

# ROUNDAABOUT



Welcome to  
Cotteridge



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

**SEPTEMBER 2016**

## From the Editors' Desk



Welcome to Roundabout. The November issue will be a week late as our daughter Hannah is getting married on 5 November. If your item *must* go in the November issue please make sure it arrives by the 7th. 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](mailto:marfleetwright@tiscali.co.uk).

Steve and Caroline

New email address for newsletter  
[newsheet@thecotteridgechurch.org.uk](mailto:newsheet@thecotteridgechurch.org.uk)

## From The Vestry



*We're going on a bear hunt* is a children's book with which I was unfamiliar until quite recently. The story revolves around a family going on a bear hunt because they thought it would be exciting. They didn't think about the journey they were about to begin, so grass, mud, river, forest, snow storm, and a cave all present them with a problem because "We can't go over it. We can't go under it. Oh no! We've got to go



through it!" They didn't even think about what they would do if they found a bear!

Going on any journey without adequate preparation is not perhaps the wisest thing to do which is why SAT NAVS are so useful. When you are driving you still need to be alert to avoid those apocryphal stories of ending up in a ford. My Satnav has been invaluable as I venture into areas I don't know, generally there has not been a problem but recently it



did take me to a road junction which said No Entry!  
Jesus told a couple of stories in the Bible about the need for careful preparation before beginning any task or engaging in any activity. Before building a tower, does someone not sit down and estimate the cost to see whether they have enough to build it? Otherwise they may be subject to ridicule.

Jesus talks about a king who is about to wage war against another king. Doesn't he first consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one with 20 000? If he cannot he will ask for terms of peace.

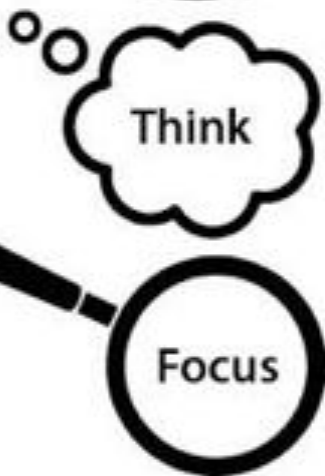


Going on a bear hunt, or even going on a journey may be exciting but may be even more exciting if we pause, consider and reflect on what we are about to do. If that is true of

the bear hunt and a car journey, it is even more true for us as a Church as we seek to formulate a vision for the next thirty years.

Rediscovering a vision now for Cotteridge will never be as easy as when the churches first came together, when the aim was to combine our three denominations and work with social services and the health service to provide care for the frail elderly. It was incredibly imaginative but the society we had then, we have not got now. Our task now is to move the church in a direction where we can develop a vision for the next thirty years and that will inevitably involve change.

Roger



## Family & Friends

Best wishes to Diana Seward who has recently had a new hip and it was good to see Primrose Garrow back with us after her stay in hospital.

Congratulations go to Dan Jones, who is going to the University of Nottingham to study Engineering and to Alex Clayton, who is going to the University of Portsmouth to study History.

Congratulations, too, to Peter Childs on gaining a BSc in Environmental Science from the Open University. Lots of time spent distance learning at home finally paid off.





We said 'Goodbye' to Mary and family in July. What she didn't take with her was the cheque for donations. Mary said:

*"I am lost for words. I cannot believe the generosity of my friends at Cotteridge. Please pass on my heartfelt thanks. I will miss you all so very much"*

At the end of the morning service on 28 August we marked two milestones. Peter Hudson turned 90 on 20 August and, with Beryl, celebrated 50 years of membership within the Cotteridge community.



## Geoff Hulme

When Barbara passed away early in April I decided to pull up my roots in Birmingham and go down to Swansea to be near my son Nigel and daughter Linda and the young grandchildren. I knew it would be difficult to leave not only my family home for 55yrs but also my spiritual home and many friends at the Cotteridge Church. However the reality has been much harder than expected. Which is why I have not felt able to attend recently and be constantly reminded of the sacrifice I have to make. I am looking forward to my new life and will be happy and contented. However I will always remember you and pray God's blessing on your fellowship. I will always be pleased to hear from you and welcome you to my flat if you are in the area. I move end of Sept. I will be coming up to visit Derek and family and will call in to see you. [If you'd like Geoff's address/phone no. please see let us know - Eds]

## Coming Soon: Life & Soul

You are warmly and enthusiastically invited to attend the first meeting of Life & Soul, a Social Worship event that is starting on Sunday the 25th September, and will continue once a month.

