

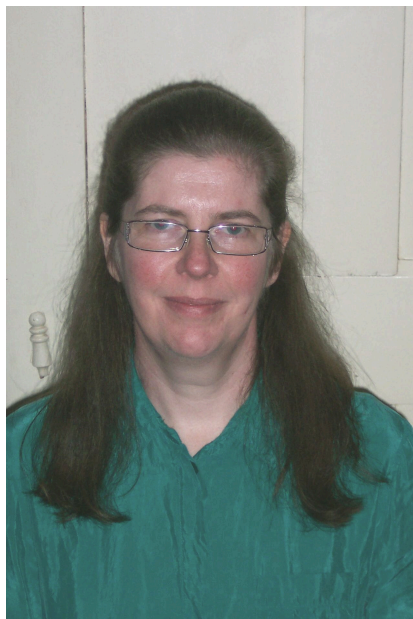
ROUNDA BOUT



THE COTTERIDGE CHURCH
Witnessing at the Heart of the Community

September 2012

From the Vestry



Dear Friends,

It is September. Following my time on sabbatical, this seems more than ever like the beginning of term. I suspect that it feels like that to most of you, whether or not you are at school or university or have children, grandchildren or even great grandchildren who do. The seasons are part of all our lives.

The book of Ecclesiastes tells us that ‘for everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven’ (3:1) and then goes on to list many of them. This is what some folk call the rhythm of life and it’s so ingrained that we cannot escape from it – some would say that it’s there ‘as sure as day follows night’, but it’s actually there in the first instance because day follows night.

Our ancestors didn’t need to know that the earth spins on its axis to give us day and night or that it travels round the sun, to give us the seasons. For them, the seasons were part of life, meaning that

they sought shelter and slept when it was dark and ate fruit in season. In harsh times they no doubt went hungry and may even have starved or frozen during the winter.

Modern means of transport may allow us to eat fruit out of season and artificial lighting may allow us to work after sunset, but we are still creatures of the seasons. Our body clocks work in seasons just as much as the physical world does. It has been that way since the dawn of creation (Genesis 1:5) and God’s commandments included having a fallow year every seven years, a day of rest every seventh day and three annual festivals – the original holy days (holidays). (Exodus 23:10-19)

Sabbaticals are in the tradition of the fallow year. Mine didn’t quite go to plan, as I broke a bone in my foot and so was unable to go to Israel. (I hope to go next year instead.) However this did mean that I had to spend a lot more time than usual literally with my feet up. I didn’t realise how much I needed to do this until it happened. It may not have been the way that I intended to spend my sabbatical, but it gave me the fallow period that I needed – and plenty of time to pray and reflect.

I have certainly benefited from the time, for which I thank you and the rest of the clergy team. My experience does make me appreciate, even more, just how vital ‘down time’ between the seasons is. We cannot work at full stretch all year long, no matter what our work is. We need to stop, reflect, pray and listen to God, so that we recharge our batteries and get direction for the next season of work.

We can only truly listen when we stop and wait on God. So my question to all of us is: ‘How much fallow time and prayer time do you allow yourself, day by day, week by week, month by month and year by year?’ I know that it can be difficult to fit this into busy lives, but we all need it and you may not realise how much you need to change pace until you do.

This year, for the first time, the Church Council is going to spend a Saturday morning (15th September) at the beginning of the academic year reflecting on the priorities for the year. Please pray for this time, that God will lead us to a fruitful morning and a truly inspired agenda for the year.

May God bless each of you, as we all go 'back to school' in our own ways,
Jacky

From the Editors' Desk



Welcome to a photo-rich issue of Roundabout.

The next issue is out on Sunday 4 November; so, please let us have your items by 29 October at the latest. You can send your contributions by email to marfleetwright@tiscali.co.uk or pop them into the 'W' pigeonhole in the Pennine Way.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Steve & Caroline

Family & Friends

It's a double dose of belated congratulations to Alison Miller, who celebrated her 50th birthday on 26 June, and daughter Lucy, who got engaged to David Taylor in June. Congratulations and best wishes to Norman Mann who celebrates his 70th Birthday later this month. We were delighted to hear from Linda and Marie Liddle who would like to thank everyone who has been praying for them; Linda is sure that all your prayers have led to her being in remission. We are thrilled to hear Linda's news and wish her a continuing journey to good health.

