

Roundabout



THE COTTERIDGE CHURCH

Witnessing at the Heart of the Community

MARCH 2016

From the Editors' Desk



Welcome to a BUMPER issue of Roundabout. We haven't had one this big for a good while.

We said in our last Editorial that we had been editing Roundabout for five years. This is our fifth birthday issue. The first Roundabout in this current format was a one page 'teaser' of things to come. We have to reiterate our thanks to all those who have contributed to the cornucopia of articles we have published. Our thanks also to all those who have commented on the magazine and thanked us for our work. We'd like all contributions to us no later than the last week in April. Place them in

the 'Roundabout' pigeonhole or email to marfleetwright@tiscali.co.uk. The May issue will be out on Saturday 5th.

Steve and Caroline

From the Vestry

Dear Friends

As I write this, we are entering the fifth week of Lent and it seems ironic that, at the beginning of March, parts of the country are experiencing the heaviest snowfall of the year. Ironic because the word 'Lent' is an old English word meaning 'Spring'.

No warm sun on our backs or lambs leaping amongst the daffodils, but instead woolly hats and gloves are the call of the day and yet maybe we shouldn't be surprised.

Not only do we have the saying 'Ne'er cast a clout till May be out', but we also know that we have a God of surprises.

We may think that we know all there is to know about our Lord, but He continually surprises, amazes and excites us as well.

Just as He came in the form of a baby worshipped by shepherds and wise men; so to begin his ministry of reaching out to all people, Jesus entered the stark and



harsh world of the wilderness to spend forty days and nights alone without food, praying to God.

For the forty days of Lent (Sundays are not included) we too enter into the wilderness with Jesus. It is an opportunity for us to re-examine our lives and, through prayer, study and self-denial, to renew our love for God.

During this period we try to turn away from those things that may distract us from God's word. Some give up their favourite food - meat, chocolate, alcohol and others - to allow space to reflect more deeply, not only on Jesus' self-sacrifice, but also on our place in the world today. Others take up reading the Bible more often, set aside time in the day to pray, and yet others consciously seek to reach out to those on the fringes of life.

In all that we do we seek to allow God to speak to us; to meditate on God's words and to do God's will.

So Lent is a season of soul searching and repentance and it is also a season for reflection and taking stock. The wilderness is a place where we cannot hide, but it is also the place where new life is born.

Jesus came out of the wilderness ready to begin his ministry of healing and love and our God surprises us with the new life he offers to all of us. For us, Lent culminates in the miraculous Resurrection of our Lord at Easter. Love will come again as we are granted eternal life through the sacrifice and rising of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Because of Easter we can celebrate, for it is through the mists of Easter morning that the Risen Christ connects with our lives. As Christ bursts open the tomb, so we too burst from all that imprisons us and, by faith in him, we are made free to share in a new life.

And so, Happy Easter, to you all. May God Bless you and Keep you today and every day.

Revd Mary

Family & Friends

Welcome to Oscar Taylor and congratulations to Lucy (nee Dixon), David and family and Grandparents and Great Grandparents.

Congratulations to Angela & Nigel Garrett who celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary on 16 February.

We were sorry to hear of the death of Audrey Smart a long-time Volunteer on the coffee bar.

The funeral of Frances Hopkins took place at the Church on 29 February. There will be an obituary in the May issue.

Joint Church Council

Key Decisions

1. It was decided to pay the proposed 1% increase in denominational assessments
2. The proposed budget for 2016 was approved with an anticipated £16,000 deficit for the year
3. The Cotteridge Church Book Centre Articles of Commission were approved
4. Changes to the Governance Reporting Lines adding the Older Pastoral Worker to the diagram were approved

