

# Wesley Methodist Church



Wesley Methodist Church

291 High Street, West Bromwich, B70 8ND

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

8th and 9th December 2018

Evening Concert and Christmas Stalls

Decorated Trees  
Music

FREE ADMISSION

Gifts  
Tombola

Decorations  
Refreshments

Carols  
Cakes

Raffle



Songs During the day by  
**'Voices of Hope' Cancer Choir**

## Countdown to Wesley's Top 10 Christmas Carols



The concert which will take place on the Saturday of the Christmas Tree Festival weekend this year will be based around the Top 10 Christmas Carols as chosen by members and friends of Wesley.

It would be great for as many people as possible who are connected with Wesley to vote for their favourite carols; there is a list of 85 (!) Christmas Carols for everyone to choose their Top 5 from on the Wesley website.



You can enter your Top 5, either by completing the form which is available in church or through group leaders, or by emailing me via the church website ([www.wesleywestbrom.co.uk](http://www.wesleywestbrom.co.uk)) if that is easier.

The Top 10 carols will then be revealed (and sung) at the concert which will be at 5pm on Saturday 8th December

At the concert we will have some brass players from The Staffordshire Band, who are the 2019 Midlands Area Champions and Runners-up at the National Finals, so there should be some great music to listen to, and of course the Top 10 Christmas Carol Chart will be revealed, and we will join together to sing all of them at the concert.

Please vote for your favourite carols and come along to the concert too.

Many thanks,

Helen



**TOP  
10  
CAROLS**



A Boy Is Born In Bethlehem
A Great and Mighty wonder
A special star, a special star
Advent candles tell their story
Angels, from the realms of glory
As with gladness men of old
Away in a manger, no crib for a bed
Beneath the paper wrappings
Bethlehem, of noblest cities
Birth brings a promise of new life awaking
Born in the night, Mary's child
Brightest and best of the sons of the morning
Child of joy and peace
Christians, awake, salute the happy morn
Christmas is coming! The Church is glad to sing
Colours of day dawn into the mind
Come and join the celebration
Come, Lord Jesus, come
Come, thou long-expected Jesus
Coventry Carol
Cradled in a manger, meanly
Darkness like a shroud covers the earth
Deck the Halls
Ding Dong Merrily on High
Emmanuel, Emmanuel
Glory be to God on high
Go tell it to the Mountain
God is born among us: earth receives the Christ child
God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen
Good Christian Men Rejoice
Good King Wenceslas

Good news, good news to you we bring
Hail to the Lord's Anointed
Hark the glad sound! The Saviour comes
Hark! The herald-angels sing
Hills of the north, rejoice
I had a dream that I was standing on a hillside
I Saw Three Ships
In the bleak midwinter
Into the darkness of this world
It came upon a midnight clear
It was on a starry night
Jesus is the heart of Christmas
Joy to the World
Let earth and heaven combine
Let me tell you about a baby
Light a candle in a darkened place
Light of the world, you stepped down into darkness
Like a candle flame, flickering small in our darkness
Lo, he comes with clouds descending
Long ago, prophets knew Christ would come
Love came down at Christmas
Mary and Joseph came to the Temple
My Lord! What a morning
Night of peace: hail the holy child
O Christmas Tree
O come, all ye faithful
O come, O come, Immanuel
O Holy Night
O little town of Bethlehem

Of the Father's love begotten
On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
Once in royal David's city
Praise to the God who clears the way
Riding out across the desert
Round orange, round orange, you serve as a sign
See him lying on a bed of straw
See, amid the winter's snow
Silent night, holy night
Sing we the King who is coming to reign
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
The Angel Gabriel from heaven came
The First Noel
The Holly and the Ivy
The silent stars shine down on us
There's a light upon the mountains
Through long years of watchful waiting
Unto us a boy is born!
We see the eyes of Mary shine
We Three Kings of Orient are
When a young unmarried couple
When Jesus came to Jordan
While shepherds watched their flocks by night
Who would think that what was needed
Wild and lone the prophet's voice





## Company Section



Company Section started the 2018/2019 session at the beginning of September. During this session our main project is to build a couple of soap box carts. The lads are building them from a couple of pallets with purpose made chassis and wheels. Once the basic shape of the soap box cart is built, the boys will then work on making additions to the carts turning them in to dragsters or race cars or planes or whatever designs they come up with.



Before the start of the session we wrote to the parents and asked them to complete a questionnaire with their son in regards to the activities we currently offer. From the results of this we hope to be able to offer more activities that the boys want to take part in. We also hope to be able to take part in more Battalion Competitions.

