

Triangle

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



Summer 2011

Message from the Manse

Rev Robert Ely

We can't stand still! If you've ever had back trouble, you'll know that's true: keeping on the move is usually much better than standing still. It's the same in the church: we must keep on the move to stop ourselves "stiffening up".

So on June 12th we are going to worship in a different way at Springdale. It will be Pentecost, the day when we remember the coming of the Holy Spirit and the birthday of the Christian Church. So we are going to celebrate that with party-style worship. It will be worship "Cafe Style", quite informal and yet reverent.

We shall meet in the hall rather than the "church", coffee (or tea) will be served as you arrive, and also all the important parts of worship will be present: prayers, singing, bible reading and a message. I do hope everyone will make an effort to be there, and perhaps bring their friends who may be reluctant to join in a traditional type of church service.

And how and whether and when we do this again will depend on your response: I know you will be ready to tell us what you think! It's a bit of an experiment. This does involve those of you connected with other churches too, because we all need to be thinking about how the church can move forward with new styles of worship for the society we now live in. "Cafe Church" has proved very successful in many places: why not at Springdale?

Let us all pray that we may always be on the lookout for new ways of worshipping our wonderful God.

With Christian greetings,

Robert



PENTECOST

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Springdale Vestry News

Bernard Davis, Senior Steward



This is my first contribution to Triangle as Senior Steward. I am delighted that my fellow stewards are so dedicated and supportive. Judith, who has just finished her year as Senior Steward, was a very good leader and she has been very diligent in preparing me so well to take over from her. She has also given much advice and help to Sheila Sanders who became a Steward on 1st May. We say a sincere thank you to Judy and a warm welcome to Sheila. While meditating along the beach at Pensarn on 28th April I asked God's help for my year as Senior Steward. I thanked God for all the dedicated people at Springdale whose gifts I shall be able to rely on during this coming year.

Lent was very late this year. Shrove Tuesday was the 8th of March and, unfortunately, Hot Pot clashed with the Ecumenical Event at St Michael's. Springdale was well represented in the Lent House Groups and the Saturday Lent Lunches. Thanks to Helen Cook for organising the Lent House Group meeting at Springdale on 9th March and for feeding us all, and also to the ladies who provided the Lent Lunch at Springdale on 2nd April.

During Lent the Sunday morning services were enhanced and made more meaningful by the Lent Liturgies Thanks to Denis, Val and others for organising themes and providing symbols and for all who took part. On Sunday 27th March Springdale Junior School Choir assisted our worship with some beautiful singing.

During Holy Week we were sustained by the 8.00am Good Friday Service and some of us joined the congregation at St Michael's for their special service to celebrate Christ's passion and death. The people who attended the 11.45pm Holy Saturday service at Springdale found it very moving.

All the services on Easter Sunday were joyful and thanks to Robert for all his hard work during Lent and Holy Week to make the season relevant and meaningful.

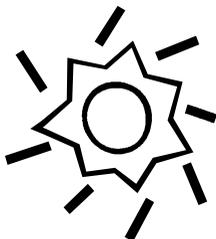
On Saturday 5th March we had our Re-launch Day to encourage us towards a final push to raise money for the next stage of our re-development. This involves new building between the church and the church hall. The Re-launch was successful and work started on 16th May and should run for 12 to 14 weeks. Richard Gould kindly attended the Stewards' meeting on 5th May to explain how to access the church and other ramifications. By the time you read this you will, I hope, have adapted to the necessary temporary changes. We all need to pull together and put up with the necessary inconveniences in a true Christian spirit.

The summer is fast approaching and we have some special services to look forward to. Café Church will take place on Sunday 12th June at 10.30am. I look forward to this new act of worship with great expectations! On 17th July there will be an Open Air Service which will include a baptism. This promises to be very exciting.

Our Summer Fair will go ahead in spite of the builders being on the church premises.

May God's Spirit be with us all during these next crucial months of our re-development

**SPRINGDALE CHURCH SUMMER FAIR
SATURDAY 18 JUNE
12 NOON - 2PM**



**CRAFTS, GAMES, BOOKS, TOYS, CAKES,
WHITE ELEPHANT, REFRESHMENTS
RAFFLE, & PLENTY MORE!**

Wombourne Vestry News

Charles Clowes



As I begin another year as Senior Steward I would like to thank Brenda for four years of dedicated service in the Vestry. She brought fresh ideas and a calm and caring presence to the role. We now welcome Diana Beaumont to join us on the team.

