

ROUNDA BOUT



THE COTTERIDGE CHURCH
Witnessing at the Heart of the Community

July 2015

From the Vestry



There are times when I forget how revolutionary the scriptures really are. Sometimes we are so familiar with the narrative of the story that we can miss the revolutionary aspect. The story of Jairus' daughter and the woman with a haemorrhage are two such examples.

In the hierarchy of first century Jewish life, a child was much less important than an adult, and a girl child even less so. The story has Jesus going out of his way to heal this girl, which tells us again that he was constantly working against the social system which classified some people as more important than others.

That idea is underlined in the story within the story. The woman broke all the rules by being out in public when she was haemorrhaging. She was considered ritually unclean and therefore should have kept to herself to avoid contaminating others. But she forces her way through the crowd, making every one she brushes against unclean. And she touches Jesus.

Against the culture of the day Jesus dared to speak to women and children. Each was valued, accepted and unconditionally loved. As I am writing I have just taken a phone call from one of the voucher holders who has rung to thank the Foodbank team for the way they handle clients, making them feel they have worth. We today are very good at marginalising those who we see as a threat whether by race, colour, sexual orientation, class, disability, creed, being unemployed or on welfare benefits. Should I include here the people receiving state pensions?

This retelling of God's story, then, forces us to take a look at ourselves, whether we occupy the margins or enjoy the comfort of financial stability. It has something to say to both. While God's story reflects a preferential option for the poor and marginalised in our society, this story has room enough for all who would be willing to join Jesus in announcing the good news and to consider how our society is structured.

Roger

[Roger's theme is picked up in several items - Eds]

Family & Friends

Congratulations to Peter and Beryl Hudson who celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary on 4 June. Birthday wishes to Bob Smith who turns 90 on 31 July.

3Cs - Welcome to Laurie Brown

Just before Christmas last year Laurie approached me and said that when he retired he would like to do some work in the 3Cs café. It then went very quiet and he got involved in putting up the greenhouse with John Cliff and all sorts of other jobs around the Church. When Liz Power was going away I decided to ask Laurie to fill in on Friday lunchtime and to ask June Milner to instruct him in his café duties. Laurie agreed and all went well. Since then he has filled in for different people who have been away and it was on one of these days that he had his most difficult customer – his wife Lyn! When June Milner goes away for her long August holiday you will see Laurie regularly on Thursday lunchtime serving with Audrey and Jean. So go in and say 'Hello'. We are always happy to welcome new volunteers, male or female.



Linda Mann

Church Garden

Have you been into the Church garden lately? As well as the large greenhouse, we now have some new, very comfy, garden furniture.

Do take a cuppa, or snack outside while the weather is SO summery, and use the quiet space.

Our Day Centre members are enjoying getting outside, planting and tending sunflowers, annuals & herbs.

If ever you would like to use the greenhouse, there is plenty of room (till next spring) for your seeds to germinate and there is always plenty to do if you would like to help!!

Gardening day is Fridays, but Babs & I are usually there other days of the week.

Thanks go to our fundraiser who has made these purchases possible.

Chris Pascal

Memories are made of this

I have recently been gathering stories from people, old and young, who live in high-rise accommodation, for a project run by Wolverhampton Art Gallery and I wondered if people in the Cotteridge Church would like to write about their own lives - childhood, housing, family, neighbourhood, career, etc. I would then type up these for inclusion in future issues of Roundabout.

To help you, I thought I'd tell you something about my life. I did a BA history and then MA local history course at the University of Birmingham when I retired just a few years ago. I did two dissertations on Kathleen Dayus. She wrote books about her life as a working class woman living in Birmingham's Jewellery Quarter which were brought to publication with the help of Carl Chinn. She was born in 1903.

