

# Roundabout



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

**March 2023**

# Mike's message ...

## *Vain the stone, the watch, the seal!*

Easter is the major celebration of the Christian year. It encompasses and celebrates the heart of our Gospel - as the love of God, revealed in the death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ, is shown to be greater than all that seeks to imprison us, even death itself.



This year's cycle of readings suggests Matthew's account of the first Easter Day. You'll find it in your Bible as Matthew Chapter 28 verses 1-10. It's broadly similar to Mark, Luke and John - a few differences but the same event. But Matthew has more to tell, and we often miss it. Look at what precedes the Resurrection account, Chapter 27 verses 62-66 and what follows it, Chapter 28 verses 11-15. It's material that is unique to Matthew's Gospel.

Matthew depicts the Roman authorities remembering that Jesus said "*after three days I will rise again*". Thinking that the disciples might try to steal Jesus' body, the Romans place a guard at the tomb, seal the stone and keep watch. When the tomb is later found to be empty the authorities seek to explain it by telling the soldiers to say "*his disciples came by night and stole him away while we were asleep*". Is this the earliest example of what's become known as a conspiracy theory?

Of course the authorities explanation soon unravels. Matthew doesn't go into details about resurrection appearances of Jesus. Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene "and the other Mary" (28.9,10) somewhere near the empty tomb. Then the disciples travel miles and miles back to Galilee "to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them" (28.16) where they see him, according to Matthew for the first time, after he is risen from the dead. Jesus sends them out to share both the Good News of his Resurrection and "everything I have commanded you" (28, 20)

The conspiracy of the authorities to hide the reality of the resurrection was always doomed to failure. Because the story of the Christian church is of lives transformed because Christ is Risen. The love of God, stronger even than death itself, can transform lives that are imprisoned by guilt from the past or something weighing us down in the present. It can free us from prejudices that trap us behind walls of suspicion and fear or impede our ability to love others. All this can be removed when we realise that God loves us with a love that makes "vain the stone, the watch, the seal" (*Charles Wesley*) for:

*Goodness is stronger than evil, love is stronger than hate,  
light is stronger than darkness, life is stronger than death;  
victory is ours through Him who loves us. (Desmond Tutu)*

## Friends & Family

Lin & Laurie Brown welcomed the arrival of grandson Rupert Oliver Wylde Brown in November.

We were sorry to hear of the death of Mary Gumbley. For many years Mary enjoyed the monthly Pennine Way trips. We shall miss her.

We are also sad to report the death of Mary Lee.

We send our condolences to the families and friends of both. Congratulations to Maureen Peart, a member of the knitting group and secretary of the URC in Beaumont Road, on her 80th birthday in February.

Warmest congratulations too to Clive Babb who will be 100 on 17th March. He has been a loyal member here for many years.



## A Message from Mike Page

Marjie and I survived the winter with no covid, flu or other particular ailments. Whilst snow/ice lingered we kept indoors but thereafter combatted the cold on our daily short outings. Now, as Spring beckons we delight in the increasing birdlife and glimpses of new growth breaking forth from soil and dormant branches.

There is little change in Marjie's circumstances except the autumn review reversing oversight of her Care Plan from Social Services to NHS. Clinical services not really affected but offers funding relief. Our original Daytime Care agency ceased trading suddenly in December but mercifully the new agency, whom we had to appoint hastily, is proving satisfactory.

Finally, may I share a wider concern that has especially troubled me this last week? Nora, the young Kurdish, "Angel" who attends Marjie through each night, hails from a town at the very heart of the massive Turkey/Syria Earthquakes so we have understandably lived through the weeks sharing her profusion of tears and fears, anger and rare moments of relief. Mercifully, Nora's immediate family members are safe (but grieving lost cousins/friends/neighbours). However, with their home destroyed, they now confront the multiple deprivations of loss, food, shelter, warmth and an unknown future. Nora is a devout Muslim and her resilience, prayerful and loving response to events has been remarkable. For myself this unusually heightened emotional involvement in global disaster has proved taxing but also educational: a further call surely to reflect on how we treat Mother Earth and meanwhile to us lucky ones to give more generously to aid those in dire need?

