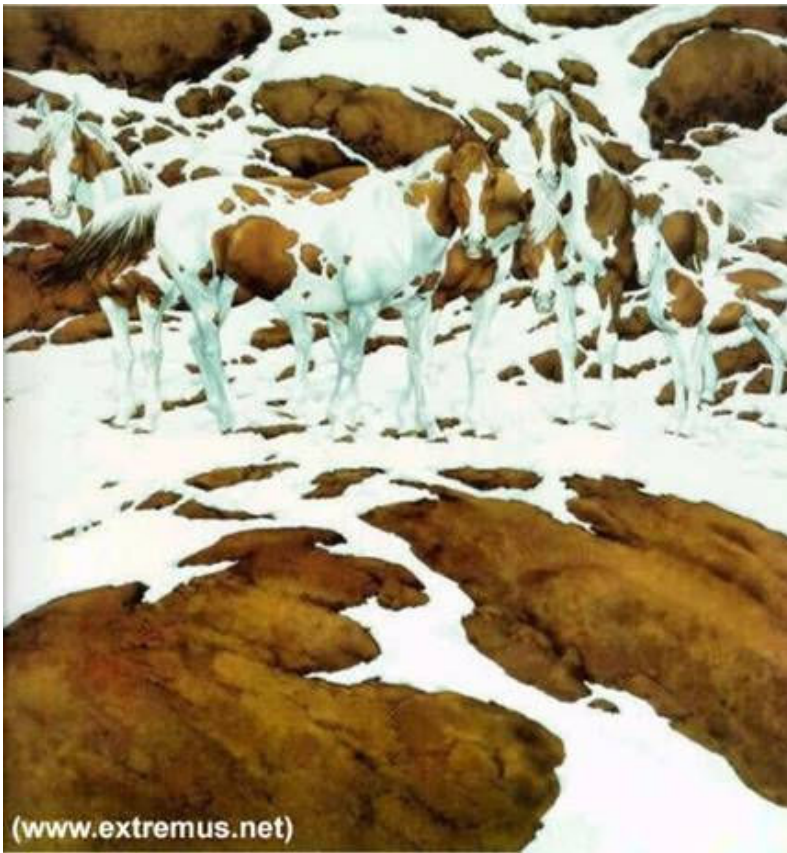
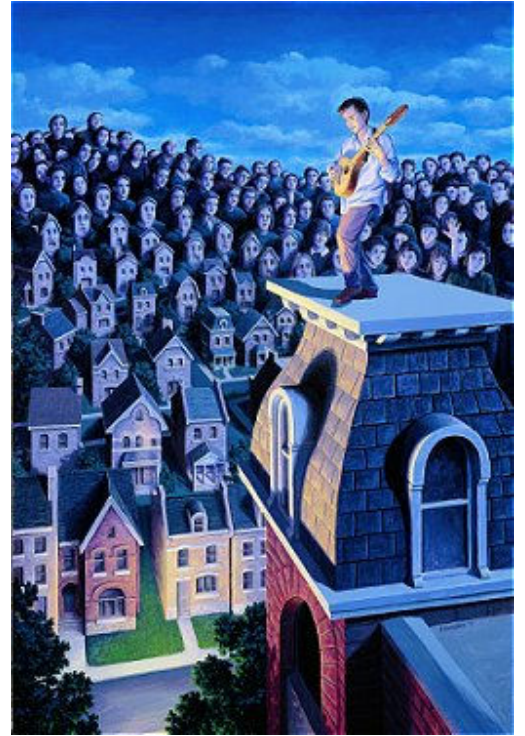
If you would like to take Fynn on holiday with you, contact Ian or Jane on 0121 588 6877 with the dates required and they can be put in his diary, if he is not already booked up of course.

WARNING - from West Midlands Police

A man came over and offered his services as a painter to a female putting petrol in her car and left his card. She said no, but accepted his card out of kindness and got in the car. The man then got into a car driven by another gentleman. As the lady left the service station, she saw the men following her out of the station at the same time. Almost immediately, she started to feel dizzy and could not catch her breath. She tried to open the window and realized that the odour was on her hand; the same hand which accepted the card from the gentleman at the service station.

She then noticed the men were immediately behind her and she felt she needed to do something at that moment. She drove into the first driveway and began to honk her horn repeatedly to ask for help. The men drove away but the lady still felt pretty bad for several minutes after she could finally catch her breath. Apparently, there was a substance on the card that could have seriously injured her. This drug is used by people who wish to incapacitate a victim in order to steal from or take advantage of them. This drug is four times more dangerous than the date rape drug and is transferable on simple cards. So take heed and make sure you don't accept cards at any given time alone or from someone on the streets. This applies to those making house calls and slipping you a card when they offer their services.

Cool Art and Optical Illusions



How many horses are here? Should count 7!



Is this a face or the word liar?

Can you see the word 'Lift'?



Fun and Games

The answer to the riddle from Sarah Clive in the last edition of Spotlight is of course, A Snowman!

February Su-Doku: -

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | 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 Valentines Angel!



DON'T FORGET TO BOOK YOUR PANTO TICKETS WITH LIZ!

GOODY TWO SHOES

FROM SATURDAY 14TH FEBRUARY UNTIL SATURDAY 21ST FEBRUARY (Except Sunday)

Children under 12: £2.75
Adults: £3.75



0121 553 3727

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. Philip Thomas Manse Tel: - 0121 588 3373 Circuit Office Tel: - 0121 553 2085
Email: - philthomas82@hotmail.com

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

