

# ROUNDA BOUT



**The Cotteridge Church**  
**Witnessing at the Heart of the Community**

**September 2013**

## From the Vestry

Dear Friends,

I would like to thank you for enabling me to spend a month in Israel. It was a really good experience, which will hopefully help to equip me for the next few years of my ministry.

It has certainly helped to equip me for the current heat wave. When I went to see the site where Jesus is thought to have been baptised by John the Baptist the temperature was 42°C! I wonder what the temperature at the Jordan will reach in July and August...

The programme included trips to many biblical sites, churches and museums, as well as lectures, but what I found most useful was seeing the land in which Jesus walked. There have been many changes since his day, but the hills and valleys and the stones and wilderness remain.

One of the most interesting things was to see the way that some villages and towns grew up round springs or wells, in places where there was soft limestone. One example is Jerusalem. This started with the 'city of David' which is relatively low down due to the spring being low down. Later Hezekiah built tunnels to help ensure that the water could be collected from the spring without the danger of enemy fire from outside the walls. I walked down some of those tunnels!

The limestone could be used to build walls for houses, but it could also be fashioned into caves. They were a popular place to live, probably partly because they are cool in summer and warm in winter. The hill on which Bethlehem stands was riddled with caves used as homes in Jesus' day and, in fact, until not so very long ago.

Many of the caves had stables at the far end, so that animals could be kept safe and separate from family. Perhaps Jesus was born in such a cave. The traditional site for his birth is certainly in a cave, albeit one that has been covered by a church for many hundreds of years.

That is a little different from the rickety wooden structure that we often imagine, but it makes no difference to the crux of the story. God sent his only son to live among us, to show us how to live, and to die for us. Jesus came not to a palace, but to an ordinary home, one that was typical of many homes in villages across Palestine at the time.

In this hot weather, let's remember that God's son walked in a land much hotter than ours. He must often have been sweaty from the heat and dusty from the dry and rocky land, it's just as well that Jesus did not stand on his dignity. As Philippians puts it, 'though he was in the form of God, Jesus did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself taking the form of a slave'.

So let's not stand on our dignity, but walk alongside those who need us most today, as Jesus did before us. It does not matter if we do end up sweaty or dusty, what matters is that we are neighbours to one another, as Jesus commanded us to be. More power to you when you are collecting food for the Foodbank, or mowing your sick neighbour's grass or whatever it is that you are doing. Continue to do it, whether it is summer or winter. In the meantime, enjoy the sun!

Shalom,



Jacky

## From the Editors' Desk



Welcome to Roundabout and first off an apology to Florice Poorman, whose name was incorrectly spelled in the last issue.

It's heartening for us to have enough news for a bumper Family & Friends section. Please continue to share your news with us.

The next issue is out on Sunday 3 November so please let us have your items by October 29 at the latest. You can send your contributions by email to [marfleetwright@tiscali.co.uk](mailto: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

Congratulations to Matthew Garrett and Anne-Marie Ruske, who were married at Cotteridge on 10th August. Angela and Nigel Garrett would like to thank everyone for all the support and good wishes they gave Anne-Marie and Matthew on their special day. Many people worked very hard to make the day run smoothly. Matthew and Anne-Marie appreciated all their efforts to make their day perfect.

Congratulations also go to John Lester and Caroline Flaherty and Naomi Wright and Damien Banks on their respective Engagements.

A belated welcome to Liam Stanley, who was born on 28 June, and congratulations to parents Sian Dewey and Matt Dalton.

At the beginning of July, whilst returning from visiting a poorly friend, Rita Sutton suffered a bad fall and broke her shoulder. Despite being in a great deal of discomfort and pain she has continued to fulfil her speaking, weekday worship and trip commitments, but has not been able to join us every Sunday for worship. Our best wishes and prayers go to Rita for a swift and full recovery.

It was good to see Christopher and Margaret Bond, looking very well and happy, visiting Birmingham from their delightful Cotswold home in Chipping Norton for a Wedding Anniversary party and catching up with Cotteridge friends in church.

