

# ROUNDA BOUT



**THE COTTERIDGE CHURCH**  
Witnessing at the Heart of the Community

**SEPTEMBER 2014**

## From the Editors' Desk



Welcome to a 'packed-full-of-interesting-stuff' issue of Roundabout, in which we are sure you will find something to your taste.

But we don't always get things right. Sometimes we miss things out. There have been times when this has been our fault (the photo of Ivy Pudsley's 100th Birthday for example) and for those we have apologised. However, we can't be held responsible for things we didn't know about. So, to the person who wrote to us expressing their disappointment that we had not included the death of Lillian Pearce, we can only say that if we had known we would have done so. If any of you knows of any event that you feel needs a

mention in Roundabout then please let us know. We would rather have ten people do that than have one person take the time to contact us to express their disappointment.

Please let us have your items for the next issue no later than 29 October. You can put them in the 'W' pigeonhole in the Pennine Way or email them to [marfleetwright@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:marfleetwright@tiscali.co.uk).

Steve & Caroline

## From the Vestry

Two stories from the news have caught my attention recently – the first is how a plethora of officials have managed to ignore the sexual grooming of children in Rotherham with horrendous results and the other is the nightmare situation the parents of 5 year old Ashya King found themselves in after they removed their son from hospital, to find themselves arrested, handcuffed and moved 300 miles away from their desperately ill son. From indifference to overzealousness the consequence has been similar – massive headlines in all the newspapers.

I like doing crosswords and recently this clue appeared 'Bear a left then a right then reverse.' If you follow the instructions in the clue then you end up with A L A O K

which if you reverse spells Koala. Looking at the blog later on in the day I noticed that to define a bear as a koala is wrong because they are not really bears. This debate then found its way into the crossword editor's update because somebody had sent him this poster:



I rather liked that because that seems a good way of auditing whether people are doing their jobs; whether it be police or social workers or even doctors if ordinary people are not going to read unwelcome headlines.

That is also true for those who attend church. I have no



problem for people describing themselves as Christian, so long as their lifestyle reflects the Christian way of life.

Desmond Tutu has written “We are not Christian only in church on Sunday. Our Christianity is not something we put on like our Sunday best only for Sunday, it is for every day. We are Christian from Monday to Monday, we have no day off, we are Christian at play, at work and at prayer, to act out love towards all whom we meet and to take responsibility for a world God made.”

So perhaps we can say that of course we are Christian - we have all the Christo- fications  
Roger

## Family & Friends

Congratulations to Mr & Mrs David Taylor. Lucy and David’s wedding took place on 2 August in perfect summer weather.

And to a couple who were married 65 years ago, our congratulations go to Mr & Mrs Hall. Something we haven’t previously done is to recognise our young people who have been taking exams and are moving on in their studies and lives. So, congratulations to Chloe Sprackling and Christine Turner on their AS level results. They are both now entering their final year at school. Chloe will continue to study French, German and Psychology for her A2s and Christine is applying to study Physics at University next year.

Congratulations also to Alex Clayton, Dan Jones and Josh Vail on their GCSE results. Alex will be going to Solihull 6th Form College to study A levels in English, History, Art and ICT, Dan to King Edwards Five Ways to study A levels in Physics, Maths, Chemistry and Economics and Josh to University College Birmingham to study Catering.

We wish them all continued success.

## Nick Jones has left the building - a Reflection by Norman Mann

After 7 years at Cotteridge, all of you will have different memories of the ways in which Nick has touched your lives. For many people, Sunday worship is an important part of their Christian experience and Nick rarely fails to deliver!

It's not always a comfortable experience, in that his message is often challenging, thought provoking and straight to the point; it carries more weight because Nick doesn't hide behind the lectern and he has this wonderful gift of being able to speak without the need for notes.



His sermons have been enriched by stories of his experiences on his ministerial journey; we have heard about his days training in Cambridge, his work with the homeless in the East end of London (what a contrast!), and more recently about his work as a Chaplain with the Sandwell Mental Health Trust.

I said that his message was often challenging, but it was always delivered with humour; mostly it was intentional, but sometimes not. Who will forget the time we went through the baptismal service in reverse, the baby was almost paraded up and down the aisle before it had been baptised! The sad thing is that hardly anyone in the congregation noticed!

