

# Roundabout



**The Cotteridge Church  
Witnessing at the Heart of the Community**

**May 2022**

## Minister's Letter

Having been out for the day I returned home and switched on the television and saw Rafiki talking to Simba. "I knew your father, - correction I know your father."



"I hate to tell you this, he died a long time ago."  
"Wrong again. Come with me and I'll show you him." Rafiki takes Simba to a pool of water and tells Simba to look into the water. Simba replies "That's just my reflection."

Rafiki says "Look harder." And into the picture comes Mufasa. Rafiki's comment is "He lives in you."

As I pondered on this story I thought it has parallels with the Easter Story, the disciples are hidden away in a locked room, frightened because the person they had followed has been crucified. And in that locked room Jesus appears

and says "Peace be with you" and then shows the disciples his hands and side. Jesus intrudes into their life once more, and the disciples (ones who are taught) became apostles (ones who are sent).

Thomas wasn't with the other disciples, so for Jesus' second appearance when Thomas sees him he says "My Lord and my God!"

Here was the beginning of the church: the apostles teaching; fellowship; the breaking of bread and prayer. Acts 2 42

Jesus' presence in our lives through the Easter resurrection is like the lamp lighter in this Robert Louis Stevenson story: The boy from the country came to London to visit his grandparents. One night as it was getting dark, he sat on the front porch watching the sights of the city. As he watched, he saw a man coming down the street. The man would stop at each corner and pause beside the lamp post, and then a round globe of light would burst forth through the darkness. As the boy watched in wonderment, the street gradually changed from darkness to a place of light. He became so excited, that he ran into the house and called his grandmother, "There's a man outside poking holes in the darkness".

Are you poking holes in the darkness of our world with your Christian commitment?



## Friends & Family

We are very sad to report that June Milner died in early April. Her funeral will be on Monday 9th May at 1.00pm at St Nicholas' Church Kings Norton, & Lodge Hill at 2.30pm. Rita has written a tribute to her.

Steven Wigzell has also died. We sent our condolences and prayers to the families of both of them.

On a much happier note, we send congratulations to Clive Babb, who celebrated his 99th birthday on 20th March, and shared a delicious cake with us after the Sunday Service.



## Christian Aid/DEC

The Cotteridge Church has raised a staggering £924.17 for the Christian Aid/ DEC Ukraine Appeal. This will make a real difference to people who are desperately suffering because of the ongoing conflict. Thank you to everyone who has donated, and raised funds. John Cooper, Christian Aid advocate at the Cotteridge Church.

## Festival of choir music at Lichfield Cathedral

The URC has made us aware that on Saturday 21st May 2022, The Free Church Choir Committee is holding a festival of choir music at Lichfield Cathedral. Anyone is invited to attend as part of a congregation. No booking is required and admission is free.

More information can be found on the website [www.freechurchchoirs.org.uk](http://www.freechurchchoirs.org.uk)

**Tuesday Fellowship** is a group which is open to all. We meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month at 2pm in the Cotswold Room and below is a list of dates with the speakers /activities feel free to come and join us.

Thank you

Linda Mann

### TUESDAY FELLOWSHIP DATES MAY – DEC 2022

Date	Subject	Opener
MAY 10th	Rita on Lyons Corner House	L.M.
24th	Quiz	H.P.
JUNE 14th	Celia's Strange objects	H.N.
28th	Favourite hymns	L.W.
JULY 12th	Don on the Rea Valley	S.B.
26th	Coronation Memories	L.M.
AUG. 9th	No Meeting	
23rd	No Meeting	
SEPT. 13th	Holidays	L.M.
27th	Mike Claridge	M.C.
OCT. 11th	Roger's Railway Journeys	R.C.
25th	Make us laugh – jokes	L.W.
NOV. 8th	John Smith Seasonal programme	H.N.
22nd	Musical afternoon + bring + buy	H.P.
DEC. 13th	Advent Carols + mince pies	L.M.
27th	No Meeting	

**SPARK** Is a discussion group which meets at the church for an hour one Sunday evening each month. In May & June we will be exploring 2 of the parables of Jesus starting with the parable of the sower, using the commentary of William Barclay as a starting point. More information from Jane.

# Coventry Cathedral

Was bombed on: Thursday 14 Nov 1940 - New building opened :Friday 25 May 1962



The new cathedral in Coventry is celebrating its 60th anniversary this month. Basil Spence was chosen to design the new building in 1950, and said it should be built alongside the ruin, which should be kept as a garden of remembrance.

