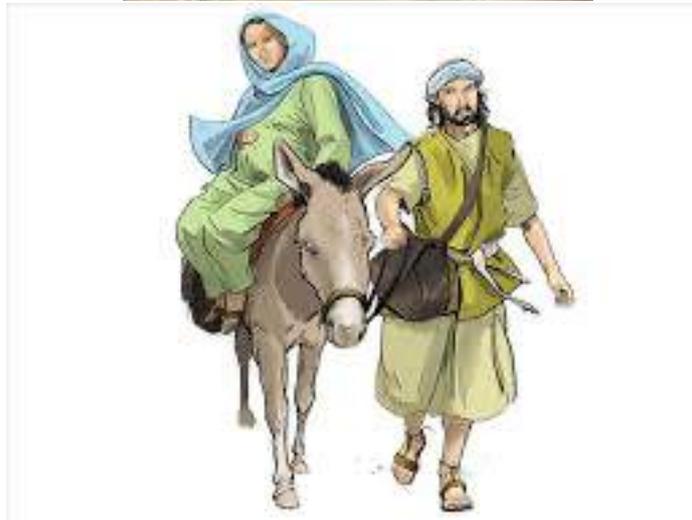


SPOTLITE

December 2020

The Methodist Church



Inside December's Edition: Advent & Christmas at Wesley, Christmas Tree Festival, Memory Tree, Christmas Hamper Raffle, Food Bank, Christingle, Christmas Cards, Finance, Anchor Boys, Junior Section, Rainbows, Christmas Wishes, Puzzles.

Throughout Advent, our Sunday services will be following the advent candle themes of **Peace, Hope, Love and Joy**.

We would like everyone at home in our evening worship to be able to light a candle as we light Wesley's Advent Candle ring and then, if possible, share the light with their neighbours by positioning the light near to a window for the rest of the evening service. Alternatively, enclosed with our Advent & Christmas edition of Connect magazine will be a candle picture which can be coloured in as we share our Advent Candle liturgy together.

Our advent candle theme will be continued in a window display at the front of Wesley of "candles" which will be "lit" each week as we progress through Advent, reminding us and those that pass of the symbols of the advent candles of Peace, Hope, Love and Joy.

Carol-singing

For many, carol-singing is an important part of Christmas celebrations; assuming similar restrictions apply as we come out of Lockdown-2 on 2nd December, we will be unable to sing in church, however, our understanding is that, prior to Lockdown-2, singing outdoors was allowed, subject to social distancing being adhered to.

Therefore, from 10am on Saturday 19th December, we will be carol-singing on Wesley car park, but standing 2m away from each other (the car park will be marked out accordingly). We will have collecting buckets should any passers-by wish to make a contribution to the church.

Please wrap up warm and come along for as short or as long a time as you feel able; while there are people passing by the church and we have willing carol-singers, we will carry on into the early afternoon.

Please bring your own refreshments, we will not be providing any drinks; the church building will be open for members of Wesley only to take breaks, and music will be played through speakers if there are times when no-one is singing outside.

Traditional Nine Lessons & Carols

As we expect to not be able to sing as a congregation in church, our Nine Lessons & Carols service will this year take place via zoom as our evening worship on Sunday 20th December at 6:15pm

So, you will be able to sing carols in the comfort of your own homes, as well as on the car park!

Christmas Day

There will be no midnight communion service at Wesley this year; you are invited to join with St Andrews at Carters Green for their service at 11:30pm on Christmas Eve.

Wesley Christmas morning service will hopefully be held at Wesley, and also live-broadcast via zoom. In the event that we are not able to open the church for worship due to covid-19 restrictions, then the Christmas Day service will be held via zoom. Christmas Day service will be at 10am.



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KEY DATES

27 th November: First Sunday in Advent	PEACE Evening zoom worship
6 th December: Second Sunday in Advent	HOPE Our Gift Day; 11am in church 6:15pm (zoom)
13 th December: Third Sunday in Advent	LOVE Foodbank collection; 11am in church, 6:15pm (zoom)
20 th December: Fourth Sunday in Advent	JOY 11am service in church; 6:15pm – Nine Lessons & Carols (zoom)
Christmas Eve	6pm Christingle (zoom)
Christmas Day	10am service in church and on zoom

If we are not able open the church for morning worship from December, then our evening services will continue on zoom; at-home worship material will also be provided.

ZOOM DETAILS
MEETING ID: 824 9242 5263
PASSWORD: 719938

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CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

As you may already know, due to the current Covid19 situation, this years' Christmas Tree Festival has had to be cancelled.