With our love & best wishes to you all,

Mike & Marjie

**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. Linda

### **TUESDAY FELLOWSHIP DATES March - April 2023**

14th March	Beetle Drive
28th March	Don on Louise Ryland
11th April	Easter Meeting: Revd Donald Sampson
14th April	Celia brings another hoard of unusual things
9th May	Thoughts on the Coronation of King Charles III

**THE BOYS'  
BRIGADE**  
> the adventure begins here



**7th**  
Birmingham

presents

**THE ANNUAL  
GENERAL KNOWLEDGE**

**QUIZ**

**FOR**



The  
Cotteridge Church



BIRMINGHAM  
**ST MARY'S**  
HOSPICE

£3 per  
person

6 people per team

Bring your own drinks and  
nibbles!  
Quiz interval refreshments  
(NO ALCOHOL PERMITTED)

Friday 14th April  
7:30 for 7:45 start  
@ The Cotteridge Church

enter to  
**WIN!**

BUY YOUR  
**RAFFLE  
TICKETS!**



[www.facebook.com/7thbhambb](http://www.facebook.com/7thbhambb)

[cotteridgeboysbrigade@hotmail.com](mailto:cotteridgeboysbrigade@hotmail.com)



@7thbhambb

[www.7thbhambb.co.uk](http://www.7thbhambb.co.uk)

7th Birmingham Boys' Brigade meet every Friday during School term time at The Cotteridge Church 24 Pershore Road B30 3EJ



**The Cotteridge Church**  
**Joint Church Council**  
Summary of proceedings 8th December 2022

### **Introduction**

The Meeting was held in Hybrid Mode.

### **Key Decisions**

1. The meeting agreed that oversight ministry was interesting but required more details.
2. The JCC agreed to pay £50,501 to the Anglican common fund
3. The JCC approved the £1,573 to update our Fire equipment
4. The Meeting agreed to use the remaining funds award by The Cotteridge Quakers to run another Children's Christmas Party
5. The meeting agreed that the 2013 AGM will be held on the 20<sup>th</sup> May
6. The meeting agreed to make a donation of 50GBP to the '4 Louis' Charity in memory of Baby Lily.

### **Summary Proceeding**

1. The meeting had a special guest, Richard Wharton of St Francis Bournville, who spoke on the subject of the Anglican Oversight Ministry initiative where Anglican Churches in Birmingham would cooperate and help each other, sharing preachers and maybe even ministers. The meeting was worried that there was little mention of ecumenism in the documentation. It was noted that St Nicholas Kings Norton had declined to be part of this system. The Area Dean, Phelim O'Hare would like to meet with the JCC to discuss this in depth.
2. The treasury team advised that the Church continued to lose money, and this could not continue. The Church's contribution to the Anglican Common Fund for 2023 was debated. In 2021 the Church had paid £55,260, whilst in 2022 we had paid £50,501. It was proposed we pay the same as last year.
3. The meeting reviewed the Community Services Committee Report and were told that the Grant Funding Group would apply to The Clothworkers Guild for £20,000 to cover short term needs and that the Catering Working Group were drawing up a list of priorities. Pam Waddell felt that we need to alter our mission statement on the charity commission website to describe the much wider community work we do. Pam also brought up the Administrator role and how it had evolved since taking on the role catering manager. This had meant the addition of 2.5 hrs per week, but this was proving insufficient for the workload and Pam suggested the JCC review the current Job description and adjust it to fit.
4. The meeting reviewed the report from the Property and Management Committee and noted that a new boiler had been fitted in the Day Care Centre and Roof Repairs would be performed in January.
5. No report had been submitted from the Worship and Pastoral Committee
6. The meeting discussed the Administrator's Report and noted that a recent fire safety inspection had shown we didn't have adequate cover - our panel, and several fire extinguishers were obsolete. We had received a quotation of £1,573 to replace and update the equipment.

