

# **Journey**



The continuing story

of

The Church at Carrs Lane

March 2014



## Minister's Letter

Dear friends,

I have to say that writing and delivering a 'father of the bride' speech for Beth's marriage was a very different experience to writing a sermon! It was necessarily very personal in the 'illustrations' on which it drew; there was a more overt need for a 'light touch' – accessible and appropriate humour; I had to say 'thank-you' on rather more occasions than I do on the average Sunday; there were more relatively unfamiliar faces present than in the average congregation – and I was more nervous than I usually am when leading worship on a Sunday! Having said that, I enjoyed the experience, and I trust that others did also.

I could also have added that a 'father of the bride' speech only happens once, whereas I deliver teaching of one sort or another week in, week out, as a part of my ministry...but I am not sure that this particular comparison stands up. I believe that when I 'speak' as a part of my ministry, every occasion should necessarily be as unique as the occasion of Beth and Dan's marriage. The first minister that I remember in my home church retired from the pastorate after over 40 years in ministry...and I can recall him saying to me, years later, that he had accumulated nearly 5,000 different talks and sermons during the course of his ministry, and that he had never used a talk more than once. Now, I suspect that this is exceptional – many folk rightly use the substance of talks and sermons more than once, provided that proper account is taken of context – but I understood the gist of what he was saying: we need to understand the freshness of each God-given moment, the imperative to be open to the new insights which the Spirit provides, the unique 'word' which may be pertinent to a very particular person at a very particular time. Tired repetition as a way of achieving a convenient shortcut is not a part of the picture.

As Lent beckons – and with it, the opportunity to engage in study and, perhaps, greater discipline in our own spiritual lives – we pray that fresh insight and understanding will come our way. Many of you will know the George Rawson hymn, in which each verse concludes with the words: 'The Lord has yet more light and truth to break forth from His Word'. George Rawson wrote the words to this hymn based on a 1620 farewell speech spoken by John Robinson to the pilgrims who were about to set sail on the Mayflower. A part of the speech reads as follows:

"I charge you before God and His blessed angels that you follow me no further than you have seen me follow Christ. If God reveal anything to you by any other instrument of His, be as ready to receive it as you were to receive any truth from my ministry, for I am verily persuaded the Lord hath more truth and light yet to break forth from His Holy Word."

Now that is a sermon that I would be happy to preach more than once!

With much love in Christ,

Your friend and pastor,



## Sunday Worship during March

### Sunday 2 March

10.30am Morning worship led by Helen Woodall

*Morning worship will be followed by First Sunday Lunch – all are welcome to stay and share in a light lunch and fellowship*

### Sunday 9 March First Sunday in Lent

10.30am Morning worship led by Neil Riches Key passage: Matthew 4.1 – 11

*Morning worship will be followed by the monthly church meeting at noon: all welcome*

2.45pm for 3.00pm Children's Church - Theme: Jesus walks on water

6.30pm Circuit Praise: lively and informal worship

### Sunday 16 March Second Sunday in Lent

10.30am Morning worship led by Neil Riches Key passage: Matthew 17.1 – 9

*Morning worship will be followed by the monthly concert at 1.00pm: all welcome*

4.00pm Street Banquet: hospitality for the most vulnerable members of the city centre community, shaped by Jesus' parable of the Great Feast (volunteers meet 2.00pm)

### Sunday 23 March Third Sunday in Lent

10.30am Morning worship led by Neil Johnson

5.30pm Radical worship: 'Night Service' Continuing the series in which we explore the city by bus and then meet to reflect on what we have seen

### Sunday 30 March Fourth Sunday in Lent Mothering Sunday

10.30am Morning worship led by Neil Riches Key passage: John 9

## Events at Carrs Lane

**Sunday Lunchtime Concerts** at 1.00 pm **16 March** Birmingham Schools Recorder Symphonia. **20 April** Vellen Ensemble (Piano Trio). **18 May** Romanesca Tre (Recorder Trio). **15 June** Cristi Bacanu (Violin)

**Lent study group 2014** Thursdays evenings 7.30pm. We will be following a course entitled 'Facing the Challenge: Meals with Jesus'. Dates and topics/passages are:

**6 March:** In Levi's home: Luke 5.27-32.

**13 March:** In Simon's home: Luke 7.36 -50

**20 March:** In Mary and Martha's home: Luke 10.38-42

**27 March:** In a Pharisee's home: Luke 11.37-53

**3 April:** In another Pharisee's home: Luke 14.1-24

**10 April:** In Zacchaeus's home: Luke 19.1-10

**17 April:** In a home in Jerusalem: Luke 22.7-38

**Friday 21st March Lenten Prayer and Reflection with a Taizé Brother** from 7.00pm. All are very welcome.

Don't be late

Clocks go forward 1.00am on Sunday 30 March



## Notices

### Fairtrade Fortnight 24 February to 9 March

#### 5 March Ash Wednesday

**5 March** Michael Card in concert, a singer-songwriter from the USA with thought-provoking lyrics and beautiful melodies, accompanied by a string quartet and singers from Christian Music Ministries. 7.30pm at Lickey Church, Top of Rose Hill, B45 8RR. £10 (£7 conc) Tickets available from Christian Music Ministries: 01527 576 440 or [events@cmm.org.uk](mailto:events@cmm.org.uk)