Summary Proceedings

1. Refurbishment of Ladies Toilets awaiting further estimates for the replacement of vanity units
2. The new tenants have moved in to the URC Manse and are very happy with the accommodation
3. It was reported that to date there have been no expressions of interest in the Cotteridge Church profile with regards to the ministerial vacancy. If no names are submitted by May, a meeting with the interdenominational Staffing Consultative Group will be called
4. Confirmation Classes will begin in the near future and members from Longbridge Methodist Church will join us
5. The current predicted deficit for this fiscal year is £10,000
6. The finance and property group reported that a deep clean of the Pennine Way had taken place on 16th January 2016 and that the Church Office had moved from the Beacon Room to the former Weatheroak Office on 20th January 2016
7. The B30 Food Bank was investigating renting the Waseley Room as alternative, easier to access, food storage
8. A library of Church Banners will be created and clearly labelled. The banners will then be changed, as appropriate, by the Minister or Vestry Steward before worship.

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

Consultation Meeting

Thank you to everyone who attended and contributed to the meeting.

Many thoughts and ideas were put forward which will be looked at by a working party of John Adams, John Cliff, Jane Jones, Linda Mann, Hazel Nash, Jane Stephens and Neil Walters. If you would like to share any ideas that you may have, then please speak with any of the working party.

The working party will then produce ideas which will be put forward at further Consultation meetings and then develop proposals to go forward to Congregational Meeting and Joint Church Council.

Jane Stephens

A new location for the church administration office

After 15 years of me occupying the Beacon room, and my predecessor Sue Sutcliffe before that, Church had decided that it was time for a change and to release the space at the front of the building to be part of the regeneration plans.

Although originally planned for 'the big move' in the spring, it was brought forward to mid-January, so for those of you reading this in Roundabout in March, hopefully it all went well!



For those of you who have already experienced 'downsizing', my heartfelt sympathies! It soon became clear to me that the contents of 17 filing cabinet drawers would not fit into the available 10 drawers in the new office, as floor space is much more limited.

And so began a perhaps well overdue declutter of the filing cabinets and a major shredding operation. After I had transferred the files that had to be kept into archive boxes ready for the move, I sincerely hope I shredded the contents of the remaining boxes correctly - we'll soon find out if I got it wrong!!

I am grateful to Peter Childs and Sue Hazzard who have redecorated the new office ready for me to move into, and to John Cliff who has fixed up notice boards and a shelf unit.

Irene

A little ceremony took place, on Wednesday 20 January, in the Pennine Way to welcome Irene to her new office. Customers and Volunteers cheered as she was presented with flowers and then cut the banner to enter her new domain.



“What a delight it was to see 21 month old William “reading” whilst his mum and dad worked on the Coffee Bar one Saturday morning recently. Surely,, a future customer for Linda Woodhouse’s library.”

Photo by Lin with permission from his parents



Day Centre News



Ten Advanced students, along with their lecturer, from The Conservatoire came to entertain members of our Day Centre (& Pennine Way folk who heard) recently.

It was a wonderful morning. Comments from members included-----“We joined in with some of the pieces they played, and it was real fun”. “I liked listening to all the music, especially the jazzy ones!!” “Can they come again?”

Now links have been made, students are making their own arrangements with Michelle to visit regularly.

Next time they come as a group, we will offer the Pennine Way area the opportunity to be entertained too.

Visiting Old Friends

The Fosseway is an ancient Roman road that linked Exeter (Isca Dumnoniorum) in South West England to Lincoln (Lindum Colonia) in Lincolnshire, via Ilchester (Lindinis), Bath (Aquae Sulis), Cirencester (Corinium) and Leicester (Ratae Corieltauvorum). It joined Akeman Street and Ermine Way at Cirencester, crossed Watling Street at Venonis (High Cross) south of Leicester, and joined Ermine Street at Lincoln. The word Fosse is derived from the Latin fossa, meaning ditch.

For the first few decades, after the Roman invasion of Britain in AD 43, the Fosse Way marked the western frontier of Roman rule in Iron Age Britain. Possibly the road began as a defensive ditch, that was later filled in and converted into a

road, or a defensive ditch ran alongside the road for at least some of its length. It is remarkable for its extremely direct route: from Lincoln to Ilchester in Somerset, a distance of 182 miles (293 km), it is never more than 6 miles (10 km) from a straight line.

