

# ROUNDA BOUT



**THE COTTERIDGE CHURCH**  
Witnessing at the Heart of the Community

**November 2013**

## From the Vestry



Recently I was sent an email from London Zoo which attached a film clip of the actual birth of their tiger cub. The photography was quite amazing. It was with some sadness that I read a couple of weeks later that the tiger cub had drowned overnight. The excitement at Edinburgh Zoo over the summer that the Giant Panda was possibly pregnant, appeared dashed when the announcement was made that the panda was not pregnant. Life doesn't always go in a positive way, Michael Morpurgo's book *War Horse* graphically portrays the horror of the First World War, with the horse being caught in barbed wire (brilliantly filmed by Spielberg in the film adaptation). Similarly in *Butterfly Lion*, we catch another glimpse of the atrocity of war when the young hero is badly wounded in the trenches.

Remembering is important and part of our remembering is buying poppies whether red or white - the red poppies sold in aid of the British Legion, and white poppies sold by the Peace Pledge Union. Those who promote the wearing of white poppies argue that the red poppy also conveys a specific political standpoint, and point to the divisive nature of the red poppy in Northern Ireland where it is worn mainly by the Unionist community. They choose the white poppy over the red often because they wish to disassociate themselves from the militaristic aspects of Remembrance Day, rather than the commemoration itself.



A young person was once talking to an old soldier. Hoping to please the old man, he said: "I suppose the poppies are to remember the soldiers who gave up their lives in the fighting." The old soldier snapped back: "Rubbish. Nobody gave up anything. Their lives were taken in the crudest possible manner. That's what you shouldn't forget." And forget we shouldn't; it's been much better this year that the news has not been full of soldiers returning from combat zones in coffin bags though for those who have been killed, the emotional turmoil faced by their families is very real indeed. The film "Sunshine on Leith" not only promotes the music of the Proclaimers but also shows the scars on the returning young soldiers and their struggles to adjust to normal life. It is interesting that as a nation there seems to have been much greater emphasis recently on focusing remembrance at 11am on the 11th day of the 11th month which marked the end of the First World War. I think this is probably right because, as a nation, it is important to remember the atrocity of war. So, with this refocusing on the 11th November, isn't this a good time for the church to distance itself from these nationalistic commemorations? After all, those caught up in conflict are often the focus of intercessions on a weekly basis, as we remember the suffering that conflict causes.

Roger Collins

## From the Editors' Desk



Welcome to Roundabout!

We bring you another bumper issue. Thanks to all contributors.

The next issue is out on Sunday 5 January, so please let us have your items between Christmas and New Year. 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

Our congratulations, love and best wishes go to Primrose and Jim Garrow. They write about their big day on 5 October:

*Primrose and Jim Garrow would like to thank everyone for making our wedding so special, especially Nick Jones, Colin Kinton, Lin Brown and Linda Mann and all others who did so much to help make the occasion so memorable. We were overawed with the number of cards we received and are pleased to say that at least 8 different charities benefited with donations in lieu of gifts. Thank you everyone.*



Photo: Celia Lester

The weddings just keep coming. Naomi Wright and Damien Banks would be delighted to see folk on Saturday 23 November at 3.00pm to help them celebrate their marriage.

Jean Dewey has let us know that she has three new Great Grandchildren.

## **Pennine Book Sales**

There will not be many readers who are unaware of our Book 'stall' at the top end of the Pennine Way. It has now become so popular that it has spread into the vestibule behind the Malvern Room. Items now include videos, CDs and jigsaws. All have been donated to raise funds for the Church. None of this would have happened without the dedication of one person: Linda Woodhouse.

Linda has put many hours into sorting and arranging donations and looking after the accounts side of the venture. It is a Labour of Love which has produced a rich harvest, as the love of books and reading has been encouraged and nourished. And people have been happy to pay a small amount for the opportunity.

At the start of the year, Linda set a target of £1000 by the end of December. That target has already been left behind. At the time of writing a staggering £1010.37 had been raised.

Thanks again Linda.

Irene Spooner

## **11th November 2012**



We just happened to be in London that weekend, to see some tennis, a show and to visit friends, when we suddenly remembered the date, 11th November, Remembrance Sunday. Shall we go to the Cenotaph? What a thought...

Remembrance Sunday had always been a day we had marked, either by watching the service on the television or by going to Church where we would be especially moved if it was one of our children playing the Last Post or even organising a recording of it to be played when the trumpet players had moved on.

We had no idea how crowded it would be, where to stand, the time we should arrive but, hey, we had a go.

