

ROUNDA BOUT



THE COTTERIDGE CHURCH
Witnessing at the Heart of the Community

May 2012

From the Vestry



Dear Friends,

As I write these words, I find myself on the eve of my Sabbatical. When you read them, I imagine that I will have already begun my time away from Circuit ministry before I return on Sunday 1st September.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the very kind messages I have received wishing me well for this special time. Be assured, my love and prayers will continue to be with you, and I look forward to sharing ministry with you come the beginning of the new Methodist year.

Many have asked me what I am doing during my time of Sabbatical, and again, this seems a good opportunity to let you know. I shall be spending a week on Holy Isle just off the Isle of Arran in Scotland for an international conference of Mindfulness. This conference aims to look deeply into the science as well as practice of mindfulness which has a strong evidence base for helping people

particularly with depression, anxiety and stress. I have some time booked at St Michael's College in Llandaff to do some further reading and writing on this subject and hope to have two pieces prepared to bring back into ministerial life; one for use in the psychiatric hospital where I have my Mental Health Chaplaincy and the other to bring into my Circuit ministry. I look forward to having the opportunity to share this with you in the autumn.

As I do not get a Sabbatical from the NHS, I will continue my work as a Mental Health Chaplain before the schools break up for summer. As this will be the sabbatical where the children are aged between 14 and 7, we are looking forward to spending time with them exploring France and Spain and specifically Paris and Barcelona. We haven't taken the children abroad before (unless you count the Isle of Wight) so we are looking forward to experiencing different countries and cultures courtesy of our tent. I also intend walking a few days on the South West Coastal path which I have been plodding along on an annual basis for several years now.

I am very aware that I am extraordinarily fortunate to have the opportunity to have the time and space to do these things and I do not receive the gift lightly. My thanks too, to all those who will be working hard doing the work that I would be doing were I not on sabbatical. I am aware that there are many who work in situations where they would love time and space for refreshment and renewal. I am also aware of those who find themselves in an enforced sabbatical not of their choosing and without the comfort of knowing there is a return to work in the autumn.

Whatever your particular situation, I hope that over the summer months you get an opportunity to delight in the beauty and wonder of God's world and have time for being as well as doing. The principle of Sabbath originates in the earliest scriptures that speak to us of the rhythm of life

including time and space to rest and re-create alongside our days of work and creating.
May God bless you richly till we meet again,
Love and peace,

Nick

From the Editors' Desk



Well, Spring finally sprung! In another bumper issue, we bring you our usual mix of articles. We wish Nick well for his sabbatical, especially his intended walk on the South West Coastal Path, hoping that no more of it collapses!

The next issue is out on Sunday 7 July; so, please let us have your items by 1 July 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

Belated Birthday wishes to Frances Hopkins who turned 90 years young on 4 April; hope you had a good day, Frances.

Church Day Centre

An exciting new opportunity has arisen to build on the varied work that is taking place supporting the older members of our community. We are looking for someone who can manage, maintain and improve our 26 member, 5 day a week centre and actively promote, integrate and extend Older Adult Services. Salary will be £18,500-£19,500, depending on experience.

The Lord's Prayer Senior Church-style

Hey God!

We respect you and worship you,

Your name brings peace.

Help us to make Earth more like Heaven

And bring Peace to the World.

Bring us the things that we need,

Not always the things we want.

Help us to admit and move on from our mistakes, and, in the same way,
help us to let go and heal us when other people have harmed us.

Help us to make the right decisions in life

And not give into things that are immoral.

Keep us away from things that hurt us.

Because you are the best, you are awesome, you are everywhere.

Amen

Written on Easter morning



Last night I sat in the Malvern room in darkness and silence. The only noise and light came from the traffic outside. It felt peaceful and good.

I did not know what to expect as I had never been to the Easter Eve ceremonies before.

Torches cast strange shadows on the readers as we heard from the Old Testament how God created and has repeatedly rescued us. It was good to have time to hear four extended readings.

We went out into the back garden where a small fire was lit, and from it the big Easter candle. Moving back into the building we lit our own candles from the Easter candle, celebrating the light of Christ.

Now we could say the first of many alleluias and sing that Christ is risen. We made a goodly noise though we were not many.

No sermon! We shared in a liturgy that spoke of what God has done for us on this night, when Christ the morning star rose in glory.

Finally we renewed our baptismal vows, joining in a declaration of our faith.