The next meeting of the Joint Church Council will be on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2023 at 19:30 and will be a Hybrid meeting.



## Transforming Church - next steps

Last June we were all invited to attend an Away Day. The day began with our facilitator creating a map on the flip chart representing the life of the Cotteridge Church. In response to her question, we shouted out suggestions; Pennine Way café, Saplings, Day Centre, worship (Sundays and midweek), harvest and faith celebrations, Eco church, fairtrade, fellowship groups, Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Boys' Brigade, coach trips, knit and natter, Little Foxes, church garden, C2U, Platinum party, Christmas fayres and so it went on. Community work and outreach has been a core part of The Cotteridge Church and its vision since ~~the~~ <sup>its</sup> amalgamation in 1988, but sometimes we forget just how much we do and how many lives we touch on a daily basis. Since June last year we can even add to that list. Bookings are increasing with the Irish dementia café on a Tuesday morning for example and Warm Spaces which has been open Monday – Thursday afternoons since November.

Joining the national Warm Spaces initiative has put us on a wider map. I have hosted visits from Elaine Li, Community Development and Involvement Manager, Bournville Village Trust and Louise White, Community Development Worker, Thrive Together Birmingham. Thrive Together Birmingham aims to support and grow the movement of individuals, churches and organisations who, motivated by their faith, are committed to addressing issues of poverty and to playing their part in helping their neighbourhoods to flourish. As I showed Louise around on a busy Thursday morning, she was genuinely amazed at all that was going on – the café was busy, knit and natter was in full flow, C2U were hard at work and the Day Centre members were so clearly being well cared for in a safe and comfortable environment. Both Elaine and Louise were so impressed at all that goes on at the church and very keen to help us grow and thrive (all helped by Steph serving us free cake!) This proved to be a worthwhile investment as, with the support of Thrive Together Birmingham, we have been given a grant of



little foxes





Cotteridge Church  
Food Ministry



**CC Day Care**



£3,000 from Birmingham City Council to update some of our kitchen and café equipment.

Birmingham City Council recognises that the cost of living crisis is not just going to fade away. They realise that they need to invest in local communities long term and the best way they can do that is by supporting organisations like ourselves.

Our Warm Spaces initiative will close for the winter soon but, as I have explained to many visitors interested in what we do, we have been a 'warm space' for many years. We are most unusual as a church in employing kitchen staff and the meals and hot drinks we serve in the Pennine Way are at the heart of our community outreach. People come in for a drink or a meal and find so much more. The café is the focal centre, the glue which holds our community activity together, the draw which leads people to join our other activities. People meet there for Rita's coach trips (e.g. sixty elderly people who largely live alone joined this year's Christmas trips); Saplings parents, grandparents and carers meet in the café; knit and natter congregates there; a huge diversity of people alone or in groups are given a friendly welcome - all this builds healthier lives and a stronger community.

However, our kitchen is in urgent need of an upgrade. The £3,000 we have been awarded to date is to help fund this. We have also been given some small grants to help with our energy costs because of being open longer hours for Warm Spaces, with Cotteridge Quakers to thank for one of these. In the longer term though we need further visionary thinking.

The Grants group (Pam Waddell, John Cooper, Tim Clayton and myself) set up by the Joint Church Council last autumn, are at present applying for small grants (such as the £3,000 above) with a quick turnaround to respond to our immediate needs. However, BVT, Thrive Together Birmingham and Birmingham City Council are encouraging and supporting us to think big. There are very large grants that we will be able to apply for to see through the refurbishment of our whole premises (including the toilets!)

There is much work to be done to articulate our vision – with the outcome of last June's away day being a key first step – decide our plans as a church and apply for funds. We will keep you posted on progress!

Together let the Spirit guide us towards a prophetic vision for the future of the Cotteridge Church

Barbara Calvert February 2023



## Divine Beauty at Birmingham Cathedral

On a gloomy Friday night in January, we found ourselves bathed in beautiful light and sound inside Birmingham Cathedral. Standing in the nave, which was empty of the normal furniture, we were watching a kaleidoscope of vibrant colours, patterns and images constantly moving across all the surfaces, while a soundtrack swooped and soared alongside.

