

Triangle

The quarterly magazine of the
Methodist Churches of Springdale,
Wombourne and Gospel Ash



Autumn 2012

Wombourne Methodist Church

CHRISTMAS

BAZAAR

Wombourne

Community Centre

Saturday 24th November

2012

10:00 am - 12:00 noon

Entrance, 30p

Lots of Stalls, Home made cakes, Jam, Raffle,

Toiletries, Hamper, & much more.

Refreshments

Please come along and have a lovely morning



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Springdale Christmas Fair

Saturday 1st December

12 noon - 2pm

Santa's Grotto,

Cakes & Homemade,

Raffle, Books, Gifts,

Tombolas, Toys, White Elephant, Games,

Refreshments and lots more!



Springdale Vestry News

Sheila Evans, Senior Steward



It would be good for me to say I hope you all had a good summer and that you were feeling refreshed and ready to tackle whatever the Autumn brings us. Unfortunately “Summer” was washed away this year but we still enjoyed quite a memorable time in our Church life.

On the 2nd June we held our Jubilee tea in the Church hall for everyone in our local community who answered our invitations. The weather was mixed but our hall was packed with people enjoying the buffet, the games outside on the grass and the entertainment provided (Penn Puppets etc.). There was a wonderful feeling of fellowship with many “Mums” saying it was a lovely “community happening and it was free”!

On 10th June we had great pleasure in welcoming the family and friends of Alice Weir and Scarlet and Jasper Malcolm for their baptisms, and welcoming Teresa Malcolm as a member of Springdale Church. Sunday 22nd July saw the baptisms of Paul and Debbie Merchant and Daniel Wood and the Confirmations of Paul, Debbie and Dave Barnes. This was a service of great joy for everyone.

Our Summer Fair was held on 16th June and was successful despite the poor weather. We are very grateful to all who helped in any way with it.

Saturday 21st July saw an evening of “fun, food and fellowship” when we all enjoyed a leaving party for Robert, Teresa and their family. Tributes were paid by the Clergy from the Covenant Churches, presents from various Church groups, Stewards and the Church congregation were handed over (many of which caused great amusement), and we had a programme of entertainment. It was an enjoyable and moving time for all.

We have had the pleasure of meeting new Ministers and local preachers who have led our services during this minister-less time and we are grateful to members of our Church congregation for helping when we have been unable to call on anyone else. Thank you and God bless you all.

Wombourne Vestry News

Jane Meddings, Senior Steward

So...that was summer!! I hope you have managed to take advantage of precious sunny days and warm evenings as well as enjoying the unique experience that was London 2012.

It's been a busy time in the life of our church. We held our very first Flower Festival over the Jubilee Bank Holiday weekend and I was amazed at just how much (often very much hidden) talent there is among our congregation. The church was transformed, and every one of the groups within the church had put a great deal of thought into their own individual display. Our thanks to Doreen who came up with the original idea, and to all those who supported her in bringing the idea to life in a very short period of time.

We shared in Teresa's last service at Wombourne at the beginning of June and that evening our choir joined with soloists, musicians and choirs from a number of local churches in the Wombourne Music Festival. This has become an annual week-long event and, if you missed it this time round, can I encourage you to support it next year - I can guarantee there will be something for all tastes.

The following week was our Church Family week and thanks as always have to go to those who take time to organise this. Our annual BBQ with the cubs and scouts, which we hold prior to the evening parade service, was very well attended and it was great to see so many people eating and playing games together. Robert conducted a lively service and we used instruments to boost some of the songs. The service concluded with everyone making a "prayeroplane" which we flew simultaneously down the church, marking the final landing with a resounding Amen!

In July we celebrated the baptism of Zoey Lacey and members of the baptism party helped Robert demonstrate how the wise man built his house upon the rock and the foolish man built his upon the sand!! Was this our first foray into "messy church"?

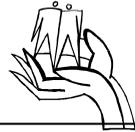
And so the round of farewells to Robert and Teresa began with a Circuit Service at Springdale. It was a meaningful service, and gave us the first opportunity to celebrate their time with us. The circuit choir sang and Robert had chosen a hymn - *God Who Has Sent Us On a Journey*. How appropriate that Rev Jean Spragg from Wombourne URC church remembered that we had sung the same hymn 5 years previous when Robert had first come to “pitch his tent” in this area.

We were fortunate that Robert’s final service at Wombourne was on the very last Sunday morning in July. This enabled us to plan a bring and share lunch to say our farewells in a relaxed way (and across heaving tables of food!!) We were delighted to receive Amanda Slater-Morris into membership during the service and I know how privileged Robert felt to be able to carry this out before he left. Stewards past and present joined with Denis in a short speech interspersed with some songs telling of some of Roberts “highlights” over the past 5 years and we presented him with a number of gifts which we hope reflected his life and work with us. Thanks must go to Cathy Anderson who wrote some lovely words to a familiar hymn tune for us all to sing together to send them on their way. Robert and Teresa will be missed by us all and we wish them every happiness as they start this new stage of their life in Ely.