On Sunday 7 October we attended the annual Mid Staffs and Sandwell Battalion Parade held in Tamworth. The service was at St Editha Church and was led by Jamie Haden-Walker who conducted our Enrolment Service in January this year. As we had won the Battalion Colour Party competition earlier in the year we were invited to provide the Colour Party to carry the Battalion Colours. Joshua carried the Colour and Adam along with another lad from the Battalion provided the Escort.

During the service the Anchor Boys were presented their trophy for winning the overall Anchor Boy competition and the Junior Section were presented with their trophy for being runners up in the overall Junior Section Competition. Well done to both sections.



In December we will be taking part in Wesley's third Christmas Tree Festival on the 8 December 2018

We have our own website at <http://5thwestbromwich.co.uk> or you can follow us on: Facebook @5th West Bromwich Boys Brigade and on Twitter @5thwestbromwichbb



Do you know any boys over the age of five years of age who want to have fun, play games, do craft work, face challenges and activities, enter competitions and go on trips and holidays?

If the answer is YES then The Boys' Brigade is what you are after.

For more information on the 5<sup>th</sup> West Bromwich Company please visit our website or Facebook page:

[www.5thwestbromwich.co.uk](http://www.5thwestbromwich.co.uk) or @5th West Bromwich Boys Brigade



## Junior Section.



Junior Section currently have 12 boys which includes 4 that moved up from Anchor boys at the beginning of September. We all really enjoy having a big group as we are able to play more team games and do group activities.

We have had a very busy start to the session having both harvest and sports themed nights. During the harvest night we played different food related games and made healthy snacks of fruit kebabs. Our sports night consisted of the boys making sports fridge magnets and trying out different sporting activities.

More recently we had a games evening where we played some brand new games and old fashioned ones too.

On Sunday the 7<sup>th</sup> October we will be taking part in the Battalion parade at Tamworth. This is where the Junior section, along with the rest of the Battalion Boys Brigades, will parade and march through the town centre. We have been practicing our marching and are going to look very smart this weekend.

We have lots more fun activities planned including Halloween, Bonfire night, 'Children In Need' Pyjama Party and a Detective night just to name a few, and all of this fun before Christmas. We will be making our Christmas tree and decorations for the Christmas Tree Festival, and making presents and cards for our parents as well.

There are always spaces for new boys to join the 5<sup>th</sup> Boys Brigade, so if you know any boys aged 5-18 please contact any of the offices.

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### "Christ came not only to comfort the afflicted, but to afflict the comfortable"

Over recent weeks the lectionary readings have been about Commitment.

This set me thinking about what we are expected to commit to:

What are the obligations of membership of the Methodist Church?

As a member of the Methodist Church I am called to:

**Worship** within the local church, including in regular sharing in Holy Communion, and through prayer

**Learning and caring** through Bible Study and meeting for fellowship, so that I may grow in faith and support others in their discipleship

**Service** by being a good neighbour in the community, challenging injustice and using my resources to support the church in its Mission in the world

**Evangelism** through working out my faith in daily life and sharing Christ with others.

Becoming a member is a way of saying that I belong to and support my local Methodist Church and want to do this.

The promise of mutual support is one of Methodism's strengths. When we become a member, a pastoral visitor or a class leader is responsible for visiting us and offering encouragement and challenge.

The above bullet points can be found on the back of the membership ticket.

All of the above can be found on the Methodist website under Membership.



My definition of “church” – it is not the building it is the people, the fellowship!

We at Wesley appear to be an older congregation and most other churches in our Circuit are similar.

Are we fulfilling what God is calling us to do?

It is a different world to that in which we have grown up in! But then it was a challenge that Jesus made 2000 years ago that we should be challenged and challenge each other not just within the church but in our daily lives outside of the church.

If the church is NOT to decline it has got to grow. How is it going to grow in this modern world? Better brains than mine have struggled with this problem.

It seems to me that WE are God’s hands, feet, smiles and hugs. We are the only way that the church is going to grow. If we want to have others join us then it is up to us to invite and encourage others to join with us.

Helping others to live in this trying time is the only way to survive. During wars community spirit is paramount. We are missing that spirit of the past, not because we don’t care but because we are very comfortable with where we are, BUT is that what God wants? - us to be COMFORTABLE? I don’t think so!

“We have as a church become too comfortable and in the main happy to stand back and watch the church decline. The inactive church needs to become the church in action” has been said for some time.

Recently the Stewards led a service on giving thanks for all that we have. We are very lucky. We are very rich in comparison with 95% of the rest of the world, financially and in our homes.

We are very comfortable. We should count our blessings and give thanks and maybe think about how we can change to fulfil our commitment in this different world.

Reading the membership obligations again makes me realise that I do not do anything like as much as I could/should. What about you?



## Day Trip to Weston Super Mare

We set off at 8.30 and stopped on the way for a comfort break, arriving at Weston to a warm sunny day with a slight breeze. For once the sea was in, so one or two intrepid travellers braved the sea for a paddle. A great day was had by all, some being very profitable from the slot machines. We arrived back at approximately 8.30 happy, tired and refreshed from the sea air.