We arrived by tube at about 9.45 and considered our options. It was crowded and we decided against going through the Police checkpoint to the Cenotaph itself. We could see it was very busy and we decided it was unlikely that we would see the actual laying of wreaths. So we

crossed the road and, as if by magic a space appeared by the railings opposite Big Ben; so we stood there.

It was an amazing viewpoint. We stood in brilliant sunshine and watched as all the bands marched past, within touching distance. We were then able to hear the service and even join in the singing

as the lady next to us shared her Order of Service that had been distributed to the crowd earlier.

At 11 o'clock, as Big Ben chimed, the silence was awe inspiring, with just the sound of a dog barking and the seagulls crying overhead. It felt like the whole of London was still. It was very moving.

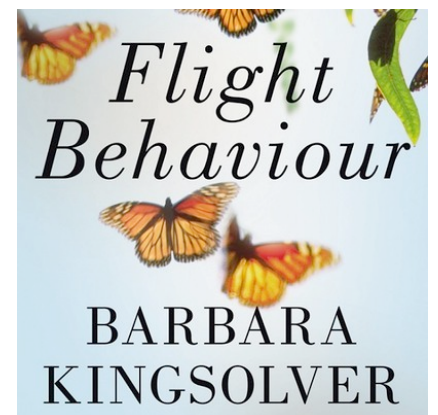
After the Service was over, all the veterans, over 10,000 of them, marched past us. The friendly lady next to us, (a regular visitor who travelled from Cornwall every year to take part) gave us a running commentary on the groups, which ranged from the Pigeon Corps and the Evacuees to the Ghurkhas and the Chelsea Pensioners. Then all the bands marched back past us again.

It was such a memorable morning, sharing the occasion, with people of all ages and races demonstrating that the sacrifice made by so many is not forgotten. We were so glad that we went.

Jo and Alan Adams

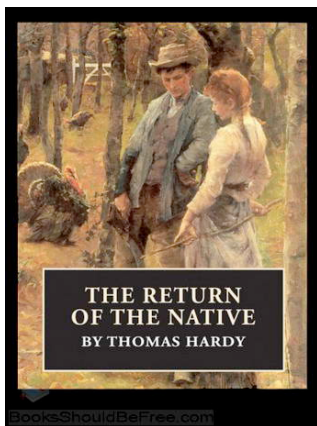
## Book Club

We had a full house for the Book Group meeting on 19th September, where we discussed Barbara Kingsolver's novel *Flight Behaviour*. Best known for her novel *The Poisonwood Bible*, Kingsolver is an American author who trained as a biologist and often brings scientific themes into her novels. In *Flight Behaviour* a cloud of Monarch butterflies is thrown off course from their usual annual migratory path from the States to Mexico by bad weather and so end up landing in the forests on farmland in the Appalachian countryside.



The story of the butterflies, which explores the impact of global warming and its potentially devastating consequences, is interwoven with the story of Dellarobia and her family. Dellarobia is a farmer's wife who married young and lives a life of domestic drudgery and boredom, until the arrival of the butterflies which changes everything for her.

Kingsolver's intricate descriptions of the arrival of the butterflies and her wry observations of family life were enjoyed by the Book Group members and I think that we all enjoyed the book for a variety of reasons.



On 14 November we will be meeting to discuss Thomas Hardy's *Return of the Native*, so if you'd like to join us please contact myself, Liz Larkin (451 3498) or Chris Adams (458 5607). The Group consists of both Church and non-Church members, both men and women, and it's always great to have new members.

Please feel free to come along even if you only want to join us to discuss one particular book that you've always wanted to read or discuss. On 12 December we will have our final meeting of the year and will choose some Christmas themed book. Last year we read Dickens "The Christmas Carol" so if you have any suggestions please let us know. No doubt there will be mulled wine and mince pies on offer!!

Liz Larkin

## The Parable of the Life-Saving Station

*A compelling picture of what can happen to a church community when it focuses solely on its comfortable existence rather than its God-given mission to rescue the lost.*

On a dangerous seacoast where shipwrecks often occur there was once a crude little life-saving station. The building was just a hut and there was only one boat, but the few devoted members kept a constant watch over the sea. Ships often smashed up against the rocks and many were tossed overboard with no hope. With no thought for themselves, the members of the life-saving station went out day or night, tirelessly searching for the lost.

Many lives were saved by this wonderful little station, so much so that it became famous. Some of those who were saved, and various others in the surrounding areas, wanted to become associated with the station and give of their time, money, and effort for the support of its work. New boats were bought and new crews were trained. The little life-saving station grew.