## Church Day Centre

Church Day Centre members are having a good summer. They have been able to go into the garden for tea and cakes, when the weather has been fine, and trips out have been enjoyed by all. A day at Evesham Country Park was a really lovely day, with a meal, ice-cream, lots of "retail therapy" and a look round the garden centre. We are hoping to have a "Sea Side "day at Cotteridge, with fish'N'chips, ice-cream, silly hats and flags. We just need the weather to stay sunny.

A special thanks goes to the people who have stepped in to cover holidays; we hope the experience has been as valuable for them as it has been for the members and permanent staff. Our good wishes go to Chloe, who starts University in September.

We have a vacancy for a part-time Care Assistant/Ambulance Escort/Driver, initially 3 days weekly. Experience in Care; NVQ2-3 essential plus a minimum of 5 years driving experience. Are

you, or do you know anyone, interested? Forms and details can be obtained from the Co-ordinator, Michelle Madden (458 3101) or the Church Office (433 5518). Closing date for applications is September 13th.

Chris Pascal

## Garden Party



Our August Garden Party had two aims: to show the neatly laid out Church Garden to the wider public and to raise money for our Day Centre. The response was brilliant, even though we had some heavy showers. The homemade cakes provided by friends of the fund raising committee were delicious with a splendid centre piece – a Sunflower-shaped chocolate cake.

A big thank you to Peter Childs and Karen for providing the music and leading the more adventurous in some

country dance routines. Thanks also must go to Chris Pascal and Barbara Blay for exercising their brilliant gardening skills.

We raised over £168 for the Day Centre and by popular request is well worth another one next spring.

Please support us then, but do not wait to sit in the garden now to appreciate the colour and peacefulness.

Linda Woodhouse & Celia Lester.



## The name is Bond - Hydrogen Bond

or

### Does God have a sense of humour?

I believe in a Creator God, who made Heaven and Earth. [I am not so sure about the 6 days!] Since this is so, He must also have designed the rules by which everything is governed. The Universe obeys by a myriad of rules, and hence can continue to exist. We can be absolutely

confident that day follows night and when you put a fire under something it gets hotter. Chicks can hatch from eggs and a dropped apple falls to the ground... But there is an awful lot about which we know little or nothing!

There is one very common little molecule, made from two of the most common elements in the Universe which pushes these rules to the limit, and seems to disregard them, and by so doing has enabled the existence of all life on earth.

That molecule is Water - H<sub>2</sub>O in science terms.

Water is truly extraordinary:

1. It is a liquid – but it shouldn't be. Its formula mass is 18, which is in the range for gases. Water doesn't become a gas until it reaches 100°C.
2. In its solid form it floats – but it shouldn't. As water freezes it ought to contract and therefore sink, but in reality, it must expand in order to float.
3. It takes more heat to get it hotter than any other substance [the watched pot!] – but it shouldn't.
4. It can dissolve a greater range of other substances than any other liquid - think of all the different tastes you can enjoy in drinks.

### WHY?

The answer is the HYDROGEN BOND - the invention of a God with imagination and a sense of humour.

Simply put, the Hydrogen Bond allows water molecules to 'join hands' firmly when they want to, and let go when they don't. Here's the science bit:

1. If lots of molecules can join together using hydrogen bonds, the combined mass of one unit is increased. Thus water is liquid.
2. In liquid water the molecules join up randomly, but in ice they make a very regular and spaced out structure, which contains fewer particles in a given volume. Thus ice floats on water.
3. These Hydrogen Bonds are quite strong, and need a considerable amount of energy to break them apart. They have to be broken to enable water to boil.
4. Water will dissolve substances as different as salt and sugar, so can contain a wide variety of different substances in solution.

We believe that life originated in the oceans. Water could dissolve all the different chemicals needed. These early processes required a reasonably constant temperature. Ocean temperatures do not vary greatly, because of the high specific heat capacity of water.

