

Roundabout



THE COTTERIDGE CHURCH
Witnessing at the Heart of the Community

JANUARY 2016

From the Editors' Desk



Happy New Year! It's hard to believe, but we have been editing Roundabout for five years. In that time we have had some wonderful articles about all sorts of subjects. We have said 'Goodbye' to people and 'Welcome' to others. We are extremely grateful to all our contributors, without whom there would be no Roundabout. If you haven't yet written for us then this year is the time to start. If you're not sure how to get started, then we're here to help.

2016 will see a lot of changes in the Cotteridge Church. The building itself is set to change inside. Our Older Adults' Services

will increase noticeably. We will sadly be bidding 'Godspeed' to Mary, Chris and family at the end of the summer. So your Editors are bracing themselves for a flurry of content.

We'd like all contributions to us no later than the last week in February. Place them in the 'Roundabout' pigeonhole or email to marfleetwright@tiscali.co.uk. The March issue will be out on Saturday 5th.

Steve and Caroline

From the Vestry

Have you heard the story of the Sunday School teacher who asked her class to draw a picture of the Bible story they had just heard. However, one little boy drew a picture of a light aircraft with three passengers on board - a man, a woman, and a baby. When the teacher asked him to explain the picture, the little boy said, "Can't you see? It's Mary and Joseph and baby Jesus on the flight into Egypt!"

Matthew Chapter 2 v13: "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him." This story is a reminder that these people are not a remote concept we hear about on the news. But they were homeless refugees, fleeing arrest and probable death.



The International Organisation for Migration has announced that more than a million people reached Europe through irregular means in 2015, constituting the continent's biggest wave of mass migration since the aftermath of the Second World War. The overall figure is a four-fold increase from 2014's figures, and has largely been driven by Syrians fleeing their country's civil war. Towards the end of last year I visited Norwich and went to the cathedral where there is an exhibition called *Shadows of the Wanderer*, a major sculptural work by Brazilian-born artist Ana Maria Pacheco, comprising ten larger than life figures, each carved from a single lime tree, that crowd close together and stand as looming shadows behind a young man carrying an older man on his back.



The group recalls the tale of Aeneas, who carries his father Anchises from the ruins of burning Troy, but it also powerfully resonates with contemporary issues, particularly those of exile, asylum, migration and the displacement of people. During the Advent Study Course, Making Room, there was a reminder that British people have felt it's okay for us over the years to travel all over the world, wherever we want, and set up our ex-patriot communities, and do everything as if we're still in York or Bradford or London or whatever. We speak our own language; we probably buy in our own types of food and so on. And yet if the same sort of thing happens in our country here, we use words like 'ghetto'. Certainly the words 'immigrant' and so on are used very offensively, sometimes in the paper, and by politicians, and we're not very good at welcoming here. Perhaps if we are going to make New Year resolutions then this would be a good place to start.

Roger

Family & Friends

We welcome Liz Brooke as our Older Adults' Pastoral Worker. Look out for her in and around the Church and community and please say 'Hello'.

Welcome to the world Harry Richard Lester, born on 11 November, and congratulations to parents John and Caroline..

Congratulations to Joan Grant, Sandra Walton's Mum, who turned 90 years young on 1 December.

From our Foreign Correspondent

We hope you enjoyed the article from Diane on Christmas in Greece. She was surprised, but we think delighted as well, to be elevated to this prestigious position. Here's how New Year is celebrated:

Perhaps there is more activity associated with New Year celebrations than with Christmas. Children receive presents and people gather to play traditional card games or to party away the end of the year. Fireworks, church bells and car



horns mark the change of the year and wishes expressed for a year of health and happiness ahead.

Diane Apostolakopoulus

Joint Church Council

Key Decisions

1. It was agreed that the URC Manse should be let for nine months
2. It was agreed to use NEST (National Employment Savings Trust) to provide Work Place Pensions for those eligible
3. It was agreed that room hire charges should be increased at the suggestion of the Church Administrator
4. It was agreed that the Church Administrator's Office should be relocated to the former Weatheroak Centre's office and the Beacon Room and reception area opened up to extend the Coffee Bar.
5. It was agreed that Ann Bober and Tim Clayton would join the Finance & Property Group.
6. It was agreed that "Cotteridge Traders" can have six to eight stalls on the Church forecourt on the 5th, 10th, 17th and 21st December 2015

