



The Cotteridge Church
Witnessing at the Heart of the Community
July 2022

Mike's message

**Let the nations gather together,
and let the peoples assemble. (Isaiah 43.9)**

It's been a long wait but it's almost here. From 28th July until 8th August the nations will gather together right here in Birmingham.

The Commonwealth Games have arrived.

What is The Commonwealth? Its own website describes it as "a voluntary association of 54 independent and equal countries". It includes around one-third of the entire population of the planet! It carries out programmes of trade and economic development, promotes democracy and good government, encourages sustainability and environmental programmes, supports youth empowerment and gender quality, and also supports the development of small independent states.

The Commonwealth isn't about the British Empire! Indeed some of its members were never part of that colonial past, such as Rwanda and Mozambique. Neither is it about royalty and monarchy. The Queen is Head of State in only 15 of the 54 member states, of the others 34 are democratic republics and 5 have different monarchs. Although The Queen is currently Head of the Commonwealth it is extremely unlikely that Prince Charles or Prince William will follow her in that role. The Commonwealth will choose its next head.

Every four years the nations gather for the Commonwealth Games. Although there are 54 member countries, there are 72 teams! That's because some regions and territories compete separately. From the British Isles there will be separate teams for England, Guernsey, Isle of Man, Jersey, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales. Their athletes would all compete for Team GB in The Olympics, as would any from Anguilla, Turks and Caicos, Montserrat, Falkland Islands, St. Helena, Tristan da Cunha and Ascension Island, Pitcairn Island and Gibraltar. But all those territories, and several others, will compete separately in Birmingham.

St Paul knew about sport. He was almost certainly familiar with the ancient Olympic Games, as can be seen from a passage in his first letter to the Corinthians. He uses imagery of athletics to portray the challenge of Christian life. It's a passage to keep in mind when enjoying The Commonwealth Games.

"Do you not know that in a race the runners all compete, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win it. Athletes exercise self-control in all things; they do it to receive a perishable garland, but we an imperishable one. So I do not run aimlessly, nor do I box as though beating the air; but I punish my body and enslave it, so that after proclaiming to others I myself should not be disqualified".
(1 Corinthians 9 .24-27)

The Cotteridge Quakers are offering small grants for community projects in the Cotteridge area. The deadline for applications is the 30 September 2022. More information and an application form can be found at

<https://cotteridgequakers.org.uk/cotteridge-quaker-community-fund/>



Friends & Family

We are sad to record that Ivor Ravenhill has died. A service of thanksgiving for his life was held in Church on 27th May, packed with some of his many friends. There is a tribute to him in the magazine.

We also send our prayers and best wishes to the family and friends of Len Salkeld, who died at the end of May.

On a happier note, we welcomed Hallie-Rose at her baptism service in June.

Evelyn Bhajan has been exploring a vocation in ministry and has been offered and accepted a new role as a Methodist Minister in Cardiff. Congratulations Evelyn.

The Cooper and Calvert family hosted a very successful tea party for Christian Aid, and raised the magnificent sum of £550.



Jo, Alan, Lucy, Phil and Sam would like to introduce the safe arrival of Matthew Reza Adams to the world. He was born on Monday 2nd May at 22:33 weighing in at 7lbs 15ozs. Mother and father are coping very well but very tired and Jo and Alan are very happy Grandparents and have managed to get over to Amsterdam to meet their new grandson. Lucy, Phil and Ted will be seeing him during the early weeks of June



and can't wait to give him a huge cuddle.

Please keep Sam and Maral and the extended family in your prayers over the next few weeks and we hope to see them in Birmingham for Christmas.

Church Flowers for 26th June are in memory of Vikki L's father George L.

Tuesday Fellowship is a group which is open to all. We meet on the 2nd and the 4th Tuesday of each month at 2pm in the Cotswold Room

JULY 12th	Don on the Rea Valley	S.B.
26th	Coronation Memories	L.M.
AUGUST:	No Meetings	

History Group at Kings Norton Library

Wendy Pearson is delighted to say that meetings have resumed on the first Wednesday of each month from 2.00 -4.00 pm. All are welcome.

Ivor Neville Derek Ravenhill 1930-2022

It was in the serene setting of the beautiful and newly built Waseley Hills Crematorium that Dad's Body was entrusted to God. Subsequently we gathered in Cotteridge for a Service of Thanksgiving for his life. The Church had been beautifully adorned using the floristry skill of Sandra Walton and was bursting at the seams.