Just along the Fosseway from Wellesbourne in Warwickshire, there is a track you would normally miss, even whilst observing the speed limit, as you travel towards Stow. After about three quarters of a mile down the track, which is muddy and full of potholes, you pass and ignore Walton Wood Farm. At the end of the track, you go through an open gate and in the second cottage you will find our lovely friend Ros Murphy.



It was Christmas time when Ros moved into a recently renovated (and ongoing renovations) Walton Cottage which adjoins her son Christopher's farmhouse. Big enough for visitors and with a garden waiting to be developed with plants from Minshull House, Ros is very much at home in this lovely cosy cottage filled with Alan's beautiful handmade furniture. Grandson Jack loves having Granny on hand and Caroline and family are only about an hour's drive away. Two lively Labradors accompany her on walks in the grounds around the farm and cottage. The grounds, which are also populated by wild chickens, pheasants, partridge and various kinds of deer, all overlooking the stately Walton Hall, are part of the Walton Estate. From her comfortable sitting room on the first floor Walton Hall is clearly visible, along with extensive views of the surrounding countryside.

Still very busy, Ros still looks after two churches in the Stratford and Evesham circuit and fills in as a "bank chaplain" when needed in at the Stratford

Day Hospice. We are happy to say she doesn't look any different from the day she walked into The Cotteridge Church nineteen years ago and is fit and well and waiting to see and hear from her many friends.

Lin and Laurie Brown

Is an open mind possible?

It has been said that "thought is a constant re-arrangement of prejudices." But whose prejudices are they? Our own, our parents', our teachers', our watched or read material, our friends'?

Probably prejudice begins in the womb. Warmth, sustenance, the breathing rhythms of mother, the lilt of her voice, even music to which a foetus is exposed there, can form likes and dislikes that are foundations for all later life. That things are hard or soft and have gravity are among the first things learnt by a child, brought as a newborn, wailing with shock and anxiety, into a world from which sleep is their refuge and escape.

Everyone likes to think they have an open mind, a mind that is a space they can choose to fill with just and fair ideas, but this idyll may be unattainable. We are victims of opinion makers, casualties all of us; these range from leaders of social groups up through an inverted pyramid of influence that includes social media, broadcasting (sound and visual) and Press. Politicians prey upon collective prejudices, especially those grounded in fear - fear of strangers, fear of change, fear of reduced income are but three dreads they exaggerate merely to score debating points.

The point is that it requires a flinty steel mind to withstand the repellent drip, drip, drip of pre-formed prejudice. We need to see with our own minds, penetrate the core of ideas, form new untrammelled notions revised by experience and to compare, contrast, perhaps discard, old ones.

Maybe a very few have the gift of open mindedness. However, a fresh or refreshed mind is just as desirable. Isn't this why regular Church service attendance pays dividends in our day to day lives? Worship is an act of cleansing and renewal, a re-invigorating of the spirit.

Your mind began as a void. As Paul wrote in his letter to the Philippians, Chapter 4, (v8,v9) - Summing it all up, friends, I'd say you'll do best by filling your minds and meditating on things true, noble, reputable, authentic, compelling, gracious, - the best not the worst, the beautiful, not the ugly, things to praise, not to curse. Put into practice what you (see) and realise. Do that, and God, who makes everything work together, will work you into his most excellent harmonies.

Gordon Parsons.

"It ain't what you do, it's the way that you do it!"

Miracles happened hundreds of years ago in the Holy Land - but miracles happen all the time. We may not always recognise them and they may seem small and insignificant, but they are miracles nevertheless. It's like that every week in the Pennine Way. What happens there is not formal or organised. It happens spontaneously and organically. Friendships are formed, problems are talked through, things are shared, there are tears of joy and sadness. There is a special atmosphere.

