

# Roundabout



**The Cotteridge Church  
Witnessing at the Heart of the Community**

**March 2013**

## From the Vestry



Vicar of the Parish of Cotteridge and the Bishop of Birmingham's Adviser for Minority Ethnic Anglicans, is a joint post so, in order for me to keep grounded and sane, I have needed to discover a synergy to minister across both posts. Subsequently, the use of puppets of various ethnicities, for spreading the Good News of the Gospel to the up and coming Anglican youth has come to the forefront of my capabilities.

The main purpose of my Bishop's Adviser's role is to give in-depth, and hands on assistance, to parishes with regard to developing the discipleship of Minority Ethnic young people and young adults as a diocesan priority. As well as meeting with Bishop's Youth Council, I have been meeting, listening to and encouraging young people and priests in various parishes, not forgetting my own

parish; assisting them to become fully engaged in the life of the Church.

We must recognise that there is diversity within the Church; moreover we should be united in all aspects of the Church. Paul's first letter to the Corinthians 12:12-14 gives us an insight into the unity and diversity of the body of Christ.

Moreover, I have an avid interest and background in science; this has enabled me to comprehend the recent research into Deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA), which is a molecule encoding the genetic instructions used in the development and functioning of all known living organisms and many viruses. In turn, I have been watching the comedian Eddie Izzard who embarked on an epic journey which uses cutting-edge DNA science to explore the secrets of his mother's family history over 10,000 generations. The programme explained that there is a genetic route map locked in our DNA.

There is significant evidence that we all have originated from Africa and have migrated out over 10 thousands of years to different parts of the world. Our features and hues have changed to adapt to various climates. So there is some interweaving in science, religion and ancient history.

The most exciting thing for me about the Anglican Communion is its diversity. The people we would call 'Minority Ethnic Anglicans' in this country, within the contents of the Anglican Communion, are essentially the majority. Therefore, being an Anglican means much more than belonging to a parish church, it means joining an immense number of Christians across the world. That in itself indicates diversity, of culture, language, traditions, customs, and dress. Reaching across one hundred and sixty different countries means that each country, diocese, and parish bring to the Anglican Communion its own richness and diversity.

Joycelyn

## From the Editors' Desk



Welcome to another bumper issue of Roundabout; that's all we've space for in our column, apart from:

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](mailto:marfleetwright@tiscali.co.uk) or pop them into the 'W' pigeonhole in the Pennine Way.

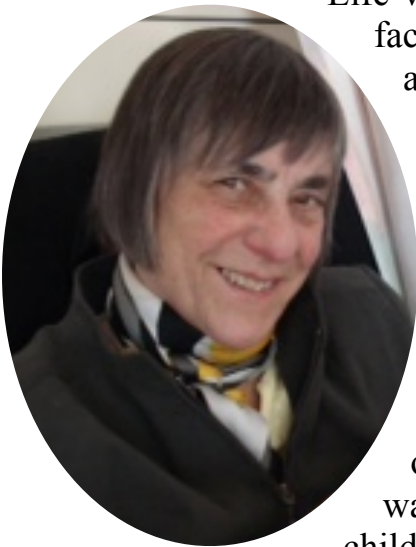
We look forward to hearing from you.

Steve & Caroline

## Family & Friends

Welcome to the world to Henry Richard and congratulations to parents Richard and Alison, brother Oscar and grandparents Norman and Linda Mann; Henry was born on 25 January at 8am weighing 8lbs. Birthday wishes to Clive Babb who turns 90 years young on 17 March.

## Sue Sutcliffe



Life was not easy for Sue as a child, but perhaps the difficulties she faced were what made her who she was. Born in Bromsgrove, she and her brother Tony were sent to a Bluecoat residential school in Wolverhampton after their father died – a real shock to the system, especially as they were not told initially of their father's death. She told of being presented with underwear called combinations and not having the faintest idea how to get into them! She spoke sadly of her mother, after two bus journeys on Sunday afternoons not able to arrive at the beginning of the visiting session – the only time the two children were together - only being allowed to stay until visiting officially ended. When they came home in school holidays, Sue was often lonely, with her mother at work and not knowing local children, she spent a lot of time on her own.

Many people would have been disheartened and defeated – but not Sue. She never forgot those early days but perhaps that was where she learned the compassion for all sorts of people, which became the hallmark of her life.

