

# Journey



**Blue Nose Day**  
**Sunday 27 February 2011**

**Red Nose Day**  
**Friday 18 March 2011**



**The continuing story of Carrs Lane Church**  
**March 2011**



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## MINISTERS LETTER

Dear friends,

I have been writing letters for church magazines for almost thirty years...and it is interesting to note that some of the issues on which I commented in the early 1980s warrant almost identical letters in 2011! One such issue is the prevalent obsession with wishing life away – if only it could be the weekend, next week, the summer, the next year! I have to confess that when I do the ironing, I usually listen to something fairly mindless on the radio: I need an anaesthetic, not a challenge. Of late, however, I have grown fed up with some of the things that are said week in, week out... and foremost among these things is the need to count down the number of days to the weekend: if it is Wednesday, then it is halfway through the week; if it is Thursday, well, then, we are given permission to start thinking ourselves into a 'weekend mood', whatever such a mood is. It is almost as though the presenters refuse to acknowledge that some people have jobs which they enjoy; not everybody is involved in counting the days to the next 'break' from responsibility.

As a young minister, I recall writing about the significance of summer holidays and Christmas in the lives of some people. Get Christmas out of the way, and you wish away the months until two weeks in the sun; get the summer holiday out of the way, and you end up counting the days until Christmas. This is a very unhealthy, ultimately a very depressing way to live. The great worth, the gift of every day goes unacknowledged; life is wished away, with scant consideration of what might lie beyond life. I don't think that very much has changed in thirty years – and as Christians, a responsibility remains: we must proclaim the inestimable worth of the whole of every single human life. Every life is a gift from God; potentially, every life is rich with God-given possibilities. Now I know that the implications of this are challenging, complex in a world where inequalities abound and we are numbered with a fortunate minority: nonetheless, we are mandated to speak of the possibilities of the God-given present...and called to live our lives in a way that is far more than an exercise in, 'counting the days'.

With much love in Christ,

Your friend and pastor,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "David", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

## Sunday Worship during March

### Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> March

10.30am Morning Worship led by Revd Chris Dowd

*Followed by First Sunday Lunch – all welcome*

*Sale of cakes (made from fairly traded ingredients ) after worship*

### Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> March *First Sunday in Lent*

10.30am Morning Worship led by Neil Johnson and Neil Riches

Key passage: Matthew 4.1 - 11

*Worship will be followed by a Church Meeting at midday – all welcome*

2.45pm for 3.00pm Kidz Aloud – A Children's Church

Theme: the temptations of Jesus

### Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March *Second Sunday in Lent*

10.30am Morning Worship led by Neil Riches - Key passage: Matthew 17.1 - 9

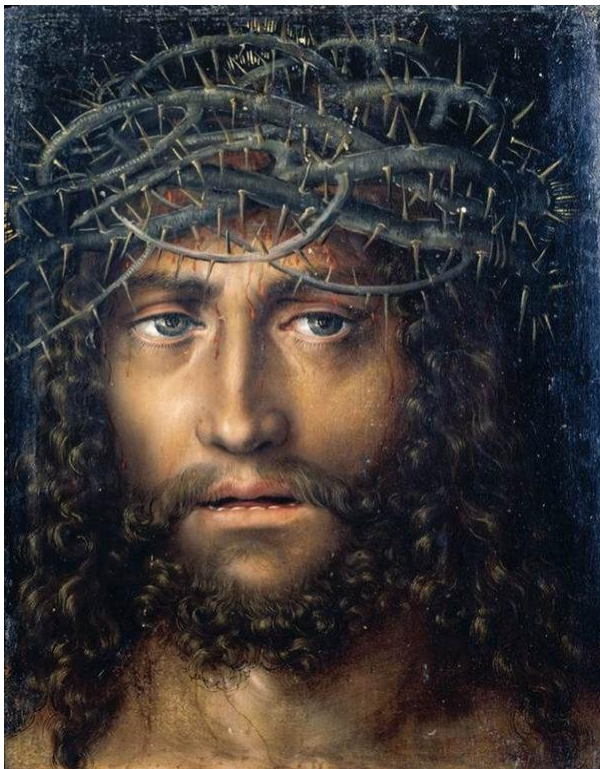
4.30pm Service of Healing and Communion led by Neil Riches

### Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> March

10.30am Morning Worship led by Ernest Cruchley

6.00pm Radical Worship 'This is England' (certificate 18)

A hard hitting film about identity and the need to belong.



**J S BACH**

### **Passion according to St Matthew**

ensemble 1685

performed complete

and on historical instruments

7.00pm Saturday March 19th

at Carrs Lane

Tickets: £12 (£10 concessions)

available on the door or from 07889 277 078

## Lent 2011 The Celtic Saints

### Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March (meeting at Journey MCC) Leader Chris Dowd

- ✦ Pancakes...and a brief history of Celtic Christianity up to the present day.
- ✦ Discussion: why bother with saints when we are 'reformed' believers?
- ✦ Journaling: what makes someone a saint?

### Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March (meeting at Carrs Lane – Lounge) Leader Neil Riches

- ✦ Columba and the spread of Christianity
- ✦ Discussion: are we now missionaries again in our own land?
- ✦ Journaling: what is the Christianity that should be spread?

### Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March (meeting at Carrs Lane – Lounge) Leader Chris Dowd

- ✦ Ita of Killeedy and Hilda of Whitby – women of substance
- ✦ Discussion: if we are all one in Christ, why should our gender matter?
- ✦ Journaling: why has the Church been so 'hung up' about gender?

### Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> March (meeting at Carrs Lane – Lounge) Leader Chris Dowd

- ✦ Holy Brothers – Cedd, Cynebil, Caelin and Chad
- ✦ Discussion: what are the key elements of the faith that we share actively?
- ✦ Journaling: I am a missionary in the following ways...

### Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April (meeting at Carrs Lane – Lounge) Leader Neil Riches

- ✦ St. Piran – an unsaintly saint
- ✦ Discussion: original sin v. original blessing
- ✦ Journaling: I am not always perfect, but parts of me are excellent...

### Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> April (meeting at Carrs Lane – Lounge) Leader Neil Riches

- ✦ Spiritual practices of the saints
- ✦ Discussion: what have we learned – and how does it challenge and enrich faith?

Meetings will run from 6.30pm until 8.00pm.

Following refreshments, there will be a 15 minute 'presentation' of information, followed by discussion and 10 minutes for journaling.

The evening will draw to a close with Celtic prayer.



## NOTICES

**28 February – 14 March Fair Trade Fortnight** [www.fairtrade.org.uk](http://www.fairtrade.org.uk)

**4 March Women's World day of Prayer**  
[www.wwdp-natcomm.org](http://www.wwdp-natcomm.org)

**8 March International Women's Day**  
'Women and the struggle in Palestine'  
12.30 – 2.00pm at Unison, McLaren Building, Dale End.

**15 – 21 May Christian Aid Week**  
[www.christianaid.org.uk](http://www.christianaid.org.uk)

**Cheap and Cheerful?** Thought provoking drama for Fair Trade Fortnight. Riverside School of Performing Arts presents a fast-paced show exploring the true cost of fashion. While we pay bargain prices for our designer labels, in other parts of the world, people sweat for inadequate wages. Cheap and Cheerful? fuses humour, metaphor, music and real life stories in an engaging, fast-paced, episodic show to challenge the ultimate fashion statement. Cheap and Cheerful? tours Birmingham schools, youth groups and churches for two weeks during fair Trade Fortnight, from Monday 28 February to Friday 11 March. Please contact Helen at RSPA for details on 0121 442 2586 or email [helenf@rspa.org.uk](mailto:helenf@rspa.org.uk). Performances at the Hexagon Theatre, Midlands Arts Centre at 7.30pm on Friday 25 and Saturday 26 March. To book call MAC box office 0121 446 3232 or online [www.macarts.co.uk](http://www.macarts.co.uk).