Four new Worship Assistants (Janet Fenney, Sylvia Webb, Pat Beddall and Diana Spreadbury) mean that preparation for worship will continue to run smoothly. Gill Worrall has taken on the role of Cradle Roll Secretary, June Horton has joined the Communion Team and Pauline Hotchkiss has become Pastoral Secretary. Many Thanks to Carole Walker, Janice Venables and Sandra Clowes for their loyal service in these roles over many years. We are deeply indebted to all who help in so many ways from organists, flower arrangers, cleaners, etc – too many to mention - thank you all.

I must not forget Paul Anderson and his helpers who work tirelessly to make sure our building is properly looked after. The new double glazing in the school room (thanks to the bequest in memory of Millie Bourne) will make a tremendous difference to all activities in the school rooms.

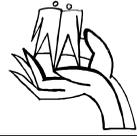
At Easter, Lent lunches and the 'Tools for the Journey' Lent groups provided stimulating afternoons for fellowship and discussion. Palm Sunday was a wonderful time when the Choir and a few good men sang the Easter Story in Jerusalem Joy by Roger Jones. The Lenten symbols, the Tomb made by Janet Fenney and Helen Vintner and 'Dressing the Cross' all provided focal points for reflection.

In Christian Aid week Robert reminded us that it is because of our faith we must act in caring for others both at home and in poorer countries.

We look forward to the summer months, to celebrating Church Family Week. For many people the quieter months give us a chance to recharge our batteries. But what is Church other than the place that we may come and draw strength from the one who is the source of life, love and peace!

Springdale Pastoral News

Jane Rawlings, Pastoral Secretary



As I am writing this the sun is shining and what a few weeks we have had; let's hope this is not summer come early. But the sun definitely shows off God's creation at its best with all the glorious colours and scents around.

Well it has been a while since my last message and what a lot has happened. We have had some good news with the announcement of Lucy Gilbert and Andrew Cook's engagement - we wish them both the best for their future together. The wedding is to take place in October so is fast approaching and is definitely an event to look forward to.

We have welcomed the families of three little ones who have been brought for baptism - Amelia Jayne Harris and Danny Joe Embrey on the 20th February and then Chloe Elizabeth Pettey on 10th April - these are always joyous occasions and may God bless each of them. Another joyous occasion was the safe arrival of Arthur Douglas Peterson on 4th April. The duties of big brother now begin for Reuben - I am sure he will do an excellent job. Congratulations to Rachel and James and the rest of the family.

A number of our church family have been in hospital in the recent weeks and months; some have been blessed with a speedy recovery whereas others have still got some way to go. Val Champion has undergone a hip operation and although not fully recovered she is doing very well, under the care of Denis. Rene Poulson unfortunately had a fall while away on holiday, but is now back in Wolverhampton and is recovering in Woden House. Vera Green has also had a fall but is not doing so well and remains in New Cross Hospital. We wish everyone who has had to undergo any medical treatment a speedy recovery. We pray that God will be with you all and give you strength each day.

We continue to pray for Sheila and Fred Thompson. Sheila is quite weak now but loves to catch up with all the news from Springdale. Zherron and Brian Fereday - Zherron keeps fighting on and I am sure it is

her family that gives her the strength to cope with each day. May God bless you all and we send all our prayers and blessings from your family at Springdale.

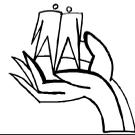
Congratulations to Judy and Phil Staley on the birth of a another granddaughter, Rebecca Grace, born on the 15th May, a daughter for Heather and Matt and sister for Hannah and Alice.

As we know those birthdays keep coming around and some are more significant than others. For all who have recently celebrated a birthday, significant or not, we send our best wishes.

As we approach the summer I hope you all find time to relax and enjoy yourselves whether here in Wolverhampton or further afield.

Wombourne Pastoral News

Carole Walker, Pastoral Secretary



This is my first report as Pastoral Secretary and I ask God to help me carry out this task with humility and sensitivity. I would like to thank the Pastoral Group leaders for the ongoing care and support they give to their members and also the help given to me in passing on news for this report.

As I write, I am thinking about Mary McMaster. We will have said our farewell to Mary on 18th May. She had been suffering for a long time but is now at peace. She had been a faithful member at Common Road for many years. She will be remembered for her loyalty and commitment, especially by the Wives Group and the Ladies Fellowship. We thank God for her quiet witness and pray for her family as they mourn her passing. We ask that God will bless them at this sad time and that they will come to know his peace.

