

ROUNDA BOUT



THE COTTERIDGE CHURCH
Witnessing at the Heart of the Community

January 2012

From the Vestry

Would you describe a glass which contains 50% liquid as half full or half empty? If you describe it as half full then perhaps you are an optimist; if you describe it as half empty, then perhaps you are a pessimist. Bill Vaughan has commented that an optimist stays up until midnight to see the New Year in. A pessimist stays up to make sure the old year leaves. It is interesting that the root of the English word 'January' is Janus who was the god of gates and doorways depicted with two faces looking in opposite directions. Ecclesiastical life, both nationally and locally, will always be caught between those who look forward to new challenges, as portrayed by protest movements like Occupy and UK UNCUT, and those who hanker for the return of the past, as so marvellously portrayed in Woody Allen's latest film *Midnight in Paris*. Or, even, with Michael Gove's intention to provide every school in the United Kingdom with an Authorised Version of the Bible. In reality, I'm not sure that life can be so polarised, for there are always times when change becomes necessary. The author of this prayer is unknown:



*May God make your year a happy one!
Not by shielding you from all sorrows and pain,
But by strengthening you to bear it, as it comes;
Not by making your path easy,
But by making you sturdy to travel any path;
Not by taking hardships from you,
But by taking fear from your heart;
Not by granting you unbroken sunshine,
But by keeping your face bright, even in the shadows;
Not by making your life always pleasant,
But by showing you when people and their causes need you most,
and by making you anxious to be there to help.
God's love, peace, hope and joy to you for the year ahead*

From the Editors' Desk

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

This issue of Roundabout is, as you might imagine, a collection of looking back and looking forward.

For us, 2011 was an event filled year amongst which was a wedding in February and a house-swap in August!

Many enjoyed the Pennine Way Activities, organised by Rita Sutton; on behalf of the day trippers, Doris Collins has asked us to pass on thanks to Rita.

And our best wishes to Maggie Simkin, who celebrated her 60th Birthday on 28 Dec.

We are looking forward to visiting the Balints in Timisoara; it is five years since Steve visited with Paul Whittle, Chris Brown and Joe D'Urso. You will find an update from the Balints later in this issue. We realise that there are readers who will not be familiar with the Balints so we'll be putting an article in the next Roundabout.

And, talking about the next issue, it will be out on Sunday 4 March; so, please let us have your items by 26 February, at the latest. News, views, events, the list goes on, but Roundabout is the place for them all. You can send your contributions by email to marfleetwright@tiscali.co.uk or pop them into the 'W' pigeonhole in the Pennine Way.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Steve & Caroline

Who is the new member of our Ministerial Team?



My Dear Friends,

Grace mercy and peace from God our Father. As I write this message, we are in the liturgical period preceding Christmas, Advent: a time for waiting, praying, fasting, penitence. As we prepare for the extremely important time, the Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, my husband, Mike and I are settling into our new vicarage.

However, occasionally waiting has not been entirely easy. I have waited for various items to arrive at the vicarage, including waiting for phone and internet access, which has been the most infuriating time for me!

And, of course, you all have been waiting for an



Anglican Priest to join the team of Ministers at the Cotteridge Church.

We may have numerous commitments of daily life and consequently, quiet time with our maker can be the last thing on our minds. Nevertheless as we are God's Children it is imperative that we acquire time to connect to God. I have found that after prayer and stillness, the peace and the understanding of God's tremendous love for me has been emitted.

I was born in Montserrat, which is situated in Leeward Islands in the West Indies. I only resided for the six months after my birth. My parents decided to leave the sunny Caribbean to find work in Birmingham. I have resided here ever since and consider myself to be a Brummie!

Over the years, I have had numerous jobs, which included development chemist, lecturer, and community development officer for Holy Trinity Church, Birchfield. I trained at Queens Foundation, Birmingham and my curacy was at St Peter, Hall Green. Alongside my ministry as an Anglican Priest at Cotteridge Church, I will be Bishop's Adviser for Minority Anglicans.

As well as being married, I have two grown up sons, and a grandson.

I enjoy several hobbies including playing tennis, horse riding and gospel singing. I look forward to ministering at Cotteridge. In the New Year, may we continue to shine the positive light of Christ in our community.

