

ROUNDA BOUT



THE COTTERIDGE CHURCH

Witnessing at the Heart of the Community

JULY 2016

From the Editors' Desk



Welcome to **Roundabout**. It's a shorter issue but no less informative. Mary writes for the last time and you are invited by JCC to give your thoughts, opinions and ideas on the plans for the building's redevelopment. We'd like all contributions for the next issue by **26 August**. If your item *must* go in the September issue please make sure it arrives by 26th. We cannot guarantee the inclusion of any item which arrives after that date. Please place your item in the 'Roundabout' pigeonhole or email to marfleetwright@tiscali.co.uk. The September issue will be out on Saturday 3rd.

Steve and Caroline

From The Vestry

"And it's from the old we travel to the new, keep me travelling along with you."

Slight change from the words of the hymn *One more step along the world I go*.

Well the Shannahan family is moving on, fortunately not across the world but just a few miles down the road to the Coventry and Nuneaton Methodist Circuit.

My time at The Cotteridge Church has been short, just twenty-two months but what a twenty-two months!

I would like to thank you all for the way you have welcomed me into the life of the church. I have been embraced by such warmth and love that it is with a very heavy heart that I must now move on.

As you know I did want to stay and asked to do so, but the decision was made that as I leave Longbridge and Hay Green I must also say goodbye to you.

The reaction I received when I shared the news with you was heart wrenching and it wasn't until sometime later that I discovered that many of you had written letters to the



Chair of the Birmingham Circuit protesting and asking for the decision to be overturned.

I cried the night I heard that and want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for taking the time to write. It means so much and I am truly sorry that the response was in the negative.

I have said it time and time again. I love The Cotteridge Church, the people - no, not the people, but dear friends; the atmosphere, the hustle and bustle, the laughs, the quirks...

Yes, times have been tough, and there have been many challenges, but why do so many people come into the Pennine Way for a cuppa?

Why do so many people come to worship, turn to the church for their child to be baptized, come to sit quietly for a prayer in the chapel? Why? Is it because the church is open when so many are shut during the week? Well maybe, but it's more than that, it is because The Cotteridge Church is a church of welcome, where friends can meet, where the Gospel of Jesus is lived out in action, where in the busyness of the outside world people can find peace and rest, where there is someone to chat with, where all people can find a place and we can raise the roof by singing hymns.

There are many plans for the future of this church, many visions, many ideas, and this makes Cotteridge unique for there are some churches where there are no plans, no visions, no ideas; our difficulty is finding a way to communicate and share openly with one another. Without communication, divisions grow and fractured relationships appear. If we can share openly, encourage each other and question freely, divisions will break down and unity grows.

As I leave, the ministerial vacancy group will continue to search for a single minister to represent the three denominations that make up the Cotteridge Church. I hope and pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to blow through our church and that it will not be long before a minister feels called to work alongside you.

The interregnum team (Rev Roger, Laurie as Joint Church Council chair, Jane Jones as deputy chair and interregnum team, Rachel Hayhow and Trevor Jones) will need your support and guidance during the next few months as they represent you on JCC and seek your views on the future plans for the church. They are there for you so please speak to them and help them during this time.

My prayer is that you will not lose sight of the wonderful witness of this church, that through times of joy and sadness you will remain firm and strong.

Thank you for the music, the drama, accepting my very strange ideas with quizzical looks but going along with them anyway; thank you for the time of prayer, for allowing me to journey with you on the road to confirmation; thank you for not laughing as I fell down the stairs on my first day, for my German lessons, for listening to my take on the last West Ham game; thank you for making Chris, Bethany and Jonathan feel at home; thank you for the privileged conversations, for my cups of water, for telling me when I have made mistakes - I realise this is sounding more and more like Frank Sinatra's 'My way', so I'll stop now and just say.

“The Lord bless you and keep you; The Lord make His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you; The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, And give you peace.”

In the name of Christ.