I am glad that I was there last night. By the movement we made, from darkness to light, from silence to speech, we entered into the time between Good Friday and Easter day and experienced it in a new way

Rachel Hayhow



The Lies We Tell Ourselves: Ending Comfortable Myths About Poverty



“Churches have a special interest in speaking truthfully about poverty.

The systematic misrepresentation of the poorest in society is a matter of injustice which all Christians have a responsibility to challenge.”

1. ‘They’ are lazy and don’t want to work

Child poverty is most commonly blamed, by churchgoers and the general public alike, on “their parents not wanting to work”. Yet the majority of children in poverty are from working households. In-work poverty is now more common than out-of-work poverty.

2. ‘They’ are addicted to drink and drugs

Churchgoers and the wider public cite addiction as the second most common cause of child poverty. While addiction is devastating for the families and communities touched by it, fewer than 4% of benefit claimants report any form of addiction.

3. ‘They’ are not really poor – they just don’t manage their money properly

Nearly 60% of the UK population believes that the poor could cope if only they handled their money properly. The experience of living on a low income is one of constant struggle to manage limited resources, with small events having serious consequences. Statistics show that the poorest spend their money carefully, limiting themselves to the essentials.

4. ‘They’ are on the fiddle

Over 80% of the UK population believe that “large numbers falsely claim benefits”. Benefit fraud has decreased to historically low levels - the kind of levels that the tax system can only dream of. Less than 0.9% of the welfare budget is lost to fraud.

5. ‘They’ have an easy life

Over half the British public believes benefits are too high. Government ministers speak of families opting for benefits as a lifestyle choice. Yet we know that benefits do not meet minimum income standards. They have halved in value relative to average incomes over the last 30 years. We know the ill and the unemployed are the people least satisfied and happy with life.

6. ‘They’ caused the deficit

The proportion of our tax bills spent on welfare has remained stable for the last 20 years. It is ridiculous to argue, as some have, that increasing welfare spending is responsible for the current deficit. Public debt is a problem but why is it being laid at the feet of the poorest?

Read the new report from the Baptist Union, the Methodist Church, the United Reformed Church and the Church of Scotland and find more resources at www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/truthandlies

Christian Aid Week 12-18 May 2013: 'Bite Back at Hunger'

'It's very rewarding to know that Christians of different traditions are working together for one common aim during Christian Aid Week.' Christian Aid Week volunteer

Thousands of churches will stand together this Christian Aid Week to speak out for change. Some 100,000 committed volunteers will go out and put their faith into action, raising funds to help some of the world's poorest and most vulnerable people.

This includes Britain's largest house-to-house collection, an extraordinary act of witness – demonstrating to our communities that we care about ending poverty and injustice.

There is enough food for everyone in the world, but one in eight people will go to bed hungry tonight.

This year's Christian Aid Week tells the story of how Christian Aid is helping communities to bite back at hunger through the lens of land rights in Bolivia, new technology in Kenya and innovative agriculture in Zimbabwe.

The power of a text message

This Christian Aid Week, we're standing with poor communities to help them bite back at hunger. Farmers in Kenya are discovering that they can grow enough food for all if they harness the potential of their mobile phones, while in Zimbabwe, communities are reaping the rewards of new technology.



Kenya – Husband and wife team Justin and Truphena Ileri (Credit: Christian Aid/Susan Barry)

Kenyan farmers Justin and Truphena Ileri used to struggle to feed their family. ‘When there is erratic rain, we didn’t get enough for our family to eat, let alone to sell,’ says Truphena.

But thanks to the use of new technology and their mobile phones, things are beginning to change for farmers in the Mbeere district in Kenya’s Eastern Province. ‘Traditional ways of forecasting are failing us due to climate change. When we turn to scientific ways, farmers will be able to plan very well,’ Truphena explains.

Farming methods in the district have been revolutionised by the introduction of simple, targeted weather forecasts sent to farmers by text message. Previously, farmers were unsure how to plan for increasingly erratic weather patterns, and the daily reality for many families was failed crops, disappointment and hunger.

The only weather forecasts that did exist were targeted at the large towns and cities, where the climate is often different. And anyway, as most farmers in rural areas don’t have televisions, they couldn’t even see these forecasts.