**Tuesday 15 March Human Trafficking.** What is it? How do we recognise it? What should we do? A modern form of slavery – it's closer than you think. 7.30pm at Hall Green Quaker Meeting House, 1 Hamlet Road, B28 9BG. Speakers Kerry Smith (Methodist Deacon, member of West Midlands Regional Antio Trafficking Network) and Shazim Husayn (Principal, Al-Mahdi Institute). Free, all welcome. Contact Gill Coffin 0121 449 3967 or Elisabeth Burgess 0121 777 3260. <http://hallgreenquakers.web.officelive.com> for more information and directions.

**Jubilee Debt Campaign Birmingham.** Tuesday 15 March Debt and the Arms Trade 7.00pm in the Moseley Community Development Trust Building, Alcester Road. Talk and discussion led by Pavla Gossop of Campaign against the Arms Trade.

**15, 22, 29 March and 5 April Quaker Quest in South Birmingham.** Find out more about a spiritual path for our time that leads to peace and social justice. Join us in a series of informal presentations, discussions and questionings, with time to meet new people, experience Quaker worship, browse literature and hear about Quakers and Worship (evening one) Quakers, Christianity and the Spiritual Path (evening two) Quakers and Peace (evening three) Quaker Faith in Action (evening four). You can join the series at any session. Each evening starts at 6.30pm for a light supper and 7.00pm session start, ending with refreshments at 9.00pm. For more information visit [www.quakerquest.org](http://www.quakerquest.org) or call 07964 066823.

**Friday 18 March Mass in Celebration of Oscar Romero**, 7.00pm at St Chad's Cathedral, celebrated by The Right Reverend David McGough, Auxiliary Bishop of Birmingham. Reception afterwards in the Grimshaw room with refreshments and short talk by Jan Graffius, Conservator of the Relics of Archbishop Romero. Contact CAFOD with any queries on 01922 722 944.

**Saturday 26 March The Mother's Union Diocesan Festival Service** 11.00am at St Philip's Cathedral. It will be a special occasion as the Chief Executive of Mother's Union, Reg Bailey will be speaking. This service is open to all. A **reflective evening** is planned for Tuesday 24 May, 7.30pm at the beautiful Abbey of St Editha, Polesworth. The meditation and quiet time will be led by the Vicar, the Revd Philip Wells. All welcome. Further information from Mother's Union Office, Carrs Lane Church Centre, B4 7SX. Tel 0121 643 0938, office@mubham.org.uk.

**Saturday 2 April Annual Conference of the Librarians' Christian Fellowship** at Carrs Lane, 10.30am – 4.45pm. Fee £25, including lunch. Non-members welcome. Details from Graham Hedges, 020 8871 7467. Email secretary@librarianscf.org.uk. **2011 is The Year of The Bible**, see article on page 9 - 400 Not Out.



**Saturday 21 May Many Voices 2011**, a multilingual sponsored sing, read and speak, 11.30am – 1.30pm at St Philip's Cathedral. Each year, for the past three years, we've heard over 40 languages from around the world and have raised in total over £7,000 towards Restore's work with refugees and people seeking sanctuary from persecution. We hope many Voices 2011 will be a time of worship, awareness raising and a celebration of our diversity and unity, so we are looking for people to participate through singing, reading or speaking. Sponsorship forms and more details available from Jeremy Thompson, 0121 236 0069 or befriend@restore-uk.org.

## ABOUT PEOPLE

Congratulations to **Birmingham City Football Club** on winning the League Cup.

**Revd Dr Toby Howarth** has been appointed to serve as Secretary for Inter religious Affairs for the Church of England. He will be leaving Birmingham in April. Toby has long experience of working in inter religious relations, and is currently Inter Faith Advisor to the Bishop of Birmingham, alongside his parish work as Vicar of St Christopher's, Springfield, a church in a majority Muslim area of the city. 'I am very much looking forward to working with the Archbishop of Canterbury and colleagues both at Lambeth Palace and in Church House to strengthen interreligious relationships and build on the work of understanding one another better across different faith traditions'.

# J S Bach's St Matthew Passion

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March at 7 pm

*Richard Jeffcoat writes:*

Ensemble 1685 have performed the first of Bach's Passions many times, always as an act of devotion within the context of worship. Bach would have expected this, despite his extravagant use of colours that his puzzled employers imagined belonged in the opera house. As part of our season exploring the work of his contemporary Handel, we are presenting a performance of the glorious *St Matthew Passion*, but for reasons of financial and logistical exigency we have chosen a different context, and we very much hope that our loyal audience will be able to follow us through this.

Bach's demands are more than twice as rich as in the *St John Passion*, and we are determined to present it with historically-aware instruments, requiring specialist players generally based in London. Two opposing orchestral forces support two opposing choirs, requiring more singers than we would normally use, and this means that our financial demands are matched by commitment difficulties. So to be able to present this astonishing and moving music we need to make a charge for admission which can recoup some of our costs, and, while we would have liked to present it in Holy Week, as we have been grateful to be able to do with the *St John Passion* at Carrs Lane in previous years, this has proved impossible.

I am aiming at exactly the same size of forces with which Bach would have been familiar – about 20 singers and 20 players – and I expect that this will bring a freshness to blow away some of the sentiment and piety with which this piece has been overlaid. Two centuries of veneration have perhaps clouded our appreciation of the shock value of some of Bach's inspiration. And, as before, our vocal soloists come from within the ensemble, as Bach would have expected – this is very rare these days. We will be performing it in its original language, and a full text in English will be provided.

If you know this piece, on record or in the concert hall, come and experience it in the context of a church setting, performed by the size of forces which Bach's church musicians formed. If you don't know this piece, or only know its reputation, we hope to inspire you with something special to help your devotion as we approach Holy Week.

## 400 Not Out

‘To be or not to be?’ that will be the question when theatre goers attend Shakespeare’s Globe Theatre this Easter to hear up to twenty actors recite the entire Bible. The world-famous Southwark Theatre plans to present all 788,280 words of the 1611 King James Version to celebrate its 400th anniversary. The 69 hours performance will run between Palm Sunday and Easter Monday. The theatre’s spokesman said it may be the first to stage a full reading of ‘one of the most significant pieces of world literature’.

The National Theatre also intends to mark the year with readings from the Gospels, Genesis and Deuteronomy. A *London Evening Standard* commentator said the masterpiece is ‘the most important book in our language, our literature and our history, but most 35-year-olds have never heard of it’.

Citadel Scene Winter 2010



## Tons of Money

Wow! These sandwiches are fresh! was my first thought at the Afternoon Tea on the 26<sup>th</sup> February attending the performance of the play *Tons of Money* performed by the Carrs Lane Players. I was offered a cup of tea and found delicious cakes were also on the menu. Scones jam and cream added to the delights. People partaking of tea were having warm fellowship and I listened to comical stories as I ate.

As the play opened music played, “Money is the root of all evil” introduced the hilarious proceedings. The play was convincingly acted and the opening characters, Simpson and Stroyles set a scene which showed the type of household portrayed in the production. All costumes elegantly matched the era. As the Act went on I discovered that the wordplays in the script are subtle and cleverly acted. The plot becomes quite complicated but the clear speech of the actors helped the audience follow the events.

The male lead has two dramatic entrances which were followed by gales of laughter, and I consider Martin Stokes acted his role very well, as did Jane Winder the Lady of the house. The end of the play is intricate and slapstick actions follow one another speedily right up to the last word of the play. Liz Cummings was very funny in her role and her fainting fits were no less funny for the repetition.

