

Roundabout



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

January 2022

Minister's Letter

New every morning is the love
our waking and uprising prove;
through sleep and darkness safely brought,
restored to life and power and thought.

New mercies, each returning day
hover around us while we pray;
new perils past, new sins forgiven,
new thoughts of God, new hopes of heaven.



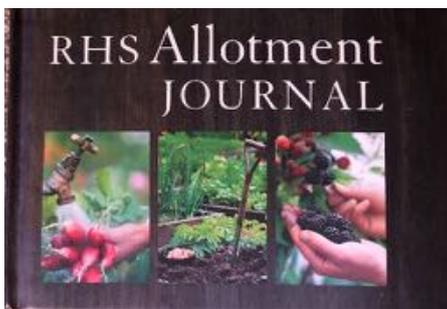
(Singing the Faith 137)

'New every morning' was written by John Keble (1792-1866). It is such a positive uplifting hymn singing of our daily blessings, like simply awakening to a new dawn. But the background to Keble writing this hymn was the French revolution. Our country was gripped in fear of the revolution in France stirring a similar revolution here. Historians suggest that one of the reasons that it did not happen was Methodism. The poor and disenfranchised in France were being stirred to revolt to bring about a new order. The poor here were being stirred by John Wesley's gospel message of a new order, namely, the Kingdom of God where all are equally loved and valued.

The words of the hymn remind us that whatever is going on around us we can still find a sense of inner joy and peace. Since the beginning of the pandemic many more people have found delight in rediscovering simple things – walking, cycling, baking, gardening ...

I have just taken on a new allotment. The allotments are just round the corner from Middleton Hall Road into Selly Oak Road and the site is called Strawberry Dene. Apparently, the site was a strawberry farm in days gone by...but what a lovely name. It fills me full of hope and dreams of a flourishing, abundant allotment!

My grandson Arthur is a keen gardener. We enjoyed his fantastic crop of parsnips at our Christmas dinner. One



Christmas present he received (a charity shop purchase from me!) was the RHS Allotment journal. We're going to work through this together one task for January being to plan and place our seed order. Perhaps surprisingly this is a matter for serious consideration.



The fact is that agri-business dominates global seed production with fewer and fewer seed varieties being made available and many seeds being hybrids and unable to reproduce themselves. Farmers in India, for example, who have reproduced their own seed for thousands of years, now find themselves in desperate circumstances having got caught up in a dependency relationship with the global seed companies trapped into buying from them every year as they can no longer reproduce their own seed. Tragically many Indian farmers have committed suicide as a result.

Consequently our Eco church team at The Cotteridge Church will be pleased to know that we are ordering our seeds from the Lincolnshire located small seed company, The Seed Co-operative. This company supplies seeds that are organic, biodynamic and open pollinated focusing on diversity of seed varieties. Last spring the Co-operative garden club (new members always welcome!), which meets monthly at our church gave a very informative talk on seeds. It is interesting to reflect that even with what seems like a simple purchase of seeds there are consequences. But as we place our seed order we dream of fresh green lettuces, rich red tomatoes, earthy new potatoes, delicious, sweet strawberries. We had better get to work!

And so to finish, the last two verses of the hymn ‘New every morning’ reminding us that the important things in life cannot be bought...

The trivial round, the common task,
will furnish all we ought to ask;
room to deny ourselves, a road
to bring us daily nearer God.
Prepare us, Lord, in your dear love
for perfect rest with you above;
and help us, this and every day,
to live more nearly as we pray.

Barbara Calvert

Friends and Family

Jenny Fryer wishes to thank everyone for their prayers and Get Well Wishes during her long spell in hospital, and for the beautiful flowers from the Church when she arrived home. She is making a slow recovery and hopes to be back at Church in the New Year. We look forward to seeing her again.

We had some very good news on 30 November Hilary & John Cooper now have a new baby son - Reuben Gabriel. All is well. Congratulations and best wishes to the family.



Sadly, we report that Phyllis Beckstein died in November. A tribute to her follows later.



Mrs Irene Spooner died early on Christmas Eve after being poorly for most of 2020. She was our church administrator for over 20 years and will be missed by many people, both when working & socially.