Some of the new members of the life-saving station were unhappy that the building was so crude and so poorly equipped. They felt that a more comfortable place should be provided as the first refuge of those saved from the sea.

They replaced the emergency cots with beds and put better furniture in an enlarged building. Now the life-saving station became a popular gathering place for its members, and they re-decorated it beautifully and furnished it as a sort of club. The members began to hang out there frequently and enjoy their new club.

Fewer of the members were now interested in going to sea on life-saving missions, so they hired life boat crews to do this work.

The mission of life-saving was still given lip-service, but most were too busy or lacked the necessary commitment to take part in the life-saving activities personally.

About this time a large ship was wrecked off the coast, and the hired crews brought in boat loads of cold, wet, and half-drowned people.

They were dirty and sick. Some of them were different and spoke a strange language. The beautiful new club quickly became dirty and full of those who needed help. The property committee immediately had a shower house built outside the club where victims of shipwreck could be cleaned up before coming inside.

At the next meeting, there was a split in the club membership. Most of the members wanted to stop the club's life-saving activities as being unpleasant and a hindrance to the normal activities of the club. But some members insisted that life-saving was their primary purpose and pointed out that they were still called a life-saving station, not a club. The devoted life-saving members were finally voted down and told that if they wanted to save the lives of all various kinds of people who were shipwrecked in those waters, they could begin their own life-saving station down the coast.

So they did.

As the years went by, the new station experienced the same changes that had occurred in the old. They evolved into a club and yet another life-saving station was founded down the coast.

If you visit this seacoast today you will find a number of exclusive clubs along that shore. Shipwrecks are still frequent in those waters, but now most of the people drown.

Roger Collins

## Boys' Brigade



At the end of September the company held its enrolment service. All the boys and staff in the different sections received their new enrolment card presented by our BB chaplain Nick Jones. The 'best boy' awards were also awarded by our company president Mike Meadows to Anchors [Findlay], Juniors [Oisin], Company [Tom Bunn] and Seniors, jointly held by Sam Morgan and James Hobson. A new award for attendance and service to the company was also presented to Chris Butt. This trophy has been called the 'Ron Clarke Shield' in memory of Ron who was connected to the Boys Brigade for over 60 years at Cotteridge. His sister Sue and daughter Catherine attended and made the presentation.

Euan Clayton and Josh Vail took part in the Battalion Chess competition. Euan won three of his games and just missed out on reaching the final.

The Junior Section scored 91 points in the Battalion Quiz and we now wait to see if we have reached the finals. Thanks to Christine Adams for being the quiz master.

Our annual BB week is from 3rd-10th November and any donations would be appreciated by all the boys and staff.

We are again collecting 'wish tokens' from the Birmingham Mail. The campaign finishes at the end of November so if you have the paper please collect them for the BB. Last year we had 7,000 tokens and received £180.

After the 2013 clothing appeal for unwanted items we will again be doing this in 2014. All items should be brought to the church on Friday 31st January by 7.30 pm when they will be loaded on to a van. They can also be brought to Church on the previous Sunday [26th] when we can store them. We need not only clothes but also bedding, towels, shoes and belts. These items will either be sold in the BB shop or used overseas Last year we collected ½ ton.

The company has 3 boys working towards their Queen's Badge, while another three have nearly completed their President's Award.



## Promotions Sunday 2013

We held our annual Promotions Sunday on 15th September. Here is a summary of our year:

The Creche/Beginners group is for preschool children. They enjoy playing with toys and looking at books, as well as bible story time and a related craft activity. This group now also benefits from being in the all age worship service on the first Sunday of each month. They sit towards the front, where they can play with toys and puzzles as well as doing some colouring on the theme of the service. They feel part of the service and can see clearly what is happening at the front and join in when they wish.

The Primary group consists of 13 children, between the ages of 4 and 10. They enjoy stories, as well as reading from the bible, when they're a little older. The stories are then played out through games, music or drama. The children in this group very much enjoy their craft activities and there's often a lot of clearing up to do at the end of the session! The older children in the group are invited to read from the bible in the all age worship services and we've had 3 new readers this year, who've bravely stood at the front and read to everyone, which is admirable at such a young age.

The Seniors group is for our young people from the age of 10 upwards. We are very pleased to have a group of 12 enthusiastic youngsters. They've had a very exciting and varied year. They continue to cover various themes from the Scripture Union programme, but have also enjoyed listening to speakers: Roger spoke to them about the Foodbank, Jacky spoke about the bible and Geoff Hulme led a very interesting session on doubt. We've been very pleased to welcome these speakers and are always open to suggestions from members of the congregation who would like to share something from their experience. If this is something you'd like to do, please speak to Pam, Clare or me.