Thank you to those who organised the trip, we are looking forward to future events.

# Update on Wesley

## Creative Hub

The 3 year Lottery funding for the project has come to an end. Indeed Sandwell Age UK has closed.

291 has taken over the Creative Hub. We have been lucky to obtain 6 months funding from the Lottery "Awards for All" which will enable the Hub to continue until the end of March 2019. Other funding is being sought so that it can continue beyond March. Please pray that we are successful.

So what is the Creative Hub? Over the last 3 years it has been successful in helping by providing a safe place for older people to meet and do various activities. Walking Football; Men's Friendship Group; Gentle exercises; Cinema club; and Art and craft group. All have had the opportunity to sit and chat over a cup of tea/coffee and biscuits.

There is also a benefits advisor present on a Monday morning and Thursday afternoon to assist people with financial problems etc. We are grateful to Birmingham Age UK for allowing this service to continue.

Sandwell Age UK did the administration for the Hub and the original grant, and 291/Wesley provided the venue. Now the whole of the Creative Hub activities will be the responsibility of 291 and the Church. Dawn Davey has agreed to be the administrator of the Hub and 291 will be responsible for the administration of the new funding.

We have managed to get a number of church members to volunteer to be present when the Hub activities are on, to make tea/coffee and help those present to feel at home, where they can come and chat, etc.

Please feel free to drop in and see for yourselves what is going on at Wesley. If not please remember 291 Creative Hub in your prayers as this new phase of the Mission of Wesley Church moves forward.



The above changes have caused us to rethink how we go about things. It was necessary to get funding quickly and so the fund raiser who we had just employed was asked to help and was successful with the "Awards for All" lottery grant for us and he is now working to increase the funding in a number of limited ways.

We have now decided to recommend to Church Council that Charity status should be obtained because of tax implications and also the advantage of giving access to funding that is not available to us at the present time.

Progress with refurbishment continues and the final Fire Risk Assessment work will be completed during this financial year. Likewise more of the outstanding Quinquennial Inspection work will also be completed.

In the last 3 years since the Quinquennial Inspection and the Fire Risk Assessment was carried out, **£82,757.49** has been spent on the premises of which **£52,989.97** was from grants, legacy and insurance claims.

Indeed since we started the refurbishment work in 2010 with the installation of the Disabled Toilet and upgrade to the gent's toilet **£286,461.46** has been spent on these premises of which **£176,621.00** has come from other than the Church funds i.e. Grants, Legacy, or Insurance claims.

We at 291 will continue to serve the people of Wesley, its Mission and its local community.

**Terry Price - BEM**

This year's Queen's Birthday Honours list recognised West Bromwich historian Terry Price, with a British Empire Medal. Many will know of Terry's series of books covering West Bromwich and Great Bridge, with all proceeds going to charity. Terry, aged 79, has received the British Empire Medal for his services to the community. He said:

*"I feel honoured that my work in the local community of West Bromwich has been recognised in this way. It is also an honour for the people of West Bromwich and Great Bridge who have supported my endeavours over the last 50 years, and most of all my wife Beryl, who has been the driving force behind me during this time".*

Terry and Beryl married in 1961, having met her while working at Gripton's Radio Stores on High Street in West Bromwich, in 1958, getting married in 1961.

*"Throughout my life, I have always maintained the same passionate interest in local history as I had when at school, collecting photographs and postcards of the area, which eventually resulted in me putting together a slide show of old views of the town".*

In 1974 Terry became the first life member of the Black Country Society, he is also a member of the Friends of Dartmouth Park organisation and supports the West Bromwich Historical Society. In 1976 he campaigned to save Hill House in Dagger Lane from demolition and moving on to 2007 he was instrumental in locating West Bromwich's first war memorial, which was erected in 1919. He explained: *"Its whereabouts had been unknown for over 50 years until I found it in Heath Lane Cemetery. A Service of Remembrance and Re-dedication was held there on 11 November 2007"*.



DAVID GRIGG	TERRY PRICE	BERYL PRICE	LORD LIEUTENANT
	BEM JP		JOHN CRABTREE OBE

Terry started publishing books in 2000 with *'Great Bridge & District'*, which sold 4000 copies. Then there were two more books of old photographs and memories on Great Bridge, and all royalties were donated to local churches. Five more West Bromwich books followed. Terry used proceeds to make charitable donations to good causes in West Bromwich.

Congratulations to Terry from the  
Black Country Society.

*Terence John Henry Price, better known as Terry Price*

editor@blackcountryssociety.co.uk





## Shaping Faith & Worship

A few of us met on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> September to discuss small changes that are being introduced into worship.

