

# Roundabout



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

**July 2023**

# Mike's message ...

The hymn 'Let us build a house' is an unofficial 'anthem' of The Cotteridge Church.

Written by Marty Haugen, the first verse goes:

Let us build a house where love can dwell  
and all can safely live,  
a place where saints and children tell  
how hearts learn to forgive.

Built of hopes and dreams and visions,  
rock of faith and vault of grace;  
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

*All are welcome, all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.*



It's a great hymn for The Cotteridge Church where three (at least!) different Christian traditions came together, seeking to end locally the divisions between denominations.

One of the wonderful things about The Cotteridge Church is that there are activities and groups taking place every day. Over the years 'all are welcome' has taken on deeper meaning. From training groups for young adults (C2U) to addiction services (CGL), uniformed organisations (BB and Girlguiding) to pre-school groups (Saplings, Little Foxcubs etc), Cotteridge Church Day Centre for Older Adults to Central England Co-op Gardening Club, there's something for most people, and all are indeed welcome. All this takes place with The Cotteridge Church Café at its heart - a welcoming place run by caring people.

A 'house' as varied and busy as The Cotteridge Church has many joys and frustrations. Some of the groups and activities are church groups - in that the Church Council are ultimately responsible for them and some of their admin - including finances and safeguarding. Other groups pay rent but, as well as a vital source of income, they are a vital and valued part of our life for what they do. Together we serve the local community. Sometimes the boundaries of 'church or room hirer' have become blurred in a good way. For example C2U help run the café once a week.

Like any other house that is full of both guests and family, we are all living alongside each other. That means that, as individuals or as groups, we might need to adapt to situations, sometimes giving, sometimes taking. We also need to be aware that the sensitivities of some people mean that we have to be careful what we say and how we say it. That's about us, the living stones, providing the 'vault of grace' mentioned in the hymn, showing God's love, acceptance, patience. In doing this we will build a house together where, not only all are welcome, but all feel affirmed and valued.

## Friends & Family

Many of our older members will remember Joan Clayton, who was an active member of our church for many years. Her funeral service was led by Rita Sutton at Lodge Hill on 22nd May. The organist was Trevor Workman, who plays the Bournville Carillon, and who is related by marriage to Joan. See Rita's tribute later.

Jackie Jones died on 23rd May at 98 years old, Revd Donald Eadie, Eric Knight and Steve Edwards have also died. Jackie was a member of our church for many years; Revd Donald Eadie was a good friend of the Church whilst serving as Chair of The Birmingham District the Methodist Church, and was instrumental in organising and supporting the Political Night Prayer events which took place prior to lockdown; Eric Knight was a member of the Methodist church; and Steve Edwards was the husband of John Cliff's sister Margaret.

We are sad to hear that so many of our friends have died, and send our prayers and sympathy to their families and friends.

Sarah Molloy married Chris Canning on 20th May. Many congratulations Sarah. Congratulations, farewell, and best wishes to Judith, our student Presbyter from Queen's College, who will be taking up a post in Norfolk.

**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 2.00pm 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 - July 2023**

July 11<sup>th</sup> Barbara Calvert

BC

25<sup>th</sup> Summer afternoon tea

LM

Have a lovely summer we will meet again on Sept. 12<sup>th</sup>

## Services in July and August

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.

Revd 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.

	<b>2nd July</b>	<b>9th July</b>	<b>16th July</b>	<b>23rd July</b>	<b>30th July</b>
<b>10:30 am</b>	Revd Barbara Calvert Parade	Revd R. Collins HC	Mr John Cooper Morning Worship	Revd M. Claridge HC	Revd R. Collins
	<b>6th August</b>	<b>13th August</b>	<b>20th August</b>	<b>27th August</b>	
<b>10:30 am</b>	Revd M. Claridge Morning Worship All ages	Revd P. O'Hare HC	Revd M. Claridge Morning Worship	Revd R. Collins HC	

Jane Stephens is conducting a questionnaire to determine what we should do about evening services, please contact her to give her your opinions.



## MARKING THE CORONATION



On 4<sup>th</sup> June 2022 celebrations were held to mark the platinum jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II, 70 years of her reign. I can't pretend I'm a strong supporter of the style of monarchy we have in Britain, but neither can I say I'm moved to do much about it. As things stand the sovereign is the head of state and Parliament has shown on more than one occasion that if the monarch steps too far out of line that individual is removed and another one

takes his or her place. Since Elizabeth had served the country well we arranged some music and held a party.

When the time came to crown Charles III on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2023 we decided to mark the occasion with another party. That idea turned into a shared lunch after the morning service on the 7<sup>th</sup>. By then the weather had calmed down enough to eat out in the garden. After lunch we called everyone together and put on some music.

Northern Ireland often uses 'Londonderry Air' if they win medals at the Commonwealth Games. Tim Sprackling helpfully led community singing of the lyrics of Danny Boy to that lovely tune. The Welsh choice was 'Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau'. My brother-in law Paul Barker came over from Shrewsbury to give us his rendition of this fine tune. Scotland was represented by Dr Roger Patrick, a bagpiper in full regalia known to me through the Cotteridge Country Walkers. He played a series of tunes from north



of the border, including Scotland the Brave. Not wishing to miss the energy of his music we added a few turns of the Gay Gordons with couples dancing along the aisle. That left a less obvious choice for something to represent England. We had already played 'Jerusalem' at the end of the morning service. I decided to use 'I Vow to thee my Country', and again Tim led the singing. As a finale we all stood and sang two verses of the National Anthem. Many thanks to Neil & Karen for their music with myself on the piano.

Peter Childs

## Birmingham 10KM Race - Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

As some of you may be aware I have been doing lots of running over the past few years, that started back in the days of when we were all locked down because of the COVID pandemic.

At the beginning of this year my family all put forward our goals for the year, and one of my goals was to enter an organised 10KM race, and I am proud to announce that I have managed to do it by taking part in the Birmingham 10KM race which took place in the centre of town on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

Leading up to the race, I worked hard and did training a couple of times a week building up distances to be able to say to myself 'I can do this' so I decided to sign up.

On Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2023 (along with the masses) I stood at the start line on Broad Street in the centre of town. The race took me through city centre streets passing through the Jewellery Quarter, past St Paul's Square and the Mailbox, along Navigation Street to New Street Station, through the Chinese Quarter and finishing up by the Bullring Shopping Centre before crossing the finish line at Eastside.



In total there were approximately 12,500 runners and I am pleased to say that I finished in the first half of all competitors.

It was an extremely tough race as I didn't expect so many hills in the middle of Birmingham, but the crowds on the side of the road kept me going by shouting name that was on the front of my t-shirt. It was also a very warm day which was great for spectators but tough conditions for the runners.

My mum and dad were there to support me and managed to see me on a couple of occasions around the course before meeting up with me at the finish line where I had my medal around my neck (feeling very proud of myself and even quite emotional).

When meeting up with mum and dad at the end, dad asked me what I wanted to do next, and my exact words were... 'I could smash a beer right now!!' so off to the pub we went to celebrate before heading home.

The next couple of days were tough as it took a while for my body to recover, but the achievement of crossing the finish line was truly amazing.

I next plan to compete in another 10KM race in August and that will be in Solihull so training has already started for that.

Who knows, in a couple of years' time, I could be competing in the Birmingham Half Marathon or London marathon, if things go to plan!

Phil Adams



## From Peru to Birmingham!

Jean Morgan writes: I had heard that Penny and Juan Carlos Marces were planning to visit UK this year, but there was quite a bit of upheaval in Peru in December, and I was away from home for 5 weeks between February and April. So when I saw Juan Carlos's Facebook post of their visit to St John's Harborne (one of their link churches, where I first met Penny), I thought I must have missed them. Fortunately some good friends of ours from those days were able to organise a get-together at their home, so we were able to catch up on 27 May 2023.



Penny began the year with a trip to Ushuaia, at the southernmost tip of South America, for the first ever CMS Latin America Regional Conference. The first Christian missionaries felt called to take the gospel "to the ends of the earth" in the 1850's. The first group, led by Captain Allen Gardiner, died of starvation, and another group was killed by the local people. However, the mission continued and relationships improved, and in 1869 an Anglican mission station was established which eventually became the city of Ushuaia. There is no longer an Anglican presence there, but the local Pentecostal church is very aware of the Christian heritage left by the first Christian missionaries. They welcomed the CMS group warmly and presented them with a painting of Allen Gardiner and Ushuaia, entitled "Hope deferred, not lost".

"Penny's Presentation" to us was on the theme of "God is faithful". Although the churches that Penny and Juan Carlos are responsible for are still recovering from Covid and lack of clergy, they have seen some encouragements recently. Their prayer for "7 men" to be added to the congregation at Jesus el Nazareno has been well answered. At the Cathedral of the Good Shepherd, little by little new people have come and become involved.

The political situation has calmed down for now, with the President Dina Boluarte sworn in in December likely to stay until the official timetabled elections for this period of government in July 2026. There are environmental challenges due to global warming, deforestation and illegal mining. There is a need for material help for many people, and the churches have been able to help with communal kitchens, lunches for older people, and school supplies.

The Marces 3 children, Becky, Lizi and Joni, are all likely to be working or studying in London in the near future. Penny and Juan Carlos themselves are not totally sure what the next few years will bring. The last few years have seen many changes in their ministry. They say they know God has plans for each of them.

They ask for prayer for:

Church visits: coordination of travel etc.; that visits will be of encouragement to all.

Meeting up with family & friends; adequate rest.

Juan Carlos: Diocesan responsibilities (Christian formation); his mother Hilda.

Penny: Ongoing responsibilities in J el N (lay rector) & Cathedral;

Bishop Jorge Luis: wisdom in leading the Diocese, and its responsibilities (children's ministry)

Diocese: Churches in Arequipa and S of Peru

Jesus el Nazareno: NEW teenagers' group led by Luis & Edward (a young volunteer from UK); children's work – for helpers; those leading/preaching until July.

El Nazareno area: communal kitchens

Cathedral (English): Those leading/preaching until July; search for a new Rector.

Country of Peru: political, economic and education situations, and all those affected by them; environmental challenges.

## My dear friend Joan



Joan Lily Woodward was born in 1921 in the centre of Birmingham, and soon joined by younger sister Vera.

Childhood was simpler in those days, and that included Sunday School at St Luke's Church, which stood for many years in Bristol Street. There, one day, she met a choirboy, Raymond Charles Clayton, and that was it. They became childhood sweethearts. They married in 1945, and now as Joan Clayton, she began married life in Franklin Road, Cotteridge. Her son David arrived in 1947, followed by daughter Margaret in 1951.

Jennifer Dean grew up next door to Joan, and remembers her kindness and that she always had time, not only to talk but also to listen. When Joan bought a new outfit, she would pop next door "Give us a twirl, Joan." Jennifer's dad would say, and of course she did in true catwalk model style

Joan joined St Agnes Church, and became involved in all the activities = Women's fellowship, Bible study groups, helping at jumble sales, and making apple pies for the Harvest Supper, where the rule was "NO soggy bottoms"!

But Joan's "pièce de résistance" happened every Friday afternoon when she turned up to help clean the church. This was a mammoth task because St Agnes was very big. Her speciality was the pews and she had a novel cleaning method. She would put the duster on the pew, sit on it, and gently slide along. It was really the best way to do it. What a star!

Time passed... David married Sue in 1972, and Margaret married Roy in 1973. The family grew with grandchildren Helena, Andrew, Rachael and Sarah. Joan was so proud of each of them, delighting in their news and achievements. Later on she was also proud of her great grandchildren. Thank you Isla, Esme, James, Romilly, Hettie and Evie for all the pleasure and joy you brought to Joan's life. A seventh great grandchild has just been born to Sarah. Robbie didn't meet his great grandma, but the family will ensure that as he grows older, he will learn all about her.