As a 4/5 year old I attended no less than 3 infant schools: Stirchley, Kings Norton and then Turves Green. My parents had married just before the beginning of the Second World War when they were 21 (father) and 20 (mother). They had met when my maternal grandparents had let a room to my father in their family home at 18 Oakley Road, Stirchley (a large council house). My father was called up to drive trains in the Middle East in 1939 and my mother remained living with her parents in Stirchley. Even soldiers at that time had leave and I was born in November 1942. At the end of the war in 1945 my father came home to his family, that is, my mother and me, and I met my father for the first time. We moved from Stirchley to a 'prefab' at 24 Murrayfield Avenue, West Heath in 1947 (around this time my mother gave birth to my sister). My mother was delighted with her lovely new bungalow in the country (as West Heath was then), completely self-contained with a large garden. The family became complete (for some years) with the addition of a friendly black and white half spaniel dog (she had several litters of puppies that went to many local families at that time). I left Turves Green Junior School at the age of 11 and went to Kings Norton Grammar, cycling there and

back every day via the same route (regardless of the weather). It is doubtful if I encountered much traffic on my journey then.

There are projects happening all over the country so that history can be recorded from memories. If you're interested let me know.

Mary Collins - Church Choir

New proverbs for modern times

The Seniors in Junior Church recently held a session looking at proverbs relating to relationships. These covered about 50 taken from the Bible, spread between how we should deal with others, friends, God, authority, parents and family, and ourselves.

They were very adept at pulling out key themes (of kindness, humility, love, joy, self-control, faithfulness, peace, patience, and goodness), and in sorting the biblical proverbs into categories to do with each kind of relationship.

We then invited them to create new proverbs which felt more connected to their modern lives, and in accessible language. Here's what they came up with:

- "Always put the needs of people that need your help first, instead of your needs."
- "Be faithful and trustworthy to the people you love."
- "Your five closest friends impact on you. Don't be friends with a fool."
- "Think twice, because what you do next could hurt someone."
- "Know when you have crossed the line and make right what you have done wrong."
- "To listen is a gift."
- "Even if you don't hurt someone on the outside, you could hurt them on the inside."
- "A word doesn't just last as long as it takes to say it. It can stay in someone's mind and be with them forever."
- "Only say online what you would say in public, because you are showing it to millions."

Church Day Centre

Linda Clarke, our driver/care assistant, is retiring on 10 July after many years valuable service. Members, staff & volunteers spent today (July 3rd) celebrating with her, with a lovely buffet, music, dancing and cards & presents. We would like to thank Linda for all her work with our Older Adults, and wish her and her husband (who is also retiring) a very happy next stage in their

lives.

Photos & more about the activities will be in the next edition of Roundabout .

Chris Pascal

Book Group

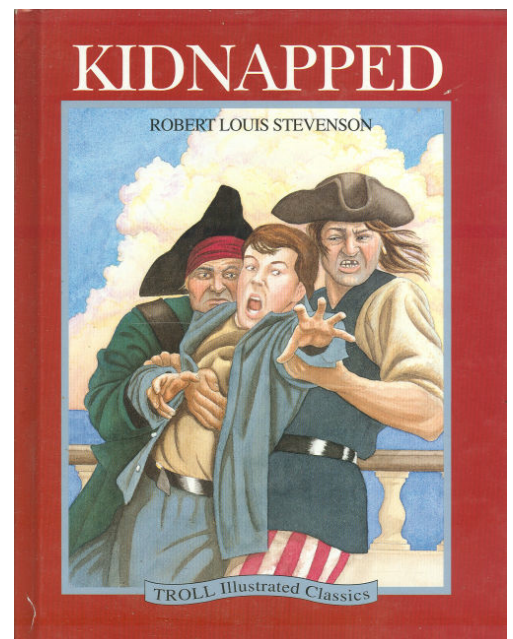


Our last book *The Miniaturist* by Jessie Burton was thoroughly enjoyed by us all. Set in Amsterdam in 1686 it charts Nella's new marriage to Johannes Brandt, a charismatic and very successful merchant, alongside her relationships with his frosty sister and a much more friendly maid. As her husband refuses to consummate the marriage he gives her a miniature of their home and she employs a miniaturist to provide the people and articles within. This book is a real page-turner, atmospheric, accurate about the life in Amsterdam at the time and full of surprises. It is a time of contradictions with Calvinist priests, Puritanism, greed, the arrival of sugar and who to sell it to alongside the mysterious miniaturist who send items that mimic and

foretell events in the house. OK, it stretches the limits of credibility at times but it doesn't stop you trying to find out what happens next. Give it a go. Great summer reading.