Writing about Mary leads me on to tell you about a lovely visit I had with Audrey Harris, who was Mary's special friend. David and I called to see her and although she didn't know *who* we were it was obvious to us that she *knew* us. She was overjoyed to see us and I am pleased to say how happy and well she is.

Our prayer circle has twelve members and we meet bi-monthly to look at the names on our prayer list. This helps me to remember all our housebound members and those who are being cared for away from their homes. Jack and Ivy Cartwright (our oldest church member) have been at Prestwood almost a year now.

We thank God for all those people who have had a special birthday or anniversary recently, especially Donald Bailey, who is now 90, and Gwen Herapath who celebrated her 89th birthday in May. (Can we ask that God will be with Edith Bailey. She is suffering with shingles.) David and I celebrated our 30th wedding anniversary in April and we are always mindful of God's presence in our lives and thank him for the many blessings we receive. Congratulations go to Pat Stoker on the birth of a new grandson, George – may they all receive God's love and blessings.

I am pleased to report that Martin Cresswell and Phil Shuttleworth are improving slowly after their surgery. Joyce Brandrick has had surgery to her wrist and for her and those of our members and friends who have been in hospital recently we ask God to bless them and any others who are receiving ongoing treatment or waiting for further consultation.

As I am writing the time is approaching for exams and for leaving school/college and taking the next step. Our congratulations go to Emma, Barbara and Ray Springthorpe's granddaughter, who has gained a place at the Girls' High School. For all those in our families who are at this stage in their lives I pray for God's blessings.

If I have failed to mention anyone with a need or with good news then I apologise. Hopefully by the next Triangle I will have caught up!

Finally, I would like to share these few words which I think sum up what pastoral care is all about: The key to being the best friend possible is this - "A friend never gets in your way --- unless you happen to be going down".



Penn & Merryhill Local Policing Unit

Ron Price



Dear All,

I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to feature in your magazine. I would firstly like to introduce myself. I am Sergeant Ron Price, and I lead your local neighbourhood policing team. I have 16 years policing experience, the last two and a half years of which have been at Penn and Merryhill. The team covers Penn, Merryhill, Warstones, Springhill, and a small part of Bradmore.

I was very happy to be given the position at Penn as I have some very close links to the area. I am Wolverhampton born and bred and used to attend Colton Hills School at both the Manor Road and Jeremy Road sites. I socialised at 2 local pubs (Battle of Britain and Rose and Crown) and played football for both. I have family in Penn and still have contact with a lot of old friends from the area.

I have lived in Blakenhall, Castlecroft, Merryhill and Bradmore so I like to think I know the area and people well.

The purpose of having a feature in this magazine is to keep you informed of local crime trends and areas that are most affected. Currently the biggest threat to our neighbourhood is burglary and vehicle crime. Please do all you can to give the appearance that someone is in at home. Leave a light, TC or radio on. If you have an alarm ensure it is armed. Always remove post from the letterbox and milk from the doorstep. Burglars do not like to work hard so let's not help them.

If you can garage your vehicle overnight then do so. If you can't, never leave anything of value within; not even spare change in the console. If you have a satnav remove it and wipe away the sucker mark from the window. Offenders have been known to enter a car and search it simply because the sucker mark alerts them to satnav use.

I hope to provide you with regular feedback through the magazine,

but feel free to contact me by any of the means below.

Telephone switchboard - Internal: 0345 113 500 (ext 7630 6088)

Email - r.price@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk

Website - www.wolverhamptonpolice.org.uk

Twitter - www.twitter.com/wmpolice

Dessert!

Bernard Davis



Please pass the dessert menu for my just desserts!

Apple pie and custard, baked apple with raisins,

Apple Charlotte, apple crumble so delicious!

French apple tart, so scrumptious with thick clotted cream.

Please pass the dessert menu for my just desserts!

Strawberries and cream, not at Wimbledon prices!

Yummy strawberry cheesecake melting in my mouth.

Crisp strawberry roulade, gooey in the middle.

Please pass the dessert menu for my just desserts!

Morish raspberry trifle with sherry soaked sponge.

Tiramisu, a tempting Italian treat,

Peaches in brandy, cherries in kirsch, delightful!

Please pass the dessert menu for my just desserts!

Tongue-tempting tangy creamy lemon meringue pie,

Delectable Christmas pudding with brandy sauce.

Thank God for so many appetising desserts!

Thank You for your Support!