The evening was most enjoyable and the audience appreciated the actors in really thumping applause. I look forward to next year’s production with eager anticipation.

Francesca Clayton



## Carrs Lane Homes – Continuing the Story

- 📖 final chapter?
- 📖 or end of part 1?

The article in last month's Journey tells of the work and ministry that Carrs Lane Church can be proud to have been part of since 1942 – 69 years ago, providing a home for 'elderly persons in necessitous circumstances' – as the CLH trust deed states. Much has happened in those 69 years and although many much older almshouse charities continue to provide sheltered housing, so do many local authorities and other not-for-profit organisations. There is now the need for much more professionalism and the ability to conform to many legal requirements, which a small organisation like CLH can struggle to achieve.

As all Carrs Lane Church members will know various resolutions have been passed by Carrs Lane Church Meeting to allow the CLH trustees to hand the sheltered housing scheme over to another organisation and close down the CLH charity. This has been a lengthy three-year process and has consumed many hours of our solicitors' time as well as the CLH trustees and Accord Housing Association, the managing agents for the last 7 years, and the soon-to-be-owners Yardley Great Trust.

As I write this on 1<sup>st</sup> March, many of the legal hurdles have been overcome, and we hope there will be no last minute problems. The residents and the three staff are very happy about the change, and the CLH trustees are confident that we have found an organisation that will continue to provide the care that has been the hallmark of the last 69 years.

The handover will take place on March 31, and will be celebrated by a party at the CLH scheme in Acocks Green on March 30, by invitation only, and also a thanksgiving service on Sunday 17 April (Palm Sunday) at Carrs Lane Church, to which everyone is invited.

Am I sad about what is happening? In one sense – yes – it is an end to an era - of many church members being involved in all sorts of ways, in a very worthwhile project which has given many elderly people a really good quality of community life, that for some they had never had before taking up residence there. But also I feel a sense of 'job-well-done', and the need to hand over to an organisation that has more expertise than we do and who will carry the scheme on for years to come.

Final chapter? No - some things will continue – those members and friends who attend social events and meet the residents are being encouraged by YGT to continue. I will now become a trustee of Yardley Great Trust, so there will be a sense of continuity.

End of part 1? Perhaps - 'Carrs Lane Homes' will be no more as the residents have decided, with our blessing, that they want to change the name to Carrs Lane Gardens, so we give thanks for the life of Carrs Lane Homes and offer our prayers and good wishes to all who will live and work at Carrs Lane Gardens!

Andrew Veitch

## Christian Discipleship in a Multi Faith World

**A**n exciting day conference organised by an alliance of Christian Churches in Birmingham and Churches Together in England that will tackle the difficult but exciting question of how to be a Christian disciple in a multi faith world.

Faith, Hope and Love – Christian Witness in a Multi Faith Society  
10.00am to 4.30pm Saturday 9 April  
at Mount Zion Community Church, Thomas Street, B6 4TN.

The conference, through a variety of inputs, dialogues and workshops, will seek to

- help Christians become more confident as part of a multi faith society
- share stories that empower others
- gather church leaders and members who are new to inter faith engagement
- act as a catalyst for further developments
- create a safe environment where people can share their stories and ask the difficult questions

There will be sharing our stories sessions with Bishop Joe Aldred and Archbishop Bernard Longley and Pall Singh (Sanctuary and Lozells Project) talking about their own experience of working with other faith communities. For more information go to [www.faithhopeandloveconference.blogspot.com](http://www.faithhopeandloveconference.blogspot.com). Cost £5 in advance, £8 on day, includes buffet lunch. Discounts for advance group bookings. For a booking form, email [office@birminghamchurches.org.uk](mailto:office@birminghamchurches.org.uk) or download from the website.



### Notes from the Organ Bench

**D**uring February, I have tried to refine the ‘vision’ I (and hopefully others) have for the musical life of Carrs Lane. There are essentially three aspects to this: provision of music for Sunday and Wednesday worship; putting the church ‘on the map’ as a music venue in the city centre; and to provide opportunities for music making amongst the city community, especially for those who may not have had many opportunities at home or in school.

Sunday morning worship is a great opportunity to explore new ways of music making, in addition to our choral tradition. Last month, I mentioned that we are trialling a pattern of choir-led worship on the first Sunday of the month, with the Singing Group leading on the third Sunday. But what about the other Sundays? In February, Neil Riches has been very creative in his use of the ‘space’ that the choir anthem would otherwise occupy in the service, and I feel this has worked well – in particular, I felt I understood and appreciated his sermon, or reflection, much more when it was divided in two, with music, a reading, or silence in between. I would be delighted for this to continue! Since this seems to be a success, I’m keen to build on the original idea and try some new styles of songs on the second and fourth Sundays

to give them more of an identity – maybe some Gospel, maybe some Taizé, maybe some more modern songs. I am exploring the possibilities and hope to try some soon!

Establishing Carrs Lane as a concert venue is both a huge opportunity and a huge challenge. We need to play to our strengths on this: we have great facilities, a warm acoustic, a fine piano and a fairly unique organ (at least in Birmingham). Transport links are second to none! But we need to realise that we can't fit a symphony orchestra in the church room, we are at present unknown beside the giants of Symphony Hall, Town Hall, and St Philip's, and there isn't much of an audience to be had in terms of city centre residents – and a lot of people don't want to travel into town on an evening. So, we need to offer something different in our programming: innovation is the key. And we need to target a different audience – probably the large daytime population of office and retail workers, and possibly some shoppers, but with all the offers going on at Marks and Spencer, we may struggle to compete! Therefore, I'm keen to experiment with offering early-evening slots for concerts and events where possible, though obviously the traditional Saturday evening slot will also feature.

I'm brainstorming with a number of potential performers to come up with some concerts later in the year. In March, however, please make a note of Ensemble 1685, performing Bach's St Matthew Passion on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March. (Yours truly has been 'borrowed' to sing in this, too!) Please do come if you can, it's a great piece, and Ensemble 1685 is exploring interesting performance ideas that you don't find very often.

Community music making, the third major aspect of the musical vision, is intended to offer music making opportunities to non-musical people. Why? Because music builds bridges, provides a means to express oneself, and is a great way to meet and get to know people – with or without a spiritual outlook. The first workshop is the African drumming event on 3<sup>rd</sup> May. If you struggle to drum out a rhythm with your fingers on the table, or if you're a wannabe drummer for Lady Gaga, this event is for you: you have lots to offer, and it has a lot to offer you! There will be a sign-up sheet for this soon, because there is a limit of twenty places.



I need some volunteers. Publicity is essential to making all this happen, and I would like to establish a small group of people to be in charge of this. I've spoken to a few people already, but I'm still in need of someone to be responsible for contacting newspapers and other event guides, and one or two people to help distribute flyers around the city centre. If you can help, please see me on a Sunday morning, email [tim.batty@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:tim.batty@yahoo.co.uk) , or telephone 07739 802 001. I can offer jelly babies as an encouragement.

Tim Batty  
Church Musician

## Ongoing conversations with the Methodists...

Too many meetings and too many conversations to offer verbatim reports on each! Suffice to say that work on the Trusts, the Constitution and the Sharing Agreement is ongoing and that progress is encouraging: I am grateful to those who commit so much by way of time, energy and insight.