#### Friday 7 March Women's World Day of Prayer

**Saturday 8 March Sustainability Spring Fair** 10.30am – 5.00pm The Custard factory, Gibb Street, B9 4AA. A fun, educational event promoting sustainable lifestyles and behaviour change to make Birmingham a greener place to live. Free admission. More details from 0121 464 9166 or [www.birmingham.gov.uk](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk)

**Saturday 8 March**, inter-faith event to celebrate International Women's Day, focussing on women's health and well-being and how different faith traditions support this. We are looking for women from different faiths to share a story, parable, event from history, scripture or music from their faith tradition, which epitomises the theme from their faith perspective. If you would like to participate as a speaker please email details to [membersbcf@gmail.com](mailto:membersbcf@gmail.com).

**Sunday 9 March** Birmingham Scout Association in conjunction with Birmingham Council of Faiths, Faiths for Fun Event 1.30 – 5.30pm, for youngsters 7½ to 12 years of different faiths to have fun and learn together. £1 per participant. Hamstead Hall Community Learning Centre, Handsworth, B20 1HL. Application forms Peter Rookes, 0121 477 2282 or [pjrookes@gmail.com](mailto:pjrookes@gmail.com) or tel.

**Saturday 15 March** Burning the Book of Debt, – The artist Alinah Azadeh will present debate and drama on the effects of debt in its many meanings as explained to her in conversations with people in Birmingham. There will be a discussion on the issues raised in St Philips Cathedral, Colmore Square at 2.40pm and then at 3.15pm activities in the square culminating in the burning of the book at 4.15pm.

**Monday 17 March *In the Wilderness Together*** – an evening for Christian and Muslims to think about how we live in a secular society being faithful to our beliefs and engaging with the world around us. Speakers The Very Revd Catherine Ogle, Dean of Birmingham and Muhammad Sarfraz Madni, Chairman of the Mosques and Imams National Advisory Board. With a chance for discussion and questions. 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start, finish by 9.00pm at The faithful Neighbourhoods Centre, 10 Court Road, B11 4LX. Cost £5. More details from Mrs Parm Sidhu at [parms@faithfulneighbourhoods.org](mailto:parms@faithfulneighbourhoods.org).

**Tuesday 18 March** Would YOU like to participate in a simulated Emergency Planning and Response Exercise situation at Birmingham International Airport. Contact Ade Powney the British Red Cross APowney@redcross.org.uk. All out of pocket expenses are paid. We're always looking for willing First Aid volunteers- no previous training necessary.

**Saturday 22 March** Festival of Skills 11.00 - 4.00pm, URC Beaumont Road, Bournville. Admission 50p, proceeds to B30 Foodbank and Church Lift Fund. Exhibition includes: Matchstick models, marquetry pictures, pencil drawings, patchwork quilting, wood carvings, flower arranging, pulpit falls, banner making, photography, candle making and Children's Activities Mothering Sunday cards and Origami. Live Events - An artist paints a picture 11-12, 12.30-1:30, 3.30- 4, Keyboard 2- 2:30, Cake decorating 2.30- 3, Reflexology 3-3:30.

**Saturday 22 March** 10.30 to 3.30 at Barnes Close - Meet & Hear Anastase of PHARP Rwanda (Peace Building Healing Reconciliation Projects) The day will be hosted by Rebecca Scott. : £15 (inc Lunch) stay Friday night, dinner, bed and breakfast for £25 extra. For more information contact Ian, 01562 710231 or cfrenquiry@aol.com CfR, Barnes Close, Chadwich, Bromsgrove, B61 0RA

**Saturday 22 March** March For Life UK Assembling at St Chads Cathedral 12.30 – 3.30pm. For more info contact Isabel 07773501721. march\_for\_life@yahoo.co.uk.

**Monday 24 March** Flatpack Film Festival presents *The Second Coming* 6.30 -9.00pm at Carrs Lane. £5.00. Following on from last year's rare showing of Dennis Potter's Son of Man, we return for another unconventional screen Messiah. This time Christ arrives in present-day Manchester in the form of Blockbusters employee Steve (Christopher Eccleston), who discovers his divinity outside a pub and then after forty days on Saddleworth Moor commandeers the Man City ground as his pulpit. Though all of this could be played as satire, writer Russell T Davies and his terrific cast handle tricky territory with a warm and thought-provoking approach, combining humour and drama to speculate on the role spirituality plays in the internet age. Two part drama with a brief interval.

