

# Roundabout



**The Cotteridge Church  
Witnessing at the Heart of the Community**

**March 2017**

# Mike's message .....



My name's Mike Claridge and on 23rd March I'll become your new Minister at The Cotteridge Church! I thought I'd write a few words of introduction.

I won't be joining you alone. I'll be joined by my wife Susan and our daughters Rose (21) and Anastasia (19 later this month). Susan will be looking for work as a Teaching Assistant (part time), Rose works as a Planning Assistant with Sandwell Council (she'll become very acquainted with the Outer Circle bus route), and Anastasia is currently working as a Domiciliary Carer but plans to go to University

in the autumn to read English with a view to teaching in secondary school. Oh, and there's a cat too!

I was born in Pelsall and attended schools there and in Brownhills. After 'A' Levels I trained as an Environmental Health Officer with Wolverhampton Council specialising in food hygiene and general public health. In 1989 I was selected for training for the ordained ministry of the Church of England and studied at Queen's College, Birmingham. This included a year based in Handsworth with local church and community placements. This was followed by a year at the World Council of Churches' Ecumenical Institute near Geneva where I studied alongside people from all over the world and of many denominations. I've maintained contact with some ever since and recently have renewed contact with others through social media.

I was ordained in 1992 and served three years at Harlescott, Shrewsbury where I met and married Susan. In 1995 we moved to Christ Church, Wellington, Telford where Rose and Anastasia were born. There I developed an interest in inter-faith dialogue with the sizeable Muslim community there. I also became Chaplain (and later Stadium Announcer!) at Telford United FC. In 2003 we moved to St Andrew's, West Bromwich, a C of E / Methodist LEP. While there I've taken on an increasing role on what is now the Black Country Circuit of the Methodist Church. My interests have been varied and diverse. I was for many years a keen church bellringer. I am an enthusiastic family history researcher, with Kings Norton and Cotteridge figuring significantly in the Claridge lineage around the beginning of the 20th century! I enjoy cycling and completed London to Paris rides for Christian Aid in 2008 and 2012. Most recently I have taken to 'treading the boards' and this month take part in Wesley Church, West Bromwich's annual pantomime for the third year.

## From the Editor.

Firstly - and most importantly :- Welcome to Reverend Mike Claridge, and a big thank you to him for his first [and, we hope, - one of many] contributions to Roundabout. Also we welcome the return of the early morning communion services from 26th March.

Thank you to the many people who have said they enjoyed the January edition. I hope everyone will like this one too. As I said before Roundabout can only be as good as the articles it receives, and I think we have a very good selection this time. Thank you all.

## News from friends and family

We are sad to report the death of Joan Cornish. A tribute to her follows this article. Angela Garrett, would like to thank everyone for all the cards and messages she has received following her hip replacement operation. They were all much appreciated.

## Memories of Joan Cornish



A service of thanksgiving for the life of Joan Dorothy Cornish took place on February 10th at Cambridge Rd Methodist Church. The service was attended by her family, friends and neighbours and led by our dear friend Nick Jones.

Joan died on the 9<sup>th</sup> January at the age of nearly 90yrs. She had been a member of Cambridge Rd Methodist Church in Kings Heath for nearly 50 yrs before transferring her membership to The Cotteridge Church when she moved to Beaumont Park a few years ago. Joan was a very active member at Cambridge Rd taking on many jobs there. Words to describe her there were **‘if you wanted a job doing well.. ask Joan’**. She had been Church Secretary, Bookings secretary, involved with Young wives - just to name a few of her jobs. All of these were done with determination and rigour and alongside the needs of her young family.

When she transferred to The Cotteridge Church she was a regular attender of the Lunch Club and the

Tuesday Women’s Guild as well as worshipping on a Sunday with us. Joan was always interested in what was happening around her and what was important in your lives too.

The Funeral service booklet ended with a favourite poem of Joan’s which you can read below and, as you do - bless her for a life that was lived serving others for the Glory of God. Here is the last page of that booklet prepared lovingly by members of her family.

## Sea Fever by John Masefield

I must go down to the seas again, to the lonely sea and the sky,  
And all I ask is a tall ship and a star to steer her by;  
And the wheel's kick and the wind's song and the white sail's shaking,  
And a grey mist on the sea's face, and a grey dawn breaking.

I must go down to the seas again, for the call of the running tide  
Is a wild call and a clear call that may not be denied;  
And all I ask is a windy day with the white clouds flying,  
And the flung spray and the blown spume, and the sea-gulls crying.