One thing which should be reported, however, is something of the fruits of the labours of the Overview Group, mandated to undertake a very specific piece of work – consideration of an overall policy for the use of our buildings within the new, united church. As requested, the group reported promptly; the report was discussed at a couple of Elders' Meetings, wording was modified, and then modified again, before the February Church Meeting agreed to accept the report. Thanks for those who stayed focused during a fairly technical discussion – and thanks to those who suggested alterations of wording, in order to ensure absolute clarity. It is worth reproducing some of the 'core' thoughts here:

### *Guiding Principles for the purpose and use of the Church Centre:*

#### *2.1 Prevailing Policy*

*The life of Carrs Lane Church Centre - by which we understand the room hire service, the lettings to church and social service organizations, and related activities – exists as one means of sustaining the overtly Christian mission, ministry and service of the new, united church at Carrs Lane. It offers a valuable service to the city and beyond, but does not stand alone; it represents one dimension of the overall life of the church, which necessarily exists to share Christian love, promote Christian teaching and worship and ensure the sustainability of a recognizably Christian presence on the site.*

#### *2.2 Hiring of Rooms and Church Priorities*

*There is a commitment to the ongoing development of room hire activities as part of the life of the church; its value is beyond question, but it cannot be regarded as the determining factor in making decisions about the present or future life of the Christian family here...*

Significant words, I think: clear thinking in respect of the overall purpose of our 'being' in the centre of Birmingham needs to be sustained and developed in the midst of sometimes complex discussions.

Neil

# COMIC RELIEF

Comic Relief is a charity which was founded in the United Kingdom in 1985 by the comedy scriptwriter Richard Curtis and Alexander Mendis in response to famine in Ethiopia. The highlight of Comic Relief's appeal is Red Nose Day, a biennial telethon held in March.

Comic Relief was launched live on Noel Edmonds's *Late, Late Breakfast Show* on BBC1, on Christmas Day 1985 from a refugee camp in Sudan. The idea for Comic Relief came from the noted charity worker Jane Tewson, who established it as the operating name of Charity Projects, a registered charity in England and Scotland.

One of the fundamental principles behind working at Comic Relief is the "Golden Pound Principle" where every single pound donated is spent on charitable projects. All operating costs, such as staff salaries, are covered by corporate sponsors, or interest earned on money waiting to be distributed.

Currently, its main supporters are the BBC, BT and Sainsbury's supermarket chain. The BBC is responsible for the live television extravaganza on *Red Nose Day*, BT provides the telephony, and Sainsbury's sells merchandise on behalf of the charity. Since the charity was started in the 1980s, Comic Relief has raised over £650 million.

Red Nose Day is the main way in which Comic Relief raises money. The first Red Nose Day was held in 1988. It is held in the spring every other year, and is often treated as a semi-holiday; for example, many schools have non-uniform days. The day culminates in a live telethon event on BBC One, starting in the evening and going through into the early hours of the morning, but other money-raising events take place. As the name suggests, the day involves the wearing of plastic/foam red noses which are available, in exchange for a donation, from Sainsbury's and Oxfam shops.

## Red Noses Facts

Since the first ever Red Nose Day in 1988, we've sold nearly 60 million Red Noses

- Once upon a time...
- On Christmas Day In 1985, we launched the charity Comic Relief from a refugee camp in Sudan.
- It's something of a grower...
- In 1988 the first Red Nose Day raised £15 Million. In 2009, you helped to raise over five times that figure!

- Your cash is hard at work...
- Red Nose Day money is currently at work in 25 countries across Africa, as well as all four nations in the UK.
- We're big on the box...
- The Red Nose Day TV show always proves to be a big hit for BBC One. In 2009 it attracted 12.7 Million viewers.
- With a little help from our friends...
- Our corporate partners have so far raised over £70.6 Million for Red Nose Day since 2001.
- We love our Facebook fans...
- In 2009, over 200,000 people became a fan of the Red Nose Day Facebook page!
- We've had a lot of top tunes...
- Our first single, by Cliff Richard and The Young Ones, went straight to No 1 in 1986. Since then we've had 21 singles, 12 of which have topped the charts.
- And a lot of celebrity support...
- In 2009, when nine of our famous friends spent eight days climbing Kilimanjaro, they raised over £3.5 Million to help tackle malaria.
- And don't forget the kids...
- Over 20,000 schools and Early Years groups across the UK participated in Red Nose Day 2009, and raised millions.
- We're right up your street...
- Wherever you live in the UK, you're more than likely to be within 30 miles of a project supported by Comic Relief.



## Redeeming Our Communities: Follow Up

### *Transforming Our Communities*

**1** 6 November 2010 saw Christians come together at the NIA for the 'Redeeming Our Communities' event to celebrate with Birmingham City Council and West Midlands Police the work being done by churches across the city.

This event highlighted the important role churches have in transforming our city and encouraged Christians to work in partnership with the city council and the police; a partnership which both warmly welcome. The event gave momentum to a developing movement of individuals and churches, who motivated by their faith, are seeking ways to identify and respond to the needs in their neighbourhoods in ways that are both relevant to local community and steeped in prayer.

The 'Redeeming Our Communities' event was just the start and there are other events and activities being planned to support, encourage and inspire the growing movement of Christians working alongside other people of goodwill.



Thrive West Midlands is helping to provide locally focused support following the event. There is so much happening across the city and we know there is even more happening under the radar. If you are working in partnership in your local community or have ideas which you would like to explore further, we would love to hear from you. Or if you would like to join the 400 people who signed up at the event then please contact [admin@thrivewestmidlands.org](mailto:admin@thrivewestmidlands.org).

Future events and activities...

### *Retreat on the Street – Saturday 2 April 2011*

'Retreat on the Street' is an invitation to spend a day on the streets of Birmingham city centre with no agenda except to be with God and to observe the people and patterns of the city.

You will begin the day with a briefing and a joint time of prayer before leaving your personal possessions with the organisers. You will then be given 50p, a small wooden cross, a map, and emergency contact details, before leaving to walk, observe experience and pray the streets. You will return to the church for a light supper and there will be an opportunity to share your observations, experience and thoughts, before final prayers and the journey home.

The day will begin at about 9.30 at a city centre church on Saturday 2 April. If you would like to take part please contact Rachel Newsome at Church Urban Fund on 020 7898 1648 or email [rachel.newsome@cuf.org.uk](mailto:rachel.newsome@cuf.org.uk) to book your place and receive your retreat pack.

### *1 Million Acts of Kindness*

Everyone has the ability to be kind – that's why we are challenging everyone in our city to take part in '1 Million Acts of Kindness Birmingham' – a year long initiative that will encourage people across all sections of the community to be a light in their

street, neighbourhood and communities across Birmingham by engaging in acts of kindness. Birmingham is a city of 1 million people from all walks of life, cultures, religions and backgrounds. Just imagine how our city would be if everyone was to do an act of kindness and then pass it onto others!

We want people to notify us about the acts of kindness they have done or received so that they can be shared with others and counted towards our target of one million.

You can start right now by joining our Facebook page '1 Million Acts of Kindness Birmingham' or emailing us at [1mak@thrivewestmidlands.org](mailto:1mak@thrivewestmidlands.org). Submit your stories, pictures, video and more so they can be shared with others. Let's light up the city with kindness.

Part of the work of  
**Church Urban Fund**  
Tackling poverty together

For more information about Thrive West Midlands, Retreat on the Street, 1MAK or for expertise and support to help you think through what might be possible in your neighbourhood please contact 0121 426 0442 or email [admin@thrivewestmidlands.org](mailto:admin@thrivewestmidlands.org).



### In it together...

I was struck by a quotation which appeared in a recent edition of 'Reform': David Bosch, author and member of the Dutch Reformed Church, wrote, '*The autonomy of the individual, so much flaunted in recent decades, has ended in heteronomy; the freedom to believe whatever one chooses to believe has ended in no belief at all; the refusal to risk interdependence has ended in alienation also from oneself*'. By heteronomy, I understand a situation where the desire of people to do their own thing, follow their own rules, has been elevated to what amounts to cult status.

