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### **Local Author Ruthie Thomas Launches Second Book: "Different"**

By Sharron Hardwick

Established author, poet and singer songwriter, Ruthie Thomas recently visited Kilgetty Community Centre, invited by New Life Christian Fellowship's Ladies group, beginning the launch of her second novel: *Different*.

Ruthie's first novel: *Ruby Tucker*, for children of seven to ten years, was a great success. Highly recommended by famous author P.D. James. Ruthie hopes that her latest novel, *Different*, written for eleven plus, will be an encouragement to children and adults alike: "I feel there's a real need for books that entertain, bless and uplift people's spirits." shared Ruthie.

Ruthie has also been published with Stainer & Bell Ltd and in various collection's of songs and hymns for children and adults, including Christian Aid Songbook 'Hunger for Justice'. Her poem 'Smile Martin', published by McCrimmons, was awarded by the Archbishop of Canterbury for its originality.

Ruthie opened the meeting with her poem *Straight from the heart*. All were encouraged by it's words. "Sometimes people feel lost, the world seems upside down, our Father God wants us to stay strong, because we are a song straight from His heart." said Ruthie.

Ruthie shared how *Different* reflects aspects of her own life. Reading three extracts to the group, showed that *Different* is set against a background of the Black Pentecostal Church teachings, school life and the Victorian three story house environment, in which protagonist *Hester Henry* resides. Living with a constant stream of visitors is a challenge. Hester's blue eyes make her different, she faces some bullying, but is not a timid girl, and often stands her ground.

One night Hester hears God calling to her during a thunder storm, "like a telephone from the heavens saying: 'Hester you are mine.'" " This leads to a number of intriguing encounters. *Different* is full of humour, against the offset of hatred, jealousy and the supernatural, keeping the readers engrossed until the final words.

Finally, Ruthie shared her poem: *Eye on the storm*, inspired as she flew to Jamaica, days before Hurricane Dean, 2007. Air ports were crowded with people trying to escape before the storm arrived which was reported to hit Jamaica's tourist haven, Negril, where Ruthie and family were based. Amazingly the storm merely brushed through the area. Reports showed minimal damage!

"If you feel like you are in the eye of a storm, don't give up. Your miracle is on its way. Don't give up continue to pray. The clouds are here, the sun will shine. It doesn't rain all the time." Ruthie concluded with these encouraging words, which can help us to press on, as we face the storms of life.

Ruthie Thomas's *Ruby Tucker* and *Different* are available in good book stores and online from Amazon, also available from your local library ISBN:978-1-903905-66-1 - for author

information visit [www.pinksugarmice.co.uk](http://www.pinksugarmice.co.uk)

