

# Wesley Methodist Church's Spotlight - April 2018



The Methodist Church



## Goody Two Shoes



“If you get desperate and you need any help, just let me know”. Words I said to Ian Collett back in October about the forthcoming panto where they were struggling to fill the last couple of adult roles – then promptly forgot I’d said them. A few weeks later, a text: “Are you still up for being in the pantomime?”. The next thing I knew, I was at my first rehearsal, script in hand and standing nervously at the side of the stage ready to go on. I expected it to be a small part, a few lines maximum, maybe a song and that’ll be it. How wrong I was... pages of lines to learn and five dance routines for a man who cannot dance!

I suddenly found myself in a new world. I’d been to see Wesley Panto for years, I knew what it was all about, I knew how it worked - or so I thought. I was soon welcomed by familiar faces and met some new ones as well. Here I was, part of this institution and during it’s 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, just to add to the pressure. Faces I’d seen on stage from the audience over all those years were now on stage with me... it was a nervous and surreal experience. It was hard work, a challenge (not least those dance routines!) but immense fun. I found myself completely sucked in, immersed, in this new experience. There were plenty of times I didn’t remember my cues, my lines and my dance moves – but every time there were people willing to show me (again!) how it went. There were times I thought I’d never remember my words, but eventually they stuck. I even mastered the side step without maiming the people either side of me (thanks Jane!).

Eventually, after weeks and weeks of rehearsals, the opening night arrived. I found myself in my first costume (costume changes – now there’s something new!), having make-up applied (which I enjoyed more than I thought, thank you Linda!) and waiting on stage for the curtains to open on my first scene. The next six nights were something of a blur – but I loved every minute of them. Things sometimes didn’t go to plan, but we got through it. Everyone I have spoken to since then have said they enjoyed it and my friends haven’t looked at me in the same way since!

Being in the panto was hard work, a challenge and something I never thought of myself doing... but I’d do it again in a heartbeat! I’ve made new friendships and strengthened existing ones. I feel part of a new family within Wesley. I’ve seen people, and they’ve seen me, in a whole different light. There is a tremendous amount of love and friendship at the heart of Wesley Panto – long may it continue and thrive. If you’re still desperate and you’ll have me: here’s to 2019!

**Ian Belcher**



## 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'. To help with this we have completed many activities involving games, stories, crafts, a quiz and cooking all with the 'David and Goliath' theme. All the pictures were of a very high standard. It was very hard to choose only two, but eventually we decided upon Kayden Hewitt for the younger section and Harry Sutton for the older one. I am pleased to report that Kayden won his section and Harry came second in his, well done boys! All the pictures can be viewed on the next page.

For Mother's Day the boys made an anchor card and a drift wood decorative wall hanging. Unfortunately, their moms had to wait an extra week for their gifts due to the fact that we had to cancel one of our meetings due to the snow. At the end of March some of the boys took part in the Battalion Fun Swim and became runners-up for the event.

I am pleased to report that we have had two new members since Christmas which means we currently have 10 members. However 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.



**Battalion Fun Swim Runner-up**



Harry Sutton- aged 8



Kemai Ruddock – aged 7



Romaine Tulloch – aged 7



Kenny Okoro – aged 7



Bailey Service – aged 7



Micah Lewis – aged 7



Nathaniel Bukasa-Binene  
- aged 6



Kaide Ebanks – aged 6



Kayden Hewitt – aged 6



**ANCHORS**



# SAFCO – High Tea & Hoy



On Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> March SAFCO held a High Tea & Hoy evening.

It was a lovely evening with many familiar faces as well as some new. Everyone tucked into a selection of sandwiches and cakes, along with scones served with clotted cream and jam. A BIG thank you to Linda & Pat for making the sandwiches and cutting the cakes, ready for Jen and myself to plate up.

There was a selection of teas available on the night, but coffee was also available for those who preferred this.

As this was the first SAFCO meeting of the year it was wonderful to have such a great turnout, with over 50 people in attendance.



After everyone had finished their food it was time for Hoy. A big thank you to Ann and Linda for running this and we hope that those who won liked their prizes.

The next SAFCO evening will take place on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> June, please look out for further details on the noticeboards over the next few months.