One of the things which I think is quite sad, is that we rarely

get to know much about all the things our ministers do. It's a bit like the iceberg, we only see the bit above the water, not the bigger part that is submerged. One of the things that is submerged (and sometimes rightly so), is the Pastoral side of ministry. We are very fortunate at Cotteridge in that we have a robust pastoral network, but nevertheless there are often occasions when a visit from a minister is more appropriate or has been specially asked for.

I know from experience that Nick has been unstinting in responding to either a request for a visit or has made a visit on his own initiative. I also know just how much these visits are appreciated. Linda and I visit a lovely lady who can't get to Church, and while she is very appreciative of the fact that we have visited, it is a little bit dispiriting when most of the time is taken up with her recounting details of Nick's last visit. This is an important aspect of ministry and we are grateful to Nick that in a very busy schedule he still found time to make this a priority.

Now, there must be people reading this who were around in 1963. Those of you who were, do you remember the name Jeanine Deckers? To make it a bit easier, do you remember the Singing Nun? She shot to fame in 1963 with a song called Dominique. Well we have our own singing vicar. I know that's not strictly correct, but the singing Methodist minister doesn't have quite the same ring about it.

During his time with us we have been richly entertained both here at Cotteridge and elsewhere and most recently at the beginning of July. Nick has an incredible repertoire spanning the last 50/60 years and styles from ballads to swing, from Jazz to reggae; and at the concert in July, I thought I detected a hint of cowboy Boogie.

We should not underestimate the power of music to move people in ways that words alone can't, and this has added an extra dimension to Nick's ministry. We will miss it!

There is a lot of talk of "legacy" these days, whether it is the Olympic Games or middle-aged men cycling through the Yorkshire Dales clad in brightly coloured Lycra. In the same way, at times like this, I guess ministers must ponder on what their legacy might be. In Nick's case, it might be something to do with the things I've mentioned, but I have a suspicion it might be something which hasn't really hit the radar as yet.



The Church Day Centre has provided services for older people pretty much in the same format for many years. When Nick stood in as temporary Chair at a meeting with the City Council, he picked up a very clear warning that unless we were prepared to innovate and develop, both within the Church but also within the Community, then continuing financial support would not be forthcoming.

Nick took it upon himself to respond to this by setting up and leading the Older Adults Services Forum with the specific brief of responding to the Council's challenge. It is early days but already there are signs of progress. It is an exciting project and it is important that as Nick moves on, there are people within the Church who are prepared to pick up the baton. Alongside the Foodbank, this could be the most important development since the three churches came together.

Nick, we have been very fortunate to have had you as our minister and we thank you for everything you have done over the last seven years. We wish you and the family well for the future.

## **What are we doing about a new URC minister?**



The approach to the selection of a new URC minister is not the same as we have experienced recently with Anglican and Methodist appointments. 'Calling' a new URC minister is more a matter of individual church negotiation and providing details of the potential pastorate to prospective 'candidates' who might be looking for a new role or a move from their current church. This may take some time. Many of you will remember how Jacky Embrey came and preached at Cotteridge before being called to be a minister here.

Joint Church Council has asked a small group of Elders, Stewards and Wardens to look at the Pastorate Profile. This

is the document that gives an overview of The Cotteridge Church that prospective URC ministers will be able to see on the URC website before applying to Synod for a recommendation and interview. We are in the process of writing a new profile and hope to produce a document that will be a good reflection of who we are, what we do, believe and more importantly what we would wish to see in our new URC Minister.

We would welcome suggestions and comments from anyone - church members, volunteers and those who visit the Church here in Cotteridge - so that we can express your views.

Immediately after the Sunday morning service on 21st September, Rev Neil Riches the URC Interim Moderator will be visiting The Cotteridge Church to explain in more detail the process and you will have the opportunity to ask him questions, raise concerns and voice your opinions either anonymously or in person.

If you are unable to attend that service there will be a box in the Reception Area during the week 15th-21st September where you can leave your comments or please feel free to speak to me, Sandra Walton, Doreen Hancox, Primrose Garrow, or Helen Gale.

Lin Brown

## **Even my brother?**

My daughter recently emailed me a link to the RSC (Royal Society of Chemistry) website. It made me laugh, but I laughed with more than a tinge of sadness. The RSC has offered a "reward" of one million pounds for anyone who can make a useful product which does not contain chemicals. This is in response to the many advertisers who promote their product as being chemical free. Lots of advertising now stresses that a given product does not contain (suggestively) harmful chemicals, and that therefore it is better. Absolutely everything we use, touch, eat, smell ... IS chemical - by definition. If it is there, it contains something, and is therefore inescapably CHEMICAL. Every time I taught the topic of

atoms, I would say "Everything is made of atoms"

And then - a barrage of questions:

"Even this pen?"

