



Circuit Weekend at Willersley Castle

Another great week-end in this lovely part of Derbyshire with plenty of good food, fun and uplifting fellowship. A very big thank you to Sara for her sensitive, thoughtful leadership and to Denise for assisting her so well. There is another week-end booked for May 2014 and you will, I am sure, be hearing more from Derek Percival nearer the date.



We would like to encourage you all to join us. You will be most welcome and we are sure you would have a wonderful time.

Look forward to seeing you next year.

Men's open meeting 8th May 2013

Many thanks for supporting the talk about The National Memorial Arboretum, a donation of £30 has been sent to the NMA Appeal at Alrewas.

Thank you again for supporting the evening and also the National Memorial Arboretum Appeal

Mick Osborne

Organ Recital by Davis Howse on Wednesday 3rd April, 2013

Thank you to Iris for arranging another performance by David for us all to enjoy. We were treated to a very varied and enjoyable programme played excellently as usual.

Some of the pieces he played showed just how versatile our lovely organ is and at one stage we thought the 9.00 train from Sandwell and Dudley station has taken a wrong turn and was coming straight through Wesley.

The money raised was a welcome addition to the development fund. So a big thank-you David and we look forward to the next time.

Gift Day – Sunday 12th May 2013

I can report that Gift Day this year has raised something just over £1400 with the possibility of a few more donations still to come in. This is a very respectable amount and I would like to thank everyone who made a donation.

It was particularly good to hear from some of our friends who are no longer local and don't ever get to Wesley but who have strong ties to us and remain interested and supportive of the work we are doing at Wesley, particularly currently with the redevelopment and refurbishment of the rooms at the rear.

So, once again thanks to everyone for your support financially and otherwise, it is very much appreciated.

Ian P Collett
Church Treasurer



RIISING TO THE OCCASION!

She lived in a top-floor flat of a large house in London. It was a long climb to her front door, 81 stairs in fact. When her brother came for his first visit she opened the door to find him leaning exhausted on the banister rail. Raising a haggard face he enquired "Is God in?"

5th West Bromwich Boys Brigade

The Company has had continued success in Battalion Competitions. On Friday 1st March at the Burntwood Memorial Institute in Burntwood, the Company Section entered a Drill Squad in to the Battalion Drill Competition. Four companies entered the competition and our squad made up of Caleb, Stuart, Matthew, Kadeem and Tyler did really well and came second to the 1st Tamworth Company. There then followed the band contest with three bands taking part with joint winners being the 4th Stafford and the 2nd Burntwood. A great evening of drill and band was had by everyone present.



On Friday 26 April at Walsall Wood Methodist Church, the Company Section took part in the Battalion Colour Party Competition. This was the first time we have entered this competition so it was a new experience for everyone. Our Colour Party was made up of Stuart and Caleb as the Escort to the Colour with Matthew as the Colour Bearer. All three Colour Parties were highly praised by the inspecting officers but we were extremely pleased when it was announced that we had come first. So well done to Stuart, Caleb and Matthew.



We have the Battalion table tennis, 5 a side football and sports day to look forward to in the coming months.

By the time you read this we would have held our Annual Awards night on Friday 24th May and I'm sure more of this will be reported in a future Spotlight .

If anyone wants to see what the company is doing or read more about us then check out our website at 5thwestbromwich.co.uk

BB Awards Night



SAFCO

As always we've been busy. Since the last edition of Spotlight we've had a "Wesley goes Western" evening where we had soup and hot dogs followed by a line dancing demonstration, and a chance to join to burn off some of the calories we'd eaten.

In April we celebrated the Diamond Jubilee of the Queen's coronation with a traditional Ploughman's Supper followed by entertainment, and a sing-a-long led by Yvonne ; a thoroughly enjoyable, relaxing evening.

It is almost becoming a tradition that for our June social evening we have a visit from the choir and musicians of Ferndale Primary School and this year is no exception; as always it promises to be a lovely evening with entertainment from the talented youngsters. Tickets as always £3.50 from Liz , please note the slightly earlier start time of 7pm on Wednesday 19th June.

Our final SAFCO evening for this session will be on Wednesday 17th July, our Summer Celebration; details to follow.



Our love and prayers go to Roger and Sara as they prepare to leave us to start a new ministry in Aberystwyth. All we can say is ***"Thank you Sara for care, love, friendship and Ministry for the last 5 years. We will miss you, God Bless"***

291 Community Association Limited
in association with Wesley Church

“Providing an improved Community Development and Resource Centre
in the centre of West Bromwich”

These are some of the projects we are currently working
towards or have planned:

I can see clearly now

new double glazed windows to community areas to improve
security and insulation

Keeping Up Appearances

general redecoration of all community areas

Read All About It

improvement of existing and provision of new notice and display
boards

Walking on Sunshine

upgrading of floor coverings

Loving the Ladies

improve ladies toilets

Kitchen Klean-Up

replace cooking equipment to ensure it is fit for purpose

Wesley goes surfing
installation of secure wireless network capabilities with access in
community areas to authorised groups and individuals

Green and Pleasant Land

general improvement ongoing maintenance of the green space
outside the community areas

HAND AND CROSS

The following article has been written for the Methodist Recorder by Keith Cheetham from the Methodist Heritage Committee who was in attendance when the Hand and Cross sculpture was re-sited at the front of Wesley. Rather than write another report for Spotlight I thought it appropriate, (with his permission) to use his report and it is reproduced here.

