

ROUNDA BOUT



THE COTTERIDGE CHURCH
Witnessing at the Heart of the Community

May 2014

From the Vestry



Some Church members will know that my Dad was diagnosed with Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis and had to go onto oxygen last year. His battle with the debilitating condition ended on 5 May when he died, very peacefully, at home.

In his last few days, Dad knew that the time was near and, in his words 'He was ready to go.' He had no fear, trusting in the abiding grace and love of the God he had faithfully served as an ordained Methodist minister for over sixty years. He preached his last sermon in February last year and his last service as a minister was to conduct the marriage of

Naomi and Damien.

Dad was always concerned to make sure others were OK, and this concern remained strong right to the end. He said he couldn't go until he had spoken to everyone he needed to and to make sure that they would be fine.

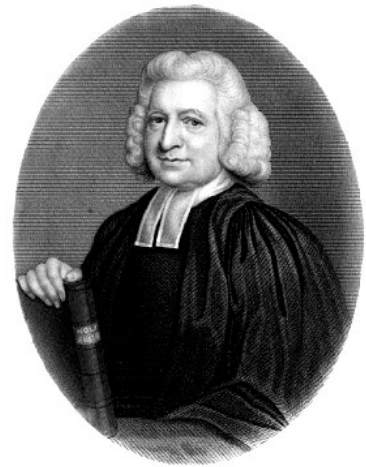
That concern for others is seen on a daily basis in our Church, in the 3Cs Coffee Bar, the Day Centres and through the foodbank. It could not be sustained without our God who himself sustains us through his grace and his love.

As usual, Charles Wesley captures it so well:

All praise to our redeeming Lord,
who joins us by his grace,
and bids us, each to each restored,
together seek his face.

He bids us build each other up;
and, gathered into one,
to our high calling's glorious hope
we hand in hand go on.

And if our fellowship below
in Jesus be so sweet,
what height of rapture shall we know
when round his throne we meet!



Steve Wright



From the Editors' Desk

Welcome to Roundabout, which contains an article from our youngest contributor, so far.

Please let us have your items for the next issue no later than 25 June. You can put them in the 'W' pigeonhole in the Pennine Way or email them to marfleetwright@tiscali.co.uk.

Steve & Caroline

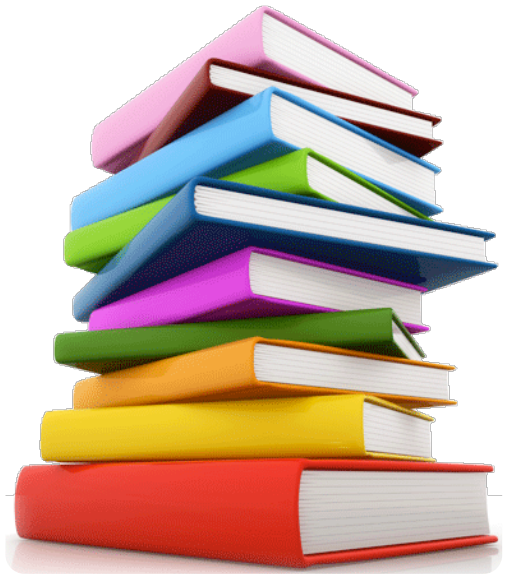
Family & Friends

Welcome to the world to Lewis Banks, who was born on 17 April, and congratulations to parents Naomi (née Wright) and Damien. Belated birthday wishes to Rev Michael Blood, who was 70 on 14 April, and to Jennifer Lewis and Pat Walker, who turned 80 on 23 and 24 April respectively.

We were sad to hear of the death of Janet Cliff on 20 April and our thoughts and prayers continue to be with John and family.

Pennine Way Bookstall

Thank you to everyone who supported Book Sales last year as the set target was reached and passed by Christmas. The target for this year is £1250 and we are already well on the way. With the kind donation of a bookcase from Rita Sutton, the larger books plus more reference books can be displayed, and many large books have gone as a result. It has been agreed by Church Council that money from sales this year will be split, going to Church Young People, Elderly Care and Church Funds. This decision has pleased the regular book donators and as a result donations of books has gone up. However, as a regular turnover of books is needed to keep people interested, more books are needed especially Children's, men's, reference books and with Summer Holidays near, Guide Books for Britain and abroad. Sales have branched out to tapes, L.P.s, C.D.s, and these are flying off the shelves, so please donate these as well. Please give your support so this year's target might be achievable.



Linda Woodhouse

The Cotteridge Church Day Centre



We celebrated Easter with a big party in the Malvern Room. We were joined by members of the Weatheroak and two other day centres.