However, that doesn't mean we can't still see beautifully decorated Christmas Trees that will brighten up these dark times.

And this is where you can join in.

As from 1st December 2020 we are asking you to post a photo of your own Christmas Tree to the Christmas Tree Festival Facebook page:

@wesleychristmastreefestival

Alternatively, your photo can be emailed to:

xmastree@wesleywestbrom.co.uk

and we will post it on the Facebook page.

So, let see your Christmas Tree at home.

Merry Christmas Tree to you all.



Whilst we are not able to hold a Christmas Tree Festival in church as we have done for the last few years, we are hoping that we will still be able to have a Memory Tree in church; details of how this is to be arranged will be decided and publicised as soon as possible via Connect, www.wesleywestbrom.co.uk and the weekly notices during worship

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HAMPER TIME!!!



**Wesley Methodist Church
Christmas 2020**



Christmas Hamper Raffle



All proceeds to support Wesley

Tickets are £1.00 each with the chance to
win a Christmas Hamper

For tickets please contact Justin
on 07841 616397 or justin.hampson@live.com

To be drawn on Saturday 19th December



Hamper will be delivered to the winners door

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FOOD BANK

As stated in the calendar dates, there shall be a Food Bank collection outside of Wesley on the 13th December between 10:30-12:00 to receive contributions. If you can include an item or two of Christmas goodies that would good but all the usual tins, packets, toiletries etc will be gratefully appreciated. Linda will be collecting these items whether Wesley can have a church service or not. If you can't make it on that morning Linda will accept donations at her home if you telephone first on 0121 601 0992. Justin has also kindly offered to collect if needed.



This year's Christingle Service will take place as usual on Christmas Eve at 6.00pm.

What won't be "as usual" is that because of the Covid-19 restrictions it will be a zoom service.

If you want to attend / be part of the service, we need to know in advance as the week before we shall deliver several items to you to enable you to take part in the service including making your own Christingle.

There will also be an offertory envelope as we shall be supporting the Children's Society charity.

If you want to take part let Jane, Ruth or me know asap and certainly by Saturday 19th December at the latest. Please include your address if we don't already know it.

The details of the zoom service will be circulated to people who want to take part nearer the date or with the items we shall deliver.

We hope that many of you will join with us again at this special time of the year for what is now a Christmas Eve tradition.

Ian P Collett

0121 588 6877

Ian 07748 642267

ian.collett@uwclub.net

Jane 07904 340604

jane.collett@uwclub.net

Ruth 07528 576905

ruth.collett@uwclub.net



The festivities on this coming Christmas are going to be like no other in our lifetime and it looks as though they are going to be very subdued compared to usual.

We like Christmas in the Collett household, we always have a real tree and other decorations around the house and lights outside and although it's looking likely that no one will be able to come along and share these with us, we shall still be doing these to make Christmas as "usual" as possible.

Christmas cards received from our friends form part of our decorations around the house and we have also always enjoyed sending greetings and sometimes our news via the cards we send out.

We are aware that there have been alternative suggestions about the sending of Christmas cards this year given the difficult circumstances and we appreciate and understand this.

However, to try to keep some normality to the already restricted times and events we intend to send cards just the same as always, and the cards that we usually put in the bag at Wesley for our friends at Church we shall hand deliver.

And so our offer is – If anyone would like us to deliver their cards when we deliver ours, just let us have your batch of cards as soon as you can and we will do the rest. Locally addressed cards only of course.

For those of you whom we won't see or speak to before this Christmas, have a good Christmas despite the difficulties, stay safe and best wishes for a better 2021 for us all.

Ian, Jane and Ruth



Just a quick reminder that as I write this, I still have some jars of homemade pickled onions for sale if anyone is interested, proceeds to Wesley.

Let me know if you are interested, they go well with turkey sandwiches!!

Ian P Collett

That dreaded subject – FINANCE

Finance is something that we don't often talk about in our communications probably on the basis that people don't want to hear about financial matters because it usually means that we are after more money. Unfortunately, that is exactly what this is all about.

Our Church year finished on the 31st August and so at the Church Council meeting in October I had to report on the last year's figures which don't make great reading. We made a deficit of nearly £7000 in the year and that is on the back of making deficits for three of the previous four years. Our bank balance is therefore substantially reduced compared to what it was five years ago.

