



## Triangle - Spring 2013

*Springdale Methodist Church &  
Wombourne Methodist Church*

### News from Wombourne

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#### WOMBOURNE VESTRY NEWS

As I look back to our Christmas celebrations they really do seem a long way away, but we were privileged to be able to take part in a variety of advent services, including Ian Heath's reflective service and advent communion, Denis telling us about Gaudete Sunday and Lawrence conducting our carol service. Thanks must go to Georgia and Amanda Slater-Morris for their musical contributions to this service. We were also grateful to Alex Blackmore who came out of retirement (again!) to help us out with a local arrangement just before Christmas.

December 23<sup>rd</sup> was a very special day for everyone connected in any way with Gospel Ash Church. We celebrated the work and the workers of that church with mixed emotions. It was fascinating to hear some of the history of the church from Denis and we were all encouraged by David to remember that our God is a God of the future, to take comfort from that and to look forward with hope. Our thoughts and prayers remain with those regular worshippers from Gospel Ash.

John Howard led us in a very inspiring covenant service at the beginning of January and, reminding us that we were indeed still in Epiphany, the following week Wendy encouraged us to think of stars - the star of wonder, our own guiding stars (as we wrote the names of those who had inspired and guided us in our lives onto stars for the tree) and how we should all aim to become shining stars throughout our lives.

We are always grateful to members of the congregation who are willing to take part in Sunday services

and one of our members led worship based around "Love Changes Everything" in January - we heard a fairy story from Paul, and Cathy told us how a line from a popular hymn is very special to her "*Love to the loveless shown that they might lovely be*" as she shared some of her personal experiences of working in foster care. We sometimes forget the circumstances that people are living in today and, to that end, the church has signed up to support the Good Shepherd Ministry in its campaign to Build a Metre Mountain of Tins. We are all trying to bring in a tin when we come to church on a Sunday and these will be collected and distributed for the needy in Wolverhampton after Easter.

My final recollection for this quarter is the Churches Together in Wombourne Unity Service which was led by Andrew Mann-Ray with help from Elaine Anderton and Denis. The theme was 'We Will All Be Changed' and readers from all the local churches took part. We ended the afternoon service with a shared meal and time for fellowship - it was a lovely end to a powerful service.

I hope that as you are reading this, you are beginning to feel that spring is just around the corner - we have Easter to look forward to, the time of re-birth. Tolstoy wrote in Anna Karenina "*Spring is the time of plans and projects*" so let's turn our attention to plans and projects for our church, whatever we think these might be - improvements to the look of the building, contribution to worship, consideration of where our future lies, an offer of help or just spending time remembering each other in our prayers. It can't be that difficult, can it?

Jane Meddings

Ordinarily the next copy deadline of Triangle would be Sunday 19 May, 2013. However, based on the brief nature of the current copy and the fact that I was planning to start looking for someone else to take over the role of editor it is entirely possible that the future of the magazine is now questionable. Is it time to stop? Please email any thoughts on the matter to [triangle\[at\]springdalechurch.org.uk](mailto:triangle[at]springdalechurch.org.uk)

# News from Springdale

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## SPRINGDALE VESTRY NEWS

This is my last communication with you as Senior Steward as I will hand over to Sheila Sanders on May 1<sup>st</sup>. I wish her every success in her new role.

This past year has been quite a challenge to us all at Springdale and the stewarding team have been grateful to everyone in the Church Family who have helped in any way to keep our Church life viable.

Our Christmas festivities, the Nativity and "history of carols" service on the 23<sup>rd</sup> December were greatly enjoyed as was our Carol service on Christmas Eve. This is a good opportunity to share with friends, family and neighbours who may not be regular worshippers here at Springdale. One new thing this year was that we decided to have a Christmas tree in the atrium as well as in church and this was decorated by the Hot Pot children.

The awful weather caused many people health problems over this period, nevertheless we had a good congregation for our Covenant Renewal on 6<sup>th</sup> January. The Four Churches of Penn Covenant Renewal Service

was held at St Michael's this year.

We had good news later in January that we had been allocated a NEW MINISTER! Shortly afterwards the stewards met with Chris Collins and his wife Jenny during an informal lunch here at Church. We liked what we saw and are looking forward eagerly to working with him in September.

The Rev Ken Collins led the baptismal service for Louise Angel and Ashton Thomas Walton, which was sadly counterbalanced when we attended Vera Green's funeral on 4<sup>th</sup> February. Geoff Martin's Celebration of Life service was very ably led by Don Ryan and Penny Baldwin on 22<sup>nd</sup> February.

We began our Lenten services on 17<sup>th</sup> February and these will culminate, with joy, on Easter morning.

Finally I need to ask everyone if you would consider giving some time to helping us run the Church life. We really need new Stewards and people to go on the morning coffee rota, flower and door rota. We also need a new Church Council secretary. The more people we have available the easier the work load.

God bless you all.

Sheila Evans

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## SPRINGDALE PASTORAL NEWS

Hi all. I hope we are coming to the end of winter and that we have more sunshine to look forward to.

We ended 2012 on a high with the baptism of Elin Weighton on 23<sup>rd</sup> December, a special day for her parents Caroline and Magnus and for many members of our church family. May she continue to grow in the knowledge that God is with her every step of the way.

We started 2013 with sad news of the deaths of two of our members, Vera Green and, more recently, Geoff Martin. They have both been regulars in the church over the years until their health kept them

away, but they were never far from our thoughts and prayers. At this sad time we think especially of their families and friends who will find the coming months and years difficult. May we all be comforted in the knowledge that they are with their Lord.

We continue to remember and pray for anyone who is not finding life easy at the moment. We pray that the Lord's healing hand will offer the strength they require to get through this difficult time.

Congratulations to anyone who has celebrated a birthday or anniversary recently, or has one coming up in the near future.

Well only a short message this time! God Bless.  
Jane Rawlings, Pastoral Secretary

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## A HAPPY ENCOUNTER

One Sunday morning after the service at Springdale we were in the church hall, adults drinking coffee and enjoying conversation, and young children running about, enjoying themselves.

Andrew was holding baby Emily, 6 weeks old, who had been coming to Springdale since she was less than 1 week old. She was fast asleep. A toddler, Alice, came up and gazed at the sleeping baby. She was absolutely captivated. Andrew started pointing to vari-

ous features - nose, eyes, tiny fingers and we compared the baby's lack of hair with Alice's golden locks. Then Andrew said, "I am going to put her coat on. We have to be going now." Alice didn't say anything - she just solemnly shook her head from side to side as she didn't want them to leave. "Never mind," I said, "You'll be able to see Emily again another time." Alice's father came up and reluctantly she left.

I felt privileged to have been there and to have been part of such a happy experience.

Alma Ryan