The foundation stone of the new cathedral was laid by Queen Elizabeth II on 23 March 1956. The unconventional spire is 80 feet tall and was lowered onto the flat roof by a helicopter, flown by Wing Commander John Dowling in April 1962.

The cathedral was consecrated on 25 May 1962, and Benjamin Britten's *War Requiem*, composed for the occasion, was premiered in the new cathedral on 30 May to mark its consecration, conducted by Benjamin Britten and Meredith Davies. The new building has literally risen from the ashes of the bombed one, which serves as a vivid reminder of the ravages of war.

Cross of Nails: The original version was made from three large medieval nails salvaged from the Coventry Cathedral after the building was severely damaged by German bombs on 14 November 1940, during the Second World War. In the following decades, several hundred crosses have been given as gifts to various organisations, including churches, prisons and schools.

The idea for the cross came from Rev Arthur Philip Wales, who was then rector of St Mark's church in Coventry, [which was also damaged in the bombing], and later rector at St Michael's church in Warmington, Warwickshire. He found several large hand-forged medieval carpenters nails as he walked through the ruins of the cathedral on the morning after the bombing. He used some wire to bind together three nails into the shape of a Latin cross, with one nail vertical and two head-to-tail as a cross-piece, and presented them to the Bishop of Coventry, Mervyn Haigh.



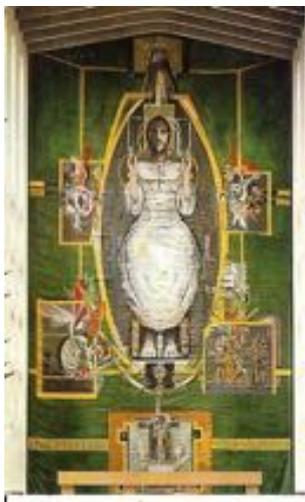
Two charred beams had fallen together into the shape of a cross and were erected among the rubble. The original charred cross is now displayed in the new cathedral, with a replica placed in the standing ruins of the old cathedral. The original cross of nails made a progress around the churches of the diocese in Lent 1962, returning to the new cathedral on the eve of its consecration on 25 May 1962, and is now often displayed at the High Altar, with the nails now welded into place.



In September 1947, Richard Howard provost of the Cathedral, [1933-1958] said that we should “Strive for forgiveness and reconciliation, not revenge”, visited Kiel in Germany, and presented

a cross made from medieval nails found in the ruins of Coventry Cathedral to the church of St Nikolai; in return, Howard was presented with a stone from the ruins of the German church. Over subsequent years, hundreds of nail crosses have been given to various organisations, originally using medieval nails from the old cathedral but more recently using modern replicas. In many places the Coventry Cross of Nails is mounted on a wall, or displayed on an altar.

The recipients of nail crosses from Coventry were brought together in 1974 to form an ecumenical "Community of the Cross of Nails", developed by Bill Williams, Provost at Coventry Cathedral [1958 - 1981]. The network of over 200 organisations in 45 countries shares a commitment to peace, justice and reconciliation. It includes dozens of churches in Germany, including the Dresden Frauenkirche, and Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church and Chapel of Reconciliation (Kapelle der Versöhnung) in Berlin, and in other cities in the UK and elsewhere. At many, the Coventry Litany of Reconciliation is recited each Friday; the short prayer was written by Canon Joseph Poole in 1958.



A Coventry Cross of Nails was on board the Type 42 destroyer HMS *Coventry* (D118) during the Falklands War, sank with the ship and later was salvaged by Royal Navy divers. It was returned to Coventry Cathedral, kept by the next HMS *Coventry*, a Type 22 frigate, from 1988 until she was decommissioned in 2002, and later presented to the Type 45 destroyer HMS *Diamond* (D34), which is affiliated to Coventry.

Visitors to the Cathedral still stand in admiration of the tapestry by Graham Sutherland and the chapel of Christ in Gethsemane by Steven Sykes.



### The Coventry Litany of Reconciliation

All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.

The hatred which divides nation from nation, race from race, class from class,  
FATHER FORGIVE

The covetous desires of people and nations to possess what is not their own,  
FATHER FORGIVE

The greed which exploits the work of human hands and lays waste the earth,  
FATHER FORGIVE

Our envy of the welfare and happiness of others,  
FATHER FORGIVE

Our indifference to the plight of the imprisoned, the homeless, the refugee,  
FATHER FORGIVE

The lust which dishonours the bodies of men, women and children,  
FATHER FORGIVE

The pride which leads us to trust in ourselves and not in God,  
FATHER FORGIVE

Be kind to one another, tender hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

How much we shall need this prayer for the present conflict in Ukraine!