You can't put your finger on it, you can't define it, but it's there. Volunteers soon get to know how this person likes their tea or how that person always has an outside piece of bread pudding. And on the subject of volunteers - aren't we lucky to have such a

wonderful, faithful band, giving so generously of their time and care?

Everyone is on first name terms - from Michelle, Simon, Bob, Delene and all the members of the Day Centre, to Chris and Babs in the garden, Hugo and his team upstairs, Diane sorting the cupboard and don't forget Linda with the books. Shirley, Maureen and Tina are there too for the lunchtime rush. We know that Jesus enjoyed eating with his friends. He would have loved Shirley's cottage pie!

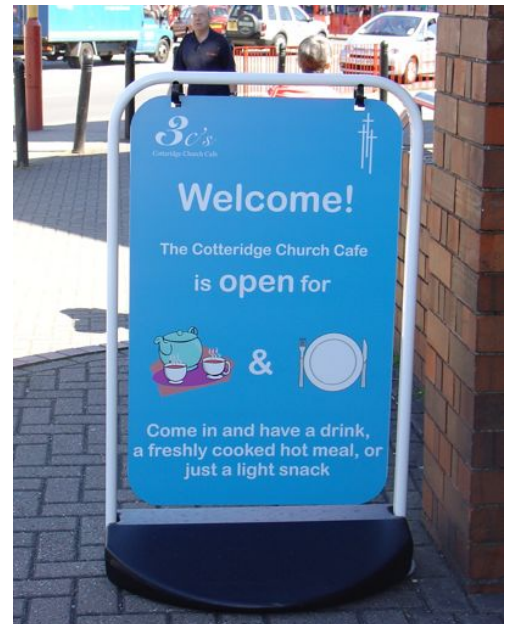
It doesn't matter why you come into The Cotteridge Church. The fact is that when you come you are welcomed into the family, the family of Christ. Annette hands



out Metros, Rob will help in any way he can and if you want to know anything ask Len and Chris - they don't miss much. It's just a miracle. Liz Brook, our newly appointed Older Adults Pastoral Worker has already experienced the special nature of The Cotteridge Church - the spreading of the Gospel in very small but important ways, not shouting it but whispering or in a smile or gesture, in respect or love.

And holding it all together is Irene - loved and respected for patience and kindness.

What happened years ago in Cotteridge was not just a little leap of faith, it was a ginormous leap of faith, it was a miracle - God's miracle that we were privileged to take part in and carry forward. There may be many churches that are doing similar things - but don't forget - when we did it, it was unheard of. Three denominations



working so closely together? It will never happen. Well it did, it's still happening and it will go on happening. Little miracles will continue, perhaps not always noticed but certainly felt. So, as my mother once remarked - "Praise the Lord and pass the bread pudding!"

Rita Sutton

Lucy Adams is running The London Marathon - April 24th 2016



A message from Lucy: I will be one of tens of thousands of runners taking part in the event on Sunday 24th April, and I am aiming to raise £2200 for the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC).

I only started running last September, just to kill time while Ted played football and now find myself preparing to cross the starting line on 24th April in an attempt to complete the 26.2 miles (42km) London Marathon. Yes, it's just 2 months away, but the NSPCC presented an opportunity I couldn't turn down. They work to tackle the devastating situations that some children are living in and promote wellbeing throughout childhood.

I'm sure you will be familiar with their previous Full Stop campaign, and they've recently launched 'It's Time to Take Action' which any generous donations will support. It's a simple but powerful message; Every Childhood is Worth Fighting For.

Not quite so significant is the journey I find myself on, which the marathon is now a part of. Not only taking on the physical challenge on the day, but committing to the miles and hours of training, pushing through the harder runs, celebrating completing increased distances and looking forward to the prospect of being able to call myself a marathon runner.

I am a local ambassador of the national 'This Girl Can' campaign, which aims to empower women and get them involved in sport and exercise. So I am trying to put into practice what I preach.

