

Wesley Methodist Church Spotlight - December 2018



The **Methodist Church** 

WESLEY CHURCH
HIGH STREET
WEST BROMWICH

Christmas



Come and join the celebrations

Christmas Services 2018

Christingle Service

Christmas Eve

Monday 24th December
at 6.00 pm



A service with children in mind but enjoyed equally as much by adults on this very exciting evening. Everyone gets to take a Christingle home.



Midnight Communion

Monday 24th December
commencing at 11.30 pm

Welcome Christmas Day in with a service of celebration and communion

Christmas Morning Family Service



Tuesday 25th
December
at 10.30 am



Come and share in worship and fellowship with us on this very special day. Don't worry, you will have time to get home and take the turkey out of the oven before it burns!

Christmas Youth Praise



Sunday 9th
December
at 11.00 am



A fun Christmas service featuring items by the Youth Organisations of Wesley and carols chosen by the organisations.

Sunday 16th
December
at 11.00 am

A "modern"
Carol Service



Come and join us to sing some new modern carols.



**A Traditional
Carol Service**

Sunday
23rd December
at 11.00 am

Come along and join in singing some of your favourite carols at our annual Carol Service.

Sunday 23rd December

Only a morning service at
11.00 am, no evening service.

Sunday 30th December 2018

Only a morning service at
11.00 am, no evening service.

Christmas Tree Festival

Saturday 8th December
11.00am to 4.30pm
Stalls - goods for sale.

Carol Concert
at 5.00pm
Wesley's top 10 carols



All welcome.

Everyone at Wesley
Methodist Church
wishes you a very
Happy Christmas and
a peaceful
New Year.





Wesley Pantomime 2019

Puss in Boots



Yes it's that time of the year again. We have a cast and we have a chorus and by the time you read this we will be well into rehearsals for the 2019 production of Puss in Boots.

The pantomime will be performed in the school half term as usual, the dates are

**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 !





Since starting our new term in September we have been **very busy....so busy we haven't had time to update everyone on what we have been doing!**

In the Summer holidays some of the Brownies attended a Safari Sleepover at West Midlands Safari Park. The Brownies slept overnight in a marquee next to the Sea Lion pool...which was very noisy at 2am in the morning!

After breakfast the next morning we went around the Theme park & got very wet on some of the rides which cooled us all down. We then got to take a drive around the Safari Park to have a closer look at all the animals we had heard in the night - we all had a great time!

But were all very tired after our busy sleepover.....



In September we attended the YOU Fest! at Blackwell Court in Bromsgrove along with lots of other Rainbows, Brownies & Guides. The weather was great and so were were able to make the most of everything on offer including the 3G Swing, Stalls, Rides and Inflatables.



Leaders were also able to go on all the rides but they looked far too scary but this didn't stop the Brownies. After all this excitement we enjoyed our Hotdogs & Burgers from the BBQ and also managed to fit in more unlimited popcorn & Slushies!

We finished the evening off by dancing the night away to Little Mix & even Ed Sheeran turned up for a photo with the Brownies!



We are busy this term & have had a new Brownie join us following our bring a friend evening. We have also done our outdoor cooking & campfire challenge and tried cooking some tasty treats such as marshmallows, chocolate oranges & campfire bananas!

We have a Spooky Halloween games night planned, Pudsey Karaoke evening and will finish off with a Christmas Party.

We wish everyone a Happy Christmas & look forward to starting our new Brownie Programme in 2019!

Stacey, Sharon, Rachel & Georgia
1st West Bromwich Brownies

x



10 Good Men and True...



Men's Group at Sunday Service, where they chose the hymns and readings



Christmas comes but once a year or does it?



Goodwill to all men does not only apply at Christmas. A working colleague of mine many years ago said "I don't send Christmas cards or wish people Happy Christmas. I work on Goodwill to all men 365 days of the year not just at Christmas" He was right!!