The funeral will be at Lodge Hill Cemetery on Friday, Jan 21st (details not yet available) The family asks for no flowers, but donations for the Sepsis Trust



And, of course, we give thanks for the life of Archbishop Desmond Tutu, for his faith, inspiration,

dedication, and love of humankind

Boys' Brigade

At the Parade/Christingle Service which was taken by Barbara Calvert, a number of boys read in church for the first time, and despite their nerves, performed well.



This was only our 2nd Parade Service since February 2020! BB on a Friday night continues, and it's good to be back meeting again.

The Anchors/Juniors have been bringing items each week for the Food Bank and this will be handed over in December.

The Company took part in the Church Christmas Fair, and as usual we ran the Tombola stall



Bob Hotchkiss.

Christmas Party!

A grant from the Cotteridge Quaker Community Fund gave us the inspiration to organise a Christmas party for the children and young people of Cotteridge. These last two years have been very difficult for many families with children (young and old) so we sought to offer an afternoon of free entertainment and fun. The new



Omicron variant limited numbers but it was a delight to see twenty-five kids from teens to tots laughing, dancing, singing, playing and having a wonderful time. The entertainer was just right with two hours of jokes, music, simple magic, and general tom foolery that had the children in stitches. The afternoon concluded with everyone

enjoying Christmas tea together and then going home with one of the famous knitted Christingles stuffed with a chocolate orange. A big thank you to Cotteridge Quakers for their generous grant. We are already planning to raise funds and make the party a regular event. So, if you missed it this year – watch this space!



Barbara Calvert

Thank you

'In the days leading up to Christmas many of us took the opportunity to enjoy Christmas lunch from The Cotteridge Church kitchen. The table was beautifully decorated, the room all Christmassy and the food was delicious. Thank you Shirley and her team - and thanks too for the teas for the children's Christmas party'

Authors

I am sure that you have realised that my main passion in life is reading. I don't always read, when I am depressed, I stop reading and only begin again when I find a book that so enchants me, I need to read it to the end. That usually means my turning to my three favourite authors. Writers I have waited with anticipation for their next volume to be published for almost forty years. There is no commonality in the genre they write or in their writing style, if they do have something in common it is their ability to write good prose. In no specific order, I adore their works equally, here are my three top writers.

William Gibson: who can describe place like no other Author, whether it be the

snowy streets of London, a Paris Art Gallery or the virtual expanses of Cyberspace, a term he coined.

Penelope Lively: whose novels, with the exception of ‘Cities of the mind’ all seem to have the same underlying theme, how the present defines the past, which I think is even more true today when a statue raised in the past to celebrate someone seen as a hero to the local community for his philanthropic acts is torn down and thrown into a harbour in the present because he was only able to perform those acts because his money came from working in an evil and inhuman trade. I do not know what the future will think of us, but be assured, it will not be what we think of ourselves, a conversation I had recently suggested anyone frequenting a Nail Bar, and no I don’t know what that is either, is participating in the Modern Slave Trade and is equally as evil as William Colston.

Jeanette Winterson: who so vividly brings characters to life and who experiments with the English language and the structure of the novel so much that when you pick up one of her novels you know you will need to work hard to understand it.

I thought I would quote the first line from some of their books to see if you can match the prose with the author:

“The man stood at the cottage door and saw long, black evening shadows stretch across the emptiness of the village street.”

“Like most people I lived for a long time with my mother and father. My father liked to watch the wrestling, my mother liked to wrestle; it didn’t matter what.”

“The sky above the port was the colour of television, tune to a dead channel.”

The reason I have been thinking about my favourite authors is that, and hope you haven’t noticed, I have been depressed lately and haven’t been reading. I have shaken myself out of both by reading Jeanette Winterson’s latest book, not as it happens a novel, but a selection of twelve essays on the history and the future of computing, the book is called ‘12 Bytes’.

In the first few essays she cites two of my historical heroes: Lady Augusta King Countess of Lovelace and Alan Turing two of Britain’s greatest mathematicians who although they live one hundred years apart worked together as Turing use many obscure papers written by Ada to inform his later works, including developing what is now referred to as the ‘Turing Test’.

In the later essays Jeanette paints a frightening dystopian future for the human race where we are both subservient to Intelligent Machine and linked to them biologically, so we have no free will and no individual personalities. But in an earlier statement, in the book, she does say it not inevitable because “Connectivity is what the computer revolution has offered us – and if we could get it right, we could end out anxiety about intelligence. Human or machine, we need all the intelligence we can get to wrestle the future out of its pact with death – whether war or climate breakdown, or probably both.”