The Seniors have also participated in a number of events this year. In November, they joined in the St Basils Sleepout, raising over £1,200. In January, they enjoyed a film evening together as well as organising a "Bring a Friend Event". This took place one Sunday evening, when most of them brought friends along to church to tell them about Cotteridge, Senior Church and share something of their Christian experience as well as a very tasty BBQ. This was a very big step for our young people, which they fully embraced.

There is little doubt, however, that the highlight of their year was the pilgrimage to Lindisfarne in July. They have since shown their video in the morning service and led cafe church in September, when we were treated to a fuller description of their trip, along with activities to encourage us all to think about our own spiritual journeys. This included being blindfolded and walking barefoot on wet sand in our own Cotswold room! Rev. Adam Hood hosted the group at his church in Berwick and wrote a letter to our ministers following the visit expressing his delight at having them to stay and saying what a credit they were to Cotteridge. These young people are full of enthusiasm and ideas and it's very exciting seeing them on their spiritual journeys.

We have of course also enjoyed our usual New Year party, summer picnic in the garden and the very memorable "Bethlehem's got talent" version of the nativity, last Christmas.

In the year to come, we are hoping to take part in a Youth Open Day here at Cotteridge. We have also started to sponsor an 8 year old boy in Zimbabwe.

I am most grateful to all the leaders and helpers in Junior Church, who are all very committed and



work very hard to deliver an exciting and varied programme to the children. We are having a few changes this year. We're sorry to lose Doug from Primary and Charlotte, who is now settled at Leeds University, so I say a particular thank you to them. We welcome Rita, Christine and Chloe, who have kindly agreed to replace them.

Finally, thank you to the ministers and congregation, for your continued support, whether it be sponsoring the sleepout, contributing to the Lindisfarne funds, or simply encouraging us all.

Sue Clayton

## The B30 Foodbank - 133 people fed since we opened!



Well - we've done it! After almost a year of planning the B30 Foodbank opened its doors on Tuesday 17th September at 2.30p.m. ....and then we waited. We had over two tonnes of food and 10 volunteers ready to distribute, but no real idea what was going to happen.

That afternoon, 5 people walked through our doors with vouchers from local

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Neighbourhood Centres and we were able to welcome them and put all our systems and planning into operation. Every week since then, the number of people coming to the foodbank has increased, so that now, after six weeks of opening, we have fed 133 people (86 adults and 47 children).

What have we learnt? Firstly, the people coming to foodbanks don't really want to be there. Most people who arrive are tentative at best and sometimes very upset at worst. In one case, a volunteer had to go outside the Church to persuade a client with a legitimate voucher to come in.

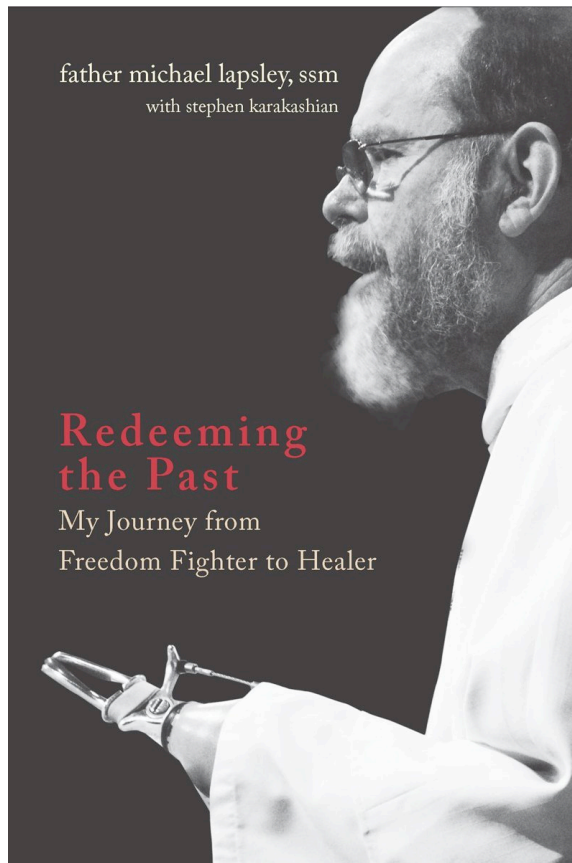
Secondly, the clients are there for reasons outside their own direct control. They are people who are often finding life difficult anyway, living without any flexibility in their finances, where every penny counts and with no personal or family reserves to call on. When there are any changes to their circumstances in terms of health or home or income, even finding food to put on the table often becomes impossible. The foodbank is their last resort. Of the people coming through our doors, over 60% are there because of benefit changes or delays.