Celia Lester

## My friend, June



I was so sad to hear the news of June's death. We were friends for so long. She had been very kind to my mother, Madge, and the memories go back a long way.

June was born in 1930 in King's Norton, a part of Birmingham she loved dearly. She went to King's Norton Primary School, and during WWII was evacuated to Wales. Later she went on to work for the gas board, where she met her husband Wal. Although June didn't speak about it much, she was very proud of his war service. As a Spitfire pilot, Wal flew to help break the siege of Malta in 1942, and for his wartime service he was awarded the Air Force Cross in 1944.

June and Wal were married at St Nicholas King's Norton in 1951. They had two sons, Jeff and Philip. June was delighted not only to become a grandma, but also a great grandma [by the way - she was once called "jam jar" when her first granddaughter was starting to talk!]

June came to St Agnes in the 1960s and soon got involved. She could turn her hand to anything - selling underwear at jumble sales, making apple pies for the Harvest Supper, helping with church cleaning - her speciality being the brasses in the chancel. One important job was as Brown Owl for the Brownies, something she did for many years. She not only helped the girls learn new skills, but also have lots of fun.

When the three churches came together in the 1980s June was ready again to volunteer. She served on the coffee bar for over 25 years.

Many middle aged adults will remember "Mrs Milner" when she was supervisor of the dinner ladies at Cotteridge School.

Although she was always busy helping others, June had time for hobbies - reading, cross stitch, crosswords, and more recently, sudoku. She also loved going on cruises with her friends Susan and Peter

I will always remember the holidays we shared - flying to Rome for the day - [yes! just a day], singing the Birdie Song in the street in Rudesheim on the Rhine, weeping as we listened to Silent Night in Aachen, getting stuck in the lift in the Chip Museum in Bruges, visiting the European Parliament in Strasbourg, and rushing down the hill in Madeira, in a wicker basket. In the UK we ate lavender scones in Norfolk, and tasted wine in Kent June was my friend - and what a friend! Every Monday for six months she sat with me at City Hospital while I had chemotherapy. She never complained, and, being June, she could always make me laugh. I'm so glad that back in the 1960s our paths crossed.



To use a quote by Joe Gargery in Dickens' Great Expectations - he said "What larks, Pip, what larks". I'll just say "What larks, June, What larks we had."

Goodbye my friend  
Rest in peace

Rita Sutton



## Celebrating Christian Aid Week

Come and join

Barbara, Hilary, John, Arthur, Fergus and Reuben

For afternoon tea

3- 5pm Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2022

5 Middleton Hall Road, Cotteridge B30 1AB

(cash or card donations welcome)

[barbara.calvert@methodist.org.uk](mailto:barbara.calvert@methodist.org.uk)



The Cotteridge Church

PLATINUM JUBILEE  
Garden Party

Saturday 4th June

from 1.30 pm

Come and Celebrate

with us!

Admission FREE

Delicious Teas

Entertainment

Stalls

Fun!

## The Cost of Energy

Recent energy costs have spiked. Electricity prices have doubled. Gas prices have gone up three times. Petrol is at a record high. One way to bring the bills back into line would be to simply use less. Use half your previous electricity or 2/3<sup>rd</sup> of your previous gas consumption and 'hey-presto' the bills would be back to normal. But we might then feel decidedly chilly sitting at home in the dark. What's to do? And of course what is the church to do?

One way could be to cut out waste. Another could be to use technology. Those brave, possibly annoying 'Insulate Britain' protestors who glue themselves to the road in front of rush hour traffic have a point. It is perfectly possible to build a 'Zero Carbon' new house. If you stop the energy leaking out and encourage sunlight to be trapped inside, the house will stay pleasantly warm without any extra heating. Solar panels can supply 'free' lighting and enable your electric car to run on sunlight. But most of us live in houses built decades ago that lose energy faster than we can pay our bills. However, as the price of energy goes up it pays to insulate. You can use less energy and reduce bills. We are looking at upgrading some church windows with this in mind.

On the technology side, Light Emitting Diode (LED) lighting is more efficient than tungsten or halogen. You get more lumens (light output) at a lower wattage from an LED. We have put brighter, lower watt LED spotlights in the side aisles of the Malvern room.

The church uses a lot of energy. It is a big, old, poorly insulated building used by many people for many hours each day. You can help by turning lights off when they are no longer needed. I don't want anyone to be feeling their way around a dark room but time and again we find rooms have been used for a meeting, everyone has left, and all the lights are left on for hours. Please be responsible. Only turn them on when you need them, and please turn them off after use. This is bad for our bills and bad for the environment. If you turn the lights on at the start of a meeting, please turn them off after use. The same applies to all electrical items left on standby.

