

ROUNDA BOUT



THE COTTERIDGE CHURCH

Witnessing at the Heart of the Community

September 2015

From the Editors' Desk

Welcome to this packed issue of Roundabout. Our thanks to all contributors. As ever, we would welcome your input, whether you are a 'regular' or you have never written anything for Roundabout before. If you feel uncertain about contributing, don't worry, we're here to help. Remember, without your help, there would be no Roundabout!

Please have your contributions to us no later than the last week in October. Email to marfleetwright@tiscali.co.uk or place in the 'Roundabout' pigeonhole. The November issue will be out on Saturday 1st.



From the Vestry

Dear Friends

It is beyond doubt that we are going to have to make numerous decisions about the future for Cotteridge Church, teams, groups and our community. In 2013, I went on a



course, with many of my colleagues both lay and ordained, entitled Reimagining Ministry 2023. Decisions were made regarding the background of rapid change, deepening difficulty, growing uncertainty and a poor awareness of multiple and overlapping contexts. It is evident that the Church is facing major decisions about whether to sustain or expand their present facilities, continue to operate in the same way, outsourcing or relocating to another location or even sell their property and facilities. Austerity measures and declining budgets further complicate such issues.

As a leader I was challenged, by the following questions: What will the future look like? How will it be different from today? What should I as an individual, or we as an organisation, be doing in order to progress our mission in the

light of these potential challenges?

Standard approaches to strategic planning, envisioning and mission fulfilment, focus on analysis but in a difficult climate, knowledge alone is no longer the key to progress.

“To deal with the future we have to deal with possibilities. Analysis will only tell us ‘What

is'." (Edward de Bono Parallel Thinking)

In the coming months we will have to explore the many "driving forces" of change outside the Cotteridge Church, e.g. new technologies, political shifts, economic conditions, social dynamics, environmental concerns and religious/faith developments, that could shape our future dynamics in predictable and unpredictable ways.

The future of our mission has to be addressed by ALL of the members of the Cotteridge Church. It is hoped that in the near future we will have a Cotteridge Church Congregational away day. Can you reimagine the mission of Cotteridge Church?

Joycelyn

Family & Friends

We welcomed Martha Rose Naughton through Baptism on 2 August.

Belated Birthday wishes to Sheila Coward who celebrated her 80th birthday on 7 August.

Congratulations and best wishes to Daniel Hayhow and Nathan Jarvis who exchanged vows in a service of lifelong commitment at St. Columba's URC Oxford on 8 August.

Congratulations to all our young people who gained GCSEs, A Levels and other qualifications this summer and best wishes for the next stage in your journey. We look forward to hearing how you get on.

Alan Cheney has informed us that grandson Nathan Molnar has gained a First Class Honours degree in Engineering from Southampton University. Congratulations, Nathan on your degree and your job at Rolls Royce, Derby.

Coffee Bar volunteers and customers were sad to hear of the death in early September of Joan Lea who had been a regular at the Bain Marie lunch table. Always with a smile and a cheery wave, very fondly remembered.

Chris Dowd's Ordination and Induction

Early on Saturday 11 July a group from The Cotteridge Church, Bournville URC and Carrs Lane Church set off to Cottingham, on the outskirts of Hull. Cottingham has retained a lot of its old-world charm and we had time to stroll along the high street.

The service was at Zion and Newland URC, one of Chris's four churches. It was like stepping back in time when we saw the box pews. Members of the congregation welcomed us warmly and Chris thanked us for coming to support him. He looked so smart in his suit!

The Bible was brought in to start the service and then the choir, up in the balcony, sang the anthem 'Lead me Lord', by Samuel Wesley, grandson of Charles. Although the service was a formal one, it was conducted in a very gentle manner with many people



taking part.

Usually the Moderator asks the new minister questions about commitment but Chris had arranged for members of the four congregations to do this. Unfortunately, no one had told the Moderator. Undaunted, Chris interrupted him, whispered in his ear, and from this point the members took over. For the rest of the service we noticed that the Moderator kept an eye on Chris!

After the service we were treated to a feast. Cottingham had obviously been busy baking. Little wonder that some people fell asleep on the coach on the way home - but we had all had a wonderful day.

Rita Sutton - on behalf of the group

[One of Chris's other churches is in Kirkella, where I went to school - Steve]

Jez Hackett

Jez, and fiancée Nat, will be missed. They have made a wonderful contribution to our life here at Cotteridge. Jez has not only become involved in worship but also in the business of the Church where he has played a quiet but considered role. Together, Jez and Nat have led us in worship through their ministry of music and prayer. Jez took his last service on 30 August taking the theme of Community. His ministry through magic, music (with Nat, of course) and the Word was a perfect finale. We made a small presentation and gladly consumed one of Celia Lester's excellent cakes.