Lastly, we have been humbled and uplifted by the thanks we have received. Everyone, with no exceptions, has said thank you to the B30 foodbank team as they left our building.



Helen Gale

## Redeeming the past Father Michael Lapsley SSM Orbis £16.90



In 1990, Fr. Michael Lapsley, an Anglican priest and monastic from New Zealand, exiled to Zimbabwe because of his anti-apartheid work in South Africa, opened a package and was immediately struck by the blast of an explosion. The bomb suspected to be the work of the apartheid-era South African secret police blasted away both his hands and one of his eyes. His memoir tells the story of this horrendous event, backing up to recount the journey that led him there, particularly his rising awareness of the radical social implications of the gospel and his identification with the liberation struggle and then the subsequent journey of the last two decades. Returning to South Africa, Lapsley saw a whole nation damaged by the apartheid era. So he discovered his new vocation to become a wounded healer, drawing on his own experience to promote the healing of other victims of violence and trauma.

Michael Lapsley's journey as priest, freedom fighter, victim/victor, and healer offers each of us the opportunity to reflect on our own understanding of pacifism and nonviolence, restorative justice, disability, healing of

memories, and prophetic theology. It is in many ways a dangerous memoir, challenging our assumptions and neat answers. But it is a necessary journey—especially in our broken world so in need of healing

## 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 can cause 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



## More Than Just Christmas Cards

Thank you. In the last five years Traidcraft has been able to give over £500,000 to CAFOD, Christian Aid and SCIAF from Christmas card sales, product sales and top-up donations.



We invested the remaining profits to support our work in fighting poverty helping communities to flourish.

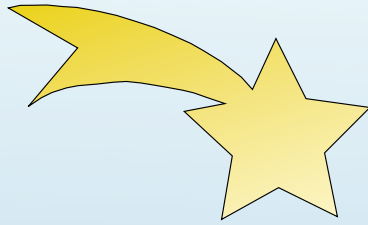


This year, with your help we'd love to do even more.





Stalls



Santa



Welcome!

Enjoy!

# COTTERIDGE CHURCH CHRISTMAS FAIR



Music

Saturday



Gifts

7th December 2013

from 10.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m.



Refreshments



Games



Nativity Scenes



## Services

JL-G = Revd Joycelyn Lewis-Gregory

RC = Revd Roger Collins

JE = Revd Jacky Embrey

NJ = Revd Nick Jones

| November          | 3rd   | 10th        | 17th                   | 24th             |            |
|-------------------|-------|-------------|------------------------|------------------|------------|
| 9.00 a.m.<br>H.C. | JL-G  | JE          | JL-G                   | RC               |            |
| 10.30 a.m.        | JL-G  | JE HC       | Mrs Linda Gilson       | RC               |            |
| 6.30 p.m.         | NJ HC | Café Church | NJ HC                  | Miss Hazel Nash  |            |
| December          | 1st   | 8th         | 15th                   | 22nd             | 29th       |
| 9.00 a.m.<br>H.C. | JE    | RC          | JE                     | JL-G             | NJ         |
| 10.30 a.m.        | JE    | RC HC       | JE                     | JL-G             | NJ         |
| 6.30 p.m.         | Choir | Café Church | No Service             | RC HC            | No Service |
| January           | 5th   | 12th        | 19th                   | 26th             |            |
| 9.00 a.m.<br>H.C. | RC    | JL-G        | NJ HC                  | JE               |            |
| 10.30 a.m.        | RC    | JL-G HC     | Mrs Primrose<br>Garrow | JE HC            |            |
| 6.30 p.m.         | NJ HC | Café Church | JL-G HC                | Mrs Linda Gilson |            |

## Christmas Services

| December 15th  | December 24th                       | December 25th                               |
|--|-------------------------------------|---|
| 3.30 p.m. Bournville Children's Choir<br>[in place of evening service] | 11.30 p.m. JE<br>Midnight Communion | 10.30 a.m. JL-G<br>Christmas Family Worship |



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

Large print issue in the Pennine Way

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Editors: Steve & Caroline Wright (marfleetwright@tiscali.co.uk or 'W' pigeonhole in Pennine Way)

The Cotteridge Church, Pershore Road South, Birmingham B30 3EJ

Tel: 0121 433 5518 Fax: 0121 459 6909

Email: [cotteridgechurch@btconnect.com](mailto:cotteridgechurch@btconnect.com)

Website: [www.thecotteridgechurch.org.uk](http://www.thecotteridgechurch.org.uk)

Twitter: @CotteridgeChurc