Many thanks.

Peter Childs

*Ed. You will have noticed that three of the windows in the Malvern Room are boarded up with wood. The lead fixings around the glass have failed, and they are being repaired, which will reduce a little of the heat loss.*

**Three words from three letters** - some answers to the April question.

<b>a e r</b>	ear era are	<b>a e t</b>	eat tea ate
<b>a h s</b>	ash has sha	<b>a l p</b>	alp lap pal
<b>a m r</b>	arm ram mar	<b>a p t</b>	apt pat tap
<b>a r t</b>	art rat tar	<b>b o r</b>	orb rob bro
<b>d e i</b>	die dei eid	<b>i s t</b>	tis its sit
<b>n o w</b>	now own won	<b>o p t</b>	opt top pot



Solar panels were fitted to the church roof some years ago, and have proved a valuable investment



## Can you create a sweet dish that's fit for a Queen?

To celebrate Her Majesty The Queen, The Cotteridge Church is holding its very own 'Platinum Pudding Competition' Joining the nation to find a pudding suitable for royalty!

A good pudding should be joyful and celebratory, and make people smile!

All entries should be presented at the church garden party to be judged on

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2022

Speak to Sarah Molloy for more information.



### Services in May and June

	1st May	8th May	15th May	22nd May	29th May
10:30 am	Mrs Judith Bell Parade	Revd M. Claridge HC	Revd R. Collins Morning Worship	Revd M. Claridge HC	Revd Barbara Calvert
	3rd June	10th June	17th June	24th June	
10:30 am	Revd M. Claridge Parade	Revd R. Collins HC	Ms Sue Spencer	Revd Barbara Calvert HC	

## Hartlebury Castle

The perfect spring weather of warm golden sun and blue sky was the perfect start to Rita Sutton's trip to Hartlebury Castle.

The journey began with Norman, our faithful coach driver, taking us along country lanes overhung with leafy green trees. As we rode along we caught the occasional glimpse of spring lambs gazing at their new world

When we arrived at Hartlebury Castle itself we were free to tour its rooms and furnishings. There was also an accompanied talk by actors taking the parts of past residents who had lived there. This made you feel as if you were living along with them.



Then we went to look at the ornate gypsy caravans, which made you think of the travellers in past days roaming the country lanes in a more leisurely age.

Next it was time for a refreshing cup of tea and a slice of delicious cake in the tea rooms.

From there we had a walk in the castle grounds, just sat and admired the spring daffodils and primroses, or looked at the moat. All this was without our needing to wear our coats.

Then back on to our coach to return to

Cotteridge, after a perfect day.

Elaine Kilminster.

## STAR OF BETHLEHEM

This vintage 'mother of pearl' star was made by a craftsman as a souvenir of Bethlehem. The mother of pearl was sourced originally from oyster shells from the Red Sea. The fine craftsmanship has been a tradition for hundreds of years.

It would be interesting to know from anyone who has visited the Holy Land recently, if the craft tradition continues.

Bob Burton



## The Cotteridge Church AGM

### Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May 10.30 a.m. Church Council Election

This is the time of the year when we look for new people to stand for Church Council. The way it works now is election to Church Council means that you will also serve one of the following Property, Community, or Pastoral and Worship Committee. Nomination forms are in my pigeon hole.

Roger

## News from Knit and Natter

Mothering Sunday saw the windowsills of the church decorated with vases of bright yellow knitted daffodils. These remained in place for Easter – the advantage of the knitted variety being that they do not go brown and fade away. Knitted chicks (also featured in the last edition of Roundabout) were given to children at the Mothering Sunday service and then put for sale in the café and sold very quickly - the profits for Ukraine.



The Lent Knitalong was taken up by Dorothy and Barbara. It was a wonderful exercise with reflections given for each day of Lent and the instructions for two or three rows of knitting. All we knew is that we were knitting a cushion cover but as our knitting grew so the design gradually revealed itself. An Easter cushion!



New knitting projects include the Queen with corgis. The Queen has been completed and is exquisite – and will adorn the tea table at the Platinum Garden party along with many corgis patiently sown together by a supporter. (Party - Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June 1.30-4.30pm). A creative knitted post box cover is in progress as well as squares for blankets for refugees.

We have been delighted to welcome new knitters to the group – to knit, natter, or both. Individual tuition offered if needed...knitted or crochet. Come and join us -. 10.30-12noon every Thursday.