It would be lovely to see everyone again but there is always room for more so please help spread the word. If you have never been before please think about coming along. This is a great social evening providing an opportunity to make new friends and have a few laughs along the way and you are guaranteed a warm welcome.

Thank you everyone for your support and we look forward to seeing you on the 20<sup>th</sup> June.

***Lucy & Jen***



## Steve Allen - Call to Preach

I wanted to share with you my wonderful news that at the last Local Preacher's meeting in March, I was accepted as a Local Preacher on note.

I have felt for some time that God has been encouraging me towards preaching. Having had the opportunities to share with Helen in local arrangements at Wesley in the choosing of hymns and planning a service of worship, and this offering of our talents has been very fulfilling.

Last year, I made the decision that I wanted to learn more about Christ and the bible scriptures and purchased a study bible. I guess this was the start of my journey in faith to this point in my calling today. I downloaded the Methodist App to my smartphone and have tried to follow the bible readings, reflections and prayers each day. I have used the Methodist Handbook to pray for Christians around the world. During Lent I followed some reflections based upon the Gospel of John and found God talking to me.

It is really hard to explain, but when Helen and I were having tea one night, I openly said....I feel as if I have joy in my heart, I feel that I want God to be at the centre of my life, to grow in spiritual faith and that God is calling me through his Holy Spirit to follow him.

From that moment on, I knew that I had to put my trust in God and explore my call to preach. In my Lent reflections, it was clear to me that I wish to walk in the light, I don't want my faith to be based upon worship once a week, but to take God into every aspect of my life. I know that I am not perfect, far from it, I feel nervous, I will no doubt have anxious times as I study and practice my call, but I know that God is with me all the way. Right now, every time I read the words of a Hymn or scripture I know that God is talking to me and I find strength in his words.

There will be a lot of hard work ahead, but there is no better response but to take on the challenge to serve my God. I openly turned to Helen last week as we were sitting in a service at Liverpool Cathedral, and said the words "I love My God" with a big smile on my face. I just ask for your support and prayers for myself and for John Blewitt as my mentor and Trevor Pratt as my tutor.

I carry with me each day a Cross carved in Bethlehem from olive wood as a symbol that God is with me at all times and in personal prayer wherever I am. At the time of writing, I have led part of the worship in my first service on note at Beeches Road on Easter Day. What a wonderful way to practice my call as we worshipped the Risen and Living Lord. Alleluia!

The final verse of Hymn 674 (StF) Would I have followed where you led, by Herman G Stuempfle Jnr says;H

O Christ, I cannot search my heart  
through all its tangled ways,  
nor can I with a certain mind  
my steadfastness appraise.  
I only pray that when you call,  
"Come follow, follow me!",  
you'll give me strength beyond my own  
to follow faithfully.

# Family News



## **Our Thoughts and Prayers for:**

Olive and Frank Brookes, Terry Price, Linda Hall, Keith Llewellyn, Win Thomas, Mollie Neal.

Steve and Martin Lloyd on the death of their mom Freda, who was a member of Wesley until she moved to Lichfield and then worshipped at Lichfield Methodist.

Maureen Brown and Family on the death of husband Mike, who was a member of 5th West Bromwich Boys Brigade.

## **Birthday Wishes to:**

Andrew Machin, Betty Bonnell, Rev. Carole Holden, Ann Percival and Steve Allen.

## **Special Birthday Wishes to:**

Margaret Taylor on her 65th Birthday.

## **Congratulations to:**

Steve Allen who has been accepted as a Local Preacher on note.

## **Dates for your Diary:**



**April 13th** - Woman's World Day of Prayer at Baptiste Church, Tantany Lane. 2.00pm

**April 22nd** - Easter Offering Service at New Road, Methodist Church. 6.00pm

**May 12th** - Table Top Sale (Weather permitting). 9.30am

**May 13th** - Gift Day. 11.00am and 6.15pm

**May 20th** - Annual Church Meeting. 4.30pm

## **Food Bank :**

Donations urgently wanted, as our number of people giving has dropped. Just a tin, packet or cereals - **PLEASE GIVE.**

## *Holy Week*

Thank you to the members of Beeches Road Church who arranged and led the daily, half hour, Holy Week services. We had a time of quiet contemplation, thought provoking messages and warm fellowship leading us into Easter Sunday.