Summary Proceedings

1. Jane Stephens reported that the work on refurbishing the ladies' toilets had started
2. Jane Stephens reported that the refurbishment of the URC manse had been completed and a family was moving in on a nine month let
3. Sue Clayton reported that risk assessments had been carried out on both the Clent and Clee Rooms and a significant number of hazards had been identified in the Clent Room. In view of the current discussion on regeneration it would be unreasonable to spend monies on the Clent Room, so the crèche will remain in the Clee Room
4. The Treasurer reported that congregational giving was slightly below budget, but room hire was above budget, so the projected deficit for this year was £22,000
5. The Treasurer has deregistered the Charity for VAT
6. Sue Clayton reported that the number of young people participating in the Junior Church Senior Group had declined to seven
7. Two candidates have been interviewed for the role of Older Adults Pastoral Worker
8. Jane Stephens presented proposals for deficit reduction initiatives
9. Mary Shannahan reported she was to be stationed in the Coventry and Nuneaton Circuit in September 2016
10. Roger Collins reported that the Book Centre will be registered to use a card payment machine in the near future

Referrals

1. Doreen Hancox will speak to the Anglican Diocese regarding input from a Youth Facilitator
2. Roger Collins was asked to investigate the health and safety issues involved in fitting a platform lift to the Food Bank storage area
3. Further financial statements would be requested from the Cotteridge Church Day Centre Treasurer

The next ordinary meeting of the Joint Church Council will be on Thursday 21 January 2016.

This Summary is authorised by: Revd. Mary Shannahan, Chair of the Cotteridge Church Joint Church Council

All Change

Change is part of life - for the church as well as for people if they are to thrive. At the beginning of 2015, the Weatheroak Day Centre moved out of the Cotteridge Church. This provided the JCC with the challenge of how to use the space the day centre had vacated.

One of the opportunities is to move the Church Office into the old Weatheroak office, which is much more centrally located in the heart of the building. This will enable the Beacon Room and reception area to be opened up to provide further seating for the coffee bar and by emptying the windows people outside the church will be able to see what goes on in the building and be encouraged to come in.

Work has started in the old Weatheroak office to enable the Church Office to move during January.

Jane Stephens
Chair of Finance & Property Committee

Regeneration

What does regeneration mean? Well, to me, on 2 December it meant homework! After an hour defining the perfect community and its relationship with God, Cotteridge Church Regeneration Team were told they had something else to do before the next meeting! We were to walk with God around our local community, prayerfully looking at the people, buildings, organisation and facilities within the neighbourhood and asking the Lord's help to see them with fresh eyes. This immediately gave me a problem, as, unlike the rest of the team, I do not live in Cotteridge but two miles to the south. My local neighbourhood is not in the immediate vicinity of the Church but in West Heath. I was born and raised there and, recent events notwithstanding, would prefer

to die there. So, on the following Tuesday, I allowed the Lord to guide me around the community I thought I knew so well, seeing it in a new light.

Two saints glare at each other, diagonally across a traffic island, representing God in West Heath. I remember when the Anglican Church was rebuilt, watching the progress each day as I walked to school. So much has changed in my neighbourhood since those days; the sweet shop in Lilley Lane has closed, along with the bookmakers which stood next door; the toy shop above Bull's the newsagents is now a house letting agency, and the local butcher's shop is now a betting shop. My elder brother tells me that what is now a chemist, was once a record shop. The buildings which once represented West Heath's claims to fame: West Heath Motors (noted in the seventies as the 'House of Tricky Woo', the Pekinese who regularly appeared each Saturday on our televisions) and the timber merchants who supplied Blue Peter's infamous 'Disappearing Cats' have both long since been repurposed. The Fordrough Pub, closed after the terrible murder, is now the site of a Tesco Express and the paint factory, whose midday siren marked a shift change (and delineated the West Heath day), is now a housing estate.

Where do I see God's presence in my community? Is it in the singing of the birds, tricked by the unseasonable weather into thinking it's spring, Saint Anne's Christmas Fair or stoic works of Hampstead House Community Centre and West Heath Hospital for the elderly? Well no, I actually see the Lord in the all the changes that have taken (and are still taking) place in my neighbourhood. During the act of creation, God made not just space but time. Eternity is changeless but time is not. So as I watch my community change - the old peoples home has shut and the site is being auctioned off, Barclay's Bank has closed (what will the building be used for next?) and West Heath Library has been demolished - I see God's hand. I could be depressed by the way my childhood is vanishing before my eyes, but I am not. I thank God for the ever changing nature of creation and what this means to West Heath (we may get our own council ward soon).

