

ROUNDA BOUT



THE COTTERIDGE CHURCH
Witnessing at the Heart of the Community

November 2012

From the Vestry



Dear friends,

With the autumn leaves dancing along the roads and the nights drawing in, the wonderful summer of sport that we have enjoyed this year all seems a long while ago. We have heard a lot about the legacy of the Olympic Games. I am sure that you will all have your own special memories. Maybe it was Usain Bolt proving the doubters wrong, Mo Farrar making British athletic history, Jessica Ennis coming through despite the heavy expectation, the rowing success, Bradley Wiggins following up the Tour de France with a Gold medal or our cyclists ruling the Velodrome. Or maybe it was the wonderful Paralympics and the remarkable performances of Johnnie Peacock, David Weir and Ellie Simmonds.

What interested me most is that when we came away from our two day trip to the Olympics we asked our children what was the best bit for them. My eldest immediately responded, “The whole thing was fantastic but it was the volunteers who made it.”

He was right; the kindness, goodness, and joy that they exuded from the moment you approached the Olympic areas, throughout the day, and on leaving too, was a delight and a timely reminder of the goodness of the human spirit. You may have heard Lord Coe also make reference to the tremendous contribution these thousands of women and men made to the games. He used an interesting phrase when I heard him interviewed on Radio 5; he said that they had demonstrated Godly virtues. I found myself reflecting on his words and they resonated with me. It is in the daily cycle of life, our relationships, our welcoming of the stranger, our helpfulness to others, that we experience and embrace the holy amongst us.

You may have noticed that I used the words kindness, goodness and joy. They echo the words of St. Paul when he wrote to the Church in Galatia:

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. — Galatians 5:22-23

May we rejoice wherever and whenever we experience such fruit, and may the Spirit of God dwell deeply within us for such gifts are eternal and leave an everlasting legacy that nothing in this world or the next can destroy.

Love and peace to you,

Nick



From the Editors' Desk

Welcome, finally, to our Eleventh Edition, appropriately published in the 11th month! Apologies for its late arrival, which is due to circumstances beyond our control. It's another bumper issue! Once, again, our thanks to everyone who has sent in articles, especially to our 'first-timers'; we hope they inspire YOU to write something for YOUR newsletter. It's not just articles we'd like; photos are always enjoyed by readers – so, if you've got a goodie with a caption (the funnier the better), we'd love to have it.

The next issue is out on Sunday 6 January; so, please let us have your items by 3 January at the latest. 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

Family & Friends

We have welcomed in Baptism, Madeleine Law Adams, Zoe Eve Dean, Orla Elizabeth Seward and Ke Xin Zhang.

Welcome to the world to Saskia Erin Mann (24th September/5lbs. 11oz) and John Stuart Bober (8th October/6lb 10oz); congratulations to Stuart, Toni and Keira Mann, and proud Grandparents Norman and Linda Mann, and to Carl and Anne Bober.

Congratulations to Doug Hincks & Sheila Grant who celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary on 23 October and to Primrose Taylor and James Garrow, who have announced their Engagement.

We hear that Jackie Jones has moved into a bungalow in Milton Keynes, near her daughter, and is settling in very happily.

Thanks to Lin Brown for this great photo of the Bober Family



Fundraising

The Fundraising Committee is busy planning events and activities for 2013.

In addition to our annual Summer and Christmas Fairs, and bake sales, we hope to hold:

- A games evening in February, for you and your family to enjoy your favourite and, perhaps, some new board games.
- A celebration of talents day in May - where those who create paintings, pottery, sculptures and other delights will contribute to an exhibition.

- Another Jazz evening - perhaps in mid July
- A garden party to invite you to enjoy our lovely renovated garden.

As always, we would welcome your ideas for fund raising events, and especially, if you would like to join our small committee.

Celia Lester

Who said life in a wheelchair was boring?

The first that husband Steve knew was a text message from me to say I was on the number 49 bus going to Solihull. Lunch and shops were great, before the bus home.

My next adventure was The Bull Ring Centre on the 45 bus. Steve was at the Birmingham City match; some people have some silly hobbies but getting on and off a bus is so exciting!

