

God's Wonderful Circus is an all-age worship and parade service which was devised by Barbara and Nigel Bean of Sutton Coldfield URC. It draws together all the uniformed organisations in presenting the act of worship.

The seats in the church were arranged into a circle as though in a big top and parents were invited to join the regular church congregation.

Prior to the service, each uniformed organisation prepared and practised a "circus act". They interpreted this in any way they chose. E.g Rainbows made papier mache elephants which they stood inside and carried around, the high wire was a beam on the floor etc. Each act included the use of a prop which they then contributed at the end to form a symbolic representation of the crucifixion as described below.

The Leader takes the role of the ring master

The circus programme was used as an order of service and also had the church notices on the back.

Section	Act	Message	Order	Contributing Item	Music	Music Length
All	Entrance Parade	None	0		Entry of the Gladiators	03:21
Rainbows	Elephants	LIFE CAN BE SHARED Care for all of Gods creatures - Pets , Animals etc	1	White Material	Sugar Plum Fairy	02:21
Brownie/Guide	High Wire	LIFE CAN BE A BALANCE Pulled two ways - treading the middle ground between influences - follow gods way	4	Cross Vertical	Drum roll?	
Beavers	Plate Spinning	LIFE CAN BE A SPINNING PLATE Keeping all the plates spinning in our lives	2	Plate (Crown of Thorns)	Windmill of your mind?	02:13
Guides	Acrobatics/Parachute?	LIFE CAN BE FUN Be thankful for the colourful periods of life - say thank you.	6	Red Ribon (Blood)	Fame	
Cubs	Uni-cycle trainers	LIFE CAN BE HARD - persevere?	5	Cycle (Feet)	Bike Race (Queen)	01:53
Brownies	Juggling	LIFE CAN BE STRESSFUL Too many balls in the air - stressful lives	3	White Gloves (Hands)	Those magnificent men	01:55
Explorers	Clowns - Plank	LIFE CAN BE HURTFULL Our actions can hurt other even when we don't realise it	7	Cross Horizontal	Oliver & Hardy	02:03
Collection					Money (Cabaret)	03:02

-	Before service Brownies are performing in the ring & any older ones we can get are performing in the foyer & handing out programmes		Ppt God,s Wonderful Circus
Leader 2	<p>Ladies and Gentlemen, there are only a few minutes to the start of our show. Before we start I have a few announcements.</p> <p>Firstly would you please remember to turn off your mobile phones – thank you.</p> <p><i>[insert here all the Notices you want]</i></p> <p>Now just sit back and get ready to join in God’s Wonderful Circus</p>	Radio mic – handheld?	
	Introduction		
Leader	<p>Ladies and Gentlemen, Boys and Girls, Welcome to God’s Wonderful Circus bought to you today by Baden Powell’s Travelling Circus.</p> <p>‘Be Prepared’ to be Pleased by a Parade of Pachyderms, Amazed by an Array of Acrobats, Charmed by a Cavalcade of Clowns, Jollified by a Jumble of Jugglers, Perplexed by a Posse of Plate spinners and Wowed by a Wobble of Wheelers.</p> <p>And as if that were not enough, for one day only staring the one and only Unique YOU</p>	Radio Mic	
	<p><i>Uniformed organisations enter from side door each unit behind their flag. Flags stay in the middle of the ring and everyone else walks round the edge of the ring for ¾ of a circle & sits down.</i></p>	CD1 - Entry of the Gladiators	
Band	<p>Hymn - I will enter his gates</p> <p><i>(colours are received)</i></p>		Ppt Words on screen for Uniformed Orgs