Peace and Love,

Revd Joycelyn Lewis-Gregory

Joycelyn will be licensed to The Cotteridge Church and as the Bishop's Advisor for Minority Ethnic Anglicans at a service at The Cotteridge Church on Wednesday 11th January 2012 at 7.30pm and you are invited to attend. Both Bishop David of Birmingham and Bishop Andrew of Aston will be in attendance so please come along to this very special service and give Joycelyn, her family, friends and all the invited VIP's a real Cotteridge welcome.

Elizabeth Chattaway

We reported the death of Elizabeth in the last issue; she was much liked and an extraordinary lady who led a full and remarkable life.

Elizabeth was born in Edinburgh where her parents were co-owners of a hotel on Royal Terrace. Her mother died when Elizabeth was only seven and her day to day care then came from a nanny. Educated at St Serf's School and Edinburgh College of Domestic Science, where she studied Institutional Management, Elizabeth progressed to become Cook Housekeeper at Malvern Girls' College, Rugby School and Bromsgrove School.

She played tennis avidly at Barnt Green Social Club, going on in 1962 to win the ladies singles, ladies and mixed doubles. It was here that she met Roger whom she married in 1957.

Christopher was born in 1958 and the family spent many happy holidays in their holiday home in Aberdovey where for 31 years they ran a business enterprise renting out three cottages and three flats, which Elizabeth maintained, decorated and cleaned.

Elizabeth was well known for her wicked sense of humour and would entertain Christopher and friends whilst driving to Aberdovey with a not altogether true representational running commentary ... “and we’re going round the bend at 80 miles per hour, accelerating now to 120 miles per hour” which had children cowering on the back seat and led one parent to complain about her driving and excessive speed! She regularly visited friends in hospital, driving many miles with no fear of traffic, parking, or of driving to new and unknown areas, to which her car lay testament! After giving up her car she found the delights of home shopping, parcels being delivered regularly by Royal Mail. On one occasion Roger was thanked by a postman for keeping the Royal Mail in business and she would leave chocolates hanging from the letterbox thanking the Royal Mail staff for all their hard work. Her latest delivery was a parcel containing 16 pairs of stockings and 2 pairs of long johns, obviously in preparation for a long cold winter!

A strong Christian, Elizabeth attended The Cotteridge Church since it’s coming together in 1988 and before that she was a member of Kings Norton Methodist Church and supported many groups and societies both within and outside church, including the Emmanuel Bible Study Group which met at her home. She played Scrabble and Bridge regularly with many different clubs. She was a weekly volunteer at Wychall Farm Infant School listening to children read, insisting on good manners and polite greetings , “Good morning, Mrs Chattaway” and “Thank you, Mrs Chattaway,” before and after they read to her.

Elizabeth was a great communicator, interested in the social lives of her two grandchildren, James and Anna. She would phone to chat on a regular basis and they recall how she was forever smiling, happy and caring. Elizabeth was a great letter writer, famous for her positive outlook on life and her unwavering support for her family and friends. On the day that she died, she had been to church in the morning and had spoken about joining the choir. She is sadly missed by her family, many friends and neighbours, a dear and faithful friend.

Life in Nazareth – Two thousand years ago

In the first century the vast majority of people in Galilee lived in rural villages where farming was the main occupation and dictated every aspect of their lives. Such a place was the very small village of Nazareth high in a sheltered basin some 1300ft above sea level and 15 miles from the inland sea of Galilee.

The centre of the village was the synagogue (in Hebrew *bet haknesset* - the house of assembly). There was also a market place and a street of shops where craftsmen made and sold their wares. A boy would be nursed and cared for by his mother up to

5yrs and given early teaching in the *Torah* by his father by word and example. Formal schooling began at 5 years with enrolment in an elementary *bet hasefer* (house of the book). He would attend from day-break until the sixth hour (mid-day) six days a week. At 10 years old a bright boy would move into the advanced class called the *bet talmud* (house of learning). He would study the *Torah* (written law) and the more complex oral law. Much teaching was by parable. Both morning and evening sessions were probably held. When not at school a boy would be learning the family trade from his father becoming apprenticed at 15yrs. Formal education ended at 18yrs. A particularly bright boy, especially if the first born and dedicated to God, may go onto the *bet midrash* (house of study). There may have been such an establishment in Capernaum. As well as further study of the law he would also study mathematics, astronomy, natural science and geography. If so inclined he may also have been able to study medicine. When a master believed a student was ready he would declare him an ordained scholar and he would then be called a teacher or rabbi.