The Circuit Choir raised £350 over 2 nights performing Mary Magdalene at the beginning of April - a fitting production for Easter. Well done to Roger Hides who led us. The money will help fund a visit of young Rwandans from Kigali.

Brung up Proper!

We was brung up proper! Congratulations to all those who were born in the 1930's 1940's, 50's, 60's and early 70's! First, we survived being born to mothers who smoked and/or drank while they carried us and lived in houses made of asbestos. They took aspirin, ate blue cheese, raw egg products, loads of bacon and processed meat, tuna from a can, and didn't get tested for diabetes or cervical cancer.

Then after that trauma, our baby cots were covered with bright coloured lead-based paints. We had no childproof lids on medicine bottles, doors or cabinets and when we rode our bikes, we had no helmets or shoes, not to mention, the risks we took hitchhiking.

As children, we would ride in cars with no seat belts or air bags. We drank water from the garden hose and *not* from a bottle. Take away food was limited to fish and chips, no pizza shops, McDonald's, KFC, Subway or Nando's.

Even though all the shops closed at 6.00pm and didn't open on the weekends, somehow we didn't starve to death! We shared one soft drink with four friends, from one bottle and *no one* actually died from this. We could collect old drink bottles and cash them in at the corner store and buy Toffees, Gobstoppers, Bubble Gum and some bangers to blow up frogs with.

We ate cakes, biscuits, white bread and real butter and drank soft drinks with sugar in it, but we weren't overweight because...we were always outside playing!! We would leave home in the morning and play all day, as long as we were back when the streetlights came on. No one was able to reach us all day. And we were OK. We would spend hours building our go-carts out of old prams and then ride down the hill, only to find out we forgot the brakes. We built tree houses and played in river beds with matchbox cars. We did not have Playstations, Nintendo Wii, X-boxes, no video games at all, no Sky channels, no video/dvd films, no mobile phones, no personal computers, no Internet or Internet chat rooms...we had friends and we went outside and found them!

We fell out of trees, got cut, broke bones and teeth and there were no Lawsuits from these accidents. Only girls had pierced ears! We ate worms and mud pies made from dirt, and the worms did not live in us forever. You could only buy Easter Eggs and Hot Cross Buns at Easter time. We were given air guns for our 10th birthdays. We rode bikes or walked to a friend's house and knocked on the door or rang the bell, or just yelled for them!

Football and cricket had tryouts and not everyone made the team. Those who didn't had to learn to deal with disappointment. Imagine that!! Getting into the team was based on *merit*.

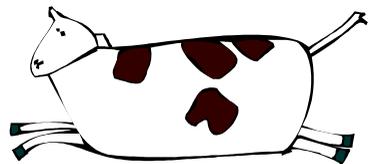
Our teachers used to hit us with canes and gym shoes and bully's *always* ruled the playground at school.

The idea of a parent bailing us out if we broke the law was unheard of. They actually sided with the law! Our parents didn't invent stupid names for their kids like 'Kiora' and 'Blade' and 'Ridge' and 'Vanilla'. Mum didn't have to go to work to help dad make ends meet!

We had freedom, failure, success and responsibility, and we learned how to deal with it all!

You might want to share this with others who have had the luck to grow up as kids, before the lawyers and the government regulated our lives for our own good!

Cows!



How amazing is it that during the mad cow epidemic our government could track a single cow, born in Appleby almost three years ago, right to the stall where she slept in the county of Cumbria? And, they even tracked her calves to their stalls. But they are unable to locate 125,000 illegal immigrants wandering around our country. Maybe we should give each of them a cow?

Holy City: Glasgow 2011

Lesley Cook

At my age (58 for those who don't know me), you might think that it's a bit late to "get political", but then, you start to hear so much that makes you angry, particularly in the world of education, that you feel you need to learn more and to take a stand. So this year, as well as joining "The March for the Alternative" in London taking my turn to carry the Wolverhampton NASUWT banner, I went to the NASUWT national Conference in Glasgow as an elected representative.

So why Holy City? Well, as you can imagine, I was rather saddened to discover that Conference began on Good Friday and closed on Easter Monday. I would be missing celebrating Easter at Springdale, but I would certainly not miss celebrating Easter at all. So I made plans.

I had heard of Holy City, a monthly time of fellowship, workshops and worship organised by the Wild Goose Resource Group of the Iona Community, and was delighted to find on their website that there was a meeting on Easter Sunday evening in a church about 10 minutes walk from the hotel. The evening was called "Sister Acts: Acting Up....from faith to lifestyle in challenging times" and lasted three hours. I had no idea what to expect but was greeted by a lovely lady and asked to write my name on a label which I would need for worship.