### ***What is it?***

Life & Soul is a Social Worship event – combining worship and social interaction - and it includes dinner!

### ***When?***

Sunday 25th September, 4:00-6:30 PM is the first event. After that, we've pencilled in further events on 23rd October and 19th November. Future events will be advertised.

### ***Who is it for?***

Everyone. We want this to be something that becomes part of life at Cotteridge; we feel strongly that all who use The Cotteridge Church are welcome, and we also want to form and strengthen social links between members of the Cotteridge Community.

### ***Is it for families?***

Yes. But please, let that encourage you, not put you off. This is not 'for children'. This is for everyone. Really. There will be a variety of activities that will (hopefully) appeal to everyone, and you can join in as much (or as little) as you choose.

### ***What will happen?***

Well, we don't want to give too much away, but our format will begin with an act of worship, followed by something a bit different, followed by dinner. And then a meeting to plan the following session.

We're starting off using a format from Big Ministries called "The All-In Thing", but there is a strong co-operative ethos behind this, and we will be asking for ideas and feedback at each session.

### ***How is this different from what we already do?***

It may not be very different, but it is at a slightly different time and different parts will be led by different people. Some folk find the morning service a bit early, and some find the evening service a bit late. So this is a bit earlier in the afternoon and Oh! did we mention there will be dinner?

### ***Will I be able to eat?***

Yes. We hope to plan a menu that accommodates different dietary requirements, including gluten-free, dairy-free, vegetarian and omnivore. If you have specific requirements, please just let us know.

### ***How much does it cost?***

Nothing. There's no ticket, and no charge. If you want to, and if you can then there will be a plate for donations, but we have a budget and we're not afraid to use it!

### ***What do I need to do?***

Turn up. Bring friends and family. If you have any questions, then please feel free to speak to Clare Naughton or Pam Waddell, or email: [lifeandsoul@thecotteridgechurch.org.uk](mailto:lifeandsoul@thecotteridgechurch.org.uk) and we will do our best to answer you.



Clare Naughton

## Church Garden

The sun was hot, the music cool, & the ice-cream cold!!!

This year's Garden Party was a great success; everyone who came enjoyed the music, dancing, chat & of course, the cakes.

Voting for the best Plant pot competition took place, & certificates presented.

Please use our Church garden when you can; it's worth taking a look (we did NOT plant the "Triffids").

On the fundraising side, our next big event is the Christmas Fayre on 3 December. To make it a memorable day we need more helpers.

Anyone with an interest & time to join the very small team of organisers, please see Celia, Linda or Chris.

Chris Pascal

## Malawi – not so much a holiday, - more of an experience

In June, we were lucky enough to go to Malawi for 2 weeks. As the title suggests it was so much more than a holiday, more 'an experience'.

We were accompanying some friends who were visiting their son and partner, Anna & Tom, who were working there for a French charity called Interaide.



The trip was planned mainly by the young people so we saw the real Malawi and not what the tourists would see, not that there is any significant tourist industry really.

However, we did see a great variety of different places.

We had 2 nights on a beautiful beach on the shores of Lake Malawi, staying in a thatched beach hut...but no swimming because of crocodiles!! Then 2 days on safari when we slept in a tent on stilts and listened to monkeys on the tent roof at night. While we were there we saw lots of hippos bathing in the river, crocodiles basking in the sun and a herd of at least 30 elephants that we could have sat and watched all day. Plus impala, monkeys, brightly coloured birds and menacing birds of prey.

We climbed a mountain of over 2000 metres which began as a stroll through banana groves and finished as quite a gruelling trek. That night we slept on the floor of a wooden hut with no running water, toilets or heating but were rewarded the next morning with amazing views of the plains and valleys from above the clouds.

We saw echoes of the country's Colonial past when visiting a tea and coffee plantation, 2 crops that we had never seen growing before and learnt how they were harvested and processed.

The road journeys were fascinating, (despite huge potholes that the drivers had to negotiate constantly) as we passed through trading places seething with people selling a huge variety of things and brightly coloured fruit and veg, many of which we could not recognise.

We marvelled at the variety and size of objects carried either on peoples' heads or on bicycles.



We loved the brightly coloured fabric the women wore as they walked along with babies strapped to their backs or fronts.

And so much more...