If Jesus (called Joshua) had followed this route, then he would have spent several years in Capernaum before commencing his ministry. James and John (possibly cousins of Jesus) may have found him lodgings with their partners Andrew and Simon at their fishing premises. This would be a logical explanation of how Jesus got to know his future disciples so well. He also had time to set up a medical mission (as suggested in the Gospels) to treat the ordinary people of Galilee and for news to get around so that hundreds came to be treated.

This reminds us that even Jesus had to demonstrate that he himself had fully accepted the spirit of divine love into his own life before he could possibly hope to influence others to do the same

Based on *Chapter 4 'Village Life'* and *Chapter 6. 'The Life of the Mind'* from "*Jesus and his times*", published by Readers' Digest.

Geoff Hulme

Man, you're crazy!

The traditional Carol Service on the 18th December included some very 'untraditional' readings. One of the comments made during some of the 'Transforming Church' discussions was that we might enliven our worship by including some of the vast resources of modern spiritual poetry and prose that is available to us. So during the Carol Service we included six poems in parallel with the more usual biblical readings. One comment afterwards was that it would be good to see some of these in writing.



While several of these poems would be subject to copyright, here's a copy of the last poem read in the service, for those who would like to think a little more about the real Christmas message.

Che Jesus

They told me that you came back to be born every Christmas.

Man, you're crazy! ... with this stubborn gesture of coming back every Christmas you are trying to tell us something:

That the revolution that all proclaim begins first of all in each one's heart.

That it doesn't mean only changing structures but changing selfishness for love.

That we have to stop being wolves and return to being brothers and sisters,

That we have to begin to work seriously for individual conversion and social change

That you have a message that's called the Gospel, and a Church, and that's us --

A Church that wants to be servant of all, a Church that knows that because God became human one Christmas there is no other way to love God but to love all people.

If that's the way it is, Jesus, come to my house this Christmas, come to my country, come to the world of humanity.

And first of all, come to my heart.

Anonymous, Argentina

www.octarium.org/LessonsandCarols10.htm

Tidings from Timisoara!

The Balints write:

The youngest member of the family, Eduard, he is growing and learning a lot of new things from us and the people around him. Reka and Pista are working most of the day. Szabi is learning to obtain the driver license. Gyongyi is still working at the kindergarten and Sandor is home most of the time during the week.

Merry Christmas and may God's grace be with you. Make merry not just on this wonderful holiday but all through the year!

Timisoara , Fratelia Reformed Church



Cotteridge Church Day Centre



It's official! We have funding, at the present rate, until October 2012!!! What a relief. As chair of the Management Committee, I wish to thank everyone for supporting us through the difficult waiting time. Staff and Centre members have been very patient, and it has been the commitment of our staff, Karen, Michelle, Bob, Linda, Lisa & Angie, which has kept the centre such a happy place. We received an added bonus of £1000, from "Gentleman's Night Out", which has funded a memorable Christmas, including Christmas dinner and entertainment at "The Old Rose & Crown" at the Lickey Hills, and parties, with presents and cards. Jackie led the annual Christmas Service on Dec 16th, which was joint with Weatheroak. We DO have spaces available if you know of any elderly person who would benefit from the

care & friendship of regular attendance. Please see Karen (manager), Chris or Irene. A PEACEFUL 2012.

Chris Pascal

Boys' Brigade



The company raised £514 in its recent BB week. Thanks to the Church members, parents and friends who made a donation.

At the Junior Section Quiz finals, and for the second year running, the lads came 1st; although this year it was a tie for first place. Well done to the lads for winning a Battalion competition.

The chess finals were held in November; Alex Clayton reached the semi-finals and his brother Euan lost in the quarter final.

Our tombola stall, and other games, at the Church Christmas Fair raised £120 towards Church Funds. Many thanks to everybody who supported us on the day and those who donated prizes.