We wish Jez and Nat 'Godspeed' as they continue in their ministry and send them our love and best wishes as they prepare for married life next month.



Joint Church Council

1. A letter will be sent to the Chair of the Cotteridge Church Day Centre Management Committee expressing the JCC's concerns over the use of the Waseley Room as a Dining Room and the re-location of the visiting Chiropodist to the Clent Room.
2. The JCC will meet monthly and the meeting agenda will alternate between Charitable Trust Business and discussions on specific topics.
3. The JCC membership would be reduced by limiting elected members to nine (three elected each year). Ex-officio and Co-opted members will continue to consist of the Ministerial Team, Treasurer, Security, URC Elder, Methodist Steward and Anglican Warden.
4. The 'Articles of Commission for the Finance and Property Group' was approved unanimously.
5. A representative of the Anglican Regeneration Team will be invited to advise on the best use of Church building and facilities for the benefit of the church and local community in consultation with the Congregational Meeting.
6. The recommendation from the Finance and Property Groups not to redecorate the Clent Room was approved unanimously.
7. The recommendation from the Finance and Property Groups not to pursue relocation of the Cotteridge Church Day Centre Office was approved with one abstention.
8. Quotes will be obtained for the removal of the fixed wall and the installation of a moveable partition between the Pennine Way and the Clee Room.
9. The Church's contribution to the Lifford Business Association will be increased from £50 to £100.

Summary Proceedings

1. New members Giles Allen, Jane Jones and Steve Wright were welcomed to the JCC for a three year term. Whilst Doreen Hancox [Secretary], Doug Hincks [Treasurer] Carl Bober [Methodist Steward], Sandra Walton [Anglican Warden], Rachel Hayhow, [URC Elder] and Roger Collin [Vice-Chair of PCC] were co-opted to the JCC.
2. A suggestion was made to switch the Ladies' and Gentleman's toilets and Jane Stephens agreed to obtain quotes.
3. The Treasurer's report indicated that if the predicted deficit were to continue year on year the Church's reserves would be depleted in seven or eight years.
4. A statement was read out on the current state of the vacant ministerial post and that a single minister representing the free churches would fill it in early 2016.

Referrals'

1. The Finance and Property Committee is to be asked to produce a two-year plan to reduce current spending to eliminate the year on year deficit.
2. Irene Spooner [Church Administrator] is to be asked to provide Fire Evacuation notices in all the rooms used by the Junior Church.

The next ordinary meeting of the Joint Church Council will be on Thursday 17th September 2015.

This Summary is authorised by: Revd. Joycelyn Lewis-Gregory, Chair of the Cotteridge Church Joint Church Council

Brian Arthur Hayhow 25 April 1935 – 21 April 2015

Brian was born to Alice and Tim Hayhow in Brockley, South-East London. He had two sisters, Olive and Carol, and a brother, Michael.

The family lived on the Honour Oak Estate, 1000 flats in 27 blocks. The blocks were built around a tarmac central area crisscrossed by washing lines where the children played and the mothers leaned over balconies watching and shouting warnings if the children were about to wreck the freshly pegged out laundry.

But for the outbreak of war Brian's entire childhood would have been spent there, but various evacuations followed. One of them was to Hockley Heath and Brian would enjoy revisiting the area and telling tales of his childhood there and on the estate.

Leaving school at 14 with no formal qualifications Brian worked first on a building site, then as an office boy. At 18 he was called up for National Service and joined the RAF regiment, rising to the heady rank of Corporal.

After being demobbed he returned to the estate and life as a clerk, but he was not happy and was searching for answers. He read the New Testament from cover to cover, and his life as a Christian began.

There was no formal church presence on the estate, but a group of Christians, led by a charismatic Methodist named Doris had set up an ecumenical community, living in the flats. At Easter 1959 Brian walked into their meeting place and when asked by Doris why he had come, said "because you invited me". More than 15,000 leaflets had been posted through doors in the previous five years and Brian was the first to respond. He was instantly involved in the work, painting the hall, worshipping there, and working on outreach and social campaigns both on and off the estate. He had found his life's direction.