So after my walk what do I now think regeneration means? Simple.
Regeneration means change!

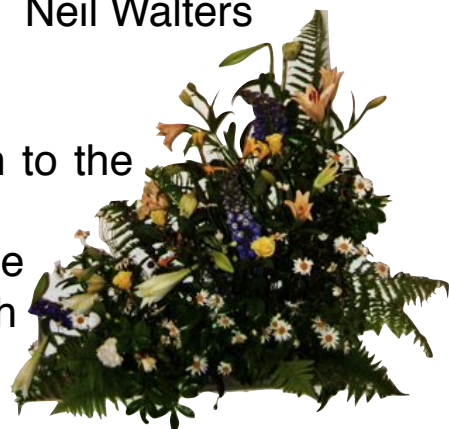
Neil Walters

Thank you

I would like to put on record my thanks and appreciation to the church flower arrangers.

I am one of the 'nine o'clock service' members and love the simplicity of the flowers which are put in the chapel each week, different from, but no less impressive than those in the main church.

Your work does not go unnoticed. Thank you.



June Gregory

Where's the missing penny?

If your Christmas Spending went over budget, see if this helps.... Three children went into a sweetshop each holding 10p. They were only just tall enough to reach the counter but each managed to put their 10p on the counter and point to their choice. The shopkeeper served them, then said ' Listen children, because you spent 30p all together, I can give you a 5p discount', and he took 5 pennies out of the till and placed them on the counter. Each child took 1p. 'Hmmm' said the shopkeeper, there's 2 pennies left. I can't divide 2 pennies between the three of you. Tell you what, I'll make it up to you next time', and he put the 2p back in the till. The children left the shop. So each child spent 9p. $3 \times 9p = 27p$. 2p went back in the till. $27 + 2 = 29p$, but the children came in with $3 \times 10 = 30p$. Where's the missing penny?



Peter Childs

Tidings from Timisoara

Pastor Sandor Balint, his family and congregation have sent us greetings and best wishes for a blessed 2016.

It will be eleven years this May since the first visit to Timisoara by members of the Cotteridge Church. Since then there has been one further official visit (my first, 2007), and one 'unofficial' visit by Caroline and me (2012).

On 30 April the church building, whose construction and fitting out we have supported financially and prayerfully, will finally be consecrated. We have been



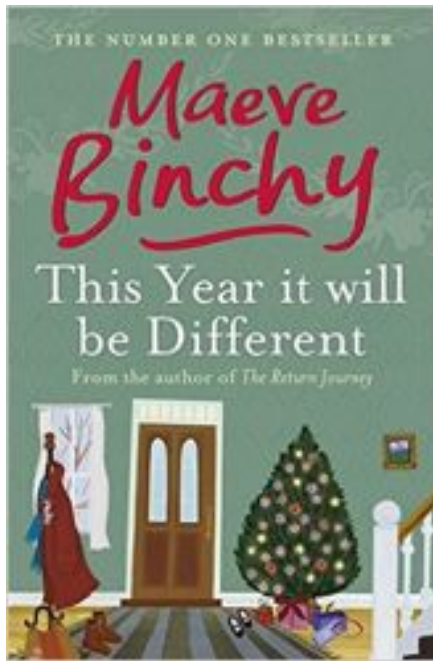
sent some photos of the fitted out interior. I'm sure you will agree that it is a spectacular sight.





