

ROUNDAABOUT



The Cotteridge Church
Witnessing at the Heart of the Community

January 2013

From the Vestry



Revelry and resolutions have been essential to ringing in the New Year since 2000 B.C. when Babylonians held semi-annual festivals around the spring and autumn equinoxes. Back then, people marked the beginning of a New Year by paying off debts and returning borrowed goods. The practice carried over into Roman times with worshippers offering resolutions of good conduct to Janus, who is always depicted with two heads facing in opposite directions. A great motif! What better way to symbolize transitions, being neither here nor there, past nor future, but by depicting that god as literally astride both. Even today it is believed that if you touch the Janus head as you cross the bridge, Ponte Fabricio, in Rome it will bring good fortune. It never ceases to amaze me how

many statues I have seen which, if you rub or touch, promise good fortune. This serves the same purpose as new year resolutions which look for a better time ahead. New Year Resolutions normally focus on things that make us look better or live longer, things that will help us to have more, or things that will help us get along with everybody. Although looking to the future is positive, there is a danger that the present can be ignored which is why at New Year, I am mindful of the words of Frances R. Havergal, 1874. She wrote these words as a poem, *Another Year is Dawning* for her New Year's greeting cards:

*Another year is dawning, dear Father, let it be
In working or in waiting, another year with Thee.
Another year of progress, another year of praise,
Another year of proving Thy presence all the days.*

*Another year of mercies, of faithfulness and grace,
Another year of gladness in the shining of Thy face;
Another year of leaning upon Thy loving breast;
Another year of trusting, of quiet, happy rest.*

*Another year of service, of witness for Thy love,
Another year of training for holier work above.
Another year is dawning, dear Father, let it be
On earth, or else in Heaven, another year for Thee.*

From the Editors' Desk



Welcome, to our New Year edition of Roundabout. Once again, we have received a great collection of articles and photos.

The next issue is out on Sunday 3 March; so, please let us have your items by 27 February 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

A belated Happy 70th Birthday to Rita Sutton.

We have welcomed in Baptism, Kai and Zac Evans.

We bring greetings for the New Year from our friends, the Balint Family, in Timisoara, Romania; we also announce the birth of Mark, on 1 December; a second son for Reka and Istvan and a second grandchild for Sandor and Gyongi.

TUPTONIA



After 7½ years of fundraising and 7 months of excitement as we watched the build process, we took delivery of our new boat in mid-August. August Bank Holiday weekend saw the Committee undertaking the shake-down cruise to find any problems and work out what “extras” we needed. It was an excellent cruise, the boat is fabulous and the problems were few and minor and were sorted within a day or two!

In October we held our Launch Weekend when the Chief Guide, Gill Slocombe, came to officially launch and name the new

Tuptonia. We had a fantastic day with Gill on the Saturday – the sun shone all day though it was very cold. We had lots of guests who came to see the boat and a good crowd of Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Senior Section girls who all had a great time and can't wait to go out on the boat. Lots of our friends and supporters also came to see the results of all those fundraising events. Sunday we weren't so lucky with the weather but still had lots

of visitors.

A number of Training days have been held over the last couple of months, so now almost all of our regular skippers are all set to go for the spring of 2013.

The boat can be used by Brownies (over 9 years of age), Guides and Senior Section girls, with priority being given to Birmingham and Northamptonshire units. We can provide a skipper for those units who do not have anyone qualified to “drive”, the leaders do need to have the appropriate Girlguiding residential qualifications. The boat will accommodate 8 girls and 3 leaders as well as the skipper, who has a separate sleeping area.



A big “Thank You” must go to everyone, including The Cotteridge Church, who helped us to achieve our aim of raising £95,000 to replace the old boat.

What the Dickens?



On the evening of 10 November, the Malvern Room was transformed into Birmingham Town Hall for a dramatic reading of his ‘A Christmas Carol’ by Mr Charles Dickens (a.k.a. John Marshall).

With the scene being set by his wife, Barbara, the talented Mr Marshall transported us back to Christmas 1853 and the tale of Ebenezer Scrooge’s journey from miser to philanthropist.

Several members of the audience really got into the spirit (no pun intended) by dressing in Victorian costume, and the atmosphere was further helped with Victorian refreshments, including gruel! Thanks to all who organised a superb evening.

Steve Wright



St Basil's Big SleepOut



On Friday 30th November, some of the Seniors from Junior Church decided that they would give up their beds, central heating and dry homes to go to the St Basil's Big Sleepout. We all met in Cotteridge then set off for the city centre car park, which was to be our home for the night. When we arrived, we joined a short queue to collect a sheet of plastic each. We then went to the cardboard area, where we collected a box. Tom had arrived earlier and already selected an area for us, so we set about building our shelter for the night.