Mary

Family & Friends

We have welcomed in Baptism **Riley, Ma'kye, Deshaun** and **Amari**.

Congratulations to **Josh Vail** who was baptised on 5 June.

It's a double welcome, first to **Jack** born on **19 June**. Congratulations to parents **Emma** and **Colin** and Grandparents **Margaret & Steve Edwards**. Arriving the day after, **Frankie Albert**. Congratulations to parents **Sian** and **Matt** and Great Grandmother **Jean Dewey**.

Confirmation Service 15 May

Bishop Maurice Sinclair, assisted by Revds Mary Shannahan and Roger Collins, presided at this our first Confirmation Service for quite some time.

Alex and Ewan Clayton, Christine Haigh, Daniel Jones, Hai Qing Guo, Qi Guang Zhang were welcomed into membership following their confirmation.

Daniel was also baptised.



Au revoir Doug and Sheila

We bade 'au revoir' to Doug and Sheila at the end of the morning service on 19 June.

They both spoke of their thanks for the friendship and fellowship which they had enjoyed in more than twenty years as members of the Cotteridge



Church. When they arrived they had Claire and Michael at home. Both have now grown up and moved on, so Doug and Sheila have moved to Inkberrow.

We send our love and best wishes for their new life in a quieter community but hope it won't be too long before we see them again.

Joint Church Council

Key Decisions:

1. The JCC agreed to commit to and support the Cotteridge Church Day Centre in going forward with their future plans, including moving from the Clent Room to the Weatheroak suite
2. The JCC agreed to the relocation of the B30 Food Bank from the Bredon Room to the Clent Room to resolve health and safety issues
3. It was agreed to adopt the APEC Proposal to conduct a Feasibility Study into the modernisation of the church premises
4. The appointment of Jane Jones to Finance and Property was confirmed
5. It was agreed that the three options for charitable giving would be presented to the Congregational Meeting on 21 May 2016

Summary Proceedings:

1. The meeting debated a thought provoking presentation from Sandra Walton, Jane Jones and Alex Woodhouse on the way forward for the Cotteridge Church Day Centre
2. Jane Jones tabled a letter from James Philips, Director of APEC Architects Limited, following his visit to the Cotteridge Church, which suggested a feasibility study for the modernisation of the Church premises.
3. The Ministerial Vacancy Group reported that the Church Profile had been updated and advertising for a single, fulltime, minister (to represent all three denominations) would begin in June.
4. The Treasurer provided three options for this financial year's charitable giving.
5. The following changes to JCC Membership would take place after the Annual General Meeting of the Cotteridge Church on 21 May. Peter Childs, Jane Stephens and Neil Walters would leave having completed their term of office. Clare Naughton and Pam Waddell would join as elected members. Trevor Jones would be co-opted as Senior Methodist Steward replacing Carl Bober, Laurie Brown would be co-opted as Church Warden replacing Sandra Walton. Rachel Hayhow will continue as the co-opted URC Elder.

The next meeting will take place on 16 June.

This Summary is authorised by: Revd. Mary Shannahan: Chair of the Cotteridge Church Joint Church Council

JCC Update June 2016

Consultation and Design

This week the JCC met and confirmed the appointment of APEC to lead a consultation and design process for the future use of our building. The refurbishment of the Coffee Bar will be part of this process which will include the ideas suggested at the February Consultation. A fundamental part of the process will be three events held for consultation to include all groups who use The Cotteridge Church.

APEC will then put together 2 or 3 different proposals for our building which will then be used for further consultation with the church. APEC will then develop the preferred design option with us.

Between now and then the Beacon Room is being furnished with bookcases for Linda's books and will have comfortable seating, to be used by the coffee bar customers.

The CCDC

During July, the Cotteridge Church Day Centre will be moving into the lounges and dining room of the Weatheroak Centre. Brian Pearson our fundraiser is obtaining funds to convert the bathroom into a new office for the Day Centre.

Ministerial Vacancy

Advertising for the ministerial vacancy has been placed nationally with a closing date of the 30th June. We will keep you informed of progress.