## Boys' Brigade

At the church parade service in April Finlay received his Presidents award from the company President Mike Meadows. Finn

has been in BB since the age of 6 and fully deserves the award.

This year despite our annual camp not taking place we still look forward to the warmer weather and activities in the park on a Friday night.

Our company weekend at Peckwood is booked for the end of June and we also have the coach trip



in July to Weston-Super-Mare.

Any new members in all of the age groups will receive a good welcome.

We meet every Friday from 6.15pm.

Bob Hotchkiss



The Cotteridge Church  
**Extraordinary Joint Church Council**  
**Summary of Proceedings 8th February 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 an LED light should be left on in the tower as a symbol to the community
2. It was agreed that the quote for Stained-Glass Window Repair from a company called 'Off the Wall' was accepted
3. It was agreed that the Church would fund £5,000 to quinquennial repairs
4. It was agreed that any monies held in Cotteridge Church Bank Accounts belonging to the B30 Food Bank should be transferred to them when requested
5. It was agreed that £800 should be used to buy equipment to make hybrid meetings more effective
6. It was agreed that £10,000 from a charitable donation should be allocated for garden improvements

### **Summary Proceedings**

1. The meeting discussed the layout of Chairs for Sunday Worship and if they should revert back to how it was before the pandemic
2. The Treasurer reported on the Church finances and said that without the receipt of a large donation the Church would be in deficit this financial year. The Treasurer added that she would be stepping down as treasurer at the forthcoming AGM
3. A report was received from the Worship and Pastoral Committee
4. The JCC discussed whether a light should be left on the Tower as a symbol to the community. It was debated whether a LED bulb would be a better choice due to its lower running costs
5. Work on the garden was brought up including making it more accessible, with a hope that the work could be completed by the Platinum Jubilee.
6. It was reported that John Cooper was working with Tim Clayton on a new Church web site
7. A report was received from the Property and Management Committee
8. The creation of cupboard space in the Malvern Room to act as Saplings Storage was discussed, where a new revised solution would be presented at the next JCC
9. Repairs to the Church's stained-glass windows were discussed, and two quotes were reviewed
10. David Pycock has applied for a grant of £10,000 to help fund urgent repairs to the Churches fabric highlighted in the latest quinquennial report. It was discussed whether the Church could commit £5,000 to bolster this amount
11. A report was received from the Community Services Committee
12. It was reported that the B30 and South Birmingham Foodbank was now its own independent charity and no longer part of The Cotteridge Church local ecumenical partnership charity
13. It was pointed out that this year marks the fiftieth anniversary of the formation of the United Reformed Church

The next meeting of the Joint Church Council will be on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2022 at 19:30.

# Climate Change Emergency

..What we do matters!

**Everyone is aware now of the rising costs of energy** and also the solutions that the Government have suggested but obviously there is no quick answer for our need for energy Supplies . The war in Ukraine and our reliance on Russia for gas has really focused thinking what can make a difference and how eco-friendly are the suggestions that have been made.

A way we can all help keep our energy costs down is by using less...just some thoughts.

\*As we go into summer our heating will be less, but if needed then turn down the temperature.

\* Drying clothes outside will reduce tumble drier use

\* Changing light bulbs to LED's will make a difference.

\* Batch cooking and freezing will help with gas/electric use.

\* Think of ways you can insulate your home ready for next winter.

These are only a few ways. I am sure you can think of more.

**but they all will make a difference.**

## **CLIMATE CHANGE ACTIONS**

I was really interested to read in my latest WI magazine whose theme was Climate action... the following list. The ideas are to help us in our quest to

### **Make a Difference**

**These 9 ACTIONS are set out by The Grantham Institute on Climate Change and the Environment.**

1. Be a voice for nature

2 Make your garden a haven for native plants and wildlife.

3 Respect and protect local habitats beyond your home

4 Eat a sustainable diet

5 Remember the 3 R's REDUCE..REUSE..RECYCLE

6 Buy less and shop locally and sustainably when possible

7 Save Water

8 Be a nature friendly tourist

9 Learn more about protecting nature.

These are some ideas for us to think about and use whenever we can. Enjoy being outside as the better weather and lighter nights make such a difference.

**Well done for all the ways you are making a difference in your lives and homes**

Sandra Walton

## Professor John Fremlin, 1913-1999

You will no doubt have heard that our government is planning a massive increase in the generation of electrical power through nuclear reactors. You will also no doubt, remember the recent Russian assault of the largest nuclear reactor in Europe when they shelled Zaphorizhzhia, and, if you are old enough, the effects of the meltdown at Chernobyl. All cause anxiety.