Joan had several jobs during her life - clerical work, a stint at Cadbury's, serving in the greengrocers at Cotteridge, - but her happiest time was as a dinner lady at Cotteridge School. She loved working with children, especially the nursery class - she cared about them and listened to their news and they adored her. Beryl Bickley-Parton, Jean Buttery, and Maggie Simkin remember the time well, mainly for the laughter around the staff dinner table. Joan was always the last to arrive - if a child needed her, then a child needed her. By the time she came in, her dinner was barely lukewarm- but did she start to eat? NO - she sat down and nearly always her first words were "Oh, that Raymond!", going on to recount something that Raymond had or probably had not done when he should on the previous evening.

Thinking of Joan's humour and quiriness; she was a person who believed in being "better safe than sorry". This showed itself particularly when she sent a parcel. She had her own special method: First - wrap the item in two layers of kitchen roll; then put the wrapped item in a bag; then put that into another bag; then wrap and send.



In later years the staff at Moundsley Hall are owed a massive Thank you. They cared for Joan with love, affection and respect. She was so fond of all her carers, but I remember how, at her 100th birthday on the lawn, her face lit up, the smile came, and the twinkle in her eyes appeared. Josh hadn't been her carer for some time, but Joan was so pleased to see her "toy boy". Joan was looked after in such a loving way, especially in the last months. This wonderful care and attention gave Joan a quality of life that not everyone enjoys. She was so grateful, saying two words that many of us heard when we visited her... "I'm overwhelmed".

Talking of visiting Joan - isn't it strange that you go to visit someone thinking that you are going to make them feel better, and you come away feeling so uplifted yourself? That was because Joan had such a giving and happy nature.

There are two verses from 2 Timothy Chapter 4 which are so appropriate:

"I have fought the good fight. I have finished the race. I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown which the Lord will give me."

Joan, at 101 years old, hadn't run a sprint, she hadn't run a mini-marathon. She had run a mega-marathon towards her goal in heaven.

We are all so privileged that our lives have been touched by such a wonderful lady. Goodbye dear friend. Rest in peace.

Rita Sutton

## Numeral systems

Why is the bible book **Numbers** so named?

If you look in the contents page in the Bible, you will see the names of all the books it contains. It is quite easy to see why most of these have their particular name: Genesis - the beginning; Exodus- the going out, and then names of many people featuring in the stories.

But why Numbers?

Numbers are fascinating. Almost all of the world has adopted the same Arabic system of numbers. Obviously it has the very great advantage that we can all understand each other's sums! There is no longer any nationality attached.

Not true for language.

We have very many systems for writing words - Arabic, Japanese, Greek, Russian etc. all have their own alphabets, and vocabularies and that for communication with each other someone has to have a knowledge of both systems in question. Much arithmetic is worked from right to left, as is the Arabic script. The 10 base system is sensible and convenient - we have 10 fingers to count with. It wasn't until computers came in that we had to add a binary system of numbers, because computer switches had two options - on or off.

How anyone in ancient Rome could ever do sums is beyond me.

Where is the logic in saying  $XVI + IV = XX$  ?



How do you ever manage to add up a column of numbers, when they all have varying numbers of digits?

I remember having a long and intense argument with one of my husband Richard's University colleagues, many years ago, who said you could not have a new idea, without the language to express it. I maintained, and still do, that the idea comes first, and then you work out how to express it. A new word can then be created and defined by that expression - as necessary. It is said that English and Russian have the widest and most precise vocabularies to express things, and that all languages put slightly different emphases on the meanings of equivalent words. I suppose this can explain why we still need and use so many different tongues. Numbers are very precise, and their meanings are simple. One concept is sufficient and encompassing. Different nations often use their own symbols for these numbers, but they all follow the Arabic concept.

In Hebrew, the book of Numbers is called Bemidbar (בְּמִדְבָּר), which means "in the desert". This is because Moses and his friends wandered in the Egyptian desert for 40 years, fleeing from the Pharaoh after more than 400 years of slavery. When the people found that Israel was filled with strong and powerful people of other races, they became scared and rebelled against God and Moses. As a result of their bad behaviour, therefore, God punished them by making the Israelites travel forty years before they could settle in Israel, the promised land. This was also so that the next generation of Israelites would enter the promised land, following the death of the previous, badly-behaved generation.

Our Bible version of the book is called Numbers because at the start God ordered a counting of the people (a census) in the twelve tribes of Israel. After counting all the men who were over twenty and fit to fight, the Israelites began to travel in well-ordered divisions, with God in the middle of the Ark of the Covenant. And so we have the story of Moses & Israelites wandering though the wilderness before reaching the promised land.

I am sure most of you will remember the discovery in 2009 of the Saxon Hoard in a field near Lichfield. The collection is now on permanent display in the Birmingham Museum and Art Galley, and at the Potteries Museum and Art Gallery.

One piece is this metal strip, with the inscription from the Old Testament Book of Numbers ('Arise, O Lord, and may your enemies be torn apart and those who hate you will flee from your face'). [adapted from Numbers 10 v 35

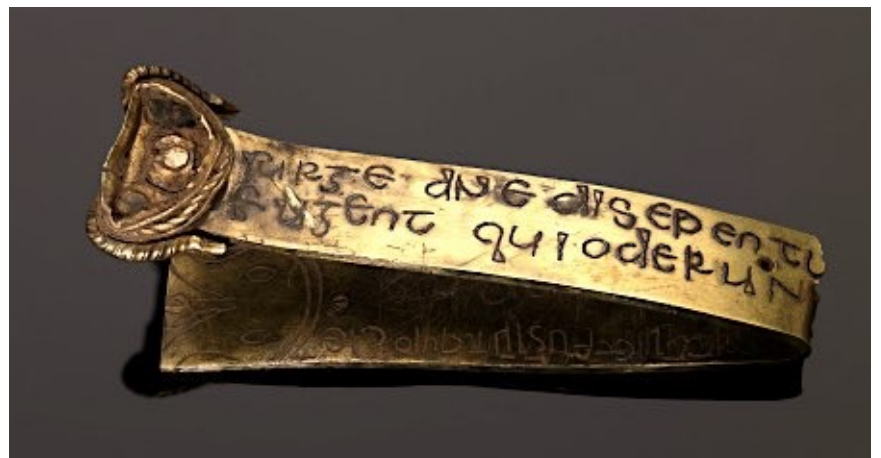
Numbers 10:35 NIV

**35** Whenever the ark set out, Moses said,

“ Rise up, Lord!

