

# ROUNDA BOUT



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

**MARCH 2015**

## From the Editors' Desk



Welcome to a belated Roundabout which is due to a lack of material. We have now acquired enough for a small issue. We will be posting a reminder two weeks before each issue's publication, but we have to say again that Roundabout is your magazine, and its future relies on your contributions, so please support it.

Please let us have your items for the May issue no later than 29 April. You can put them in the Roundabout pigeonhole in the Pennine Way or email them to [marfleetwright@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:marfleetwright@tiscali.co.uk).

Steve & Caroline

## From the Vestry

Well here we are in Lent again.

In a church with as many traditions in Cotteridge it can mean many different things. From my own stripped down, reformed tradition practice it can feel very different to what some of you see as part of Lent - no Ash Wednesday, no purple, minimal contact with liturgy such as Stations of the Cross. My sole Lenten practice is to commit more time to prayer. I recognise that for others it feels very different - with purple, ash, fasting and abstinence.

The strength of Cotteridge is that it can hold both and any types of Lent without the least sense of incongruence or friction. Different ways of doing things are simply part of your DNA. That allows a freedom for people to find what is meaningful to them and the ability to be generous with others.

As my mid-May farewell to you moves ever closer, I have started to reflect what I will be taking away with me from my nine months here. And certainly how to be "comfortable in your own skin as a church" is one that has made a deep impression on me.

So this Lent, do what feels like it makes it special for you.... You have certainly helped make it special for me....



Chris

## Family & Friends

Belated congratulations to the Bugden Family and 'Welcome' to Chloe Natasha, who arrived on New Year's Eve.

In the March 2014 issue we brought greetings from Diane Apostolakopoulos (née Hall).

Diane again sends thanks, through Myra Dean, for Roundabout. She says that not only does she read every bit but even cuts bits out to send on to friends. [Diane, we are always delighted to receive feedback for Roundabout. We'd like to ask you a favour. Please play a small role as our Foreign Correspondent by writing a piece for the May issue. Thank you]

## Kenneth William 'Harry' Hawkings - 11Sept 1925 -11Jan 2015



Harry was the youngest son of Albert and Bessie Hawkings.

He went to junior school at St James in Handsworth and was a choirboy at St James Church. Senior school was Boulton Rd Senior Boys in Handsworth. Harry told his children that he should have gone to Handsworth Grammar but his parents couldn't afford it. He excelled at sports, particularly athletics for which he won several trophies bigger than himself. He loved telling the story of when he won a bicycle race and a new pair of running shoes. He came in last! However, the rest of the competitors didn't realise it was meant

to be a 'slow bicycle race' and had shot off into the distance leaving Harry the victor.

After leaving school Harry began an apprenticeship at Taylor and Challen which made products ranging from shears through simple hand-operated presses, nut and bolt machines and machines for stamping coins to giant 2000 ton power presses, rolling mills and draw benches, and even complete installations to grind, mix and mould gunpowder and manufacture cartridges. Harry played football for the company. His position was left back and because of his running ability he would sometimes show off by letting the winger go past him and then catch him up to put the tackle, leaving the winger bemused as to where he'd appeared from. After undertaking this move in a cup game, Harry dribbled the ball past several players, shot and scored from the half way line - the only goal of the match.

Harry had tried to 'join up' when he left school, but he was too young. After reaching 18, he tried again and began service in the Fleet Air Arm as an aircraft engineer aboard the aircraft carrier HMS Athling. The Athling didn't see a great deal of serious action, due to the war coming to a close, but Harry was able to see the world, especially countries around the Mediterranean and Indian Ocean including Gibraltar, Malta, India, Ceylon (Sri Lanka) and Seychelles.

His brother, Norman, was stationed in Egypt with the RAF and on one occasion was watching the ships pass through the Suez Canal. He didn't realise that one of them was



the Athling and he was close enough to have waved to Harry. At Harry's funeral the congregation sang 'Eternal Father' in recognition of Harry's time in the Fleet Air Arm. After being 'demobbed' Harry settled into civilian life and eventually found a job at Birmingham University in the Metallurgy Department. It was at a University dance that he met Mary Downes. Their relationship grew and they married on Harry's 29th birthday at the, then, Congregational Church in Watford Rd.