I had had rather a long time to think about what I wanted to say. Rather longer than I might have hoped for, but now that everything in the bereavement process is done online it seems to take 4 weeks rather than the customary 2. That's what they call progress I suppose.

On quite a few occasions over the previous 4 weeks various people have asked me 'what did he die from' and I was reminded of a sketch from Only Fools and Horses where Del Boy and Rodney were talking about the death of Uncle Albert and Rodney says to Del Boy 'What did he die from?' and Del Boy replies 'He was 92 you plonker. What do you think he died from?'

So, as you might have expected Dad died from 'the frailty of old age' after a long and very productive life We were there to celebrate his life and not to mourn his passing.

Ivor- he was Dad to three of us, Grandad to 6 of us and Great Grandad to little Sienna and Josh both of whom were present on the day. To far many more he was simply Skip as that is how he was known to the lads who served under him in the Boys' Brigade Company here in Cotteridge and where he was Company Captain for more than 20 years.

Dad was born in Tudor Road Moseley on 12th February 1930 shortly after which his parents moved out to the styx, to Quinton where they spent the war years relatively unscathed.

He attended Oldbury County High School but more importantly to him he joined the 1st Quinton Company of the Boys' Brigade where he swiftly rose to the rank of Lance Corporal. After the War, Dad's family moved back to Birmingham and our Grandad-Sidney Bert Ravenhill opened the first of 4 grocery stores just along the way from here in Mary Vale Road Bournville.

It required some serious deliberation to decide on which of the local Boys' Brigade companies he should join, but Dad decided on the 53rd Birmingham and at the age of 17 he set about working towards the remaining badges required to earn his King's Badge. He was the first and last boy in the 53rd to achieve this ultimate award, but in later years he would be highly delighted to be able to share this distinction with his friend Stan Dewey who had earned his own King's Badge as a member of the 7th.

Dad's first job was as an articled clerk to a firm of chartered accountants, but he found this rather boring, and he was almost relieved to be called up for National Service in the Navy. He was stationed in Gosport and worked in supplies. A job that would stand him in good stead for his return to civilian life, where he would join the family grocery business.

It was in 1954, following the resignation of the much respected Ivor Gilbert, that Dad became Captain of the 53rd, purely on a temporary basis of course, whilst somebody more suitable could be found. He was just 24 years old and, at that time, the youngest Captain that the Battalion had ever known. I'm not sure, but very much doubt, that there has been a younger Captain to this day.

It was sometime later in the same year of 1954, September in fact, that Dad would get married to June, our mom. Mom herself was an officer in the Girls' Brigade.



It was to take 22 years for the Company to find somebody more suitable and Dad finally handed over the Captaincy to John Cliff in 1976.

This was not the end of Dad's Service to the Church. In many ways it was just the beginning. He was Church Steward on at least two occasions and Circuit Steward to boot. Having initially been raised as a Baptist he was a strong advocate of ecumenism and was very involved in the process of bringing our three Churches together.

Dad used to think of himself as being a bit of a chef and he did end up cooking many of our family meals. My Sister Jeanette had earlier reminded me of the time when Dad had cooked a very nice piece of fish and on seeing the result Mom exclaimed "what is that?" "That" he said rather pompously "is the piece of cod that surpasses all understanding".

He used to bake cakes for the Christmas Fair and Mom along with the Ladies from the Evening Fellowship would work hard on the stall trying to sell them. Invariably Dads cake would be the last to sell and more often than not one of us kids would end up buying it ourselves just so that the ladies could pack up and go home.

After his retirement Dad spent much of his time looking after our mom but he still found time to wheel a trolley around the wards of the Woodlands Hospital or to serve here behind the coffee bar for the coffee and chat group.

For as long as he could still walk, he collected for Christian Aid in Midland Road. It was a rather thankless task and it used to take forever, not because of his walking ability but because, over the years, he had got to know so many people on the route and they would all come out to have a chat. In all the years we did it we never collected more than £100 of which I suspect a significant proportion would have come from his own pocket.

His life after Mom died was never quite the same but I think that he made the most of it - particularly in the time whilst he was still able walk the short distance from Beaumont Park around to Church.

A couple of stays in hospital took their toll and he went downhill rather rapidly. Dad died peacefully in his sleep at Bryony House on 29th April.

And so, a long and fulfilled life set into just a few words. I'm very conscious that I have talked only good about him, but do you know what - the reality is that I can't think of a bad word which could possibly be said.

He was a brilliant Dad. An equally brilliant Granddad and I'm confident that had been given a bit more time to settle into the role he would have been a brilliant Great Granddad too.