I must go down to the seas again, to the vagrant gypsy life,  
To the gull's way and the whale's way where the wind's like a whetted knife;  
And all I ask is a merry yarn from a laughing fellow-rover,  
And quiet sleep and a sweet dream when the long trick's over.

Joan always had a fondness for poetry, preferably not obscure, and it was better if it had an obvious rhyming patter. Sea Fever meets these criteria with ease and it holds a special place in our family memory as Brian was tasked to learn it in his first English homework, so it seemed that for weeks we heard its strains around the house such that it bedded itself in our corporate memory.

These many years on - the words are strangely poignant; they speak of a journey, of moving on, of a call that cannot be denied. In her last days Mum was longing for that call; for a quiet sleep and sweet dreams in a new heaven and a new earth. For her the long trick is over and she can rest in peace.

God Bless you and keep you Mum.

### "I AM A CHRISTIAN".

A long standing friend whose Muslim husband died over the Christmas period recently handed me a found poem which is helping her through the rawest elements of her grief. It comes from a well known newspaper and was published anonymously, author unknown. As a collection of words it is non-pareil. Please read, - see if you agree.

### "I AM A CHRISTIAN"

'When I say "I am a Christian" I'm not shouting "I've been saved."

I'm whispering "I get lost - that's why I chose this way".

When I say "I am a Christian", I don't speak with human pride.

I'm confessing that I stumble - needing God to be my guide.

When I say that "I am a Christian" I'm not trying to be strong.

I'm confessing that I'm weak and pray for strength to carry on.

When I say "I am a Christian", I'm not bragging of success,



I'm admitting that I've failed and can never pay the debt.  
When I say "I am a Christian" I don't think I know it all,  
I submit to my confusion, asking humbly to be taught.  
When I say "I am a Christian", I'm not claiming to be perfect,  
My flaws are all too visible, but God believes I'm worth it.  
When I say "I am a Christian", I still feel the sting of pain,  
I have my share of heartache, which is why I seek His name.  
When I say "I am a Christian" I do not wish to judge,  
I have no authority, I only know I'm loved.

from Gordon Parsons.

### **Notes from the meeting of Joint Church Council on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2017**

**Membership:** this now stands at 185, following the deaths of Mary Hawkings, Jean Rookes and Joan Cornish, and the move to worship elsewhere of Viv Meadows and Sarah Brown.

**Spiritual Life of the Church:** The Welcome and Licensing of the Revd Mike Claridge will take place on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March. Bishop David plans to attend, and a coach party from Mike's current church will be coming. Mike's first service at Cotteridge will be at 10.30 a.m. on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March and plans are being made to serve lunch after the service.

#### **Reports from groups:**

##### *Finance and Property:*

*URC Manse.* it was recommended that we ask the URC to take over responsibility for the manse as it is unlikely to be needed in the foreseeable future.

*Quinquennial Inspection.* Quotes have been obtained and work is being undertaken.

*Church Deep Clean.* On Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March cleaning in the Malvern Room will start at 10.00 am, and in the Pennine Way at 12.00 after closure of the 3Cs Café. Volunteers will be sought.

*Social and fundraising.* The Christmas Fair raised £1,184. Thanks were recorded to all who had helped with this event. It was proposed and unanimously agreed that the proceeds from this year's Fair should be earmarked to fund the appointment of a web designer for a new Church website. This would help raise the profile and outreach of the church as we move into a new era.

*B30 Foodbank.* Demand has been rising steeply; the particular reasons are not clear yet.

*Catering Services.* Electrical work is in hand to install a deep-fat fryer in the kitchen.

**Older Adults Care Services.** The Day Centre's initiative to provide *Christmas Day lunch* for clients who would otherwise have been alone had gone well. Members had been brought in by ambulance, and Michelle, with staff and family volunteers had provided for them. Thanks and appreciation were recorded.

*Church Ambulance.* A request had been received to sell the ambulance, now

Day Centre members are using Ring and Ride service to get to the Centre. This was agreed, and the proceeds are to go to the CCDC account

**APEC Regeneration Project.** APEC have finished their consultations with all groups and have produced a comprehensive report of their findings. They will now draw up 2-3 proposals for discussion. The regeneration work will be carried out in various phases. The report poses challenges for us and suggests that we should begin to consider changes to what we offer, and not wait till proposals have been finalised.