In other words, the human race will probably be extinct because of climate change long before Artificial Intelligence takes us over.

My favourite novels by these authors, and I recommend all of them:

Virtual Light by William Gibson

Nothing Missing but the Samovar by Penelope Lively (a collection of Short Stories which does make you think you are reading Chekhov)

The Stone Gods by Jeanette Winterson

Neil Walters



The Cotteridge Church
Joint Church Council
Summary of Proceedings 9th December 2021

Introduction

The Meeting was held via Zoom.

Key Decisions

1. It was agreed to hold future JCC meetings in a hybrid mode with some attending face to face while others attended via Zoom
2. The JCC agreed to a 50,501GBP contribution to the Anglican Common Fund
3. The JCC agreed to add an item to the 2022 budget of 26,700GBP for Quinquennial repairs
4. It was agreed that 'No Parking' and 'No Liability' signs could be displayed in the car park.
5. The latest Staff Handbook was approved
6. The JCC approved the holding of a Church Away Day next year
7. The JCC agreed to look into employing a Youth Worker for the Cotteridge Church
8. It was agreed to reconvene the Property Development Working Group (PDWG) to look into Church refurbishment

Summary Proceedings

1. John Cooper thanked everyone for all the effort involved in the recent appeal to 'Light up Cotteridge'
2. The new Covid-19 restrictions were discussed, and it was thought that an extraordinary JCC may need to be held if further restrictions were implemented
3. John Cooper volunteered to produce a draft 2022 budget based on the expenditure from 2019 increased by 20%
4. The Churches contribution to the Anglican Common Fund was discussed
5. It was noted that the Church membership now stood at 138 with the sad passing of Phyllis Beckstein
6. Thoughts went out to Ivor Ravenhill who was unfortunately in hospital the meetings prayers were with him
7. Lax GDPR practices which had crept in during the pandemic and suggestions made as to how this could be improved
8. A great discussion took place on the findings of the recent Quinquennial survey and the sum required in the budget to repair all at faults was talk about
9. It was noted that Bournville had cancelled their Carols around the green which would move to an online event
10. Barbara Calvert said she hoped to arrange a Church Away Day in the spring or summer of next year
11. Discussion took place on the Youth Work at the Church with special reference to Saplings, Messy Church and the provision of a Youth Worker

The next meeting of the Joint Church Council will be on Tuesday 9th February 2022 at 19:30.

This Summary is authorised by:

Neil Walters Chair of the Cotteridge Church Joint Church Council

The Cotteridge Church Knit and Natter group



In the weeks leading up to Christmas you might have seen our group busily knitting forty Christingles! These decorated the church during Advent with a chocolate orange inside each one. Every child at the Children's Christmas party 21st December then went home with one of these handmade gifts.



So now we need a new project for the New Year...something else bright and cheerful.

Knitted Spring flowers!

Knitters and Natterers all welcome!

10.30-12noon Thursday mornings, Pennine Way café at the Cotteridge Church



Barbara Calvert

Vital transport axed!

The Cotteridge Day Care Centre for Older Adults is a wonderful facility. The centre has a dedicated staff team providing professional care, companionship, activities and refreshments including a hot, freshly cooked dinner each day. There is such a warm, friendly atmosphere that the Centre is a joy to visit for a chat with the members and the staff.

However, there are some members who are stuck at home unable to attend through lack of transport. Before the pandemic an accessible minibus would arrive at the Centre every morning and collect a staff member. The minibus would then drive round collecting members from their homes to bring them to the Centre. In the afternoon a reverse process, the minibus would arrive, collect members and a staff member and drop all the members off at their homes.

This essential facility has now been cut. It is possible for a member to ring for a minibus but arrival time is not guaranteed. This also must be done on a daily basis which is a task beyond some of the members. The Day Centre Committee has contacted the local councillors, the leader of Birmingham City Council, the Mayor and our local M.P. All to no avail.