Well done to Tom Bunn for raising £159 for St Basils in the annual Big Sleep Out. Tom spent a cold, wet night in his cardboard box..

The session finished with the Christmas Party and BB starts again on Friday 6th January.



Bob Hotchkiss

Urban Buddies

Here's something for the New Year. Do you know a 5-11 year old, from a disadvantaged background for whom Boys' or Girls' Brigade could make a real difference? Then Urban Buddies might be the answer.



It's an exciting new scheme designed to take the pressure off parents, carers & children alike by providing both a safe environment to experience a wide range of activities & a safe method of transport to & from weekly sessions.

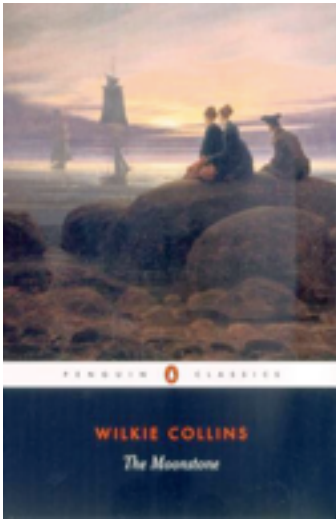
Children under the Urban Buddies scheme will be fully supported & helped to integrate within a company which has been specially assessed to meet the needs of the child & The Boys' Brigade & Girls' Association companies across Birmingham. Transport would be arranged for them both to & from their company over the course of the session, which finishes in July.

Parents will be able to enjoy the full support of Peter Newton, the Urban Buddies Coordinator & will also have the opportunity to volunteer as part of the scheme & earn a QCF (Qualification & Credits Framework) in Youth Work or Play Work. A QCF is a new government qualification on par with an NVQ. You can find out more about these at the relevant website in our 'Resources' Section. Any information regarding yourself as a parent or your children would be kept in the strictest confidence by Peter.

The contact is Peter Newton: peter.newton@bb-birmingham.org.uk or 07584 097 177 / 0121 333 5868.

Book Group

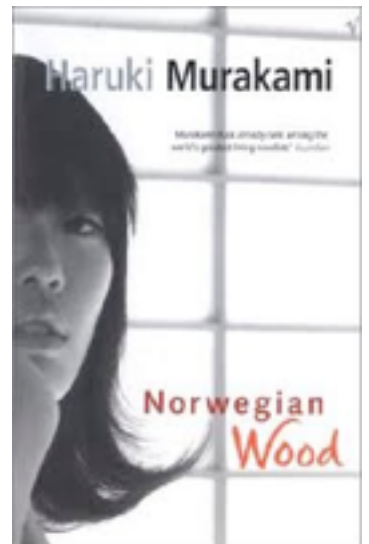
We had a really good meeting in December to discuss Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* and how appropriate when there are so many events and programmes to celebrate the 200th anniversary of his birth. There were readings from the book with Liz Larkin making an excellent Scrooge and the festive cheer flowed with the help of mulled wine, mince pies, stollen and other goodies.



We have decided to tackle Wilkie Collins and to read *The Moonstone*, a mystery story. In addition to its success as a detective story, *The Moonstone* is notable for its enlightened social attitudes. Collins' respectful handling of the Indians and the religious motivation of their quest for the Moonstone is in marked contrast to the hatred and contempt exhibited by most English writers (including Dickens) for 'lesser breeds' after the Indian Mutiny. Collins is also ahead of his time in his sympathetic and serious characterisation of the reformed thief and servant Rosanna Spearman. We will be meeting to discuss this on Thursday 26th January.