**Administrative item.** We are looking for a Saturday cleaner to work 2 hours a week after the close of the 3Cs café, making ready for Sunday.

**Treasurer's Report.** No report was available.

**Youth Report.** Sue Clayton highlighted points from her report on safety and cleanliness issues in the Cotswold and Clent rooms used by Young Church as well as other groups. There are problems around the storage of furniture. Sue will take photos and put labels on the walls to show where furniture should be stored. Sue was thanked for her work on this.

**Safeguarding.** Documents had been circulated showing the Cotteridge Church Safeguarding Policies for Adults, and Children and Young People. These were unanimously adopted. Key roles were assigned and training will take place in due course. It was pointed out that Joint Church Council is responsible for safeguarding.

**Volunteering.** Pam Waddell had circulated a document entitled 'Co-ordination of Volunteering Recruitment' for discussion. She offered to discuss this with co-ordinators of areas involving volunteers and bring a final proposal to a future JCC meeting for further discussion and approval.

**Increase in minimum wage.** The Methodist Church is recommending that churches implement the increase in the living wage from £8.00 to £8.45 per hour. This would mean an additional cost of ca. £1000 p.a. to the Cotteridge Church

**Date of next meeting.** Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30 pm.

The proposed theme for the February meeting had been "Know your Church, Know your Neighbourhood" However it was felt this would be better deferred to April when Mike Claridge would be able to take part. It was therefore agreed to cancel the February meeting

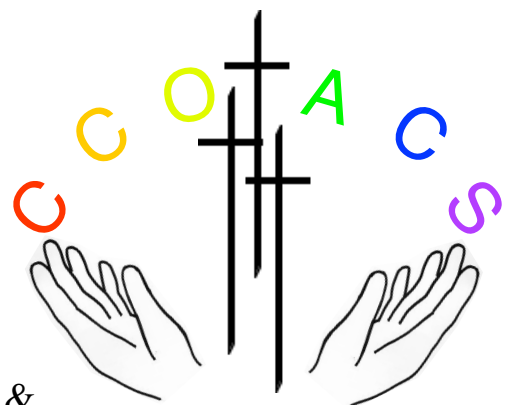
### **Church Day Centre**

The new office has been completed, & Michelle has now moved.

This has given more space for quiet activities, such as craft, reading, talking or just being.

We look forward to Easter, with Easter hats, cards & eggs!!

Please keep the Centre & all the members & staff who use it, & who work to make the Centre a place of care & compassion in your prayers.



Chris Pascal

## The Lurcher

In and out of Puddles,  
All along memory lane,  
Splash, Splash, Splash,  
Images flash in my brain

Getting my loyal dog Alfred,  
The best and happiest time,  
Each night or morning when I'm in bed,  
Up the steps he tries to climb.

A puppy's growl,  
A playful bark,  
Aimed at dogs.  
All over the park.

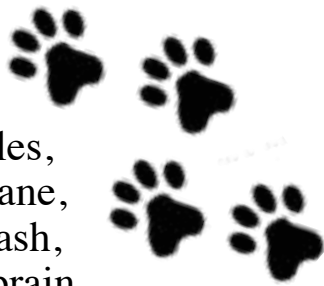
Ears too big for his head,  
Paws too big for his feet,  
He likes his food a lot,  
But loves new dogs to meet.

No matter how many times you meet him,  
Or see him in the park,  
You'll never know him as I do,  
That adorable dog with a playful bark.

I skip along the pavement,  
Memory fishing for me,  
But before I can select one,  
One appears for me to see.

My Brindle dog called Dillon  
Made a connection with me.  
It's something I want to tell you about:  
to do with Lurchers - you'll see.  
Lurchers are a special thing,  
They run with a skip and a bound,  
But also earn a place in your heart  
And something you've not yet found.

Happiness, true bliss,  
That's what lurchers offer,  
They're perfect therapy pets,  
And a best friend forever.



When children have nightmares,  
Adults calm them down,  
But when I wake up crying,  
It worked not - even with a clown.

Dillon had that special power,  
That trust and love to share,  
That made me know that whilst he's  
alive  
He will be right there.

The only one to stop me crying,  
To stop that dreadful sound,  
Was not love from any man,  
But came right from a hound.

I sit alone with my thoughts,  
On memory lane:  
But when I think about it,  
The answer is quite plain.