Over each of those five years the offertory has decreased. In the 2015/16 year we were receiving offertory at the rate of £364 per week, but in the 2019/20 year just ended the rate per week has reduced to £292 per week. This equates to a total reduction in a year of over £3700.

The rental income for the hiring out of rooms is the other largest single item of income for the church and although affected by the lockdown for the last few months of the year, it still produced an income of £13400. The bad news is that the rooms cannot be rented out at present and for the foreseeable future because of the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions and so potentially this year we could lose most of one of our largest items of income. This is really bad news.

Other smaller areas of income have been lost (Pantomime) or have reduced in the last year (Gift aid from HMRC, Gift Day, Investment income, SaFCo) all of which mount up.

On the other hand, expenditure hasn't and doesn't seem to reduce accordingly. Our Circuit assessment costs us £31000 per year and the gas bill runs in the region of £6000 per year.

So, as our own lives continue to be greatly affected of the Covid-19 pandemic, so does the life and the future of our church, just as many businesses and other organisations are. If we are to survive this difficult time, we have to find ways of increasing our income.

Church Council agreed to hold another Gift Day on Sunday 6th December to at least try to raise some much needed funds. Please try to help and donate if you can. Any donation however small will help.

If you are able to increase your offertory, or sign up to gift aiding your offertory if you are a UK tax payer and don't already gift aid it, this would all help.

I had to suggest to the recent Church Council meeting that if our financial situation didn't improve substantially and soon, we may have to seriously consider whether or not we can remain in our current building, which as you will appreciate is large and is an expensive building to maintain. This could well be on the Church Council meeting agenda for this time next year if things don't improve in the meantime.

I sincerely hope that together we can get Wesley through this difficult period in its history and on behalf of Church Council and the Church trustees, I thank you in advance for anything you can do to try to turn this financial situation around.

Thank you for reading this, stay safe and I look forward to a better 2021 for you, your families and for Wesley.

Ian P Collett
Church Treasurer.

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ANCHOR BOYS

The Anchor Boys have continued to be busy. We made it to the end of the alphabet on 23rd October, I can't believe we have been meeting on Zoom for over 26 weeks. Since then we have had a virtual campfire, singing the songs that we sang each week of our alphabet meetings, we made chocolate finger sparklers and s'mores. We are going to commemorate Remembrance Day, celebrate Mickey Mouse's birthday, take part in a puppet workshop and have lots of activities planned for Christmas.

As many of you know each Christmas, we produce large pieces of artwork for church, this year has been no different, we didn't let the pandemic stop us. Each boy had a section delivered to them for them to paint, which we then but together to complete the pictures. As you can see from the photographs below, they made a really good job of them.

The Anchor Boys would like to wish everyone a very happy Christmas and a healthy and peaceful 2021.



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JUNIOR SECTION

We have kept in contact with our lads throughout all of these difficult times. Firstly, we set up a whatsapp group posting activities each Friday for the lads to take part in. With them sending a photo of their finished activities e.g. collect an item from your house for each letter of your name lay them out and photograph them they had a time limit. It was surprising how imaginative they were We tried to involve the parents to so. We one week we asked them to build a freestanding tower. Much to my surprise one family sent me a photo of their tower going up through the loft hatch it was so tall. After a few weeks we realised we need to do more, so as Kirsty had used zoom for work, we looked into having a go. After a few teething problems we managed to get all the lads involved. So, we decided we needed a theme and chose the rainbow with each week being a different colour. We finished that theme and moved onto the alphabet and have had fun finding things to match up with the letters each week.

A animals
B balls
D design and draw
C cooking
E energy
F football
G games
H hands
I insects

That is where we are now. We have managed games, quizzes, Craft, activities, Sport, cooking and much more. I have surprised myself with what we have achieved as I am very much a technophobe. Some of you will know Kirsty has moved to Lincoln but due to us meeting on zoom she is still able to join us each week. We had a Battalion parade service online with lads and staff taking part in items that where pre-recorded. The Battalion are still trying to run competitions with the current one being a photo competition with different age groups. The theme is seasonal snaps. We have managed to keep all but one of the lads, With most of them on every week. So, although it has been a very different and sometimes difficult junior section, we as a staff feel it has been well worth the effort and hard work. We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy Christmas. And until we can all meet again safely. Take care and stay safe.

Julie, Andrew and Kirsty.

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It was with sadness that we had to close our face to face meetings back in March. During the Lockdown we kept in touch with the girls through texts and letters and the occasional gift. When it became clear that physical meetings would not be happening for a while, we decided to make our meetings virtual, like so many other groups.