This made me think of a man I was privileged to know in the mid 1970s - Professor John Fremlin, and I would like to share some thoughts and memories with you.

He was unassuming, friendly, approachable, and extremely intelligent. He lived in Richmond Hill Road, in the house on the corner with Harrison Road. There is a beautifully curved brick wall, bordering the footpath, and defining the edge of his garden. I remember seeing white graffiti on this saying "YANKS GET OUT OF VIET-NAM!" painted on it. No attempt was ever made to remove it. We were quite sure he had painted it himself. It was meticulously done, and he was a pacifist.

He was interested in all aspects of science, though his speciality was nuclear physics. He would cycle to the University on an old bicycle, wearing a gaberdine raincoat. He advised widely on the handling of nuclear power sources, and related safety measures.

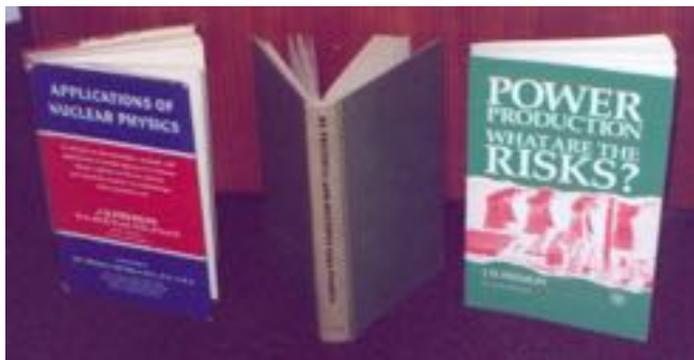
We knew him best for his hobby. My husband Richard was a taxonomic botanist, and could identify any plant on the planet. John Fremlin had set himself to photograph every wild flower in situ in the UK. But NOT the easy way. He reconstructed his camera so that it took 3D images, and did the same with a projector.

Richard met him unexpectedly on the top of Cairngorm, where Richard was teaching a group of students. John was seeking one of the last of his flowers. Fortunately Richard could tell him exactly where to find it, and as a reward we were invited to a 3D slide show at his home.



I did not find out until much later that he had volunteered to the government that if there were ever a serious malfunction in a nuclear reactor he would go into it, and defuse it, and render it safe. He knew how to do that, and he also knew that doing so would kill him. I was amazed at his courage, and his love of humanity.

We know that the Chernobyl disaster was caused by ineffective poor management [as - I assume - was the meltdown at Three Mile Island in the USA in 1979]. Things have been tightened up considerably since then, and the risk of radiation leaks is much reduced now. Using Nuclear power is another example of "the greater good". Generating power using fossil fuels will destroy our planet. Managed properly, nuclear reactors, as John Fremlin knew, can deliver enormous amounts of electric power for us all.



Celia Lester

## Mother's Day Celebration

It was a delight to welcome around 50 people to our Mother's Day Celebration which took place Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March – a few days before our Mothering Sunday service.

Members of our own congregation and friends from the Pennine Way joined The Cotteridge Day Care Centre and



students from C2U to celebrate, remember and give thanks for all the wonderful women and motherly figures around us...those still with us and those who have gone before.

We celebrated with singing, poems, drama, story, prayer and reflection.

Thanks to Peter and his friend Neil for so ably providing the musical accompaniment and to Sandra for the beautiful centre piece which we encircled. During the service we added to the centrepiece building a picture of spring – the season of Mothering Sunday.

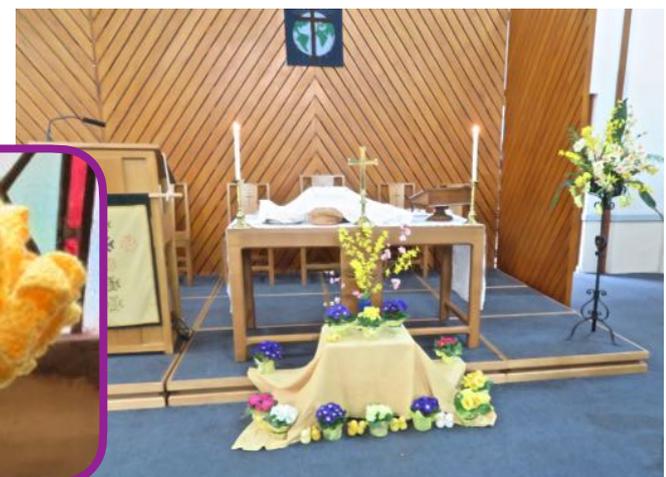


Church doesn't just have to happen on a

Sunday and for many people mid-week services are much more accessible. Celebrating together helps to build strong, healthy, caring communities and so we look forward to making them a regular part of the life of the Cotteridge Church.