Leader	<p>As we enter your Circus Tent with thanksgiving we remember that this is the day you have made. Life for us can be a like circus, going off in all directions. Lord we pray you will be here with us in our tent, as you were with the tents of the wandering people of Israel, helping us understand better what God's Wonderful Circus is.</p> <p>Amen</p>	Radio Mic – handheld?	Back to God's wonderful Circus
	Elephants - Rainbows		
Leader	<p>To get this morning's show off to a HUGE success, Ladies and Gentlemen, Boys and Girls, please welcome, all the way from India, Patricia and her Rainbow Pachyderms!</p>	Radio Mic	
	<i>Rainbow item</i>	CD2 - Dance of the Little Swans	
Voice off	<p><i>Life can be shared with all of God's creatures. We are all part of Gods creation and we all have to live together on our planet. We need to remember that when God gave man authority over the beasts of the field and the birds of the air it came with an equal responsibility.</i></p> <p><i>If you have pets, don't forget to look after them well. If you are walking in the country, don't disturb the animals or drop litter, it could harm them. God loves all animals as much as he loves you and God loves each one of you more than you could imagine.</i></p>	Paul's Mic	
	Plate spinning - Beavers		
Leader	<p>From Canada, our next group travel the world exhibiting their extraordinary skills. All the way from the land of the Silver Birch, please give a great URC welcome to the Beaver spinning Colony.</p>	Radio Mic	
	<i>Beaver item</i>	CD3 - Windmills of your mind	

Voice off	<p><i>Life can go in circles. Sometimes we loose our sense of direction and we are not sure where we should be going or what we should be doing. What subjects should we take at school; should we change jobs; should we move house etc.</i></p> <p><i>In times of uncertainty, talk to God, he is always there to listen and he will help you work out where you should be going</i></p>	Paul's mic	
	Juggling - Brownies		
Leader	Well Ladies and Gentlemen, Boys and Girls, we now have a huge treat for you today. Flown in especially for this one and only performance, please put your hands together for Little Owl and her Ball Boggling Brownies!	Radio Mic	
	<i>Brownie Item</i>	CD4 - Those Magnificent men	
Voice off	<p><i>Life can be stressful. We are involved in so many different things that keeping them all going and up in the air at the same time is really hard. No sooner have we caught up with one issue, solved it and sent it on its way than another issue is falling fast into our hands.</i></p> <p><i>We need to learn that we can't do everything.</i></p> <p><i>God is there to help us decide what is important and what is not, and is with us as we work it through.</i></p>	Paul's mic	
	High Wire – Gymnast		
Leader	One of the many highlights of the circus is the daring and death defying displays that happen high above our heads. Ladies and Gentlemen, Boys and Girls, displaying her perfect balance on the high wire, without the aid of a safety net, please welcome the amazing "insert name"	Radio mic	

	<i>Highwire item</i>		
Voice off	<p><i>Life can be a balance – and keeping the right balance in life can be difficult, with all sorts of people and influences pulling us from all sides. Our parents and family, school friends, people we know in sports clubs, scouts, guides and other groups. Then there are the influences of the web, TV, films and music videos.</i></p> <p><i>The right balance for life comes by following the teachings of Jesus and asking him to help us each and every day.</i></p> <p><i>Will we fall off? - Probably.</i></p> <p><i>Will he help us back on? - Definitely.</i></p>	Paul's mic	
Leader	<p>You will have noticed that God's Wonderful Circus Tent was free to enter, however as a sign of our thanks and gratitude for all the gifts and talents we receive, in the past, today and the future, I invite you to join in our collection for God's Wonderful Work in our World.</p>		
	Collection	CD5 - Money Makes The World Go Round	
Voice off	<p><i>Life can be expensive, especially in today's economic climate when even the basics for living now cost so much more and Mum & Dad can't always afford to buy us everything we want.</i></p> <p><i>However we need to remember that there are people in the world much worse off than we are. If we share even a little of what we have we could make life for someone else so much better.</i></p>		
	Wheels - cubs		