**Healing Retreat at Barnes Close** 4.00pm Tuesday 25th to 3.00pm Thursday 27th March. An opportunity to share our experiences in the healing ministry and to allow God to minister to us. The programme will contain a mixture of theoretical and experiential input. Full Board £140 (Unwaged £120). Contact: Ian Ring, Community Coordinator, Tel: 01562 710231 Email: cfrenquiry@aol.com

**Saturday 5 April 2014** Praying with Ignatius of Loyola 10.30 am – 12.30 pm Holly Mount URC, Malvern, WR14 4RE. This session is open to all. Tea and coffee will be served on arrival and at the close, when you are welcome to bring your own lunch and share fellowship. No charge but please book by Saturday 29 March, with Mrs Rachel Vernon, Synod Office, Digbeth-in-the-field URC, Moat Lane, Yardley, Birmingham, B26 1TW or email: admin@urcwestmidlands.org.uk.

## Carrs Lane Players

'When we are married' has been and gone!

**A**fter months of working together the Players are enjoying the compliments that are being showered upon us, and the thanks of all our friends, family and followers for the "excellent" production.

Rehearsing a play is hard work, but good fun, although it can be a bit fraught at times, especially as the date of performance approaches. It is a great lesson in team work. Actors depend on each other, and the stage team, and the lighting man, and the prompter, and the producer, and the costume makers..... When learning a part, one realises how important everyone in the cast is – how important it is that lines are learned accurately so that fellow actors are given correct cues to prompt them to speak. Cue lines are like a 'trigger' prompting the correct (we hope!) response from the next speaker.

It also helps to know something of the lines spoken by others, just in case there is suddenly a lapse in the old memory, and someone else can jump in to lead us out of trouble, and back into the scripted lines! Well done the prompter!

'When we are married' was fun to do, and we all enjoyed the luxury of hired costumes – lovely dresses, check suits, wigs and hats. Working on the 'northern' accent was a challenge, and we hope our audiences weren't trying to work out just exactly where Cleckleyke is!!! But we tried our best – aye we did that!

Our special thanks to

- Kate Waplinton who agreed to organise the pre-play meals. She did a wonderful job, and almost 300 people were amply fed over the three days.
- Alan Emson – for being such an excellent salesman of tickets – it's hard to remember when we only had 30 in an audience! Now it's 'Sold out!'
- The new members of the cast - 'Ruby' and Mrs Northtropp – yes it was David dressed up!
- Peter Cummings for learning lines in just 4 weeks, when Geoff had to withdraw from the cast

So – if you want a great lesson in team work – come and join the Players!  
We shall be holding our AGM on 4 April at 8pm, when we review the past year and plan for the next.

If you came to watch us – thank you – there would be no point in all our hard work without you – our dear audience!

Ann Parkin  
Secretary CLP

## When We are Married ... “It won’t be a Stylish Marriage...” !!

**D**espite the words of the popular song “Daisy, Daisy, give me your answer, do”, used as introductory music, the Players’ production of “When we are married”, by J.B. Priestley was a ‘stylish marriage’ between a quality play and a high standard of production values.

The play centres on the celebration by three Yorkshire couples of a significant wedding anniversary. It is not full of hectic action or memorable witticisms, so its success depends on the effective portrayal of psychological interaction. The plot looks at how the sudden revelation that the couples were inadvertently not legally married begins to change relationships, and the concerns about this embarrassing news being made public. Nor is this the only secret to come to light, providing a crisis situation for one couple. The other two sets of reactions mirror each other in that one marriage has been dominated by the husband and the other by the wife. It is these interactions that were so beautifully performed. One particularly striking moment is when the three wives stand side by side in ‘feminist’ unity, their femininity enhanced by three beautiful hats!!

The variety of supporting characters comment on the central situation and provide touches of humour and common sense; indeed, one of them provides the solution to the problem. In a happy ending, relationships are re-constituted in a way that seems as sweetly balanced as Daisy’s ‘bicycle made for two.’ The play ends with a rendition of the song with which it shares its title, and the taking of the celebratory photograph, which echoes an original taken at the time of the weddings.



The acting, the costumes, the set, and the pre-performance meals were all excellent, and our thanks are due to everyone who contributed so effectively to the overall high standard. Special thanks are due to those who coped so well with the sudden change of casting necessitated by the illness of Geoff Jones, and to Geoff for the valuable contribution he had already made (along with our good wishes for improving health). Well done, Players, you’ve triumphed again – and without any unnecessary Lah-di-dah!!

Let us also remember the valuable work of the charity ‘Freedom from Torture’, a donation to which will be made from the net proceeds of the production.