We held our first zoom meeting the first week in September and it was so lovely to see everyone's face! The girls appeared to really enjoy themselves and we have continued to meet weekly since then. We are basing our planning around the alphabet, but we have also had a virtual Halloween games night and thought about the significance of the Poppy and Remembrance day. We will continue to meet like this for the foreseeable future and have lots of fun activities planned in the run up to Christmas.

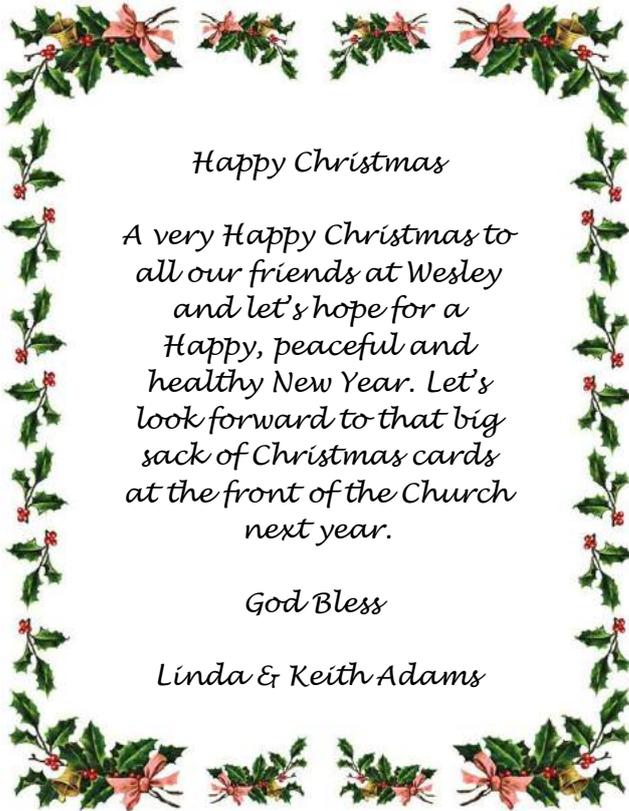
We would like to wish everyone a very happy Christmas, stay safe and we look forward to the day when we can all be in the same room.

Rebecca, Jemma, Jasmine and Kirsty.



SPOTLITE December 2020

CHRISTMAS WISHES



Happy Christmas

*A very Happy Christmas to
all our friends at Wesley
and let's hope for a
Happy, peaceful and
healthy New Year. Let's
look forward to that big
sack of Christmas cards
at the front of the Church
next year.*

God Bless

Linda & Keith Adams



*Happy Christmas to
everyone
Best wishes until we
can meet again
Stay safe and take
care
Lots of Love Julie
xx 🌲 🧑🏻 🧑🏻 🧑🏻 🧑🏻*

*Sending Christmas
greetings and love to all at
Wesley
Out of site but not out of
mind
God Bless
Maggie, Matt and Mikey*

*Wishing all our friends at Wesley a very happy Christmas and a
healthy, safe and peaceful New Year.
With love and best wishes from
Rebecca, Chris, Jess and Beth*





Happy Christmas to Everyone

- 1) *This Christmas time won't be the same
With loved ones lost, we'll feel the pain
But God will help us through his tide
We know he's always at our side.*

- 2) *And as we decorate the tree
With Angels, the Manger and Wise Men three
Let's just remember our family and friends
Our love for them will never end.*

- 3) *Not many cards we'll send this year
But our love for each other will still be clear
A chat on the phone which causes a laugh
Will help us through this difficult patch.*

- 4) *How lucky we are at Wesley Church
Friends never leave us in the lurch
We'll miss the things we normally do
But Zoom Connect and Spotlight will see us
through.*

- 5) *So Happy Christmas to all of you
And when the vaccine can get through
We'll raise our glass of Communion wine!!
And wish each other a wonderful time.*

God Bless. Love Ann & Derek.



 We wish
all our friends
at Wesley a
Happy
Christmas and
look forward
to seeing you
all when this is
all over.

