

## Calendar

### Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> July

10.00 Holy Communion Barbara Calvert  
6.30 Brownies and Guides  
7.45 Worship and Pastoral Committee

### Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July

7.00 Churches Together in B30  
7.00 Zoom Worship

### Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July

615 Boys Brigade

### Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> July

10.00 Coffee Bar  
13.30 Councillors Surgery

### Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> July Proper 11

10.30 Holy Communion  
Mike Claridge

## Notices

### Flowers

The flowers this week have been donated by Hazel Nash in memory of her Mom and Dad also Frank, Rita and Angela. Thank you Hazel we will give thanks for their lives as we appreciate the flower. There are plenty of spaces so please look at the list in the Pennine way. Sandra W

### Cotteridge Church

Minister Mike Claridge 0121 433 5176  
Assistant Priest Roger Collins 0121 459 4009 07721 526 854  
Part Time Minister Barbara Calvert 07712 1845 62  
Administer Sarah Canning  
Church Telephone 0121 433 5518

## BOOKCENTRE



We are Fare Trade Ltd have launched these biscuits from Tobermory Bakery **The Island Bakery Story 1** Joe & Dawn Reade were fresh-faced and naïve young graduates of the University of Edinburgh when they started baking bread in a converted garage in Tobermory in 1994. The local baker was retiring, and the islanders needed someone to keep them in lovely fresh loaves. To be continued.

**B30 & South Birmingham Food bank** we received in 2256k and gave out 1682 feeding 216 clients on 101 vouchers

**Urgently needed**  
**Sweet biscuits (not multi-packs, as they often have no ingredients listed), pasta sauce, tinned spaghetti, baked beans, tinned soup, jam/honey, chocolate bars, tinned/carton ready-made custard, small jars of instant coffee (not decaffeinated), liquid/bar soap, gender neutral shower gel and shampoo**

# THE COTTERIDGE CHURCH



## Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> July Proper 10

### Morning Worship

#### John Cooper

Father,  
by the obedience of Jesus  
you brought salvation to our wayward  
world:  
draw us into harmony with your will,  
that we may find all things restored  
Gracious in him,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ.  
Amen

### Hymns 571 116 407 459

Readings Psalm 119 105-112  
Matthew 13 1-9 18-23

Readers Janet H Janet P

Music John T

Sound Jane S

**Activity Bags for young children are available from the stewards**

### We pray for our pastoral links

Monica T: with Lorna B., Gill B., John Co., Doreen H., Rachel H., Stephanie R., and Linda and Norman M.,

### Those in long term need

Gill S, Chris M, Beryl H, Jennifer M, Mary and Keith K,

### We pray for those who are ill or are

Megan, Vinnie H, Mark T, Robin, Shirley, Jenny F, Marion and David W, Norman and Philomena, Ken F Lauren D, Geoff W, Keith, Lyn, FriedL Dorothy T, Sue S, Maurice and Fiona W John C

### Prayer Cards

Louisa W, Naomi F, Ruth R, Shenna C and family

### We pray for those who have died

Coffee Bar 8.30 to 1.30  
Monday to Friday



Saturday 10-12..00



**The calling of The Cotteridge Church to respond to the Gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission.**

Bible reading Matthew 13:1-9,18-23

### Still sowing

THIS WEEK WE EXPLORE GOD'S UNENDING ACTIVITY IN OUR LIVES AND COMMUNITIES.

This week's parable reminds us that God is always sowing, always blessing and speaking to us. How can we receive God's word well and thrive under God's blessings?



### Bible notes



This is Jesus' most famous parable. We know it so well – and yet maybe hardly at all. In one sense it retells Israel's history: a sorry tale of not listening, of hardened hearts, of exile and partial restoration – a familiar story to its first hearers. They would feel its pain; they longed for the kingdom of God to come. So, the punchline is somewhat baffling: 'If you have ears...'. The disciples are baffled too; so, they ask Jesus what the parable means.

Behind Jesus' response are well-known Old Testament passages, especially Isaiah 55:10-13 – in which God's word stands for God coming in person. Jesus is both the one bringing the fulfilment of God's plans, and God in person, bringing the kingdom right here, right now. He is both sower and seed. Are we listening?

Jesus describes two kinds of response. The first is by those who shrug their shoulders. They either don't believe that God is interested in them or that God would send someone like Jesus to rescue them. They do not hang around. The other group is that of the disciples. They've been given the secret of the kingdom (v.11) and have stayed to find out more (v.12). Discipleship is about listening and looking, hearing what Jesus is saying, seeing what he is doing, and wanting more. Do we see it? And discipleship is about living it, leaving behind an old way of understanding the world and God, and beginning a new one in the new community gathering around Jesus, based on hearing and doing God's word.



Make a jar of edible soil. Crumble some brown biscuits. Fill the jar with alternate layers of chocolate mousse and biscuit crumbs – finish with biscuit layer. Add coloured sprinkles on the top: they represent growing flowers – or the good things that grow in our lives and world. Eat the creation, giving thanks for Jesus, who brings us, and is, the Word of God.

### First impressions

- Where do you find God at work in our lives in this picture?
- What does being 'good soil' mean in practice for you?
- How might you enrich your community by being 'good soil'?



Spend time listening to God. Find a time-lapse video of seeds growing (e.g. on YouTube) and find a quiet and comfortable place to watch it. As it plays, think about the story Jesus told and especially about how you might hear or recognise God's word – God's voice – over all the other competing voices and noises going on around us all the time. This is a time of prayer, but not taking lists or your requests to God, rather of being open to listen.



Head outside to find seeds, or parts of flowers that will become seeds. How many different ones can you find? What do seeds do? What would happen if the seeds you found fell on a path? What would happen if they fell into the soil? Can you find any examples of this happening?

### A prayer of thanksgiving

God, thank you that you are always on the move – your word is never static, your wisdom not sealed and silent; you are the one who casts seed far and wide, your whispers fall around us as seeds on soil. We thank you for Jesus' teaching, which helps us to prepare ourselves to be good soil, fertile for growing the fruits of goodness and grace. **Amen.**



You will need brown paint, paper, brushes, sand, fine gravel, very small pieces of twig, and seeds. Make the four soil types of Jesus' parable and paint them onto the paper. Add sand to the paint to make a firm path. Add fine gravel for rocky ground; tiny twigs for weedy ground; paint on its own for the good soil. Add a few seeds on top of each patch. Think of the story as you do this. Think about where you feel they are with God now (e.g. which type of soil), and where you would like to be in a few months' time. How might you achieve that?