I need a lurcher in my life,  
And now that Dillon's gone,  
Alfred appeared from nowhere,  
He knows I needed someone.

Rosemary Harfield  
aged 12  
[Grand daughter  
of John Cliff]





## Cotteridge Country Walkers Himley Hall & Baggeridge Country Park



The Cotteridge Country Walkers head out once a month for a five mile ramble led by different members. It was my turn to lead the January walk. Often winter rain or snow can make it heavy going underfoot so it can be best to try to find firm paths rather than pastureland. I decided to lead a walk starting from Himley Hall. This is the site of a stately home set in big parklands.

It was formerly the seat of the Earls of Dudley, the Ward family, but is now owned by Dudley Council. Coal was found in workable seams in the north of the estate around 1900, and before the coal was worked out it was a full working colliery with associated slag heaps. The mine closed around 1970. Since then imaginative land reclamation has transformed the area into regenerated woodlands and lakes.

The walk began by walking around the main lake designed by Capability Brown, a good place to observe swans and coots, moor hens and grebe, before climbing a few hundred feet to reach the boundary edge of the estate. We followed the boundary to walk alongside a series of lakes, gradually making our way up a valley. Before long we had crossed over into Baggeridge Country park and passed more lakes then turned left through regenerated woodlands to reach the boundary of Baggeridge park. We followed this second boundary, this time passing pasture land with small shaggy ponies, surely descendants of working pit ponies. The path eventually led us to the top of Baggeridge Park where we turned right to reach the café. This was our lunch stop, a welcome bacon sarnie and a mug of tea.

The way back was a bit shorter and we made our way going down the valley following the lakes past Bag Pool and a toposcope before going under a disused railway. We eventually crossed back into Himley Hall grounds and reached our cars. There is a second café serving more snacks and drinks and some of the party stayed on a few minutes longer to rest their feet.

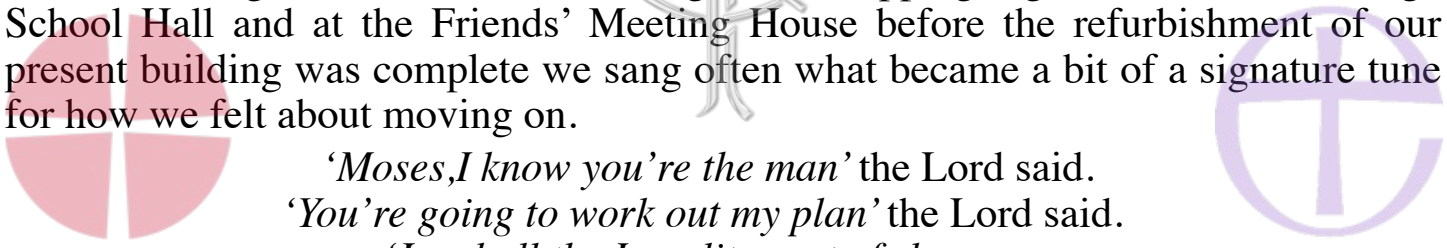
In short it was a good walk. The area is a magnet for dog walkers and joggers as well as ramblers. Anyone is welcome to join us on these monthly outings, just put a note in the church pigeon holes addressed to me with your contact details and I'll get back to you.

Peter Childs



## Vision for the Future

When the three churches, Kings Norton Methodist, St Agnes and Watford Road URC came together in 1987/88 and began worshipping together in the Cotteridge School Hall and at the Friends' Meeting House before the refurbishment of our present building was complete we sang often what became a bit of a signature tune for how we felt about moving on.

