

SPOTLITE – APRIL 2020



The **Methodist** Church 

WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH



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Thank you

I would like to thank Pat once again for all the hard work and effort she has put into spotlight for the last 9 years. Without her dedication to this many of us wouldn't have a form of connection with Wesley, and we all love to know what is happening within our church.

She has done an amazing job I only hope I can continue to carry on the work that Pat has completed.

I would also like to thank everyone for their kind words of support for my takeover, and for all the articles that have been sent to me! It's so nice to see that there is still something to put into this article despite recent events.

Keep well and keep safe
Jasmine

Ref: OG/62717

acorns

Your local children's hospice

Mr Matthew Clive
Wesley Methodist Church
291 High Street
West Bromwich
B70 8ND

Drakes Court
Alcester Road
Wythall
Birmingham
B47 6JR

Tel: 01564 825000
Fax: 01564 825066

www.acorns.org.uk

28 January 2020

Dear Mr Clive,

On behalf of all the children and young people who come to Acorns, I would like to thank you and everyone at Wesley Methodist Church for the kind donation of £267.85 towards our Save Acorns Black Country Hospice Appeal and our Snowflake Appeal.

Acorns needs to raise £2 million which should secure its ability to operate the Black Country Hospice for the next four years. All donations will be held in a designated fund that allows the charity's trustees to hold Appeal donations for the purposes of funding the Black Country Hospice from 1 October 2019 onwards.

This Appeal fund will be spent on Acorns care and support for children and their families using the Black Country Hospice. These costs include the staff, equipment, operational and maintenance costs of this hospice, until they are spent in line with agreed annual budgets that have been designed to ensure the continued operation of the hospice for the next four years.

Acorns relies on the community to fund over 70% of its activities, and thoughtful people like you make it possible for us to provide specialist care and support for life limited and life threatened babies, children, young people and their families. In the last year Acorns has supported 787 children and 1,223 families, including those who are bereaved.

If you would like to be kept in touch about the life changing work that we do, or if you would like to update your preferences, please visit our website www.acorns.org.uk/keep-in-touch-faqs.

Alternatively, please email supporterservices@acorns.org.uk or call us on 01564 825037.

Your support is very much appreciated by us all.

Yours sincerely,

E. Waller

P.P Livvy Guglia
Area Fundraiser
Tel: 07792 370525
Email: Olivia.Guglia@acorns.org.uk



acorns

Your local children's hospice

Presented to:

Wesley Methodist Church

For raising

£267.85

**Towards the Save Acorns Black Country Hospice
Appeal and our Snowflake Appeal**

Thank you for your support

Signed: E. Waller Date: 29th January 2020

P.P
Olivia Guglia, Area Fundraiser





Junior Section

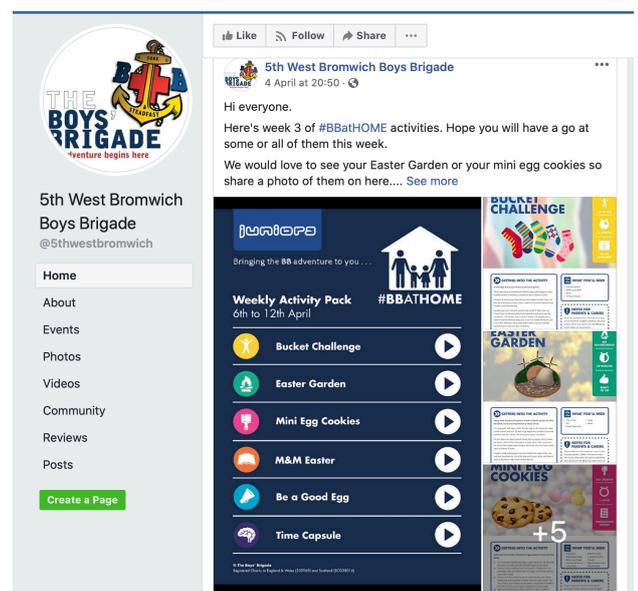
We had a good start to the year with the lads taking part in the Battalion Picture Competition. This year's theme was railways, so we themed several evenings around that, playing railway games and doing crafts and we also made a train cake. Well done to Kaida who won his age group with his picture and to Kemi who came 3rd in his age group. We had started practicing for the Battalion movement to music competition but unfortunately that has had to be postponed due to the current situation. Boys' Brigade has been suspended until further notice because of the Coronavirus so we are posting activities and quizzes on our Facebook page @5thwestbromwich for the lads to keep active and in touch. Stay safe.