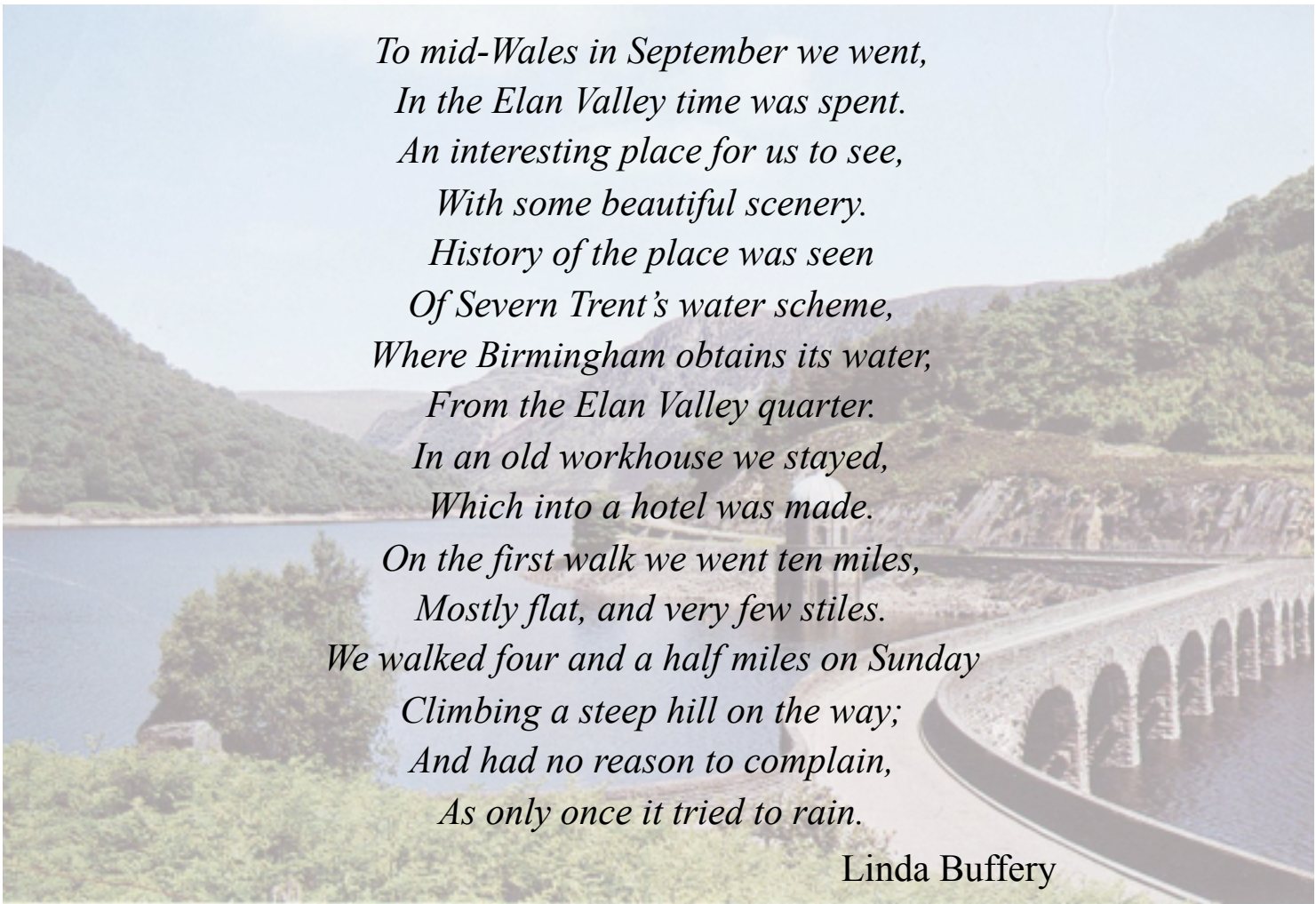
After all this delving into the past we are coming back to more modern times with *Norwegian Wood* by Haruki Murakami for the 1st March meeting. The novel is inspired by the Beatles' song of the same name, "I once had a girl, or should I say, she once had me", The song's melancholy tune and sentiment seem to have affected the life of the main character, Toru Watanabe, who is similarly uncertain as to how he should view his relationships. At heart, a quiet and serious young Tokyo college student in 1969, Watanabe, is deeply devoted to his first love, Naoko, a beautiful and introspective young woman. But their mutual passion is made by the tragic death of their best friend years before. Watanabe lives with the influence of death everywhere, while Naoko feels as if some integral part of her has been permanently lost.

It is perhaps just as well that we are not reading this at the beginning of the year as it may depress us all! It will be good to tackle something different and I for one have not read anything by this author before.