Back to the classics for Robert Louis Stevenson and *Kidnapped*. This is the saga of David Balfour, a young heir whose greedy uncle connives to do him out of his inherited fortune and plots to have him seized and sold into slavery. But honour, loyalty, and courage are rewarded; the orphan and castaway survives kidnapping and shipwreck, is rescued by a daredevil of a rogue, and makes a thrilling escape to freedom across the wild highlands of Scotland. Set in the aftermath of the Jacobite rising in 1745 it gives a sympathetic approach to the Highlander's plight.

Please join us on Tuesday 4th August at 8pm to discuss this book. For details of venue contact Christine Adams 458-5607



Christine Adams

Cotteridge Country Walkers: Solstice Walk June 2015

Our June outing happened to fall on Saturday 20th, almost the highest point of the summer. We've not had a record breaking summer so far but cool temperatures are often better for walking outdoors and this was no exception. At the start the weather threatened showery rain but apart from a few spots we got round in the dry.

Jane & Peter Done led us on a lovely circular trail starting from Hidcote Manor near Chipping Campden. We set off alongside a country lane then through a deciduous wood before coming out into sheep pasture. The scarp slope continued down, to pass alongside Kiftsgate Court gardens. I've called in at Hidcote many times as I'm a member of the National Trust, but so far not paid to walk around Kiftsgate. Jane led us on marked trails and beaten earth paths heading for the church tower of St Lawrence at Mickleton. I had walked much the same route earlier in the year when winter rain had made everything very muddy, but on this occasion everything had dried out. We hardly needed our boots.



We took a break at the church. As always you start looking at the gravestones recording burials from past centuries. Several markers had stone lambs set on the headstone showing them to be the graves of children. We had time to look around the church where a carving over the nave is thought to depict King Henry II and his wife Eleanor of Aquitaine. These country churches are often all alike and different at the same time. This one was very well kept up, worth a visit anytime.

We turned a corner through more pastureland to join the Heart of England

Way and then back up the scarp to reach the top again.

Fields of oilseed rape waved yellow all around us and we had a clear view to the Malvern Hills in the west, as well as some ominous black clouds heading our way. We skirted the oil seed to come out onto a corner of a road leading to Ebrington. By now the black clouds had caught us up and a few spots started to fall, so Jane decided to bring our lunch stop forward. As it happened the rain soon eased off.

Ebrington was a small settlement of a dozen or so houses and farms built from Cotswold stone, and one yard was full of noisy geese and ducks plus cockerels and chickens. No shortage of eggs here.

A little bit more climbing and we had reached the very top of our walk again with fine views. Hidcote was visible down to our left as we walked a quiet lane, then making the final turn down a track paved with more yellow Cotswold stone to return back to Hidcote. Five miles or so of a pleasant Cotswold walk well led by Jane and Peter.

Peter Childs

Living the Gospel

On 14th June, Mary led us in a service which focused on the parable of the Good Samaritan, and thus “Who is my neighbour?”

At the entrance to my local Waitrose supermarket in Harborne, there is often a man selling “The Big Issue”. When I arrived there on Monday, he was being greeted with friendly concern by a group of shoppers, who had not seen him there for a while. As I left the store, another man came out with a mug of coffee and some biscuits for him. It was good to see.

Celia Lester

B30 Foodbank - who are our clients?



It was just 4.30pm and we were packing up for the afternoon when ‘Laura’ (not her real name) arrived at the B30 Foodbank, pushing a buggy and with two boys, aged 9 and 4. With a smile on her face, and dripping with sweat, she told me that they “had run from Northfield to get here on time”, after being issued with a voucher by the Northfield Neighbourhood Office. “We did it in 17 minutes”. We gave her a cup of tea, with orange squash for the boys. Lindt had donated chocolates that week, which the boys devoured with pleasure. After the form had been completed, we waited for the food parcels to

be brought from downstairs – tailor-made for Laura and her four children (an 18 year old girl, a 16 year old boy, and the two younger ones who came with her). When the plastic bags of food came, there were so many that even the buggy did not accommodate them all. So she and the boys all carried heavy bags as they left – to walk all the way back to Northfield. She was our last “customer” for the day so I said goodbye and walked home.