However, perhaps our overriding memory is of the day spent with Anna and Tom while they were at work. We saw a purpose built health centre full of mothers and young children visiting clinics – all the more remarkable when you realised that some had walked up to 12 miles to reach it. Nearby was a small new maternity unit, nearing completion, something Tom and Anna had planned and designed from scratch despite having no training in architecture. Then they took us to a village and we saw how basic some of the houses were. They were small, the people had few possessions, no power, water or sanitation, sometimes with just material across the windows. Here they were trying to emphasise the importance of the use of mosquito nets at night, (children under 5 are particularly susceptible to malaria). It was suggested that each family build their own latrine complete with hand washing apparatus, but few had finished them and women were also encouraged to consider birth control.

We were humbled to see how the people lived. Malawi is one of the poorest countries in the world, something that was apparent everywhere we went. We rarely had a day without a power cut and water supplies varied considerably. The country relies heavily on overseas aid in an attempt to combat the many problems they face and we came away full of admiration and awe for the 2 young people we met who were trying, almost against the odds, to help address some of these problems.

Jo & Alan Adams

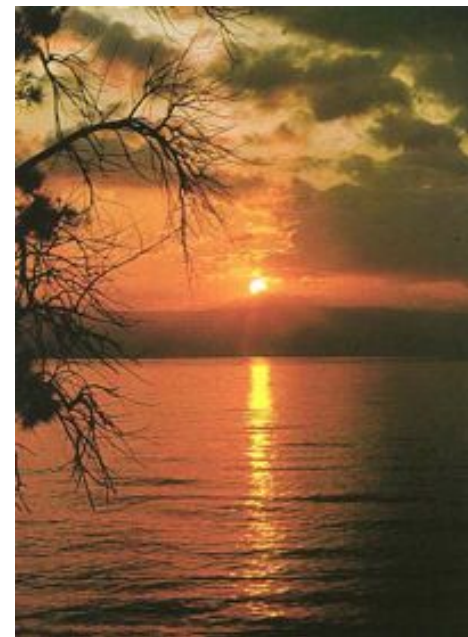
## Living in the 'Now'

Sunrise over the Sea of Galilee is a beautiful sight - but do you know - so is sunrise over Cotteridge. A few weeks ago I was sitting in the foyer of Beaumont Park at 5am [don't ask!] It was dark but gradually it got lighter. There was a beautiful glow over our church steeple, the shops and the garden in front of our complex. It was very still and peaceful as it got brighter and brighter. Then suddenly the hustle and bustle of Cotteridge began, traffic noise, people noise. The moment had gone.

It made me think. I really should be satisfied with where I am in the here and now. This is where God has put me - in the "now".

The "now" sometimes gets squeezed out. Things were better in the past, the sun always shone and TV programmes were much better - or - things will be better in the future, next week, next month, next year. I can't wait for my birthday, Christmas, my holiday. As we say in one of the prayers after Communion *"what we have been is past, what we shall be awaits us"*.

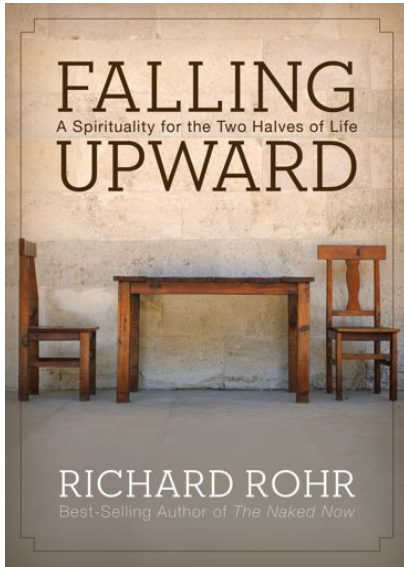
So use every drop of the "now" and enjoy it.



*"what we have been is past, what we shall be awaits us"*

Rita Sutton

## “Demand for the perfect is the greatest enemy of the good.”



This is how Richard Rohr describes Perfectionism in his book *Falling Upward*. He goes on to say it is a mathematical or divine concept, Goodness is a beautiful human concept that includes us all.

Here is a digest borrowed from *The Artist's Way*, a course in discovering and recovering your creative self by Julia Cameron.