What more is there to say about a man who did so much and meant so much to so many?



The service itself was a rare double act led by Mike Claridge and with Roger preaching the sermon. It concluded with a rousing rendition of the Boys' Brigade hymn- 'Will your Anchor Hold' following which our organist, John Tesh, played JS Bach's Toccata and Fugue. A retiring collection in Dad's memory raised in excess of £650 for the B30 foodbank.

He would have been delighted.

Michael Ravenhill 06:06:22

The Church Garden.

We have been very busy for the past few months renovating the church garden, so that it can better serve the needs and wishes of our community. Following the award of a grant from The Cook & Wolstenholme Charitable Trust, we formed a committee of Barbara Calvert, Chris Pascal, Steve & Dorothy Audley, Celia Lester, and Sandra Walton - a Garden Gang - to come up with ideas and get things moving. Our progress is quite dramatic, so do go & have a look and enjoy the new environment. Gone is the tangle of ivy, along the wall separating us from Beaumont Park. We have new trellis, new apple trees, and lots of pretty flowers. In the passageway along the side of the church, we have tidied it, and planted a bed of shade loving plants. On the vestry wall we are beginning to organise a "Bible garden" in which the plants are referred to somewhere in the Bible, or have acquired symbolism over the years. [There is information about this just inside the door closest to it.] We have new furniture, so we can seat more people. We have lots of attractive planters filled with flowers and/or herbs. We have a pergola with an awning so that we can have shade when we want it. The front has been turned into an attractive leisure area for our community.

At the front:

From this



To this!



At the side

From this



To this!



In the Bible Plants Garden
From this



To this!



In the Main Garden
From this



To this!



VIA!



All is an ongoing project, and all will need dedicated management. We thank Bob Burton for his very much needed practical help, and appeal to anyone who could help us maintain what is a delightful, peaceful and calming area of our church. Please contact Chris Pascal if you can volunteer.

Our church Garden The Planting...

With only a few days to go until the Jubilee Garden Party, Chris Pascal and I sat in church and wondered ... when we go to buy the plants to bring colour into the garden ... would they be there at Castle Nurseries?

Well we set off early, and as usual whenever we go plant buying it was raining, and we soon arrived at Castle Nurseries. It was already crowded but as we got our trollies and headed toward the entrance you could feel our anticipation and hope!!

There in front of us was a rainbow of colour and plants ... wonderful. We were looking for Red, White and Blue - and soon found geraniums, petunias, lobelia, and so many others. Our trollies were soon overflowing and we even had to carry some trays to the pay desk. They soon got to work, and we of course cheekily asked

for a discount. It was given!! Then back to the car to unload and get ready for our journey home. It was very full.



Thankfully when we arrived back at Church, Steven and Dorothy were on hand to unload in the rain, and after some lunch we got planting. We had help from Jean Morgan and our garden gang of course, and you can see the results of our endeavours. The garden looked full of colour ...

Ready indeed for the Jubilee.



We also have a special Birch, planted in the front to honour the Platinum Jubilee



Sandra Walton, Chris Pascal and a lovely plaque in honour of gardens on the Bible garden wall.



Chess

It's strange how one thing leads to another and even stranger how everything leads to nostalgia. I bought myself an Oculus Quest 2 Virtual Reality (VR) headset for Christmas as I believe the Metaverse is the next big thing in technology. There was a Sunday programme just recently that predicted that all Churches in Britain would become virtual in the next few years.

I spent the two public holidays after Christmas walking virtually around the Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery looking at my favourite paintings; Rhyl Sands and the Boer War as well as gazing in awe at the treasures from the Staffordshire Hoard, then I found that looking at YouTube videos of the Pistol Annie's whilst wearing my headset, I was placed in a wide screen cinema. I wondered what would happen if I tried watching a film in VR, so I took out a Netflix subscription and watched some of my favourite films, mainly starring my favourite actress, Emma Stone and featuring Zombies. In Netflix, the VR headset puts you in your very own home cinema which has modern art paintings on the wall to the right and a panoramic view over the Swiss Alps through windows to the left.

Anyway, my friend Waseem from work recommended I should watch the mini-series 'The Queens Gambit' which whilst not starring Emma Stone was very good and which was where the nostalgia kicked in. I went to Turves Green Boys' school as a secondary school which at the time was a comprehensive establishment, I suspect it still is and for the first four years of my attendance my friends and I lived in an environment which opposed competition, which I have to say I thought very worthy although it did limit our academic achievements and our sporting prowess.