Wendy Firmin

## Taizé – But Why?

On Friday 21 March we will welcome Brother Paolo, of the Taizé Community, to join us for an evening of Lenten Prayer and Reflection beginning at 7.30pm. I hope many of you will be able to be there too.

Many of you already know that the Taizé community is dear to my heart and a place that has played a hugely significant role in my journey so far. I don't know where I would be without it, but it's fair to say, probably not here. So rather than just advertising the 21 March prayer I thought I'd try and explain just a little why this community is so important to me.

I want to begin by clarifying that although Taizé is often primarily associated with a particular style of music, it is about a whole lot more than that. Taizé had been getting things right for quite a while before they invented the Taizé chant. It is not, either, just about a particular way of praying. Although I do think it boils down to the centrality of that prayer. There are no compromises on the importance of prayer. Even on busy summer Sundays when up to 4000 people might be leaving and the same number arriving, the information point closes during prayer. Even the vending machines switch off during prayers.

And while it is not just about a style of prayer; it is about an understanding of prayer that much of the church would do well to heed. Prayer is not about lots of words telling God what we think he should be doing. It's about stopping, listening and allowing Him to take us places we're not sure we want to go. It is about allowing the whisper of unconditional love to shout louder than all the surrounding noise. Taizé's rediscovery of the importance of silence, and their ability to make it accessible to all is an important gift to the wider church, should they choose to accept it.

I don't just go to Taizé for the prayer. I go too for the sense of community, the shared meals with people from all over the world, the perceptive insights in bible introductions, the possibility of deep sharing with people you have only just met, the sharing in the work that makes the community run smoothly, the simplicity of life where it doesn't matter that I can't check my emails.

But it still all comes back to prayer. Everything else works because it flows out of that absolute commitment to being open to listening to God. It enables the trust which hands over much of the running of the place to those who arrived a couple of days earlier under the supervision of young people who arrived only a couple of weeks before. It enables the trust which encourages each individual to take the implications of the gospel seriously without trying to make it more palatable to our western sensitivities. It enables the trust that hands over a gospel that says you are loved regardless, knowing that implicit is the challenge to go and live a life radically altered by that experience.

Taize is a place where I have been allowed to experience the consolation of the gospel so palpably that I have perhaps dared to face the challenge of the gospel just a little bit more than I might have done otherwise. And I am very grateful.

Stephanie Neville

## Notes on Blindness

**W**hen Julie Grove forwarded this email to me it brought back memories of John, Marilyn and the family; also it reminded me of John's book 'Touching the Rock' which I'd read after many happy visits to Iona.

The ongoing work of John Hull is incredible for a man of his age, without the added hindrance of blindness. But maybe that gives him an added insight into life which we who can see often miss. To view the story of Translating John's Audio Diaries to the Screen go to <http://filmguide.sundance.org/film/13984/notesonblindness>.



Pat Davies

### QEHB Eye Appeal

**W**e often take our sight for granted. But just think how hard it would be to carry out your normal activities if you had lost your sight. No longer able to drive your car, read a book, watch your children play in the park.

Every year over 20,000 people in the UK go blind. Even the most basic aspects of life such as making a cup of tea and getting washed and dressed in the morning have to be relearned. But with your help, we can save the sight of some of these people before they go blind, or help some people recover from damage to their eyes.

The Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham has one of the country's leading eye departments and our QE Eye Appeal is to purchase three new pieces of equipment not normally found in NHS hospitals that will allow the hospital to provide world class imaging and treatment to our patients with eye disease. In order for our doctors to accurately diagnose and treat eye disease, they need to be able to take high quality images of patient's eyes. Spectralis is the gold standard for ophthalmic imaging.

In recent years, doctors have used laser eye surgery to reduce the need for wearing glasses. Currently laser treatment is spread over a number of visits, each lasting between twenty to thirty minutes and in some cases a general anaesthetic is needed. The Pascal laser will revolutionise our treatment of these patients as it is around fifty times faster than existing lasers and enables a complete treatment to be delivered in under five minutes. It is significantly more comfortable for patients and the treatment can be completed in one visit.

We need to raise £250,000 to purchase these machines and every penny you donate will help us reach our target. Visit [www.gehb.org/eye](http://www.gehb.org/eye) to find out more and download our fundraising packs. Alternatively ring us on 0121 371 4852 to make a donation.

*Taken from The QEHB Charities Newsletter*

## Annual Retreat

I will be on my annual retreat from 4<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> April...returning this year to the retreat house by the Anglican Sisters of The Order of the Holy Paraclete in Sleights, several miles inland from Whitby. I indulge in 'slow travel' to get there and back, since this is a part of the experience! Normally, I get off the train in York and embark on a two-hour bus journey across the Moors...but I have been known to catch a further train from York to Scarborough, a bus from Scarborough to Whitby and a further bus from Whitby to Sleights; whichever way I travel, the journey always with a steep mile's walk uphill. I look forward to this: it is a part of the process of becoming 'grounded' for the week.