#BBatHOME

As you may know, during the current situation with social distancing, all Boys' Brigade Companies including ours are currently not meeting for the foreseeable future. Obviously, this is a difficult time for us all and not meeting on Friday has been a great disappointment.

However, even though we aren't meeting we are still trying to keep in touch with our boys and keeping them active. Every week Boys' Brigade Headquarters release a variety of activities as part of #BBatHOME. We post these on our Facebook and Twitter pages each week and encourage our lads to take part. They can then post photos or comments on our page and it is great to see them take part.

As well as #BBatHOME we also put on our own activities which have included a couple of quizzes, a picture to colour in and a



competition where the boys had to find as many items beginning with the letter B. Well done to all those who joined in.

And don't forget, you don't need to be in Boys' Brigade to take part.

As some of you may know, the Officers still meet at 10am on Sunday morning to share in BB fellowship. But since the lockdown we haven't been able to meet. However, that doesn't stop us. We have been having a virtual coffee morning and catching up by text.

We hope it won't be too long before we can all meet again and continue in our BB work.



Girlguiding

Like the BB company Girlguiding have suspended all meetings which I'm sure has brought sadness to many.

However, Girlguiding have also created online activities to keep all age groups within the organisation occupied and is accessible for all.

There are new activities added each week so keep an eye out.

Some of our members may find this a useful opportunity to complete some of themes within their activity books!

If you would like to have a look at these please visit

<https://www.girlguiding.org.uk>

Activities and adventures to keep yourself occupied during this difficult time - fun for kids, adults, everyone!

Being an adventurer is a state of mind - it's being brave and determined, supporting others and finding fun in everything we do. And it doesn't need to stop just because we're staying indoors.

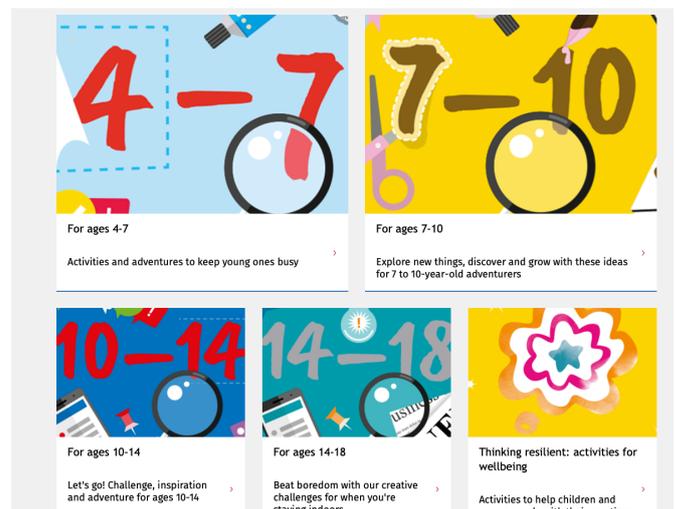
At Girlguiding we love to explore, we love to discover, we love to find out: we are everyday adventurers.

So we're sharing loads of activities and ideas from the Girlguiding programme right here - and on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) - so that you can have your own #AdventuresAtHome.

New activities every week

We've pulled our favourite indoor activities from the unit meeting activities and skills builder activities that make up the Girlguiding programme. Each week we'll be releasing eight new activity cards - two per age group or guiding section - that you can download and use at home.

You don't need to be a member of Girlguiding to give them a try - they're here so all young people can have a bit of adventure at this tough time.



SAFCO – It's Just A Bit of Fun

On Saturday 15th February SAFCO held a Country & Western Afternoon.

The first meeting of the year is always an important one, but this was even more so given that those attending met the new “sherriffs” in town – yes, it was myself and Jen dressed in inflatable horse costumes and firing water pistols while “riding” in to the Bananza theme tune – and no, it will not be happening again for a while (those costumes are too hot).