Yes, the rights of the individual have been much flaunted in recent times...and this is no bad thing. If the churches adopt all current thinking uncritically, however, then we find ourselves in a very difficult situation: the dividing line between personal freedom and selfishness is a very narrow one on occasion, and 'church' is a place where solidarity, togetherness, mutual friendship are born of the belief that gracious giving and receiving are at the heart of the Christian faith. If ever we find ourselves in a situation where 'togetherness' is little more than convenience, or where a sense of the shared heart of faith is waning...well, it seems to me that this is a very dangerous place indeed.

Neil

## National Census 27 March

This exercise is crucial because it allows everybody to understand the various communities who live in England and Wales.



Whether it is your children's school, your GP's surgery or the clean and waste water that you use, all of these services are planned using census data. Supermarket groups use census data to decide where to place their stores and how many car parking spaces they need. Community groups looking for funding base their community size on census data.

In Birmingham, the last ten years has seen a huge shift in the shape and make-up of our community. It is important that we accurately count all parts of community to make sure that they are properly represented in Birmingham. The best way for any population group to raise its profile and to gain a voice is to fill in the Census questionnaire.

The census data is totally confidential for 100 years with no Government department, council or company getting access to any personal data,

There are also up to 650 jobs (both part-time and full-time) available in Birmingham alone. Details of these can be found on [www.censusjobs.co.uk](http://www.censusjobs.co.uk). Further details about the census can be found at [www.census.gov.uk](http://www.census.gov.uk).

The image contains the Zaytoun logo at the top left, which reads 'ZAYTOUN' in a stylized green font with 'Fair Trade Palestinian Olive Oil' underneath. Below the logo is a photograph of fresh olives. To the right of the olives is a photograph of a glass bottle of Zaytoun Extra Virgin Olive Oil. The bottle label includes the text 'EXTRA VIRGIN Olive Oil' and 'Product of Palestine'.

Zaytoun is a non-profit organisation established to purchase olive oil from Palestinian farmers at Fair Trade prices. Customers have described this delicious oil as "very green and fruity". Having sold 15,000 litres to satisfied customers in 2004, we are now taking orders for oil produced from the recent harvest.

### Palestinian Olive Oil

A number of you have asked about current stocks of Zaytoun olive oil not branded as organic. The reason for this is because of a poor harvest this year, Zaytoun have not been able to supply us with as much organic olive oil as in the past.

There are only a certain number of farmers in the group who are certified by FLO to call their olive oil organic and fairly traded. So, what we have done is to take whatever oil Zaytoun has available, even if it is not certified as organic and even if it is not from the particular group of farmers to whom we would pay the fair trade premium.

Nevertheless, we have still paid the fair trade premium to the group as a whole, which is why the price of the oil has not changed. Because of this we cannot apply the Fairtrade mark or certify the olive oil as organic.

Traidcraft (by email)

## Commitment for Life - extracts from Moving Stories 134

Responding to the crisis in the occupied Palestinian territories: February 2011

### *Al Haq win Palestinian Authority reform*

Al Haq ('The Right' in Arabic) is one of the leading Palestinian human rights organisations. Established in 1979 to protect and promote human rights and the rule of law in the occupied Palestinian territory, Al Haq provides research, reports and legal assistance in cases of Israeli human rights violations and also works on violations perpetrated by Palestinians against Palestinians.

Al Haq and other rights groups say illegal, arbitrary detentions are very common under the Palestinian Authority, estimating that since 2007 there have been some 10,000 political detentions of civilians, mainly ordered by the military prosecution. The number of civilians brought to trial by the military justice system during those years amounted to only a few dozen.

Since 2007, with the support of other Palestinian organisations including another Christian Aid partner, Addameer (who work for prisoners' human rights), Al-Haq has been engaged in a campaign against the PA's illegal practices, including arbitrary arrests, torture and ill-treatment of detainees and the application of military jurisdiction to civilians.

After three years of campaigning, in January 2011 Al Haq was called for a meeting with the Palestinian Authority, and was informed that a formal decision had been made to ban military courts from prosecuting civilians. Starting from Sunday 16 January 2011, all security agencies operating in the West Bank have been ordered to strictly abide by civil procedural law when civilians are involved in alleged violations. Military arrest warrants can no longer be issued against civilians, and civilians illegally detained as a result of military arrest warrants will be released. Al-Haq have called on PA Chairman Mahmoud Abbas in a press release to issue a clear presidential decree to underscore the order. [www.alhaq.org](http://www.alhaq.org).

### *Physicians for Human Rights Israel awarded 'Alternative Nobel Prize'*

Christian Aid partner Physicians for Human Rights Israel (PHRI) campaigns for the equal right to healthcare in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory. PHRI is one of four organisations to share the 2010 Right Livelihood Award – also known as the 'Alternative Nobel Prize'. The Right Livelihood Award, or 'Alternative Nobel Prize' was given to PHRI 'for their indomitable spirit in working for the right to health for all people in Israel and Palestine.'

The award was presented in the Swedish parliament on 6 December, four days before the official Nobel Prize ceremony. The four recipients share the 200,000 euros prize.

In the West Bank, checkpoints, roadblocks, the separation barrier and other

obstacles can make accessing healthcare difficult for Palestinians. Between 2000 and 2008, 66 Palestinians died in the West Bank as a result of lack of emergency access to medical facilities, 19 of them children. PHRI run mobile clinics, with volunteer Israeli doctors and nurses, which not only provide healthcare, but also create a peaceful encounter between Israelis and Palestinians.

Israel's three-year intensive blockade of the Gaza Strip, which has been characterised by severe restrictions on the movement of people and goods into and out of Gaza, that has caused shortages of medicines and medical equipment. Some treatments – including radiotherapy – are not available at all. Any Gazan wishing to leave Gaza for medical treatment must apply to the Israeli authorities for a permit. These permits are not always granted. Between 2007 (when the blockade intensified) and the end of 2008, 17 Gazans died due to infringements of their right to medical treatment.

PHRI lobby the Israeli government for Gazans' access to medical facilities. It also works within Israel itself, in particular providing services to the poorest and most vulnerable, including migrant workers and refugees. It lobbies the Israeli government for an equal right to healthcare for all, regardless of legal status, nationality, ethnicity or faith. Dr Ruchama Marton, PHRI's founder, said that the award 'strengthens us in our ongoing struggle against all sources of oppression and for justice and equality.'

*Contributed by Wendy Firmin*

## Holocaust Lament

Holocausts will always happen.  
No one can stop them –  
Man's inhumanity to man.  
We came to remember 1936 – 1945,  
six million Jews killed,  
and others as well.  
How can we stop this evil happening again?  
Talking to each other, in schools and homes –  
never take it off the syllabus.  
In Afghanistan nine out of ten  
people killed are children.  
The children suffer,  
always the children.

David Stackhouse



## From a different perspective...

People have been kind to enough to ask me how I am getting on at Hall Green. Well, I am enjoying the experience...but ministry in the suburbs brings with it very different opportunities and experiences when compared with life in the city centre! I have pondered the intricacies of various sorts of knitting – and issues of home safety – with the Brownies; I have enjoyed a kind of armchair aerobics with the Women's Fellowship ( a lot of fun! ) and will be speaking there shortly; I am going to a meeting of the Junior Church leaders this evening and will go a social organized by the Friendship Circle – an evening group for fellowship and interest – on Wednesday. Ecumenical life is taken extremely seriously, with paid church workers meeting together every month, without fail; I am also going to the Away Day organized by Hall Green Baptist Church...conversations between the Baptists, Methodists and the URC are gathering momentum, and there is little doubt that the encouragement of such talks – in the most focused way possible – will represent a significant part of my work in Hall Green. You know my general approach to Sunday worship, but life at Hall Green brings with it a monthly 'All Age' service and I am involved already in preparation for two baptisms.