Every person we meet is made in the image of God regardless of race, creed or gender. We are all made in the image of God. It is up to each and every one of us to bring God's Love into this world daily not only at Christmas.

In this changing world we at Wesley are changing. We are bringing God's Love into the daily life at Wesley.

We have become more involved in the local community; members of Wesley are volunteering to help with the 291 Creative Hub, making tea, coffee and chatting to the people who come to the Hub; showing God's Love to others. If you are interested in helping talk to Dawn or Ann.

Younger people are getting involved. Lucy and Jenny have taken over SAFCO. Julie and Justin are now members of the 291 Committee. The Christmas Tree Festival is organised by younger people.

Our Worship is slowly changing thanks to Steve and Helen who are enlivening the musical parts of our worship and sharing their thoughts on aspects of worship.

The atmosphere at Wesley is becoming more friendly, we are working closer together, caring for one another, sharing each other's joys and sorrows.

Merry Christmas to you all. May the joy of Christmas be within us all each and every day.

The Lord be with you at **this** time and throughout the year ahead.



The 291 Creative Hub at Wesley Methodist Church, 291 High Street, West Bromwich B70 8ND is the continuation of the Creative Hub started by the partnership of Sandwell Age UK and Wesley Methodist Church with a grant from the Big Lottery.

It has been successful for the last 3 years providing a friendly atmosphere for older people to meet and take part in various activities after which they enjoy a cup of tea/coffee, biscuits and a chat. Unfortunately Age UK is no longer involved with the Hub. However, we are pleased to announce that a six month grant from Awards for All lottery fund has enabled 291 Community Association to take over the administration and running of the Hub now known as 291 Creative Hub at Wesley Methodist Church, so the activities are able to continue for the older people of Sandwell. Benefit Advice will also continue to be given.

A list of the activities available at present are detailed below. It is intended to also arrange art & craft groups and also the cinema club.

291 Creative Hub For Older People

291 Creative Hub, Wesley Community Centre

(Rear of the church)

291 High Street, West Bromwich, B70 8ND

Next door to Lloyds Bank

Open to all ages 50+ all activities a minimal charge

| Day | Opening Times December 2018 | Group |
|----------|-----------------------------|------------------|
| Monday | 3, 10, 17 - 10:30 - 12:30 | Men's Group |
| Monday | 3, 10, 17 - 10:30 - 11:30 | Walking Football |
| Monday | 3, 10, 17 - 10:30 - 12:30 | Benefit Advice |
| Tuesday | 4, 11, 18 - 12:00-13:00 | Exercise Group |
| Thursday | 6, 13, 20 - 13:00-15:00 | Digital Drop In |
| Thursday | 6, 13, 20 - 13:00-15:00 | Benefit Advice |

For further details please drop in on any of the sessions listed, or please call

Tel: **0121 553 2085 (Answer Phone)** or **Dawn on 07979763415**

Email: d.davey619@virginmedia.com

<https://www.facebook.com/CreativeHubforOlderPeopleWB/>

Safco Christmas Party



Safco held a Christmas Party on Saturday 1st December, it was very well attended. A beautiful buffet was layed out for all to enjoy with plenty for everyone.

The buffet was followed by a game of pass the parcel, which was not only good fun but tested our knowledge too. Even the very young were catered for with their own game of hunt the Santa. On leaving the party we all received a Christmas gift.

A big thank you to all those who organised the event.



The Methodist Church on Facebook asked “How does your church offer a welcome?”

I know that many of you probably aren't on Facebook, however, The Methodist Church have over the past few months been asking people on there “How does your church offer a welcome?”

So, I wondered about our experiences.

Steve and I travelled 30 miles to church while we were on holiday recently, the furthest either of us had ever travelled to a Sunday morning service. We visited St John's Methodist Church in Bangor, North Wales, as we had found out from the internet that this was the nearest English-speaking Methodist Church as we were staying in Porthmadog. According to the details we found on the internet, the preacher for the 10:30am service was Rev John Howard, a former Chair of the Wolverhampton & Shrewsbury District.