Thank you!

Mrs Lily Pearce would like to thank Rita for her birthday present and Sylvia for pushing her in her wheelchair. She had a lovely day out and hopes to go on Rita's next outing.

Step into the Garden!



During August we have been able to resurface and totally transform the rear courtyard garden at church. Photos of the transformation will be displayed on the corridor wall leading to the garden.

Thanks to the many donors who responded to the Day Centre appeal and to The Cotteridge Church for their financial contribution to allow us to make this space accessible and safe to use. The Day Centre members can now enjoy afternoon tea in the garden as well as gentle exercise classes, good weather permitting !

Church members and visitors can sit and relax in the garden during the week and at the weekends,

and we hope many church garden parties will be held in the garden now it is safe to be out there!

We hope soon to be able to provide new all-weather seating units and, in the future, an extension to the raised flower bed so that the Church Day Centre members and church members can potter in the garden to make it even more beautiful.

Our contractor for this project was Countrylane Landscapes Ltd, and I am very grateful to Paul Lane, assisted by John Collins and Dan Lane, for bringing this project in, on time and on budget despite the dreadful weather !



Irene Spooner

The implications of austerity in the coming time - a thought

The burden of the cuts in services will affect the most vulnerable people, which is an injustice; people in all walks of life, and at all levels of society, will face urgent and pressing needs, which they were able to cope with, but now cannot.

For many people, austerity will only take away part of their prosperity and not affect their basic security and well-being. For others, who live near or beyond their limits, a loss of some benefit or job security could drive them into severe distress.

As Christians, we need to keep ourselves aware of this, as fellow Christians, neighbours, friends or colleagues may face these dilemmas and we should stand ready to provide practical support or assistance.

We should also defend the social fabric that our country has developed to try and meet the needs any community encompasses.

Take seriously what the government proposes and realise what that might mean for the people who may depend on the benefit or service being cut or reduced.

These services or benefits may not affect us personally but they could to people in our community.

It could mean we have to share some of the burden.

Brian Hayhow

Rio+20 Earth Summit - Review and Reflections

Carol Parkes is Co-Director of Social Responsibility & Sustainability at Aston Business School

The reports in the media have focused on the failure of politicians to agree on targeted sustainability goals for green economic development, set out in the summit document, 'The Future We Want'. Whilst this is disappointing because, after 2 years of negotiation, political rhetoric won out to the pressing



needs of the planet and its people, the real story of the summit is the success of agreements reached in a range of areas that will make a difference. This includes the two areas I was involved with, namely: educate future leaders about sustainable development (PRME www.unprme.org) & encourage businesses to adopt sustainability standards, (United Nations Global Compact www.unglobalcompact.org/).

Firstly, ‘The Rio Declaration on the Contribution of Higher Education Institutions and Management Schools to The Future We Want sets out a Roadmap for Management Education to 2020’. This was agreed by all stakeholders at the summit and sets out specific goals for changing management education. There were commitments from the major accreditation bodies on changes to their requirements in ethics, social responsibility & sustainability and a new initiative setting out new benchmarks for management education and I strongly recommend viewing the short video about this on the 50+20 website that provides a clear overview of issues: <http://50plus20.org/>

The Inspirational Guide on Integrating Social Responsibility (in which Aston features an exemplar case study) was launched and now disseminated to business and management schools around the world and the Fighting Poverty as a Challenge for Business & Management Education Report (of which I am a co-author) was presented. As a result of discussions at Rio, the project has now gained the active support from an additional range of Businesses and Universities.

Secondly, ‘The Rio+20 Corporate Sustainability Forum Report Innovation & Collaboration, Public Policy Recommendations, Commitments to Action’ sets out private-public partnerships that were a key part of the discussions in Rio. The commitment by private sector organisations of finance and technological know how to work with governments on this agenda may be a more tangible outcome of the summit.