Church Treasurer

With the departure of Doug Hincks there is an immediate vacancy for the role of Cotteridge Church Treasurer. You don't have to be a whizz at accounts but basic knowledge of spreadsheets would help. If you are interested, or you know of someone who may be, please speak to Mary Shannahan or Jane Stephens.

Stewards wanted

We desperately need some more vestry stewards.

Duties include setting the communion table prior to the morning service (putting communion cloth onto table, putting cross and candles onto table and lighting candles), attending to the minister's requirements before the service, clearing the communion table after the service and staying on to lock the church after everybody has left. This duty is once a month.

Once or twice every six weeks you would help in serving Holy Communion.

Full training is given and duties will commence in September.

If you can help please see Mike Meadows.

Have your say

Do you visit the 3C's Café?

Do you work, volunteer or hire rooms at The Cotteridge Church?

Do you worship with us?

If the answer is 'Yes' to any of these questions, or you have any other connections with us, you are invited to take part in, and be a vital part of, the forthcoming consultation process.

Back in February there was an Open Meeting for people to discuss their ideas and air opinions on possible changes to our building. One of the outcomes was a list of possibilities, which a working party has been looking at. Ideas that are being considered by the working party include repainting, replacing some lighting with brighter LED fittings and adding colourful cushions and decorations. Replacement boilers are being sourced to ensure a warmer winter. You may have noticed that the menu in the 3C's Café has already changed along with the counter layout. There are other ideas that need greater consideration and would affect the layout of the building.

After careful consideration JCC have chosen to 'open up' the process to seek professional impartial advice to allow all opinions and ideas to be considered. The professional advice will also allow us to consider what is possible and enable us to make informed choices regarding pros, cons and costings. It is felt that this open and wider-reaching approach will be more democratic and allow us to work together on developing ideas for our building.

So your views and ideas are very much needed and wanted on how we use our building going forward. We now have an opportunity to consider how to resolve some of the issues that we are all aware of, such as the 'wind tunnel' effect of the front door during the winter months.

There will be initial consultation meetings and different ways in which you can contribute. It is hoped that the process will start in the autumn after an application for funding has been successful.

Dates, venues, times and different ways of contributing will be published nearer the time.

There are room changes planned for July, to enable Church run activities to flourish and with safety being a priority. These are just short term solutions that need to be put into place to solve current issues including safety. JCC has a duty of care regarding the safety of both employees and users of our building. The Cotteridge Church Day Centre will be moving into the Weatheroak suite of rooms and the Food Bank will be using storage in the Clent room. The Clent room will be cleared to provide a safer environment for children's groups. The built in storage in the Bredon room will be used for church storage enabling filing cabinets to be removed from the Cheviot room. The Beacon room is going to be used for seating and book display.

During the coming months there will also be Congregational Meetings on various church-

run activities with opportunities for questions and discussion. Norman Mann has kindly agreed to be Secretary for these meetings.

So if you visit the 3C's Café, work, volunteer, hire rooms or worship with us at The Cotteridge Church please take the opportunity to take part, let's work together on developing constructive ideas and get our building ready for the next 30 years by working together.

*Lord, you have given each of us gifts,
help us to use our gifts to further your kingdom in this place.*

Amen

Jane Jones and Laurie Brown - Vice Chair and Chair of JCC

Alone - with God

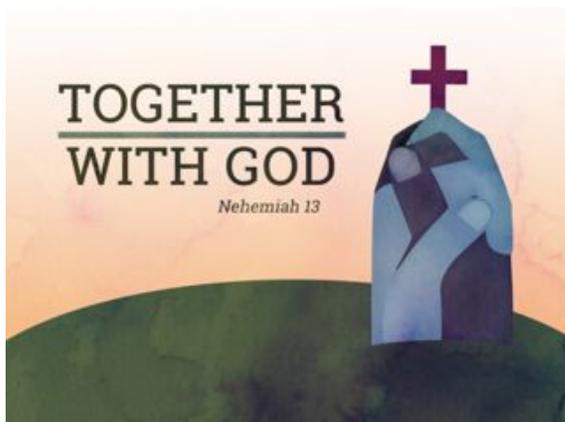
We all sleep, switch off to the bustle of life, hopefully rest, to wake refreshed and re-invigorated. Some dream, to others slumber seems like a mere forward change of the clock. For most, sleep is a time of safety, protected by the healing and fortifying spirit of God.

