

**THE GRIFFYDAM WESLEYAN METHODIST
CHAPEL -**

'WESLEY JUNIOR GUILD (AND CLASS)'

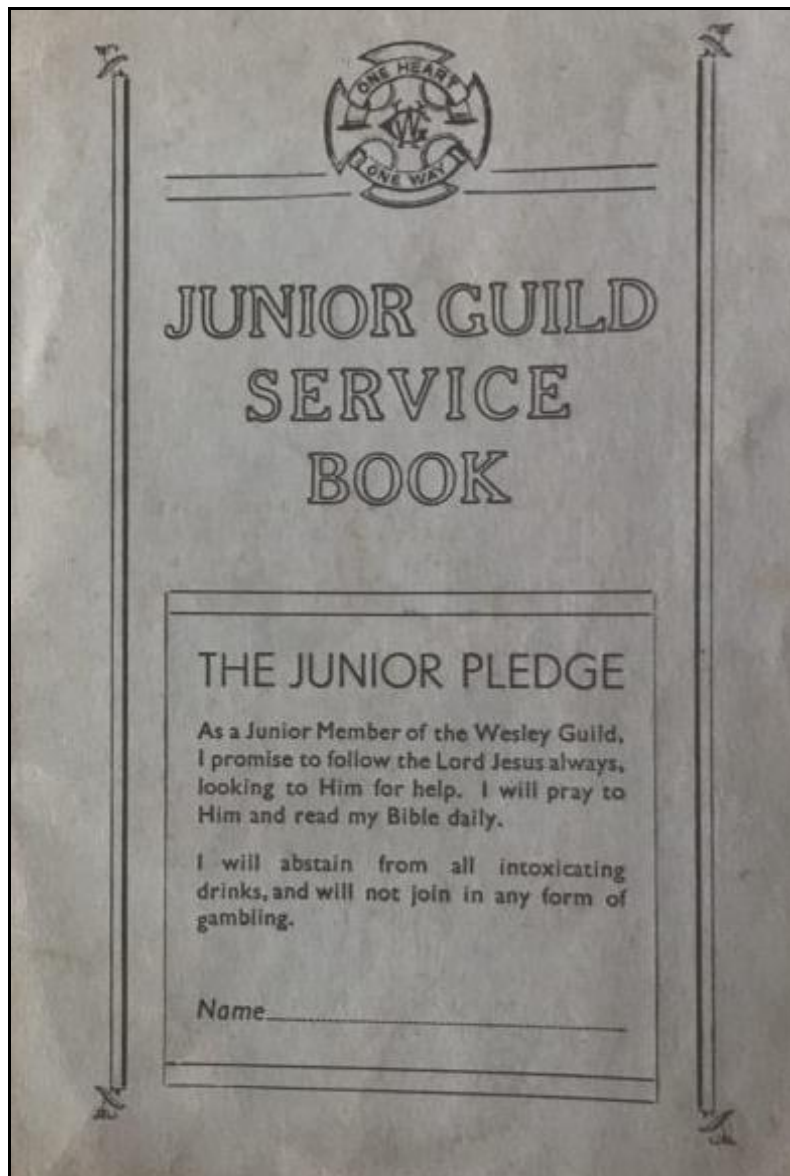


THE WESLEY JUNIOR GUILD PLEDGE

**As a Junior Member of the Wesley
Guild. I promise to follow the Lord
Jesus always, looking to Him for
help. I will pray to Him and read my
Bible daily.**

**I will abstain from all intoxicating
drinks, and will not join in any form
of gambling.**

BY SAMUEL T STEWART - 2026 APRIL



PREFACE

The Griffydam Wesleyan Methodist Chapel incorporated both Senior and Junior Wesley Guilds, both supporting an impressive membership. The latter is recorded as having a membership of 93 children in August 1930. The following photograph shows the combined Senior & Junior Guilds marching down the Tentas behind their banner in 1931. Tom Saddington is the first gentleman on the left. It is not known how long the Guilds survived for but there follows a selection of newspaper articles referring to the Junior Guild from 1930 to 1936, although both would have survived for many years after that.

The Wesley Guild originated as a youth movement aimed at countering secular influence, and retaining young people within the Church. The Guild idea was first suggested by the Wesleyan minister W. B. Fitzgerald, and was championed at the Liverpool Conference of 1896 by C. H. Kelly, Book Steward and former Secretary for Sunday School affairs.

The Guild, as it was approved by the Conference, was defined as a "Young People's Society closely linked to the Church, holding weekly or periodical meetings for devotional, literary or social purposes, and centering around various branches of Young People's work". There were however, no age limitations imposed, and the Guild gradually acquired a membership which was not particularly youthful.