With Spring around the corner, trips to garden centres are being enjoyed and, hopefully, members will be getting into our garden (weather permitting!).

We have vacancies so, if you know of anyone who would benefit from the service offered by the Day Centre, please speak to Michelle, the Coordinator, or a Committee member.

We are still looking for good second-hand computers for the proposed Saturday computer courses. If you know of one, please contact Michelle, or members of the Committee.

Chris Pascal

Book Club

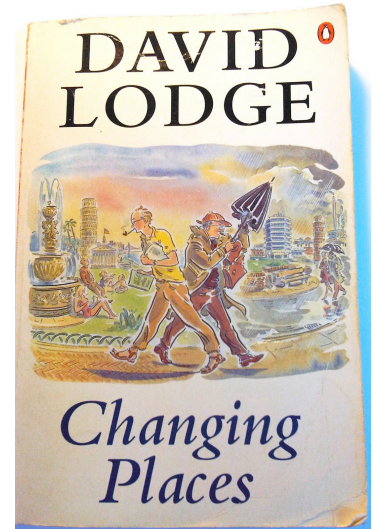
From our last book, *All Quiet on the Western Front*, we moved to Virginia Woolf's *Mrs Dalloway*, which would seem a long way from the horrors of the trenches as it pictures a society lady preparing for an evening party.

However as Mrs Dalloway and her guests move around London on a lovely June day their paths cross that of a shell-shocked soldier, and his view of the same scenes is distorted and desperate.

Virginia Woolf gives a shimmering impression of the sights and sounds of 1920s London through the eyes of her characters, with their memories, hopes and fears colouring their responses to everyday scenes.

However, her stream of consciousness writing is not always easy to read and some of us did not manage to finish the book! So we decided to have a break from our WW1 theme and have gone for David Lodge's *Changing Places*, a witty and entertaining tale of fictional Birmingham and LA in the 1970s. That era seems a world away now, and I guess there will be plenty of reminiscing!

Rachel Hayhow

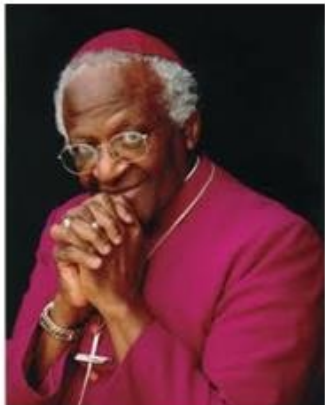



B30 Foodbank - When is a food bank 'political'?

Foodbanks nationally have come in for quite a lot of stick recently for being 'political'. Letters from clergy to the government have fuelled debate about the role of welfare cuts, the place of the poor in our society and the role of food banks in helping to alleviate the situation.

The Trussell Trust, which sponsors many of the foodbanks in Britain, is a Christian Charity. The B30 Foodbank, based in the Cotteridge Church, is sponsored by all of the churches in B30. As Christians, we follow a man who was accused and crucified by the state representative of the day for the 'political' offence of being seditious. If being political means getting involved with the social issues of our day and standing up for the poor and hungry, then surely that is exactly what we are called to do.


Bishop Tutu has a compelling quote which we use in our displays and presentations:



"There comes a point where we need to stop pulling people out of the river. We need to go upstream and stop them from falling in."

Archbishop Desmond Tutu

trusselltrust.org



It seems when the Church feeds the hungry, this is somehow non-political. However, when we start asking why they are hungry and what should be done about it, then it suddenly becomes political.

There is a feeling in the foodbank, which in B30 includes most varieties of Christianity, that we have to find ways of challenging the causes of the poverty of our clients as well as alleviating the symptoms and stop trying to suggest that Christianity somehow exists in a non-political, charitable world, where none of these awkward questions should be asked.

Tony Benn, who died in March this year, and was undoubtedly a politician, saw no distinction in these two roles of support and challenge. Nonconformist religion ran through the Benn family line - his paternal great-grandfather was a minister in the Congregational church and his mother also became a Congregationalist. Benn defined himself as a 'Christian agnostic', with a commitment to Christian principles while striving for a better world through political means.

On the evening of August 10th we will be holding a service of dedication for the B30 Foodbank and invite everyone to join with those who work in the foodbank, the agencies who refer the clients, the clients themselves and friends from the whole of the local Churches Together network to focus on this aspect of the Church's work.

If we only remembered Jesus for his feeding of the five thousand and not for his crucifixion, would we be being really true to the Gospel? Somehow, I doubt it.

Helen Gale

Christian Aid Week - 11-17 May



War tears lives apart

Love can help piece them back together

'The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer... in whom I take refuge.'