Working with the Kenya Meteorological Society, Christian Aid partner Christian Community Services Mount Kenya East (CCSMKE) takes specific, scientific forecasts for the rural areas and translates them into simple language that the farmers can understand.

It then sends this information out by text message, with monthly and seasonal updates and advice on using different crop varieties and agricultural techniques to adapt to changing weather patterns.

Such innovative use of technology means that CCSMKE is able to work with thousands of farmers, whom it would have been difficult and expensive to reach by road. More than 80 per cent of farmers in the area have a basic mobile handset, and are able to respond to the text messages by asking further questions about their own situation and getting advice from CCSMKE’s staff over the telephone.

All this has followed from initial farming workshops held by CCSMKE in church congregations, where it built trust with the local community by showing that it understood what it was like to try to farm in a difficult environment.

This use of new technology is giving the Ileris hope for the future:

‘When we see a plan coming into fulfilment, it brings us joy, [we can] watch our children grow and also see ourselves go grey – grey is wise!’ says Truphena.

Key costings

£5 could pay for text messages to be sent to 100 farmers in Kenya to provide them with an update on the local weather forecast. This helps them to prepare their land, plan their planting and harvesting activities, and produce healthy crops.

One in eight people in the world are desperate for food. Bite back at hunger and show your support for Christian Aid Week (12-18 May)

3Cs Café Part I: Calling all Volunteers

Catering Services is looking to increase the number of volunteers working in the Café on certain

Saturdays. In particular we want to form a team, minimum of 4 any age, young or not so young, who will work on the 5th Saturday in the month. This of course happens infrequently, this year only in March June August and November so the duties or commitment are not onerous. Duty times are 10 to 12 or 12 to 2. Full training given.

It would be an ideal opportunity for someone who would like to serve the Church in this way but is unable to give the more extensive once a month commitment undertaken by our current volunteers.

Obviously we would welcome anyone who would like to join the monthly team too.

Anyone vaguely interested please speak to John Adams or Hazel Nash.

3Cs Café Part II: Hazel Retires at Last!



On Saturday 20th April, after the closure of the café at 2 p.m., the Saturday volunteers met to say an official 'thank you' to Hazel Nash for all the years of service she has given to the church by way of her role as Saturday Café coordinator. Hazel has worked quietly behind the scenes keeping the Saturday Café afloat and doing far more than the role was ever intended to be when she took it on more years ago than she cares to remember. Her sympathetic management of people and

resources as well as the vacuum cleaner at the end of the day will be sorely missed. She has assured us that she will still be doing her shifts on Saturdays but now without the burden of organisation and will continue to serve on the Catering Services committee.

At the get together, the volunteers took the opportunity to have a business meeting (and tea and cake of course!) to discuss the plans to take the Saturday Café forward into the future without a coordinator, as Catering Services had been unable to find someone to take over Hazel's mantle. The new plans were overwhelmingly endorsed and the volunteers are looking forward to continuing the service they give to the Church and the Community in the weeks and months ahead.

John Adams

Marie Liddle (née Gibbs) 1921-2013

Marian (Marie) Gibbs was born on 14 November 1921 in Longton, Stoke on Trent. During her life she sometimes mentioned that Prince Charles was born on her birthday!

Her father was a schoolteacher who had a strong sense of social justice. He used to regularly invite children he taught to share Sunday lunch with the family, at a time when there was a lot of local poverty.

Marie's parents both passed away before she was eighteen, and as soon as she could she went to live in Loughborough, where she helped the war effort by working as a Khaki Machinist. It was in Loughborough that she met her beloved husband Jack, who was stationed there, and they married on 12 July 1941.

Eldest daughter Linda was born in 1944, and she and her Mum went to South Shields, to be close to her Dad's family while he was away. Marie often spoke about the prefab, which was their home, with all its mod cons including a fridge.

After the War, Marie, Jack and Linda came to live in Handsworth, where their son John was born in 1951; the family then moved to a newly built estate in Northfield in 1953. Youngest daughter Anne was born at home on John's third birthday.

Jack sadly passed away in October 1975. At the time, Marie was working in the Wages Office, Cadbury and her many friends and neighbours rallied round and helped her through a very difficult time.

Eventually, Marie started to go on some adventures abroad with good friends: Sicily with Betty (climbing part of Mount Etna), Corfu, and Sol in Austria with Amy. She also went on a tour of Yugoslavia (based near Dubrovnic) with Linda and Anne.