May your enemies be scattered;

May your foes flee before you.”



Celia Lester

## In Memoriam: Jacqueline Jones - Recollections of her Life

For decades, our mum focused unbounded energy, organisational capabilities and accomplished musical, cookery and painting skills in support of King's Norton Methodist Church and subsequently the Cotteridge Church and their communities. She was driven by a lifelong commitment to her faith and compassion for those less fortunate than herself. She will be greatly missed by us and her friends.

Jackie grew up in a humble but loving family in Matlock, Derbyshire, which instilled self discipline and a love of the beautiful English countryside. When as a child the family could not afford her music lessons, her father bartered his hand-made tailoring in exchange for piano lessons by a neighbouring teacher. She later put her musical talents to good use in the Cotteridge Sunday School, leading the Juniors, and in the church choir.

On leaving school during WW2, Jackie joined the war effort by working at Rolls Royce in Derby. After the war, she completed her education and moved to Birmingham to work as Personal Assistant to the Training Manager, Jack Jones, at Cadburys. She married Jack in 1951, left her job (as was customary then for married women) and went on to raise three children in a rambling Edwardian house bordering Northfield and Bournville.

For almost 50 years, mum selflessly devoted much of her time to the church, including Sunday School activities, singing in the choir and strongly embracing and supporting the unification of the three local churches into the Cotteridge Church. With Diana Stephens, she set up a Day Centre for the elderly, which became so successful that it was subsequently taken on by social services. As a keen and accomplished cook, she undertook bulk catering for the main meals at the Day Centre. A firm favourite, baked in prodigious quantities, was her banana loaf, a very popular best seller in the church's Coffee Bar, which she helped to run for many years. She was also a prolific painter of pastoral landscapes, selling many at church fairs and contributing to successful fund raising, while others still adorn the family's walls.

Having moved to a more manageable home in Bournville in 1991, mum cared devotedly for dad during his latter years with Alzheimer's, until he died in 1994. She remained very active in church life until somewhat incapacitated by a stroke in 2006, thereafter cared for at home by her son, Richard. In 2012, then with greatly reduced mobility and failing eyesight, she moved to a retirement bungalow in Milton Keynes, only yards from her daughter, Lesley, who cared for her there for over ten years.

In her bungalow, mum loved the sunny conservatory, where she would listen to the radio, taking great interest in cricket match commentaries for Test Match Special. She still continued to bake cakes, using her talking scales to measure ingredients. Despite her increasing frailty and the immense sadness of the long illness and death of her only grandchild, Lesley and George's daughter Sarah, she remained positive and uncomplaining. Following a fall when aged 97, mum moved to the nearby Methodist Homes Westbury Grange whose staff looked after her excellently during her final six months, gradually becoming less aware until as her nurse said "floating away peacefully in her sleep".



Lesley Shaw.

## Coffee Bar New Menu Launch

Welcome all of you to The Cotteridge Church Café.

First of all, we would like to thank you all for continuing to support the church coffee bar since coming back after the COVID pandemic and lockdowns, which has affected us all in so many ways. We wouldn't be able to keep going without all of your support and commitment to the Cotteridge Community, especially to the volunteers who give up their own time to happily serve you all with a smile.



As all of you are aware, times have been hard for everyone with the cost of living going up in more ways than one. Energy prices, food prices, fuel cost to name but a few but we have all stuck to it and soldiered on.

With the cost of living in mind and the continued rise in food costs, we have had no option but to improve the menu that we offer on the coffee bar and that means we have had to increase the prices of things we sell.

Since we have had the new menu in place for the last couple of months, we have decided to officially launch the new menu. Items have been added, changed and amended to cater for all including a wide variety of vegetarian and vegan options.

If you are regular customers to the coffee bar you will have already seen a few changes implemented and we welcome your feedback and comments to keep making sure that The Cotteridge Church Café is a lively and welcoming place for all.

We can now offer you fresh to order food including a vast variety of Breakfasts and Breakfast sandwiches, Brunch selection, Gourmet sandwiches, Toasties, cold sandwiches, Jacket Potatoes, cakes, chocolate bars, hot and cold drinks, omelettes and even a Ploughman's lunch. We also offer a hot meal and pudding at lunch time from 12:00pm (details will be advertised on the coffee bar daily, where there are also 'Specials' for the day too).

If you have any questions or comments regarding the new menu, please don't hesitate to approach a member of the Catering Committee or the volunteers on the coffee bar .

In the future we do plan to keep the coffee bar open for longer hours, so if you are able to volunteer for a couple of hours once a week, please speak to Sarah in the office for more information so we can continue to serve the Cotteridge Community on a daily basis.

Currently the hours that we are open is Monday to Friday 8:30am to 1:30pm and on a Saturday 10:00-12:00 so please pop in for a drink and a piece of cake if you are able to.

Phil Adams for The Cotteridge Church Committee

## Peter Goes to Hiroshima May 2023

Having already seen several tourist sites in Tokyo and nearby Mt Fuji as well as the old capital of Kyoto, in June 2023 Naomi & I took a flight for an hour from Tokyo to Hiroshima. After a bus transfer to the centre we walked to our hotel then found the 'Peace Park' close by. This has been left undeveloped as the area most affected by the world's first atomic bomb to be dropped on civilians.

In 1939 at the start of WW II in Europe Britain struggled to contain fascism. America supplied materials and munitions but initially stayed neutral. Japan had become very nationalistic through the 1930s, and convinced themselves that they



were the natural leaders of Asia. They decided it was time to replace colonial powers. Their imperial army expanded across Asia and reached the gates of India. While their land army was heading west the Japanese military decided they had to neutralise the American Pacific navy. Aircraft carriers were seen as the key to naval success and America usually had four stationed at Pearl Harbour, Hawaii. Japan launched an aerial attack on 7<sup>th</sup> December 1941, only declaring war as they were airborne. The move was brilliantly successful but by chance only half the American fleet was in Pearl Harbour on that day. The anticipated knock-out blow failed, and six months later America sank most of Japan's aircraft carriers.