Whilst I am in Sleights, I endeavour to follow Benedictine Rule: four acts of worship each day (sometimes, I have to say an office by myself in the middle of nowhere!); silence from after Compline until after breakfast the following day (though, in practice, it is largely a silent retreat, apart from sharing in the acts of worship); I read – walk – reflect – and endeavour to be as disciplined as possible in the ministry of intercession. Hence this article... If there are people or situations for which you would like me to pray whilst I am away – four times a day for a week as a part of the prayer ministry of the whole community – then please let me know, either in writing or by word of mouth. In undertaking to do this, I will also write (in the traditional way!) during the week to all those who have passed on prayer requests, as a reminder that this is a part of my ministry during the week. Please don't hesitate to take me up on this invitation.

Neil

## Birmingham Carers Association

*Are you worried about the new benefits to be introduced soon? In Carers News the Birmingham Carers Association, this is fully explained.*

**P**ersonal Independence Payment (PIP) is a benefit for people aged 16 to 64 with a long-term health condition or disability. A long-term condition means one which is expected to last 12 months or longer. Getting PIP depends on an assessment of how your ability to live independently. PIP is based on how your condition affects you, not on what condition you have, but special rules apply if you are terminally ill.

PIP will eventually replace Disability Living Allowance (DLA). Birmingham City Council is aware of the fantastic work that all carers do – it is a wonderful service you provide. But, we know that 2014 might be another difficult year with pressures on budgets, legislation changes and dealing with the impact of any cuts.

Rest assured that BCA will continue to campaign to try and ensure that Birmingham Carers get the services you need and deserve. If you want to get involved too – call us on 0121 675 8176 or pop into our new office in Corporation Street, Monday to Friday 8.30am – 1.00pm. email [bhamcarers@gmail.com](mailto:bhamcarers@gmail.com).

*If you contact them they can give advice on many subjects. Ed*

## The Mousetrap

A dream of mine has always been to make the trip to London to the play *The Mousetrap*. It is a touristy thing to do, but somehow has always been put off from one year to the next by my husband and I. We finally booked it early in January 2014, finding a suitable date later in January, the matinee performance.

The seats we chose were in the Dress Circle so we hoped to have a good view.

We set out late on the morning of the 28th January on the Chiltern Line train to arrive in London before one o'clock. Along the route we saw evidence of flooding of the river in the area. We noticed the River Cherwell had burst its banks. The train arrived 3 minutes late, but we still had plenty of time to eat and then travel to the theatre. We were hungry, so went to The Victoria & Albert on the concourse. We ordered fish & chips and were served quickly, in grease proof paper lightly printed with a spoof newspaper. A pot of tea each was very welcome.

Next on the tube to Leicester Square and a short walk to St. Martins theatre. This is the 62nd year of the production. We were able to view pictures of the play on the outside walls, and decided to go inside at 14.20 pm. The audience was not large, so we did not feel crowded. The theatre is really tiny, we soon acquired our tickets, and viewed more pictures on the inside walls. We were allowed into our seats at 14.30. We again noticed how small the inside is. We soon discovered we were in the best seats in the house!!

As the play unfolded I was struck by the way the actors had thought themselves into the characters and the times in which the play is set, the late 1940's.

We had also noticed very small amounts of dust around lights, and top of the stage, this just added to the atmosphere.

I cannot tell you any of the plot or 'who dunnit' but it is a superb production and I can recommend it to anyone wishing to see the drama. At the end, during the curtain call, an actor asks the audience to keep everything secret. This was my first time ever to a London show, I hope it is not the last but nothing else that is showing in theatre land appeals to us at the moment.

*Agatha Christie*  
**THE  
MOUSETRAP**



Francesca Clayton

## Commitment for Life

### The Rubber Tyre School *(from Moving Stories 168)*

Behind a busy new highway between Jerusalem and Jericho lies the Bedouin village of Khan al Ahmar – Wadi Abu Sidr which is home to 24 families, around 150 people. Originally refugees from the Negev desert, in 1951 they were forced to leave by the Israeli government and remain refugees until this day. All of the Bedouin from this community were born in the area where they now reside, except for one grandmother.

Bedouins are the poorest amongst the poor in the West Bank. Now Bedouin villagers get most of their food from the United Nations.

*“Life was easier for us till the 1980’s, but then the settlement of Kfar Adumim was built and our incomes came down”, Nasser Jahalin, one of the Bedouin in his 50’s tells us.*

Previously the Bedouins could sell animal products made from their sheep in Jerusalem and throughout the country. They used to take over 400 sheep to herd on the top of a high hill in front of their village, with a water source and lots of grass. Now, settlement houses cover that same green hill and private security forces patrol it. If animals get too close, settlers steal them.