Any donations will not only support NSPCC but when I'm doubting myself (which I inevitably will), they will also provide invaluable support and encouragement to get me over the finish line. Anyone wishing to sponsor me can do so online via my fundraising page; uk.virginmoneygiving.com/mLucyAdams, or by contact with Mum or Dad, Jo and Alan Adams.

#ThisGirlCan, nope, #ThisGirlWill!

Flowers



Someone once said to me, “No flowers in church during Lent...is that an Anglican thing?” My reply was, “No, it’s a Lin thing!” Seven weeks off during the spring comes as a well-earned break for all those on the rota. That break comes to an end at Easter when we decorate the church with a burst of riotous spring colours.

I didn’t volunteer to take on the responsibility for flowers at The Cotteridge Church, I sort of inherited it from Joyce Cheney who had singlehandedly (with help from Alan of course and others only when they were on holiday) arranged the flowers for

many, many years. Without my small but dedicated team of volunteer arrangers and the regular financial contributors I would struggle to decorate our Church.

So to receive a thank you in Roundabout from a church member meant a great deal. But I would like to say thank you too to the ladies who support me as arrangers and to those who pay for the flowers.

If you would like us to arrange the flowers for you dedicated to a loved one, an anniversary or birthday or just make a donation, please see me or put your name down on the rota on the notice board in the Pennine Way.

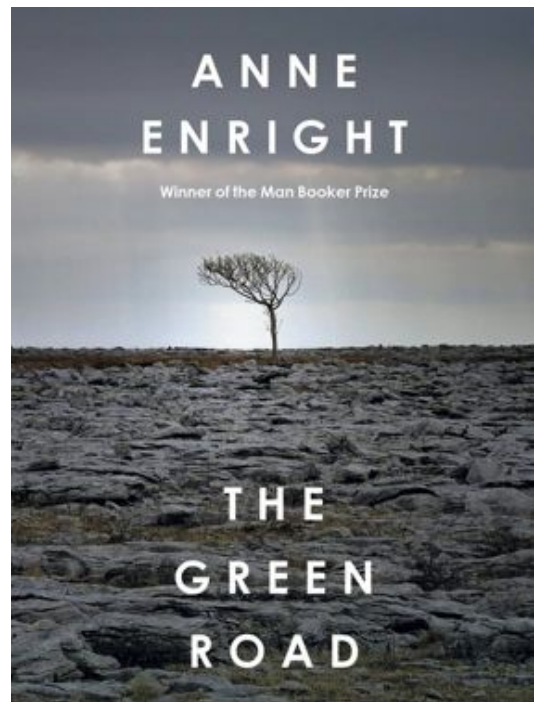


Lin Brown

Book Group

Our next Book Group meeting is on Thursday 17th March at 8pm, see news sheet for details. We will be discussing *The Green Road* by Anne Enright. This book tells the story of The Madigan family who start life in West Clare, Southern Ireland, but various members move around to Dublin, Mali and New York. Starting with the youngest child, Hanna, we hear how her mother takes to her bed when she learns that her eldest son is going to be a priest. Following the siblings over the next 30 years, we visit different places and situations, some funny, some painful moments.

When the mother decides to call them all back home and the four children are reunited, they are almost strangers, but also resort to childhood dynamics as they sit down to Christmas dinner. It's a well written book with some darkness but also humour and hope.