Cycling back from delivering a birthday card I saw the family. Their load meant they wouldn't get back home in 17 minutes! I cycled home and then drove to catch them up. Laura was nonplussed at my offer of a lift and accepted without hesitation. On the way she kept thanking me over and over again for what was, after all, a very small act of kindness. But, as she said, “People like me don't often get help from strangers”.

As we travelled, and while we got stuck in the late afternoon traffic jam, she started telling me about why she had gone to the Foodbank. She was separated from the children's father, who now lived with his parents. He had the children most weekends, taking them for Sunday lunch with his parents. Her daughter was enrolled on a tourism and hospitality course at a local further education college. After being kicked out of school in Year 8 for disruptive behaviour, her eldest son had now settled down and had been a horticultural trainee for the past two years in a prestigious botanical gardens in the city. The middle boy was doing well at school and the youngest was about to enter the infants.

So why had she come to the Foodbank? After the separation her partner had been docked £50 a week from his wage through the Child Support Agency (CSA), but to my amazement, because she was on benefits, she received none of that money – it just goes straight into the Treasury. I did not know this. But three weeks ago her own benefit had been stopped because a form that she had posted to Social Services had not arrived ‘on time’. The social worker she dealt with acknowledged that she had sent the form but because it arrived late, she was penalised. So because of that, her family income was reduced overnight to an ‘emergency grant’ of only £36 per fortnight. As she said, in a matter of fact way, there was no way that she could feed her family on that amount of money. With evident emotion, she said that she was so, so grateful to the Foodbank. Without feeling sorry for herself she told me about what it was like to live on benefits – and how “simple food like baked beans was after all good for the children”. We arrived at the small terraced house and the boys helped her to unload the bags from the car. I said goodbye and received more profuse thanks.

A Volunteer

There's more to the Church than you know

You've passed this space many times. Those of you who sit in the gallery on a Sunday pass through it, as do those who leave the Malvern Room after service through the doors at the back. At other times you may have also passed through, or been in it – to put something in the recycling chest which is located there or to look at the Pennine Way bookstall which extends into it. Is that you? Or are you one of dozens of readers who have never been in or through this space?

At one time it was a bit of a 'glory hole' but not any more. It's recently had a makeover, thanks to the paintbrush-wielding skills of Sue Hazzard and Peter Childs and for a long time it's been the 'home' of a changing range of displays skilfully created by Linda Woodhouse. Make time to have a look at this much ignored space.



Traidcraft - A Letter from Chief Executive Andy Biggs



Dear Friends

Traidcraft has placed editorial in the July editions of the church press with a simple message – we're telling the Church and the wider community that we urgently need help. We need your help because

the world's poorest small-scale farmers, struggling to feed and support their families, need our help.

Sound like a familiar plea? It should. It's the same message as when we first started our mission over 35 years ago – to practically apply the love and justice which lies at the heart of Christian faith to international trade, and so give the world's poorest farmers the opportunity to trade fairly and thrive.

Given we're about to publish our accounts which show a trading loss for the fourth consecutive year, we are taking the unprecedented step of trying to communicate directly with Church leaders and members, to try and reinforce the work that we and our supporters have been battling to do.

There are two general misconceptions. The first is that the Fairtrade battle is won. Chocolate, tea, coffee and many more products with the now familiar Fairtrade Mark are stacked high on our supermarket shelves. Something Traidcraft and our supporters can be proud to have helped bring about. However, it is a myth that the job is done. Unfortunately, injustice in trade and its resultant poverty is as much of a scandal now as it was 35 years ago, and right now we're still doing everything we can to tackle it directly.