We found the church using Satnav, without too much difficulty and were warmly welcomed into the church with a handshake from two door stewards and invited to stay for coffee after the service and also to a simple lunch of Soup, bread and cheese too if we wanted. We declined the offer of lunch, but did stay for coffee and biscuits. We were asked by the lady door steward where we were from.

The steward who introduced, welcomed and thanked Rev Howard for taking the morning communion service also welcomed two visitors from West Bromwich to the service. The message had got from the rear door of the church to the preacher's vestry that there were two visitors from the east in the congregation that morning!

I did find it strange that we weren't handed a hymn book as we entered the church, however when we sat down in the pew (towards the back of course, I hope we didn't sit in someone else spots!) there were hymn books and pew bibles already there for congregation members.

The service progressed as you would expect; there was just one child in the congregation but Grace was made to feel involved and handed out sweets to each member of the congregation at Rev Howard's request as part of his children's address. I won't tell you why we all had sweets as Steve or I may want to use the idea for a future service at Wesley!

The hymn singing was at a good pace which pleased us and the readers introduced their bible readings setting some context as to where their particular readings were from in the bible.

The communion service was projected onto a screen and as part of the service we were all invited to read the words of the hymn “Think of a world without any flowers”, although the hymn number on the screen referred to Hymns & Psalms and we were using Singing the Faith! The error was quickly identified!

As I mentioned, it was a communion service and it being a traditional church with pews and a communion rail, the communion stewards unobtrusively invited and directed each row to go forward to communion in turn.

After the service there was much excitement from members of the congregation as they had these strange visitors from the East! Rev Howard very quickly approached us and sends his regards and best wishes to everyone in The Black Country Circuit.

As invited, we went through to the church hall for coffee and biscuits; a number of people spoke to us and it was lovely to talk to new people. We discovered that the organist and her husband lived in the centre of Anglesey and had moved there 30+years ago through work but knew the Midlands as they had a boat and took trips on the canals.

The notice on the kitchen door read “This is not room to chat; only those wearing pink aprons may enter”! and yes, those serving tea and coffee and preparing lunch in the kitchen were wearing pink aprons, including the men!

We were again invited to stay for lunch; which we politely declined as we wanted to explore more of the area and for Steve to visit Anglesey for the first time (yes, we did go to Llanfair-pwllgwyngyll-gogery-chwyrn-drobwll-llan-tysilio-gogo-goch and took our picture in front of the railway station!).

We came away from church much later than expected given the 10:30am start but in no way anxious about time. We felt refreshed, challenged by Rev Howard's sermon and more knowledgeable about the book of Ruth's positioning in the bible, it having been explained in the introduction to the reading, and grateful that as Methodists we can join with others to worship on a Sunday, no matter where we are, as long as we can find details on the internet!

If you were to answer The Methodist Church post on Facebook “How does your church offer a welcome?”, what would you say?

Helen & Steve



Top 10 Christmas Carols

By the time you read this, the votes will have been counted and the countdown to the Top 10 announced. As I write this article, there is a clear leader and although my favourite carol was few weeks ago at Number 12, by the closing date had gone up by 3 places to number 9!

Thank-you to everyone who voted; I hope you enjoyed singing the carols, I was quite surprised at the choices; not quite what I expected!

I hope that we can do something similar again, we can announce those which are new entries, non-movers and maybe there'll be a new Christmas Number One at Wesley!

Happy Christmas to you all

Helen

Shaping Faith & Worship

We haven't had a meeting since the last edition of Spotlight, but if anyone does have any comments about worship, then please do speak up.

We held a "Local Arrangement" at an evening service at the end of October 2018. We sat on chairs which we had set out in a circle and around a cloth covered table with cross and candles; Steve asked us how this made us feel – as we couldn't sit at the back, and were facing each other. Everyone was involved in the service, whether that be lighting candles or joining in with the "Creative Worship", we hope that the different style of worship in the round was refreshing.