Please feel free to come and join us at any of our "gatherings" at Liz Larkin's house.
For further details see Liz - 451 3498 or Christine Adams 458 5607
Christine Adams

The Cotteridge Ramblers' weekend



*To mid-Wales in September we went,
In the Elan Valley time was spent.
An interesting place for us to see,
With some beautiful scenery.
History of the place was seen
Of Severn Trent's water scheme,
Where Birmingham obtains its water,
From the Elan Valley quarter.
In an old workhouse we stayed,
Which into a hotel was made.
On the first walk we went ten miles,
Mostly flat, and very few stiles.
We walked four and a half miles on Sunday
Climbing a steep hill on the way;
And had no reason to complain,
As only once it tried to rain.*

Linda Buffery

New blood in the 3Cs Café

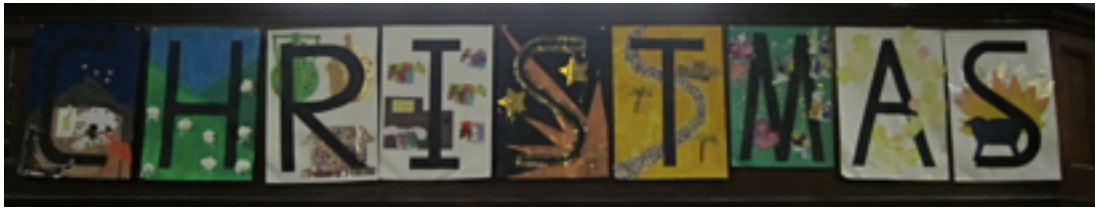
We had a good response to our appeal for volunteers and we now have four new volunteers working regularly in the café: Janet and Mike on Wednesday mornings, Ann on Wednesday lunchtime and Joyce on Friday lunchtime. A big thank you goes to these people and of course to all our faithful long serving volunteers.

The Café is still doing brisk service, particularly at lunchtime, but with the onset of winter and dark afternoons numbers tend to dwindle so, regretfully, the Catering Committee decided to bring forward our closing time to 2pm during the winter months and to review the situation in the Spring/Summer.

We had an exciting evening serving drinks and mince pies to the folk who turned up for the turning on of the Cotteridge Christmas lights. There was quite a crowd this year to enjoy the music from the brass ensemble and to sing traditional carols round the tree.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all our customers and volunteers a very happy, healthy and prosperous New Year in 2012 and we look forward to seeing lots of you in the Café throughout the year.

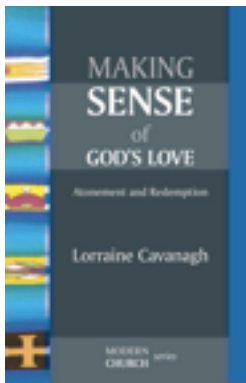
Linda Mann



Book Centre /Traidcraft Stall

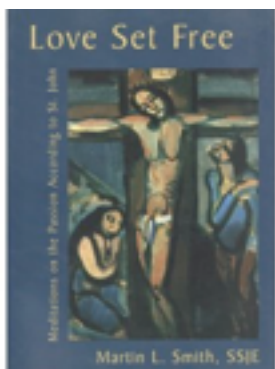
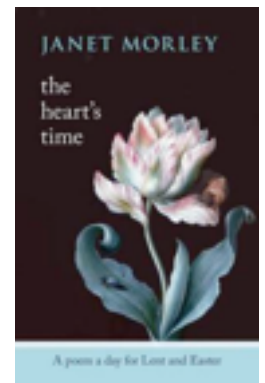
Our Book Centre and *Traidcraft* stall continue to provide a valuable service and income for Church and charity. Last year, the combined takings were £13196; this was only £300 less than 2010, which is excellent considering the continued economic strain. *Traidcraft* food continues to be the favourite category, with nearly fifty per cent of overall sales.