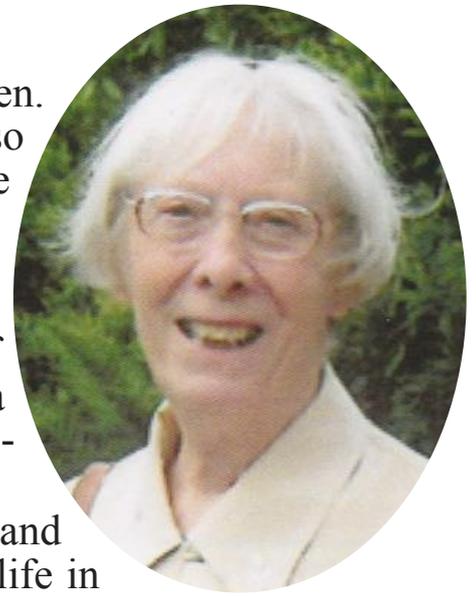
It seems scandalous that such a wonderful facility should be lying underused. Older Adults, many with additional needs, are stuck isolated at home.

If you have any suggestions for resolving the situation please get in touch.

Barbara Calvert and Sandra Walton

Phyllis Beckstein

Phyllis was born in the mid 1930s at home in Acocks Green. Sadly, her father died when she was just 18 months old, so life was a struggle for her mother bringing up five children- Frank, Win, John, Doris & the youngest- Phyllis. She was baptised at Gospel Lane Methodist Church Acocks Green. The Methodist Church and then later the Cotteridge church were always such an important part of Phyllis's life. Before leaving Gospel Lane Phyllis was a leader of the junior Boys' Brigade and loved this role - often off rambling with them.



After leaving school Phyllis trained as a shorthand typist and started work at Joseph Lucas. Phyllis spent her working life in secretarial work and administration which she really enjoyed eventually retiring from Selly Oak Colleges.

After her mother passed away Phyllis moved to Dornie Drive in Kings Norton. Unfortunately, one evening as she was opening her front door she had her handbag stolen from her. This event prompted her decision to move to Beaumont Park, where she was very happy.

The Cotteridge Church was right on her doorstep and she was soon very involved and a real asset in the life of the church. Ros Murphy, a former Methodist Minister here, recalls how reliable and supportive Phyllis was as church council secretary. Phyllis was also the first typist for the church Roundabout magazine. She was quiet, thoughtful, discreet and sensitive to people's needs - gifts she had honed from the years when she worked in administration at the hospital.

As well as her administrative work at the church, Phyllis was also a regular leader of the Monday afternoon Bible studies group and a volunteer with June Milner at the church coffee bar. Phyllis must have been pleased to discover the Boys' Brigade was strong at Cotteridge and Mike Meadows recalls her time serving with him in the BB: Mike writes:

'In the early 1970s, soon after I had taken over as leader of the Junior Section of the Boys' Brigade at what was then Kings Norton Methodist Church, one of our leaders moved out of Birmingham and I was looking for a replacement. Phyllis was recommended to me by Primrose Taylor who was a Methodist local preacher, member of our church and a friend of Phyllis. Phyllis had been the Birmingham Battalion secretary for a number of years before joining our church in Cotteridge. Her knowledge of the Brigade rules and regulations and the history of BB in Birmingham was great and I soon found out she had a gentle sense of humour and really enjoyed teaching the lads new games and taking badge classes. She still had contacts at BB headquarters and encouraged our company to take part in lots of Divisional and Battalion activities.

Phyllis served our company loyally for over ten years before retiring from BB work saying the time had come to hang up her uniform and let a younger person take her place. Even after retiring, she always supported the company through BB Week and when we had displays or put on joint shows with the Girls' Brigade.

It was only about a month before she died, Mike writes, that we sat in the church cafe over a cup of coffee and had a good old chinwag reminiscing about her time in the BB both in Cotteridge and at Battalion level. She clearly still had very fond memories of her time in uniform.'

But Phyllis also engaged in many activities beyond the church. She enjoyed learning German at The Brasshouse Language Centre where Rita Sutton was her teacher.

Besides going on Methodist holidays Phyllis enjoyed travelling abroad and took part in trips to Christmas Markets in Cologne, Bonn, Aachen... no doubt trying out her new found skills in German. Another memorable trip took place in 2000 when she went with a group to the Oberammergau Passion Play. She also went on a pilgrimage to Jordan, visiting among other places Petra, Wadi Rum and Mount Nebo where we read in the Bible that Moses first saw the Promised Land and then on to Egypt to visit Mount Sinai .

But the church was her life and in later years, besides attending worship, Phyllis was a regular visitor to the church café and could often be seen sitting quietly enjoying a coffee or a cooked lunch.