"Even my nose?"

"Even the table?"

And my favourite "even my brother?!"

Yes - you are made of an amazing mixture of chemicals. Water you drink, air you breathe ARE chemicals and thus made from atoms. It would be impossible to make any useful product which is chemical free. Hence the RSC challenge. I am amused when nail varnish remover is advertised as being free from "harsh acetone". It contains no acetone, but instead equally harsh methyl ethyl ketone. It has to be "harsh" to dissolve the nail varnish. It got me thinking. The media manipulate the minds of those who do not understand the basic scientific principles involved. It is an extremely dangerous game they play.

I believe the same game is played in religion. If we think about Christianity, there are many different denominations, each of which believes it has the best interpretation and answer. But, compared with the essential truths in which we all believe, the differences between these interpretations are trivial. We should respect the interpretations of others, and in return expect them to respect ours, and above all celebrate the common ground which we all share. Cotteridge is a vibrant example of how beneficial this can be. By sharing our practices, we all gain a deeper understanding of our faith. The same problems are now being experienced so dramatically and tragically in the Muslim faith now, throughout its domain. Sunni and Shia now hate each other as did Catholic and Protestant so long ago. Wealth and technology now enable each to attack the other with greater power, and thus generate even greater desire for retribution. Let us pray that there will be leaders with the Mandela insight and courage, who can bring peace and forgiveness to these divided nations, so that they can work together constructively for the benefit of all, and of course for the glory of the God in whom we (both Christian and Muslim) all believe.

Celia Lester

## **Christian Aid**

Between Cotteridge Churches, Kings Norton Churches and Bournville Churches over £10,000 was collected/raised for Christian Aid! - so it is worth the effort – thanks to all involved. Please speak to Lin or Laurie Brown if you'd like to be involved next year.



## **3 Cs**

There obviously is a God and our prayers are answered. Having made appeal after appeal for someone to fill our Saturday vacancies on the first and second Saturday in the month, like buses two come along at once. We are extremely grateful to the Turner Family: Pam, Jonathan, Christine and Natalie who have stepped up and volunteered to do both Saturdays between them. The four of them will just decide who is best placed to do which Saturday so it works out conveniently for them too. They will begin in October and undergo our intensive training programme. Another example of busy people taking on something else! Many thanks to them all.

John Adams

## Junior Church BBQ

As some of you may know, the young people recently held a BBQ to celebrate the past year and share some time before we all broke up for our summer holidays.

On Sunday 13 July, the young people met to say goodbye and wish each other farewell until they next meet in September. They also wished Nick Jones all the best in the future as he moved on to his new position.

After already having valuable and cultured talks from Ruth and Evelyn, we went on to the BBQ after the service had finished, therefore providing everyone time to meet and socialise, chat about holidays and current events.

As some of you may know, this was also Nick's last service and the BBQ gave the young people the opportunity to wish him well and also show him our appreciation.

On behalf of the young people I would like to thank the Clayton family, especially Sue, for organising this meet. Also, I would like to thank all the people who work with the young people this year for an amazing year and we all cannot wait until we all meet again in September.

Tom Bunn

## Pennine Way Summer Activities



It was back to childhood when we visited the Severn Valley Railway in July. We were all reminded of going on holiday – the smell of the smoke and steam, the soot in the eye and the whistle. On our way from Kidderminster to Highley we saw elephants, rhino and deer at the West Midlands Safari Park. It was really interesting at the Engine House at Highley and there was time for refreshments and the gift shop. Back in Kidderminster, one of the group even managed to get on the footplate!

In August, we visited the Guide Dog Training Centre in Leamington Spa. We were welcomed by staff and dogs and after a talk by one of the volunteers we saw some of the work that goes into training. It costs £50,000 to train a Guide Dog. Two members of our group volunteered to be blindfolded and were led through a series of obstacles by a dog in training.

After an afternoon of patting and stroking we were ready for our tea in Kineton. Once again, we were welcomed by members of the Methodist Church. Ros Murphy was there,

too, and sent very best wishes to everyone at Cotteridge.

Note:- The Guide Dog Centre needs old blankets and duvets. If you can help, please see Rita Sutton - but please don't bring anything just yet.