Marie was an avid reader; she read Booker Prize winning books and loved getting stuck into a cryptic crossword. She was a very knowledgeable person, and enjoyed watching Mastermind, 15 to 1 and University Challenge.

She also enjoyed sport, particularly football (watching her beloved Stoke City), rugby union, the Olympics and snooker.

Marie had a very strong faith all of her life and her family remembers her fiercely independent spirit; she insisted on always getting up for communion.

Marie was kind, caring, giving, modest, a marvellous listener, never imposing her opinion on others: a completely selfless person. We thank God for her life and witness; she will be very

greatly missed by all of her family and friends. A very wise, loving and irreplaceable woman.

Update from the Image Group

Thank you for all the support we have received from everyone as we seek to look at the 'Image' of our Church in the Community. Wasn't it exciting to see our Church frontage depicted on the 'Welcoming' signs as you enter Cotteridge?

The group wanted to share with you our progress and our ideas for the future... so here goes.

What have we done so far?

Well, the signs outside the Church have really shown everyone who passes by who we are. Thanks to you, these were all paid for by donations and therefore at no



cost to the Church accounts. It was a real boost to our group that you showed this response. They look really good and put us on the map.

What are we working on now?

Very soon you will see the NEW Church Notice Board placed above the bench at the front of the CHURCH. This is going to have 3 sections. The middle one will have information about our services, clergy, telephone numbers and web site. The other 2 sections will be used to advertise events and have evangelistic and pastoral posters. We are very excited about this and are looking forward to seeing it in position.

What next?

We are developing the space occupied by the present church notice board... we know that it is well past its sell- by date and urgently needs replacing. We hope this smaller board, similar in design to

the one described above, will carry information about the activities taking place in our church during the week.

How can you help?

We are planning to look at the display space in the windows of the Church Office. Have you any interesting objects from travels etc. that would form a display in that space? We hope that we could change this regularly so that it would provide something interesting to look at as people pass the window. Could you help us be responsible for this space? Could you help care for these displays? We are looking for someone to be responsible for the notice boards and displays. They hopefully would find others to share the task but have overall responsibility. Please think about if you could help.

Thank you so much for reading this and considering our requests. We are excited about all the ways we can look at using and improving the space we have available.

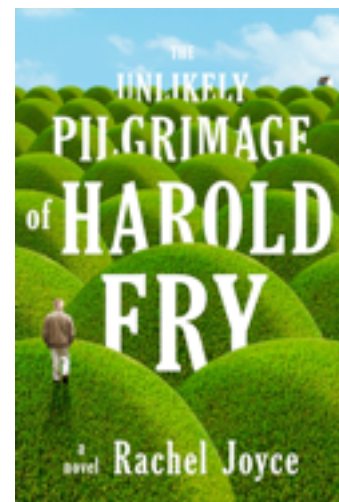
Please talk to one of us if you can help at all, or come along and join us at one of our meetings. You will be very welcome!

John Cliff, David Rogers, Chris Pascal, Tim Clayton, Phil Adams,
Linda Woodhouse, Jane Jones, Sandra Walton and others

Book Group



If you are looking for a good book to read then I can highly recommend *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry* by Rachel Joyce. This was a book that all our group enjoyed and sometimes, when this happens, there can be less to talk about, but this is an unusual book with lots of different strands. Harold Fry gets a letter from a work colleague who is dying of cancer and, instead of posting a reply, he decides to deliver it personally by walking from Kingsbridge in Devon to Berwick on Tweed. The reasons why he chooses to do this, the people he meets on the way, the problems he encounters, the relationships between Harold, his wife and son all go to make a really good read.





For our next book we have chosen *Snow Child* by Eowyn Ivey. With a nod to Russian folklore, Eowyn Ivey's debut novel is truly a thing of beauty. In the 1920s, middle-aged couple, Mabel and Jack, up sticks and move to Alaska, hoping to flee the heart breaking memories of their still-born child. How can this vast, bleak landscape possibly fill their empty hearts? Hope comes with the appearance of Faina, a quasi-feral child who brings equal amounts of joy and sadness into their once barren lives as she flutters in and out of their home. We are promised plenty of descriptions of the snowy Alaskan scenery but also a spellbinding, haunting story, skilfully blending fantasy and reality. Throw another log on the fire (virtual or real!) and be transported to the Alaskan wilderness through this captivating tale.