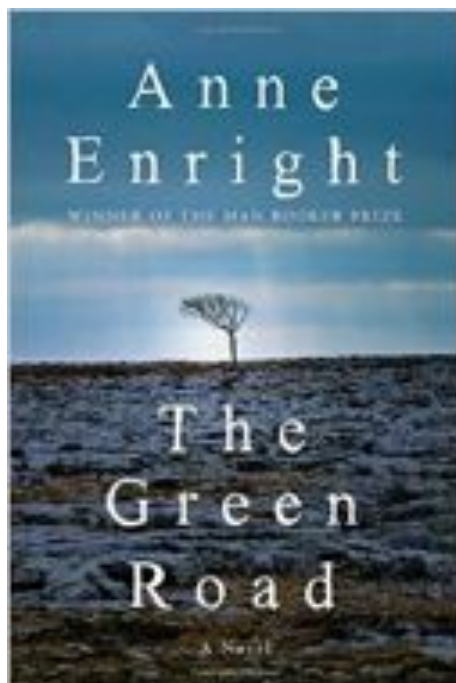
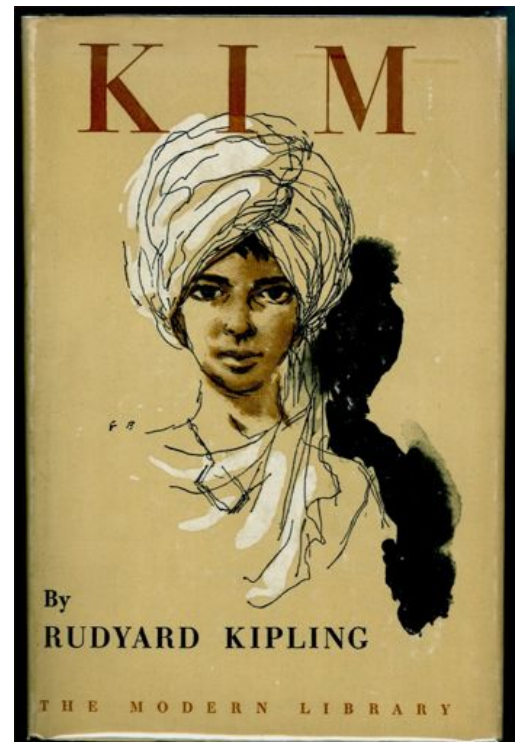
If you would like to find out more about the Timisoara connection, please feel free to ask me.
Steve Wright

Book Group



We had a lovely evening just before Christmas with seasonal drinks and goodies, to share thoughts on Maeve Binchy's *This Year it will be Different*. It was a very interesting collection of short stories all based around Christmas and saying that we don't have to put up with how things have always been. We can make changes in our lives and to the lives of others in a very positive way. It was just what was needed in the run up to Christmas.

We have had lots of suggestions for 2016 and are starting with Rudyard Kipling's *Kim* which, amazingly, none of us had read previously. This is an account of a young European lad growing up in Lahore and then heading off with a Tibetan priest to find a philosophical river. This is considered to be one of Kipling's best novels and includes espionage, adventure, travel, mysticism and fun. Join us on Tuesday 9 February at 8pm at 40 Middleton Hall Road to discuss the book.



We are so organised that we have even decided on the follow-on book which will be *The Green Road* by Anne Enright. Set in Ireland it tells a story of family fracture, selfishness and compassion. The children return to the family home for Christmas as their mum is planning to sell up and divide the proceeds. They feel that their childhoods are being erased.

We will be meeting on Thursday 17 March to discuss this book. Venue to be arranged.

Please feel free to join us at any of our get togethers as a regular or as a one off.

Christine Adams 458-5607

Day Centre News

Margaret Ashton is 87 years old and is a member of the Day Centre, here at Cotteridge Church. In 1979 Margaret attended a night school course for Craft classes at Primrose Hill Secondary School. The craft class was asked to be part of a project for The Three Estates, and came up with the idea of a Wall Mural depicting a layout of the area. The Mural was given to the Church, and still hangs here today. [Margaret was responsible for the grey-black parts which represent the tower blocks of flats on Shannon Road]. Margaret enjoyed contributing to such a good cause, and as it was made such a long time ago, she was thrilled to see it hanging in the church.



In October, Cotteridge Church Day centre members were asked to participate in a Soul Boat project to celebrate St Philips Cathedral being built 300 years ago. Artist Jake Lever designed cardboard boats to represent



the human journey of life and beyond, after the writer Arthur Young said in 1791 that the local barges of Birmingham were a “Noble Spectacle”. Our members filled the boats with details of memories of their lives, such as where they were born, went to school, grew up, pets they kept. Our members loved reminiscing about their past. The boats were then hung in Birmingham Cathedral to become part of a Giant Flotilla hanging from The Nave. To view



the boats you can go to The Cathedral between 9-5, or visit www.birminghamcathedral.com.

Michelle Madden

It may not be the Sistine Chapel, but it looks fresher...

When it was noticed that some parts of the church were getting tired and shabby Sue Hazzard and I picked up our paint brushes and rollers and tentatively applied some paint to walls and ceilings. We started in some out of the way corridors to practise our craft, and it took a while to work out how to take on a bigger project than home decorating. Other people of course use the premises most days of the week so we had to plan our painting to avoid busy periods.

After practicing on the corridors we took a deep breath and had a go at the chapel.