They intend to run these services again next year and everyone will be most welcome to join in whenever they can.

Linda Adams



## Thank You

Thank you to Carole and the members of the Ladies Circle for my 90th Birthday celebrations, complete with a delicious cake. It was very unexpected and much appreciated.

Margaret Price



**Next Edition  
June**



# SUDOKU

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

## Flower Quiz

1. Which small flower, usually with 5 blue or purple petals, is associated with freemasonry and has the scientific name *Myosotis*?
2. What is the common name for any of the plants that fall into the genus *Narcissus*?
3. What flower did the Victorians call a gilliflower?
4. Saffron comes from which type of flower?
5. The largest horticultural campaign in the U.K. is called 'RHS Britain in ...' what?
6. What does the term perennial mean?
7. Which flower inspired the William Wordsworth poem 'I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud'?
8. Which poisonous, sweetly scented woodland flowering plant with bell-shape florets dangling from a thin stem has the scientific name *Convallaria majalis*?
9. *Dianthus barbatus* gets its common name from a story about young lovers separated by the sea; how do we better know this flower?
10. Which flower is often called the 'winter rose' or 'Christmas rose'?





# WORD SEARCH

## Flowers

Find and circle all of the flowers that are hidden in the grid.  
The remaining letters spell a secret message - a quotation from *Romeo and Juliet*.

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



ALSTROEMERIA  
 AMARYLLIS  
 ANTHURIUM  
 ASTER  
 BABY'S BREATH  
 BELL FLOWER  
 BIRD OF PARADISE  
 BOUVARDIA  
 CALLA  
 CARNATION  
 CHRYSANTHEMUM  
 CLEMATIS

CORNFLOWER  
 DAFFODIL  
 DAISY  
 DELPHINIUM  
 FORGET-ME-NOT  
 FOXGLOVE  
 FREESIA  
 FUCHSIA  
 GERANIUM  
 GERBERA  
 GINGER  
 GLADIOLUS

GOLDEN ROD  
 HEATHER  
 HOLLYHOCKS  
 HYACINTH  
 HYDRANGEA  
 IRIS  
 LAVENDER  
 LILAC  
 LILY  
 LISIANTHUS  
 MARIGOLD  
 ORCHID

PANSY  
 PEONY  
 PETUNIA  
 ROSE  
 SNAPDRAGON  
 STATICE  
 STOCK  
 SUNFLOWER  
 TULIP  
 VIOLET  
 YARROW



# Interesting Facts About the Midlands

## They Invented the USA

Well, maybe 'invented' is a bit much. The truth is though, the concept of the 'Land of the Free' originated in North Nottinghamshire. A group of religious separatists first thought up the idea of setting sail for America in the midlands. The persecution-fleeing residents then travelled to the country, making it their home.

## It 's a Little Cheesy

Okay, so you know Stilton gets its name from a village in Cambridgeshire? Well it's actually got nothing to do with the place. The truth is, Stilton originated from the Midlands and by law must be made in either Leicestershire, Derbyshire or Nottinghamshire. This feels like a pub quiz question waiting to happen.

## Holidays Started in the Midlands

Back in the 1800s, mass tourism didn't exist. Only the wealthy or privileged travelled for pleasure. That all changed in 1841 when cabinet maker Thomas Cook (yes that Thomas Cook) struck upon the idea of arranging a train to carry passengers from Leicester to Loughborough and back for a shilling per head. This was the real beginnings of the British tourism industry.

## A True Balti 's From Birmingham

If we asked you, where's the best place to go in the world for a Balti, your answer would probably be India. Unfortunately, you'd be mistaken. The dish actually originates from Birmingham. The Balti gets its name from the pressed-steel wok-like pan it's cooked (and often served) in.

## The Sistine Chapel of the Ice Age

Archaeologists have labelled the Creswell Crags (a limestone gorge between Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire) the Sistine Chapel of the Ice Age. This ancient cave is host to an array of roof art dating back 13,000 years. Michelangelo eat your heart out!

## Nuclear Inspiration

Scientists Otto Frisch and Rudolf Peierls are famously attributed with being the first to design a theoretical mechanism for the detonation of a nuclear bomb in 1940. What isn't widely reported is that the pair were actually living in Birmingham at the time of their world-changing discovery.