Phyllis was a very private person but loved her family, especially her sister Doris who is now the remaining sibling. Let us give thanks for the life of Phyllis, a life lived in faithful service, now counted surely amongst the number of John Wesley's saints.

Charitable Giving

From recent appeals

Christian Aid Christmas Appeal £724

Disasters Emergency Committee Appeal for Afghanistan £65

Traidcraft Tree planting appeal £95.80 [500 trees planted]

Book Centre sales 2021 £6,157. £5179 transferred to the Day Centre, £980 to the church

Tree Planting

Roger invites you to plant some more!

Now that Black Friday has been and gone, we want to continue the momentum and keep up the wonderful tree planting work. If you would like to purchase a bundle of trees as a gift, or for yourself, you can do here:

Plant 25 Trees	Plant 50 Trees	Plant 100 Trees
Plant 25 trees and reduced	Plant 50 trees and reduced	Plant 100 trees and reduced
0.5 tonne of carbon	1 tonne of carbon	2 tonnes of carbon
£4.90	£9.60	£19.60

Great last minute gift idea! ↗

Remember, you can always keep an eye on Traidcraft's total trees planted and carbon reduced here:

www.ecologi.com/traidcraft →

The Greater Good.

My husband Richard was deeply involved in the organisation and teaching of a course in plant genetic conservation for M.Sc. students from all over the world, with the idea of conserving plant species, especially those from which our foodstuffs are derived. In the event of disease or warfare, the conserved specimens could be used to restock farms internationally, thus preventing global starvation. The qualified students would then return to their own countries, and collect primitive crop varieties, and the wild species from which these were derived, and conserve and store them in their own country*. Also they could train others to do the same. In 1972 we had an Asian student from Uganda. We had reserved a room for him in the tower block of University student residences in Church Road Edgbaston. However, Quat arrived as expected, but with a wife - not expected! So quickly we had to find alternative accommodation for them. We managed to find a flat on the Bristol Road between Northfield and Longbridge. We took them to their new home, and I asked Yong what she planned to do in Birmingham. She was one of those very beautiful petite graceful far eastern women. "I shall study for a masters degree too", she said. "What is your subject?" I asked. "The Greater Good" she replied. This was a new concept for me, so I asked for further explanation. After a little hesitation she said "Let us begin by saying you have £100 to give to charity. Is it better to give it all to one charity, so it can do many good things, or to share it between several, so each can do a little? That is just a simple beginning. There is a lot more to it than that, but that will give you some idea".

It is a concept which has haunted me ever since. I have found it very difficult to decide what would be better on numerous occasions. Looking back with hindsight does not always help either. I am sure most folk will remember the appeal made by the Live Aid movement to address the drought caused food shortages in Africa. The success of this venture saved the lives of thousands of people, and we all felt very thankful. But what has happened since? The improved availability of food has enabled those people to thrive, and become better off. Their children were more likely to survive, and the population grew considerably. Then there was another famine, and many more starved than were saved initially. So was Live Aid a good thing? Part of me says Yes of course it was - it also made us more aware of the suffering of others, through no fault of their own. But another part of me adds up the two sets of suffering - then and more recently.

What it has done, I believe, is to make me think more often about how I can do good things, be it by donating money, or by actions, and I think it has thus made me try to be a better person.

Also I now look at many of the awful things which have happened, and seen how, so often, someone at the heart of these has taken action to make things better for others in similar situations. Think of the hospices supported by relations and friends of those who have died; of the BLM movement invigorated by the deaths of black victims in the USA; of the resurgence in a love of the natural world since the Covid lockdown. I can also see that when a good project is effected, we have to go on monitoring and supporting and educating. It should not just be a "do good, and walk away"

*Now there is a number of these storage vaults. Ours is deep underground in an enormous nuclear bunker beneath Kew's "Country Garden" of Wakehurst Place.

Celia Lester

Christmas Fair December 11th 2021

For an event that we thought would never happen due to Covid we did a pretty fine job. Of course we are biased!



From setting up to closing time we had the support of volunteers and church staff alike, the feedback was amazing.

C2U had a good turnout of volunteers from SCCB and Selly Oak Trust School as well as staff, parents and mentors.

Our very own Josh N. took a role of Santa to support John Cliff, and both did a great job.

The Colouring Competition went off with a bang and Name the Gnome was won by our very own Sarah Molloy .