Some 500 metres in the other direction there is a closed military area. There is a danger from unexploded bombs and additionally, army custody of their animals that graze too close to the area. Bedouins can only retrieve their property after paying a large fine. In the daytime, around 3 o’clock, armed settlers from Kfar Adumim may come close to the village to threaten Bedouin families or to steal their animals. Eid Jahalin, a 49-year-old leader of the community used to work construction in the very same settlement for 15 years. Palestinians, Israelis, and Internationals worked together to build the Tyre school in Khan Al Ahmar. After building, most men in the village lost their jobs in nearby settlements and factories.

Everything changed for the Bedouin when they decided to build a school for their children in 2009. After building the school, all the men lost their work in Israeli settlements and factories. Before the school Nasser Jahaleen worked for the Israelis for years, but like others, he lost his work. Nowadays, only two out of about 50 men from the village have work in Ma’ale Adummim.

*Nasser Jahalin went on to say, “You get a much better salary from Israeli employers than from the Palestinians. It is almost the same not to work if you travel to work in Jericho. From a very low salary you have to pay your travel and food of the day, and after that there’s not much left.”*

After building the school, threats against the villagers increased. During the night when the villagers are about to go to sleep, Israeli military or civil police frequently

enter the community for house searches, forcing people out from their homes. In one week the Israeli authorities entered the village on four different nights.

Each home in Al Khan Ahmar – Wadi Abu Sidr has a demolition order. According to Amnesty International, the Israeli army plans to evict and transfer 2300 Palestinian people from the Ma'ale Adummim area to the Jerusalem municipal garbage landfill to make space for settlement expansion.

Ma'ale Adummim is located in what is known as Area C, which includes the E1 plan to build thousands of new settlements and commercial units in its expansion to connect the area with Jerusalem. It is planned that the whole area of Ma'ale Adummim and Mishor Adumim is to be surrounded completely by the separation barrier already under construction.

Eid Jahalin urges international companionship.

*“We need all our international contacts to support us or otherwise our village and our lives might get lost, international people are our voice in the world”*

“Bedouin are like taking a fish out of the sea. Take a Bedouin out of the desert and they die.” Eid told a URC church group this when they met him in 2013.

This story is from the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme for Peace in Palestine and Israel blog at <http://blog.eappi.org/>

*Contributed by Wendy Firmin*

## A Poem for Mothering Sunday

A mother who always cares,  
A mother who's always there.  
A mother who always prays,  
A mother who always stays.  
When things get rough,  
When life gets tough,  
When all is just too much to bear,  
God's Word she shares.  
God's light she shines.  
So blessed God made this mother mine.



## On This Day ...

### From the Carrs Lane Journal March 1914

*I felt this was interesting not only because of the opinions expressed, but because, among the faults noted by Edward Williams, D.D., when he came to Carrs Lane (needless to say from The Land of Song!) in 1792 was "the painful state of the singing", which he succeeded in improving "through the introduction of female voices, standing up to sing, etc." What a difference a period of 220 or so years makes!*

### From Music and Worship (by H.L. Moore)

Those who have studied the history of church music will have noticed there has been a continuous cycle of progress, excess and reaction. As a protest against sensual excesses in the English church, the Puritans adopted the habit of excluding all music from their services and doing their best to exclude it from the High Church by destroying church organs. That protest came to be looked upon as a binding principle, and until quite recently their grudging acknowledgement of the need of music was satisfied by the singing of an unaccompanied hymn.

Nearly all the great composers were at their greatest in their religious music. The inspiration to be derived from sacred words is not to be denied. There is Nature's own music – the singing of the birds, the sighing of the breeze. Sometimes it is the simplest music which affects the greatest minds.

Let us see from practical experience what is the influence of music on worship. Sometimes one hears of ministers and deacons cutting out of the service the music which is out of the ordinary, "because," they say, "music is an entertainment and people go to church to worship and not to be entertained." Possibly there is a grain of truth in their reasoning, for if a man studies his art sufficiently well to enable him to become an expert, his finished performance, be it the delivering of a sermon, the training of a choir, or the rendering of an organ recital is sure to be an entertainment to his hearers, but because of that is it reasonable to wish a man to give something that is not his best. Anything that is done for the service and worship of God should be of the very best.

Architecture has a great effect on music. The average Nonconformist church is more or less like a hall used for secular purposes. The buildings of the Roman and Anglican Churches give one a feeling of reverence as soon as one enters. The difference is due to the fact that Nonconformist churches are built to help the preacher, while other churches are designed to help the choir, so that however good the music of the former may be there is always the lack of atmosphere created by the buildings. There are many Nonconformist churches where the congregation does not attach sufficient importance to the singing of the hymns. Yet it is commanded by God that all should sing. The Nonconformist Church can never hope to be wholly successful until music is given the place of importance which is its right by reason of centuries of potent association with music.