When she left school she worked in the QE Pathology lab, but soon made her way into the police force where she encountered all sorts of people on her 'patch', which included Selly

Oak and Balsall Heath. Soon though, marriage to John and eventually motherhood of her three beloved girls, took the place of pounding the beat. They lived over the Sutcliffe Hardware and Post Office, which they ran for many years. We can imagine Sue having a chat with so many different people, perhaps there developing her excellent listening ear. Eventually, the family moved into Northfield, along with Sue's mother. John as well as Sue loved the garden and Sue became a bee keeper always retaining an interest, telling us not to grow double flowers, so that the bees could find the way to the nectar.

Finally, Sue achieved an ambition - her own front door – not shared with anyone else. Her home in Bromsgrove gave her so much pleasure, especially the garden and the increasing flock of sparrows who were her regular visitors.

Along the way though, Sue had been busy. Church had always been important to her. In the early days, she contemplated the possibility of becoming a nun – but firmly rejected it! Demanding projects were what fired Sue's enthusiasm. Challenge stimulated her to thought and then action. Her lay activities included involvement in the establishment and premises of the youth club at St. Lawrence's church where she helped to run the club for years. She became parish secretary there, worked with a project for the homeless in Birmingham, and then became administrator here in the Cotteridge Church. This involved multi-tasking – or was it juggling? Which part did she like best? Her police experience helped her to know how to cope with and sometimes get rid of difficult characters who liked the warmth of the coffee bar. Sue became famous for escorting Arthur, the local tramp, to the municipal baths – the passenger seat in her car shrouded with polythene bags as Arthur proudly travelled through Cotteridge in style! She helped so many people here as well as running the office, supervising maintenance, letting out spaces for clubs and societies. Sue always knew where to go. She recognised the potential of an untrained young man who became chief cook for some years, negotiated her way through fraught situations, taking plenty of knocks on the way, but never letting them defeat her. Sometimes her office saw an enraged Sue, stompin' up and down, muttering, but if you were patient and just sat quietly, she would suddenly look at you and start to laugh – ready to seek a solution for whatever was troubling her. She would give anything a go, didn't let things foster, didn't bear grudges. (Writing a job description to help her successor seemed to be never-ending!)

One of her strengths, not confined to Cotteridge, was fund raising. She would trawl tirelessly through lists of charities, write begging letters, invite possible donors to contribute, raising tens of thousands of pounds, for the church ambulance, Avoncroft Art Society, and latterly Northfield Homestart where she was vice chair of the committee at the time of her death, having served her term as Chair.

Where did she get her energy, not only for all this, but for studying for an HND in theology, talented painting, writing the history of Avoncroft Art Society, Tai Chi classes, book clubs, theatre visits, concerts, training as a spiritual prayer guide, being part of a prayer trio which has continued to meet since the last Billy Graham crusade? Then there were the interesting holidays, New Zealand, China, Israel, Oberammergau, Romania, Iona as well as visiting Jane and her family in Jersey and welcoming all three girls and their families to her home. Sue would have attributed her stamina and inner strength to the work of the Holy Spirit within.

Sue's glass was always at least half full. She actually had very little self-confidence, was easily hurt, perhaps seeing malice where none was intended, but she didn't perpetuate unhappiness and could laugh at herself with that sense of fun which lit up her face. She responded so well to encouragement, with fierce loyalty, supportive friendship, generosity and unconditional love. Her faith continued to deepen and was expressed in the way she lived, rather than thrust down anyone's throat.

Many people would have been defeated by the illness which beset her, but she has soldiered on, coping well with her treatment, making the most of the time she had left. She was ready to move on though, unafraid, ready to talk of facing death. We can only be thankful that the end came so peaceably. It is fitting that she will spend a short time in the little chapel here where she found solace and strength, especially in the weekday Holy Communion services.

As we look back, we can see the trail of goodness by which so many of us will remember Sue.

The last words though, came from a tribute written by Sue's beloved daughters, Jane, Anne and Elaine, who recognised and treasured '*...a very special mother, their rock, selfless, always there for them, indefatigable, determined, positive and although she never acknowledged it, intelligent, talented and astonishing, utterly wonderful.*'