Ali Smith
How to be both
WINNER OF THE GOLDSMITHS PRIZE 2014
WINNER OF THE 2014 COSTA NOVEL OF THE YEAR AWARD

WINNER OF THE 2014 SALTIRE SOCIETY LITERARY BOOK OF THE YEAR AWARD
SHORTLISTED FOR THE MAN BOOKER PRIZE 2014
NOMINATED FOR THE FOLIO PRIZE 2015

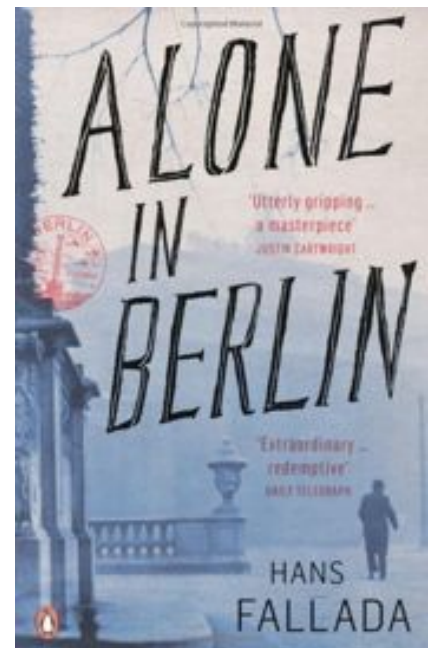
We have had a few suggestions for books this year and may try *How to be Both* by Ali Smith next. This, two tales twisted into a single story, sounds interesting. The critics call it compelling, audacious, dazzling, playful and so dizzyingly clever it makes you want to dance. How could we resist that?

Another suggested book is *Alone in Berlin* by Hans Fallada, set in 1940, which is said to be one of the most extraordinary and compelling novels written about World War II ever.

Otto's son is killed fighting at the front so he starts to drop anonymous postcards attacking Hitler across the city. A fast moving thriller so very different to the other two books.

New members always welcome and it is not compulsory to have read the book although of course it helps.

Christine Adams



Boys' Brigade

The company five-a-side football team are this season taking part in the Battalion competition. There are four Saturday sessions held at the Futsal Centre in the city. Our open aged team are currently joint top at the half way stage.

Our annual General Knowledge Quiz has been arranged for Friday 1st April at 7:45pm. Teams of no more than six are invited to take part. The cost is £2 per person and, as usual, all the proceeds will be donated to The Cotteridge Church, St Mary's Hospice and The Acorns Children's Hospice. Mike Meadows will again be the quiz master and we hope it will be as well supported as in previous years.

Bob Hotchkiss



Easter Services at Cotteridge

Palm Sunday 20 March

10.30 Morning Worship - Mr Steve Wright

18.30 Joint Choirs – 'The Length to which Love goes'

Maundy Thursday 24 March

19.30 Holy Communion with foot washing - Revd Roger Collins

Good Friday 25 March

10.30 Morning Worship - Revd Roger Collins

Easter Saturday 26 March

20.00 The Easter Ceremonies - Revd Roger Collins

Easter Sunday 27 March

9.00 Holy Communion - Revd Roger Collins

10.30 Holy Communion - Venerable Hayward Osborne

18.30 Holy Communion - Miss Hazel Nash

Faiths for Fun event 2016

Sun 13th March 2016, 1.30 - 5.30 p.m - 8th glorious year

Hamstead Academy (previously known as Community Learning Centre),
Handsworth

Organised by Birmingham Scout Association in conjunction with Birmingham Council of Faiths

For all youngsters aged 7 to 12 years of different faiths, and none, to have FUN, get to know each other and learn something together about each others' faiths

Youngsters can be dropped off at 1.30 & collected at 5.30. They will be supervised by trained adult leaders throughout the afternoon. On arrival, they will be registered & allocated to a multifaith team, supervised by a trained leader. The fun starts with joining in the parachute game & then they will be guided around 6 faith bases to carry out a fun activity and learn something about each faith.

Faith Bases – Baha'i, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, Jewish

Refreshments (free) at half time – special diets (Vegetarian, Kosher & Halal) catered for

Enjoy the campfire (simulated) at the end.

Certificates awarded to participants (verifies 3 parts of World Faiths Badge for Cub Scouts, etc)

Cost £2 per participant.

