

CHILDREN IN CHURCH

THE GIRLS' BRIGADE

WRITTEN BY LYDDY GRAY



Once a month, our Church's Girls' Brigade and associate Boys' Brigade all come to a Church service. They walk in and sit down at the front, in their uniform and with their flag. This is all that most of our congregation will see of this organisation, unless they have children who go there.

The Girls' Brigade is a Christian youth organisation, providing varied lessons and support for girls aged four to eighteen. The four main subjects are Spiritual, Physical, Educational and Service, which is community-based. Girls earn a badge each year for completing all four courses.

History

The Girls' Brigade was founded in Ireland in 1893, followed by The Girls' Guildry in Scotland in 1900 and The Girls' Life Brigade in England in 1902. They were all Church based and sister organisations to the Boys' Brigade, which was founded in 1883.

In June 1964 the three organisations announced the agreement they had made to unite, and by July 1965 the Girls' Brigade was a nationwide organisation. The badges and uniforms were combined, and new working programmes were devised.

Since then, the Girls' Brigade has become not only a nationwide organisation, but a worldwide one. There are companies in every continent; there are 6000 members in Ghana and 1100 in the Philippines.



1st Leyton

Girls' Brigade groups are referred to as companies, and the company that meets in our Church is called 1st Leyton Girls' Brigade and Associate Boys' Brigade. The Girls' Brigade group was the first set up in Leyton, and has been meeting on a Tuesday for 91 years. Boys' have been included for around 4 years.



The set up of Girls' Brigade uses military terms, and the Captain of 1st Leyton is Wendy Gray. All leaders are referred to as Officers; Jackie Searing is a Lieutenant. Many of the older girls are doing their leader training so that they can become Officers too.

THE EXPLORER PRAYER

The youngest Girls' Brigade age group, the Explorers, are a bit small to recite the Lord's Prayer each week, so at 1st Leyton, they have this, the Explorer Prayer.



I'm just a little child, Lord
Not very big at all
But I can be your helper
Even though I'm small
I have my hands to help you
My feet to walk your way
My lips to tell of Jesus
As I work for you each day

Amen.