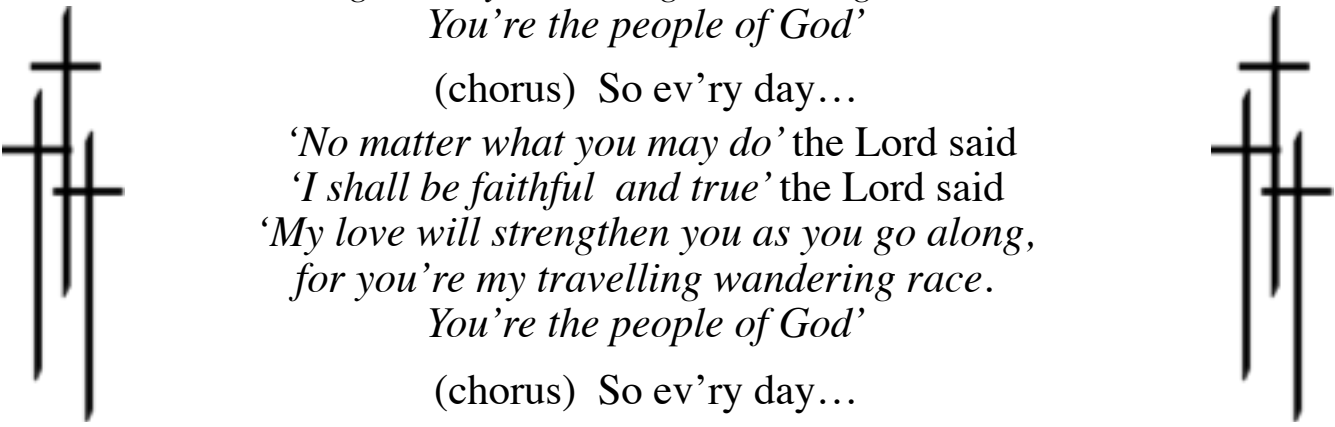


*'Moses, I know you're the man' the Lord said.  
'You're going to work out my plan' the Lord said.  
'Lead all the Israelites out of slavery,  
and I will make them a wandering race  
called the people of God'*

*(chorus) So ev'ry day we're on our way,  
for we're a travelling, wandering race  
called the people of God .*

*'Don't get too set in your ways', the Lord said  
'Each step is only a phase' the Lord said.  
'I'll go before you and I shall be a sign  
to guide my travelling wandering race .  
You're the people of God'*

*(chorus) So ev'ry day...*



*'No matter what you may do' the Lord said  
'I shall be faithful and true' the Lord said  
'My love will strengthen you as you go along,  
for you're my travelling wandering race.  
You're the people of God'*

*(chorus) So ev'ry day...*

*'Look at the birds in the air' the Lord said  
'They fly unhampered by care' the Lord said  
'You will move easier if you're travelling light  
for you're a wandering vagabond race.  
You're the people of God'.*

*(chorus) So ev'ry day...*

*'Foxes have places to go' the Lord said ,  
'but I've no home here below' the Lord said.  
'So if you want to be with me all your days ,  
keep up the moving and travelling on .  
You're the people of God.'*

written by Estelle White (born 1925)

Now almost 30 years later it almost feels we have come full circle with the planned changes to the building we know as The Cotteridge Church being considered. But in the past few years it has become apparent that we as a group of people worshipping together with a common mission we often now sing ...

*Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,  
a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.  
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace;  
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions;*

*All are welcome, all are welcome. All are welcome in this place.*

*Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are strong and true,  
where all God's children dare to seek to dream God's reign anew.  
Here the cross shall stand as witness and a symbol of God's grace;  
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:*

*All are welcome, all are welcome. All are welcome in this place.*

*Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine and wheat:  
a banquet hall on holy ground, where peace and justice meet.  
Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space;  
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us:*

*All are welcome, all are welcome. All are welcome in this place.*

Author Marty Haugen

So is this our new signature tune? I think so...what do you think? I also feel it is significant that Mike Claridge has included this hymn in his Service of Welcome and Installation to which All Are Welcome on Thursday evening 23<sup>rd</sup> March.

Lin Brown

## Services for March and April

2017	5th March	12th March	19th March	26th March	
9.30 a.m. H.C.				Revd M. Claridge	
10.30 a.m.	Miss Hazel Nash	Revd Roger Collins	Mr Steve Wright	Revd M. Claridge	
6.30 p.m.	Revd R. Morris	Café Church	Revd Roger Collins	Miss Hazel Nash	
	2nd April	9th April	16th April	23rd April	30th April
9.30 a.m. H.C.	Revd M. Claridge	Revd Roger Collins	Revd M. Claridge	Revd Roger Collins	Revd M. Claridge
10.30 a.m.	Mr John Cooper	Revd Roger Collins	Revd M. Claridge	Revd Roger Collins	Revd M. Claridge
4.00 p.m.				Life & Soul	
6.30 p.m.	Revd M. Claridge	Choir	Revd Roger Collins	Mr Steve Wright	Revd M. Claridge

Please note that the Life and Soul meeting will NOT take place in March, but will contribute to the morning service on 26th March.

## Boy's Brigade



Euan Clayton and Declan Williams have now qualified for the Presidents award. This will be presented at the parade service in April. They will now start working towards the Queens badge.