Places allocated on first come first served basis. Contact the organisers:-

Dr Peter & Mrs Jean Rookes Tel 477 2282, or e-mail pjrookes@gmail.com

Faiths For Our City in partnership with Birmingham Council of Faiths

Faith, Health & Wellbeing Seminar (free of charge)

Thurs 28th April 9.30-3.30 (registration from 8.45)

University of Birmingham Orchard Learning & Resource Centre (behind the new University High School) Weoley Park Road, Selly Oak, B29 6QW

'What is new in Health Care?' Dr Peter Rookes, Secretary & 3rd Sector Liaison Officer, Birmingham Council of Faiths.

'Ageing Better in Birmingham' Louise Bunn, Partnership Coordinator

'Birmingham Demographics & the Effect of Faith on Health' Adrian Phillips, Director of Public Health

'Birmingham GP ACE (Aspiring to Clinical Excellence) Initiative' Majinder Patel, Senior Primary Care Development Manager

Other presentations to be confirmed

Presentations from previous seminars can be accessed on the Birmingham Council of Faiths website www.bhamfaiths.org.uk

This is a free event for members of faith communities, voluntary & community services, chaplains, educationists, health & care workers, patients & individuals interested in faith, health & wellbeing.

Tea and coffee can be purchased at the refreshment bar, but please bring your own packed lunch.

The Orchard Learning and Resource Centre is accessible by the 61, 63 and 98 buses from the City Centre and approximately 15 minutes' walk from Selly Oak Station. Free parking is available around the site.

Book your place with the organisers Dr Peter and Jean Rookes at pjrookes@gmail.com, phone 477 2282 or 077 033 360 88

Easter Eggs

Did you know? The custom of giving eggs at Easter celebrates new life. Christians remember that Jesus, after dying on the cross, rose from the dead. This miracle showed that life could win over death. The egg is a symbol of Jesus' resurrection, as when they are cracked open they stand for the empty tomb.

Traidcraft sell a range of delicious fair trade Easter eggs including the first and only Fairtrade chocolate Easter egg to explain the Christian understanding of Easter and a great range of Divine Chocolate milk, dark and white chocolate eggs. The Book Centre has in stock:



£9.99



£3.99



£5.00



£5.50



£3.00

7th Birmingham Boys' Brigade

Presents...



The Annual General Knowledge Quiz

On Friday 1st April 2016
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

Services for March and April 2016

Date	Time	Minister	Service
6th March	9.00 am		Holy Communion
4th Lent	10.30 am	Pastor Paul Clarke	Parade & Baptism
	6.30 pm	Revd Mary Shannahan	Holy Communion
13th March	9.00 am	Revd Mary Shannahan	Holy Communion
5th Lent	10.30 am	Revd Mary Shannahan	Holy Communion
	6.30 pm	Café Church	
20th March	9.00 am		Holy Communion
Palm Sunday	10.30 am	Mr Steve Wright	Morning Worship
	6.30 pm	Revd Mary Shannahan	United Service
27th March	9.00 am	Revd Roger Collins	Holy Communion
Easter Day	10.30 am	The Venerable Hayward Osborne	Holy Communion
	6.30 pm	Miss Hazel Nash	Evening Worship
3rd April	9.00 am	Revd Roger Collins	Holy Communion
2nd Easter	10.30 am	Revd Roger Collins	Parade & Baptism
	6.30 pm		Holy Communion
10th April	9.00 am	Revd Mary Shannahan	Holy Communion
3rd Easter	10.30 am	Revds Shannahan/ Collins/Wright	Holy Communion
	6.30 pm	Café Church	
17th April	9.00 am		Holy Communion
4th Easter	10.30 am	Miss Hazel Nash	Morning Worship
	6.30 pm	Revd Mary Shannahan	Holy Communion
24th April	9.00 am	Revd Roger Collins	Holy Communion
5th Easter	10.30 am	Revd Roger Collins	Holy Communion
	6.30 pm	Mr Steve Wright	Evening Worship



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

Next issue: 1 May Copy date: No later than last week of April

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

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