So that almost brings me up to date. Our service at the beginning of August was a local arrangement and I must offer my personal thanks to everyone who took part in it, both in the planning and on the day when you had to cover for my illness at short notice. I bet the smell of baking bread had the congregation drooling!!! I think we will be needing to continue to work together to fill some of the gaps on the plan this year, and I am keen to build up a group of worship planners, so if there is anyone who sits in church thinking “I wish I could be part of that” do please come and have a word with me or one of the other stewards. It may be something you are hesitant about doing but let me share some words from Mother Teresa with you: “*I know God won’t give me anything I cant handle – I just wish He didn’t trust me so much!*”. So have faith – you can do it!! We know that God will be with us all during this coming year and together we will rise to new challenges and experiences.

Springdale Pastoral News

Jane Rawlings, Pastoral Secretary



Hello all! It has been a while since my last message, but what a lot of things we have had to celebrate during this time.

Since June we have had the privilege to play a part in eight baptisms. Firstly, on the 10th June we had Scarlet and Jasper Malcolm along with Alice Weir. Then on the 15th July it was Joshua Plant's special day. On the 22nd July we had the very special occasion of three baptisms - two adults and one child from the same family. First there was Daniel and then his mother Debbie and his uncle Paul what an extra special day that was for everyone concerned. Finally on the 19th August we had Sofia Paige Amelia come for baptism. Each and every one was a joy to be a part of and we send our love to all the children and adults baptised, may they all continue to grow in the knowledge that God is with them every step of the way.

As mentioned already above the 22nd July was a very special occasion with three baptisms but this was only the beginning. On this special day we welcomed Debbie Merchant, Paul Merchant and Dave Barnes into full membership of the Methodist Church. It was a very moving service for all those taking part and also for everyone who was there to witness this joyous day in their lives. We welcome you all to our membership at Springdale and look forward to journeying with you as we all continue walking with Christ.

Some of our Springdale family are, however, finding things hard at the moment. We think especially of Betty Sennitt; Madge Scriven who is currently in New Cross Hospital; Ruth and Bob Tong who, I understand, are improving, but they are taking each day as it comes and are taking things slowly. We continue to remember and pray for all those unable to worship with us regularly due to poor health and hope that God's healing hand will strengthen them during this time.

I don't know what was happening nine months ago but we seem to be having a bit of a baby boom at the moment! Layla Belinda was born on

13th July daughter for Anna and Teza, a new granddaughter for Sue and great granddaughter for Denis and Val. Lewis William was next on 2nd August son for Charlotte and Andrew and a new grandson for Jackie and Ken Nielson. And, as the saying goes, you wait for ages and then three come along as on 16th August Piper Rae was born a daughter for Claire and Rob Ash and first grandchild for Diane and Dave Partridge. Congratulations to everyone, may we thank God for their safe arrivals and ask Him to watch over them as they start their lives.

It is that time of year again when our young people are all anxiously awaiting results. Well the wait is finally over. Congratulations to Fiona Jones on her A Level results and gaining a place at Keele University. Congratulations to all who have received results, may we wish you every success in the future wherever things may lead you.

Well what a busy few months we have had and it is going to be a busy year ahead without a Minister but be reassured that arrangements are in place for pastoral care. A pastoral care team has been set up and should you have any concerns I would ask you to speak to one of the team who are listed on the top of the weekly notice sheet and also in the following article.

Go forward in the knowledge that we are never alone. God Bless.

Don't Panic!

Arrangements for Pastoral Care at Springdale - Wendy Gould

We all know that it will not be easy to have a year without a minister, and we shall very much miss Robert's pastoral care. But in any Christian church, people have a responsibility to care for one another. In the Methodist Church this is formalised with the appointment of Pastoral (or Class) Leaders, each having the responsibility of care of a group of church members. During this year we shall as a church be particularly grateful to our Pastoral Leaders for their role in pastoral care, and also for those who distribute the church flowers and pray regularly for those in need. The church has appointed a Pastoral Care Team for the period that we are without a minister. This consists of :-

Richard French, Lay Worker
Wendy Gould, Pastoral Care Co-ordinator
Penny Baldwin, Church Secretary
Jane Rawlings, Pastoral Secretary
Sheila Evans, Senior Church Steward
Liz Green, Circuit Steward

This group will share information on a weekly basis and arrange an appropriate response to people who are ill or in other pastoral need. Please contact a member of the group, or the church office (338420) with any needs of which you become aware, including emergencies.

And from Liz Green:

The Circuit Invitations Committee are reviewing and updating the profile for Springdale, Wombourne and Gospel Ash churches at the moment ready for it to be submitted again at the end of September. There should be more information available at the Circuit Meeting at St John's on September 13th and during the Autumn.