Rita Sutton

## Church Garden



The Church gardeners – 20 of us – have a new helper in Jonathan Ward (son of Katherine and Ray). After a year's study at Pershore College, Jonathan is proving to be an asset. I am hoping to plant hyacinth bulbs, for display during the winter in the Malvern Room. If you are visiting garden centres or supermarkets, please add a few bulbs to your shopping. Bulb bowls are always welcome.

Chris Pascal

## Older Adults Care Services

Our Older Adults Care Service has been very busy working with the local community to provide a better experience for our members, integrating our Day Centre with outside services which are beneficial to many. We have an ongoing chiropody service which has proved extremely popular, being fully booked for dates in September; however the next available date and appointment times will be on the notice board for anyone to book. This promotes health and wellbeing, similar to the lovely massage service held in our Clent room, again next available dates and times will be on the notice board.



We arrange activities for our members that provide entertainment, but also promote independence and a healthy lifestyle. A regular class held here is Chair Yoga, allowing gentle exercise of the limbs and relaxation techniques, giving tips to follow even at home. We are holding a class on alternate Saturday mornings, 'Silver Surfers', to allow over 55's from the local community to learn basic computer skills. This could be from a word document, to emailing and internet use. Watch out on the notice board for more information!

Our recent trip to the Safari Park proved a great success, everybody fully enjoyed looking at the animals and learning new things. We enjoyed a picnic lunch and are already planning a second trip to allow all of our members the chance to go.



## Recycling at Cotteridge.

The recycling trunk sits at the back of the Malvern Room in the corridor to the balcony. Currently we recycle Batteries, Glasses, mobile phones and print cartridges. The first two, raise no money so if you can recycle these yourselves then please do so. Batteries are taken to the local dump for professional recycling. Small collecting boxes are available for batteries. Last year we took approximately 500 pairs of glasses to be recycled to developing world projects.

Mobile phones and Print Cartridges can be recycled for cash. In the last 12 months these have raised £80 for the church so please bring them in and even collect them from friends and family or work to raise money for the church. Epson and non-

branded cartridges cannot be recycled at present. Large toner cartridges also have no value and can normally be returned in the packaging free of charge.

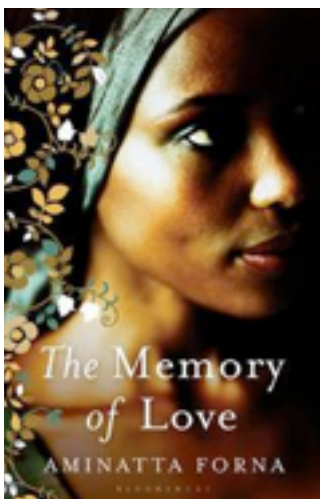
Small electrical items, light bulbs and telephones cannot be taken so please dispose in home waste or recycling facilities. Some Supermarkets can recycle items such as energy saving bulbs water filter cartridges and plastic bags. If you have any questions regarding recycling please speak to me or leave a note in the trunk!

Every little helps, reducing our Community's Carbon footprint and increasing sustainability.



Trevor Jones

## Book Club



The next meeting will be at Brian and Rachel Hayhow's, in Selly Oak Road, on 9 September at 8pm. We will be discussing *The Memory of Love* by Aminatta Forna. Set in Sierra Leone it tells the story of a young surgeon and a British psychiatrist and their relationship in extraordinary circumstances. If you would like to join us please speak to Liz Larkin or me.

Christine Adams

## Boys' Brigade

Our annual camp took place in August at Stoke Gabriel in Devon. 12 lads and 5 staff from Cotteridge joined together with our friends from Quinton Methodist Church. It did rain during the first night but the rest of the week was sunshine and showers. After marching to Church on Sunday the rest of the week was spent with trips to Torquay, canoeing, Woodlands Adventure Park and a visit to the Leisure Centre. Our three tents did well in the tent competition and were unlucky not to win. Although we did win the boys' football competition.



It did take eight hours to get back to Cotteridge, but everybody had a great time and looking forward to next year when camp will be held at Dyffryn Ardudwy. The new session starts on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> September when any new members would be most welcome.



Bob Hotchkiss

## Photo Gallery - two 'Farewells', a Centenary and a Wedding!





# "It's beginning to feel a lot like Christmas!"

So that means Traidcraft's Autumn catalogue is now available at the Book Centre.



Please collect your copy and start planning for Christmas.

There's the usual range of products, some of which are pictured below.

Food orders placed on Sunday will be available the following Sunday.