There are wakeful times, too, when there is this closeness. Actually, it is there all the time. It is just that our awareness fluctuates. Possibly the most meaningful time spent "alone with God" is during what may be called your "me time". This is time spent within yourself, thinking, praying, planning ("scheming" if you like). A stroll, or a gentle walk, noticing one's surroundings and the interesting things all around, can blow away cobwebs from the brain while sharpening perspective and aiding clear thinking.

Yet, the reality is, one is never really "alone with God". You are in the company of God at all times, both in the good and those less fortunate, trying times. In turning to God, a thankful heart opens the way to His treasure house. A whole emporium of blessings awaits anyone (you and me) who comes over to God with thankful prayer. No need at all to feel "alone with God". Instead, let us everywhere and in all manner of ways, whether with others, or on our own, stand thankfully:

"TOGETHER WITH GOD".

Gordon Parsons.



Church Garden

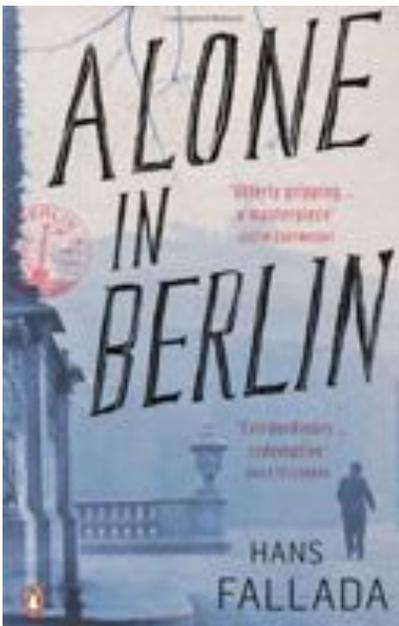
Could you plant a planter for our Church Garden and help brighten it up for summer? Please buy a few extra plants when visiting the garden centre and plant them in your own, or one of our spare, planters. Any size planter can be used - from teacup to giant trough! Bring your creation to the garden. Judging will take place the weekend of 23/24 July.

Thank you.

The Gardeners



Book Group

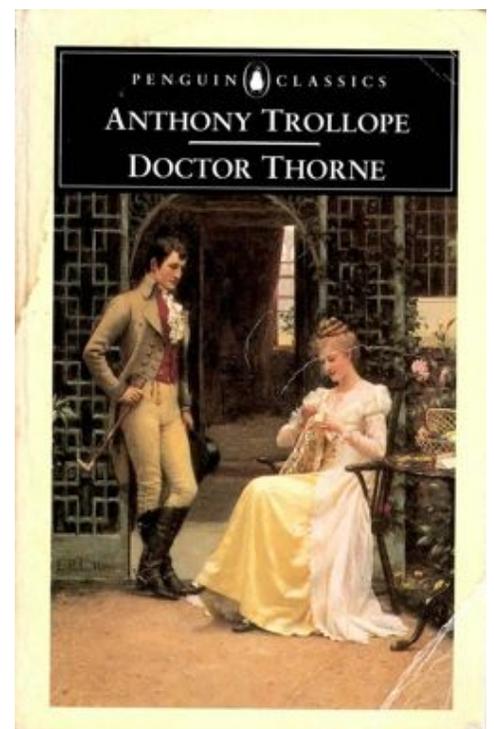


The Book Group met in June to discuss the fictional account, *Alone in Berlin* by Hans Fallada. The book is loosely based on the true story of an older couple, who, having lost their son fighting in the German army, start their own mini resistance by leaving postcards with anti-Nazi messages in public places. The book focuses on the hunt to track the couple down, the way the Gestapo operated, how other members of the public were mistakenly implicated and the very real isolation people felt living in a fascist state in fear of their lives. Written by a man who spent most of his life in prison or psychiatric hospitals, it was remarkably published in Germany in 1947, possibly as a socialist project to demonstrate that there had