Barbara Calvert



**First of all: Congratulations!**  
to everyone involved in Birmingham being the first city  
to be awarded the Compassionate Cities Award

## **BCF Interfaith Award**

BCF has a long term practice of awarding Life Membership to long-standing members of BCF who have shown outstanding commitment to its objectives of BCF and, as advertised in the last issue of BCF Update, we are invited to nominate individuals for Honours, ie MBE, OBE, etc.

We are now implementing the BCF Interfaith Award, which we agreed before the pandemic, but hadn't implemented.

This Award would be for anyone, whether or not, he/she is a member of BCF, to recognise outstanding work in interfaith. Candidates do not need to be 'dignitaries', but they and their work should be recognised as contributing to the benefit of those of faith within the city. Qualities like enthusiasm, friendliness and kindness will be looked for. Where activities are part of their regular job, readiness to work over and above its normal demands will be conspicuous. The work of an organisation rather than an individual might also be recognised.

We would like generally to present the Award at either our AGM in September or the Interfaith Week Launch in November, so it would be helpful to receive nominations by the end of June.

Nominations for the Award should be accompanied by a citation of the reasons for the Award and should be sent to the Secretary at [pjrookes@gmail.com](mailto:pjrookes@gmail.com).

## **Parliamentors Programme**

Applications to apply for ParliaMentors Programme are open. ParliaMentors is a UN award-winning leadership programme where teams of university students of different faiths and non-religious beliefs collaborate to create real social change while being mentored by MPs. The programme is open to anyone who will be a current student in the 2022/23 academic year in the following 9 universities:

- University of London:- SOAS, & Queen Mary,
- University of Manchester, University of Liverpool
- University of Nottingham & Nottingham Trent University
- Coventry University, University of Birmingham, Birmingham City University

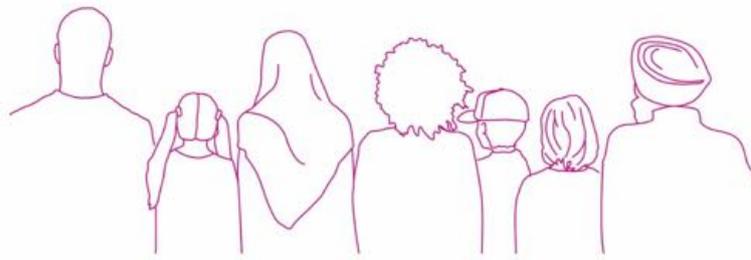
Through expert-led training, support from local and national NGOs and access to Westminster, ParliaMentors gives students the networks and skills they need to effect real change in their communities, in their careers and in the political arena.

**For more information and application form, follow the link:**

<https://faithbeliefforum.org/programme/parliamentors/>

**The next meeting will be at 2.30pm on Thurs 19<sup>th</sup> May**  
This is an open forum for anyone interested in faith and health.

If you have a topic you would like us to discuss, please contact [pjrookes@gmail.com](mailto:pjrookes@gmail.com)



**The Hospice Charity Partnership Compassionate City & Community Development**  
Compassionate Cities recognise that everyone has a responsibility to care and support each other at their most vulnerable times, that as communities we should not just solely rely upon the support of the NHS and other statutory care providers to help those who are seriously ill or becoming more frail, isolated and vulnerable.

On the 14<sup>th</sup> March 2022 Birmingham was awarded the Compassionate City Charter. This award recognises the hard work and commitment that organisations and grass root level groups are doing to support their communities in times of frailty, serious illness, death and grief. It also signifies the commitment of the city to continue to build on this foundation and further develop this support to ensure our citizens have the capacity and resilience to care for and support each other at times of need.

We would like to map and celebrate the existing great work that is already being delivered within the communities across Birmingham to support those who are seriously ill, dying, grieving or becoming frail and isolated. This can include, lunch clubs, walking groups and seated exercise groups, art and craft groups to reduce social isolation, men's groups, support groups, food banks, free meal provision, health and well-being sessions, any groups that run to support those who are vulnerable.