Everyone attending was now an outlaw and there were some real baddies in the lineup, each with their own wanted poster – Linda “The Knuckles” Adams, Ann “nine lives” and Derek “Quick Draw” Percival along with Joyce “The Bandit” Pitt.

Everyone had the opportunity to win their freedom from the jail by playing “pin the moustache on the cow”, those that won their freedom received sheriff badges.

Now that everyone was back to being a law abiding citizen, we tucked into vegetable soup, followed by a dessert of Wagon Wheels (well what else could it have been). Now we were all fed and watered it was time to take part in some line dancing. We were taught some line dances and by the end of the afternoon could make our way through entire songs – There are certainly some very good dancers at Wesley.

A big thank you to Pat Thompson for arranging the line dancing for us.



On Saturday 14th March SAFCO held a Mad Hatters Tea Party.

Once again, we welcomed some old faces but also some new ones, as everyone tucked into scones, with a selection of jams and numerous cakes that had been laid out on the tables.

There were also a selection of nibbles and sweets. As always, the tea and coffee flowed as everyone took the time to have a good old natter and catch up.

Once we had finished the food and no one could face another cup of tea or coffee, it was time for Hoy. Our resident Hoy callers (Linda and Ann) did us proud again. If you have never played it before it is just like bingo but with playing cards and just like bingo everyone wants to win – not because you win money but because you win prizes and SAFCO prizes are something else – our winners all went away with an inflatable cup holder (swan, unicorn, desert island, duck), the fun never stops at SAFCO.



We would like to thank you everyone for your support as the turnout for SAFCO events is always high and this makes all the hard work worth it – we want everyone to enjoy themselves and we hope that you do – even if it does mean putting up with me and Jen for 2 hours!!!

If you have never attended an event, please try and come along to the next one. You will always be greeted with a friendly smile and you will probably go away having made a few new friends – as well as seeing a pair of 40somethings acting far too young for their age – but having a laugh along the way.

At the time of writing this, there is a lot of uncertainty and we are all doing our bit by staying in, so we are not sure when we will be able to resume SAFCO. Please be assured that as soon as we can we will hold the next SAFCO event.

In the meantime, please stay safe and take care of yourselves and each other, and should you need cheering up I do have photos of Jen in her inflatable horse costume which I will gladly share.

Always in our heart and prayers

Lucy & Jen

Laurel & Hardy evening

A BIG "THANK YOU"

Thank you Rory, Julie and Justin for another excellent Laurel & Hardy Evening. It was enjoyed by all who came. You cannot beat these old films which bring so much laughter to old and young alike (even though you know what is going to happen in many incidents) and popcorn to keep us going until the interval.

The two films we watched were great and at the interval we were served with tea, coffee or fruit juice and biscuits.

We are all looking forward to the next Laurel & Hardy evening so if you haven't been to one, please come along to the next one and enjoy a great evening together with good fellowship.

Thank you all once again.



So What's the Story...?

At an evening service at Wesley back in October, when things were “normal” I reminded people of this year’s Methodist Church Presential theme – “So, what’s the story?”

This theme was meant to initiate a treasure-trove of story-telling across the Methodist Church for the year ahead. We were being asked “what is our own experience of faith and of following Jesus?” and “How might our testimony challenge, encourage or inspire others?”

When I originally thought of writing the article for Spotlight, I never quite got around to putting “pen to paper”! However, I seem to be finding time to “get around to” lots of tasks I’ve been meaning to do over the past few weeks! Never has our house been so clean and tidy!

I’m sure that when our President came up with the theme “So, what’s the story?” she never imagined how the connexional year would turn out; that we would all be worshipping in our own ways at home, whether that be in quiet thought, listening to music (this morning I have continued with my Palm Sunday tradition of listening to my CD of “Olivet to Calvary”), taking part in an online service, radio or TV, or even using resources for our own short services at home. However, we are continuing to worship, we will all have our own stories.

Back in October, I thought of asking people to share stories of their faith and following Jesus through the pages of Spotlight over the coming months, but maybe we extend that now to sharing our stories of how we have encountered God in our lives over this difficult time.