The attack on Pearl Harbour forced America to declare war on both Germany and Japan. From 1942-1945 America successfully invaded islands south of Japan but the casualty rate on both sides was high. As the mainland came within range of American bombers they needed a way of forcing Japan to surrender without invading.

Through the 1930s physicists such as Einstein had unravelled the structure of the atom leading them to calculate the power of nuclear fission. If a critical mass of high grade uranium could be made unstable it would split apart and release tremendous power. A scientific plan (the Manhattan project) was started in 1942 to develop both uranium and plutonium grade nuclear weapons. By 1945 there was enough high grade uranium to make two fission bombs. One was successfully tested in the deserts of New Mexico on 16<sup>th</sup> July 1945. The remaining uranium was fashioned into a bomb capable of being carried on an aircraft. On 6<sup>th</sup> August 1945 at 8.15 am the Enola Gay dropped Little Boy over Hiroshima. By modern standards it was a relatively weak bomb, only creating a blast radius of 1.6 km, but practically everything in that zone was vaporised.

Hiroshima was a city mostly built of wood and paper. The heat from the epicentre started a firestorm resulting in the destruction of about half of the city. About 70% of the population died that morning. Radiation effects later killed more people. We visited the memorial museum and tolled a Peace Bell. Across the river we located the UNESCO world heritage concrete building closest to the epicentre. It took some time to understand what we were looking at but it later became clear the destruction had been complete in a relatively small radius.



Japan initially didn't know what to do. With most communications destroyed it took them three days to comprehend that something new and terrible had wiped one of their biggest cities off the map. They initially refused to surrender and hoped the Americans only had one bomb. With no capitulation the Americans dropped their remaining Fat Man plutonium bomb on Nagasaki on 9<sup>th</sup> August. The Japanese finally surrendered on 15<sup>th</sup> August.

Hiroshima today is a vibrant modern city well worth a visit. The Japanese version of why the atomic bomb was dropped tends to downplay the backdrop of WW II. Influential right-wing historians have pushed a narrative suggesting the Americans wanted to see the results of radiation damage and used Japanese civilians as guinea pigs. The following day we took a street car west for an hour to a ferry point then took a



short ride across the straits to Miyajima. 'Jima' is Japanese for 'island' so it's 'Miya Island'. A community of Shinto monks have made a shrine there. Shinto temples put up a 'torii' to mark the entrance to their shrines. The one on Miyajima is set

on sand covered twice a day by tides then the torii seems to float on water. The Japanese think the image is wonderful and rate it number three in a national list of iconic images. A meeting of the G7 was coming in two days time so while we were visiting ranks of police were guarding the coastline. Because the whole island is dedicated to nature the local wildlife has become very tame. Deer persistently nose into your bags and pockets sniffing out any food they can find. The result is you keep moving rather than sit on benches waiting to get mugged by passing deer.



Peter Childs

## Who is ... Steph Melia?



If you come into the church on Wednesday, Thursday or Friday, you will know who Steph is. Three days a week she serves in the café. She has been doing it for about six years. She knows just how people like their drinks - large/small, strong/weak, milk/cream and she knows most of the customers by name.

Steph was born in Birmingham seventy three years ago. Her parents ran pubs and clubs, and this is probably why Steph is so outgoing and easy to get on with. She was a customer herself for many years, and one day got into conversation with Linda Mann.

That was it!

She started behind the counter just one day a week, but enjoyed it so much she volunteered for more. She likes it because it makes her feel useful, it gives her a purpose and she has made lots of friends.

Nothing phases Steph.

She copes with all requests, queues, and occasional “difficult moments”. When things are slow, she cleans - and *does she clean!*

Most mornings Steph arrives before 8 o'clock. This gives her time to stock up, make sure everything is tidy, and be ready for the early birds. She finishes at 1.30 pm. Steph is popular with the customers and some pop in on the way to work or shop just to say hello.

At home, Steph likes to relax. (She deserves it!) Her taste in music ranges from Il Divo to Jamie Cullum, and she enjoys the Bake Off shows on TV.

Thank you Steph. We appreciate all you do.

Rita Sutton

## Tableau for the Coronation



This was made by the knitters of Beaumont Park displayed in the window of Cotteridge Pharmacy, and much admired by its customers.

The Church Knit and Natter group is making hats and scarves for our visiting Chiropodist to take to India to give to deprived children there.

# Climate Change Emergency

## ..What we do matters!

‘The earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it: for God has founded it on the seas and established it on the Rivers..’ Psalm 24

A Big ‘ Thank you’ to Barbara Calvert for leading our worship at the beginning of Big Green Week. The words written on the bookmark we were given to celebrate Big Green Week are such a reminder that we are custodians, carers of our beautiful world. We are so fortunate to have our Church garden to enjoy and find peace and calm amongst the busyness of Cotteridge. Please come outside and enjoy the green ! I do hope your runner beans germinated too. Please bring them and plant them by the fence, then we shall have a bumper crop this year!

Every little action we can take to support climate change in our lives makes that difference, whether it is shopping locally, driving less, walking more, eating less meat, eating more seasonal foods and recycling as much as we can. It all helps.

I was inspired by Peter Child’s account of his Japanese holiday to explore their ideas to support climate change. Apparently they are Big on re-cycling with bins everywhere in their cities and collections of different types of re-cycling every day. It takes a Government’s Commitment to reducing the carbon footprint to make these initiatives happen. I am sure Peter can tell us more about this. They also have some ingenious ideas about mending both Clothes and Pottery that are broken.

**Sashiko** is a Japanese form of repair and translates as little stabs/little stitches. It’s carried out with a white cotton thread on fabric. This visible mending technique has been used for thousands of years.

**Kintsugi** is a process of repairing pottery so that cracks are highlighted with gold making the item more beautiful after cracking than before. Items are cherished instead of being thrown away when broken.