Brian and Doris were married in 1960 and Sue was born 12 months later. They lived with the community on the estate, supporting residents and working on campaigns on and off the estate. Brian also looked for a more meaningful career involved with people's lives and became first a welfare officer at St. Martin's in the Fields, working with down and outs and drug addicts, and then a welfare officer with the GLC.

In 1970 an opportunity arose to relocate outside London, and Brian took the big decision to move his family away from life and work on the estate, to Horsham, West Sussex, where he worked as a social worker and bought his first house. He revelled in life in the country. But there was sadness and difficulty behind all the activity. Doris had been ill with cancer for many years and died in 1974 when Sue was only 13.



At this difficult time Brian needed to pursue training in order to continue as a social worker. One of his student practical placements was supervised by Rachel. As soon as the placement period was over he was able to express his feelings, and after asking Sue's permission they were married in January 1977!

There followed a settled period for ten years in Horsham. Ben was born in 1978 and Daniel in 1980. Brian was able to spend plenty of time with them which they remember and value. The whole family was involved in church life and peace campaigning activities. The children remember being on CND marches in London at an early age and considered it as normal!

The final major move was to Birmingham, where Rachel's family were living. Cotteridge Church was a deciding factor in finding a house. Brian was very excited by the ecumenical project and threw himself into its life.

He worked in various roles in Birmingham Social Services until his retirement in 2000. After over 60 years of working life he was determined not to take on regular commitments, but eagerly embarked on what he called his 'second childhood'. He tried many new activities, but the ones that he was active in till his death were tennis, walking and the allotment, all of which he enjoyed wholeheartedly. Meanwhile at home, he steadily wrote letters for Amnesty and to prisoners on death row. Not to mention continuing campaigning for Drop the Debt and against the Iraq war...there was no stopping him!

During the last few years Brian spent more time in bible reading and prayer, in small groups and on his own, extending his Christian life further and deeper. The arrival of grandchildren, first Ethan then in rapid succession Sophie, William and Adam, was a great joy to him and he threw himself into this role as into all his others.

The many tributes made at his Thanksgiving service showed how much he affected all he met. One of Daniel's friends described Brian as 'an outstanding person', with which we would concur. We are richer for having had him in our lives and the memory of his joyous laugh will remain with us for a long time to come.

Rachel and all the family would like to thank everyone for their support and care at the time of Brian's death, around the funeral, and since. Your messages have been moving and comforting and I am sorry I have not been able to reply to them all.

The generous gifts made at the funerals of Brian and Revd Joe Stephens reached a sum which meant that Christian Aid could claim matched government funding for a project. We chose to support the installation of solar irrigation systems and safe drinking water in Malawi. This attracts funding from the Scottish government at a ratio of 20:1, which makes an amazing increase to our giving.

Memories are made of this

Thank you for the positive feedback I have received, following my article in the last Roundabout, and which I will be putting into action in September. I am interested in your stories and look forward also to hearing from anyone who wants to relate tales of feeling on the margin of society (Reverend Roger Collins spoke about such people in the last issue) - "race, colour, sexual orientation, class, disability, creed, being unemployed or on

welfare benefits". Additionally, older people do often feel stigmatised receiving state pensions although they are rightly entitled to them. On a lighter note, I would welcome stories of a much loved pet, friend or family character (past or present).

Please contact me by email: marycollins352@btinternet.com or via the 'C' pigeonhole in the Pennine Way.

Mary Collins - Church Choir

Church Garden

The gardeners and members of our Day Centre have been busy sowing and transplanting seeds

The greenhouse is proving invaluable, and we will soon be able to provide herbs and house plants for members, and other interested people.

There is always plenty to do, so if you have any time & interest, we can use you!!

Please see Babs or Chris, or just come on Fridays-there is usually one of us here.

It was lovely seeing so many young people in the garden for the Junior Church annual B.B.Q.

Please take your coffee out there when you can---you may be surprised!



Chris Pascal

Keep Fit

It was back at Watford Road in the old URC church that several ladies came up to me and asked if I would run an exercise group. They asked me because I was a physiotherapist and also because they didn't feel that there was anything available for ladies of a certain age. At that stage it was all aerobics, Jane Fonda style and these ladies felt intimidated by the lycra babes. If I remember correctly there were about 10 of us.

When the churches amalgamated following the "wilderness " period I agreed to start the group up again and looked at one of the small upstairs rooms that I thought would suit the purpose. I was persuaded to use the Malvern Room so that I had access to music and plenty of room and I even had a microphone attached! The numbers steadily grew, from March 1989 when I had around 20 ladies attending each week, until by 1990 there were over 100 on the books with around 80 attending each week. As you can imagine that was quite a sight in the Malvern Room but far too many for safety so I ran two groups from 6.30-7.30 and 8-9pm. I even enlisted my husband John to run the coffee bar on Tuesday nights to provide tea, coffee and squash.