Then, when the children were on holiday from school, daughter Sharon and I went to Avoncroft Museum with another friend and her three young children. We had a fantastic day, complete with picnic. By the end, my wheels were covered in mud. Steve said he would clean them before I came indoors. This did not seem fair to me, as he had not had a day out.

I told him I would just go round Kings Norton Green to get some of the mud off.

Did I heck!!!

Straight across the main Redditch Road, to the Jet Car Wash, I went and lined up with all the cars. A young man came and asked if he could help me. I said, 'Yes, please. Could you jet wash my tyres?'

I explained I did not want a shower. He said I may get a bit wet but I told him it wouldn't kill me. I sent Steve a text: 'You'll never guess where I am. I'm in the queue at the car jet wash.'

The funniest sight was the face of the man in the car next to me, when he saw a wheelchair next to him being washed.

I had four young men, one at each wheel, jet washing them clean.

I offered to pay and they would not have a penny. To top it all, they came into Redditch Road and stopped all the cars for me to cross over.

Remember the Jet Car Wash next to Rikfit Tyres, by the island on Kings Norton Green. They are highly recommended.

Motto for each day:

This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

And something which Abraham Lincoln said:

Most folks are as happy as they make their minds to be

Margaret Edwards

No wonder we were getting wet!



These are the 'before' pictures of areas of the roof that have been repaired during the summer.

There were quite a few slipped tiles that have been replaced and a lot of small areas of re-pointing were also carried out.

This valley gutter above the Pennine Way was cleaned out, resurfaced and made watertight.

Irene Spooner





New blood in the 3C's café

Whilst I was away for practically the whole of September my understudies were busy recruiting people to work on the café. We now have Rosemary working on Monday and Wednesday lunchtime, with Sheila White and Diana Ross filling in on various days when the regular people are away. Thank you to these two for volunteering. On the subject of volunteering we are looking for a replacement for Hazel Nash as Saturday volunteer coordinator. Hazel has been doing this job for more years than she cares to remember and is now ready to claim her Saturdays back. She will be finishing at the end of December

and we need a willing volunteer to take over. There is the possibility that the job could be shared by 2 people and Hazel has a job profile. If any of our readers would like to find out more, please ask Hazel on a Saturday morning or John Adams on Monday lunchtime or Irene in the Administrator's office. We look forward to serving you all in the 3C's when you are passing.

Linda Mann

Of course, Linda and Norman missed the birth of their new granddaughter, but Linda tells us that they're making up for lost time!



The food must be good, if the volunteers will eat it! Thanks, ladies (and colleagues), for your service and dedication.

Garden

What a joy it was to see so many of our congregation having their Harvest Lunch in the Church Garden. With the completion of the slabbing, we have created a much friendlier, open space, hopefully to



accommodate wheel-chairs etc. With the rest of the money available, we are hoping to purchase some PROPER pots and a small green-house; to have some of our Day Centre Members getting more involved, we hope to encourage some "getting hands dirty" activities; planting seeds and cuttings!!!! When you buy your winter pansies, primulas & bulbs, don't forget to pop in an extra packet/tray to increase colour and interest in the Church garden as well.

Chris Pascal

Harvest Festival

Was this a first?

Sunday 7th October was, for many reasons, a memorable day in the life of Cotteridge Church.

First was the welcome to the Church family for two very special young ladies, Orla Seward and Ke Xin Zhang who were baptised. It was lovely to meet them and their families.

Secondly, it was the Harvest Festival celebration, always a happy occasion where Jacky encouraged us to thank God for everything around us. The alphabet of things to be thankful for was a challenge, I wonder how many of us can remember them now... apples, bananas,

We then continued with our tradition of bringing provisions up to the front during the service, which this year was a contribution to the new Food Bank in the area. This was slightly more entertaining for the people in the front rows and choir who held their breath while an enterprising 2 year old decided to make a precarious tower of his donations!!