How about a bumper-edition of Spotlite full of our stories?

We are shaped by the stories that we have been told, of Jesus, of his followers and of the church, telling of living close to God, loving others and sharing the good news.

Who are we? Where are we going? What will our story be?

Helen Allen

Emoji Challenge!

Over the past few weeks whilst we are in “lockdown” and many of us who are able to, have turned to the various forms of Social Media for some entertainment and interaction, there have been many online quizzes that have been shared to challenge us.

An organist friend of ours, shared the following challenge which you may wish to try yourselves



I will try and remember to put the answers in the next edition of Spotlight!

Helen Allen

Have you ever wondered why Moses never entered the Promised Land after wandering in the wilderness for 40 years?

We all find ourselves wandering in the wilderness from time to time and wonder why we don't get what we want?

Wesley went through its wilderness years between 1998 and 2010 and even decided in 2007 to leave the premises and then changed its mind. It was that decision that turned the tide. The congregation made up its mind what it wanted the future of Wesley to be, at a Vision Day. They wanted to become more involved with the Community. Wesley has a history of involvement with the community, BB, Girl Guides, Ladies Circle, Men's Group but some of our regular community users left because of the state of the premises. This meant that the premises had to be improved because at that stage they were in no fit state and were not fit for purpose. It became obvious that you could only get grants for church premises if you were involved in the Community.

Iris Reynolds had been holding table top sales and this money went a good way to paying for the installation of a disabled toilet and the improvements to the men's toilet at the rear of the premises.

On the death of Iris, Beryl Price and her team continued the important work of fund raising with table top sales. Liz Vaughan and her team did sterling work for many years with SAFCO events now continued by Lucy Whatmore and Jenny Adams Barratt. Whilst thinking of fund raising let us not forget the Pantomime started by Dot and Midge Smith in 1948 /49 and has continued for 70 years giving pleasure to thousands over the years and raising similar amounts too. Thanks to Ian, Jane, Linda and all who have helped its success and hopefully it will continue in the future. Now we have Rory and Julie's Team with the Christmas Tree Festival and also the Laurel & Hardy evenings.

291 Community Association Ltd came into being in December 2010 with Ian Collett, Helen Vaughan, Don Anderson and Derek Percival as directors. Ian Collett taking on the role of Treasurer. Helen wrote the Business Plan and the various Policies. Ian obtained grants which enabled major roof improvements and a new heating system to be carried out. The electrical system had to be upgraded and many other problems had to be overcome. This was the beginning and we have come a long way since then.

Lucy Whatmore provided better furniture in the Coffee Lounge which made it look more comfortable and homely.

The Church groups continued throughout all this time but Community work with the public in general really started in partnership with Sandwell Age UK in 2015 and the aid of a 3 year Big Lottery grant and the Creative Hub came into existence. At the end of the grant Sandwell Age UK closed in August 2018.

291 Community Association Ltd took over the running of the 291 Creative Hub with the support of Wesley Church. Dawn Davey took on the managing of it and has done an excellent job. Grants were obtained from the Awards for All lottery fund, Baron Davenports, West Bromwich Building Society and from Heart of England. However, Wesley Church was the major supporter of the 291 Creative Hub.

2019 and 291 Community Association became a Charitable Incorporated Organisation and thus became 291 Community Association CIO with Rev Phil Thomas, Don Anderson and

Derek Percival as Trustees and Alex Cooksey as Treasurer. 291 Community Association Ltd is being wound up.

Throughout all this time Ian Collett has been the Church Treasurer and steered the finances brilliantly.

A 3 year grant from the National Lottery Community Fund is being applied for to give the 291 Creative Hub stability and to enable it to become sustainable.

A Veolia grant to improve the kitchen, replace the entrance doors and windows in the Institute is in progress and all being well this work will be carried out before I step down at the end of August.

Many people have carried out work, improving these premises over my years including: Ray Gough, John Chambers, Michael Osborne, Frank Brookes, Eric Fieldhouse, Brian Powney, Keith Llewellyn, Alan Thompson, Mac Wills, Jeff Simpson Justin Hampson to name but a few.

The work started with the Vision Day is nowhere near finished yet.