The second misconception is that Traidcraft and Fairtrade are the same. They are not. Traidcraft is an independent trading company, with a linked development charity. We do not benefit from the sales of Fairtrade products in the supermarkets. Traidcraft trades with and supports the most vulnerable farmers and artisans (who could not cope with the demands or scale required by big business or the supermarkets.) We pioneer to bring new commodities into the fair trade arena. Our linked development charity runs projects developing peoples' potential to trade their own way out of poverty in their own countries; and we lobby big business and government for fundamental changes to the way trade works so that it benefits the poor. We believe this is the 'best of fair trade'.

But we urgently need help to keep doing it because, despite the growth of total Fairtrade sales, we've seen Traidcraft sales significantly decline. Why? People are buying Fairtrade products from the supermarket and not from Traidcraft or its supporters. This means our original pioneering mission is now under serious threat.

We hope our approach galvanises support. That's really all we're asking: for support. Together, we will continue to make trade fairer for the world's poorest producers who still desperately need our help.

Thank you for your ongoing love and support and please keep us, and those we strive to help, in your prayers.

Boys' Brigade



At the Battalion Athletics held at Tudor Grange in May the company won both Intermediate and Senior shields. All the boys performed well and at the end of the event we were awarded the Battalion cup for the first time in our long history.

Alex Clayton, Joshua Vail and Adrian McGovern have been awarded the Queen's Badge this year. To win the award takes a lot of time and effort, which finishes with a residential weekend at Felden Lodge. They were presented with their badges in church by John Cliff, but the official presentation was on 28 June at Shirley Baptist Church. The company Peckwood weekend took place from 26-28 June. More than 25 boys had a great time despite the lack of sleep.

Saturday 11 July is the Company outing to Weston-Super-Mare when we are hoping for a sunny day.

The summer session finishes on Friday 17 July, although our annual camp this year is arranged for 15-22 August at Dyffryn Ardudwy. 9 boys and 5 staff will be attending on this our first visit to Dyffryn in a number of years.

Bob Hotchkiss



Services

Date	Time	Minister	Service
5th July	9.00 am	Revd Roger Collins	Holy Communion
	10.30 am	Revd Roger Collins	Parade & Baptism
	6.30 pm	Revd Mary Shannahan	Holy Communion[Meth]
12th July	9.00 am	Revd Mary Shannahan	Holy Communion
	10.30 am	Revd Mary Shannahan	Holy Communion[Ang]
	6.30 pm	Café Church	
19th July	9.00 am	Revd J Lewis-Gregory	Holy Communion
	10.30 am	Mr Steve Wright	Morning Worship
	6.30 pm	Revd Mary Shannahan	Holy Communion[URC]
26th July	9.00 am	Revd J Lewis-Gregory	Holy Communion
	10.30 am	Revd J Lewis-Gregory	Holy Communion[URC]
	6.30 pm	Revd Roger Collins	Evening Prayer
2nd August	9.00 am	Revd Mary Shannahan	Holy Communion
	10.30 am	Revd Mary Shannahan	Parade & Baptism
	6.30 pm	Revd Roger Collins	Holy Communion[Ang]
9th August	9.00 am	Revd Roger Collins	Holy Communion
	10.30 am	Revd Roger Collins	Holy Communion[Meth]
	6.30 pm	Revd J Lewis-Gregory	Holy Communion
16th August	9.00 am	Revd Roger Collins	Holy Communion
	10.30 am	Mrs Primrose Garrow	Morning Worship
	6.30 pm	Revd J Lewis-Gregory	Holy Communion[Meth]
23rd August	9.00 am	Revd J Lewis-Gregory	Holy Communion
	10.30 am	Revd J Lewis-Gregory	Holy Communion[Ang]
	6.30 pm	Miss Hazel Nash	Evening Prayer
30th August	9.00 am	Revd J Lewis-Gregory	Holy Communion
	10.30 am	Mr Jez Hackett	Morning Worship
	6.30 pm	Revd Mary Shannahan	Holy Communion[URC]



Roundabout is the bi-monthly newsletter of The Cotteridge Church.
Large print issue in the Pennine Way

Next issue: 5 September Copy date: No later than 2 September

Editors: Steve & Caroline Wright (marfleetwright@tiscali.co.uk or Roundabout 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