## From the Carrs Lane Journal March 1964

*I found this set of suggestions very worthwhile, made as they were by younger members of the congregation at the time when the new building was being planned. I feel that much of what was at the heart of their thinking has come to pass.*

The Junior 70 Club looks at the Church

John Haine: We split into groups to discuss the church as we see it. We found it very easy to condemn but not easy to suggest improvements. We are now attempting to analyse constructively aspects of work and witness in Carrs Lane. I am considering the organisation of the church. We should like to see more young people elected to the diaconate. Church meetings could be made more palatable by making reports concise and clear. We ought to be concerned for the real work of the church rather than for trivialities. We would all benefit if issues were openly debated at church meeting instead of being presented for rubber stamping.

Jane Savage: There has been a rise in the introduction of modern music and jazzed up services into church worship. We do not want this in Carrs Lane, but we think there are tunes we could use. Those written by Geoffrey Beaumont are light and pleasant. We wonder too if we could use some of the music of Benjamin Britten. Something like this from time to time show that we are not oblivious to the modern trend. Perhaps the order of service could be varied. Two short sermons based on the readings would sometimes be of more assistance than one long sermon. We also feel that two shorter periods of silent prayer would be preferable, with more guidance from the minister, so that our thoughts are directed to some special need in the world outside our own.

Elizabeth Bowden: With all the efforts to bring about unity among denominations it seems almost unbelievable that there is a certain lack of community in one church. But I think this is so in Carrs Lane today. There seems to be a definite rift between the older people and the youth of the church. We suggest that everyone who becomes a church member should be told about the fireside groups and invited to come along. We suggest there should be available to everyone a pamphlet on church organisation giving particulars of all the committees. As well as every age group getting together on serious occasions we should like to see more social activities in which everyone could join.

Christopher Challacombe: While we want our church to be modern, built not only for today, we still want it to look like a church. We want it to be light and bright. Inside, we want to find a sense of quiet and peace. We would like the brightness to come from within the building because we do not favour vast areas of windows. We are not asking for the traditional tall church spire but would like a spire of humbler dimensions. When we enter a house our feelings are often coloured by what we first meet, so let our foyer be attractive and bright. Whatever type of building we have, we know we must go forward in faith and in obedience to God's will.

*Contributed by Wendy Firmin*

## ON THE ROAD TO EASTER WORD SEARCH



"Fasting" doesn't mean eating fast food!



- |               |               |              |
|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| Ash Wednesday | Holy Thursday | Forty Days   |
| Sacrifice     | Good Friday   | Jesus        |
| Almsgiving    | Holy Saturday | Passover     |
| Prayer        | Easter        | Foot Washing |
| Fasting       | Palm Sunday   | Resurrection |
| Lent          | Purple        |              |
| Holy Week     | Palm Branch   |              |



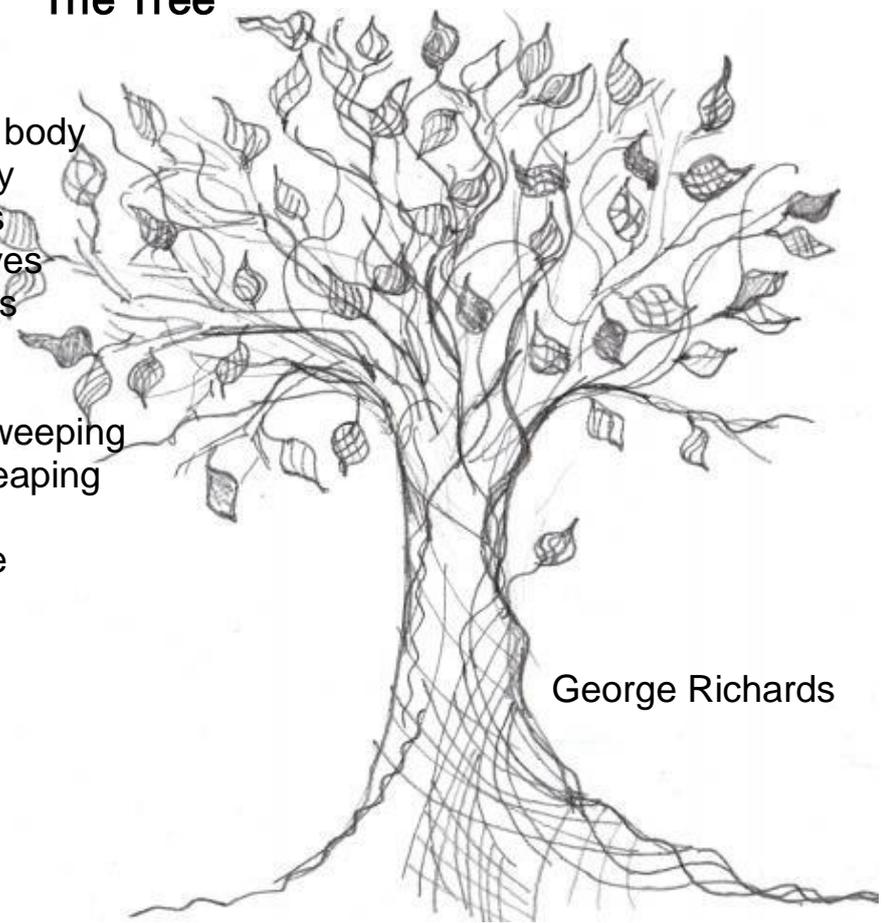
Happy Mother's day!