Please support our

# Harvest Appeal

Your donations help to provide three days of emergency food and support to local people in crisis.

We are in need of:

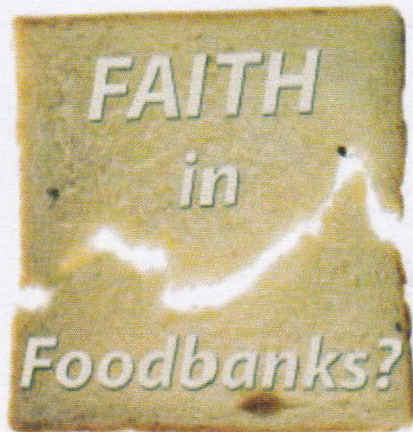
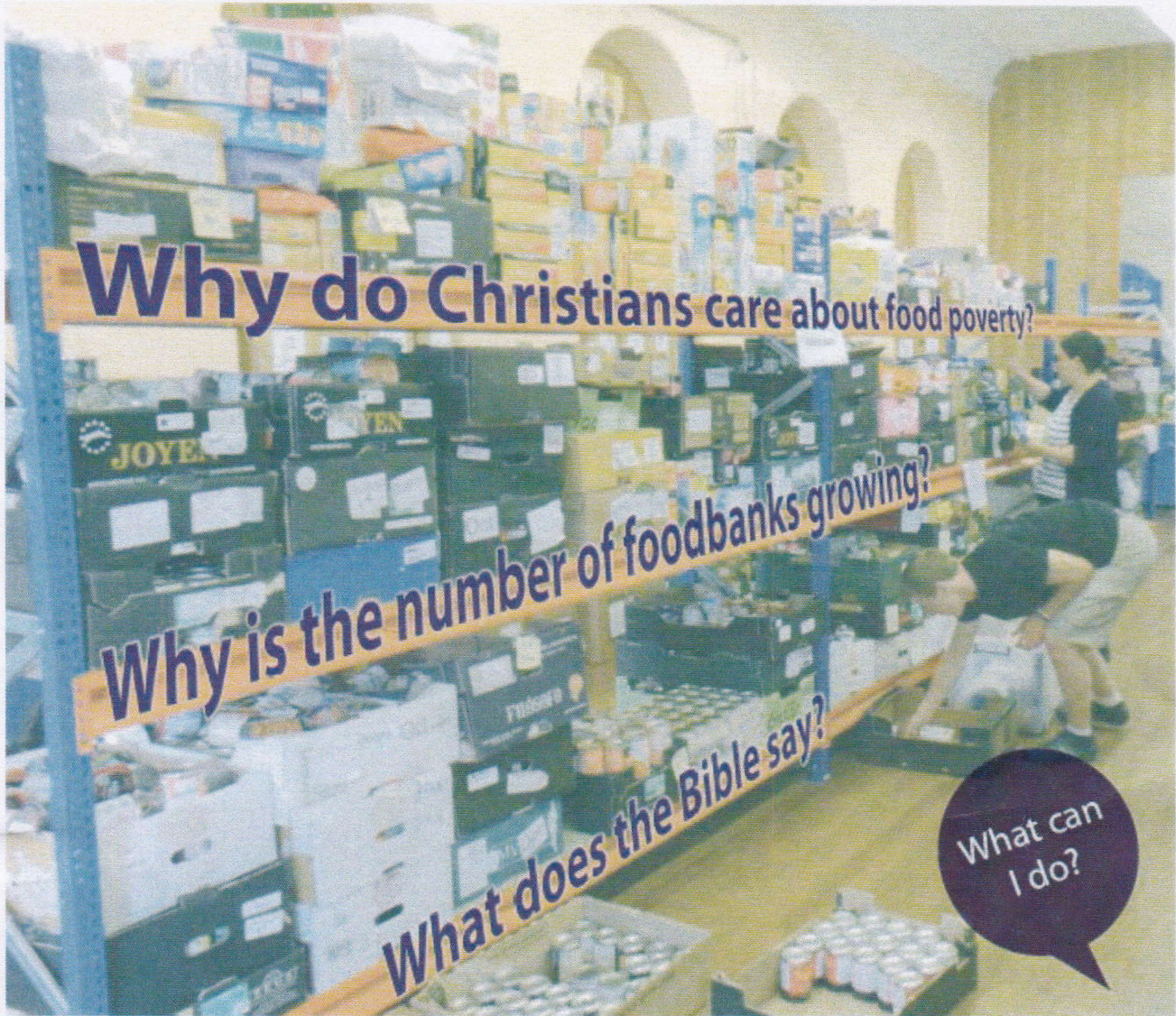
- 
- Sugar (500g)
  - Fruit juice (long life carton)
  - Cereals
  - Pasta sauces
  - Tinned sponge pudding
  - Tinned Spaghetti
  - Tinned vegetables
  - Tinned rice pudding
  - Instant coffee
  - Hot chocolate
  - Instant mash potato
  - Rice
  - Tinned meat
  - Tinned fish
  - Tinned fruit
  - Jam
  - Biscuits or snack bars