I will be eternally grateful to all at Wesley who have supported the decision made in 2007 for without that support Wesley would have closed years ago. If we are not carrying out God's Mission in the Community local to us, what good are we?

Recently I was reading the Connexion Magazine about the Darlington District and their ten year plan for growth in their churches. It is a similar plan to ours back in 2007. I wish them every success. However they have combined with the Romero Prayer which I would like to suggest that we do too. When you read it you will understand why Moses did not enter the Promised Land.

A FUTURE NOT OUR OWN

It helps, now and then, to step back and take a long view.

The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts,
it is even beyond our vision.

We accomplish in our lifetime
only a tiny fraction
of the magnificent enterprise
that is God's work.

Nothing we do is complete,
which is another way of saying
that the Kingdom always lies beyond us.

No statement says all that could be said.
No prayer fully expresses our faith.
No confession brings perfection.
No pastoral visit brings wholeness.
No programme
accomplishes the Church's mission.
No set of goals and objectives
includes everything.

That is what we are about.
We plant a seed that will one day grow.
We water seeds already planted,
knowing that they hold future promise.
We lay foundations

that will need further development.
We provide yeast that produces effects
far beyond our capabilities.

We cannot do everything,
and there is a sense of liberation
in realising that.
This enables us to do something,
and to do it very well.

It may be incomplete,
but it is a beginning,
a step along the way,
an opportunity for the Lord's grace
to enter and do the rest.

We may never see the end results,
but that is the difference
between the master builder and the worker.
We are workers, not master builders,
ministers, not messiahs.

We are prophets of a future not our own.

*This prayer was composed by Bishop Ken Untener of Saginaw, drafted for a homily by Cardinal John Dearden in Nov. 1979 for a celebration of departed priests. As a reflection on the anniversary of the martyrdom of Bishop Romero, Bishop Untener included in a reflection book a passage titled "The mystery of the Romero Prayer." The mystery is that the words of the prayer are attributed to Oscar Romero, but they were never spoken by him.



Puzzles



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Egg-cellent Easter Wordsearch

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

dye simnel cake parade spring hop egg hunt rabbit nest
 egg rolling hard-boiled colours sunday hot cross buns festival eggs
 easter morning easter decorate chocolate chick bunny bonnet
 basket

Information regarding all things Wesley can be found below.

www.wesleywestbrom.co.uk
www.291communityassociation.co.uk



Family News

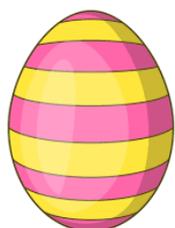
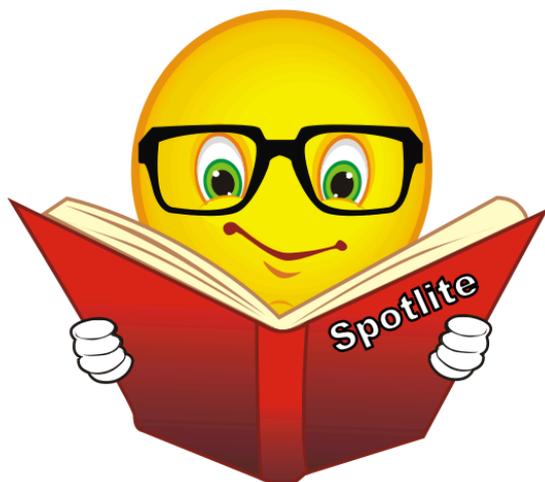
Birthday Wishes to:

Steve Allen, Ann Percival, Jasmine Whatmore

Special Wedding Anniversary to:

Michael and Carol Osbourne, they have been married for 60 years, having got married at Wesley church on 2nd April 1960. We wish them a very happy anniversary!

Next Edition June



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

Jasmine.whatmore@yahoo.co.uk

**ALL ITEMS TO ME BY MONDAY 8TH JUNE
PLEASE**

ROOMS FOR HIRE

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The Websites

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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 jasmine.whatmore@yahoo.co.uk 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 8TH JUNE LATEST Thank you.

Contact the editor: jasmine.whatmore@yahoo.co.uk

- 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.

List of Church Contacts

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