When the weather got cold, the ice did not sink to the bottom of the sea, and therefore the sea did not solidify completely, and kill all the new life forms. The ice floated, and insulated the water beneath, and the evolution processes could continue for millions of years, rather than be sent back to the beginning every year.

So, this apparently simple little molecule was endowed with magical powers by an amazing Creator. I cannot believe that life has been a chance happening!

Celia Lester

## Senior church goes North!



Recently, the senior church group from Cotteridge went on a trip to stay in Berwick-upon-Tweed for a weekend, to go on a pilgrimage to the holy island where the Lindisfarne Gospels were written. Ten of us went, with four leaders. We did some preparation work on the train, thinking about the history of the island, pilgrimage in general, and those illuminated gospels.

We stayed in the hall of Adam Hood's church, St Andrew's Church of Scotland, where we slept for two nights, as he had generously offered for us to stay there. (Adam used to worship at Cotteridge when he was a lecturer at Queen's College). The pilgrimage consisted of walking approximately 3 miles across wet sand to the Island, when the tide was out, following a line of tall poles. Some of us did this bare-footed! We had a service with around 2000 other pilgrims in the ruins of a church which once stood on the island. The

service was a special celebration with denominations pledging to work closer together in the north-east. It included the start of St John's gospel being read in Latin and Anglo Saxon.

After this we had a wander about the island to see what else there was to see: some of us stayed within the village area with shops and some of us went to the edge of the island and found some interesting scenery. We eventually all got a taxi back across the Causeway to the church, then walked on Berwick's medieval ramparts before eating fish and chips.

It was a rather spiritual weekend and we all felt as though we had enjoyed it. We learned a lot about that place, each other, and being on a journey together.

We would like to thank our congregation for contributing funds for the trip and the leaders for supporting and organising the whole thing. A special thank you must go to Adam Hood, his family and his congregation, who let us use their church to sleep in and provided most of our food. It was all a weekend well worth doing.

Alex Clayton

## Boys' Brigade



Our last session finished with the Junior and Anchor section going to the Lickey Hills and having a good time playing games and exploring the forest. The older boys went to Stirchley and spent the evening Ten pin bowling.

At the end of July, 10 boys and 4 staff spent a week under canvas at our annual summer camp at Chideock, Dorset. As usual we went with the BB & GB from Quinton Methodist Church. Sunday morning we had a parade to the local Parish Church with our small band leading the way. During the week we had visits to Weymouth, Lyme Regis, Charmouth, Poole Splash Centre

and 'Tree Tops'. Other activities included a football competition and swimming in the sea.

The tent inspection was mainly in the dry and one of our tents finished in 2nd position. Everybody seemed to enjoy themselves and are looking forward to next year when camp has been arranged for Stoke Gabriel in Devon.



The new session starts on Friday 6th September and any new boys would be most welcome especially in the 8 to 11 age group which is known as The Junior Section and starts at 6-15pm.

Bob Hotchkiss

## The B30 Foodbank - almost live!



The B30 Foodbank will to open its doors to clients on Tuesday 17 September at 2.30p.m., and then every Tuesday and Friday afternoon at the Cotteridge Church from 2.30p.m-4.30p.m. The way in which the foodbank works means that the people who come to us will be emergency referrals from charities, schools, job centres and a variety of other public bodies. At present we have no idea whether the number of people who will walk through our doors will be 2, 22 or 122!

This project has obviously caught the imagination (and stirred the conscience?) of many members of the churches of B30 and those who have no contact at all with churches. We have 70-80 people involved in the project, who have volunteered themselves for a wide range of opportunities and our final training session is on Tuesday 3rd September.

We've come a long way in the last eight months or so. The Steering Committee, formed of a range of people from the B30 Churches, meets regularly. We've had training sessions from our sponsors, the Trussell Trust. We've raised over £4500 and paid back the loan from the Cotteridge Church to build the cupboards.