Leader	When fully grown, the average wolf can ride a unicycle perfectly (not a lot of people know that). This morning we are delighted to present the Cubs of the pack displaying their skill and determination on their training cycle wheels. Ladies and Gentlemen, Boys and girls, please give lots of support to the Wolf Pack Wheelers!		
	<i>Cub item</i>	CD6 - Bicycle Race	
Voice off	<p><i>Life can be hard. Everyone knows that, whether you are young or old.</i></p> <p><i>Sometimes no matter how hard you try you only seem to be going backwards, when you wanted to go forwards! Most of the time you seem to be staying still and not getting very far.</i></p> <p><i>God cares for each one of us and is always there to help if we ask him. He will always give us the strength to get through the tough times so we can manage to do, not necessarily what we want to do but what we need to do.</i></p>	Paul's mic	
	Acrobats - Guides		
Leader	Ladies and gentlemen, Boys and Girls, displaying for you this morning their grace and co-ordination, working without the aid of a safety net, but using a parachute, please give a great big URC welcome to the Acrobatic Guide Company!	Radio mic	
	<i>Guide item</i>	CD7 - Fame Theme	
Voice off	<p><i>Life can be fun. Sometimes all is going well. Life is colourful and we are happy.</i></p> <p><i>Enjoy the good times but don't ignore God - he is there at all times not only when we need help. When things are going well remember to say "thank you"</i></p>	Paul's mic	

	Clowns - Explorers		
Leader	No circus is complete without its clowns and ours is no exception. Ladies and Gentlemen, Boys and Girls, coming all the way from just north of Stupid, please welcome the Clever Dick Clowns.	Radio mic	
	<i>Explorer item</i>	CD8 - Laurel & Hardy theme	
Voice off	<i>Life can be hurtful, and sometimes we will hurt others – even when we don't realise it or mean to. Sometimes we physically hurt them and other times we hurt them with our words or actions, or lack of actions. What we think is a funny joke, or a laugh, can hurt the people we know, friends, brothers, sisters, mums or dads.</i> <i>Ask God to help you to think about how others might feel before you act.</i>	Paul's mic	
Leader	Now I invite you all to sit back and enjoy our amazing Circus Band, during which I am going to invite each of our performing artiste's to bring out to the centre of the ring an item that represents the talents, skills and enthusiasm they have brought to us in their performances. Take it away the Band!	Radio mic	
	Band – Circus of Life <i>(Cross is put together)</i>		

<p>Voice off</p>	<p><i>Just as we have bought all our talents and efforts to God this morning, God wants us to know that he is a God for every part of our lives.</i></p> <p><i>The fun times, the hard times, the hurtful times and everything in between.</i></p> <p><i>Whatever we are doing God is there alongside us but it is up to us how much we involve him.</i></p> <p><i>We can accept his love, shown on the cross, and take his help or we can struggle on on our own.</i></p> <p><i>Experience the true wonder of the Circus of Life.</i></p> <p><i>Choose to put God at the centre of YOUR life.</i></p>	<p>Paul's mic</p>	
<p>Prayers 2nd Leader</p>	<p>Dear God of all parts of our lives,</p> <p>Thank you for the fun we have; for our family and friends; for the good times in our lives. Help us not to take them for granted.</p> <p>Help us to respect all your creatures and the planet's resources as if they were part of our family.</p> <p>Help all those who don't know which way to turn, or who's lives are off balance because they are being pulled in different directions. Help us to make the right choices.</p> <p>We pray for people who are stressed, whether they are ill or worried about someone else. Help us to support others.</p> <p>We pray for all those people in the world who are suffering hurt or finding life hard, especially those affected by war or famine. Help us to see they are our family too.</p> <p>We bring all our spoken and unspoken prayers to you as we as together the Lords Prayer.</p> <p>Our Father</p>	<p>Radio mic – handheld?</p>	<p><i>Lord's Prayer</i> <i>Words on screen for UO</i></p>
	<p>Hymn – If I were a Butterfly</p> <p><i>(Flags collected)</i></p>		<p><i>Words on screen for UO</i></p>
	<p><i>Flags walk out 1st through side door followed by all the Uniformed Organisations who again walk ¾ round the ring & out the side door</i></p>	<p>Band</p>	

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