It was agreed that recent Family Services have a relaxed feeling, preachers are involving people, presenting worship with the congregation, rather than worship to the congregation. It is important to keep up this momentum and that we continue to move forward.

The evening congregation has a steady number, one of the ideas put forward was to worship in a circle, rather than the traditional seating; we will explore this at our "Local Arrangement" service at the end of October.

It is appreciated that it is not always feasible for the larger morning congregations to take communion in the round but it was felt that stewards could be on hand to guide and invite the congregation to come forward respectfully, rather than a queue forming.

We will begin to explore the use of a short hymn, verse or chorus before services, maybe using the same one for a month at a time to enable the congregation to prepare for worship

Some congregation members like to sing The Lord's Prayer; others don't feel it helps. We have therefore begun to sing it just at some services.

If there is anyone who would find a large print edition of Singing the Faith helpful, please let one of the stewards or Helen know. When we purchased our copies of Singing the Faith large print editions weren't available, but they are now.

Wesley is our family; we learn together, we want to better engage with each other and make people feel welcome.

It is so easy to take for granted what we have and not look for things which we could do differently to enhance worship and respond to our calling as Methodists ***to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission.***

On the next plan you will see that we are re-introducing the Church Anniversary into our worship calendar. This will be celebration of all-things Wesley, some of the suggestions at the meeting were to include a celebration of our talents or having a Wesley Family Tree; more details to follow over the next few months.

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## Harvest Family Service



Well, Beryl set us all a challenge! And we met it, in fact the shopping trolley was overflowing with donations for the Food Bank. Thank-you to everyone who supported this; unfortunately, we didn't manage to get a photograph of Beryl pushing the overflowing shopping trolley down the High Street after the Family Service!

Thoughts for our family service centred on giving thanks for the sun. Steve's energising boot camp of "Star Jumps", running on the spot and press-ups was good fun, thankfully there were no injuries incurred.

We gave thanks for the sun, for the energy it gives us, for the happy times we had in the sun over the summer holidays, and for the sun's contribution to harvest-time, but also remembered areas of the world where the sun leads to drought and hardship.

Our prayers were brought together onto Suns made from paper plates with cut-out hands for the rays of the sun on which everyone wrote things they wanted to ask prayers for or to say thank-you for.

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



By the time that you are reading this, I am pleased to share that I have now progressed from “on note” to “on trial” on my journey to being a Local Preacher in the Black Country Circuit. Thank you to everyone who has offered me support and prayer.

Each spotlight edition, I aim to share with you some of the activities I undertake as part of my on-line studies in addition to preparing and being assessed for services I lead within the Circuit. There are 8 on-line modules that I study. I have just progressed to Module 2 which focuses on Encountering God in the bible where I will learn lots about how and why the bible was written, when events took place, study of bible passages, different translations, understanding of context, what are the writers saying....finally moving to using the scripture to create my sermons.

In each Module, you take time to prepare for study in prayer, hymn or scripture, before following on-line study using various resources (video, text, artwork, music) and are encouraged to reflect by doing exercises which provide challenge. In Module 1 I reflected on my calling to Preach and studied an introduction to Theology and theological reflection.

In finishing this first blog, I share with you an early question where I spent some time with hymn 664 from StF - Lord You call us to your service. The question asked, how do passages speak to you about your journey and calling? I wrote the following prayer;

Lord, you have called me to follow you;  
You have shown me through your actions and words  
that I should not hesitate to follow the path you have led.  
Give me the strength to do your will,  
especially when I doubt my abilities to do so.  
Help me to see things clearly from your perspective  
so that others can learn your love and grace through me.

Lord, let your Holy Spirit take over my being  
and help me find the right words to say,  
to comfort and to care, to love and to teach  
and that my only constraints and boundaries are set by you.

Amen

## **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.



# **Family News**

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

Olive and Frank Brookes, Mollie Neale, Linda Hall,  
Win Thomas, Terry Price, Hayley Machin

## **Special Birthday Wishes to:**

Linda and Keith Adams who both celebrate their 70th Birthday

## **Anniversary Wishes to:**

Terry and Beryl celebrating their 57th Wedding Anniversary

## **Fond Farewell**

On Sunday August 31st we said goodbye to Margaret Mwangi who has gone to live with her family in Kenya.

We shall be saying goodbye to another member in November, Betty Bonnell who will be moving to Star Cross to live with her daughter Heather and Son in law John. We wish them all the best, we shall miss them.



## **Next Edition December**



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 3rd DECEMBER PLEASE**



# 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

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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 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 [patxthompson@btinternet.com](mailto:patxthompson@btinternet.com) and request that you be added to the email circulation list.

The next issue of Spotlight will be December if you have anything to go into this issue please let me have your notices by Monday 3rd December LATEST 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 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