“The Rio summit rightly did not focus on new international treaties but on recommitment and on implementation,” said Andrew Deutz, Director of International Government Relations for The Nature Conservancy. There were also some political successes with nations such as Germany and Denmark now actively decoupling their economies away from fossil fuels. Denmark now holds the presidency of the European Union and is leading discussions on a greener GDP (aimed at moving beyond GDP measurements of human development). Denmark is also creating a space for public-private partnerships through its Global Green Growth Forum. This is a multilateral initiative that it co-chairs along with Mexico and South Korea.

The summit’s final communiqué points to the more than \$500bn mobilised, with more than 700 commitments made, prompting the UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, to tell business leaders that “transformation is underway”. “Where once we mostly burned our way to prosperity, today proven green growth strategies are on the rise,” he said. “Our challenge is to scale up and come together in common cause”.

Sunday 8th July after the morning service....

“What are you doing for lunch?” asked Ali (Sprackling).

“Nothing, it’s just me at home” I replied.

“Come and join us for the Junior Church picnic then”

“Well..... I have no food and no children to bring.....”

“Anyone can come and we can share the food” she replied, and so I did.

Well, it was lovely. It was too wet to go to the park as planned, so we sat in the Church garden,

shared food, chatted and basked in the sunshine...yes, it was really warm!!

It is amazing how the gardeners of the Church have made such good use of a small space and it will be even better when the new paving is done.

Tim played games with the children, then, when the seemingly inevitable rain arrived, Phil (so I did have a child there after all!) organized games in the Malvern room.

It was a lovely way to spend a Sunday lunchtime, the children were delightful and it was much better than being 'home alone'.

Anyone would be welcome and it is a good chance to get to know our great Junior Church members a bit better, so maybe try it next year.

Thanks for your hospitality Junior Church.

Jo Adams

At last we have a name on display.

We are on the map at last. Most people who visit the church will have seen the signs that have been put up to display the church name in various places. There will be many thousands more people who pass the church in cars, buses or as pedestrians who can now identify the building as the Cotteridge Church.



The Image Group recommendation for these signs together with the 3 Cross symbols and their cost was approved by the Church Council. Members of the church were then invited to sponsor one or more letters or contribute to the cost of the 3 Cross symbols.

The response to this invitation was tremendous and means that all letters and crosses have been sponsored and when the Gift Aid on these donations has been recovered there will be no cost to the church.

The next project is to provide new notice boards and to this end a proposal will be put to the next Church Council. We have already received one generous donation towards the cost of these and church members will also be invited to contribute. The Image Group would like to invite anybody who is interested to attend our meetings or express an opinion through someone else because we want to take into account the views of everybody.



A Day in the Life of the Church Administrator

My day usually starts with a quick look round the outside of the property making sure the

building is safe and there are no broken windows. Standing beside the tower, staring upwards, often attracts some odd glances and comments from passers-by; it's amazing how many people start looking skywards as well!

Then it's in to the building and down to the kitchen to see that the catering staff are in and all ready for their day's work. I pause on the way, to make sure the caretaker is stocked up with all his cleaning supplies and to make sure any small repairs are being done, and that furniture is in the right meeting room for the day's activities.

I call in on the Day Centres on the way back to the office and then meet the early arrival coffee bar volunteers and customers. Trying to get back into the office to deal with the post and emails and the answerphone is a bit of a juggling exercise, and before I know what's happened the early arrivals for the Day Centres are passing through the building, some of them wanting to stop and chat, others just giving a cheery wave.

By then, of course, the morning client groups are arriving; depending on the day, this can be up to 30 children for Parents and Toddler groups; what seems like hundreds of people coming through to the Slimming World meeting; members for the Tai Chi classes and, of course, visitors to the many information sessions we put on in the Pennine Way. These vary from free blood pressure checks, information about social care, financial benefits, solar heating and Eco savings.

Then, at last, peace and quiet for about 10 minutes (if I'm lucky) to attend to the many messages and enquiries that come to the office: people wanting to book a meeting room, arrange a special lunch, book a funeral, arrange a christening or a wedding; the list is endless.

By now there have usually been at least three knocks on the door for, often, the most odd enquiries: someone needing directions to the other side of the city. Others are more examples of the current situation: someone needs a bag of food, another, money to last till a benefit payment arrives.