This Son et Lumière was presented as part of Divine Beauty, which is a National Lottery Heritage funded project to conserve the cathedral's four remarkable Pre-Raphaelite stained glass windows, designed by Edward-Burne Jones.

Burne-Jones was born in Birmingham and baptised in the church and the windows were made by William Morris & Co. and installed between 1885 and 1897. Unfortunately, their condition is deteriorating. The effect of years of pollution on the outside and changing humidity on the inside, means that careful and thorough restoration is now required.

Part of the project, which began in Summer 2022 and will continue throughout 2023, is to encourage learning about and enjoyment of the windows through an extensive range of activities for the people of the city. The sound and light show that we saw, featured images from the windows enlarged and projected gloriously in a unique way, so that we could appreciate them anew. This show was created by Luxmuralis, a company who specialise in this work using multiple media and different formats, including at other cathedrals in the UK.

When the conservation work on the windows begins in the spring, it will be done in situ, with opportunities for the public to view it up close as it progresses. We are very much looking forward to seeing the windows in their full glory once again when the project is complete.

Alison and Tim Sprackling





# Climate Change Emergency

## What we do matters!

The New Year is well underway now and I hope that you were able to think about the differences you can make to the Climate Change Emergency that is upon us. I know our focus has been so much with the people of Turkey, Syria and Ukraine and the incredible need there. We look to see how we can help and support and in a similar way we need to look at how we can save our Planet too. We can make that difference with the actions we take.

We are surrounded by news of the cost of living crisis and fuel bills rising, but taking action around cutting down fuel use and turning down the thermostats really make a difference to us, the users and more importantly Our planet. KEEP GOING ...with all your ways of reducing waste, re-cycling, re-purposing and re-using.



An update on our progression with our Eco Church Award.

It was such a joy to receive our BRONZE Award in September and a Big Thank You to Stephen Audley for displaying it for us in the Pennine Way opposite the Coffee Bar. So onto SILVER we go and I can tell you the good news that we are nearly there to achieving it. The actions/activities we all took during Big Green Week, our Church garden and other initiatives around re-cycling and articles in this magazine are all raising our personal awareness and helping our community too. So let's keep looking at how we can reduce our use of materials and be as sustainable as we can.

Which brings me on to EARTH DAY celebrated this year on Saturday April 22<sup>nd</sup>. That date, the 22<sup>nd</sup> April, marks the anniversary of the birth of the modern environmental movement in 1970. The theme this year is...

“ **Invest in our Planet** “...

1.Billion people are celebrating this day in over 193 countries. There is so much information on their website...

**Earthday.org.**

There are many aspects they look at. Climate Literacy, Ending of Single use Plastic, Planting more trees, Voting for our Planet, The Global Clean-up and Sustainable Fashion. There are opportunities to calculate your Foodprint. **Foodprint.org...** BBC Climate Change Calculator.**bbc.co.uk.**

There is so much information. I know you will find it so interesting as we look at how we can make that difference by investing in our planet. Let's all try to... Practice a simple act of green everyday... What we can do however small, makes a difference!

In the next Roundabout I want to share our plans for Big Green week 2023. So remember April 22<sup>nd</sup> and in the words of Jackie Speier.

“Everyday is Earth Day and I vote that we start investing in a secure climate future right now..”

Thank You

Sandra Walton

## CREATIVE ARTWORK AS A FORM OF MEDITATION

After performing orthodox meditation for a number of years with good results, I've recently found that participating in various creative art projects has proven to be a refreshing and powerful alternative.

Various craft work, painting, embroidery etc has passed time quickly and pleasantly when the weather has been inclement outside resulting in relaxing of mental, physical stress and Divine inspiration for example.

The participant does not have to be skilled in the activity as time and practise may induce increased perception and skill. A nice idea would be to think of someone to give the artwork to on completion as they will cherish and appreciate your efforts, making it more worthwhile.

