

COMPANY UPDATE – FEBRUARY 2019

MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS

Membership Numbers

Anchors: 19

Juniors: 4

Seniors: 10

Our Boys' Brigade Company is part of The Children's and Young People's work of Hayes End Methodist Church and remains in good spirits as our latest membership figures confirm. We now have 33 Children & Young People on our books. As members get older they get transferred up in to the next age group and our main task now is to build numbers up in our 8 to 11 year age group, where at the moment we are few in number. Also we do have 13 Adult members of Staff whose continuing loyalty and conscientious support is an essential element in maintaining the well-being of The Company. Also please note new members are always welcome.

JUNIOR/ANCHOR INITIATIVE

Started in January 2019, third year Anchor Boys were invited to join the Juniors to help boost Junior numbers; as well as make the Anchor Boys age group more manageable. So far 4 Anchor Boys have taken up the offer. All 11 Anchor Boys third years will be promoted into Juniors in June.

RECENT ACTIVITIES

In October The Junior Boys (8 to 11 year olds) enjoyed a lovely morning of Crazy Golf at "The Dinosaur Golf" in Northolt. One boy said "It was great fun even though my ball ended up in the water a couple of time" **Also in October** The Anchor Boys (5 to 7 year olds) held a party to celebrate the 40 Year Anniversary of The Anchors being formed in our Church. A night of fun and games was thoroughly enjoyed by all **In November** The Juniors and the Seniors (11-18 year olds) enjoyed an exhausting morning of 5-a-side football at Goals in Springfield Road. Hayes.

The Juniors and Seniors now look forward to their outing to the Trampoline Park at Jump Slough on **9th March 2019**. The Juniors have also been enjoying Joint Evenings with 1st Uxbridge BB Company. This has given them the chance to practice as a joint company team for the forthcoming Battalion Figure Marching Competition as well as doing a gymnastic activity including Box & Mat Work.

THE BOYS' BRIGADE PRESIDENTS COMMENDATION AWARD

This premier BB Award was given to one of our members at the Annual Prize Giving Evening in July. Nathan Pittam was recognized for his courage and determination in dealing with his spinal problems, through operations, traction treatment and wearing a body brace for many months. Now he no longer wears his body brace, although he still needs to remain very careful. We give thanks for his recovery and his inspiration to all the other members of The Company.

We are proud to announce that one of our Brigadier, Thomas Pittam will be going on his Queen's Badge completion course on the 29th-31st March 2019 at the Boys Brigade Head Quarters at Felden Lodge. We wish him well hoping to present him with his Queens Badge at the awards night in June.

We congratulate Andrew Kingston, Paul Winterburn, Gavin Hampson and Sophie Williams on becoming Lieutenants in the company following their completion of their youth training course. Their promotion will be recognised during the Passion Sunday Church Parade on 7th April 2019.

THE CHANGING SHAPE OF THE COMPANY

A few years ago we were blessed with a large Senior's Group, but unfortunately at the same time our younger age groups were numerically much smaller. This was a recipe for future decline and that's what happened when each year Senior Members left our ranks in the main to go to University. It was evident that we needed an Action Plan to address this challenge. This we did and today our membership figures are now back to normal levels and our largest groups is our youngest group, The Anchor Boys. We can now look forward confidently but always aware of pitfalls that can derail our efforts and with continuing growth in membership numbers one of our main objectives.

A CHRISTIAN UNIFORMED YOUTH ORGANISATION

The Boys' Brigade a product from a bygone age? Unfortunately organisations like the Boys' Brigade, with long histories, can spend too much time looking back. When we undertake Publicity and Outreach Events the most common comment we hear inevitably is, "I was in the BB many year ago, but I didn't realized you still existed". But we do and that is only because we have continually updated the way we operate, but never forgetting our Christian heritage which remains as ever to help Boys and Young Men to grow in The Christian Faith. So no The BB is not just a story of "All our Yesterdays".