We've also been involved in 2 major local supermarket collections - at Morrison's in Rubery (where we received almost one tonne of food!) and Sainsbury's in Selly Oak. Morrison's have been especially supportive and we are planning to be back there on October 5th and November 30th.



What you can do:

1. Pray for all those involved. We are opening up ourselves to our community in as momentous a way as we did when we first opened the Coffee Bar and need all the support we can get!
2. If you haven't yet got involved and would like to be, then talk to Roger Collins, ring us on 07582 143 972 or email us on [info@b30.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@b30.foodbank.org.uk). If you have just an hour a week to 'pick & pack' or the occasional Saturday to help with a supermarket collection, we would like to hear from you.
3. Keep bringing in the tins (although we do seem currently to have enough tins of tomatoes to feed the whole of Cotteridge several times over!). Just put any contributions in the 'wheelie bin' near the entrance of the Church. Once clients actually start arriving, we will need to keep those cupboards stocked.
4. Share the news and involve your friends and neighbours. Pick up a leaflet or our latest newsheet from the front of the Church or go to <http://b30.foodbank.org.uk/> for further information.

Helen Gale

## **The University of Birmingham**

### **The School of Philosophy, Theology and Religion**

#### **Faiths for the City - Health Seminar**

Thursday 19th Sept 10.00-4.00 (registration 9.45)

Orchard Learning & Resource Centre, Weoley Park Road, Selly Oak

**Welcome** - Dr Marius Felderhof, Coordinator of Faiths for the City Initiative and Hon. Snr. Research Fellow, Department of Theology and Religion, University of Birmingham.

**Making Birmingham an Inclusive City** – Suwinder Bains, Partnership Manager, Challenge Unit, Birmingham City Council.

**Opportunities for People of Faith in the governance, public involvement and advocacy in the reformed NHS** – Dr Peter Rookes, Chair Public Involvement and Partnerships Committee, Birmingham CrossCity Clinical Commissioning Group and 3rd sector Liaison Officer, Birmingham Council of Faiths.

**Faith Based Healthcare** – Dr Manvir Hayer, Medical Officer, Nishkam Centre, Handsworth.

**Our Hospital, Our Community** – Revd. Richard Wharton, Anglican Chaplain, University Hospital, Birmingham, Jessica Foster, Near Neighbours Programme.

**Parish Nursing** - Revd. Stephen Willis, NHS Mental Health chaplain and Mental Health nurse.

**Spiritual Care in General Practice** – Dr Ross Bryson, General Practitioner, Karis Medical Centre.

There will be time after each presentation for questions and discussion. Stay for the whole day, or come for either the morning or afternoon session.

Tea and coffee can be purchased at the refreshment bar, but please bring your own packed lunch.

There is no charge for the event, but please contact Peter and Jean Rookes for more details and to let us know that you are attending.

[pjrookes@gmail.com](mailto:pjrookes@gmail.com) phone 477 2282.



## Services

JL-G = Rev Joycelyn Lewis-Gregory    JE = Rev Jacky Embrey

NJ = Rev Nick Jones

RC = Rev Roger Collins

September	1st	8th	15th	22nd	29th
9.00 a.m. H.C.	RC	JE	RC	NJ	JE
10.30 a.m.	RC	JE HC	G. Hall	NJ HC	JE
6.30 p.m.	JE HC	Café Church	NJ HC	Mr A. Vail	JL-G HC
October	6th	13th	20th	27th	
9.00 a.m. H.C.	JE	JL-G	RC	NJ	
10.30 a.m.	JE	JL-G HC	RC	NJ HC	
*3.30 p.m.	Organ Recital Colin Kinton	Café Church	NJ HC	RC	
November	3rd	10th	17th	24th	
9.00 a.m. H.C.	JL-G	JE	JL-G	RC	
10.30 a.m.	JL-G	JE HC	Mrs Linda Gilson	RC	
6.30 p.m.	NJ HC	Café Church	NJ HC	Miss H Nash	

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

Large print issue in the Pennine Way

Next issue: 3 November    Copy date: 29 October

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

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