Fitzgerald served as the first General Secretary of the Guild, and by 1909 there was 2,200 local Guilds with 152,000 members. There was then a sharp decrease attributable to the effects of the First World War, and an increase in secular attractions. From 1922 however, membership again increased, reaching a peak of 174,202 senior and 57,790 junior members in 1934, after which it again declined to a membership of between 25,000 and 50,000 by 1970.

The Primitive Methodist equivalent named "Christian Endeavour" provided great competition between the two factions.



A SMALL SELECTION OF NEWSPAPER REPORTS RELATING TO THE GRIFFYDAM WESLEYAN METHODIST JUNIOR GUILD FROM 1930 TO 1936

Coalville Times - Friday 14 February 1930

GRIFFYDAM Concert.

At the invitation of the Griffydam Junior Guild and Class, the Hugglescote "Jolly Jinks" ' Concert Party gave a very successful concert at the Griffydam Wesleyan Methodist Day School at Pegg's Green on Wednesday night. This party consists of young people only, and they presented a remarkably varied programme which was thoroughly appreciated by a large audience. The proceeds were for the Renovation Fund of the Wesleyan Chapel. Mr. W. Bird was in the chair.

Coalville Times - Friday 22 August 1930

GRIFFYDAM JUNIOR GUILD AND CLASS

At the meeting of the above class, held August 7th, it was decided to discontinue the meetings for a short period. The meetings have been well attended during the 'winter sessions the membership now being ninety-three. It is hoped to reopen the class in October, when the service will be taken by T. S. Starkie, Esq., "The Cedar," Castle Donington, the opening meeting being thrown open to the parents and friends of the children.

Coalville Times - Friday 21 November 1930

JUNIOR GUILD

The Griffydam Junior Guild met together in the Wesleyan Chapel on Nov 13th. The usual programme of recitations and songs were given by the children, followed by an instructive address by Mr. W. Hatchett of Hugglescote. The children listened eagerly, and Mr. Hatchett left a prize book for the first girl or boy who should find the text in the Epistles, write it down, and give it to Mrs. Knighon. The scripture was read by **Master Leslie Fern** and the chair was taken by **Master Kenneth Hutchinson**. A vote of thanks was proposed to Mr. Hatchett by Miss M. Johnson and all are looking forward to hearing Mr. Hatchett again in the New Year.

Coalville Times - Friday 12 August 1932

GRIFFYDAM JUNIOR GUILD.

The children and friends of the above Guild had a very enjoyable time at Woodhouse Eaves, last Monday. They were taken in Midland 'Red' buses, and tea was provided by Mrs. J. Kirk, The Coffee-House. The children played in a large field at the back of the house and the mothers and friends wandered round the beautiful old village. Two hundred and twenty-three children and adults thoroughly enjoyed the outing which was made more charming by the beautiful weather prevailing,

Coalville Times - Friday 10 November 1933

The GRIFFYDAM JUNIOR GUILD.

The first mothers' meeting of this winter session was held on Thursday The Rev, J. Blaney, of Coalville, gave a very inspiring address, the subject being "True happiness depends upon our relationship to our God." Mrs, Burton, of Swannington, rendered the solo "God bless this house," with great feeling. Mrs, Marsh, of Coalville, presided. Tea was served after the afternoon meeting, and the evening meeting commenced at 6.30 pm. The evening meeting

Coalville Times - Friday 03 November 1933

GRIFFYDAM. Junior Guild

At the meeting of the Junior Guild, this week, Mr. A. Ramsden, of Castle Donington, gave a very encouraging address, asking the large number of children present to always be on the lookout to help other people. The children were very attentive, adding their share to the enjoyment of the meeting with solos and recitations. The chair was ably taken by **Master Charlie Elliott**. *Ramsden's of Castle Donington built the Sunday School onto the side of the Chapel in 1931 and it was opened in 1932*