The result is a fresher, more loved part of the church, and with Lin Brown's flowers placed in the alcoves, it makes a pleasant quiet space for us all to use. Sue and I have since moved on to freshen up the vestry and some lower sections of the Malvern Room, plus the Weatheroak office and the ladies loo. If time allows we might freshen up the main corridor by the toilets.

Inevitably moving around room by room we sometimes come across items that are seldom used and have been undisturbed for years. It would help if someone could assist in 'housekeeping' the clutter in some areas to make best use of limited space.

The painting materials have been paid for out of church funds but we give our time free. If anyone wants to join us for a couple of hours once a week please feel free to volunteer.

Peter Childs

Junior Church Christmas Service

Once again we were entertained and challenged by the children and young people of our Junior Church. From the youngest to the eldest they sang to us, made us laugh with their jokes and sketches and gave us food for thought from their own 'take' on the refugee crisis.

Being a veteran of the Junior Church Christmas Service I know how much goes in to ensure it will be alright on the day. Thanks to all staff, parents and, not least, children and young people who bring us the Christmas Message in such an entertaining and thought-provoking way.

Steve Wright

Boys' Brigade

Our BB week was held in November and £497 was raised. Thanks to everybody who made a donation towards the work of the company. Euan Clayton collected the highest amount.

At the Church Christmas Fair we raised £105 on our tombola stall.

Many thanks to those who supported us.

In the Junior section quiz finals we finished in 6th place. Well done to the boys who took part.

James Hobson has completed his Young Leaders Training and is now an officer in the company. Tom Bunn and Jayden Rawlinson-Cook are still working towards their Queens badge and hope to receive the award in the summer.



Bob Hotchkiss

Leprosy Mission Christmas Appeal

There's still time to put your Christmas stamps in the box by the pigeon-holes at the end of the Pennine Way.

Leprosy Mission needs your used stamps, domestic and foreign, to raise funds.



NEW DAY

Thank you for feeding those affected by famine in Niger and giving them a future



New Day, the Leprosy Mission magazine, tells us that, in 2014:

215 leprosy patients underwent eye surgery in India to protect their vision. It costs £35 to give the priceless gift of sight with surgery for leprosy-damaged eyes

481 people in a leprosy community accessed a clean water supply in South Sudan – it costs £100 to build a latrine block, improving hygiene and dignity for a leprosy affected community

180 children affected by leprosy or disability were able to go to school in Mozambique – it costs £50 to give a uniform, shoes and the materials a child needs to start school.

Thank you.

Myra Dean

Services for January & February

Date	Time	Minister	Service
3rd January 2016	9.00 am	Revd Roger Collins	Holy Communion
	10.30 am	Revd Roger Collins	Parade & Baptism
	6.30 pm	Revd Mary Shannahan	Holy Communion
10th January 2016	9.00 am	Revd Roger Collins	Holy Communion
	10.30 am	Revd Roger Collins	Covenant Service
	6.30 pm	Café Church	
17th January 2016	9.00 am	Revd J Lewis-Gregory	Holy Communion
	10.30 am	Mrs Primrose Garrow	Morning Worship
	6.30 pm	Revd Mary Shannahan	Holy Communion
24th January 2016	9.00 am	Revd Mary Shannahan	Holy Communion
	10.30 am	Revd Mary Shannahan	Holy Communion
	6.30 pm	Revd J Lewis-Gregory	Evening Worship
31st January 2016	9.00 am	Revd Mary Shannahan	Holy Communion
	10.30 am	Miss Hazel Nash	Morning Worship
	6.30 pm	Revd Chris Shannahan	Holy Communion
7th February 2016	9.00 am	Revd J Lewis-Gregory	Holy Communion
	10.30 am	Revd J Lewis-Gregory	Parade & Baptism
	6.30 pm	Revd Mary Shannahan	Holy Communion
14th February 2016	9.00 am	Revd Mary Shannahan	Holy Communion
	10.30 am	Revd Donald Sampson	Holy Communion
	6.30 pm	Café Church	
21st February 2016	9.00 am	Revd Mary Shannahan	Holy Communion
	10.30 am	Revd Mary Shannahan	Holy Habits
	6.30 pm	Revd J Lewis-Gregory	Holy Communion
28th February 2016	9.00 am	Revd Roger Collins	Holy Communion
	10.30 am	Revd Roger Collins	Holy Communion
	6.30 pm	John Cooper	Evening Worship



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