After the church was cleared of chairs and the under 5s could be persuaded to stop rushing around (who would have imagined that this game of rushing around the Malvern room after the service would have become such a part of the church life for generations of kids at Cotteridge!) many people stayed to share a harvest lunch. This three course meal was a bring and share event, supplemented this year by soup. As with most food related events this was masterminded by Doris and her team for which we are very grateful.

While some people sat inside, many others sat out in the church garden. What a treat this was, sitting



eating harvest lunch in hot sunshine in October, surely a first in the life of the church?

What a great use of space that garden is, a little haven behind the busy Cotteridge frontage, and now it has been re-paved and with the addition of new benches, it is even better. More thanks due here to Chris and her gardening team.

A day to remember.

Jo Adams



Day out in London

Last Saturday, I went to London to see Matilda.

We travelled down on a Virgin train called The City of Coventry.

Then we went on an Underground train to Embankment where we got on a ferry boat to go up the Thames to Tower Bridge and back again.

We saw lots of boats, St Paul's cathedral and a tall tower where the Fire of London started. We went for lunch to a café called Pure then it was time to go to the theatre, I was very excited. Granny and I sat high up in the Circle. The set was amazing and I really loved the show, I thought Miss Honey and Matilda were the best ones. On the way back there were lots of people on the underground we were like sardines. Finally when we got to Birmingham we had just missed the train so we had to get a taxi home. We were very tired but we enjoyed our day out.

Keira Mann

Thanks, Keira, for a great article. We hope you will have encouraged other



younger members of the Church to get writing.

Book Club

Our discussion about the American author Paul Auster led to some divided opinions from those who did not consider it to be "literature" to those who were keen to read more novels as there seemed to be several interesting themes running through them. The plots were sometimes complicated but for me personally it was a spur to read more and to discover what the end result would be.



Our Autumn book was 'The Hundred Year Old Man who Climbed out of the Window and Disappeared'. A fascinating title and written by the Swedish author Jonas Jonasson who has produced a comic gem in the midst of all the Scandinavian murder books which are currently very popular.

Allan Karlsson escapes through the window to avoid the birthday party which is planned for him at the nursing home. After stealing a suitcase he is asked to look after, he gets on the first bus out of town and soon finds himself pursued by the police and criminals alike. He makes friends with some interesting people and their escapades are the core story running through the novel. Interspersed with this is Allan's life story from birth to this 100th birthday and despite his lack of interest in politics he becomes involved in the Spanish Civil War and makes acquaintances of

General Franco, political leaders in China, Stalin and President Truman. He is also involved in the making of the atom bomb but is really only interested in the basics of life, a roof over his head, food and of course his beloved vodka. This book will make you smile and would make a great Christmas present to show that you are never too old to have some fun.

For our Christmas read we are again looking to the classics and reading Anthony Trollope's 'Barchester Towers', a novel about the politics of the Church of England. Join us on 8th November to discuss Jonasson's novel or for mince pies on December 13th to discuss Anthony Trollope. Please see the news sheet for further details or contact Christine Adams or Liz Larkin.

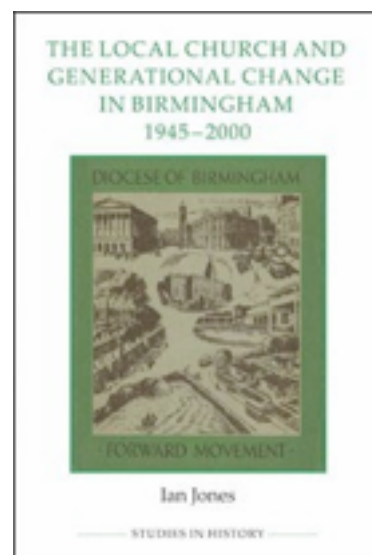


Christine Adams & Liz Larkin

We're part of a case study!

Dr Ian Jones, Director of St Peter's Saltley Trust, has written *The Local Church and Generational Change in Birmingham, 1945 – 2000*, which is an examination of how religious identity changed in twentieth-century England; Dr Jones has used Birmingham as a case study to illuminate wider trends and we are one of the churches which feature.