One particular piece of work is especially significant in these early days, however: since December 2006, Trinity has provided a home for the Rainbow Project, which provides much-needed support and stimulation for the vulnerable, immobile and confused elderly for five full days each week. The combined value of reliable transport, a hot meal, a warm and safe environment and enjoyable activities cannot be overestimated...and yet, surprise, surprise, it now looks extremely likely that local government funding will cease with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April. Something of a 'crusade' beckons: I have written to the three local councillors and the MP for Hall Green this afternoon, asking for their comments and inviting them to share in debate on 'Big Society', against the backdrop of the potential alienation of natural partners. You are welcome to see the letters if you wish!

So...I am being kept busy. I will keep you posted.

Neil

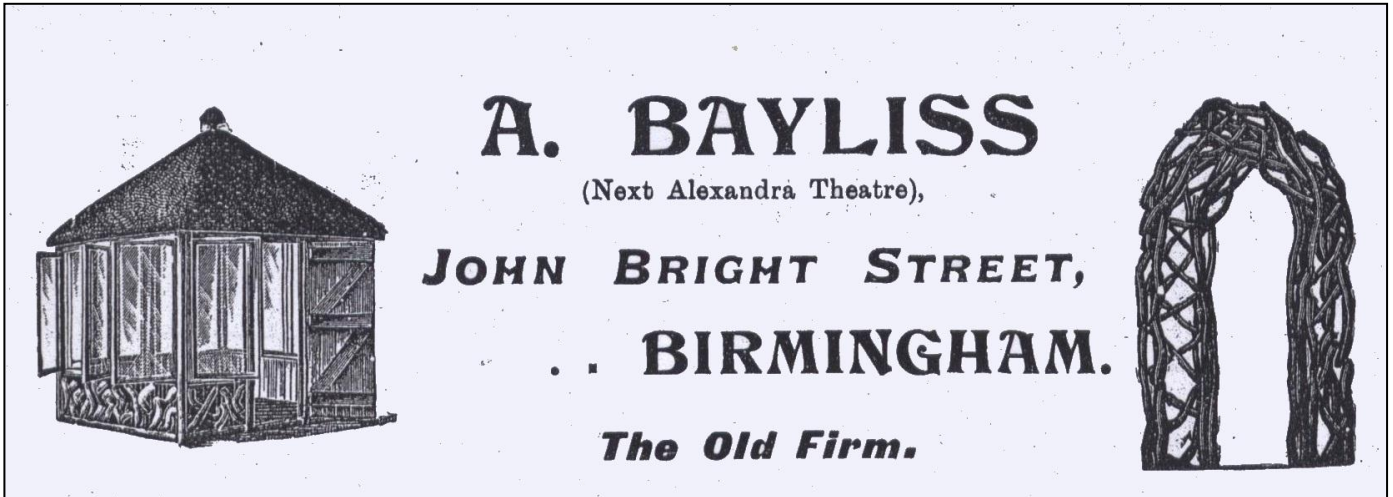


## On this day ...

*From the Carrs Lane Missionary Chronicle March 1911*

*Have you ever wondered what was advertised in the pages of the Chronicle a hundred years ago? The advertisements used little illustration, but many of the variations in type, size and boldness which were very popular at the time. The reproductions below give a flavour of the variety of content and presentation:*

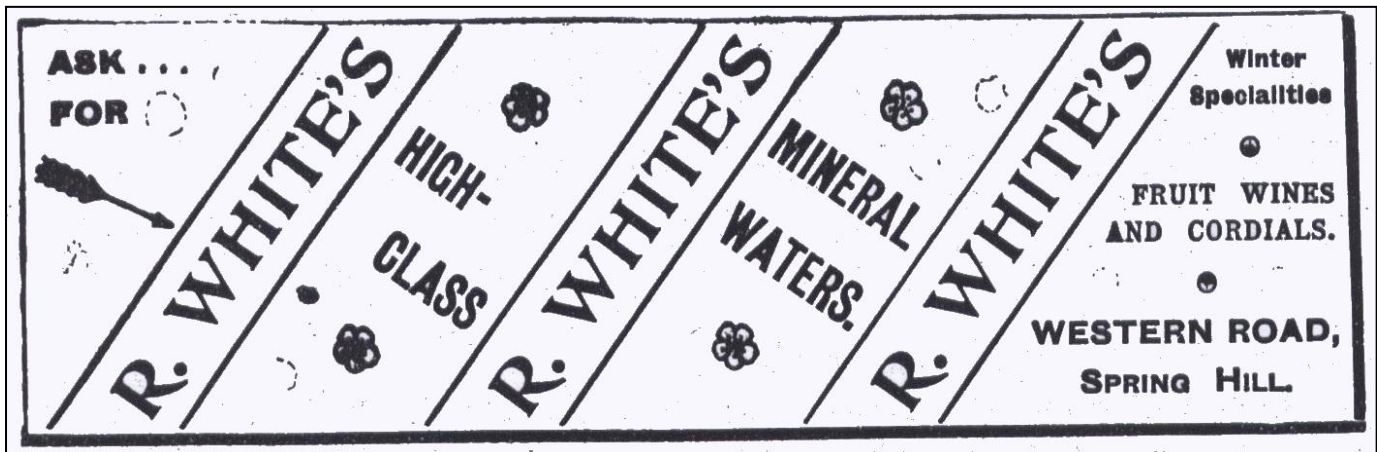
### Garden Supplies:



**A. BAYLISS**  
(Next Alexandra Theatre),  
**JOHN BRIGHT STREET,**  
**.. BIRMINGHAM.**  
**The Old Firm.**

*Was this the predecessor of our friends at Notcutts?*

### Drinks:



ASK ...  
FOR

**R. WHITE'S**  
HIGH-  
GLASS

**R. WHITE'S**  
MINERAL  
WATERS.

**R. WHITE'S**

Winter  
Specialties

FRUIT WINES  
AND CORDIALS.

WESTERN ROAD,  
SPRING HILL.

*This name is probably better known to us from the rhythmic TV lemonade advert*

Bicycles:

**The CENTRAL  
Cycle Repairing and  
Wheel Building Co.,**  
— 132, —  
**STEELHOUSE LANE.**

COASTERS AND COMBINATION HUBS  
FITTED TO ANY MAKER'S CYOLE.

⚙⚙⚙

Ball-bearing Bassinette Wheels,  
Springs, and Axles a Speciality.

⚙⚙⚙

**BASSINETTES RENOVATED.**

**GOLDEN SUNBEAMS**

Depot,  
EASY  
ROW,  
Near  
Town  
Hall,  
B'ham



**RUN EASILY AND NEVER WEAR OUT.**

*These perhaps attest to the importance of the bicycle as a means of transport at that time.*

Stationers:

**ACHILLES TAYLOR,**  
Telephone 14, New St. (No. 15, Ground  
Central Floor Office),  
1400. **BIRMINGHAM.**

**Bookman, Commercial and Fancy  
Stationer, Bookbinding and  
Picture Framing, General Factor.**

Rev. J. H. JOWETT'S publications kept in stock.  
CARRS LANE CHRONICLE, post free, 2/- per annum.

*It all seems so much more personal than today's W.H. Smith!!*

Brushes and Trunks:

**K. & L. BERESFORD,**  
95, BULL STREET,  
(OPPOSITE SOUTHALL'S)

The Noted Old-established  
**= Brush Makers. =**

—  
Hair Brushes RE-BRISTLED equal to new.  
\* \* \*

We hold the Largest Stock of  
— TRUNKS —  
in the City, in Cane, Leather,  
and Wood.  
\* \* \*

**STEAMER TRUNKS IN ALL SIZES  
AT WHOLESALE PRICES.**

*Where would one go now to re-bristle a hairbrush or purchase a steamer trunk?!!*

## Typing:

**Private Typist.**

ALL CLASSES OF  
TYPEWRITING  
PROMPTLY AND  
ACCURATELY EXECUTED.