Also in September 1989 a small band of men came up and asked why there was nothing for men, so I started a group on Monday nights with 12 young and not so young men who did keep fit exercises. It soon became apparent that they would prefer something more competitive so after a spell of manic and dangerous unihoc following the exercises, we progressed to games of volleyball and that has remained to this day. Men's numbers over

the years have remained pretty constant around 12-15 and we currently still have 12 on the books who do a warm up session followed by 3-4 rather noisy, energetic and enjoyable games of volleyball. Ages range from 31 to early 70's.

The ladies' keep fit came to a halt in 1994 when I had major surgery and then followed that with academic study to get a BPhil at Birmingham University. The men continued on Mondays but the ladies' group stopped.

In 2007 I was asked by a group of 6 ladies from Church if I would supervise a few exercises with them as again there was nothing local that met their needs. I agreed and guess what, we are still meeting most Mondays. The difference is that I am now retired, have 10 grandchildren, enjoy more holidays and have a health record that isn't great so they are very flexible about not meeting when I am not available. The men still continue to meet every week whether I am there or not and there is still space for another couple of men to join them.

The added bonus of all this is that it has raised money for the church funds. In 1989 I charged £1 and 25 years later it is still only £3 each week, great value. Over the years the donations to the church have increased and the latest total is £25,843. I can't say it hasn't been tough at times and most Mondays I can be heard to say "if there's one thing I don't feel like"..... but I am proud of my achievement and I feel sure it has kept me fit

Christine Adams

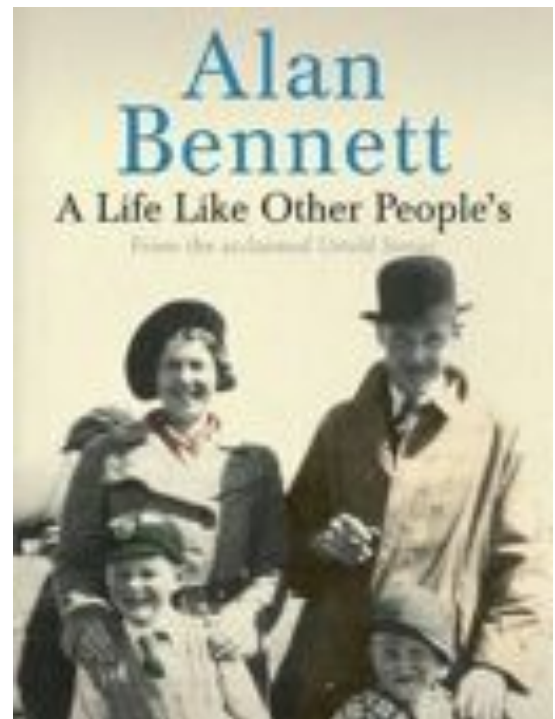
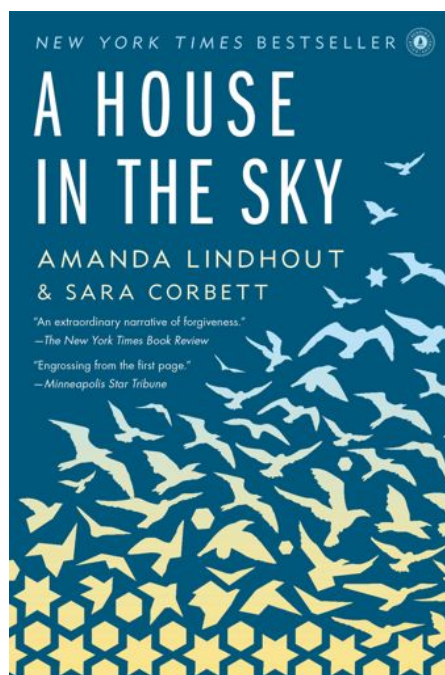
Book Group

For our next group meeting we have decided to go with Alan Bennett. The recommended book is A life like other people's, a story of his early life, but we are also asking people to read any of Alan Bennett's long or short stories to discuss on Thursday 9 October. There are plenty to choose from and most will amuse or make you think. I

am sure that there are many people who remember the Talking Heads monologues which are a great read as is The Lady in the Van. If you want something short The Uncommon Reader is wonderful (and only 120 pages)

By request we have also planned the next book for our meeting on 5 November - A House in the Sky by Amanda Lindhout. This is a memoir of one woman's 460 days in captivity in Somalia. Not a light read but described as riveting, suspenseful and profound.