We will be celebrating the Church Anniversary on Sunday 17th February with a special service led by our own Local Preacher "On Trial" Steve Allen. We will celebrate and give thanks for Wesley and its people as we prepare for the onslaught of Panto-week!

The next Shaping Faith & Worship meeting will be on Sunday 6th January 2019 at 4:30pm in the coffee lounge, anyone is welcome to attend. The meeting will allow planning to be considered for the next plan for March to May 2019.

We are Together in Faith; and move Forward in Mission with courage.

With blessings,
Helen



Remembrance Sunday



At 11.00am on Sunday 11th November exactly 100 Years after the guns fell silent members of Wesley Church gathered for a special parade service. Following the presentation of the Colours a two minute silence was observed.

The service was led by Sue Spencer and was attended by a congregation of almost 100 people. The Church was decorated with Poppies which had been made by some of the Youth Groups. A roll of honour was also read which listed the names of Men from Wesley that died during The Great War.



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



Hi all ! This is my second blog to share with you some of the activities and study I have been working through since the last Spotlight on my journey to become an accredited Local Preacher.

Working through the first part of Module 2 I looked at why and how the bible was written, getting a real feel as well for when significant biblical events took place, spanning from the time of Abraham (about 1850BC) right through to the 1st Century AD (The New Testament Period). It was fascinating to look at the many different Biblical Characters who were dominant in each period.

I have also looked at techniques for reading the bible, both in public worship in Church, or at home to oneself, how to get a close reading of the text, get familiar with the passage including comparing translations and identifying what message you think the writer is intending to make. We are encouraged when we have developed our own thoughts to also discover other commentaries to see if our own interpretations are challenged or expanded upon.

All of this is great preparation for the leading of Worship and I am sure that you are aware that in addition to theological studies whilst on Trial I also lead worship across the circuit. I am now on the circuit plan and have a number of services coming up which I look forward to preparing and leading.

I will finish this short blog with an example of an exercise I have recently done since I moved forward into a section on Encountering God in the Church. We were given the first verse of a hymn by Brian Wren which invites us to reflect on the "many names" by which we know God;

'Bring many names, beautiful and good,
celebrate, in parable and story,
holiness in glory, living, loving God.
Hail and hosanna! Bring many names!'

We were asked;

Which names for God mean most to you and why?

Are these names rooted in Scripture or are they more particular to your own experience of God?

I wonder - how would you respond?

Thanks as always for your prayers and support.

Steve Allen

Congratulations Well Done Freya



Freya decided she wanted to raise some money for a charity during the Summer Holidays and thought doing a sponsored “Trampoline Jump” would be good fun!

She did 2000 Jumps managed to raise £110 for West Midlands Air Ambulance!

Well Done Freya





Sudoku



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



Christmas Facts



Hanging stockings out comes from the Dutch custom of leaving shoes packed with food for St Nicholas's donkeys. He would leave small gifts in return.

The tradition of putting tangerines in stockings comes from 12th-century French nuns who left socks full of fruit, nuts and tangerines at the houses of the poor.

Boxing Day gets its name from all the money collected in church alms-boxes for the poor.

The first commercial Christmas cards were commissioned by civil servant Sir Henry Cole in London in 1843. Featuring a family drinking wine, one sold for £8,469 in 2014.

Robins on cards started as a joke 150 years ago when postmen wore red tunics and were named after them.

The christmas cracker was invented by a London sweet shop owner called Tom Smith. In 1847, after spotting French bonbons wrapped in paper with a twist at each end, he sold similar sweets with a "love motto" inside. He then included a little trinket and a "bang". His "Bangs of Expectation" included gifts such as jewellery and miniature dolls. By 1900, he was selling 13 million a year.

According to tradition, you should eat one mince pie on each of the 12 days of Christmas to bring good luck.