As we've already seen, Harry loved his football. He was a lifelong West Bromwich Albion supporter, but he also supported Bournville Ops at home and away, having great affection for the players. He was a keen angler, winning many competitions, and he also found time to get involved in crown green bowling, a sport in which he also won many competitions. In retirement he took up playing golf.

Harry never shied away from an opportunity to recall moments in his life through the stories he loved to tell. Many in his audience would have heard them several times over the years. Regardless of this, Harry always told them as if it was the first time and with a twinkle in his eye.

Harry was a gentleman, in every sense of that word, with a fantastic sense of humour and a demeanour to which everyone was drawn, and we will miss him.

## The Bishops' Letter



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND

The House of Bishops of the Church of England has today expressed the hope for political parties to discern "a fresh moral vision of the kind of country we want to be" ahead of the General Election in May. In a pastoral letter from the House of Bishops to the people and parishes of the Church of England, the Bishops urge Christians to consider the question how can we "build the kind of society which many people say they want, but which is not yet being expressed in the vision of any of the parties?" The letter also encourages church members to

engage in the political process ahead of the General Election and to put aside self-interest and vote for 'the common good': "The privileges of living in a democracy mean that we should use our votes thoughtfully, prayerfully and with the good of others in mind, not just our own interests." The letter also states that: "In Britain, we have become so used to believing that self-interest drives every decision, that it takes a leap of imagination to argue that there should be stronger institutions for those we disagree with, as



well as for those 'on our side.' Breaking free of self-interest and welcoming our opponents as well as our supporters into a messy, noisy, yet rich and creative community of communities is, perhaps, the only way we will enrich our almost-moribund political culture."

The letter defends the right of the Church to enter into the political arena: "It is not possible to separate the way a person perceives his or her place in the created order from their beliefs, religious or otherwise, about how the world's affairs ought to be arranged. The claim that religion and political life must be kept separate is, in any case, frequently disingenuous - most politicians and pundits are happy enough for the churches to speak on political issues so long as the church agrees with their particular line."

The pastoral letter draws on the experience of the Church of England as a Christian presence in every community to warn of the disengagement between politicians and the people. They note that "with few exceptions, politicians are not driven merely by cynicism or self-interest" but nevertheless, "the different parties have failed to offer attractive visions of the kind of society and culture they wish to see.... There is no idealism in this prospectus."

The letter encourages political parties across the spectrum to seek bold new visions of hope and idealism rather than "sterile arguments about who might manage the existing system best."

The bishops also argue Britain is in need of a stronger politics of community to boost solidarity between people and reverse a drift towards social isolation: "The extent of loneliness in society today, with the attendant problems of mental and physical health, is one indication of how far we have drifted into a society of strangers. But that drift is far from complete - and few people, if asked, would say that a society of strangers represents a vision of society which they desire."

The letter specifically avoids advocacy for any one political party, but instead encourages those in the Church to seek from political candidates a commitment to building a society of common bonds over individual consumerism. The bishops say Britain is hungry for a new approach to political life which reaffirms our ties at a national, regional, community and neighbourhood level. There is a need for a strong corrective to halt the move towards increasing social isolation, they say, through strengthening the idea that Britain is still a "community of communities." This, they say, is a theme which has roots in the historic traditions of different parties: "We are seeking, not a string of policy offers, but a way of conceiving and ordering our political and economic life which can be pursued in a conservative idiom, a socialist idiom, a liberal idiom - and by others not aligned to party."

The pastoral letter argues that the Church of England finds its voice through being a presence in every community with churches remaining one of the primary agents of social action and social care in parishes across the country. The letter argues that Intermediate institutions such as housing associations, credit unions and churches are needed for their role in building stronger communities. A thriving society needs many intermediate institutions, they say, including those who disagree with each other.