I am certainly going to have a go particularly of the Sashiko on some of my worn outfits. It’s another way of saving materials and of course making that difference.

I hope you have a good summer and enjoy being out and about wherever it may take you. On Thursday June 8<sup>th</sup> it was World Ocean Day. We have 7,500 miles of coastline in the UK, and we are aware from recent news how pollution has been affecting our waters. Careful conservation of our marine environment can do so much to reduce global carbon emissions. If you are by the sea in the next few weeks pause and be thankful for all the work that is being done to support conservation...and enjoy the sound of the sea too. Remember - Everything we do makes that difference.

Thank you

Sandra Walton

# Boys Brigade



At the last parade service Finlay Attrill was presented with his Queen's Badge by our Company President Mike Meadows. Fin has been in BB since the age of 5, and becomes the 17th member of our company to be awarded the badge in the last 20 years. He will probably be the last boy to



be presented with the Queen's Badge for many years as it will soon be known as the King's Badge.



At the end of June our annual Peckwood weekend took place with 20 boys and leaders having a great time in the Worcestershire countryside



We are now looking forward to our Boys' Brigade Family Outing to Weston-Super-Mare.

Bob Hotchkiss.



## Fairtrade or Fair Trade

Since Traidcraft went into administration I have listened to webinars from Transform Trade and We are Fair Trade Ltd. Transform Trade is the Charitable part of Traidcraft and they have been awarded the Traidcraft brand name.

I really am not sure how a charity can develop the brand name without getting involved in selling!

We are Fair Trade Ltd is a company set up to sell Traidcraft products and to develop some of their own products. In the webinar Mark Buchanan suggested we should use the example of a swimming pool with various lanes, various companies occupy the lanes and there are sufficient lanes for all the companies to compete.

In 1979 Traidcraft pioneered the Fair Trade Movement in the UK. Most of the Fair Trade categories we recognise today chocolate, coffee, tea, fruit juice, wine, rice, honey, charcoal and rubber exist because of Traidcraft's efforts.

We are Fair Trade are suggesting there are two models:

### Fairtrade (one word)

The "Fairtrade" logo on a product reassures buyers that it has been traded in accordance with the principles and regulations set out by Fairtrade International (represented in the UK by the British Fairtrade Foundation). These social, economic and environmental standards are for both companies and the farmers and workers to adhere to. For companies, these standards include payment no lower than the Fairtrade Minimum Price and an additional Fairtrade Premium to invest in business or community projects of the community's choice. As for the farmers and workers, the standards include



the likes of product quality and environmentally friendly farming practices. **Fair Trade** written as two words, describes an approach to doing business that is fair to all those involved. It sees the standards which Fairtrade sets as a minimum and seeks to go beyond that. This approach is encapsulated by the 10 principles of fair trade:

- **Creating opportunities for economically disadvantaged producers:** Poverty reduction by making producers economically independent.
- **Transparency and accountability:** Involving producers in important decision making.
- **Fair trading practices:** Trading fairly with concern for the social, economic and environmental well-being of producers.
- **Payment of a fair price:** Paying producers a fixed price by mutual agreement, ensuring socially acceptable wages depending on the location.
- **Ensuring no child labour and forced labour:** Adhering to the United Nations (UN) Convention on children's rights.

- **Commitment to non-discrimination, gender equality and women's economic empowerment and freedom of association:** Respecting the trade union rights and rejecting discrimination based on gender, religion or ethnicity.
- **Ensuring good working conditions:** Providing a safe and healthy working environment for producers and workers in line with the International Labour Organization conventions.
- **Providing capacity building:** Seeking to develop the skills of producers and workers so they can continue to grow and prosper.
- **Promoting fair trade:** Raising awareness for the need of greater justice in world trade by trading fairly with poor communities.
- **Respect for the environment:** Caring for the environment by maximising use of sustainable energy and raw materials while minimising waste and pollution.

Roger

## Many Congratulations to Sarah and Chris

Chris and I were absolutely blown away by the generosity of church members and visitors. We received Ikea vouchers, money, gifts and cards which meant the world to us so we want to say a massive thank you to everyone who donated to the collection, cards, gifts and well wishes!

We had Saturday



the most perfect day at The Uffculme Centre in Moseley on 20th May. The venue was spectacular and the weather was wonderful.

We spent a small part of the day with our family and a group of friends and celebrated really was one of the happiest days of our lives.

the day with our family and a group of friends and celebrated really was one of the happiest days of our lives.



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Our daughter Beatrice was one of my bridesmaids and our son Henry did a reading as well as giving me away along with my dad.

I was so nervous, way more than I thought I would be, but once the formalities were over it was very relaxed and I spent the whole day grinning from ear to ear!

I've known Chris for over 20 years. We first dated when I was 19 but lost contact for a while. We've been together for 12 years now and it's fair to say we've done everything in reverse. We had our children first, then bought a house and only now have we been able to get married.

For us marriage means that although nothing will change, in reality everything has changed. We feel very grown up and united and we are still very much in our newlywed bubble which is wonderful.

Sarah Canning



## The Windrush Generation

### *Invitation to the United Kingdom*

The West Indies consists of more than 20 islands in the Caribbean, including Jamaica, Trinidad, and St. Kitts.

An invitation came from the United Kingdom for families to immigrate and settle for social, educational, and economical reasons.

75 years ago, on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1948 the ship Empire Windrush arrived at Tilbury Dock Essex, which is best remembered today for bringing the first group of post war West Indies immigrants to the United Kingdom.

It carried 1027 passengers and 2 stowaways from Jamaica to London in 1948.

These citizens who became known as the Windrush generation were invited to Britain to lay roads, drive buses, clean hospitals and nurse the sick, helping to rebuild the country after the devastation of World War II.

They came to symbolise the demographic changes in Britain that started after World War II. and continued into the late 20<sup>th</sup> century as hundreds of thousands of people arrived from former British colonies, known as the commonwealth.

They arrived in Britain legally as the **British Nationality Act 1948 states** that all subjects of the crown had the right to enter Britain and these workers through their commonwealth citizenship, had the right to live and work in Britain without restrictions.