Ian P Collett

METHODIST HERITAGE MEMORIAL RE-SITED!

On a cold, wet and windy afternoon on 9 May a crowd of people gathered outside Wesley Methodist Church on West Bromwich's High Street to witness the unveiling of a Wesley memorial.

It was not a new monument as it had previously been sited since 1989 higher up the High Street at the western end of the pedestrianised precinct. This area is used as the town's main outdoor market on most days and aspects of the monument were frequently covered by clutter, cardboard boxes, discarded fruit and vegetables and other rubbish. Not an ideal environment to proclaim Christianity, the town's Methodist history or its links with John Wesley!

With the help of a grant from the European Regional Development fund, both the Methodist Church and Sandwell Council agreed the memorial should be moved to an alternative site to give it a more prominent and dignified siting on the frontage of the nearby Wesley Methodist Church.

The monumental sculpture of a 'Hand and Cross' is by Chris Dunsneath and commemorates the preaching of John Wesley.

The short ceremony of unveiling was introduced by Superintendent Minister, Revd. Phil Thomas, who told the crowd that John Wesley had first preached in West Bromwich at Hilltop in 1742 and later at the nearby Oak House, another Methodist Heritage site nearby, and was given very rough treatment on more than one occasion thereafter. He thanked Sandwell Council for their kind assistance in allowing the re-siting of the monument and for the work of removal and refurbishment involved. The Mayor of Sandwell, Councillor Keith Davies, was then invited to perform the unveiling ceremony.

Councillor Davies said how proud he was to see the local links with Methodism to be commemorated and retained in this way. The memorial's new position would expose it to many members of the public who regularly passed along the busy High Street.

Also present at the ceremony were Mr. Keith Cheetham representing the Methodist Heritage Committee, Mayoress, Mrs. Pat Davies, Councillor Derek Rowley and Mr. Alan Goodman, Senior Planning Officer, both from Sandwell Council.

The inscription beneath the sculpture reads as follows:-

This sculpture by Chris Dunsneath is dedicated to the 18th century preacher John Wesley. His biblical teaching, much of which took place in West Bromwich, Wednesbury and Tipton, resulted in the founding of the Methodist movement.

The cross held in a hand symbolises his message being accepted by the people.

Keith Cheetham, Tourism advisor,
Methodist Heritage Committee



Restored Cross in Hand is unveiled



Sandwell Mayor Councillor Keith Davies with the Rev Phil Thomas, the mayor's wife Councillor Pat Davies, and Councillor Derek Rowley

A MUCH-LOVED West Bromwich sculpture which honours the Methodist history of the town has been restored to its former glory and unveiled at a new location.

The Cross in Hand bronze sculpture now has a new home outside the Wesley Church in the town's High Street after being moved from its previous site at the entrance to Duchess Parade.

Created by Chris Dunseath it is dedicated to John Wesley, the preacher and religious reformer, who preached many times in the 18th century in West Bromwich, Wednesbury and Tipton.

Sandwell Council removed the statue last

year to make way for improvements to the pedestrian High Street, and last week it was unveiled in its new home after being refurbished and mounted on a new base.

West Bromwich historian Terry Price, aged 74, was at the original unveiling of the statue in 1989 and was consulted on its new location.

He said: "Its new home is an excellent site, the perfect location."

The statue was unveiled by Sandwell mayor Councillor Keith Daves at a ceremony also attended by the Rev Phil Thomas,



The Cross in Hand statue in its original spot

Thumbs up for sculpture move

A historian has welcomed the relocation of a much-loved West Bromwich sculpture.

The Cross in Hand bronze sculpture now has a new home outside the Wesley Church in the town's High Street after being moved from its previous site at the entrance to Duchess Parade.

Historian Terry Price played an important role in the relocation of the structure. He said: "I am very pleased that Sandwell Council has taken on the task of restoring and re-siting this in the High Street close to its original location but in a more prominent location."



Terry Price

"It's very important that we look after our monuments as we have lost some in the past."

Created by Chris Dunseath it is dedicated to John Wesley, the preacher and religious reformer, who preached many times in the 18th century in West Bromwich.

Our thanks to Alan Goodman from Sandwell Planning Dept Terry Price, Derek Percival and Fitzgerald Contractors for making this happen.