We also discussed future books and may look at another classic, *Huckleberry Finn* and maybe take another author where we each choose a different book or a historical novel.

Come and join us at Liz Larkin's house on Thursday 6 June at 8.00pm.

Christine Adams

Church Garden

At last, colour has come to the gardens, with spring bulbs & pansies having defied the severe winter weather. New blue flower pots have been purchased and any help with filling & planting them will be much appreciated. Annuals, cuttings, roses, perennials (in fact anything "Green" that grows) will be used to develop this space, so we'd also be grateful for any help with digging and weeding. Please visit the garden; you may be surprised!

Chris Pascal



Boys' Brigade

Many thanks to everyone who attended the Quiz on 5 April. It was a great success with lots of teams entering. We raised £250, which will be split between St Mary's Hospice, Acorns Hospice and The Cotteridge Church. Congratulations to The Old Codgers who won by 6 points. The team included John and Christine Adams.

You are warmly invited to come along and support the Company in the Battalion Athletics; it takes place at Birmingham University on Saturday 18 May, starting at 12.30.

Bob Hotchkiss



Jazz Concert



We are delighted to announce that Syncopated Rhythm will return to give a concert on Saturday 15 June at 7.30 p.m.. Please come and join us for another enjoyable evening. Tickets: Adults £7.50 Concessions £5

Cotteridge Church Pennine Way Trips

Tues 21 May – Upton-on-Severn - £20

Depart 12 noon Return by 6.30pm

This is our popular river trip, with a cream tea included in the price.



Wed 12 June – Bodenham Arboretum - £13

Depart 12.30 pm Return by 6.30pm

A little haven near Kidderminster – explore the pathways, see the farm and the animals, or sit by the lake with a cup of tea.

Wed 10 July – Charlecote Park & Gardens - £14

Depart 12.30 pm Return by 6.30pm

Visit the park and gardens which have belonged to the Lucy family since the 12th Century. Shakespeare is supposed to have poached deer in the park. There are still Fallow deer and Jacobs sheep. Refreshments are available, or bring a snack and sit by the river.

Rita Sutton



Summer Fair

This is planned for Saturday 22nd June and will run from 10.00 a.m.- 1.30 p.m.. The Fundraising Committee is appealing for goods to sell, stall holders and helpers. If you can help, in any way, please sign the list on the notice board in the Pennine Way, or speak to any member of the Committee.

Holiday Souvenirs

We are planning a stall at the Christmas Fair, which will sell interesting and exotic gifts from afar (and near). If you are going on holiday this summer, please remember us and bring a small item back for this stall. Thank you.



Services

JL-G = Rev Joycelyn Lewis-Gregory

NJ = Rev Nick Jones

RC = Rev Roger Collins

JE = Rev Jacky Embrey

HC = Holy Communion

May 2013	5th	12th	19th Pentecost	26th Trinity Sunday	
9.00 a.m. H.C.	JE	JL-G	JL-G	RC	
10.30 a.m.	JE	JL-G HC	Mr Steve Wright	RC HC	
6.30 p.m.	JE HC	Café Church	JRC HC	Mr A. Vail	
June 2013	2nd	9th	16th	23rd	30th
9.00 a.m. H.C.	JL-G	RC	JL-G	RC	RC
10.30 a.m.	JL-G	Rev P. Sellick HC	Miss Primrose Taylor	RC HC	Mr John Cooper
6.30 p.m.	RC HC	Café Church	JL-G HC	Mr A. Vail	RC HC
July 2013	7th	14th	21st	26th	
9.00 a.m. H.C.	JE	RC	JL-G	JL-G	
10.30 a.m.	JE	RC HC	Miss Hazel Nash	JL-G HC	
6.30 p.m.	JL-G HC	Café Church	JL-G HC	Miss Primrose Taylor	



Roundabout is the bi-monthly newsletter of The Cotteridge Church.

Large print issue in the Pennine Way

Next issue: 7 May Copy date: 1 July

Editors: Steve & Caroline Wright (marfleetwright@tiscali.co.uk or 'W' pigeonhole in Pennine Way)

The Cotteridge Church, Pershore Road South, Birmingham B30 3EJ

Tel: 0121 433 5518 Fax: 0121 459 6909

Email: cotteridgechurch@btconnect.com

Website: www.thecotteridgechurch.org.uk

Twitter: @CotteridgeChurc