Then as I entered the fifth-year things changed. A new deputy head was appointed, I won't say what we called him, but it wasn't very complimentary and was the name of a character in our favourite TV series 'The Planet of the Apes'. He was from a grammar school and thought he should introduce some ideas from there, notably Houses. I'm not sure how they decided who was placed in which house, no Hogwarts sorting hat was involved, but bizarrely all my friends and I became members of Cofton House which was weird as we were the academic group preparing for our 'O' levels and working out what subjects to take at 'A' Level. Which meant the school had created a house full of non-competitive, non-physical students who not only would fail at any inter-house sports, didn't even want to take part. However, on looking through the list of games we could enter, someone noticed a chess competition. Everyone thought that sounded like us, but on a quick pole of house mates we discovered that I was the only person who knew how to play. So, I suddenly went from being picked last for football to the great hope of Cofton House.

This was a bit of a problem, because, although I knew how to play, I wasn't very good. I understood openings, including the queen gambit, and could develop my pieces into the middle game, but as soon as the pieces began to thin out and we headed for the end game I headed for defeat. I wasn't surprised as I couldn't see enough moves ahead to move myself into a winning position so break-time after break-time whilst being cheered on by my house mates I went down to one ignominious loss after another.

But watching The Queen Gambit, and I recommend it, although the book is better as it's more about Chess and less about drug taking and alcoholism than the TV series, I was taken back to fifth form and my friends all rallying round me after I lost saying "don't worry you'll win next time". I wasn't down hearted because we did put some students in for sports day, we were forced too, and they were all beaten out of sight, I wasn't that bad.

Neil Walters



The Cotteridge Church
Joint Church Council
Summary of Proceedings 7th April 2022

Introduction

The Meeting was held in a Hybrid Mode with members attending in Person and via Zoom.

Key Decisions

1. It was agreed that Michelle Madden was given the authority to decide the number of attendees at the Day Centre
2. It was agreed that wooden planters should be placed around the base of the new Easter cross
3. It was agreed that Sarah Molloy's paid hours could be increased to allow her to take on Line Management of the Kitchen Staff
4. It was agreed that the proceeds from the Summer Garden Party should go to the URC KSN Hospital appeal
5. It was agreed that the existing benches being replaced during the Garden restoration be relocated to the front of the building
6. It was agreed that the 'Post Room' be refurnished to make it a lettable Office space

Summary Proceedings

1. The meeting discussed the recent resignation of Neil Walters as Chair of Joint Church Council, John Cooper volunteered to Chair the next two meetings
2. Covid-19 restrictions (mask wearing, social distancing and hand sanitation) at Church was discussed
3. The Treasurer confirmed annual report had been sent to the auditors and will be signed by a Trustee so it can be approved at the AGM
4. The Treasurer summarised the report by saying that due to lockdown there had been a significant drop in Church income and revenue with a total deficit for the year of £65,000 which can be covered from reserves but is not a sustainable model
5. It was noted that the Foodbank had become an independent charity and this year would be the last year their numbers would appear in the Church's accounts.
6. With Jane Stephens stepping down from the Treasurers role at the AGM attention was drawn to the fact that an elected Treasurer was required on the Board of Trustee for the Church to continue to operate and asking for volunteers
7. The membership of the Church now stands at 141.
8. Thanks was given to Mike Meadows for sourcing the new, solid oak, Easter Cross
9. The use of Thermostatic valves to regulate the temperature of the water in the Ladies toilets which is deemed to be hot but is the correct legal temperature to prevent Legionella be investigated.
10. The ongoing ventilation problem in the kitchen was discussed and Stephen Audley said the Property and Management had the situation in hand.
11. It was noted with enthusiasm that Evelyn Bhajan has been exploring a vocation in ministry and has been offered and accepted a new role as a Methodist Minister in Cardiff. Congratulations Evelyn.

The next meeting of the Joint Church Council will be on Tuesday 7th June 2022 at 19:30.

Services in July and August

	3rd July	10th July	17th July	24th July	31st July
10:30 am	Revd M. Claridge Parade	Revd M. Claridge/ Evelyn Bhajan HC	Revd R. Collins Morning Worship	Revd R. Collins HC	Revd Barbara Calvert
	7th August	14th August	21st August	28th August	
10:30 am	Revd M. Claridge	Revd R. Collins HC	Revd M. Claridge	Revd R. Collins HC	

Tuesdays: 10.00 am There will be a short service of Holy Communion at the Church.