Meeting in the hall, with soft lights and around small tables, I discovered 80-100 folk of all ages, who seemed to know each other pretty well, but also about 30 young people and their leaders from Sweden. (Apparently the Swedish Church has a scheme of training young people to be youth-mentors in their home churches which includes a visit to Iona.) There was an ice-breaker of People Bingo where you had to find things like: someone who has met the Queen, or how you say Happy Easter in Swedish – Glad Påsk. I was undoubtedly the only English person there and I felt a little left out so this game did give me the opportunity to chat to people.

A programme explained what would happen. First we learned songs

for the time of worship, and then we could choose from four workshops. I didn't feel brave enough to write poetry with Ruth Burgess, so opted for reading aloud a 1945 BBC radio play about the Scottish missionary, Mary Slessor. (I just did sound effects - there was no way I could cope with a Dundee accent!)

After tea and cake, we moved into the dimly lit church for worship. One part had been made to look like the entrance to the Tomb and grave clothes lay on the floor. Men and women stood in separate areas while the Easter story was told and sung. Towards the end, three women in shawls led us to the tomb, knelt and revealed beneath the grave clothes the most beautiful array of tulips. One came to me and said, "Lesley, he is not here", and gave me a tulip. When we had all received a flower we were asked to take them to the men, give them the flower and say, "____, he is risen", leading him to the main body of the church. At the end of the service, we stood with our hand on another's shoulder and repeated words of Jesus, so that we felt they were addressed to each of us personally, before singing the joyful "Alleluia! Raise the gospel" by Bernadette Farrell, accompanied by organ and Jane on the drums, as we left.

But of course I didn't leave straight away. I just had to ask the leader, Graham Maule, if the worship script I'd found by the door could make the long journey back to Wolverhampton with me. He was delighted to say yes and asked me what I was doing in Glasgow. He hoped I would come again. I'd love to!

Bible Quiz *(answers on page 17)*

- 1 What is the last book of the Old Testament?
- 2 What is the ecclesiastical colour of Lent?
- 3 Name the 12 Apostles?
- 4 Who replaced Judas Iscariot?
- 5 Who was Noah's grandfather?
- 6 Which king condemned Daniel to the lions den?
- 7 Name the mother of twins Jacob and Esau.
- 8 Who was the mother of Solomon?
- 9 How many disciples came from Galilee?
- 10 Why is the cock used as a symbol on church towers?

Bits and Bobs

Jackie Neilson

Did you know “The Three R’s” was coined by Sir William Curtis, who was bad at spelling, hence - Reading, (W)riting, (A)rithmetic.

The calming of a storm

The storm arose across the lake,
The boat with water filled.
Jesus ‘woke, rebuked the wind
And soon the waves were stilled.

“Such little faith you have,” said he
“Of God have you not heard?”
“What sort of man is this,” they asked
“The storm obeys his word”

Luke 8. v22-25

D. Elwyn Davies (Gospel in Rhyme)



Significant Dates

Conversion Day - John Wesley - 24th May.

The following Sunday, known as Aldersgate Sunday by Methodists - Aldersgate Street, London. is where this occurred in 1738.

Ascension Day - This year is 2nd June, 40 days after Easter when Christ rose to heaven. Acts 1.v3.

Pentecost/Whitsun - This year 12th June (Pentecost the Greek name for Jewish Feast of Weeks, and falls on 50th day after The Passover.) It's the day the Holy Spirit descended on The Apostles. Acts 2.v1.

Trinity Sunday - 19th June this year is the first Sunday after Pentecost. It's a celebration that embraced God in all three forms.

Everybody can be great because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace and a soul generated by love. Wonderful words. It's a memorable quote by Martin Luther King, Jnr.

Ponder on these words, found in a newspaper recently.

To love is to risk not being loved in return

To live is to risk dying

To hope is to risk despair

To try is to risk failure

But risk must be taken if we are to live.

These lines were written by a Life Coach...We have Jesus.

Answers to Bible Quiz on p15

1 Malachi.

2 Purple.

3 Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, John, Peter, Andrew, James, Thomas, Simon, Jude (son of James), James (the less), and Judas Iscariot (Luke 6.v13-16)

4 Matthias (Acts1.v23-26)

5 Methuselah (Gen 5.v21-28)

6 Darius (Daniel Ch.6.)

7 Isaac and Rebekah (Gen25.v19-23)

8 Bathsheba (Sam 2,12.v24)

9 All, except Judas

10 To commemorate Peter's denial (Luke 22.v33-34)

Unanswered Prayer!