2 Samuel 22:2-3

For a growing number of people across the world, the horror of war is a part of daily life.

Right now, fuelled by the devastating violence in both Syria and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the numbers of people driven from their homes by war is on the rise.

It stands at 42 million people – an appalling statistic and a stain on the conscience of humanity. We can't turn our backs. We must act now.

The good news is that your church can make a real difference.

Last year, a magnificent 20,000 churches across the country helped raise over £12m for Christian Aid Week.

This Christian Aid Week we want to go even further. We want every church in Britain and Ireland to get involved – whether by giving, acting or praying.

Together we can send people living in fear this message: you are not alone. We're with you, helping you to rebuild your lives, and working for peace.

Imagine what such an expression of love would mean to people searching for the strength to

cope with the devastation of war, and how it could help to drive out their fear.

Demonstrate God's love for those living in poverty and show how much good the church is doing in the world this Christian Aid Week.

Together, we can reach the 42 million people caught up in conflict and help them live a life free from fear.

Could you provide the gift of hope?

Be an instrument of God's peace.

Give, act and pray this Christian Aid Week.

caweek.org

Juniors' service for Mothering Sunday

I had to dress up as a cook and I read a prayer that I had written for mummy.

It was nice reading my lines and using the microphone.

I enjoyed the songs.

I thought it was perfect

Faye Adams age 5 (nearly 6!)

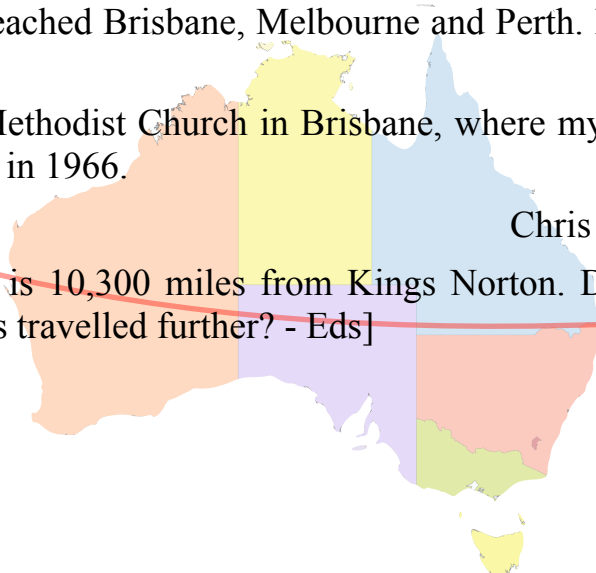
Going Down Under

Having returned from a wonderful trip to catch up with family in Australia, I can report that the March issue of Roundabout has reached Brisbane, Melbourne and Perth. I don't think that can be beaten!

We are hoping to set up a link with the Methodist Church in Brisbane, where my sister and family started their 'Down Under' life in 1966.

Chris Pascal

[The challenge has been made! Brisbane is 10,300 miles from Kings Norton. Do you know of an issue of Roundabout which has travelled further? - Eds]



World Food Night for Refugee Action



On the night of 5 April, Cotteridge (Junior Church) Seniors raised £593 for Refugee Action. We hosted a World Food Night for about 80 people, for which we cooked lots and lots and lots of food from all around the World, including Kenya, Greece, South Africa, UK and Jamaica.



Puddings were made in advance at home, but the main courses were all prepared fresh on the day by the hard work of the Seniors (and leaders) from 10.00am to 3.00pm. We were allowed a short break before returning at 5.00pm to finish cooking, lay out food, tables, decorate the Church etc.

Guests started arriving at 6.30pm and we fed and entertained them until 10.00pm. The night included a quiz researched and written by Seniors, a raffle with generous prizes donated by local restaurants and even an African Drumming Group which added to a great atmosphere.

We all worked very hard, but all in all it was an amazing night, and of course through the generosity of friends and family in supporting the event, a great total was raised for Refugee Action.

Refugee Action is a UK charity that helps refugees in many ways, for example:

- Fighting destitution: the charity creates funds to feed and house refugees in extreme poverty.
- Rebuilding lives: they support the United Nations' 'Gateway Protection' Programme that gives people a chance to live in a safer country, eg recently enabling the UK to accept refugees from Syria.
- Advice to return: they support people returning to their home country.

To find out more, see <http://www.refugee-action.org.uk/>.

The idea to support this charity was a practical response to work that the Seniors had been doing earlier in the year considering the story of Mary and Joseph's flight to Egypt after the birth of Jesus, and the plight of people today who are in exile or displaced because of war, discrimination, politics, disasters, economic difficulties and other causes.