Please share any information about the groups and support that are being delivered in your community with [Suzanne.mcarthur2@nhs.net](mailto:Suzanne.mcarthur2@nhs.net)



**ELLA BAKER**  
**school of organising.**

### **Forthcoming Events**

Intersectionality: what it is and how to use it.	Saturday 7 May
Women organising in Trade Unions.	Tuesday 10 May
Building Collective Leadership.	Thursday 19 May
Self care, collective care and activism.	Saturday 21 May

email [info@ellabakerorganising.org.uk](mailto:info@ellabakerorganising.org.uk) to find out more.

### **Cook the Commonwealth – we need you!**

In Summer 2022, the Commonwealth Games will come to Birmingham. This is a hugely exciting time for our city and an opportunity to celebrate the diverse culture of Birmingham and beyond! This project aims to use the Commonwealth Games as a springboard to celebrate different cultural diets in Birmingham and further afield. The project involves collecting recipes for each of the 60+ Commonwealth countries and using a recipe app “Whisk” to capture and share them. Each Commonwealth country will have its own “Whisk” community, with an initial collection of 10-15 recipes, and there will be an overall community for all of these recipes. These communities will be easily searchable by searching “CWG” in

Whisk (they are currently private while we collate recipes). There will also be a campaign to encourage people to Cook the Commonwealth!

We need people to contribute recipes which they feel celebrate a particular Commonwealth country – whether this is a traditional recipe or a fresh take, a recipe passed down from family or the link that tried and tested online recipe! We are particularly interested in recipes that are delicious, nutritious, and low in fat, salt, and sugar. Recipes should be able to be cooked in a home (i.e. not too cheffy!) and use ingredients which are easy to source in the UK. If you can contribute a recipe which you feel celebrates a Commonwealth country, fill in the recipe template form available from

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=Z86aaeTSzUuzA9K74rm78TViCTSKXSJPs3XRZMp1Q2RUNjE5UFI3NjRaN1ZVQTdBRTUzTFZTUDJKTiQIQCN0PWcu>

and email it to us at <foodsystemPH@birmingham.gov.uk,

## Cotteridge church book centre



VENT for Change is a sustainable stationery brand which protects the planet and supports children's educational QA projects globally with every item sold. In 2017, they launched Share a Pencil Day.

Share A Pencil Day is a fun and interactive way for

schools, teachers and pupils to explore some of the reasons why millions of children globally are still missing out on the education they deserve, and why that matters.

Will you be getting involved in Share a Pencil Day this year?

Check out the vent range in the Traidcraft Catalogue and display in the cabinet

Have you Traidcraft's new soft drinks yet? £1.50 each



Roger Collins

## Knitters & Natterers can do Anything!

For some time the Knit and Natter group at Beaumont Park has been making things for charity - hats and mittens for Africa, bags purses and pencil cases for India and during Covid, hats, mittens and scarves for Birmingham City Mission. Then a challenge was thrown down by Ana, Brown Owl at The Cotteridge Church.

“Could you please knit us a camp fire?”

“Pardon?”

Ana explained she wanted some logs and flames which she could arrange in a container. The logs were no problem, a few insides of toilet rolls and some brown and black wool and they were done. The flames took some thinking about but eventually we had knitted pieces of yellow, orange and red wool and hey presto, flames! It might not be a conventional camp fire but Ana says it's just what she wanted.

Rita Sutton



A big thank you to the ladies at Beaumont Park who, over lockdown knitted the different coloured flames (dark red, orange red and yellow) and the different logs for our Brownie campfire. I (Brown Owl) sewed the coloured flames together and it looks wonderfully realistic.

This term the Brownies will be having their very first indoor campfire which is one of the clauses of the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee badge.



Ana Leech (Brown Owl)

190th Cotteridge Church Brownies

## Farewell & Thank You Bob.

The Day Centre was very sorry to say goodbye to our longest serving member of staff. Bob Maddocks had been a carer/driver



with the day centre since 2005. We gave him a good send off along with several gifts from the staff and the Day Centre Committee. I think that was the first time I have seen Bob

so emotional. The members and staff will miss him but maybe not his awful jokes! He has now decided to make the most of his retirement and book a number of short holidays, but he has promised that he will be back to visit us. Goodbye Bob and enjoy your free time with your lovely partner Joan.

Many thanks to all our contributors for making this BUMPER ISSUE.

I hope you have enjoyed reading it

Ed.



Roundabout is the bi-monthly newsletter of The Cotteridge Church.  
Large print issue is available to download from our web site.

Your Editor from January 2017 is Celia Lester

Please send copy for the July edition by 24th June 2022 to  
[roundabout@thecotteridgechurch.org.uk](mailto:roundabout@thecotteridgechurch.org.uk)

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