Amanda backpacked around the world eventually becoming



a reporter in Afghanistan and Iraq but in 2008 travelled to Somalia. We all remember reading horrific stories of captivity but this is a more positive look at survival and searching for compassion in the face of adversity.

Please come and join us for either meeting. The October meeting will be at 40 Middleton Hall Road. For more details contact Christine Adams 4585607

Cotteridge Country Walkers - July 2015



One of our members, Elaine Fox, a keen photographer, led about 18 of us on a 6 mile country walk around the Welcombe estate. This is on the edge of Snitterfield just north of Stratford, but going by road deceives you. I assumed Stratford was another few miles to the south but within five minutes of parking our cars we were at the foot of an imposing obelisk and within view of Shakespeare's parish church.

The obelisk is one of the clearest landmarks for miles around. Most people who go to Stratford usually stay down in the town, but if you walk uphill you can reach this monument in about twenty minutes.

An interesting bit of history links Manchester with Stratford. It was erected in 1876 by Robert Needham Philips to honour his brother Mark Philips. Following the English civil war and later restoration

of the monarchy, Manchester was stripped of Parliamentary representation for supporting Cromwell. They only got their MP's back (the Philips brothers) in the reform act of 1832, and the Philips later bought the Welcombe estate in Stratford.

A bit further on we found evidence of Clopton Manor, now a crenellated small castle converted into flats. According to Wikipedia the manor of Clopton was granted to the Clopton family in the 13th century. They clearly did well because in 1492 it was owned by Hugh Clopton then Lord Mayor of London. Walking in history?



Elaine led us over pleasant pasture land under blue skies then through a big area of former greenhouses. People in the walking party said this had been a big 'pick your own' business in the 1970's. Now only the frames were left open to the elements. We emerged from these fields onto a road link and stopped to eat our lunch on benches set around Snitterfield's war memorial. These are often placed in the village centre or near the parish

church, but Snitterfield had set theirs on the edge of the village overlooking the Vale of Evesham with views on towards the Cotswolds.

A short road link took us back to the Clopton estate entrance and our cars for the ride home.

Many thanks to Elaine for an enjoyable day out.

Peter Childs

Post Traumatic Stress Disorder

How much do you know about Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)? You probably know people who are suffering from this terrible affliction and not be aware of it. The symptoms are more likely to make you steer clear of someone than go to their aid. They could be shouting, crying uncontrollably or cowering with their head covered. It is sometimes hard to understand their strange behaviour. There might be aggression for no apparent reason or possibly a tirade of swearing. It isn't just servicemen and women who suffer from PTSD. Sufferers might be victims of child abuse, domestic violence, witnesses to traffic accidents - the list is endless. Please try to be tolerant; we don't know what these folk have been through.

After the First World War men would return from the trenches in great distress and were diagnosed with shell shock. Many young people were shot at dawn because they had run away from the carnage and were found guilty of cowardice. In fact, they were more than likely suffering from PTSD, and let's not forget that they were little more than children. Think about your own teenage family members and imagine them being present on the battlefield.

Service personnel returning from operational areas nowadays might be diagnosed with PTSD immediately but it is more than likely years later when the trauma takes hold and makes life unbearable, by which time they are probably discharged and far removed from the care they need. Amazingly, some men and women who witnessed atrocities in World War 2 are now presenting with PTSD. These are the folk who never wanted to talk about their experiences but should have, for their own sanity. It is a cruel, creeping condition which breaks up relationships, causes violent outbursts resulting in arrests, reduces people to sleeping on the streets and any number of other degrading situations.

Unfortunately, our emergency services are not recognising PTSD when they see it. For example, a street fight can result in an ex-soldier being thrown into a cell for a few hours. The very last thing a soldier needs is to be incarcerated. They will react very badly and more than likely make their situation much worse when they get to court. Normally, when faced with a difficult incident our animal instinct is to freeze, flee or fight. Soldiers are trained to go against their instincts when it comes to conflict. Their only option is to fight. Upon discharge there is no re-training to reinstall the freeze or flee options. A simple SOS bracelet indicating a PTSD sufferer should help Police, Paramedics and others to recognise that this person needs a different approach for a better outcome.