Our BB General Knowledge quiz night has been arranged for Friday 21<sup>st</sup> April at 7-45pm. Admission is £2 per person and no more than 6 in a team. All the proceeds which include a raffle will be shared by St Mary's Hospice and the Cotteridge Church. Mike Meadows as usual will be our quiz master.

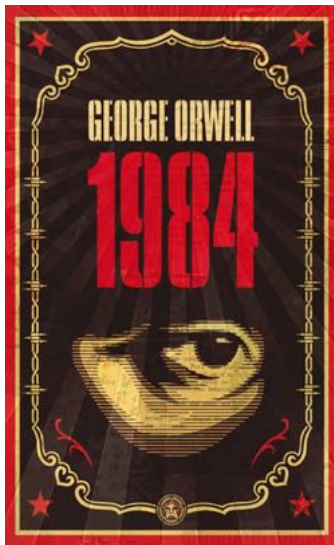
During February the Juniors and Anchors section's had a 'Bring a Friend' evening which was a success and we hope this has attracted new members.

Bob Hotchkiss



## Book Group

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March at 176 Franklin Road



Going back to the classics again we have chosen 1984 by George Orwell and it appears that this is an appropriate time to read it as there has been a heavy demand for the book lately (not just Cotteridge Church Book Group) and a reprint has been necessary. Something to do with the election of the latest president of the USA.

1984 was written in 1948 on the island of Jura and published a year later and you wonder if Orwell was expecting some major changes after two world wars. The novel is set in Airstrip One, formerly Great Britain and in the area known as Oceania.

It appears that Oceania is alternately at war with Eurasia and Eastasia and friends with whichever area they are not currently at war with.

The country is ruled by the English Socialist Party (IngSoc) and the party rules through Big Brother, watching the population through screens in every home. Regular 'programmes' include the daily 2 minute hate session and physical jerks first thing each morning. Maybe the latter could be the answer to the current obesity problem.



Winston Smith is convinced he has proof that the propaganda from The Party is all lies and wants to record this somehow but he knows that the thought police will soon be on to him and there is no escape.

**War is Peace  
Freedom is Slavery  
Ignorance is Strength  
Big Brother is watching you.**

Thankfully 1984 turned out to be a lot better than Orwell's novel but it still makes an excellent read.

We are always on the lookout for future books so if anyone has any suggestions then please let us know