Bob Burton.



### Cotteridge Church Book Centre

It all began in 1970, when a typhoon killed over half a million people in Bangladesh. World development charity Tearfund started to deliver relief to the Bangladeshi people, and in 1974, Richard Adams, with the backing of Tearfund, filled a returning aeroplane with jute handicrafts, to sell in the UK to help the people with trade, as well as aid. This was the start of Tearcraft & it made a real difference to the lives of artisans, but Richard felt constrained by what the organisation could achieve & a group of 6 friends started Traidcraft.

Tearfund wanted to bring Tearcraft more under its evangelical criteria whereas Richard Adams wanted to pursue a more radical agenda informed by his interpretation of his Christian faith and apply the principles of love and justice to international trade.

*Traidcraft pioneered the introduction of...*



fair trade chocolate + fair trade coffee + fair trade tea + fair trade fruit juice + fair trade wine + fair trade rice + fair trade honey + fair trade charcoal + fair trade rubber + fair trade palm oil

Adams wanted to pursue a more radical agenda informed by his interpretation of his Christian faith and apply the principles of love and justice to international trade.

It was this principle that we liked, so we launched the Traidcraft when The Cotteridge Church was in the wilderness in 1988.

Traidcraft co-founded the Fairtrade Foundation in 1992. The Fairtrade Foundation is a non-profit organisation which licenses use of the FAIRTRADE mark on products in the UK in accordance with internationally agreed Fairtrade standards. Traidcraft plc announced that it might have to cease trading by the end of 2018. A much slimmed down version emerged where Traidcraft put into their catalogue products from other fair trade companies: **Tropical Wholefoods** (apricots, just 5 bars, pineapple and mango); **Meru Herbs** (based in Kenya, where local farmers along the Kithino river grow the herbs and fruit that is harvested for sale and also used in the production of jams and sauces) and **Divine Chocolate**.



In January 2023 Traidcraft went into administration, the business has been in a weak financial position for some years and the Covid-19 pandemic presented a significant new set of challenges. Just as we were emerging from the pandemic, like many other retailers, it faced the combined effects of the war in Ukraine, rising energy prices, and increased transport costs. Sadly, despite the heroic efforts of the team at Gateshead, low consumer confidence during the critical autumn trading period led to sales significantly short of what was required to sustain the operation. December sales were also negatively impacted by the uncertainty created by Royal Mail strikes. If you look at the display today you will see Tropical Wholefoods, Meru Herbs and Divine Chocolate.

Because the need for Fairtrade is just as important in 2023 as it was in the 1970s.

Roger and Jane

## Church Garden

Spring is on its way, & with warmer weather, it's time to start sowing seeds for summer bedding. We have a large greenhouse in the garden, so if anyone would like to use it, please feel free. A few cuttings could possibly be donated!

Many thanks.

Chris

## Services in March and April

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.

## Easter services:

	<b>5th March</b>	<b>12th March</b>	<b>19th March</b>	<b>26th March</b>	
<b>10:30 am</b>	Revd B. Calvert Parade	Revd M. Claridge HC	Revd M. Claridge Morning Worship	Revd R. Collins HC	Morning Worship
	<b>2nd April</b>	<b>9th April</b>	<b>16th April</b>	<b>23rd April</b>	<b>30th April</b>
<b>10:30 am</b>	Revd M. Claridge Parade	Revd R. Collins HC	Revd Maureen Foxall Morning Worship	Revd Phelim O'Hare HC	Ms Judith Bell

Maundy Thursday HC 7.30 pm; Good Friday 10.30 am; Easter Eve 8pm all in church. Lent groups will meet in church on Wednesdays at 10.30 am and Sundays at 6.30 pm

## Boys' Brigade



We have taken part in several competitions recently. The company section won the divisional; Santa got stuck in the chimney competition; while the Juniors came joint first in the Christmas quiz. In the Battalion Junior section quiz team 'a' scored 48 while the 'b' team 41 out of 60. We are now waiting to see if we have qualified for the final in March. The Juniors also took part in the BB International games competition where you undertake activities.