**MISS CUTHBERTSON,**  
52, STIRLING ROAD,  
Edgbaston.

*If cost depended on the size of advert,  
this lady could afford a quarter of a page*

*N.B. I was curious to know a little more about  
Miss Cuthbertson so looked her up on the 1911  
census. The address, 52 Stirling Road, was a  
boarding house, but Miss Cuthbertson was not  
included in the census, which was taken on  
Sunday 2 April 1911.*

*A cursory glance for this name in the area again  
produced no results, and with no first name or  
other details to help I could search no further.  
Carol*

*From the Carrs Lane Journal – March 1961*

### A Short History of Bangolas (by Neville Smith)

The first *Bangola* in recorded history took place at Manchester Grammar School about twenty years ago, and the origins of the word itself are already shrouded in the mists of time. The event took the form of an open day, with displays of art, woodwork and metalwork, working experiments and models in the laboratories, films and sideshows – and, of course, refreshments.

Soon after I joined the Seventy Club in 1948, there was a meeting to discuss a proposed corporate job of work – the redecoration of the Free Night Shelter at Winson Green. The job itself has long since passed into history, but I remember that our first problem was how to finance the project. We knew that Carrs Lane folk would respond to an appeal, but we felt that we wanted to earn the money ourselves, and so we decided to hold a gala evening. At this stage I opened my mouth and suggested that it should be called a *Bangola*, a proposal which was referred to the “Jobs” Committee. A few days later someone walked calmly up to me and said that the name had been adopted, and would I please go ahead with the arrangements. With youthful enthusiasm (and, I hope, some show of modesty), I accepted. A flurry of committee meetings followed (inevitably), some of them in Club, some of them in the flat which was the home of Pam and Bob, and gradually the first Carrs Lane *Bangola* took shape.

The date was a Thursday evening in November 1949, and Carrs Laners rolled up in

their hundreds (or so it seemed). The Lecture Hall was transformed into a Café Chantant, and the cabaret included a sketch devised and produced by Mr. and Mrs. Tizard, who, having just returned from a visit to America, disguised themselves as American tourists and provided the highlight of the evening. Upstairs in the Seventy Club Room there was a performance of a one act play, the dress rehearsal of which had been completely chaotic. In the best traditions of the theatre, however, it was “all right on the night” – except that the audience packed in so tightly that someone was overcome by the heat and had to be helped out. The only resemblance to the Manchester Grammar School *Bangola* was that there were sideshows and food, but there was no doubt about the success of the evening, both social and financial.

In fact we had far more money than we needed for paint, and so we opened a special “Social Service Account” and banked the rest. It financed various jobs over the next three years, and then, when only a few pounds remained, we began to plan another effort and our second *Bangola* was on its way. This was in March 1953, and again the premises were jammed with people. The Lecture Hall was a ship this time, complete with gang-plank, ship’s bell, funnel and bridge. John Calif sang a memorable sea-shanty, there was a personal appearance of Neptune and his queen, and Marion Rea wore a naval uniform lent by her dentist! In the Seventy Club Room there was an all-male “intimate review.” The ghost of John Angell James walked and there was a starlings’ chorus (words by “S.H.O.”), which Mrs. Anthony Wilson, for one, assures me she will never forget.

The third *Bangola* followed in November 1957, and the assembled multitudes enjoyed a tour of London. Christopher Fletcher, sometime Club Treasurer and now living in Canada, was in charge, and Moira Spence provided hospitality for committee meetings. There were can-can dancers and a skiffle group to provide entertainment, and an innovation was the sale of handicrafts made by Club members and set out on stalls in Petticoat Lane.

I am sure that all those of us, past and present members of Seventy Club, who have taken part in these events have thoroughly enjoyed them, despite the inevitable moments of despair through which we have passed in the planning stages. We have sometimes wondered whether our plans were too ambitious, whether our jokes were funny, whether fog or snow would descend to keep our audiences away, whether we would run foul of the G.P. Committee by fusing all the lights, but what we have never doubted has been the support and encouragement of our fellow Carrs Laners, and it is that same support which I know you will give to John Baker and the present members of the Club when your presence is required on Thursday March 23<sup>rd</sup>, for the fourth and latest episode in the chain of *Bangolas*.

*I was interested by this article for three reasons:*

*1 – I had never heard of a Bangola!*

*2 – I thought it might bring back some happy memories for some readers*

*3 – I could not help but see a parallel with what the Carrs Lane Players are still (and, as I write, actually) doing*

*Contributed by Wendy Firrnin*

## We was brung up proper

'And we never had a whole Mars bar until 1993'

Congratulations to all who were born in the 1930's 40's, 50's, 60's and early 70's.

First, we survived being born to mothers who smoked and/or drank while they carried us and lived in houses made of asbestos. They took aspirin, ate blue cheese, raw egg products, loads of bacon and processed meat, tuna from a can, and didn't get tested for diabetes or cervical cancer. Then after that trauma, our baby cots were covered with bright coloured lead-based paints.



We had no childproof lids on medicine bottles, doors or cabinets and when we rode our bikes, we had no helmets or shoes, not to mention the risks we took hitchhiking. As children, we would ride in cars with no seat belts or air bags. We drank water from the garden hose and not from a bottle.

Take away food was limited to fish and chips, no pizza shops, McDonalds , KFC, Subway or Nandos. Even though all the shops closed at 6.00pm and didn't open on a Sunday, somehow we didn't starve to death. We shared one soft drink with four friends, from one bottle and no one actually died from this.

We could collect old drink bottles and cash them in at the corner store and buy Toffees, Gobstoppers, Bubble Gum and some bangers to blow up frogs with. We ate cupcakes, white bread and real butter and drank soft drinks with sugar in it, but we weren't overweight because..... we were always outside playing. We would leave home in the morning and play all day, as long as we were back when the streetlights came on. No one was able to reach us all day. And we were OK.

We would spend hours building our go-carts out of old prams and then ride down the hill, only to find out we forgot the brakes. We built tree houses and dens and played in river beds with matchbox cars. We did not have Playstations, Nintendo Wii, X-boxes, no video games at all, no 999 channels on SKY ,no video/DVD films, no mobile phones, no personal computers, no Internet or Internet chat rooms.....we had friends and we went outside and found them.

We fell out of trees, got cut, broke bones and teeth and there were no lawsuits from these accidents. Only girls had pierced ears. We ate worms and mud pies made from dirt, and the worms did not live in us forever. You could only buy Easter Eggs and Hot Cross Buns at Easter time.

We were given air guns and catapults for our 10th birthdays, we rode bikes or walked to a friend's house and knocked on the door or rang the bell, or just yelled for

them. Mum didn't have to go to work to help dad make ends meet because we didn't need to keep up with the Joneses. Not everyone made the rugby/football/cricket/netball team. Those who didn't had to learn to deal with disappointment. Imagine that. Getting into the team was based on merit. Our teachers used to hit us with canes and gym shoes and throw the blackboard rubber at us if they thought we weren't concentrating.

We can string sentences together and spell and have proper conversations because of a good, solid three R's education. The idea of a parent bailing us out if we broke the law was unheard of. They actually sided with the law.

Our parents didn't invent stupid names for their kids like 'Kiora' and 'Blade' and 'Ridge' and 'Vanilla'. We had freedom, failure, success and responsibility, and we learned how to deal with it all. And you are one of them. Congratulations.