Wednesdays at 7.30 pm There will be online worship on Zoom.

Contact Revd Mike Claridge

<mike.claridge@thecotteridgechurch.org.uk>for access details.

Mike Claridge produces a regular notice sheet, which can be accessed via the church web site. This will give details of online services, and zoom interactions etc.

I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

These ancient oil lamps are the same type as would have been used at the time of Jesus. They burned olive oil.

The only light at that time would have been from the sun, moon and stars or, artificially, from candles and oil lamps.

Bob Burton



Memories of 1953!

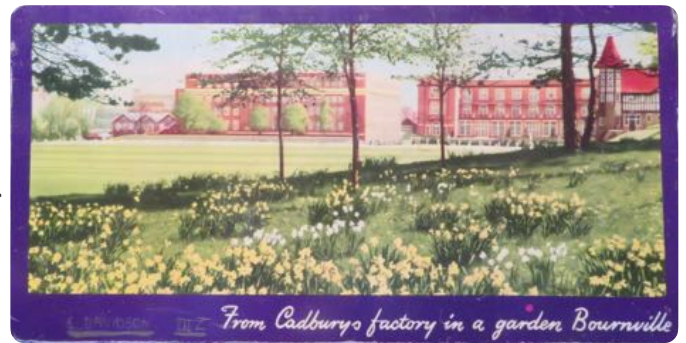
Jean Morgan

I have quite a few memories of the Coronation, one which I think shows how times have changed (apart from the whole street watching the proceedings on one small TV) was the children's fancy dress competition we had in my road. We were supposed to be story-book characters. No ready-made costumes in those days! Most of the boys went as pirates – I seem to remember the lady next door dyeing shirts red and scrounging brass curtain rings for earrings. One enterprising mother dyed her son's vest black, made him a grass skirt from raffia and a spear, covered all the exposed parts of his body with burnt cork and sent him as Man Friday. I think he won a prize, as did my little sister as Little Red Riding Hood, whose outfit probably used up all the remaining red bunting in our local draper's shop. As I wore glasses even as a 6 year old, my options were rather limited. My mother made me a long dress, lace apron and mob cap and insisted I had our dog on a lead. I think I was supposed to be Old Mother Hubbard, but I preferred the idea of Red Riding Hood's grandmother and the wolf.

Celia Lester

We also watched the coronation on a neighbours' TV hired for the occasion, very small, blurred and black & white.

I also remember being given a tin of chocolates & biscuits by Cadburys a gift to Birmingham schoolchildren to mark the celebrations.



My Dad crafted a crown shape from a piece of brass curtain track, and decorated it with a home-made chain of little lights he had acquired from the instrument panels of Wolseley motor cars. It sat in our front window, lit up in red white and blue!

John Cliff

This is a photograph of me [John Cliff] when I was nearly 10 years old on 2nd June 1953. We lived in Calverley Road at the time, and this is our street party to celebrate the Coronation.

The fancy dress competition was for the children in the road, and with my parents' help I am dressed as a fisherman. There were only a few channels on the television, and in fact there may have been only one at the time - namely the BBC. A popular programme was called "What's my Line?" in which the panel had to guess the job of the contestant. As a fisherman I represented this programme. In my right hand I have a paper fish on a string, and in my right hand I am holding a sign which says "What's my Line?"



I won the competition, and you will never guess what the prize was!
It was a set of fishing rods!!

Platinum Jubilee Celebrations.

We had a wonderful day on Saturday June 4th, despite the inclement weather preventing us from using our newly refurbished garden. Heartfelt thanks go to organiser Sarah Molloy, to everyone who helped her, and of course to everyone who came to enjoy it. And there was a lot to enjoy.



We had cream teas, cakes, and ice cream to enjoy eating,



lots of lovely nostalgic music to listen to,



Irish dancing to watch,

a pudding competition to take part in,



stalls to buy from, and lots of people to be together with.