The atmosphere was relaxed and safe with an undercurrent of true Christmas cheer and excitement, despite the masks and sanitisers.

Stall holders seemed happy and did a good trade overall.

What a pleasure it was to see and feel a festive vibe in a time of uncertainty!

A BIG Thank You for all of the support we received .

Let's hope we can do this again next year.

Final total banked is £858 32pence. This will probably go up in New Year when items still left will be sold in our Tuesday mini markets.

Best Wishes for a Safe and Happy 2022

Mandy, C2U and Linda W.

The Flower Ministry

Let me introduce you to Vikki Love who is one of our latest recruits to the flower team. Vikki wanted to arrange flowers in memory of her sister Nina and her Mother. She chose bright colours as she knew they would love those. Although Vikki's sister had been a florist she had never done any arranging so she wanted to try doing it herself and what a great arrangement she made for us to enjoy.

The flower team always welcomes new members, and you will get support when it's your turn to arrange them just let me know and I will be pleased to help you. The list to sign is by the door in the Pennine Way.

It's been so good to have flowers back in church and you will have noticed that sometimes there is a silk arrangement, particularly when there are gaps on our list. There is no replacement for fresh flowers though so we do what we can whenever possible.

I have also sent flowers when folk tell me of a need for flowers to cheer or send when thanks or celebrations are in order.

Your donations of course make this possible and can I say a big thank you to all of you who have donated. Please consider if this is an area you can support in the New Year.

Meantime thank you to Vikki, to Rita , to Linda, and to Jackie and Mike Meadows for all their help and support.

Happy New Year everyone!

Sandra Walton



Pennine Way Outings

Will we, won't we?

Owing to Covid 19 Pennine Way Trips were halted for a long time, although we did manage a lovely early Christmas shop and meal at the end of November 2021.

Who knows if we will be able to go ahead in 2022? However things are being planned - no dates or prices yet but the programme looks like this, though not in any particular order.



Boundary Mills, Hartlebury Castle, Guide Dogs Puppy Breeding centre in Leamington Spa. The Lake at Barston summer meal, National Memorial Arboretum, Stratford and day trips to Liverpool and Weston super Mare, plus of course the early Christmas shop and meal. Look out for more information soon.

Rita Sutton

Special Events

The Cotteridge Church is a very special place, conceived many years ago to express the love of Jesus in many different ways for all the community. In 2021 two events made an impression on me and I felt very moved.

The first was the one minute silence on November 11th. We assembled with Revd Mike Claridge in the Pennine Way. When I say 'we' - Day Centre members, young people from 'Communicate 2U', customers. What a wonderful mix of ages! The Pennine Way fell silent and I wondered what everyone was thinking. Were the older people remembering lost loved ones? Were the young people wondering why such awful things happened? The minute was over. Day Centre members went back to reminisce, C2U young people went back downstairs to their studies and customers sat down again to finish their coffee. It was only a minute but a minute can be a powerful thing as long as we don't stay in it but get on with the 'doing'.



The second special moments were at the carol service on the morning of Thursday, December 16th. In the Malvern Room were once again Day Centre members, young people from C2U, coffee bar customers. Revd Barbara Calvert had put together a lovely, simple, informal service. With the help of the knitted Nativity the Christmas story unfolded. C2U took round the figures so that everyone could see the different characters, including the donkey and two sheep and we had the clip clop of the donkey, provided by a young man from C2U. Peter on the accordion and Karen on the violin gave our singing a real boost and a real Christmas flavour. The enjoyment was obvious and there was also a moving moment when we lit candles to remember our lost loved ones and one was lit too for the children of Afghanistan. At the end when we sang 'We wish you a merry Christmas' the young people signed it and although I tried hard to join in I was not skilful enough to keep up. Next year with the help of C2U I will be ready!



Thank you to everyone for such a lovely time.

Rita Sutton

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Do you ever awaken in the wee small hours, and try as you might, you cannot get back to sleep again? Something goes around and around in your head, you cannot quite make sense of it, and bring it to a conclusion, and therefore sleeping becomes almost impossible.