Finlay has now nearly completed his Queens badge course and this is due to be completed at a residential weekend at Felden Lodge in March.



Finally don't forget our General Knowledge quiz on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> April. All the details can be found elsewhere in Roundabout.

Bob Hotchkiss

## New Cotteridge Church Café menu

The Catering Working Group is excited to announce that, after consultation with customers, volunteers and staff, we will be launching a new, expanded menu in The Cotteridge Church Café in March. Old favourites will still be there, but we are increasing the range to appeal to existing customers as well as to attract in new customers. In particular, you will find more brunch and light lunch dishes, new 'gourmet' sandwiches, a bigger range of meat-free option and better availability of children's/ small portions.

At the same time, there will be price rises – our first since 2019. We hope our customers understand that with rising food and energy costs this is essential for the Café to remain sustainable. We still offer incredible value from hot drinks to hot dinners and everything in between, made possible because the café is run by a dedicated team of volunteers.

We hope the expanded variety of the menu will attract new customers, but this will only happen if we are more visible. So, over the coming months, you will also see new signs and menus appearing inside and out, more promotion on Facebook and through leaflets in shops, and a freshening up of the look including new staff uniforms and volunteer aprons. Look out, because you might even see some special offer to entice you to try something new!

One thing that will not change though – you will always be assured of a warm welcome at The Cotteridge Church Café, so come and visit Monday to Friday 8.30am – 1.30pm and 10am – 12noon on Saturdays.

Pam Waddell.



We are really excited that we will be holding our 15th annual Faiths for Fun organised jointly by Birmingham Council of Faiths, Birmingham Guides and Birmingham Scouts on Sun 12<sup>th</sup> March

All young people aged 7-12 are welcome to join multifaith teams and learn about other faiths through fun activities. Enjoy the Parachute Game, take part in a simulated campfire and enjoy free refreshments.

Click this link for our video giving full details and booking (created by our webmaster, Sabir Elias) –

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3\\_4CKOezQXw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3_4CKOezQXw)

Queries to [pjrookes@gmail.com](mailto:pjrookes@gmail.com)

### BCF - Faith and Reflection – 7.30 on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April.

Join us for our Quarterly Faith and Reflection sessions. The next one will be at the Buddhist Pagoda in Ostler Street, Ladywood. More details in the next issue

#### **Birmingham Conversations** **Passing on our Faiths**

We will look at how we teach our beliefs and practices to children and young people as they grow up. Each week we will hear from people of different faiths about how they do this so that we can all learn from their experience and wisdom, and hear about the joys and challenges of inspiring the next generations.

The final week on the 13<sup>th</sup> of March will consider how we equip them for life in a multi-faith world and how they can build friendships across faiths

Very many congratulations to Lisa Martinali, who has been appointed as the new Chair of BVSC's Board of Trustees. Lisa was previously Vice Chair, and she has a strong history of linking to BVSC's work, having previously acted as Third Sector Champion for Children & Young People through the Third Sector Assembly, an earlier iteration of our engagement networks.

Until very recently, Lisa was Director of Regeneration at Compass Support, a division of the Pioneer Group. She is now however moving on, taking up a new position as chief executive of St Paul's Community Development Trust. Lisa said "I am truly excited to be appointed as the new Chair of BVSC. My passion for, and commitment to the sector will be put to great use in taking forward our strategy and ambition.