Some of us built pods, whilst others built longer, more spacious "rooms" to sleep in. We covered it all with the plastic sheets. The girls decided to make windows to see each other

and we copied them. After some food and hot chocolate, we wandered around looking at other people's creations. There was a massive pirate ship in the middle, a mini church with lights on it, a castle, a huge Christmas present covered in wrapping paper and what we thought was a volcano, but could have been a tent gone wrong! Maybe we should start planning now for next year!

We also came across other people we knew including an officer from Boys Brigade and some teachers from my school, including Suzanne Bunn.

We went to the young people's talk, where we learnt about young people's homelessness in Birmingham. Some of these people are now being helped by St Basils for up to two years. They have been given a temporary home or support.

There was a carol service at midnight, led by the Bishop. The Lord Mayor was also there. The Bishop greeted us and even gave Cotteridge a mention in the service, for being the first to get to the comfortable chairs at the back!!

At 1.00 a.m., we all settled ourselves down in our cardboard boxes for a difficult night's sleep. We were all in multiple layers of clothing and sleeping bags, but with temperatures close to freezing, it took some time to get to sleep. We were woken at 4.00 a.m. and set about taking our structures down for recycling. We had some toast then packed the cars to go home. We crawled up to bed at 6.00 a.m. and in some cases didn't emerge until lunchtime, although others made it to the Christmas Fair to run the Junior Church stall!

We were lucky enough to have lots of clothes, sleeping bags, warm drinks and a cardboard shelter, but it did give us an idea of what it's like for the young people who have no home.

The Cotteridge group of Pam, Jonathan, Steve, Naomi, Alex, Dan, Josh, Euan, Christine, Natalie, Kathryn and Bethany raised over £1200 for St Basils. Thank you very much to those of you who sponsored us.

Euan Clayton



Travelling Turners

Following a selection weekend, both Christine and Natalie Turner were selected to go on international Guiding trips this summer.

Christine is going on a trip to Mexico with eight other Birmingham Guides and three leaders. While there, she will stay in *Our Cabaña*, one of four World Guide Centres where girls and young women can come together to share experiences and broaden leadership and life skills. The other three Centres are *Pax Lodge*, in London, *Our Chalet*, in Switzerland and *Sangam*, in





India; Christine has stayed in *Pax Lodge* and *Our Chalet*. Part of the Summer Friendship Event in Mexico will involve meeting Guides from around the world, learning about Mexico's culture, and volunteering in the local community. In the second week of their visit, the group will be staying in Mexico City as a base for sightseeing and day trips. The whole trip is very exciting for Christine because she has always wanted to visit Mexico, and more recently she has aspired to visit all the World Guide Centres, so this trip really is perfect for her!

Natalie, with five other Guides and two leaders, is taking part in an event called *Jailbreak*, which is a challenge-based trip through three European countries; the group chose Italy, Germany and Austria and will be undertaking challenges, on the theme of 'B', one of which is to buy the tackiest souvenir members can find! *Jailbreak* will be attempted by teams from all around the UK, but Natalie's is the only one from Birmingham. More completed challenges means more points which could mean a win. The group will be planning everything about the trip, including travel, food and accommodation. This opportunity will allow Natalie to become more confident with travelling and help to develop her organisational skills and build up her teamwork skills. In addition to these new skills, she is greatly looking forward to seeing many famous places in Europe.



JAILBREAK 2013

Between them, Christine and Natalie must raise nearly £3000 to fund their trips, and are planning many events to achieve this. The first event will be a Burn's Supper and Ceilidh at Cotteridge Church, similar to the one Christine ran in 2011. It is being held on Saturday 26 January and tickets will be sold on Sundays after the morning service throughout January. It will be a fun night of traditional Scottish dancing and eating with some key aspects of Burn's Night ceremonies. It would be great to see as many people as possible there! Christine's cooking service is up and running again, see her for more information. Other, smaller, events will follow later in the year.

Christine and Natalie Turner

Ivy Blanchard

Ivy was a lady of exceptional qualities. She had more than her share of troubles in life. She lost her own mother when she was only 3 years old. She was sent away from home to live with an aunt until her father re-married. Again, at fourteen, she was sent away to help the Cowells - local bus and garage owners. Still at school, she was expected to milk their cow and help in the garage shop, before she went to school. The third time she left home was to work as a maid for a family of gentleman farmers. They took her into their hearts. She

learned many skills - how to make cream and butter, but more importantly how to be a lady.

During the war she married a local farmer's son. They had 3 children, Yvonne, Pat and Philip. After 14 years of abuse, she ran away to Plymouth - taking her children to give them a better life. She found work as a housekeeper, and Ivy and the children joined Erica at 89, Peters Park Lane.

She lavished all the children with the love she had not received in her own childhood. Life was full of hard work- trying to provide for the children, but there was fun too. She was a great cook who could make a feast out of very little. The children's birthday parties were legendary in the street,

She married Dennis in 1960, and the family moved to Birmingham - to 58 Middleton Hall Rd. As the children grew older, Ivy wanted to make a contribution to the community and she joined the WRVS-the Women's Royal Voluntary Service. She started work in the cafe/shop at Selly Oak hospital. And her long career of service to others began.