Coalville Times - Friday 24 November 1933

GRIFFYDAM Junior Guild

The Griffydam Junior Guild had a very happy evening this week, when a presentation of a dinner service and lemonade set, was made to Miss May Johnson, on the occasion of her marriage. The meeting was presided over by Master Tom Smith, and an address was given by the Rev. G. B. Girvan, of Hugglescote, who presented the gift. He talked to the children about the 'Gold standard' and told the children that Miss Johnson had always been 'as good as gold,' and asked them to try and follow her example. He then told them the story of the 'stork who returned again' and said he was sure that Miss Johnson who was giving up the leadership of the Guild, owing to leaving the district, would return to visit the Guild at times. Warm appreciation was paid to

the work and service which Miss Johnson had given to the Guild in years past, and she would be very much missed. Jose' Knighton, one of the youngest members, thanked Miss Johnson for all she had done for the children of the Guild, and wished her much happiness in her married life. In replying to these wishes of goodwill, Miss Johnson said she felt too high a standard had been placed upon her work, and that most of the work had been done behind the scenes by her mother, who took a very keen interest in the work of the Guild. She then thanked all the Guilders for their good wishes, and accepted the beautiful gift in memory of all the happy times they had had together.—At the wedding of Miss Johnson to Mr. Ernest Learmouth, on the following Saturday, a body guard of little Guilders, all dressed in their pretty sermons dresses, laid a pathway of "rose petals for the bride to walk on as she left the church. and the two youngest guilders Joy Henshaw, and Deserine Martin, presented her with lucky horse-shoes as she passed. At both services, the chapel was crowded with people, showing a great appreciation of the work and service of Miss Johnson.

was very crowded and all had a very happy time singing the chorus to the hymns. The children sung solos. The Rev. J. Blayney again addressed the meeting, making the children very merry as he questioned them about "Good boys and girls."

Coalville Times - Friday 08 December 1933

GRIFFYDAM Junior Guild

The Junior Guild this week had a most enjoyable time with Mr. Hatchett, of Huggleseote. who interested the children very much with an address on Birds, and the wonderful way God had made them, the wonder of their flight and habits, and he asked the children to always remember and be kind to Gods birds, and feed them in this cold weather. The chair was taken by **Master Kenneth Hutchinson**, and **Scripture was read by Master Charlie Elliott**.

Coalville Times - Friday 26 January 1934

GRIFFYDAM JUNIOR GUILD.

The Griffvdam Junior Guild met as usual on Thursday evening, when a most interesting address was given by Sister Eva, of Swanington. **The Scripture was read by Master Leonard Hill, the chairman being Master Ernest Hill.** A large crowd of both children and adults was present, the attendance of the children having been exceptionally good all the winter season.

Coalville Times - Friday 16 February 1934

GRIFFYDAM Junior Guild Effort.

The Griffydam Junior Guild held a very successful effort on Thursday, Ferbruary 8th, the proceeds of which went towards the Trust funds of the chapel. The Rev. G. H. Taylor, M.A., B.D., of Birmingham, preached in the

afternoon, and again addressed the Junior Guild at night. Solos were beautifully rendered by Miss Evelyn Lakin, of Manchester, and Miss Winnie Johnson of Swannington **The scriptures wERE read by Master Kenneth Hutchinson, and Master Arnold Reid and the chair taken in a very able manner by Master Jeffrey Knight (aged eight years).** Tea was served in the schoolroom at 5 p.m., the whole arrangements being carried out by the mothers of the children, with the help of a few senior Guilders,

Coalville Times - Friday 23 February 1934

GRIFFYDAM JUNIOR GUILD.

INTERESTING TALK ON AFRICAN CUSTOMS

Misy Southurst, of Ashby, who came this week to address the Griffydam junior guild, took the children (in imagination) along with herself, on a delightful cruise in the Mediterranean, and along to Nigeria, They studied the customs of the African children, visiting them in their schools, and saw the wedding of a little African maid, who was only about nine years old. Weird and strange things happened, and the Guild children quite agreed that they would rather live in their own country than in Africa. In conclusion, Miss Southurst hoped the children would always value and appreciate, the liberties and good things which they, as English children, enjoyed. **The chair was taken by Master John Hall, Scripture being read by Master Leonard Hill,**

Coalville Times - Friday 02 March 1934

GRIFFYDAM Junior Guild.

The Griffydam Junior Guild met last Thursday, when a most instructive address was given by Mr. Hedley Seville, solicitor, of Coalville. Two excellent recitations were also given by Mr. T, Saddington. **The chair was taken by Master Leonard Hill. and Master Tom Hill read the Scripture.**

Coalville Times - Friday 09 March 1934

Children's Junior Guild Concert at Griffydam.