## The Tree

Outside the window the gnarled body  
Without a glance from anybody  
In the bleak wind sighs and heaves  
While tardily shedding autumn leaves  
Once more the annual ritual it bears  
And wonders again, who cares?

Only the roadman the pavement sweeping  
Watching the leaves whirling and leaping  
Briefly curses that dear old tree  
When from its foliage it shakes free  
Then last blades fall and all is bare  
Ere arrives the spring so fair.

George Richards

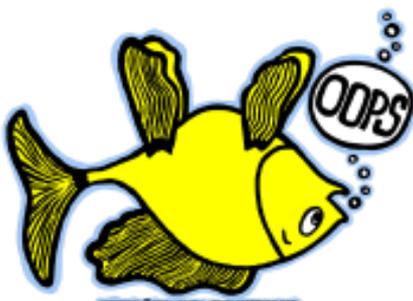


## Whoops

In the February Journey we apologise that we forgot to mention that the Clean and Fair range is Traidcraft's innovation. Maybe some of you spotted the Traidcraft logo on the bottle in the picture. Joan adds that we now have the complete range in stock – hand wash, washing up liquid, laundry liquid and multi-surface cleaner, and that they are selling well. If you haven't already tried any, now's your chance. We are also selling Eco friendly green brushes, scourers and sponges.

p.s Don't forget to buy your Fair Trade Real Easter Eggs before stocks run out.

Joan Davies



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).

## Room Hire at Carrs Lane

Carrs Lane Church Centre is in Birmingham city centre and within a few minutes walk of New Street and Moor Street train Stations and the National Express Coach Station. Public car parking and bus stops are also nearby.

The Conference Rooms on offer at Carrs Lane are of several sizes and situated on three floors. We can support most types of events. Rooms can accommodate from 6 up to 350 delegates. You will find that our prices are very competitive. Our staff will be pleased to discuss ideas for your event with you and advise on the suitability of our facilities.

Hot and cold drinks can be supplied in the meeting rooms as often as required. Buffet meals can be pre-ordered. These range from a simple sandwich menu to a full buffet

Full details and prices are available on our website, [www.carrslane.co.uk](http://www.carrslane.co.uk), or you may call the conference team on 0121 643 6151 if you have any questions or email [booking@carrslane.co.uk](mailto:booking@carrslane.co.uk).



Carrs Lane  
FAIR TRADE SHOP

Open here in the city at  
Carrs Lane Church Centre  
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[www.carrslane.co.uk](http://www.carrslane.co.uk)



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## Carrs Lane Regular Activities

### SUNDAYS

<b>Morning Worship</b>	Every Sunday at 10.30am with Holy Communion on the first Sunday of the month
<b>Children's Church</b>	Second Sunday at 2.30pm
<b>Radical Worship</b>	Fourth Sunday at 6.00pm
<b>First Sunday Lunch</b>	First Sunday each month at 12.30pm
<b>Church Meeting</b>	Second Sunday at 12 noon
<b>Singing Group</b>	Third Sunday 9.45 – 10.15am

### WEEK DAYS

**Carrs Lane Lived Community meet for Prayers -**

Monday to Friday 7.30am and 7.00pm, all are welcome to join them

<b>Lunchtime Healing Service</b>	Every Wednesday 1.15pm
<b>Prayer Group</b>	First Wednesday at 7.00 pm
<b>Thinking Allowed</b>	First Thursday at 10.15 am
<b>Harborne House Group</b>	Fourth Tuesdays 2.00pm (various locations)
<b>Central House Group at Carrs Lane</b>	Third Wednesdays at 6.30pm
<b>Carrs Lane Choir Practice</b>	Fridays at 7.00pm
<b>Carrs Lane Players (drama group)</b>	Fridays at 7.45 pm
<b>Charity Knitting Circle</b>	First Tuesday 10.00 am - 1.00 pm
<b>Fair Trade Shop</b>	First and Third Sunday after morning worship and Tuesday - Saturday 10.30 am - 2.30 pm
<b>Counselling Centre</b>	Monday - Friday 11.00 am - 1.30 pm and Monday to Wednesday evenings 7.00 - 9.00 pm

Contact details for The Church at Carrs Lane  
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