The preacher's 5 year-old daughter noticed that her father always paused and bowed his head for a moment before starting his sermon. One day, she asked him why. 'Well, Honey,' he began, proud that his daughter was so observant of his messages. 'I'm asking the Lord to help me preach a good sermon.' 'So, how come He doesn't?' she asked!

All Dogs go to Heaven

An American Mum

It is not known who replied, but there is a beautiful soul working in the dead letter office of the US postal service.

Our 14 year old dog, Abbey, died last month. The day after she died, my 4 year old daughter Meredith was crying and talking about how much she missed Abbey. She asked if we could write a letter to God so that when Abbey got to heaven, God would recognize her. I told her that I thought we could so she dictated these words:

Dear God,

Will you please take care of my dog? She died yesterday and is with you in heaven. I miss her very much. I am happy that you let me have her as my dog even though she got sick. I hope you will play with her. She likes to play with balls and to swim. I am sending a picture of her so when you see her You will know that she is my dog. I really miss her.

Love,

Meredith

We put the letter in an envelope with a picture of Abbey and Meredith and addressed it to God/Heaven. We put our return address on it. Then Meredith pasted several stamps on the front of the envelope because she said it would take lots of stamps to get the letter all the way to heaven. That afternoon she dropped it into the letter box at the post office. A few days later, she asked if God had gotten the letter yet. I told her that I thought He had.

Yesterday, there was a package wrapped in gold paper on our front porch addressed, 'To Meredith' in an unfamiliar hand. Meredith opened it. Inside was a book by Mr. Rogers called, 'When a Pet Dies.' Taped to the inside front cover was the letter we had written to God in its opened envelope. On the opposite page was the picture of Abbey & Meredith and this note:

Dear Meredith,

Abbey arrived safely in heaven. Having the picture was a big help. I recognized Abbey right away. Abbey isn't sick anymore. Her spirit is here with me just like it stays in your heart. Abbey loved being your dog. Since we don't need our bodies in heaven, I don't have any pockets to keep your picture in, so I am sending it back to you in this little book for you to keep and have something to remember Abbey by.

Thank you for the beautiful letter and thank your mother for helping you write it and sending it to me. What a wonderful mother you have. I picked her especially for you. I send my blessings every day and remember that I love you very much. By the way, I'm easy to find, I am wherever there is love.

Love,
God

Skinny-Dipping



An elderly man in Florida had owned a large farm for several years. He had a large pond in the back. It was properly shaped for swimming, so he fixed it up nice with picnic tables, horseshoe courts, and some orange, and lime trees.

One evening the old farmer decided to go down to look over the pond, as he hadn't been there for a while. He grabbed a bucket to bring back some fruit. As he neared the pond he heard voices shouting and laughing with glee. As he came closer, he saw it was a bunch of young women skinny-dipping in his pond. He made the women aware of his presence and they all went to the deep end. One of the women shouted to him, "we're not coming out until you leave!" The old man frowned, "I didn't come down here to watch you ladies swim naked or make you get out of the pond naked." Holding the bucket up he said, 'I'm here to feed the alligator!'

Some old men can still think fast!

We are Under Attack!



This is happening right here in our own country! We Must Stop This Immediately!

Have you noticed that stairs are getting *steeper*. Groceries are *heavier*. And, everything is *farther* away. Yesterday I walked to the corner and I was dumbfounded to discover how *long* our street had become!

And, you know, people are less considerate now, especially the young ones. They speak in *whispers* all the time! If you ask them to speak up they just keep repeating themselves, endlessly mouthing the same *silent message* until they're red in the face! What do they think I am, a lip reader?

I also think they are much younger than I was at the same age. On the other hand, people my own age are so much *older* than I am. I ran into an old friend the other day and she has aged so much that she *didn't even recognise* me.

I got to thinking about the poor dear while I was combing my hair this morning, and in doing so, I glanced at my own reflection. Well, really now - even mirrors are not made the way they used to be!

Another thing, everyone drives so fast these days! You're risking life and limb if you happen to pull onto the motorway in front of them. All I can say is their brakes must wear out awfully fast, the way I see them screech and swerve in my rear view mirror.