One such night I found myself pondering about good and evil. I believe in an all powerful loving Creator God. And yet there are many powerful evil forces around - which are causing manifold havoc and devastation. If God created the Universe and all that is in it, did He create evil [the devil] also? Why does He tolerate such evil things that we so frequently see? I have heard about Lucifer, the angel, convincing about a third of the other angels to follow him in a rebellion against God [Isaiah 14 12-15; Ezekiel 28:13-16; Revelation 12:7-9] and because of this their status was revoked and their names were changed to Satan, and demons.

But why did God still permit their existence in this role?

What is it all for?

As Christians we know that we often do the wrong thing, but we also believe that if we are truly repentant, and try to live as we should, we can be forgiven and given another chance.

If there were no temptations along the way, we would all be completely obedient and subservient. There would be no challenges, and nothing to strive for. What kind of life would that be? There would be no purpose in it, and no point in it. What is the value of love if it is not given by choice? In fact if there were no choice between good and evil, we would have no discerning power, no goals to strive for, no point in achieving anything.

It makes me think of the many dictatorships we have on earth, such as in North Korea, where you honour your leader because of brainwashing and fear of reprisal.

We have also seen how this can go horribly wrong when revolution takes hold.

So, should I conclude that evil is a necessary adversary? If so would that mean that all the folk on the receiving end of evil action are simply pawns in the deity's chess game?

We hear that God's Kingdom on Earth can begin when we have defeated evil. Hearing the daily news from many sources still suggests that that is a very long way off. We must continue the fight! We are on the Lord's side!

Celia Lester

Climate Change Emergency

What we do matters!

It really does matter...that's why on November 6th a group of us showed our support for Climate Justice by Marching along with thousands of others across the UK and the World.



The March took place whilst COP26 was taking place in Glasgow. It was an opportunity for us to stand up for what we believe and show the Politicians and Delegates representing nearly 200 Countries at COP26 that we have a voice and want to be heard and seen.

We made our way to Millenium Point in Birmingham joining thousands of all ages to march together. Our banner was held by everyone in our group. Thank you so much to John Cooper for supplying it for us. As a Granny it's important to me that my grandchildren...our grandchildren ...can grow up in a world that shows respect for our Planet, that emissions are cut, and global warming is held as low as possible .

“we need to come together with one mind and one heart to protect our ocean home for all the kids that will come after us...” Words from Jayda..aged 13..from Palau.

There were positives from COP26.and there were negatives....but this next year will be so important as we still lead COP until Egypt 2022. We need to keep making that difference in so many ways....putting pressure on our MP's, our Government to make the choices that will support Climate action, reducing emissions and reducing our Carbon Footprint. Lots to do but...remember it's the small things that make a difference...how we are reminded of those special words of Bishop Tutu...

I know we are all finding ways of helping our planet in our daily lives. What we do as individuals does make a difference.....however small.

As we begin a New Year what about making an Eco-resolution? Perhaps to get more in touch with the seasons...to eat more seasonal foods, go for walks and be aware of the beauty that surrounds us everywhere. We have so much to be thankful for.

**KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK EVERYONE
HAPPY ECO YEAR!**

What YOU are doing is making a difference!

Sandra Walton



Faith Places of Sanctuary

An important event during Interfaith Week was our workshop to encourage places of worship to become Faith Places of Sanctuary, which means providing a welcome to everyone, particularly refugees and asylum seekers. We have many schools of sanctuary, but only 1 church, which is 6 Ways Baptist Church in Erdington.

All of our faiths say something about welcoming the stranger, so please let me know at pjrookes@gmail.com if you would like to know more and I will share the powerpoint with you.

Migration Policy and Practice: Sector Assessment 2021

A new report detailing the challenges affecting integration for migrants in the region has just been released. It has been produced by Migration Policy and Practice, a funded project working with voluntary sector groups across Birmingham and the Black Country to enhance strategic understanding and coordination. The Project is also leading on developing a regional network of VCS groups that support migrants that can develop responses and solutions to key issues.

Faiths for Fun 2021

We are planning our 14th annual Faiths for Fun on Sun 3rd April. This will be an in-person event, Covid permitting, for all youngsters aged 7-12 years.

For Scouts and Guides, it will count towards their World Faiths Badge, and count as one activity for their More in Common badge.



Birmingham Faith Covenant - Birmingham City Council and faith group representatives signed the **Covenant** at a public launch held at the Library of **Birmingham** in December 2014. The **Faith Covenant** was developed by the APPG (All Party Parliamentary Group) on Faith and Society as a tool to facilitate partnership working between local authorities and faith groups.