The children of Griffydam Junior Guild gave an excellent concert on Saturday, the proceeds of which, amounting to £6, will be handed over towards the debt on the New Sunday School. There was a very large audience, and the programme included : Welcome speech, Freda Robey: chorus, "Early one morning." Concert Party: sketch "Blind man's bluff," Party of Boys; mono logue, "Baby.," Peggy Smith; fairy tableat. Five Little Fairies; fairy play, "Princes Rosebud's Fream™; chorus, "strawberry Fair," Concert Party: tableau song. "Won't you huy my pretty flowers," Enid and Winnie Johnson; recitation, "'Smiles," Mabe! Nicholls; sketch, "Gossip," Party of Girls: gipsy play, "The Queen's Quest": closing speech, Ivy Fairbrother. The chair was taken by Mrs. E. Learmouth, and there were over 60 children taking part and

they did exceptionally well. Lighting effects were carried out by Messrs W. O. and C. V. Knighton, Hotel Street, Coalville.

Coalville Times - Friday 19 October 1934

GRIFFYDAM Methodist Chapel.

The Junior Guild in connection with the above chapel held the opening meeting of this winter session on Thursday, October 4th, The afternoon meeting was presided over by the Rev. R. Davidson, B.D., of Ashby, who gave a delightful address, and afterwards officiated at a christening service, 7 babies being christened. Tea was served in the schoolroom, when twenty of the children's mothers entertained their friends, and a very happy and encouraging hour was spent together. The evening meeting commenced at 7 p.m. and was made the occasion of introducing the 'New Methodist Hymn Book' for the first time. Mr. A. Bird, Castle Donington, led the singing in real Methodist style and Mr., T. S Starkie, Castle Donington, addressed the guild. The chair was ably taken by Miss chettle. of Castle Donington, who is a big favourite with all the guild children.

Coalville Times - Friday 09 March 1934

GRIFFYDAM. Junior Guild

The Griffydam junior Guild had a very happy evening this week, when the address was given by Mr. Elcock, headmaster of the Griffydam day schools. Mr. Elcock took the children out in imagination into the corn fields, to study the lives of Mr. and Mrs. Mole, and from this drew some wonderful lessons, which the children will not forget. Great enthusiasm was shown. both when Mr. Elcock arrived, and after his address. **The scripture was read by Master Geoffrey Knight, and the chair was taken by Master Kenneth Hutchinson.**

Coalville Times - Friday 18 January 1935

GRIFFYDAM Junior Guild.

The Griffydam Junior Guild held their first meeting of the New Year on Thursday, January 10th. A large crowd of both children and adults met together and a very happy spirit prevailed. The address was given by the Vicar of Swannington, the Rev. L. Wray, who chose as his subject "The Boyhood of Jesus." **The chair was taken by Master A. Burrows, and the scripture was read by Master Arnold Reid.**

Coalville Times - Friday 22 March 1935

GRIFFYDAM. Junior Guild.

Last Thursday was one of the brightest and best evenings spent this session by the juniors belonging to the Griffydam guild. The Rev. W. Eatough paid an

unexpected visit and gave the address in the unavoidable absence of Mr. Savile, of Coalville. Everyone was in a very happy mood. Miss Bagnall, of Swannington, played two pianoforte solos. **The chair was taken by Master Kenneth Hutchinson, and scriptures read by Master Arnold Reid.**

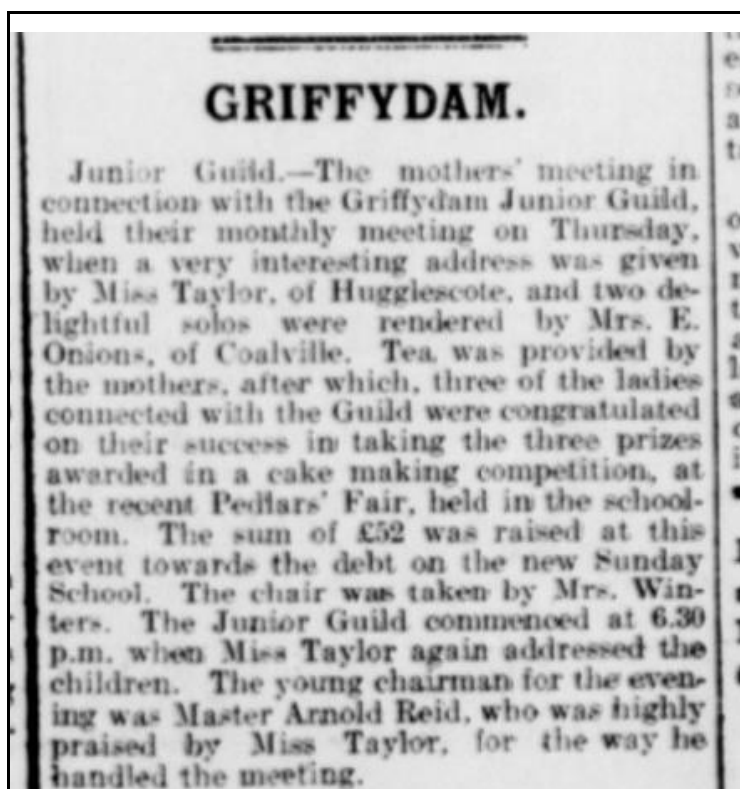
Coalville Times - Friday 29 March 1935

GRIFFYDAM. Concert.