The letter also recognises the inherent danger in the current situation where people are disengaging from politics, arguing that restoring faith in both politicians and the political process requires a new politics that engages at both a deeper, more local level within a

wider, broader vision for the country as a whole.

In the letter, the bishops warn against despair and urge people to vote in the General Election: "Unless we exercise the democratic rights that our ancestors struggled for, we will share responsibility for the failures of the political classes. It is the duty of every Christian adult to vote, even though it may have to be a vote for something less than a vision that inspires us.

## Fundraising

The Fashion Show raised £300 for church funds, and was enjoyed by all who came. We plan to hold another later in the year

Our Games Evening takes place on Saturday 21st March. Come along and join in the fun and games from 6pm. For more details, see the advert later in this issue.

Easter Bake Sale: We shall be holding a sale of cakes after the morning service on Easter Day - Sunday 5th April. Please support us by supplying or buying (or both!)

## Church Garden



Our new greenhouse is being erected and we will soon be able to sow seeds etc.

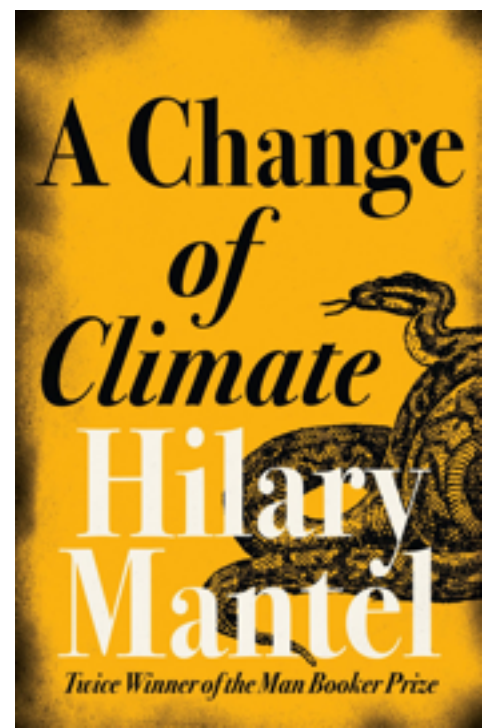
We are hoping to involve members of our Day Centre as well as the Pennine Way, and would REALLY appreciate some help!! If you have the time, and would like to be part of this new project, please see Michelle in the Day Centre or Chris Pascal  
Many thanks.

Chris Pascal

## Book Group

The next book group will be held at Rachel and Brian Hayhow's, 123 Selly Oak Road on Tuesday 24th March at 8pm.

The book this time is *A Change of Climate* by Hilary Mantel. We read another book by Mantel a few years ago, *A Place of Greater Safety*, and as I was really interested in the French Revolution at school I was really looking forward to reading it. I gave up after three chapters. With so many characters I wasn't able to work out who was who, and I was not keen on her writing style. I also managed to avoid *Wolf Hall* and *Bring up the Bodies*, loved by so many I know

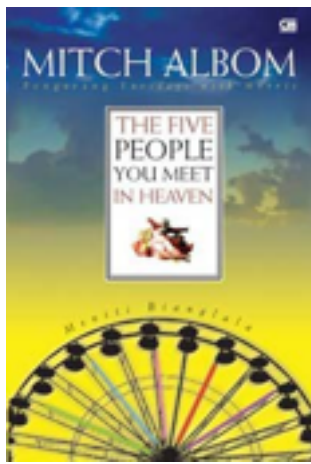




and award winning too, but I just looked at the number of pages and thought “No, thanks”. I am sure that there are those who will think this rather shallow but I read for enjoyment so enjoy a wide variety of books.

Anyway, I decided to give A Change of Climate a go and although I have not yet finished it, I am enjoying it so far. I am still not a great fan of Hilary Mantel's clipped sentences but after watching the brilliant adaptation of Wolf Hall on BBC One I am determined not to miss out this time.