The publishers, Boydell & Brewer, are offering a 25% discount on this publication until December 31st 2012 visit www.boydellandbrewer.com



Mary Doreen Conner - 1933-2012



Mary came to live in Kings Norton when she was 1 year old; her parents had bought a brand new house on High Meadow Road. Three years later, she was joined by a brother, Robert – always known as Bob.

Mary made many friends as she attended Kings Norton Junior & Infant School and later Kings Norton Girls' Grammar School.

When the Girls' Life Brigade Company was formed at Kings Norton Methodist Church, in 1943, Mary was one of its first members. So began an enduring membership, and relationship, with a church that would later become part of The Cotteridge Church. Mary was a loyal member of the Sunday School and Youth Club, as well as several other social activities which, in later life, included the Women's Evening Fellowship.

Mary worked for many years as a Peripatetic Occupational Therapist and her weekly visits were highlights for her patients. Much later, she retrained and qualified as a Chiropodist and so, in an entirely different way, brought comfort to others.

Mary was a very gifted person, being an accomplished artist and musician; she played the piano and clarinet to orchestral standard. Perhaps her greatest gift was her personality: friendly, outgoing, happy, never complaining; no wonder she had so many friends.

After her mother died, Mary moved into Lucton House, where she was cared for for the remainder of her life.

Mary's death came as a great shock to everyone; she had joined us for worship on Sunday and then, early on Monday morning, she was taken ill. She died from the onset of pneumonia on the Thursday; thankfully, there was no prolonged suffering.

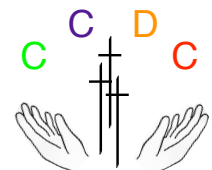
Her funeral service, which was a joyful event, was conducted by Primrose Taylor, who paid her own tribute to Mary. Her brother Bob then gave his own reminiscences; and it is at this point that I must pay tribute to Bob. He cared for Mary over the last few years, attentive in every way and giving of himself unstintingly. It was Bob's idea that the service should end with the strains of 'We are the champions'.

Mary, you are a Champion my friend!

Ivor Ravenhill

Church Day Centre.

What a surprise! After a brief phone call to the office, a cheque for £1400 came in for a BIG CHRISTMAS TREAT for staff and members. Plans are ahead to buy new decorations, gifts for all and a Party at The Rose & Crown, Lickey Hills. Thank you to a very kind donor.



Chris Pascal

What a star!

A few weeks ago, Eira Hoadly and I were in Hollywood [USA, not Birmingham, that is - Eds] on the 'Walk of Fame'.

Nearly 2000 pink and brass stars comprise the 'Walk', on Hollywood Boulevard, each one bearing the name of a well-known personality from film, TV, radio, music and theatre. There they all were: John Wayne, Bette Davis, Walt Disney, Glenn Miller. Then it happened; we stopped; we looked at the star in front of us; we looked at one another; then we looked at the star, again. How could this be? Yet, there it was, a star for....John Tesh!



Has our John got a star on the 'Walk'? When did it happen? Why didn't he tell us?

Well, the John Tesh with the star is an American pianist, pop music composer, radio host and TV presenter. He has won 6 Emmys, has 4 Gold Albums and has sold over 8 million records (oh, and in the 70s, dated Oprah Winfrey).

Our John Tesh might not have a star on the Hollywood 'Walk of Fame', but he's special to us.

Rita Sutton

Racing for a cure

On Sunday 21st October I ran the Birmingham Half Marathon in memory of my Nan (June Ravenhill). I have always been into running from when Grandad (Ivor Ravenhill) used to take me to cross countries starting at the age of 7. I now run whilst at University for Oxford Brookes and when at home for BRAT (Birmingham Rowheath Athletics and Triathlon). This meant I had experience on track, road and cross country, however never over 13.1 miles. I decided to run for Arthritis Research and began to gather sponsors whilst also gradually increasing my miles in training. I was very nervous on the Sunday but completed my first Half Marathon in 1hour 41.51secs, getting a new club record for Brookes which I hope to break again in the future. I would like to thank everyone for cheering me on around the course and also for sponsoring me, now I just have to decide what to do next!