*“Perfectionism has nothing to do with getting it right. It has nothing to do with fixing things. It has nothing to do with standards. Perfectionism is a refusal to let yourself move ahead. It is a loop, an obsessive, debilitating, closed system that causes you to get stuck in the details of what you are writing or painting or making and to lose sight of the whole. Instead of creating freely and letting errors reveal themselves*

*later as insights, why get mired in getting the details right?*

*The perfectionist fixes one line of a poem over and over, until no lines are right, draws a line of a portrait until the paper tears. The perfectionist is constantly grading the results. The perfectionist has marred the logic side of the brain.*

*The critic reigns supreme. Everything critiqued with "what about this comma, is that how you spell....?"*

Midway through a project the perfectionist decides to read it all over again, outline it, see where it's going, never satisfied, never says "This is pretty good, I think I'll just keep going". To the perfectionist there is always room for improvement. The perfectionist calls this humility. In reality it is egotism. It is pride that makes us want to write the perfect script, paint a perfect picture etc. Perfection is NOT a quest for the best. It is the pursuit of the worst in ourselves, the part that tells us nothing we ever do will be good enough, that we should try again. No we should not. Nothing is perfect. Everything has to be moved on from. This is a normal part of creativity - letting go. We always do the best we can by the light we have to see by.

We deny that in order to do something well we must first be prepared to do it badly. Instead we opt for setting our limits at the point where we feel assured of success. Living within these bounds we may feel stifled, smothered, despairing, bored.

We feel safe. In order to risk we must jettison our accepted limits. Usually when we say we can't do something, what we mean is we won't do something unless we can guarantee we'll do it perfectly.

Once we are willing to accept that anything worth doing might even be worth doing badly our options widen, Very often a risk is worth taking for its own sake. There is something enlivening about expanding our self-definition. A risk does exactly that.

We learn to do something by doing it - there is no other way.

Gordon Parsons



## Cakes for the 3C's Café

As some of you may be aware there have recently been some cakes appearing on the counter of the 3C's café that have been baked by Shirley the cook, but now I have been learning some baking skills from the best in the business!!!

In life I have never really baked a cake so I approached Shirley in the church kitchen and asked her if she could show me how to make some cakes in terms of muffins and full cakes. Shirley agreed to show me how she makes her cakes and it is now a skill that I am very proud of.

Shirley had all the ingredients ready for when I arrived and then talked me through everything I needed to know. It was very enjoyable and the results were put on the counter of the café for the Cotteridge Community to sample as we all know the people of Cotteridge love a good cake.

I have now made quite a few cakes that have been put on sale both for the coffee bar and the monthly bake sales. I am pleased to report that I have had some very positive feedback too in terms of texture, taste, flavour, presentation and density.

I then went to BB Camp at the beginning of August and we are asked to take some cakes to camp to have throughout the week, so I decided to bake cakes instead of buying them. I am pleased to report that my cakes on camp went down very well.

I hope to continue baking cakes to be sold on the coffee bar and the monthly bake sales and would welcome any feedback from members of the church and the Cotteridge Community.