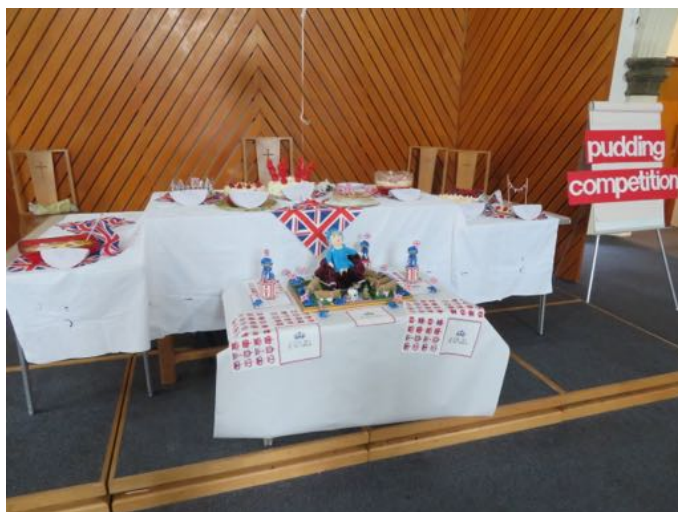
Our gardeners Chris, Dorothy and Steve were presented with a small token of appreciation for all their hard work

Jubilee Music

Very many thanks to Peter Childs and his associate musicians Neil Smith, Karen Hanna, and Jilly Croasdale, for entertaining us all so royally at the Jubilee Party. Many of us were taken back along Memory Lane right to the 1950s. Peter has written details of the songs they played and sang.

1. 1951 ELIZABETHAN SERENADE. Mantovani & his orchestra. Composed by Ronald Binge who originally called it 'The Man in the Street'. It won the Ivor Novello award. Used as the theme tune for the BBC Light programme *Music in Miniature*. The title was repurposed to recognise the new Elizabethan Age.
2. 1953 THE DOGGIE IN THE WINDOW Sung by Patti Page, written by Bob Merrill. Lita Rosa, a UK singer with the Ted Heath orchestra recorded 'How Much is that Doggie in the Window?' Her version reached #1, the first woman to do so, although she had initially said it was a rubbish song and as a serious singer she wasn't going to record it.
3. 1954 WE'RE GONNA ROCK AROUND THE CLOCK TONIGHT by Bill Haley and His Comets was written by Max Freedman & James Myers. It's a 12 bar blues, arguably the first hit 'Rock & Roll' record. It was released in the UK simply as 'Rock Around the Clock'. Haley performed it all his life, including in 1979 at a Variety Command Performance for HRH Elizabeth II.
4. 1961 CAN'T HELP FALLING IN LOVE sung by Elvis Presley on the album Blue Hawaii. Written by Hugo Peretti. The melody is based on Plaisir d'amour, a French song from 1874. The text is written from a female perspective as shown in lines such as 'would it be a sin'. Elvis often used it as his finale song at live concerts.
5. 1961 STRANGER ON THE SHORE written & performed by Acker Bilk. Originally called 'Jenny' after his daughter. First British record to reach #1 in US Billboard Hot Hundred charts. Apollo 10 crew took a tape of it on a trip to the moon.
6. 1963 SUMMER HOLIDAY by Cliff Richard. From the film of the same name. Written by guitarist Bruce Welch. The film had Cliff as the lead playing a mechanic driving a London double-decker bus to Greece. Una Stubbs in the cast.
7. 1965 YESTERDAY Paul McCartney. Released from the film 'Help'. Using a string quartet on a pop song was unusual. Paul woke up with the tune complete in his head and for a month he went around asking people if they knew it. Initial lyrics as a first attempt at song metre were 'Scrambled eggs / oh my baby how I love your legs / not as much as I love scrambled eggs'.
8. 1967 WHEN I'M 64 was written by Paul McCartney in 1958 when he was 16 yrs. Released on Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band album. Domestic bliss.
9. 1969 STREETS OF LONDON by Ralph McTell. Hitch-hiking around Europe he initially called it 'Streets of Paris' but there was already a song called 'The Poor People of Paris' so he changed it. He won the Ivor Novello award for 'Best Song'.
10. 1982 ASHOKAN FAREWELL. Jay Ungar. American musical folk family. Karen solo.
11. 1971 IMAGINE John Lennon. Just Imagine a world without borders, or religion, it's easy if you try. It was initially inspired by Lennon reading a Christian prayer book encouraging the positive power of thought. Banned in some Catholic schools.
12. 1972 TOP OF THE WORLD written by Richard Carpenter. Originally an album track but later released as a single that topped the Billboard chart.
13. 1979 I HAVE A DREAM by Abba - written by Benny Andersson & Björn Ulvaeus. Features the Children's International Choir from Stockholm. Along with Agnetha & Anni-Frid the four formed ABBA in 1972 then won Eurovision in 1974. They performed this song on Noel Edmond's Late Late Breakfast show just before they broke up. The style is 'Schlager' (German for 'easy listening').
14. 1967 WHAT A WONDERFUL WORLD written by Bob Thiele, made famous by Louis Armstrong. Reached #1 in UK charts making Armstrong at 66 yrs the oldest UK chart topper to date, only beaten by Tom Jones in 2009 when Tom was 68 yrs.