So, please continue to support these enterprises and, if you are new to them, perhaps we can tempt you with some suggested books for Lent:



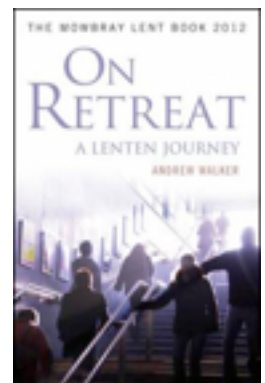
Making Sense of God's Love
Lorraine Cavanagh - £7.99

*Heart's Time: A Poem a Day for
Lent and Easter*
Janet Morley - £9.99



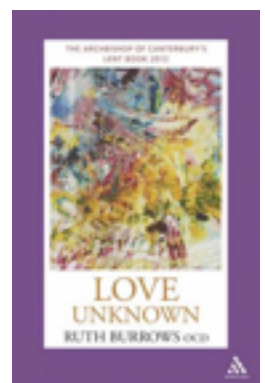
*Love Set Free: Meditations on the
Passion According to Saint John*
Martin L. Smith - £7.99

*On Retreat: A Lenten Journey
The Mowbray Lent Book 2012*
Andrew Walker - £9.99



*What is Lent? Preparing
for Easter*
Marcia Stoner - £1.99

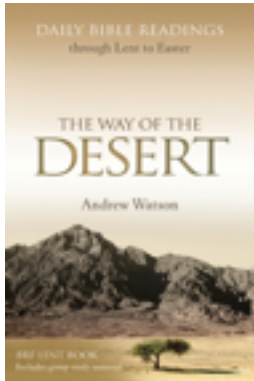
*Love Unknown: The
Archbishop of Canterbury's
2012 Lent Book*
Ruth Burrows - £9.99





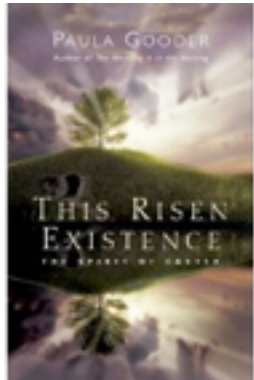
*Experiencing God's Love:
Five Images of Transformation*
Steven Croft - £5.99

*Stations of the Nativity, the Cross
and the Resurrection*
Price: £12.99



*The Way of the Desert Daily Bible
Readings Through Lent to Easter*
Andrew Watson - £7.99

Reflections for Lent 2012
Martin Percy - £3.99



This Risen Existence: The Spirit of Easter
Arranged for daily reading through the seven weeks of
Eastertide, *The Risen Existence* leads us on a biblical
exploration of the resurrection. Paula Gooder - £8.99

Wendy Walsh

Our lovely Wendy passed away in Hospice, after battling cancer. She came to help on about three years before finish; although she was Way chatting and caring showed an outstanding when her illness was at always ask how other regulars have happy serving tea and coffee concern and love. She especially Justine, who her Mum with great her grandson, who has



in October, in St.Mary's bravely and graciously with the 3Cs Coffee Bar for her illness forced her to often in the Pennine for other people. Wendy ability to care and, even its worst, she would people were. So many memories of her and most of all of her leaves a loving family, nursed and looked after composure, and Charlie, agreed to share the

following poem he wrote in her memory:

*Why you had to go, I will never know
Everybody loved you, they always will,
It broke my heart to see you there lying very still
Now the pain and suffering is over you will not have to worry
Days pass by, they feel like years, it goes so slow now you're not here
You were always there for me and now I'm there for you.
I just want to say one thing and that is I love you.*

†††††



Faiths Act Birmingham **presents** ART 4 ACTION

Open to Artists across the City of Birmingham

- The aim of the competition is to allow young people of Birmingham to express through Art why they want to make a difference in the world, what inspires them and what the injustice of Malaria means to them
- The Art could be inspired by Social Action, Malaria, Faith or however artists interpret Faiths Act Workshops that will provide for entrants (workshop is mandatory to enter)
- Workshops will be available for interested artists.
- This is an amazing opportunity to have your work displayed at the MAC, and other venues across Birmingham. Have your work judged by top artists, and other exciting prizes!
- The Final Deadline for Entry is – 30th March 2011, but workshops are recommend early in 2012

FOR MORE INFORMATION or TO ARRANGE A WORKSHOP CONTACT:
i.kaur@springfieldproject.org.uk



Winning entrants will have their work displayed in
an exciting exhibition at the Midlands Art Centre
(MAC)

FaithsAct
BIRMINGHAM