PTSD is a misunderstood condition which is often missed by our GPs. They will readily diagnose depression but aren't keen to enter the dangerous and expensive world of PTSD. Medication will only go so far towards helping sufferers. Counselling is the best

way forward but the cost puts it out of reach for many. Organisations such as Help for Heroes are happy to give funding for treatment but currently will only help those who served since 1992. This anomaly is due a re-think. Service personnel who served in Northern Ireland, Korea, Malaysia, Cyprus and so on are falling between the cracks for aid. The waiting list to be seen and assessed by Combat Stress, whose specialist field this is, is currently 18 months due to lack of funding. People are taking their own lives because they can't deal with what is happening in their head, whilst they wait for help to come.

The message here is to help in any way you can. Educate others about this condition, find out more and above all, be tolerant.

Babs Blay

Boys' Brigade



Our summer camp this year was held at the West Midlands' Camping Centre at Dyffryn Ardudwy from 15-22 August. We again camped with our friends from Quinton Methodist Church.

The first 4 days we had glorious sunshine but the end of the week was mostly wet. Activities included surfing, swimming at Harlech, a visit to Barmouth, a night time walk when everybody seemed to get lost in the rain. Our lads did well in the tent inspection competition without winning. Although both of our tents reached the final of the football tournament.

As usual, everybody had a great time and we look forward to next year when we are off to Kent [near Maidstone] which is a new site for us.

The new session starts on Friday 11th September and any new members would be welcome.

Our enrolment service will be held on the 2nd October at 7-30pm when all the lads will receive their new membership cards.

We send our best wishes to Chris Butt [Coventry] and Sam Morgan [Lancaster] who at the end of September are off to university and hope they keep in touch with the company.

Bob Hotchkiss



Gallery

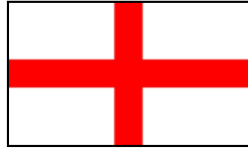


Enjoying Celia's cake after Jez's last service

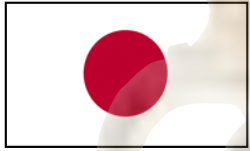
Some great fellowship at the Garden Party



Tom Bunn cooking up a storm at camp



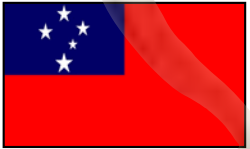
**Come
to the Cotteridge Church
and join in the celebration!**



**of
The Rugby World Cup**



on



**Saturday 19th September
Kick Off 2.00 p.m.**



Join in quizzes and games.



**Bring and Share Supper
with an international flavour!**



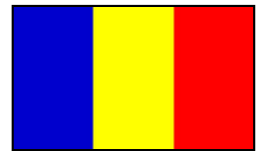
**Bring your own cold drinks
Tea and coffee will be served.**



Proceeds for Church Funds



Admission: Adults £4.00



Concessions £2.50

Tickets available NOW!



We plan to show IRELAND v CANADA match from the Millenium Stadium
Recipe ideas available!

Services September - October

Date	Time	Minister	Service
6th September 2015	9.00 am	Revd J Lewis-Gregory	Holy Communion
	10.30 am	Revd J Lewis-Gregory	Parade & Baptism
	6.30 pm	Revd Roger Collins	Holy Communion
13th September 2015	9.00 am	Revd Roger Collins	Holy Communion
	10.30 am	Revd Mary Shannahan	Pastoral Visitors Dedication
	6.30 pm	Café Church	
20th September 2015	9.00 am	Revd Mary Shannahan	Holy Communion
	10.30 am	Mrs Primrose Garrow	Sunday School Celebration
	6.30 pm	Revd J Lewis-Gregory	Holy Communion
27th September 2015	9.00 am	Revd Roger Collins	Holy Communion
	10.30 am	Revd Roger Collins	Holy Communion
	6.30 pm	Food Bank Service	
4th October 2015	9.00 am	Revd Roger Collins	Holy Communion
	10.30 am	Revd Roger Collins	Parade & Baptism
	3.00 pm	Organ Recital	
11th October 2015	9.00 am	Revd Mary Shannahan	Holy Communion
	10.30 am	Revd Mary Shannahan	Holy Communion
	6.30 pm	Café Church	
18th October 2015	9.00 am	Revd J Lewis-Gregory	Holy Communion
	10.30 am	Mr Steve Wright	Morning Worship
	6.30 pm	Revd J Lewis-Gregory	Holy Communion
25th October 2015	9.00 am	Revd J Lewis-Gregory	Holy Communion
	10.30 am	Revd J Lewis-Gregory	Holy Communion
	6.30 pm	Revd Roger Collins	



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

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in Pennine Way)

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