Quite frequently it is an elderly person who needs help using a bank account or a cheque book for the first time in their life, perhaps after their husband or wife has died. Then it's time to sit patiently and explain to them how these things work, and hopefully direct them to the bank or the post office.

It's amazing the number of application forms I have helped people complete, and although I usually try to suggest they go to the Neighbourhood Office, many prefer to see 'the lady in the office at the church'.

Phone calls vary from a new group wanting to arrange a visit to see a church in action (so it's my job to liaise with one of the ministerial team to set this up) to a new group wanting to book a meeting room - and so I have to prepare room hire agreements and costings, check the group has the appropriate insurance and arrange the diary bookings.

I also do preparation work for the Church Treasurer: counting and banking money, writing cheques and keeping accurate records of money in and out of the church bank account. I do the same work for the Catering Services Unit; so this takes at least one morning each week.

My job also involves being secretary to Catering Services and the Church Day Centre; and so another few hours each week are spent on their correspondence, typing up committee meeting minutes and research for various projects.

I also prepare reports on the repairs needed to the church property, so can often be seen with

various contractors and men with tape measures touring the building. The church office is also responsible for the URC Manse repairs and so this may need a quick trip to Jacky's to see what is needed.

I sometimes feel I need to escape, for five minutes, to the quiet back garden for a cup of coffee; but this is usually the sign for someone to spot me in the Pennine Way and want to stop to talk about a problem. Five minutes turns into 15 and all the time I am thinking, 'Can I get to the bank before it closes?' and 'I know I still need to phone the photocopying machine repair man'; but a key to a very important cupboard in the Weatheroak Day Centre has been lost and a spare is needed.

Somehow my day has gone by and it's time I should have gone home. My hours of work, officially, are 9am-2pm Monday to Friday, with an extra floating 2.5 hours during the week to meet the needs of the job. It's very rare that I get away on time, though, as there is always that last minute enquiry with someone saying, 'Just before you go could you do.....have you got.....do you know.....?'

Have I completed all the tasks I set myself for the day? Probably not. Have I achieved targets? Possibly not. Have we got happy and contented customers and clients? I certainly hope so!

Irene Spooner

Flushed with success!

At last the transformation of our disabled access cloak room is complete and we are so grateful to the many generous donations we received to allow us to do this much overdue work.



Cotteridge Church has also contributed financially to this work. Our special thanks to our contractor, C J Bishop and Son Ltd, and especially Martin who was here every day locked away inside the cloakroom transforming it.

Three Times Round the World

After working for City Hospital since 1981 I have decided to retire from my job as the Krypton Production Manager. I was a Medical Physics technologist and it was my job to make krypton generators using a cyclotron at the University of Birmingham.

Krypton is a gas that can be used as a radioactive tracer to show the ventilation in a patient's lungs. The generators are then sold to Nuclear Medicine Departments and research centres across the UK.

If I wasn't driving radio isotopes around I usually cycled to work eight miles each way along the Worcester-Birmingham canal from Kings Norton to Winson Green, and I calculate the bike and I have clocked up a total of 80 000 miles, three times round the world.

I started doing this line of work in my home town of Oxford at the John Radcliffe Hospital, then moved to Lincoln's St George's Hospital. Both daughters, Jenny & Laura, were born in Lincoln before we moved to Birmingham.

I'm keen not to waste my new-found leisure time and as a start I'm going to try walking the River Thames long distance route, 184 miles from Cirencester to London, starting early September. If anybody wants to join me just ask.

Peter Childs

Boys' Brigade



Our annual BB/GB camp was held at the end of July. This year we were at Bembridge, Isle of Wight with our friends from Quinton Methodist Church. There were about 60 boys/girls and staff. The weather was quite good with only a few rain showers.

Three of our lads managed to win the Tent inspection competition. This was our first victory since 2006. Well done Sam, Alex and Tom. Activities during the week included ice skating, head hunters, swimming in the sea and at Ryde pool. There was also a walk following the path past the monument and walking along the top of the cliff to Sandown and we walked back.