The Leprosy Mission needs your stamps

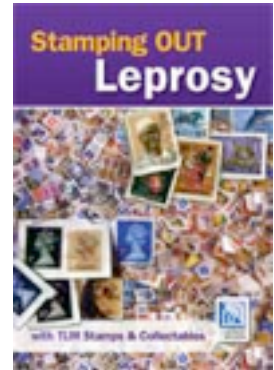
Leprosy is a disease which is spread by droplet infection (sneezing, coughing etc.) and leads to damage in the nervous system, which results in a loss of feeling and vulnerability to injury. Bone softening can also occur, which causes unsightly deformity.

Leprosy continues to carry a stigma and its victims suffer from family and social rejection. There are 630,000 new cases each year – that's more than one a minute – of which 20% occur in children.

Multi-drug therapy is speedy, effective and costs just £15 per course, with most sufferers being fully cured in less than a year.

Your stamps, domestic and foreign, will help; please place them in the box by the pigeon holes at the end of the Pennine Way. Thank you.

Myra Dean



Junior Church

Promotions Sunday

In September, as every year, we promoted a number of children up to the next group of Junior Church. Here are some reflections on the last year.

Children and Young people are an essential element of our church life, so we have continued to maintain a vibrant Junior Church throughout the year, providing age appropriate activities to stimulate and educate our children and young people.

This vibrancy is down to the fact that we have a great group of youngsters regularly attending the Cotteridge Church – thank you all – as well as a team of very dedicated Junior Church leaders and helpers. I think the thanks of the whole congregation should go to all those who have given huge amounts of time and energy in working with the children for some or part of this year, namely, Alison Sprackling, Jane Jones, Liz Larkin, Chris Pascal, Sue Clayton, Debbie Jones, Imogen Sprackling, Doug Hincks, Chris Allen, Charlotte Allen, Clare Naughton, Phil Adams and Tim Clayton. And also thanks to the ministers, particularly Jacky and Joycelyn who have given us a great deal of support this year.

As well as the weekly groups and annual events like the Christmas Service, new year party and picnic, a number of things have changed with Junior Church this year that are worth mentioning:

1. Since Easter we have had three groups in Junior Church rather than four. Crèche and beginners remains unchanged (for pre-School children); the middle group now caters for children from when they start school to year 5 (ie rising 5 to rising 10s) and seniors caters for those in their final year of junior school and secondary school. This change was enforced by leaders moving on and difficulty in recruiting further volunteers, but the arrangements are now established and working well.

2. For a few months we have trialled new arrangements for the younger children on first Sundays – which are all age worship and parade Sundays. As before, older children stay in the service on first Sundays. In the new arrangements younger children have also stayed in church with an area at the back of

the church provided where they can play under the supervision of their parents or carers. During the trial period we have learnt from experience and adapted the arrangement – such as providing more space and more quiet toys and activities. Whilst there have been some criticisms, the arrangement has been welcomed by many, particularly baptismal parties, and it was agreed at worship consultation in July that the practice should continue on first Sunday of every month.

3. A further recent change to integrate children more into worship has been that each fourth Sunday, when the children come into church for communion after being in groups, they will be invited to share with the congregation something of what they have been doing and learning about in their groups.

The final change is that I have stepped down as Junior Church coordinator after 4 years in order to concentrate on leading the seniors, with Clare. So on the day we passed the children on to their new groups this year, I passed on the coordinating role to Sue Clayton. Sue is well qualified to take this on, as she has been a leader of the Primary Group and has also organised the ensemble for most of this time.

Pam Waddell

The Future

Pam has spent a lot of this last year ensuring that we have the staff that we need and I'm very grateful that she has handed it over to me in a very good state.

So we are now able to look more at the service we provide. We've started to think about how we can encourage more children into Junior Church, who already have links with the church through Baptism and the other groups that meet here during the week.

We're also going to look at ways in which we can develop Junior Church, and beyond that, to think about what there is in the church for our young people, when they reach their late teens, and no longer feel that Junior Church is for them.

We ask for your prayers during this period of review and look forward to telling you more about it in Roundabout, during the year.