God Bless

*Maureen and
Keith.*



*Wishing everyone at
Wesley a Happy
Christmas*

God Bless

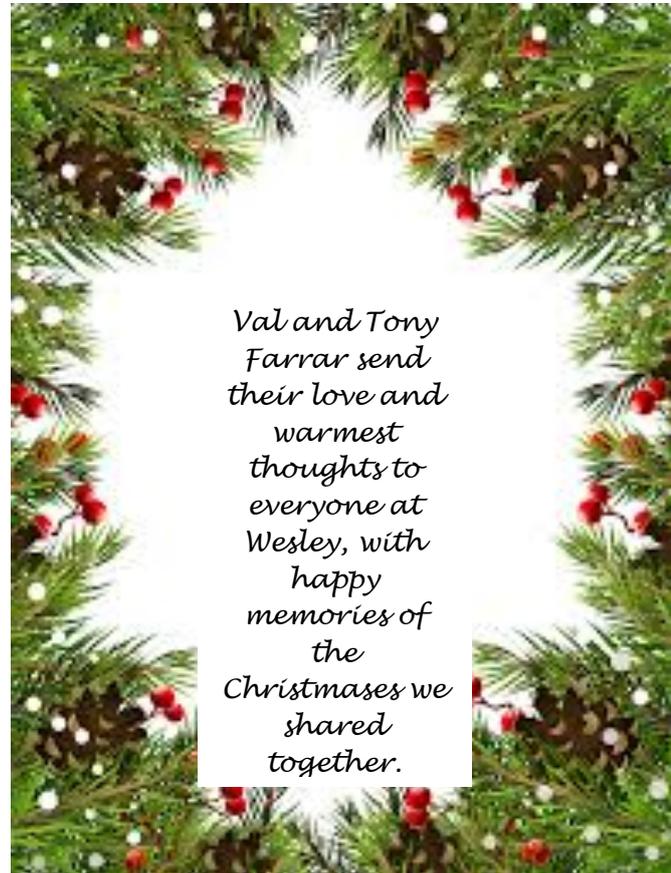
Michael Sorrill



*We might be apart this Christmas, but
you are in our thoughts. Take
care, stay safe in these uncertain times.*

Happy Christmas to you all

Love Michael and Carol xx



*Val and Tony
Farrar send
their love and
warmest
thoughts to
everyone at
Wesley, with
happy
memories of
the
Christmases we
shared
together.*



*To my friends at
Wesley;
"May you have the
gladness of
Christmas which is
hope;
The spirit of
Christmas which is
peace;
The heart of
Christmas which is
love."
Helen (Osborne)
and family xxx*





SPOTLITE
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SUDOKU

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



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WORDSEARCH

Christmas Word Search



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

BELLS
 STOCKINGS
 WREATH
 ELVES
 SLED

CELEBRATE
 EGGNOG
 TREE
 JOLLY
 SANTA

MERRY
 MISTLETOE
 CHIMNEY
 REINDEER



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ANSWERS

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

Christmas Word Search



AN
FR
YJWZ
KZ IY
TWKPEY
KFUDCV
X JOLLY GJ
GMYS J VSL
GBUBLMJZSC
DHVSLPXVIG
TRQOPERHLHBA
TFINTBCWPJNL
RSYZOKTBMOSOIZ
ETYL PWOAEURUUT
CEJCYITTJLUHCLPP
NDCVDUGKAIVPFQBT
OSNYLEDMSQWGYVBP SA
PKIGFAI IWUSSQEHVVR
TREE XSYESWZTPOBJGSLP
LWVRELUCTELVESNDYUFC
IQPNLFEKELEGGNOG DFTMIX
AYGSRZDJLEQVNT OJGXSBBN
PPTBOCXRZETNBIMUIEPJDMDY
Y P S O H J B S B O M M P O B V C J N N H L H
UNRUALIVMFR EQVMQIXTWDHWXGP
RFRVNBMSCHAXQSGNIKCOTSC TFE
MLFEPTQNI IHTNGTGCOEXARMAZAKW
CVXMQAYEORFERPRVNWXBDLCKOYXR
UGKFJZJHYNHTAERWXBHMTUOHOQPFWO
FWIVOGBINXKCOVXAYNOA IWZNPYOVL M

BELLS
STOCKINGS
WREATH
ELVES
SLED

CELEBRATE
EGGNOG
TREE
JOLLY
SANTA

MERRY
MISTLETOE
CHIMNEY
REINDEER

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December 2020

NEXT EDITION FEBRUARY

Information regarding all things Wesley can be found below.

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



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
JANUARY PLEASE**

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.wesleywestbrom.co.uk

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 FEBRUARY if you have anything to go into this issue please let me have your notices by Monday 8TH JANUARY 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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Minister of Wesley: - Rev. Philip Thomas Manse Tel: - 0121 588 3373 Circuit Office Tel: - 0121 553 2085 Email: - philthomas82@hotmail.com

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