Clothing manufacturers are less civilized these days. Why else would they suddenly start labelling a size 10 or 12 dress as 18 or 20? Do they think no one notices? The people who make bathroom scales are pulling the same prank. Do they think I actually *believe* the number I see on that dial? Ha! I would never let myself weigh that much! Just who do these people think they're fooling?

I'd like to call up someone in authority to report what's going on -- but the telephone company is in on the conspiracy too: they've printed the

phone books in such small type that no one could ever find a number in there!

All I can do is pass along this warning: *We are under attack! Unless something drastic happens, pretty soon everyone will have to suffer these awful indignities.* Please pass this on to everyone you know as soon as possible so we can get this conspiracy stopped!

PS: I am sending this to you in a larger font size, because something has happened to my computer's fonts - they are smaller than they once were!!!!

Action for Children

Angela Newey



In 2009 Action for Children celebrated 140 years of working in England, 2010 was the 10th anniversary of working in Northern Ireland, and this year the charity has its 100th birthday in Wales. All through these years the people of the Methodist Church have given their support, and continue to do so.

Across the West Midlands in excess of £80,000 has been raised by the churches for Action for Children in the last financial year, and the sale of Christmas cards and diaries was well supported in our District. In addition to the 11 projects which Action for Children have had for some time within the District they are now providing a Short Breaks Buddy Scheme for Wolverhampton and this is administered from Walsall Resource Centre.

We remember with gratitude the support that the late Rev Norman Owen gave to Action for Children as Circuit Co-ordinator for Telford Circuit and his commitment over many years to the work of the charity. Towards the end of 2010 we were pleased to make Continuous Commitment Awards to 2 people - Margaret Brownlow and Janet Carpenter. Margaret has been involved with Action for Children for over 50 years and was presented with her award as Circuit Co-ordinator for Walsall Circuit and Church Representative and she was given her award at Aldridge Methodist Church.

Thank you for your continuing support - it is much appreciated.

What's the Future?

Robert Ely



Here's a date for your diary: Saturday September 17th. Rev Jeff Reynolds is coming from Stafford to spend some time with us exploring possible ways forward for our churches. He is our District Mission Enabler, so is just the person we need to help us plan our programmes. We plan to go out to Gospel Ash for the morning, have a bite of lunch there, and continue with some discussion into the afternoon. This is an opportunity for members from all three churches to get involved. We need you to be there with your thoughts and comments, so please put the date in your diary today!

Fair Trade in Wolverhampton and beyond...

Teresa Ely

Our 'Meet the People' visit to Bangladesh in March was a great experience and an opportunity to see just what a difference Fair Trade does make in the lives of some of the poorest people. We also realised how vulnerable craft workers are in the current worldwide economic climate. If we cannot sell their goods they cannot make a living – it's as brutal as that. That is the main reason why Diana and I will continue to hold regular stalls after worship. We do hope you will continue to support our stalls.

Wolverhampton Fair Trade has a much greater range of Fair Trade goods now including bags, jewellery and scarves from Bishopston Trading. Please do go into the shop in Darlington Street Church if you are in Wolverhampton – opening times are Wednesday 10am–4pm, and 5.30–7.30pm, Thursday 5.30–7.30pm and Friday 11am–2pm. We would like to open the shop more often, but that will only be possible if we can get more volunteers – could you spare 2 or 3 hrs every week or every fortnight?

Plans are going ahead for the 4th Just Fayre on Saturday October 15th from 11am to 3 pm at Beckminster. Please do keep the date free and come and join us there – any offers of help on the day will be most welcome. Lastly, thank you for your support.

How do you get to Heaven?

"If I sold my house and my car, had a big car boot sale, and gave all my money to the church, would that get me into heaven?" a teacher asked the children in her Junior Church class.

"NO!" the children all answered.

"If I cleaned the church every day, mowed the grass, and kept everything neat and tidy, would that get me into heaven?"

Again the answer was, "NO!"

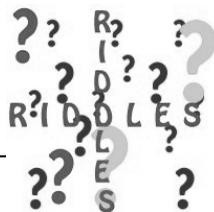
"Well, then, if I was kind to animals and gave sweets to all the children and loved everyone, would that get me into heaven?" She asked them again.

Once more they all answered, "NO!"

"Well," she continued, thinking they were all quite clever, "then how can I get into heaven?"

A five-year-old boy shouted out, "You gotta be dead!"

Bible Riddles



- 1 Who was the greatest female financier in the Bible?
- 2 What kind of a man was Boaz before he got married?
- 3 How long did Cain hate his brother?
- 4 Who was the straightest man in the Bible?
- 5 After the flood, how many people left the Ark ahead of Noah?
- 6 Who was the most flagrant lawbreaker in the Bible?