The Griffydam Junior Guild gave an excellent concert in the Methodist School, Griffydam, on Saturday. The programme consisted of :—Pianoforte solo, Vera Hutchinson; recitation, 'Little Hobin,' Mary Anderson; tableau, "Who made little boy blue"; violin solo; musical play, 'The Gipsies' Holiday'; Monologue, "Mrs. Opkins joins the choir," Joan Morley; pianoforte solo, Mary Stewart; gipsy chorus, 'Merry little gipsies'; violin solo; tableau and song, "We'll all go riding on a rainbow"; play in one act, Miss Nelie Johnson and Mr. C. V. Knighton; humorous sketch, 'Blatherwiek's Diplomacy'; song and chorus, 'It's fine to say good-night.' The chair was taken by Mr. Garrett, of Hugglescote, who remarked on the high standard of the performance. Mr. Walter Davies, superintendent of the Sunday School, proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Garrett and also to Miss Dalby, of Swannington, the pianist, who accompanied the concert party in an able manner.

Coalville Times

Published Friday, 14 December 1934



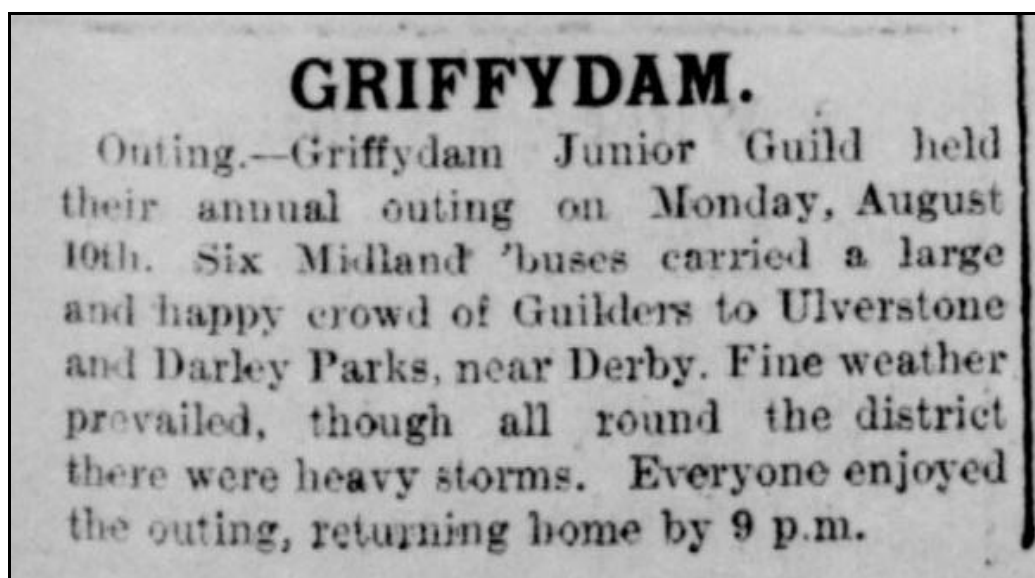
Coalville Times - Friday, 14 December 1934

Coalville Times - Friday 12 June 1936

GRIFFYDAM. summer Rally.

In spite of the inclement weather, there was a large gathering at Griffydam on Saturday afternoon for the summer Rally of the Burton and District Wesley Guild and Christian Endeavour societies. The assembly included members from Swadlincote, Gresley, Castle Donington, Osgathorpe, Coalville, Hugglescote, Coleorton and Griffydam, and the procession, which was headed by the Coalville Salvation Army Band, and the Guild banners, was marshalled by Mr. N. Hall, of Coleorton. The junior rally was held in the Methodist Church in the afternoon, and the Rev. R.W. Davidson, B.D., of Ashby-de-la-Zouch, was in the chair. An inspiring address was given by the Rev. A. V. L. Powell, of Swadlincote. This was followed by a tea, which was held in the Council School, and a series of enjoyable outdoor games was afterwards indulged in, and also a number of short rambles into the charming countryside in the vicinity. A demonstration was subsequently held in the field adjoining the church, when a programme of community singing was directed by Mr. J. Garratt, of Hugglescote.

Coalville Times - Friday, 14 August 1936



Note that 6 Midland Red buses were required