It's technically illegal to eat mince pies on Christmas Day in England. In the 17th century, Oliver Cromwell banned Christmas pudding, mince pies and anything to do with gluttony. The law has never been rescinded



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 Neal, Helen Tildesly (Finegan)
Linda and Angie Hall

Special Birthday Wishes to:

Terry Price who celebrates his 80th Birthday

Helen Allen celebrates her 50th Birthday

Olive Brookes celebrated her 91st Birthday on 4th November with Afternoon Tea & wishes to thank everyone for their telephone calls, cards & best wishes on her Birthday.

Birthday Wishes to:

Adam Davey, Beryl Price, Carol Osborne



Next Edition February



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

patxthompson@btinternet.com

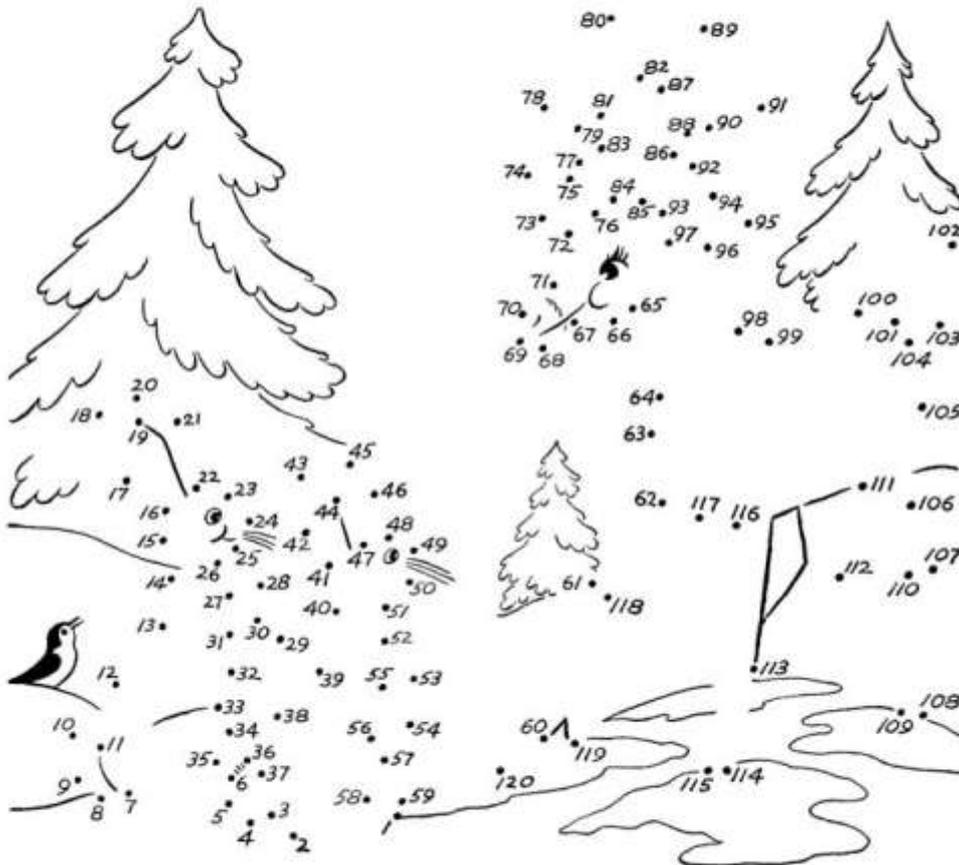
Thank You

**ALL ITEMS TO ME BY
MONDAY 4th February PLEASE**

Sudoku Answer

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

Dot to Dot Christmas Forest



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

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 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 and request that you be added to the email circulation list.

The next issue of Spotlite will be February if you have anything to go into this issue please let me have your notices by Monday 4th February LATEST Thank you.

Contact the Editor: Email: - 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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Church Services are held every Sunday at 11:00 and 18:15