Ros Murphy

## **Ron Clarke**

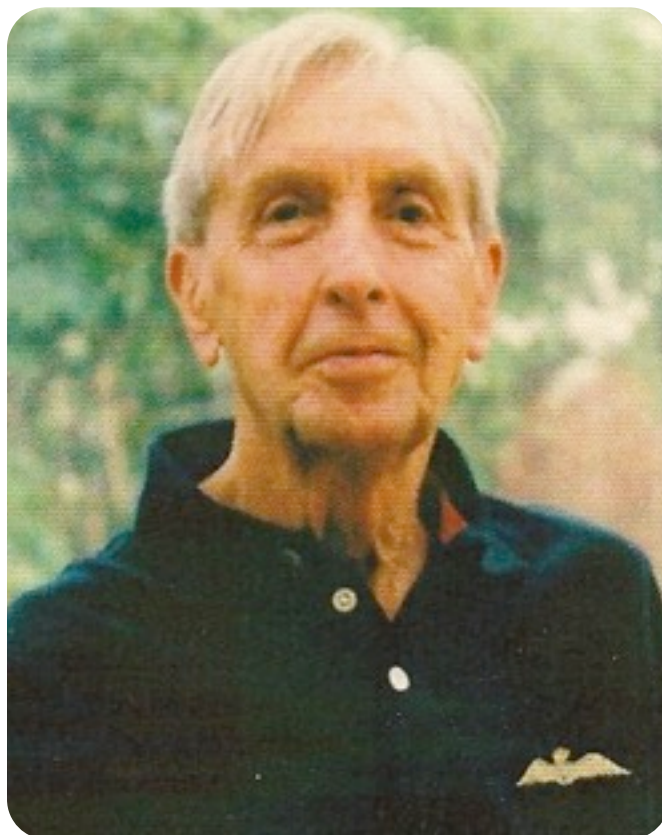
When Ron's family moved from Winson Green to Kings Norton, he began his 60 years' service to the Boys Brigade at Cotteridge.

The 53rd Company was formed in 1943 and Ron was a founder member turning up on the first night with nearly 150 other boys. Ivor Ravenhill moved from Quinton and joined the company and they became life long friends.

Ron married Barbara who was a Girls Brigade member and they had 2 children, David and Catherine. They had a long and happy marriage until Barbara sadly died in 1998. Ron continued coming to BB even attending camp in 2001.

As a Boys Brigade officer he ran the football and cricket teams and attended many annual camps; he also enjoyed taking the drill class. Ron started the 53rd Old Boys football team and was still playing on the right wing into his forties.

After a long apprenticeship he became an excellent tailor and worked on suits for Billy



Wright [Wolves] and Ray Barlow [West Bromwich Albion] and even made John Cliff's wedding suit. Towards the end of his career he worked for West Midlands Police doing alterations to their uniforms.

His hobbies included football [West Bromwich Albion], tennis which he played well into his seventies and painting.

Ron Clarke will always be remembered and in the Boys Brigade motto remained 'Sure and Stedfast' till the end.

Bob Hotchkiss

## Church Day Centre



Since Christmas, we have noticed a drop in numbers (due mainly to the difficult weather conditions). Despite this, activities have continued with the added Knitting Circle, which has been formed by a new member. It is great to see not only the members, but students and staff, who are learning/re-learning to plain/purl/cast-on & off..... Wool & knitting needles will be gratefully accepted. If you know anyone who would appreciate a day (or more) with other elderly, frail friends & family, please contact Michelle (4583101), Chris Pascal or Irene (office). We offer transport, refreshments, especially 3 course home-made lunch, leisure activities, gentle exercise & friendship.

Chris Pascal

## What do you do on Thursday afternoons?

If you are retired why not join a group of like-minded people at the United Reformed Church in Beaumont Road, Bournville? We meet from 2 to 3pm on the first and third Thursdays of the month and have a variety of speakers. Coming up we have talks on the new Birmingham Library, the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, travels in Burma, our local Neighbourhood Police, and Christian Aid. We look forward to your joining us.

Primrose Taylor

## Some Questions about Jesus

How old is Jesus?

Where does he live?

What was his favourite name?

Did he have children?

If he had children did they have children?

Isobel Larkin aged 7

*Isobel would be very happy to receive your answers, which can be e-mailed via her Mum and Dad at [pandliz@sky.com](mailto:pandliz@sky.com).*

## 3Cs Café - New Toasters for Old

This month the 3C's Café has had some money donated to buy some new equipment, so at last we can replace our poorly functioning toasters with new industrial ones, which will hopefully last for a little while longer than the old ones have done.

We were sorry to lose the services of Joan Hall on Thursday mornings as she has a bad back and is unable to do her shift any more. She has been a loyal volunteer for many years and we all owe her a debt of gratitude.

I am pleased to announce that Diana Ross has had her cataract removed and is now able to work the till on her many shifts on the 3C's café - we are all glad to see her back.

Unfortunately, we are still looking for a replacement Saturday Coordinator as Hazel is definitely finishing at the end of March; so, please think carefully whether you could spare some time on Saturdays to co-ordinate the volunteer teams.

Linda Mann

## Book Group



We have been very pleased to welcome two new members over the last few months. We have also decided to rotate the venue so, if you are unsure where the group is meeting, please ask Christine Adams or Liz Larkin.