This voluntary work gave her the courage to apply for work in a ladies fashion shop She later managed the kiosk for John Menzies on the walkway in the Bullring, maintaining the stock and cashing up- she enjoyed the responsibility.

In 1978 her beloved son took his own life. She had survived the rigours of hard work, anxiety and divorce, but struggled to continue her life. She prayed to God to help her through; vowing to do something for someone else every day.

After she was widowed she was determined to live independently, moving a few doors up the road to the Coach House. She blossomed. She continued to support her family, and started to attend church more regularly. She added new friends to her existing friends and neighbours, joined the Women's Guild and bible study group, and started to work as a voluntary carer for Age Concern. She continued visiting others in need into her late 80's, travelling on the bus or train, or on foot to visit people in hospital or in their homes. Remarkably, they were often younger than her! She was most proud of her 3 certificates of commendation from the City Council, displayed on the wall in her beloved Coach House.

The garden at the Coach House is a reflection of her great love of plants and the great outdoors. She loved the hills of the Lake District and the Scottish Highlands, but most of all, the cliffs of Cornwall.

More sorrow came when Yvonne was taken from her in a tragic accident. This took its toll, a blow to her health and well-being.

Ivy continued to live in her beloved Coach House, This year she amazed doctors and family with her recovery following a mastectomy for breast cancer She was a lady of remarkable strength and ability. Hardworking, brave, generous with her time and money, creative, an accomplished cook and gardener, a wonderful mother and grandmother, and a friend to all.

We give thanks for her life.

Tea from Tanzania: Adriano Kalili



For tea plucker Adriano Kalili, the fair wage he receives means he has been able to build a three-bedroom house for his wife, Alizeta, and their three children – and the Fairtrade premium has helped to provide the roof.

"I have built my house using money from tea plucking," said Adriano, who has worked for Kibena Tea in southern Tanzania since 1996. "It is made from mud bricks. The Kibena Tea Fair Trade Fund have given me iron sheets to roof my house."

The fair trade fund at Kibena administers the Fairtrade premium and Adriano is just one of many workers whose homes have been improved through the provision of iron sheeting for their roofs.



Working at Kibena means Adriano is able to pay the school fees for his 10-year-old daughter, Adela, and help with the cost of schooling two orphaned relatives too.

"I would like to improve the lives of my children," he said. "I would like them to go to secondary school and higher education, so they can work in a good position."

Adriano's working day is made a little easier as he is the proud owner of a bicycle, which he bought in 1999. Using it to move from field to field can save him up to 25 minutes at a time - helping him to reach his target of six baskets of tea each day. Adriano's journeys to and from home are also safer, thanks to a local cycle track paid for with the Fairtrade premium.

About Kibena

Kibena is a modern plantation and factory and the fair trade premium it earns from its excellent teas is transforming the lives of its workers, their families and their communities.

Thanks to the premium, they have built and equipped primary schools and village dispensaries, paid for a maternity ward for the local hospital, and supplied new water pumps.

When asked what message he had for people in the UK, Adriano said: "Please continue buying tea from Kibena to help us to improve our life conditions."

Boys' Brigade



Our annual BB Week took place during November and raised £534 towards Company funds. Thanks to everybody who made a donation.

We have also collected 7,180 'wish vouchers' from the Birmingham Mail. These have been sent to the Mail and during January we should know the amount we are to receive. Thanks again to all church members and friends for taking the trouble to collect them for us.

The BB clothes scheme will take place during January. If you have any unwanted clothes (this can include shoes, handbags, belts, bedding, curtains and towels), please take a black bag to be given out during the month. If possible, please return them to Church on Friday 1 February (6-00pm-7-00pm) for collection that night. The bags can also be brought to Church on Sunday 27th January and we will store them. The clothes will be used in the BB charity shop or sent to third world countries. Depending on weight we will be given a cash amount for our company funds.



Our Junior Section quiz team reached the Battalion finals and finished in 5th place. Well done to Oisin Reel, Harry Webb, Billy Clarke, Sharn Khan and Alex Turbill.

Josh Vail reached the final of the Battalion chess competition and was unlucky to finish runner up.



Sam Morgan, Chris Butt and James Hobson have all qualified for the Presidents Badge and will receive their awards at the February Parade service.

Bob Hotchkiss

Services

JL-G = Rev Joycelyn Lewis-Gregory

NJ = Rev Nick Jones

RC = Rev Roger Collins

JE = Rev Jacky Embrey

HC = Holy Communion

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
February	3rd	10th	17th	24th
9.00 a.m. H.C.	JE	JL-G	JE	NJ
10.30 a.m.	JE Parade/ Baptism	JL-G HC	JE	NJ HC
6.30 p.m.	RC	Café Church	JL-G	Miss Hazel Nash



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