The story is set in rural Norfolk initially, where Ralph contests his father's deeply held beliefs on the Bible and how the world began, taking a more Darwinian view. Ralph eventually has to give in to his father and keep quiet about his own views after his father threatens to ruin his sister's dream of becoming a doctor by stopping her from going to university. Ralph, still unhappy in the drudgery of day to day life in Norfolk, decides to marry and take his new wife to South Africa during the time of Apartheid in the 1970's. The missionary post they take up on the outskirts of Johannesburg proves very challenging. The eventual trauma of their life there and their return to Norfolk are presented in such a way that past readers feel has left its mark long after the book is finished. If you haven't read any Hilary Mantel this is a good place to start.



Having said I read a wide range of books, I was given a book by a friend: The Five People you meet in Heaven by Mitch Albom. This may not win any literary awards but it certainly makes you think about your own life and who has influenced your career and direction over the years.

Eddie, a maintenance man on the funfair rides on a seaside pier, dies saving the life of a young girl who is about to be hit by a falling ride car. He meets people in heaven who he thought were only in his life briefly, but actually changed the course of events for ever. It is worth thinking about our own lives and which 5 people would we expect to meet there. I bet we wouldn't get it right.

Maybe we could have a few recommendations of books to read in future editions of Roundabout.

Christine Adams

## Pennine Way



If you come into the Pennine Way any Friday morning, you will see a number of people busy playing board games! Linda Woodhouse has started this new initiative, & numbers are growing. If you are in Cotteridge, come in, have a drink and join in the fun!! Thanks go to Linda for commencing what could be a really good activity.

Chris Pascal



## Boys' Brigade

Tom Bunn and Jayden Rawlinson-Cook were awarded the Presidents badge at the last Parade service. The company president Mike Meadows made the presentation. Congratulations to Tom and Jayden.

The BB clothing appeal took place during January and this

year's total weight was a fantastic 380.20 Kg. Over the last 3 years we have collected well over a ton. Many thanks to everybody who supported the Company in this year's appeal.

Our annual 'General Knowledge Quiz' has been arranged for Friday 10th April starting at 7:45pm. The cost is £2 per person and each team can consist of up to 6. All proceeds of the quiz will be donated to The Acorn's

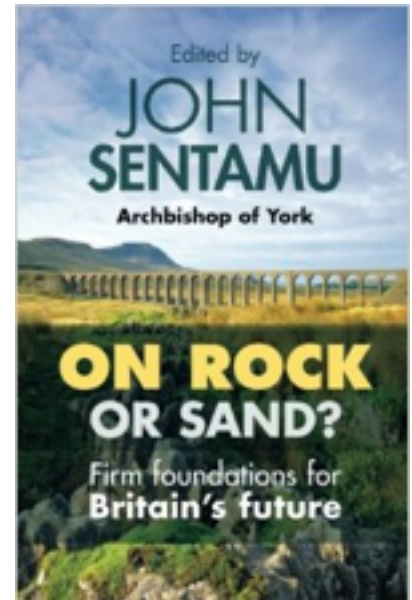
Children's Hospice, The Cotteridge Church and St .Mary's Hospice. Come along and have a great night while also supporting the charities.



Bob Hotchkiss

## On Rock or Sand? Firm Foundations for Britain's Future

The aim of this book is nothing less than to assess and reset the terms of the debate about the kind of nation we want to be. It asks: What are the essential values we need for building a just, sustainable and compassionate society in which all can participate? Chapters by expert economic, political, religious and social thinkers, including contributions by Lord Adonis, Sir Philip Mawer, Oliver O'Donovan, Andrew Sentance, Julia Unwin and Archbishop Justin Welby, address crucial questions about the moral principles that undergird the way Britain is governed, written for people of any or no religious background who are concerned about the values that influence our political attitudes and decisions. Faced with a period of change as great as that of the 1930s, the continued cohesion of our society is at risk as expectations of ever-rising prosperity are challenged and many struggle to make ends meet. It is within this context that the contributors to this book examine some fundamental questions. How can we draw upon the wellsprings of social