Before Christmas we returned to the classics to read *The Warden* by Anthony Trollope, a fascinating insight into Victorian church politics. It inspired some of the group to move onto *Barchester Towers* to continue the saga.

After Christmas we read *A Week in December* by Sebastian

Faulks, which followed the lives of seven people in London in December 2007. The intricate details of the dispassionate hedge fund manager threatened to put some people off continuing with the book, but persistence paid off. We had an in depth discussion, which included the lives of the student led astray by Islamist theory, a schoolboy hooked on 'skunk' (cannabis) and reality TV and the love life of the tube driver and the barrister. The book covers topics such as our addiction to reality TV and how traumatic the effects can be to participants and those watching; how the lives of a Polish footballer, recently arrived at a Premiership club, and his girlfriend were linked to the Hedge fund manager and his love of porn sites. We even talked about whether the school curriculum has been dumbed down to suit the lowest common denominator.

Well, after that it is a return to the classics to read *Lord Jim* by Joseph Conrad. This story follows a young seaman who abandons ship with the Captain and crew when disaster strikes and the boat takes on water. Not only is the crew saved but also the passengers left behind on the abandoned ship. The story follows the trial when the crew have to explain their actions and dereliction of responsibility and of Jim's life afterwards.

We will be meeting on Thursday 14th March at Claire's house. See news sheet for details.

Christine Adams

## **Riding Lights Theatre Company - 'A different drum'**

Later this month Riding Lights Theatre Company will be performing their powerful and inspirational play 'A different drum' at two different church venues in Birmingham:

Thursday 21st - All Saints Parish Church 172 Herbert Road Small Heath B10 OPR

Saturday 23rd - Christ Church 953 Pershore Road Selly Park B29 7PS

Riding Lights Theatre Company is one of the UK's most productive and long-established independent theatre companies. Founded in York over 30 years ago, partly through the initiative of a city-centre church, the company continues to take innovative, accessible theatre into all kinds of communities far and wide. Their aim is to create unforgettable, entertaining theatre which challenges us all to examine the world we inhabit and the ways we live amongst each other. While the company's roots are in a Christian ethos, their work is open to everyone, using faith as a springboard to explore all aspects of life.

Frequently characterised by quirky satire, Riding Lights' productions challenge audiences to engage with current issues, often examining the reverberations of historical events in today's society. This is the flavour of 'A different drum':





‘In the blood of a flea, wrapped in a bundle of French silk, the plague arrives in the Derbyshire village of Eyam. With it comes a devastating decision. As the entire community chooses the bold path of sacrifice... they begin to march to the sound of a different drum.

Beginning in the 17th century the play follows a thread through history to the present day, picking up accounts of other men and women who dare to break the boundaries of self-interest. Beating with a heart of resistance and selflessness these are stories of individuals who set out in hope and discover their potential for remarkable love in action. Full of life and colourful music, ‘A different drum’ imagines how different the world could be if we responded unswervingly to the golden rule – ‘do unto others as you would have them do to you.’

We would thoroughly recommend this theatrical event and encourage you to go along. Tickets are £10 and are available from the Box Office on 01904 613000 and you can find out more and watch a video clip at [www.ridinglights.org](http://www.ridinglights.org)

Tim & Alison Sprackling

## Boys' Brigade



Everybody at Boys Brigade was shocked and saddened by the news that Ron Clarke had passed away. Ron had retired from the company about 10 years ago after being a member at Cotteridge for nearly 60 years. We will miss him, especially at Church parade services when he continued to sit with the boys. His popularity certainly showed at his memorial service with such a large gathering of ex BB members. Our thoughts are with his family at this sad time.

Sam Morgan and James Hobson have received their President badges from our President Mike Meadows. Chris Butt was recovering from an operation and will receive his award in March.

Many thanks to everybody who donated unwanted clothes for our recent appeal. We collected 570kg which means we will probably receive about £170. Next January we are hoping to do it again. The Birmingham Mail ‘wish tokens’ finished in December and we collected 7,180 and we have been awarded £186.

The annual ‘General Knowledge Quiz’ has been arranged for Friday 5 April for teams of up to 6 players. The entry fee per player is £2. It starts at 7-45pm and all proceeds will be donated to The Acorns’, St.Mary’s Hospice and the Cotteridge Church. Mike Meadows has again agreed to be quiz master.

Bob Hotchkiss



## We put Justice at the heart of everything we do



*Traidcraft* supports thousands of farmers and artisans in developing countries to trade their way out of poverty. For us, it's all about a hand up, not a handout. Hope, and a sustainable future.

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big businesses, their systems and structures and encourage them to behave ethically too.

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We don't make it easy for ourselves!

