

# Marching to the beat of Church Lads' and Church Girls Brigade

I REFER to your report on page eight of the *Herald* showing a selection of excellent photographs of the town centre Remembrance parade last Sunday.

In two of your photos you show a brigade band leading the parade but unfortunately your reporter has failed to do his or her homework by stating incorrectly that it was a Boy's Brigade band.

I immediately recognised the uniform of those playing in the band as that of the Church Lads' and Church Girls' Brigade (and I later discovered that it was a unit from Earl Shilton) who, like me, are pretty upset because, you the Press, have yet again given credit quite erroneously to our friendly rivals.

The first company of the Church Lads' Brigade (as it then was and before amalgamation with the girls) was formed as long ago as November 11, 1891, and therefore it is all the more frustrating after so many years' existence to be side-stepped yet again just because the BB is a larger organisation.

It was all the more disappointing because this was our 117th anniversary weekend and it is worth noting that we claimed November 11 as our special day 30 years before Armistice Day was



The Earl Shilton Church Lads' and Church Girls' Brigade leading the Remembrance Day parade through the streets of Tamworth. (PB10603-9757TH)

even thought of.

Let me hasten to say that we have no gripe whatsoever against the Boys' Brigade which is a wonderful movement among whom we have many great friends.

We have so much in common with the Boy's Brigade which actually celebrated its 125th anniversary last month. Nevertheless, it is so disappointing that the press still cannot tell the difference between these two famous organisations which have existed side by side for well over a century.

On this 90th anniversary year since the end of WWI, your reporter could well have recorded the significant part played by both brigades in the First World War, the sacrifices they made especially during the Battle of the Somme and the Victoria crosses awarded – but that as they say is another story.

Let me conclude by explaining that the Church Lads' and Church Girls' Brigade is the Anglican

Church's own uniformed youth organisation welcoming children and young people of all faiths and none.

The Boys' Brigade is an inter-denominational church organisation. Both have their own separate constitutions.

The Girls' Brigade is yet another organisation with its own constitution.

Unlike the Church Lads' and the Church Girls', the Boys' Brigade and the Girls' Brigade never amalgamated.

Finally, you may like to be aware that the long established Catholic Lads' Brigade and the Jewish Lads' Brigade also exist albeit in small numbers.

**MS (Via email).**

**Editor's note: Thank you for putting the record straight. The Herald always strives to maintain the highest editorial standards and we apologise for the error which has occurred in this case.**