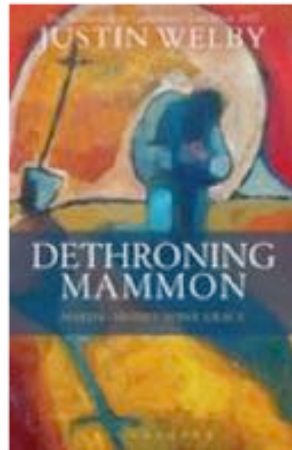
Christine Adams

## Cotteridge Church Book Centre

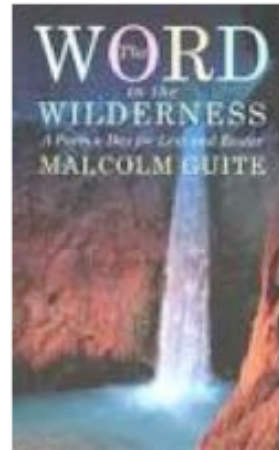
### Books for Lent



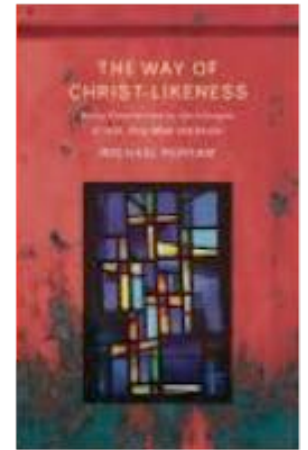
£10.99



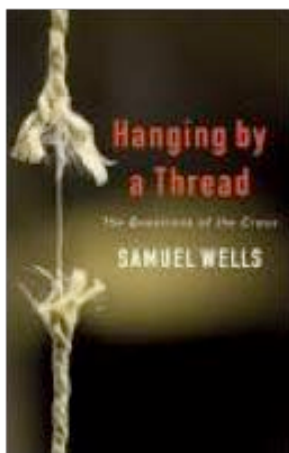
£ 9.99



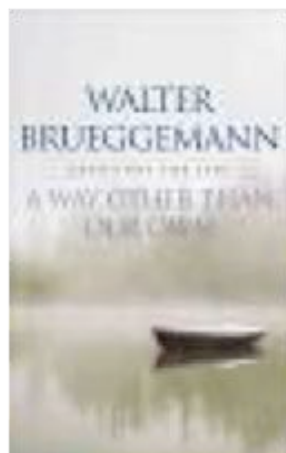
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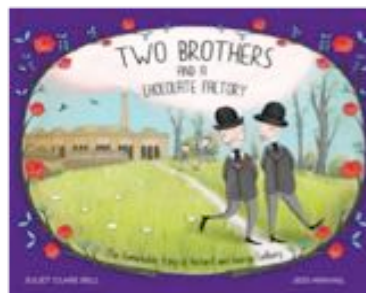
£16.99



£9.99



£9.99



£11.99



£20.00

**We are now able to take card payments when the book centre is staffed**

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

Presents...



## The Annual General Knowledge Quiz

On Friday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2017

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)

## Church Gardens



HELP!! Our gardens at back and front, are in need of some serious T.L.C.

If anyone can spare even an hour during the week (especially Fridays) we can, hopefully, return to having colour and life after a difficult few months. Don't forget, there is a greenhouse if you wish to grow-on some seeds or cuttings. Let's have a splendid summer display!

Many thanks,  
Chris & Babs.

## Photo Competitions

A big thank you to all who entered a photo for the Autumn competition. The results were very close with Michael Ravenhill winning followed closely by Shirley Morgan, Myra Dean and Irene Roper. The photos for Joys of Winter are now up and again the variety and quality is very good. Your votes for the best one are invited, though voting will close on 12th March. Please continue to support as all money raised has gone to our Day Centre. The next competition will be Stained Glass windows. Please give your entries, which should be approximately A6 in size, mounted, and with your contact details on the back [£1 per entry] to Linda Woodhouse.

Autumn Tints  
winning photograph





## As we approach Easter

**At My Mother's Knee** An Extract from Paul O'Grady's autobiography



“Do you know why the robin's breast is red? Without bothering to wait for an answer, she would go on to relate the tale of the robin's breast as she had done countless times before.

“When Jesus was on the cross,” she would say, adopting her pious voice, “the brave little robin, who was brown all over in them days, tried to ease poor Jesus' suffering by pulling out the nails in his poor blooded hands. As he tugged at those hard iron nails, red with Jesus' blood, he

stained his breast and that's why it's red today, as a testament to that little bird's undying bravery and loyalty.”

submitted by Myra Dean

Wikipedia also quotes a number of similar stories about the robin, voted unofficial British National bird in the 1960s, and again in 2015, such as

“Legend has it that when Jesus was dying on the cross, the robin, then simply brown in colour, flew to his side and sang into his ear in order to comfort him in his pain. The blood from his wounds stained the robin's breast, and thereafter all robins got the mark of Christ's blood upon them.”

and “ One day, about 2,000 years ago, one of the brown birds saw Jesus being pulled through the streets of Jerusalem, bent under the weight of a heavy cross. A crown of thorns pierced His head making it bleed. The small brown bird felt sorry for Him and flew down. To ease the pain a little it plucked out a thorn from His head. On the thorn was a drop of blood which fell onto the breast of the small bird. That red stain is there to this day. As thanks for the efforts of that *one* small brown bird to ease Christ's suffering, all the small brown birds, male and female, were given a red breast by God. They are so pleased with their fine red breast, that they always proudly fluff it up as if to say to onlookers, ”Look at just how beautiful I am!”

### Wordsearch

Can you find the 12 hills named in our rooms?

[straight lines only but in any direction]

P	B	K	W	K	B	C	D	Y	N
R	E	P	A	R	L	L	E	S	R
T	A	N	E	E	O	K	D	C	E
L	C	D	N	W	C	E	Y	N	T
I	O	T	S	I	E	P	W	R	L
N	N	T	L	L	N	L	A	E	I
H	O	H	C	T	O	E	O	V	H
C	H	E	V	I	O	T	W	L	C
W	E	A	T	H	E	R	O	A	K
E	Y	E	L	E	S	A	W	M	Y



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

Your Editor from January 2017 is Celia Lester

Please send copy for the next edition by April 23rd  
to [roundabout@thecotteridgechurch.org.uk](mailto:roundabout@thecotteridgechurch.org.uk)

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