- 1 Pharaoh's daughter. She went down to the bank of the Nile and drew out a little prophet.
- 2 Ruth-less
- 3 As long as he was Abel.
- 4 Joseph, because the Pharaoh made him a ruler.
- 5 3, because Noah went forth out of the ark.
- 6 Moses, because he broke all 10 commandments at once.

LOCAL HISTORIANS

proudly present their annual

PENN HISTORY FAIR

To be held at

Penn United Reformed Church
333 Penn Road, Wolverhampton, WV4 5QF

Friday 10th June 10.00a.m.—8.00p.m.

Saturday 11th June 9.00a.m.—4.00p.m.

More displays that ever, including:

Old Wolverhampton and the surrounding areas,
Industry * Transport * Schools * Hospitals
Churches * Family History * Old Pubs * Printing
Old-Time Cinema * Rag Rug Making
Wightwick Manor * Archaeology,
And much, much more...

Everyone is welcome. Local historians, a genealogist,
And archaeologists will be on hand to answer questions

Free admission * Free large car park
Light refreshments

Donations gratefully received and will be equally
Divided between Penn URC and Penn Hospital

Dear Mr Cameron!

Please find below our suggestion for fixing England's economy.

Instead of giving billions of pounds to banks that will squander the money on lavish parties and unearned bonuses, use the following plan. You can call it the Patriotic Retirement Plan:

There are about 10 million people over 50 in the work force. Pay them £1 million each severance for early retirement with the following stipulations:

- 1) They *must* retire. Ten million job openings - unemployment fixed
- 2) They *must* buy a new British car. Ten million cars ordered - Car Industry fixed
- 3) They *must* either buy a house or pay off their mortgage – Housing Crisis fixed
- 4) They *must* send their kids to school/college/university - Crime rate fixed
- 5) They *must* buy £100 WORTH of alcohol/tobacco a week ...and there's your money back in duty/tax etc
- 6) Instead of stuffing around with the carbon emissions trading scheme that makes us pay for the major polluters, tell the greedy folk to reduce their pollution emissions by 75% within 5 years or we shut them down. It can't get any easier than that!

P.S. If more money is needed, have all members of parliament pay back their falsely claimed expenses and second home allowances.



The Ten Commandments!

The real reason that we can't have the Ten Commandments posted in a courthouse or Parliament, is this - you cannot post 'Thou Shalt Not Steal', 'Thou Shalt Not Commit Adultery' and 'Thou Shall Not Lie' in a building full of lawyers, judges and politicians - it creates a hostile work environment!

Grumpies of the World Unite!

Let's put the pensioners in jail and the criminals in a nursing home. This way the pensioners would have access to showers, hobbies and walks.

They'd receive unlimited free prescriptions, dental and medical treatment, wheel chairs etc and they'd receive money instead of paying it out.

They would have constant video monitoring, so they could be helped instantly, if they fell, or needed assistance.

Bedding would be washed twice a week, and all clothing would be ironed and returned to them.

A guard would check on them every 20 minutes and bring their meals and snacks to their cell.

They would have family visits in a suite built for that purpose.

They would have access to a library, weight room, spiritual counselling, pool and education.

Simple clothing, shoes, slippers, PJ's and legal aid would be free, on request.

Private, secure rooms for all, with an exercise outdoor yard, with gardens.

Each senior could have a PC a TV radio and daily phone calls.

There would be a board of directors to hear complaints, and the guards would have a code of conduct that would be strictly adhered to.

The criminals would get cold food, be left all alone and unsupervised. Lights off at 8pm, and showers once a week. Live in a tiny room and pay £600 per week and have no hope of ever getting out.

Thoughts on the Cross

We complain about the cross we bear but don't realise it is preparing us for the dip in the road that God can see and we can't.

Whatever your cross, whatever your pain, there will always be sunshine, after the rain...

Perhaps you may stumble, perhaps even fall; but God's always ready, to answer your call...

He knows every heartache, sees every tear, a word from His lips, can calm every fear...

Your sorrows may linger, throughout the night, but suddenly vanish, dawn's early light...

The Saviour is waiting, somewhere above, to give you His grace, and send you His love.



**GOD PROMISES A SAFE
LANDING, NOT A CALM PASSAGE.**

Deadline for the next edition of Triangle is

Sunday 4 September.

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)