Magic Breakfast – Chosen charity for Easter collection

As usual, on Easter Sunday Communion, all members of the congregation were given a film canister with a mini chocolate egg inside. You were invited to replace the egg with a donation to this year's chosen charity – Magic Breakfast, which delivers free, healthy breakfast foods to UK primary schools with more than 35% free school meals.



The Seniors group of Junior Church labelled and filled the canisters (and ate the spare eggs!), so got to choose the charity. In a recent Sunday morning session the Seniors had identified school work and exams as one of their biggest challenges in life, so they decided to support a charity helping children who are even more challenged at school.

In each one of the schools that Magic Breakfast supports, children start the day too hungry to learn. A hungry child is often unable to concentrate in class. The good news is that Magic Breakfast provides a healthy breakfast to 8,500 children in the UK each morning, as essential fuel for learning. This improves child attendance, punctuality, concentration and behaviour. All for just 22p a day per child.

So, if you have not already done so, find the canister you received, fill it up and return it during the Sunday Offertory to support this excellent cause. To find out more about Magic Breakfast, see <http://www.magicbreakfast.com/>.

Boys' Brigade



Thanks to all those who supported our Annual Quiz, and helped us raise £322 which will be split between the Acorns Hospice, St Mary's Hospice and the Cotteridge Church. Thanks also to the scorers and helpers and especially to Mike Meadows our Quiz Master. Congratulations to the winners, the Ron Clark family.

James Hobson, Sam Morgan and Chris Butt have now completed their Queen's Badge, the highest award in the Boys' Brigade, and were presented with them at the Parade Service on 4 May. At the same service, Adrian McGovern, Alex Clayton and Joshua Vail received the President's Badges.

The Anchor Section recently entered 3 teams in the Battalion Anchor Challenge. This was a competition held at our own HQ and after the different challenges our 'C' team finished in third place. Thanks to Christine Adams who acted as our independent judge.

On Saturday 21 June the Battalion Athletics are due to be held at Tudor Grange, Solihull, when we hope to have a good day with plenty of medals.

The 27-29 June is our Peckwood weekend when all boys over the age of 8 are invited to have a great time in the warm sunshine.

Saturday 6th July is the Battalion picnic at the Botanical Gardens to mark 125 years of Boys' Brigade in Birmingham. The official presentation of the Queens badge will also take place to our three lads.

Bob Hotchkiss

A NIGHT OF MUSIC AND LAUGHTER WITH NICK JONES



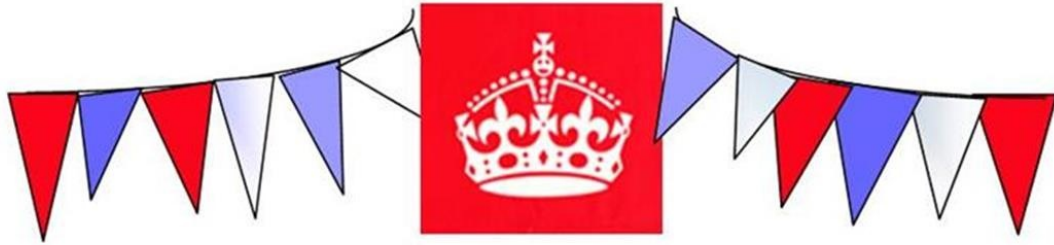
At

The Cotteridge Church

5th July - 7.30pm

Tickets - to include refreshments – are £8

On sale from Sunday 8 June after the morning service
or by phone from Beryl Romero: 0121 429 1338
Limited number of tickets available - so book early!



1944 Day

To Commemorate 70th Anniversary of D-Day

Saturday June 7th 2014

Saint Nicolas Place.

The Green Kings Norton. B38 8RU

Full Day of Events. 10-30 to 3pm

Free Exhibitions. Dig for Victory. Land Army Girls.
Kings Norton in WW2. Home Guard. Wythall Aerodrome, & Much More.

War Grave Walks 11am. (Donation)

Archive Film Show. D Day Landings-& more. Vintage Transport.

Tea Dance with 1940's Sandwich Buffet

7pm - 10pm

Quiz. Raffle. Tickets. £6.00

Details and Tickets from Reception at Saint Nicolas Place.

www.saintnicolasplace.co.uk 0121 458 1223



SAINT NICOLAS PLACE
KINGS NORTON BIRMINGHAM



Roundabout is the bi-monthly newsletter of The Cotteridge Church.
Large print issue in the Pennine Way

Next issue: 3 July Copy date: No later than 25 June

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