You might want to share this with others who have had the luck to grow up as kids, before the lawyers and the government regulated our lives for our own good. And while you are at it, show it to your kids so they will know how brave their parents were.

## The Alto's Lament

**I**t's tough to be an alto when you're singing in the choir,  
The sopranos get the twiddly bits that people all admire.  
The basses boom like load trombones, the tenors shout with glee,  
But the alto part is on two notes – or if you're lucky three.

And when we sing an anthem and lift our hearts in praises,  
The men get all the juicy bits and telling little phrases.  
Of course the trebles sing the tune – they always come off best;  
The altos only get three notes – and twenty two bars rest.

We practice very hard each week from hymn book and the psalter,  
But when the leader looks at us our voices start to falter.  
'Too high!', 'Too low!', 'Too fast!', - 'You held that note too long!'  
It doesn't matter what we do, it's certain to be wrong.

Oh shed a tear for altos, they're the martyrs and they know  
In the ranks of choral singers they're considered very low.  
They are so very humble that a lot of folks forget 'em,  
How they'd love to be sopranos, but their vocal chords won't let 'em.

And when the final trumpet sounds and we are wafted higher,  
Sopranos, basses, tenors, they'll be in the heavenly choir.  
While they sing 'Alleluia' to celestial flats and sharps,  
The altos will be occupied with polishing the harps.



Citadel Scene Winter 2010



# Multicultural Celebration 2011

**Speakers:** Mrs Val Morrison and Revd Nigel Uden  
**Venue:** Carrs Lane Church Centre, Carrs Lane, Birmingham B4 7SX  
**Time:** 10am - 4pm  
**This is an all age event**

Celebrating Faith & Faithfulness in all its diversity - Come Feast and Share

The United Reformed Church has professed to being a Multicultural Church. A key implication of this declaration is that we desire to be a church committed to empowering all towards, just, inclusive, renewing and transforming mission and ministry.

The United Reformed Church Multicultural Celebration 2011 is about gathering together to feast and be inspired by each other's stories and cultures. We all have stories and we are all cultural beings, hence every congregation of the United Reformed Church is multi-cultural. Here is an invitation to discover and celebrate our diverse spirituality and ethos, to share each other's experiences, to deepen cross-cultural understanding, to network and to develop bonds of friendship. The day will include a variety of cultural presentations, workshops, meal, activities for all age groups, and worship.

This is an opportunity for all URC congregations to come to the feast to share ideas and celebrate the rich cultural diversity that exists in the church and society. For this reason we invite you to prepare an item/performance that expresses your culture and faith (preferably 5 minutes, but maximum 10 minutes) that all can enjoy. It can be drama, dance, music, song, poetry or any way you see fit.

Further information from 020 7916 8655 or email: [michael.jagessar@urc.org.uk](mailto:michael.jagessar@urc.org.uk)

## The Importance of Walking

Walking can add minutes to your life. This enables you at 85 years old to spend an additional 5 months in a nursing home at £4000 per month.



My grandfather started walking five miles a day when he was 60. Now he's 97 years old and we don't know where he is.

I like long walks, especially when they are taken by people who annoy me.

The only reason I would take up walking is so that I could hear heavy breathing again.

I have to walk early in the morning, before my brain figures out what I'm doing.

I joined a health club last year, spent about £400. Haven't lost a pound. Apparently you have to go there.

Every time I hear the dirty word 'exercise', I wash my mouth out with chocolate.

The advantage of exercising every day is so when you die, they'll say, 'Well, she looks good doesn't she.'

If you are going to try cross-country skiing, start with a small country.

I know I got a lot of exercise the last few years,..... just getting over the hill.

We all get heavier as we get older, because there's a lot more information in our heads. That's my story and I'm sticking to it.

And

Every time I start thinking too much about how I look, I just find a Happy Hour Pub and by the time I leave, I look just fine.

You could take this to your friends - or just e-mail it to them.

## Women Drivers?

This morning on the motorway, I looked over to my left and there was a woman in a brand new Mercedes Benz doing 100mph with her face up next to her rear view mirror putting on her eyeliner. I looked away for a couple seconds... to continue shaving... and when I looked back she was halfway over in my lane, still working on that makeup.



As a man, I don't scare easily. But she scared me so much I dropped my electric shaver, which knocked the doughnut out of my other hand. In all the confusion of trying to straighten out the car using my knees against the steering wheel, it knocked my mobile phone away from my ear, which fell into the coffee, ruined the phone, soaked my trousers, and disconnected an important call.

Women drivers!

## The Millennium Development Goals

Adopted by world leaders in the year 2000 and set to be achieved by 2015, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) provide concrete, numerical benchmarks for tackling extreme poverty in its many dimensions. The MDGs also provide a framework for the entire international community to work together towards a common end – making sure that human development reaches everyone, everywhere. If these goals are achieved, world poverty will be cut by half, tens of millions of lives will be saved, and billions more people will have the opportunity to benefit from the global economy.



### Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education

Ensure that all boys and girls complete a full course of primary schooling

Please send your contribution for next month's Journey to the Editor, Mrs. Pat Davies, Carrs Lane URC, Carrs Lane, Birmingham, B4 7SX or by email to [office@carrslane.co.uk](mailto:office@carrslane.co.uk).

# Wesley Owen

BOOKS MUSIC

7 Carrs Lane Birmingham B4 7TG  
Tel: 0121 643 9235 Fax: 0121 633 4311  
email: birmingham@wesley-owen.com

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- 📖 **Regular Music attractions** within our fantastic Multimedia Department
- 📖 **Gift and Cards** and a wide range of Resources for the Church

**Ask for a copy of our *Wesley Owen Guide* for what's new, and on Special Offer this month!**

Other local branches at Coventry, Derby, Nottingham and Walsall.  
[www.wesleyowen.com](http://www.wesleyowen.com)

*Advancing the Christian Faith through Retailing*



Carrs Lane  
FAIR TRADE SHOP

Open here in the city at  
Carrs Lane Church Centre  
Tuesday to Friday 10.30am - 2.30pm  
and after morning worship on first and third Sundays  
Visit us for your Fair Trade needs  
- *Traidcraft foods, gifts and much else* -  
0121 643 6151 [fair-trade@carrslane.co.uk](mailto:fair-trade@carrslane.co.uk)  
[www.carrslane.co.uk](http://www.carrslane.co.uk)



**TRAIDCRAFT**  
Fighting poverty through trade

## Carrs Lane Regular Activities

### SUNDAYS

#### Morning Worship

Every Sunday at 10.30am  
with Holy Communion on the first Sunday of the month

#### Afternoon Worship and Healing Service

Third Sunday at 4.30pm

#### Children's Church

Second Sunday at 2.30pm

#### Radical Worship

Fourth Sunday at 6.00pm

#### First Sunday Lunch

First Sunday each month at 12.30pm

#### Church Meeting

Second Sunday at 12 noon

#### Singing Group

Third Sunday 9.45 – 10.15am

### WEEK DAYS

#### Lunchtime Healing Service

Every Wednesday 1.15pm

#### Prayer Group

First Wednesday at 7.00 pm

#### Discussion Group

First Thursday at 10.15 am

#### Carrs Lane Players (drama group)

Fridays at 7.45 pm

#### Charity Knitting Circle

First Tuesday 10.00 am - 1.00 pm

#### Carrs Lane Fair Trade Shop

First and Third Sunday after morning worship  
and Tuesday - Friday 10.30 am - 2.30 pm

#### Counselling Centre

Monday - Friday 11.00 am - 1.30 pm  
and Monday to Wednesday evenings 7.00 - 9.00 pm

Contact details for Carrs Lane Church  
Carrs Lane, Birmingham, B4 7SX  
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