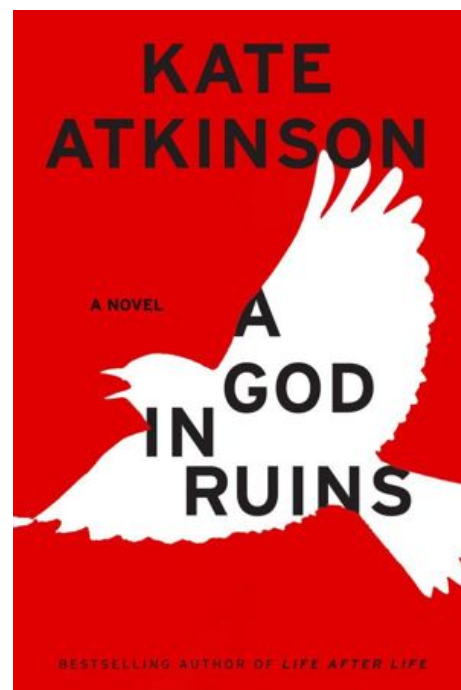


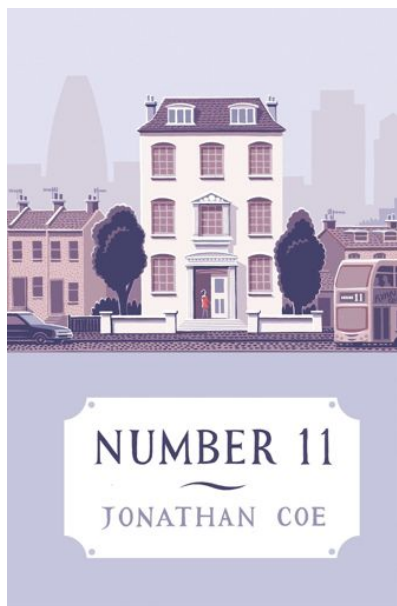
Phil Adams, Keen Baker

## Book Group

We are meeting on 6th September to discuss *A God in Ruins* by Kate Atkinson. Several of the group had read her previous book *Life after Life* although this is not essential to enjoy the follow up. *Life after Life* explored the infinite chances possible in life as Ursula, the main character, lives through turbulent events in the last century many times. Each time has a different outcome with different experiences and consequences. Kate Atkinson is an excellent writer and one that is hard to put down once you have started a novel. There are several of her novels in the church second hand book shop, so go and try one.

*A God in Ruins* focuses on the life of Teddy, Ursula's brother in the first book and his part in the Second World War as a bomber pilot. It moves back and forth through his life and looks through the eyes of his daughter and grandchildren too. His





moves from early marriage to fatherhood, sheltered housing and finally a nursing home can be uncomfortable at times but all helps to develop the characters involved. Well worth reading.

We are planning to move onto Jonathan Coe's *Number 11* next and I expect that most people will have read at least one of his books especially with the focus on Birmingham in *The Rotter's Club*, recently dramatised by a very talented group of young actors at the Birmingham Rep. *Number 11* is of course the house in Downing Street where the Chancellor lives but it is also the circular bus route around Birmingham. This is a fiercely political novel looking at the differences between the travellers on the number 11 bus who stay on all day because they can't afford the heating at home to the obscenely rich planning to put a swimming

pool in the basement of their Chelsea home. Coe is another author who is hard to put down with his strong characters, suspense, humour and twists and turns.

Come and join us for either book. Kate Atkinson review on Tuesday September 6th, 7.30 at 40 Middleton Hall Road. The Coe book date will be in the news sheet.

Christine Adams





## Boys' Brigade



The summer session finished with the Company day trip to Weston Super Mare and the junior section visit to the Lickey Hills.

In August 8 boys and 7 staff spent a week at our annual summer camp. The weather was fantastic and the site was good. There was swimming at Tonbridge swimming baths, raft building, canoeing, water rounders, water slide, bouncy castle for the younger members and the usual camp activities. An evening watching the stars where a local club brought their telescopes. We even had a camp fire and marshmallows. This was the first time we have camped at Bearsted, Kent and hope to return in 2019. Everybody as usual had a great time and we look forward to next August when we are off to Devon. The new session starts on Friday 9 September when any new members would be most welcome. Our enrolment service has been arranged for Friday 7th October at 7-30pm.

Bob Hotchkiss





## Services during September and October

*Please note that there will be no 9.00 am services*

Date	Time	Minister	Service
<b>4th September</b>	10.30 am	Mr Steve Wright	Morning Worship
	6.30 pm	Revd Roger Collins	Holy Communion
<b>11th September</b>	10.30 am	J. Knox	Holy Communion
	6.30 pm	Café Church	
<b>18th September</b>	10.30 am	Mr Steve Wright	Morning Worship
	6.30 pm	Revd C Turner	Holy Communion
<b>25th September</b>	10.30 am	Revd Roger Collins	Holy Communion
	4.00 pm	Life & Soul	
	6.30 pm	Foodbank	
<b>2nd October</b>	10.30 am	Miss Hazel Nash	Morning Worship
	6.30 pm	Revd C Turner	Holy Communion
<b>9th October</b>	10.30 am	Revd Donald Sampson	Holy Communion
	6.30 pm	Café Church	
<b>16th October</b>	10.30 am	Mr John Cooper	Morning Worship
	6.30 pm	Revd Donald Sampson	Holy Communion
<b>23rd October</b>	10.30 am	Revd Roger Collins	Holy Communion
	4.00 pm	Life & Soul	
	6.30 pm	Miss Hazel Nash	
<b>30th October</b>	10.30 am	Mr Steve Wright	Morning Worship
	6.30 pm	Revd Roger Collins	Holy Communion



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

Large print issue in the Pennine Way

Next issue: Saturday 12 November Cut-off date for copy: No later than 7 November

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