been resistance amongst the

German people. We were warned it was a grim read, with the death of a Jewish neighbour and the eventual arrest of the couple. But the group debated whether there was hope in the novel. We didn't all agree but the novel also showed the rehabilitation of a young man and the integrity of an old judge.....it's worth a read.

So for something different this month we will be reading *Dr Thorne* by Anthony Trollope. Recently televised it is about love and the relationship between society, money and



morality. Frank Gresham, son of a bankrupt landowner, is determined to marry Mary Thorne. She, however, appears on the face of it to be illegitimate and poor....

If you wish to join us please do. We will meet at the earlier time of 7.30pm on Tuesday 26 July at Rachel Hayhow's. Please contact Rachel or Chris Adams for further details.

Liz Larkin

Boys' Brigade



Congratulations to Tom Bunn and Jayden Rawlinson-Cook who were presented with their Queen's badges, the highest award in the Boys Brigade at the recent Parade service. John Cliff made the presentation.

At the Battalion Athletics held at Tudor Grange Tom Bunn and Marcus Williams finished with 4 gold medals, while our intermediate team came first in their section and the seniors second. Our company finished in 2nd place overall. Again, well done to all the boys who took part. Our annual visit to Peckwood took place over the last weekend of June. More than 30 boys and staff had a great time in the sunshine.

We have again arranged a day trip by coach to Weston-Super-Mare on Saturday 9 July leaving Cotteridge at 8.30am and departing from Weston at 5.30pm. There are a few seats left at the moment and if anyone is interested in a day at the seaside the cost is £10 per person.

Most of the preparation is now in place for our annual camp at Honey Hill near Maidstone in Kent from 6-13 August. Let's hope for good weather.

Bob Hotchkiss



Services for July & August

Date	Time	Minister	Service
3rd July	9.00 am	Revd Mary Shannahan	Holy Communion
	10.30 am	Revd Taiwo Olumuyiwa	Parade & Baptism
	6.30 pm	Revd Mary Shannahan	Holy Communion
10th July	9.00 am	Revd Mary Shannahan	Holy Communion
	10.30 am	Revd Mary Shannahan	Holy Communion
	6.30 pm	Café Church	
17th July	9.00 am	No Service	
	10.30 am	Revd Donald Sampson	Morning Worship
	6.30 pm	Revd Roger Collins	Holy Communion
24th July	9.00 am	No Service	
	10.30 am	Revd Roger Collins	Holy Communion
	6.30 pm	Revd Colin McIlwaine	Evening Worship
31st July	9.00 am	No Service	
	10.30 am	Mrs Primrose Garrow	Morning Worship
	6.30 pm	Revd Rob Morris	Holy Communion
7th August	9.00 am	No Service	
	10.30 am	Revd Ian Howarth	Morning Worship
	6.30 pm	Revd Canon John Oates	Holy Communion
14th August	9.00 am	No Service	
	10.30 am	Revd Roger Collins	Holy Communion
	6.30 pm	Revd Taiwo Olumuyiwa	Evening Worship
21st August	9.00 am	No Service	
	10.30 am	Miss Hazel Nash	Morning Worship
	6.30 pm	Revd Roger Collins	Holy Communion
27th August	9.00 am	No Service	
	10.30 am	Revd Tony Malcolm	Holy Communion
	6.30 pm	Mr Steve Wright	Evening Worship



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

Large print issue in the Pennine Way

Next issue: **Saturday 3 September** Cut-off date for copy: **No later than 26 August**

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