We don't go looking for bigger businesses to trade with - that'd be too easy! No, we actively seek out those who can most benefit from our help – and, for many producers, that means starting at the very beginning, working through the difficulties, catching people when they fall. All that development work takes time that big business sometimes doesn't have. We're in it for the long haul.

We help whole communities to grow and flourish

From your community straight to a remote co-operative or individual farmer in the developing world, when you buy from us, you're directly connected to the people who benefit. Whether it's a stall in church, your workplace coffee or a school tuck shop, you're making a real difference.

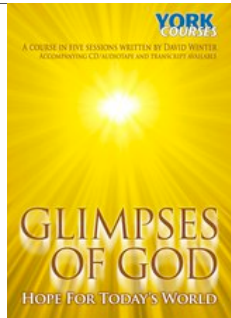
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When we helped establish the Fairtrade Mark in 1992, we committed to regular support, investment and pioneering innovation into new sectors, pushing the boundaries so that more farmers could feel the benefits of fair trade. We're about responsible, accountable business. And we believe responsible customers will choose to spend their money with companies who trade in a socially responsible way.

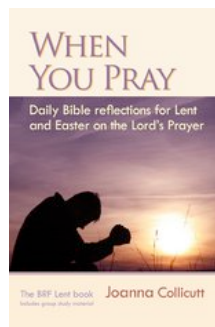
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COTTERIDGE CHURCH BOOK CENTRE 2013

# LENT



£3.90



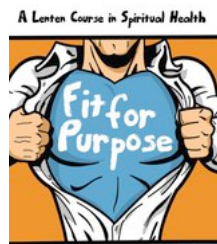
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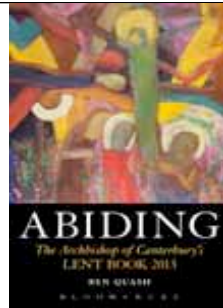


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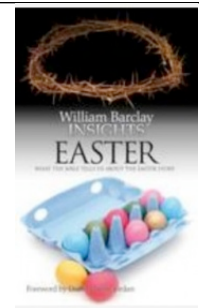
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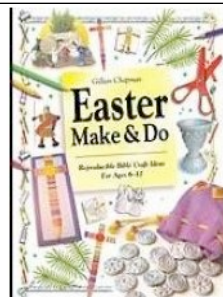
£4.99



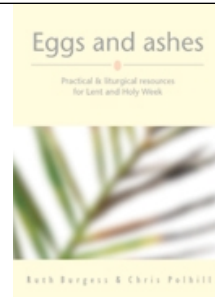
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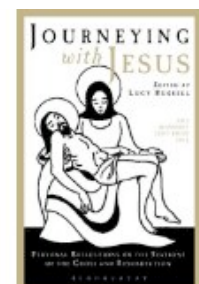
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# The Real Easter Egg



£3.99

It's hard to believe that, out of the whopping 80 million chocolate Easter Eggs sold each year, not one of them mentions Jesus on the box. Until now that is.

The Real Easter Egg is the first and only Fairtrade chocolate Easter Egg to explain the Christian understanding of Easter on the box. It also supports charity development projects.

**FREE in each box -  
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## Features

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# **Easter Day**

## **Sunrise Service**

### **on the Lickey Hills**

**6.30am**

**British Summer Time**

**(Note: clocks go forward Saturday night.)**

**Meet at Beacon car park**

**Followed by breakfast**

**hosted by**

**Longbridge Methodist Church**

## Services

JL-G = Rev Joycelyn Lewis-Gregory

NJ = Rev Nick Jones

RC = Rev Roger Collins

JE = Rev Jacky Embrey

HC = Holy Communion

March 2013	3rd	10th	17th	24th Palm Sunday	31st Easter
9.00 a.m. H.C.	NJ	JL-G	RC	JE	JE
10.30 a.m.	NJ	JL-G HC	RC	JE HC	JE HC
6.30 p.m.	JE HC	Café Church	JLG HC	Choir	NJ HC
1 Apr 2013	7th	14th	21st	28th	
9.00 a.m. H.C.	RC	JL-G	RC	NJ	
10.30 a.m.	Miss P Taylor	JL-G HC	RC	NJ HC	
6.30 p.m.	NJ HC	Café Church	NJ HC	Miss H Nash	
1 May 2013	5th	12th	19th Pentecost	26th Trinity Sunday	
9.00 a.m. H.C.	JE	JL-G	JL-G	RC	
10.30 a.m.	JE	JL-G HC	Mr S. Wright	RC HC	
6.30 p.m.	JE HC	Café Church	RC HC	Mr A. Vail	



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