Wombourne Pastoral News

Pauline Hotchkiss, Pastoral Secretary



I continue to ask that God will keep me focused as I am sharing news about our church family.

Our prayer circle continues to meet bi-monthly to look at the names on our prayer list and those written in our Prayer Book. Since the last time of writing we have been asked for prayers for a number of very sick people. Four of those on our list have died and we continue to pray for their families as they come to terms with their loss. We also remember our housebound members and those who are being cared for away from their homes, and those who are sick. Robert and Denis and Pastoral Leaders visit them regularly and are able to report back to the meeting.

We thank God for all those people who have had a special birthday or anniversary recently, especially Val and Stan Edwards who celebrated 60 years of marriage with a special greeting from Her Majesty the Queen Elizabeth. We also congratulate Elizabeth Martin who was 21 in June. We ask that God will continue to bless them.

Good News

We have received news about Katie (nee Groves). She is working with The Salvation Army helping abused women and also helping young people to find work. Katie was a faithful member of Junior Church. Well done Katie, we are very proud of you.

Carole and Eric Walker are delighted that their grandson has gained a place at university - congratulations Owen.

“It was Reverend Robert’s last baptismal service at Wombourne on Sunday 1st July. The church was full and Zoey’s family and friends all came along and joined us. The service went well and some of the children joined Robert when he told the story of the foolish man who built his house upon the sands - they certainly enjoyed this, especially when the “rocks” fell down. Thank you, Robert, for all the baptisms you have carried out while you have been with us and for the kindness and help you have

shown to all the families. Our love and prayers go with you and your family as you move on into your future.”

Gill Worrall

Since August we have been without a minister. We pray especially for Denis Beaumont, our lay worker, and Jane Meddings, senior steward, as they take on the responsibility for the management of church matters for the coming year. We also pray for Reverend Lawrence, who will be supporting our congregation in a ministerial role.

Friends of Kenya's Children

We welcomed Pastor Kenneth and Sandra Noon to a Bring and Share Lunch on Saturday 18th August. Pastor Kenneth is the Director of the The Eldoret School, in the Rift Valley, and the Lodwar Orphanage in the North of Kenya. We support FKC as a partner. We gained up to date knowledge of how the school and orphanage are going and we were able to hand over a wonderful selection of jumpers and knitted items, made by the Craft & Chat group and their friends, for him to take back. We also gave our unwanted goods (trash) to Sandra for her Saturday Sales, to turn into (treasure). Donations were also given to Sandra for the partnership. Lunch, as usual, was splendid and the fellowship was blessed.

As I am preparing this report I have received news that Claire (Carole & Eric Walker's granddaughter) has done extremely well with GCSE's as too, Teddy Martin (Doreen & John Pike's grandson). Very well done to both of you.

As I am writing, the time is approaching for the season of Harvest. A lovely time of year when we remember everything that God has given us.

Finally, I would like to share these few words with you:

When we go about our daily business we often have no real idea what others we meet might be going through, or just what a help a sunny disposition might be. And because we never know, we should always put our best attitude forward – just in case.

Inspired on Holiday

Carole and Eric Walker

If you are ever staying on the north Norfolk coast we recommend that you visit St. Andrew's Methodist Church in Sheringham. Eric and I were fortunate in being able to attend the morning service in the middle of July and were extremely warmly welcomed. It was the fourth and last day of their Annual Flower Festival, which completely 'bowled' us over. We find it difficult to find sufficient words to do it justice. The overall theme was 'Reaching Out', with well over thirty-five exhibits, each depicting an aspect of the theme. For example:

- To communicate
- To guide and direct
- With food to share
- To Encourage
- To young people
- Ripples on a pond

The church opened in 1968, and has several unusual (we thought so) things to see, such as

- The communion rail and table are circular, to emphasise the 'togetherness' of the participants. Above the table is a central light with twelve surrounding lights representing Christ and His disciples.
- The pulpit is in the form of a prow of a boat.
- Three lights above the pulpit, lectern and cross represent the Trinity.
- Carpets in the church have significance: blue in the main body of the church represents the sea; gold at the front represents the beach and sand.
- A fifty foot tower stands at the entrance to the church. It is surmounted by four stainless steel crosses. This is floodlit and can be seen from the sea.
- Speakers for the relaying of recorded bells are positioned on the outside of the church and can be heard prior to services and after weddings.

To quote from the last aspect mentioned above from the Flower Festival: "If you throw a pebble into a pool of water, the ripples spread out in ever-increasing circles." We too can help to spread the good news of the love of God by being that pebble which starts the ripples spreading out.

Singing the Faith at Gospel Ash

Jackie Neilson, member of Springdale Methodist Church, Wolverhampton Circuit. April 2012

A tiny church in our Circuit , we visit once a month
To receive faith and fellowship, and a welcome for everyone.