## Midlands or Middle Earth?

In JRR Tolkien's famous novels, the fictitious setting of Middle Earth was actually based on Warwickshire. Living in the village of Sarehole, there are clear similarities between Tolkien's local area and the fictional Hobbiton and The Shire. The mill which features in the stories is considered to be based on Sarehole Mill.

## Coventry Becomes German Wartime Slang

In the Second World War, the German bombing of Coventry left the city devastated. This led the city's name to become German wartime slang. Coventriert (or 'Coventried') referred to the complete destruction of a built up area.

## The Story of the Birmingham 's Silver Anchor Hallmark

Any silver produced in Birmingham is etched with the city's hallmark of an anchor. This is quite an intriguing fact when considering that Birmingham is actually the furthest UK city from the coast. So where did this hallmark arise from? As the story goes, the hallmark was chosen by way of coin toss in a London pub the Crown & Anchor. Allegedly, Birmingham lost the coin toss and were given the anchor while Sheffield who were victorious took the symbol of the crown (which later changed to a rose).

## 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](http://www.wesleywestbrom.co.uk)  
[www.291communityassociation.co.uk](http://www.291communityassociation.co.uk)

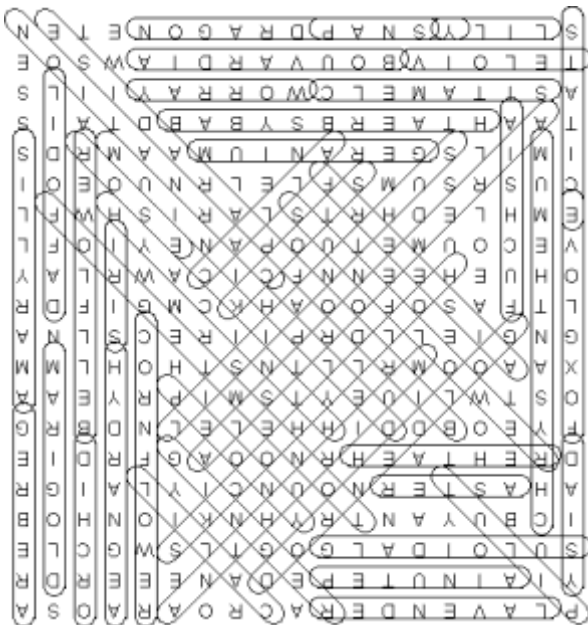
## THURSDAY MORNING COFFEE

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.



## Word Search



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

[patxthompson@btinternet.com](mailto:patxthompson@btinternet.com)

Thank You

**ALL ITEMS TO ME BY  
MONDAY 28TH MAY PLEASE  
DUE TO HOLIDAY  
COMMITMENTS**

## Sudoku Solution

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

## Flower Quiz

1. Forget-me-nots
2. Daffodils
3. Carnation
4. Crocus
5. Bloom
6. A plant that lives for more than 2 years (except lilies for a long time)
7. Daffodils
8. Lily of the Valley
9. Sweet William
10. Hellebore

# Rooms for Hire Rooms for Hire

## Contact Details

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

By telephone Dawn Davey 0121 553 2085

Email: [d.davey619@virginmedia.com](mailto:d.davey619@virginmedia.com)

The websites:

[www.291communityassociation.co.uk](http://www.291communityassociation.co.uk)

[www.wesleywestbrom.co.uk](http://www.wesleywestbrom.co.uk)

Wesley – [www.wesleywestbrom.co.uk](http://www.wesleywestbrom.co.uk)

291 – [www.291communityassociation.co.uk](http://www.291communityassociation.co.uk)

## Email Circulation

If anybody who currently receives Spotlite 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](mailto:patxthompson@btinternet.com) and request that you be added to the email circulation list.

The next issue of Spotlite will be June if you have anything to go into this issue please let me have your notices by Monday 28th May LATEST (Due to holiday commitments) Thank you.

Contact the Editor: Email: - [patxthompson@btinternet.com](mailto:patxthompson@btinternet.com)  
Address: - 5 Broadfield Close, West Bromwich, B71 3EU or

Tel: - 07811291334  
via Linda and Keith Adams

- If you know of anybody who should receive a copy of Spotlite in the post please inform Ian Collett.
- If anybody would like a copy emailed to them please inform the editor.

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