

OLD MEEETING HOUSE, COSELE

Newsletter – April to June 2011

APRIL by Thomas Hardy

This is the weather the cuckoo likes  
And so do I  
When showers be tumble the chestnut spike  
And nestlings fly;  
And the little brown nightingale bills his best  
And they sit outside at 'The Travellers Rest'  
And maids come forth spring-muslin dress  
And citizens dream of the south and west  
And so do I .....

SERVICES

April 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Mothering Sunday Rev. Penny Johnson
17 <sup>th</sup>	Gavin Lloyd
May 1 <sup>st</sup>	Bank Holiday Weekend – <b>NO SERVICE</b>
May 15 <sup>th</sup>	Philip Niblock
June 5 <sup>th</sup>	Women's League Service Ann Harrison
19 <sup>th</sup>	Father's Day with Songs of Praise Ann Harrison

Service on 19th June will celebrate Father's Day but will also include a 'Songs of Praise', and you are all asked to let Ann know what hymns you would like included.

For Information

Ann and Ken will be away from 18th March on an extended cruise. They fly to Singapore and then cruise back on The Balmoral (ship belonging to Fred Olsen Line), visiting Thailand, India, Goa, Dubai, Oman, Egypt, sailing through the Suez Canal, Malta and Gibraltar, arriving in Southampton on Easter Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> April. We wish them a very happy holiday and look forward to seeing some interesting photographs.

## Web Site

For those of you with computers, Ann and Helen, together with the help of John Wilkinson (National Unitarian Fellowship) have had a new web site for Coseley made. This can be seen at [www.coseleyunitarians.org.uk](http://www.coseleyunitarians.org.uk) – the site contains a photograph of the front of the building (taken by Ann) and a photo of Ann and Ken's wedding, as well as our history, details of ministers and copies of our newsletter. We are indebted to John Wilkinson for all his help.

## THANKS GIVING IN SPRING, from Women's League Book of Prayers

O God our Father, we thank Thee for giving each a place in this wonderful world. Nature at this season reveals Thee afresh as the Creator of beauty, power and joy. We are filled anew with sense of Thy presence and would render thanks to Thee, and pray that the vision of beauty which we have seen many remain with us for ever. When we are faced with difficulties, when our work seems monotonous, when we lose heart because of our weakness and our failures, may we remember the vision of beauty and joy that is with us now. May we learn to trust Thee more, never forgetting that Thou, who has given us the vision, wilt also give the power to work for its realization. For everything that helps us on our way we Thank Thee' especially for the friendships that enrich our lives and make us see fresh possibilities of good on one another. May our power of helping one another grow more and more; and may our gathering here today be a means of drawing us closer together and nearer to Thee  
Amen

‘Be not afraid of greatness: some men are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon them’  
*William Shakespeare (1601)*

We are all travellers in the wilderness of this world, and the best we can find in our travels is an honest friend

Robert Louis Stevenson

*The following is taken from **50 Tales to Ponder by Derek Smith** – a book Janice Ashley often used when taking services..*

‘How the Bamboo Became a Flute.

The Bamboo stood tall and straight...She was a good fifteen feet in height and about two inches thick..... One morning the Owner stopped in front of the Bamboo and said “Bamboo, Bamboo, the time has come for me to cut you down” At this it seemed that Bamboo trembled.....Unless you are taken to the workshop, and there fashioned and shaped, you cannot serve me” Many days later the owner visited the workshop with a young girl. They stopped by Bamboo, all shaped, hollowed out, with holes down the front of her. The owner invited the young girl to pick her up. The young girl did so, and placing one end of the hollowed Bamboo in her mouth, blew breath through her. A beautiful sound came flowing out. The Owner smiled and said to the young girl “That was exquisite. A Bamboo makes a marvellous Flute”!

## Birmingham District Women's League

The District held its AGM in Birmingham on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> March. Mrs. Pam Rose was elected as President, and Mrs. Florence Wood and Mrs. Ann Harrison continue as Treasurer and Secretary respectively.

A report from the Central Committee meeting held on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March was presented by Ann in which she told the District Members that she was to be nominated for the post of President Elect at the GA Meeting in April. This means that she will become National President of Women's League in April 2012 and will have the opportunity to visit Women's League Branches and Districts around the country during her Presidential Year.

True friends are the people that are there for you unconditionally. They are the people that never question you and support you no matter what the circumstances are.

They are the people worth living for.

Unknown