WI to the Rescue



When we planned a Platinum Jubilee Pudding Competition as part of our Jubilee Celebration there was only one place to go for Judges - The WI!



We were delighted when Jackie Poyner, a WI Adviser and member of the Bournville WI, agreed to come with Christine, a member also, to judge our competition.

However, nothing prepared us or them for the array and numbers of puddings/cakes that arrived. Jackie and Christine remained undaunted. Clutching sheets of criteria to assist them, as well as water, plates and spoons. After nearly an hour they were ready to announce to the assembled gathering the results.

They were not swayed by appearance - taste was uppermost in their decisions.

Certificates had been prepared and these were given out to the Top 3 puddings.

1st A Jubilee Crown by Shirley Harris

2nd A Union Flag Cheesecake by Celia Lester

3rd The Royal Biscuit Cake by Sandra Walton.



What a great time we had - and a big thank you to everyone who took part, and of course a big thank you to our judges. Maybe this could be an annual event?

Sandra Walton

A Right Royal Knit.

To celebrate Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee the knitters of Beaumont Park and The Cotteridge Church decided to get together and make a tableau. They created the Queen, surrounded by her corgis, sitting in the grounds of Windsor Castle. By the side of a lovely photo of Her Majesty was a knitted white horse. The idea of putting it on the post box was eventually changed by the thought of all that work being ruined by the elements (or even worse vandalism) Mr and Mrs Gosrani at the Cotteridge Pharmacy were only too delighted to display it in their window.



Susan & Rita



Boys' Brigade



Stan Dewey 7th and Ivor Ravenhill 53rd - Kings Badge Holders

Everybody at BB was sorry to hear that Ivor Ravenhill had passed away. He was captain of the 53rd Company at Cotteridge for over 20 years and was awarded his King's badge. He was a great supporter of the present company and will be missed by the boys and leaders.



We have now started our summer activities on a Friday night and we hope for good weather. Our Peckwood weekend took place at the end of June and everybody had a good time after 3 years absence. On Saturday 9th July it is our family outing to Weston-Super-Mare and if any church members would like to go the cost is £13 a seat. We leave Cotteridge at 8-30 am and Weston at 5-30 pm.

Bob Hotchkiss



Book Sales & MiniMarkets

Book Sales and Mini markets in Pennine Way have been going well this year raising much needed money for Church and Day Centre. The books in Book Room cater for all interests and are of a high quality. If you haven't visited yet it is well worth a visit combined with a drink and something to eat. You will always find a warm welcome from staff in the café. The Mini markets are run frequently on Wednesdays and there are a lot of bargains in clothes, Bric-a-brac and jewellery all well worth a look. Thank you to all who have supported in foot fall and through donations.

Linda Woodhouse

Spark

A new take on the parable of the Sower (Matthew 13: 3 - 23)

At SPARK, a group which meets once a month and has two sub-groups (one that meets at church and the other in people's houses) to discuss aspects of faith, we have recently started to study the parables. The first parable that we studied was the parable of the sower. We also thought about how it might be brought up to date and this is my attempt.



The parable of the generous investor.

There were once persons of apparently unlimited wealth.

They were not obsessed by money and did not hoard this wealth for themselves but instead they were a very generous investor. They would invest in all the shares on the market. Not only that they also freely offered their business advice garnered from their wide and varied experience, hoping that this would help all of the ventures to perform at their best.

However, some of the enterprises ignored any advice and never really got going. Soon their shares were worthless.

Some started well and looked promising. They listened to the advice but didn't really believe in it. After awhile, when trading conditions got a little difficult, they faltered and again the shares ended up worthless.

Some of the enterprises worked with the investor and established strong businesses. All was looking good but then, instead of focusing on their own business, they got distracted by what their competitors were doing. They forgot their good practices, their customers deserted them and they went into liquidation. To make matters worse they were then taken over by a less than reputable company. Yes, as with the others their shares ended up worthless.

However, some of the companies worked alongside the investor and responded to all of the nurturing poured out on them. They cared about their customers. They were in it for the long game. They focused on sustainability and trading ethically. Their shares continued to rise until some were 30 times the original price, some 60 times and some even as much as 100 times.