***These citizens had the same political and legal rights as British citizens.***

The British Nationality Act 1948 cemented the rights of settlement to everyone in a British colony and nearly half a million people took up the offer of nationality between 1948 and 1970

However, far from finding a welcome hand of friendship the new arrivals were embraced with “**No blacks!**” “**No dogs!**” “**No Irish**”

Places to live and rooms to rent were scarce, living conditions were low in standard but high in rent. Many families had only one or two rooms frequently having to share beds depending on shift patterns and having to cook on landings.

But as the years passed the Windrush generations resilience to hostility strengthened their resolve and hardened their endurance to work harder, settle, marry buy their own houses start businesses and forge communities and make significant contributions at all levels of society for the next generation of black children.

The Windrush Generation laid the foundation for Black British society we are today, and while we celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Windrush Generation it is an opportunity to reflect on the difficulties faced both past and present.

***The Windrush had turned a slow full circle and become a scandal!***

The Windrush generation brought with them their solidarity and their joy, but above all the open hostility they faced from many, the Windrush Generation faces the future with dignity and hope. But the United Kingdom has been slow to remember the hundreds of thousands of men and women some as young as 18 from former British Caribbean colonies who, when told “your country needs you,” came forward twice, signing on the dotted line in defence of motherland England and ready to put “Great” back into Great Britain during both World Wars to defend King, an Empire, and an England they had never set eyes on

**We have come a long way and we must keep raising awareness of the plight of the Windrush Generation**

**UPROOTED---OVERLOOKED---&---IGNORED. Happy 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**



**Windrush** - Recollections from Lorna Babb - from the service on Sunday June 18th  
Dad came to England in 1954 via Liverpool and took a train to Birmingham, where he rented his first property from someone he knew from Barbados.

His first job was at a scissor factory where he was not treated very well, however one of his colleagues informed him that the Bus Corporation were taking on people from the Caribbean. Dad got the job and continued to work on the buses until he retired.

As black people were often be refused entry to pubs and clubs, they would have house parties know as a Blues. This is where Dad met my mom. They married in 1956 and lived at 276 Pershore Road where he rented a room which was lucky for him and his wife, because at that time as it was difficult to get rented accommodation as most rented properties would either say they were full or had a sign in the window stating NO BLACK, NO IRISH, NO DOGS.

Dad suffered may injustices such as people refusing to place money in his hand instead they would put it on the counter just to avoid having to touch him. Again when Dad went to Moseley Road Methodist church he was not made to feel welcome at all not even by other members of the church. He sat down in an empty seat only to be asked “who said he could sit there”. When he answered the person back saying “the seat was empty so I sat down” the man told him the seat was reserved and he need to sit somewhere else no one came to sit down in the seat, he didn’t want Dad to sit there due to the colour of his skin.

If they went to a restaurant they were either refused entry, or put to sit at the table by the toilet and they would serve the customers who came in after them before them and if they asked why they were waiting so long or complained they would be asked to leave as they did not want Dad’s sort of clientele in their establishment.

Dad tried to rent a property from the council but they wouldn’t give him one and people would promise to do repairs but they would take the money and not turn up or do a poor standard job. The property was substandard with bugs and mice, so Dad decided to buy a property, but he could not view it himself, instead he had to have a white estate agent to view it for him. When the owner of the property realised that Dad was black the street had a committee meeting to decide if allowing a black family on the street would devaluate their property. The committee allowed Dad to purchase the house, however, before the man left the property to go to Australia, he cut down the beautiful apple tree in the garden. Dad and his family suffered again with threats and excrement (poo) which was put through the letter box on a good few occasions, until Dad threatened a group of them who came to the front door. It worked they stopped (words have power). A few years later the former owner of the property came back from Australia and asked Dad “what happened to the lovely apple tree”. Dad replied “you cut it down before you left as you didn’t want me to have any of those beautiful apples”.

In order for both him and his wife to go to work he sent his first child to a white childminder, who took the money for looking after his child, but while in her care the white lady would leave the children outside in the push chair all day in all weather. When Dad came back with his wife to pick up his child he found the push chair was full of water and the baby screaming as it had been raining on and off all day. The woman did not find anything wrong with what she had done, which meant mom would not allow her child to be looked after by anyone and between them decided mom would stay at home to look after the child.

**Dad always taught us to have compassion and to love our enemies as God loves us and to remember God never gives more than we can handle.**

Everyone is welcome to attend and participate in our BCF: Faiths Promoting Health and Wellbeing Forum on Zoom at 2.30pm on Thurs 13<sup>th</sup> July This is an open forum, if you are interested in taking part and/or giving a presentation, contact [pjrookes@gmail.com](mailto:pjrookes@gmail.com).

As well as the usual **updates from -**

Healthwatch, Public Health Dept, and Safeguarding in Faith Places Project

We are **planning -**

Integrated Care System (NHS and Social Care) -10 Year Strategic Plan BVSC  
Health and Social Care Programme  
Ovarian Cancer



**BIRMINGHAM COUNCIL OF FAITHS**

**Faith and Reflection – Hindu Led**

Everyone is invited to attend our next Quarterly BCF Faith and Reflection

Topic– Conflict Resolution

**Monday 17<sup>th</sup> July at 7.0pm**

At BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, 75 Pitmaston Road, Hall Green, B28 9PP  
Ample parking on site

7.0pm - witness the arti ceremony followed by light refreshments

7.30pm to 8.30pm - Faith and Reflection event

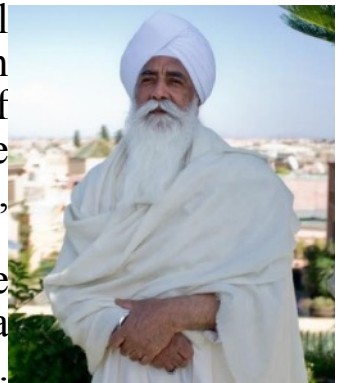
Join us in person at Al-Mahdi Institute or stream the seminar live. Prior registration is not required, and all are welcome to attend.