These Thursday morns are special, people come from far and wide,
To enjoy a special atmosphere, as hymns are sung with pride.

We sing the Gospel here, loud and clear,
We fill this holy place, full of love, no fear.

"Be still for the presence of the Lord", we always begin,
It focuses our thoughts, we feel the stillness in.

Our minister leads our prayers and reading, members offer poems and prose,
Many choose a favourite hymn, Fred sings us a special solo.

There's a special presence here, people sing with passion and faith,
We almost raise the roof, in God's holy place.

We close with "We are on the Lord's side", in memory of Ash,
Singing with joyfulness, for our friends of Gospel Ash.

Whatever the weather, rain or shine,
God sends a ray of brightness, every time.

And he feeds our soul as we journey on.

When Visiting a Church in Somerset

Jackie Neilson

When visiting a church in Somerset, actually St. Mary's Church at Nether Stowey, this poem was in the porch. I thought I'd share it with you.

Armour of God

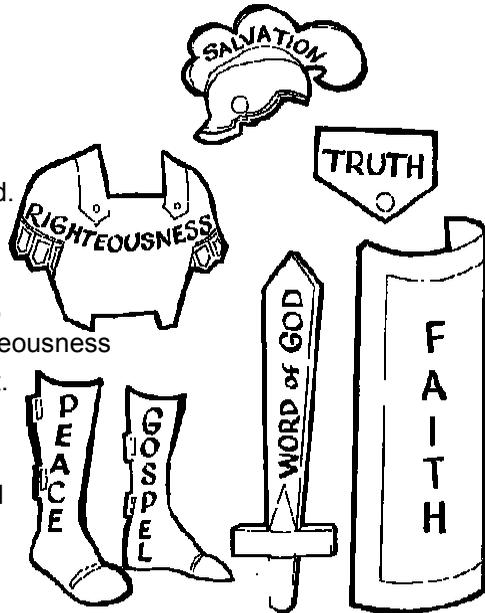
When I get up in the morning
I put on the armour of God,
I buckle on the belt of truth,
With sandals of peace I am shod.

I carry the shield of my faith.
I won't fear each arrow and dart,
Because the breastplate of righteousness
Is strongly surrounding my heart.

And the helmet of salvation
Is then firmly placed on my head
And I hold the sword of spirit
When into the battle I'm led.

Not every day is a battle
But we know the way must be trod,
So I get up in the morning
And put on the armour of God.

By Jill James,
based on Ephesians Ch.6 v13-17.



God's golden success is
the human race!

A Thought for Harvest

Jackie Neilson, August 2012

It was tradition for the last sheaf from the harvest to be kept and made into a dolly. Folk believed retaining some ears of grain throughout the year, until next year's harvest, would ensure another fruitful year. This poem I came across in a watermill in Somerset.

Corn Dolly

"Tis but a thing of straw" they said
Yet even straw can sturdy be
Plaited into a doll like me,
And in the days of long ago
To help the seeds once more to grow
I was offering to the gods.
A very simple way indeed
Of asking them to intercede
That barn and granary o'flow
At harvest time with fruit and corn
To fill again Amalthea's horn.

Anon

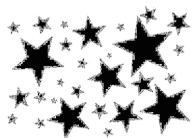


Wives Group Notice

Any past members of Springdale Wives Group who would like to join them on 18th October at 8pm for their 50th anniversary celebrations, please contact either Ann Humpherson or Meg Gough or leave a message at church which can then be relayed to The Wives Group, we would love to see you! Buffet and entertainment included during the evening.

Stars

Sheila Sanders



Whilst looking through an old scrapbook belonging to my mother I came across this poem which my brother Ian wrote back in class 2a! Sadly Ian is no longer with us but his words give our family comfort and hope.

One by one those glistening spheres twinkle in the sky,
Peering from a universe to tell us night is nigh,
Like a diamond or an opal or a spangled light,
Peering like a gentle mother on to earth so bright.

Do they hold great secrets to which we have no right?
And do they whisper gently to the dark mysterious night?
Are they eyes to glisten and guide us on our way,
Like the Star of Bethlehem that shone on Christmas Day?

Ian Whitfield

Deadline for the next edition of Triangle is

Sunday 25 November.

Please would all stewards, pastoral secretaries, etc., etc. make a note in their diaries so as not to miss this deadline. Thank you.

Remember! No photocopies! Please check copyright and gain permission where necessary! Email if you can - it makes things so much easier! Thanks!

Please hand in your articles directly, or via your stewards, to **Helen Cooper** Alternatively, follow the link on the Springdale website in the "contacts" section (www.springdalechurch.org.uk) or just email to [triangle\[at\]springdalechurch.org.uk](mailto:triangle[at]springdalechurch.org.uk)