The Faith Covenant is a joint commitment between faith communities and local authorities to a **set of principles that guide engagement**, aiming to improve collaborative partnerships, and to promote open, practical working at all levels.

After 7 years it is time to refresh the Covenant in the light of changed circumstances. I can send a copy of the Covenant to anyone interested in seeing it. If you have any thoughts on how the Covenant can better reflect the partnership between faith bodies, the City Council and other bodies, please email. pjrookes@gmail.com.



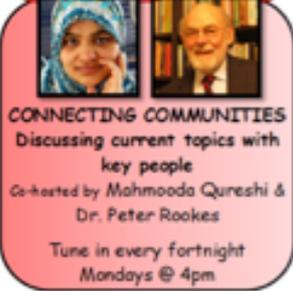
Training by the Ella Baker School of Organising is provided free of charge. The Engagement Team wants to be better organised so we can be more effective. We need help from our supporters to build teams around our 10 strands:-

1. Racialised Communities and Anti-Racist Movements
2. Women and Feminist Movements
3. LGBTQ Movements
4. Faith Communities and Organisations
5. Workers and Trade Unions
6. Progressive Political Parties
7. Students and Young People
8. Climate and Environmental Movements
9. Refugee and Migrant Rights
10. Disability Groups

We have a lead allocated to almost each area (though still looking out for leads on 2 strands) who will form his/her own team. The team can then address and expand issues in that strand, as well as connect them to the aims of EBSO. If you are interested and can spare a couple of hours a week, or would like to know more, please do get in touch and we can have a chat with Mahmooda Qureshi (Engagement Team Lead) mjqureshi20@gmail.com.



Our Connecting Communities programme takes place on **Unity FM radio 93.5 at 4.0pm on alternate Mondays**, co-hosted by Mahmooda Qureshi and Dr Peter Rookes. Use the links to listen to our last 3 programmes: -



Mon 6th Dec – Fuel Poverty – additional 4F programme

<https://www.mixcloud.com/UnityFM/connecting-communities-fuel-poverty/>

Mon 29th Nov – Windrush generation

<https://www.mixcloud.com/.../connecting-communities-show.../>

Mon 15th Nov – Interfaith Week – 4F Programme introduction

<https://www.mixcloud.com/UnityFM/connecting-communities-show-15th-november-2021-low-carbon-future/>

The Birmingham Council of Faiths Update & Events is distributed monthly to 500 individuals & organisations.

Copy should be sent by the last day of the month to pjrookes@gmail.com

Dr. Peter Rookes PhD. MPH. DHSA. FETC. RCNT. RGN. RNMH

Secretary and 3rd Sector Liaison Officer Coordinator, BCF:Faiths Promoting Health & Wellbeing, Birmingham Council of Faiths

Update on Re-cycling at The Cotteridge Church

The Eco-church group prioritised Re-Cycling as an area we wanted to work on. We wanted to re-cycle plastics, paper and tins separate from the general waste and began to research how we could do this easily and quickly.



John Cooper told us about a company they use called First Mile and we contacted them to ask about possibilities. They provide white plastic bags, at a small cost which we fill with the above items and then place outside the church from where they are collected. The cost of collection is included when you buy the roll of bags. Apparently they have a van which tours round collecting.. and of course we let them know which day we will put them out. So thank you to Sarah Molloy our Administrator for organising the collections and to Shirley too for collecting the re-cycling for the bags.

Thank you to those organisations using our building that take away their own re-cycling. This is really helpful.

We continue to look for ways support reducing waste ... both in the church building and of course individually. We are making a difference however small our

actions. Thank you everyone

Sandra Walton

Services in January and February

	2nd January	9th January	16th January	23rd January	30th January
10:30 am	Mr John Cooper Morning Worship	Revd Barbara Calvert HC Covenant Service	Revd M. Claridge Morning Worship	Revd R. Collins HC	Revd Barbara Calvert Morning Worship
	6th February	13th February	20th February	27th February	
10:30 am	Miss Sue Spencer Parade Service	Revd M. Claridge HC	Revd R. Collins Morning Worship	Revd Barbara Calvert HC	

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

Wednesdays at 7.30 pm There will be online worship on Zoom. Contact Revd Mike Claridge < mike.claridge@thecotteridgechurch.org.uk > for access details.



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 edition by 19th February 2022 to
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