**Congratulations to 2 Amazing Men of Faith**



It was a great honour to attend the inaugural lecture given by Bhai Sahib Mohinder Singh Ahluwalia OBE KSG upon conferment of an Honorary Professorship in the Department of Theology and Religion, University of Birmingham.

And to my great friend and colleague Amrick Singh Ubhi on being appointed a Deputy Lieutenant for the West Midlands.



Amrick, will no doubt, approach his new role with the same level of diligence and integrity as his roles at BVSC, the Nishkam Centre, and the Faith Leaders Group. He will look great in his new uniform.



**Birmingham City Council**

**Public consultation on the ‘Our Future City: Draft Central Birmingham Framework 2040’**

Birmingham City Council has launched the public consultation on the ‘Our Future City: Draft Central

Birmingham Framework 2040’. The consultation period runs **until Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2023**.

‘Our Future City: Draft Central Birmingham Framework 2040’ is a bold and ambitious vision for Central Birmingham. It builds upon the ‘Shaping Our City Together’ consultation in 2021, and the many conversations since which have helped shape the plan. The draft framework covers Central Birmingham, which has been grouped into five areas:

- **City Heart:** Bull Ring, Colmore Buas siness District, Snowhill and Steelhouse, Southside, Town, Westside
  - **Central North:** Eastside and Aston Triangle, Gun Quarter, Nechells, Newtown
  - **Central East:** Bordesley, Digbeth, Small Heath
  - **Central South:** Balsall Heath, Edgbaston, Highgate
  - **Central West:** Hockley, Jewellery Quarter, Ladywood, Spring Hill
- The draft framework sets a vision and provides a strategy to address the challenges the city faces and unlock opportunities for Central Birmingham to 2040 to create a fair, inclusive, and green place that benefits all of our citizens. It has been produced as a non-statutory planning document and will replace the Big City Plan and inform the production of the new statutory Birmingham Local Plan. It sets a vision for Central Birmingham which will guide future investment and set a programme of more detailed work over the next twenty years.

To find out more about the consultation and to view the draft framework, as well as its supporting documents, please follow the link below to the council's webpage: [www.birmingham.gov.uk/central-birmingham-framework](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/central-birmingham-framework)

### How to get involved

- Heading to [www.birminghambeheard.org.uk/place/draft-central-birmingham-framework-2040](http://www.birminghambeheard.org.uk/place/draft-central-birmingham-framework-2040) where you can view the document, and submit your comments via the online survey.
- You can also submit comments to: [CityCentreDevelopmentPlanning@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:CityCentreDevelopmentPlanning@birmingham.gov.uk) or City Centre Planning and Development Team, Birmingham City Council PO Box 28, Birmingham, B1 1TU.
- Attending one of our consultation events which are detailed on our website.

Throughout the consultation period, there will be a programme of in-person events and drop-in sessions across Central Birmingham in each of the five areas. The programme can be viewed on the council's webpage and will be regularly updated as new events are confirmed.

The public consultation on the draft framework closes on **Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2023**. Following this, comments will be taken into consideration and the final document will be prepared. It is the intention to seek city council approval of the final framework as part of the city council's non-statutory planning framework.

### BVSC pleased to announce we've been awarded the Race Equality Code Quality Mark

What is the Race Code?

The RACE Equality Code is an accountability framework to complement the work that we are currently doing with regards to EDI strategies and standards. It focuses primarily on the governance within an organisation to establish the correct measures are in place, which will ultimately ensure race equality in the workplace. The Code aims to support work being done on race, and EDI more broadly.

Back in 2021, RACE Code consultants worked with BSVC to benchmark where we



were with regards to race equality and provided us with a comprehensive report that ensures that we continue work on tackling race inequality within our organisation. Completing the RACE Equality Code Assessment has given us the opportunity to join a network of other organisations, and attend Focus Group Sessions and Conferences, where best practice, progress, and any challenges can be shared.

### **What happens next?**

Obtaining the Quality Mark is just the start of the journey. Over the next three years and beyond,

we will continue to make positive changes as we implement the findings from our assessment. Accountability will start from our Board of Trustees, through to our Senior Management team and across all our staff members. We will continue our education and awareness through our Full staff meetings, our staff intranet and more formal training.

As part of our commitment to implementing recommendations from the RACE Code action plan, we are proud to formally publish our Anti-Racist Statement

BVSC CEO, Brian Carr commented:

“I'm delighted that we have reached this milestone in our journey to becoming a truly anti-racist organisation. There is always more to do and we will be working with the board of trustees over the summer to agree next steps - but this is a great step forward. My thanks go to all the members of the EDI group for their guidance and support in getting to this point. A particular thank you to Salma Khan our Organisational Support and Systems Lead, who worked hard to keep all the various moving parts in order as we went through the process!”

## **Cruse Bereavement Support**

Cruse Bereavement Support Birmingham are pleased to announce the launch of more 1-hour “Loss and Bereavement” seminars, via Zoom.

All sessions are open to anyone working or volunteering with children and young people in the Birmingham area and are free of charge, generously funded by Birmingham City Council through the Better Mental Health Fund.

The seminar will last for 60 minutes, delivered in a lecture format, and covers the following:

- Brief introduction to the grieving process
- The impact of loss and bereavement on children, families, organisations and communities
- Core communication skills
- Interacting with bereaved people – what to say and what not to say.
- Developed awareness of support organisations (other than Cruse)

One Hour Seminar – For all

This seminar will run six times – please click on the date that works for you to follow it

Thurs 8th June 2023 @ 10:15am,

Wed 20th Sept 2023 @2:15pm,

Tues 21st Nov 2023 @ 10:15am,

please contact: [training@cruse.org.uk](mailto:training@cruse.org.uk)

Tues 11th July 2023 @ 5.00pm

Mon 23rd Oct 2023 @ 4.00pm

Wed 17th January 2024 @ 10.15am



**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 March 2023 edition by 24th August 2023 to  
[roundabout@thecotteridgechurch.org.uk](mailto:roundabout@thecotteridgechurch.org.uk)**

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