Tim Clayton

The Cotteridge Church Away Day Saturday 25th June

Around twenty people from The Cotteridge Church made the journey to Four Oaks Methodist Church by car or train to think about ideas for the future of The Cotteridge Church. The day was led by Kerry and Rosie from The Methodist Church's Learning Network.

The idea of going away for the session was to focus on our mission and witness strategy without the distraction of what we need to do to our building at this precise moment.

We acknowledged that Cotteridge has bounced back from Covid lock-downs and, in particular, a lot of café users and room hirers were around day by day. It's estimated that around 600 people access the building each week.

There was still a feeling that our building looks closed when it's actually open and busy. It was recognised that we need to give more thought to the entrances of the building, while acknowledging that the garden, front and back, has made the building more user friendly. The midweek worship events that have been attended by, among others, café customers, Day Centre and C2U have been a success. More will be planned. It was decided to have a Creative Worship group, as a subgroup of the Worship and Pastoral Group, to look at ideas for worship on Sundays - sometimes led by members of the congregation. It was acknowledged that in general, across all three denominations, there is a shortage of clergy and local leading of worship will need to be more frequent. All denominations are encouraging congregations to share resources and ideas.

Nothing was finalised, and wasn't intended to be, on the Away Day, but it gave us plenty of food for thought and ideas will continue to be developed.

Mike Claridge

Garden Service Sunday 26th June

All our prayers for fine weather were answered, and the sun shone, though it was a bit windy! Mike Meadows and his team had everything organised, and the top of the steps from the Cotswold room made a very suitable pulpit. Barbara Calvert had suggested that we do this, after inclement weather had prevented us from showing off the delights of our refurbished garden to everyone at the Jubilee party. Naturally(!), our theme was the garden, and all the bible readings told of happenings in gardens:

Genesis 2: 8-9	The Garden of Eden	
Matthew 26: 36-38	Jesus prays in Gethsemane	
John 19: 41-42	John 20: 15	Golgotha
Revelation 22: 1-2	The Heavenly Garden	



We reflected on the peace and pleasure generated in gardens, and on how they can increase community spirit. Celia described the plantings in our Bible garden, and Chris read the poem we have had mounted on its wall.

We used real hymnbooks for some lovely hymns, and the communion booklet for a valued Holy Communion. It was a memorable and delightful service.

Thank you Barbara

Marcés Mailing June 2022

It is good to hear from our friends in Peru again. Jean Morgan has sent their newsletter.



“For I know the plans I have for you,”
declares the Lord,
“plans to prosper you and not to harm you,
plans to give you hope and a future.”

As Penny ate her (authentic) Peruvian homemade orange marmalade sandwich, sitting in Lima, it was good to see a Peruvian flavour in the Queen’s Jubilee

celebrations. Why in LIMA not UK?



Penny was also able to hold the literacy classes for a group of children going into 3rd grade but in some cases with basically NO reading ability, followed by the Summer Holiday Bible Club. The latter gave us a new experience.

Obedying social distancing meant limiting numbers, so people were warned that latecomers might not get in. Even so, it was a surprise to discover children

had started queuing 30 mins before the class; the queuing continued the whole time, even though we never did have to turn anyone away... Just practising for the rest of their lives when they will experience LONG queues for banks, making hospital appointments, picking up medicines, getting onto the train station... Sadly, now that there are lots of other things on offer, coming to Church is no longer the big attraction it had been for a long time during the pandemic.

We are encouraged by Jesús el Nazareno, where Penny is Rector.

Please pray for the Abundant Life course just starting; time constraints for people have meant that the only time some are available is 4.30pm on a Sunday afternoon, immediately before the service.

A special moment recently was the service on Maundy Thursday, where we had foot-washing. There were several children there; most wanted their (VERY dirty!) feet washed but 10 year-old Luana, having had her feet washed then asked a few minutes later “Can I help, Sister?” (“Sister” being the generic term for Christian women). Good to know SOMEONE got the message of “You also should wash one another’s feet”.

One improvement in the services in all 3 congregations over the last few weeks has been the music ministry. There is a beautiful organ in the Good Shepherd which has recently been repaired, and it was played for the first time a few weeks ago – what a wonderful sound! So hymns are no longer Youtube downloads, but singing with an organ again. The Spanish congregation has always had Penny on the guitar – NOT the most satisfactory solution. However, a few weeks ago a couple appeared at the Church and are now helping out with the music ministry; the arrival of a professional singer has enhanced it even more. And in Jesús el Nazareno, guitar classes have started in a nearby Church so (in faith!) we will have 2 new players soon.





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