Methodist Homes

On Wednesday 17th April 2013 Methodist Homes (M.H.A.) celebrated a service of thanksgiving at Coventry Cathedral. It was the Platinum anniversary, 70 years. The president of the Methodist conference Rev Mark Wakelin was due to take the service but for some reason was unable to attend, so the Baroness Kathleen Richardson led the worship. Both her husband and her Mother in Law had been residents in M.H.A homes, she said "I have as much reason as anyone for being grateful to M.H.A and I have the highest regard for the care they received, for a short time I was a volunteer in a home and know how hard members of staff work, and with what sensitivity they engage with the residents".

Being the circuit representative myself I was privileged to receive an invitation to this thanksgiving service that was attended by 500 + people. The first hymn was "Great is thy Faithfulness", the singing was fantastic, you almost felt it was going to lift the Cathedral roof. It was a service that I will long remember with great joy.

This year M.H.A Sunday is June 8th 2013. Could you please bring your M.H.A boxes to be emptied before that date, and very many thanks to everyone who supports M.H.A in any way. It is nice to think we can support our own old people.

Iris Reynolds

M.H.A. Circuit Rep

The Alto 's Lament

It's tough to be an alto when you're singing in a choir.
The sopranos get the twiddly bits that people all admire.
The basses boom like loud trombones, the tenors shout with glee,
but the alto part is on two notes (or if you're lucky, three).
And when we sing an anthem and we lift our hearts in praises,
the men get all the juicy bits and telling little phrases.
Of course the trebles sing the tune - they always come off best;
the altos only get three notes and twenty-two bars rest.
We practise very hard each week from hymn book and the Psalter,
but when the conductor looks at us our voices start to falter.
"Too high! Too low! Too fast! - you held that note too long!
It doesn't matter what you do - it's certain to be wrong!
Oh! Shed a tear for altos, they're the Martyrs and they know,
in the ranks of choral singers they're considered very low.
They are so very 'umble that a lot of folks forget 'em;
how they'd love to be sopranos,
but their vocal chords won't let 'em!
And when the final trumpet sounds and we are wafted higher,
sopranos, basses, tenors - they'll be in the Heavenly Choir.
While they sing 'Alleluia!' to celestial flats and sharps,
the altos will be occupied with polishing the harps.

Collections by Bob

I've been getting some funny looks of late
It happens in church when they pass the plate.
The plate it's here and then it's gone
And folks around see I've put nothing on.
Now that isn't the full story, let me tell you,
My bank pays my collection, by I don't know who.
I thought the arrangement was quite funny
until I found they used my money.
You see, some time ago I signed a form,
Now my collections paid by the bank that's the norm,
The bank send my money to the Church's account
I only hope they send the right amount.
I'm not the only one who pays this way,
But if you ask the Treasurer he's sure to say
We'd like more people to consider their giving
So ask him for a form, and show that you are willing.
Which reminds me what I must do when I've finished this rhyme,
It's up to the amount, a small amount or large you see
will be better than none, I think you will agree.

With apologies to true poets everywhere!!

Warley Male Choir

We have invited Warley Male Choir to perform a concert in church for us on Saturday 6th July at 7pm ; tickets are available from Liz or Helen , only £4 including refreshments.

The choir perform a wide variety of music, including items originally performed by the likes of Queen, Michael Bubl  , Josh Groban , songs from popular musicals and more traditional hymns and spirituals; there's sure to be something for everyone included in their programme. Please come along to hear this excellent choir which includes some of our own church members and help to raise funds for our own development projects.



helen@thepedals

The next helen@thepedals coffee morning will take place on Saturday 29th June 10:30am til Noon. Hopefully playing some of your favourite pieces of music. If anyone has any special requests, please let Helen know

Warley Male Choir in Concert

Here at Wesley on Saturday 6th July commencing at 7pm . Tickets at the bargain price of £4 are available now from Helen or Liz ; get yours early to avoid disappointment



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

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Family News

Our thoughts and Prayers for Linda Warner, Ann Taylor.
The family of Phyliss Ault on her death.

Special Birthday Wishes to

Kirsty Dixon celebrating her 18th Birthday
Michael Vaughan celebrating her 70th Birthday
Frank Brookes celebrating his 85th Birthday

Birthday Wishes to

Simon Davey, Jeff Simpson, Julia Wilkins, Kath Fieldhouse

Platinum Wedding Anniversary

Aunty Kath and Uncle Eric (Fieldhouse) celebrate their Platinum
Wedding Anniversary (70 years) Well Done and God Bless

Next Edition
August



All items for Spotlite by **22nd July** please to allow printing to be completed before school closure

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

Thanks to Helen for her hard-work in getting the two sites live for us and the ongoing task of keeping them up to

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.
The cheapest in town!



Rooms for Hire

We have rooms for Hire for all occasions. For further information please contact Mrs Evelyn Gough. Telephone 07769 786855

Wesley – www.wesleywestbrom.co.uk

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

The next issue of Spotlight will be **August**, if you have anything to go into this issue please let me have your notices by **22nd July, 2013 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 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