Archbishop John Sentamu at Cotteridge 2005



solidarity today? What would a new social contract - a new understanding about the respective rights and obligations of the individual citizen and the state - look like today? These and other core questions about the kind of society we seek lie at the heart of this book

On Rock or Sand? Firm Foundations for Britain's Future is now available from the Bookcentre

### Traidcraft Real Easter Egg

This year the Real Easter Egg contains an Easter story book, quiz and 'Happy Easter' banner. A high-quality Fairtrade milk chocolate egg (125g) and a pack of Fairtrade Chunky Buttons (25g). A donation of at least 10p is made for every sale to Traidcraft



Exchange.

The Real Easter Egg is also available from the Bookcentre.

The Cotteridge Church  
Board Games Evening  
Saturday 21st March 2015  
from 6.00 p.m.



Come and enjoy traditional board games  
Play old favourites,  
and try some new ones

Games available are listed  
on the church notice board

We have games for all ages and abilities.

Bring & Share Supper  
Tea & Coffee will be served  
Bring your own cold drinks

Adults £2.00; Children 10 & under 50p  
Tickets available from the church now!



# 7<sup>th</sup> Birmingham Boys' Brigade Presents...



## The Annual General Knowledge Quiz

On Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2015  
7:30pm for 7:45pm start  
At The Cotteridge Church

Entry is £2 per person

6 max per team

Feel free to bring your own drinks &  
nibbles

Raffle with PRIZES to be won

For more information please visit our website  
[www.7thbhambb.co.uk](http://www.7thbhambb.co.uk)



## Services for March & April 2015

<b>1st March 2015</b>	9.00 a.m.	Revd Roger Collins	Holy Communion
	10.30 a.m.	Dr Chris Dowd	Parade & Baptism
	18.30 p.m.	Revd Joycelyn Lewis-Gregory	Holy Communion
<b>8th March 2015</b>	9.00 a.m.	Revd Joycelyn Lewis-Gregory	Holy Communion
	10.30 a.m.	Revd Joycelyn Lewis-Gregory	Holy Communion
	18.30 p.m.	Café Church	
<b>15th March 2015</b>	9.00 a.m.	Revd Mary Shannahan	Holy Communion
	10.30 a.m.	Revd Mary Shannahan	
	18.30 p.m.	Revd Roger Collins	Holy Communion
<b>22nd March 2015</b>	9.00 a.m.	Revd Roger Collins	Holy Communion
	10.30 a.m.	Revd Roger Collins	Holy Communion
	18.30 p.m.	Dr Chris Dowd	Evening Worship
<b>29th March 2015</b>	9.00 a.m.	Revd Mary Shannahan	Holy Communion
	10.30 a.m.	Revd Mary Shannahan	
	18.30 p.m.	Revd Joycelyn Lewis-Gregory	Holy Communion
<b>April 5th 2015</b>	9.00 a.m.	Revd Joycelyn Lewis-Gregory	Holy Communion
	10.30 a.m.	Revd Joycelyn Lewis-Gregory	Easter Holy Communion
	18.30 p.m.	Revd Roger Collins	Holy Communion
<b>April 12th 2015</b>	9.00 a.m.	Revd Roger Collins	Holy Communion
	10.30 a.m.	Revd Roger Collins	Holy Communion
	18.30 p.m.	Café Church	
<b>April 19th 2015</b>	9.00 a.m.	Revd Mary Shannahan	Holy Communion
	10.30 a.m.	Mr Steve Wright	Morning Worship
	18.30 p.m.	Revd Roger Collins	Holy Communion
<b>April 26th 2015</b>	9.00 a.m.	Revd Joycelyn Lewis-Gregory	Holy Communion
	10.30 a.m.	Revd Joycelyn Lewis-Gregory	Holy Communion
	18.30 p.m.	Dr Chris Dowd	Evening Worship



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