### **Connecting Communities Programme**

**Recent Programmes** - Broadcast live at 4.0pm on FM 93.5

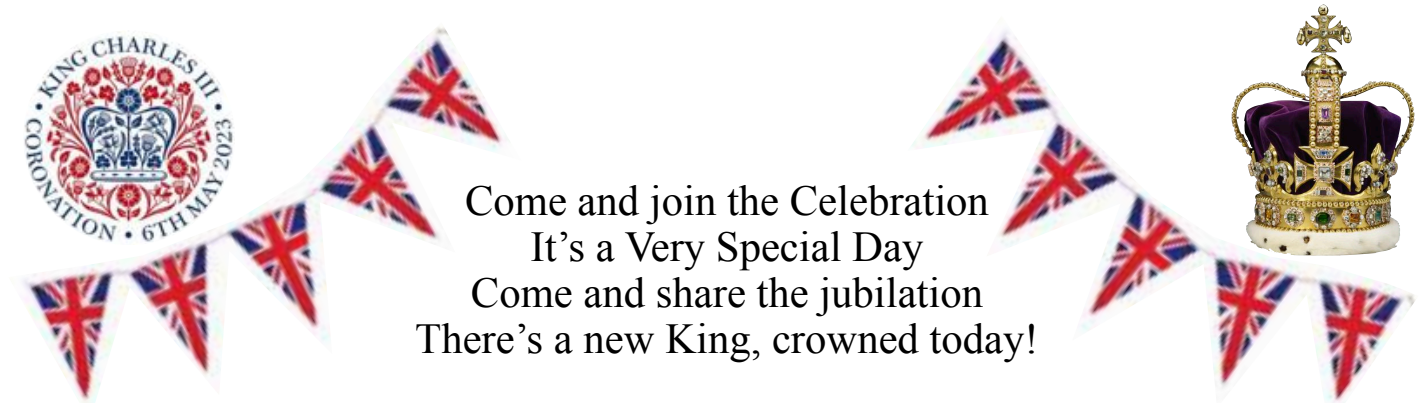
**Forthcoming Programmes**

Mon 6<sup>th</sup> March – Health Inequalities

Mon 20<sup>th</sup> March – Social Prescribing

Recent Programmes can be heard by clicking the links

Click- <https://www.mixcloud.com/UnityFM/connecting-communities-show-09-january-2023-holocaust-antisemitism-and-genocide/>



Come and join the Celebration  
It's a Very Special Day  
Come and share the jubilation  
There's a new King, crowned today!

### **Coronation Weekend 6 to 8 May**

**On Saturday 6 May** The Coronation will take place in the morning at Westminster Abbey in London.

**On Sunday 7 May** the Coronation Big Lunch will take place  
There will also be a special Coronation Concert staged and broadcast live at Windsor Castle.

**Monday 8 May** has been designated as an extra Bank Holiday.

At the Cotteridge Church, we are also hoping to hold some special events:

#### **Sunday 7th May.**

Morning worship with Barbara, music from Peter, Karen & Neil.

After the service from 12 noon there will be a 'Bring and Share' lunch in the Cotswold room plus the garden, weather permitting, to celebrate Charles IIIrd as the new Head of State. Live music will be performed, ending by singing the National Anthem. Please bring food to share. See Peter Childs for further details.

## Salt and the Last Supper.

The European concept that spilt salt is a symbol of bad luck goes back at least as far as Roman times. Salt was a symbol of friendship because of its long lasting quality. It preserves foodstuffs for a long time, and hence was presented to guests before other food to signify the abiding strength of friendship. Salt was a valuable commodity in olden times. The word 'Salary' comes from the Latin word for salt, and originally referred to the money given to the soldiers so that they could buy the salt they needed. [The suggestion that they were paid in salt has never been substantiated]

In the Old Testament of the Bible, there are 35 verses mentioning salt, the best known being that Lot's wife was turned into a pillar of salt as she looked back to Sodom and Gomorrah.

In the New Testament there are just six verses: in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus referred to His followers as "the salt of the earth", and in Colossians 4:6 Paul encouraged Christians to "let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt"

However, one of the most well known and poignant references is shown in the painting of the Last Supper by Leonardo da Vinci



If you look carefully, you can see that Judas has knocked over the salt cellar, and has spilled salt.

Judas had already offered to betray Jesus to the High Priests [Matthew 26:14] As we know, this betrayal led to Jesus' arrest in the garden of Gethsemane. Only Matthew records Judas' remorse, and suicide.

Celia Lester



Finally:

Very many thanks to all our contributors. We all hope you enjoy reading the magazine.



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 26th April 2023 to  
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