The next event in the Junior Church calendar is the Junior Church Christmas service, which will take place on the morning of Sunday 9th December. Please come along to support our young people as they retell the Christmas story, in their own special way.

Sue Clayton

Senior Church Big Sleepout - 30 November



Nine of our young people and four adult chaperones will be spending the night of the 30th in cardboard boxes at St Basils Birmingham HQ car park. They will be raising money for, and awareness of, Birmingham's young homeless. If you'd like to sponsor the group, please visit its page –

<http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/team/tccs>

- or look out for group members after morning service.

Christmas Fair 1 December 10.00 am-1.00 pm

Our annual Christmas Fair will take place on Saturday 1st December, and will again feature a Tree Fest. If you would like to be involved, and can help with this please let any of the Fund Raising Committee know.



Bournville Young Singers
Registered Charity No 1010462



COTTERIDGE CHURCH

Sunday 16 December 2012



Christmas Concert with the Bournville Young Singers - 16 December

We are delighted that this talented local choir will be performing for us on 16 December; the concert will replace the evening service. As with any good concert there will be audience participation with carols to sing. Please come and join us as part of our preparations for Christmas.

Boys' Brigade

The Battalion Chess competition took place recently with Joshua Vail qualifying for the finals in November. Euan Clayton also played well but did not get through the heats.

Our Junior section scored 112 points in the Battalion Quiz heats and we are now waiting to see if we have qualified for the final. Thanks to Mike Meadows who acted as our quiz master.

The annual enrolment service was held in October when all the boys and staff are presented with their new membership cards. Nick Jones took the service and Mike Meadows awarded the annual cups from the last session to Juniors Mahlon Pope,

Company Section Alex Clayton and Seniors trophy Chris Butt.

BB week which is our annual attempt to raise funds for the Boys Brigade at Cotteridge has been arranged for 4th-11th November when any donations would be appreciated by all of the boys and staff.

The Birmingham Mail have been running a 'wish campaign' when tokens have appeared in the newspaper every day from the beginning of October till the middle of November. If you do have the 'Mail' could you please save the tokens for our company. There is a box in the Pennine Way and the more we get determines the prize money awarded.

At the Church Christmas Fair this year we are again running the tombola stall so if you have any suitable prizes it would again be appreciated.

Finally it was good to see the Guides and Brownies at the Harvest Festival Service and hope to see them again at future Church Parades.

Bob Hotchkiss



*more
than
just...*



**...x shopping days
'til Christmas**

**Don't forget to order your Christmas cards,
gifts and festive food here!**

Cotteridge Church Bookcentre



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Services

JL-G = Rev Joycelyn Lewis-Gregory

NJ = Rev Nick Jones

RC = Rev Roger Collins

JE = Rev Jacky Embrey

HC = Holy Communion

November	4th	11th	18th	25th	
9.00 a.m. H.C.	JL-G	RC	RC	JE	
10.30 a.m.	JL-G Parade/ Baptism	RC HC	JL-G	JE HC	
6.30 p.m.	RC HC	Café Church	JE Memorial	Mrs Gill Salkeld	
December	2nd	9th	16th	23rd	30th
9.00 a.m. H.C.	JL-G	JE	RC	NJ	NJ
10.30 a.m.	JL-G Parade/ Baptism	Junior Church Service	RC HC	Carol Service	NJ HC
6.30 p.m.	Advent Service	Café Church	3.00 p.m. Christmas Concert Bournville Young Singers	NJ HC	No Service
January 2013	6th	13th	20th	27th	
9.00 a.m. H.C.	JL-G	RC	NJ	JE	
10.30 a.m.	JL-G Parade/ Baptism	RC HC	G Hall	JE HC	
6.30 p.m.	NJ Covenant	Café Church	Churches Together in B30	Mr Andy Vail	

Christmas Services:

24th December	23.30	JL-G	Watchnight Communion Service
25th December	10.30	JE	Christmas Day Worship



Roundabout is the bi-monthly newsletter of The Cotteridge Church.

Large print issue in the Pennine Way

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