The Church service was held at Bembridge Methodist Church when the band led the parade.

Everybody had a great time and we are now looking forward to Camp 2013 at Chideock, Dorset.



Our enrolment service is to be held on Friday 5th October when Nick Jones [Chaplain] and Mike Meadows [President] will be present.

Boys Brigade starts again for the new session on Friday 7th September when it would be nice to see some new faces.

Bob Hotchkiss

The Bread of Life

The liturgy lately has dealt thoroughly with the bread of life, and that got me thinking. We have bread at communion; there are hymns which refer to bread; Jesus refers to the bread of life. Never roast goat, or camel or beef. Bread takes the top spot. Why?

Nowadays we think of bread as the accompaniment starch to meals, not the focus.

There is a good reason for this.

For hundreds of years farmers have selected the wheats which give the best yields by weight, so that they can get as much food as possible. The green revolution of the 1960s, led principally by Norman Borlaug, developed very high yielding varieties of crops, particularly grains. And it is true that these have played an important part in feeding the ever increasing world population.



What is not so well known, however, is that the modern varieties of wheat give a larger grain, but the weight of protein per grain is about the same as in the old varieties. Thus modern wheat is far less of a balanced food, being proportionally much poorer in proteins, than it used to be in biblical times. Then bread really did provide a balanced nutrition, and you could live on it.

So, to the many many people living at the time of Jesus, who were too poor to buy enough food, the idea of the Bread of Life would be particularly relevant, since grains are relatively cheap to produce.

If you want to see how satisfying the old style grains can be, try some bread made with spelt.

Celia Lester



Triticum monococcum[ancient]

Triticum aestivum[modern]

Services

JL-G = Rev Joycelyn Lewis-Gregory NJ = Rev Nick Jones

RC = Rev Roger Collins

JE = Rev Jacky Embrey

HC = Holy Communion

September	9th	16th	23rd	30th
9.00 a.m. H.C.	JE	NJ	NJ	JE
10.30 a.m.	JE HC	Mr S. Wright	NJ HC	JE
6.30 p.m.	Café Church	JE HC	Hiss Hazel Nash	RC HC
October	7th	14th	21st	28th
9.00 a.m. H.C.	JE	RC	JL-G	NJ
10.30 a.m.	JE Parade/ Baptism/Harvest	RC HC	Mr Andy Vail	NJ HC
6.30 p.m.	NJ HC	Café Church	JL-G HC	Miss Primrose Taylor
November	4th	11th	18th	25th
9.00 a.m. H.C.	JL-G	RC	RC	JE
10.30 a.m.	JL-G	RC HC	Mrs Elaine Hutchinson	JE HC
6.30 p.m.	RC HC	Café Church	JE Memorial	Mrs Gill Salkeld




heritage **open days**

Church Open Day & Sculpture and Handicrafts Exhibition

Sat. 8th September 2012: 11.00am-3.00pm
Sun. 9th September 2012: 12.00-3.00pm

**Bournville United Reformed Church,
Beaumont Road, Bournville B30**

A chance to look around Bournville United Reformed Church. The Church was founded as Bournville Church of Christ in 1905. It moved to the present purpose built Meeting House in 1914. The church retains a number of original features including a Baptistry for Believer's Baptisms.

There will also be a display on the history of the Church.

Especially for the Heritage Open Days weekend only, there will be an exhibition of the art work of Church members Goff and Esme Nicholls. Goff's handiwork includes sculptures made from a wide variety of mediums including clay, Welsh bog oak and bronze. He is an associate of the Royal Birmingham Society of Artists. Esme, who originally trained as a seamstress is also contributing a variety of work to the exhibition, including quilting and appliqué.

**On Sunday at 2.00pm, there will be a talk on the Churches of Christ by
Rev. Dr. Martin Robinson, Principal of Springdale College.**

Further information from Andy Vail on 07575601574 or avbournville@aol.com.

Thousands of events are happening across England for Heritage Open Days.
To discover what's on near you, visit www.heritageopendays.org.uk or call 0844 335 1884

The Heritage Open Days National Partnership



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Heritage
Alliance



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ENGLISH HERITAGE



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