[www.b30.foodbank.org.uk](http://www.b30.foodbank.org.uk)

Reg. Charity No: 11649091 Reg. in England & Wales





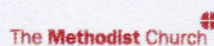
Join us for a 6 part **bible study** exploring what the presence of food banks says about faith and society today.

- |             |                                      |
|-------------|--------------------------------------|
| 9 Sept      | Cotteridge Church                    |
| 23 Sept     | Bournville Pavillion                 |
| 14 October  | Saint Nicholas' Place, Kings Norton  |
| 28 October  | Saint Nicholas' Place, Kings Norton  |
| 11 November | St Joseph and St Helen, Kings Norton |
| 25 November | Cotteridge Church                    |

Every session is free and starts at 7.30pm  
Come to one, come to all!



Material produced by:



2014  
CELEBRATING  
20  
YEARS



heritage open days

# Church Open Day

**Sat. 13th September 2014:**

**11.00am - 3.00pm**

**Bournville United Reformed Church,  
Beaumont Road, Bournville B30 2EB**

**A chance to look around Bournville United Reformed Church.  
The Church was founded as Bournville Church of Christ in  
Ruskin Hall 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.**

**Coming by public transport? Rail: Bournville station, Bus: 11 or 84.**

**Further information from Andy Vail on 07983864271 or [avbournville@aol.com](mailto:avbournville@aol.com)**



The  
Heritage  
Alliance



ENGLISH HERITAGE

# COTTERIDGE HAS TALENT!

**Saturday 11th October**

at

**The Cotteridge Church**

**Exhibition of craft work**

**10.30 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.**

**Admission Free**



**Concert  
with Bring and Share Supper  
6.30 p.m.**

**Admission Tickets £4.00**

**Concessions £3.00**





## Services in September & October

### 7th September 2014

9.00 a.m.	Revd Roger Collins	Holy Communion
10.30 a.m.	Mr Steve Wright	Morning Worship
18.30 p.m.	Revd Mary Shannahan	Holy Communion

### 14th September 2014

9.00 a.m.	Revd Mary Shannahan	Holy Communion
10.30 a.m.	Revd Mary Shannahan	Holy Communion
18.30 p.m.	Café Church	

### 21st September 2014

9.00 a.m.	Revd Roger Collins	Holy Communion
10.30 a.m.	Revd Chris Dowd	Morning Worship
18.30 p.m.	Revd Roger Collins	Holy Communion

### 28th September 2014

9.00 a.m.	Revd Joycelyn Lewis- Gregory	Holy Communion
10.30 a.m.	Revd Joycelyn Lewis- Gregory	Holy Communion
18.30 p.m.	Mr Andy Vail	Evening Worship

### 5th October 2014

9.00 a.m.	Revd Mary Shannahan	Holy Communion
10.30 a.m.	Revd Mary Shannahan	Parade & Baptism
18.30 p.m.	Revd Joycelyn Lewis- Gregory	Holy Communion

### 12th October 2014

9.00 a.m.	Revd Joycelyn Lewis- Gregory	Holy Communion
10.30 a.m.	Revd Joycelyn Lewis- Gregory	Holy Communion
18.30 p.m.	Café Church	

### 19th October 2014

9.00 a.m.	Revd Roger Collins	Holy Communion
10.30 a.m.	Mr Andy Vail	Morning Worship
18.30 p.m.	Revd Roger Collins	Holy Communion

### 26th October 2014

9.00 a.m.	Revd Roger Collins	Holy Communion
10.30 a.m.	Revd Roger Collins	Holy Communion
18.30 p.m.	Revd Chris Dowd	Evening Worship



Roundabout is the bi-monthly newsletter of The Cotteridge Church.  
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Next issue: 2 November Copy date: No later than 29 October

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