

Roundabout



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

March 2024

Mike's message ...

From the mouths of babes ...

Many years ago, we're talking last century (although only just), I was privileged to attend a two week course at St George's House, Windsor. St George's House (stgeorghouse.org) was established by the late Duke of Edinburgh as a place for dialogue between the Christian faith, science, and society. Its website says: "A place where wisdom is nurtured through dialogue,

high-quality disagreement is prized and significant topics are discussed seriously through Consultations". It's in the grounds of Windsor Castle, tucked away by St. George's Chapel. Indeed the bit of the structure that's nearest is the side chapel where the late Queen Elizabeth II is buried.



Back to the course. Rather worryingly, as I'd only been ordained for four years, it was entitled a "Mid-Service Clergy Course"! Notwithstanding that some of us are still around nearly thirty years later. One of my colleagues on the course was a certain Stephen Cottrell. Then a Vicar but now Archbishop of York. I can confirm that he tells a good joke and stands his round in the pub. He tells a good story too, and I was reminded of this recently when he did 'Pause for Thought' on Radio Two (20th February, and available of BBC Sounds).

He spoke about how he enjoys visiting schools and in particular the Question and Answer sessions with pupils. On a recent visit he was asked "How old are you?", "As old as my tongue and a bit older than my teeth". "How much do you earn?", "More than a postman, less than the Prime Minister". Then the usual "What do you do?". The Archbishop explained how he was a voice for the Christian faith in northern England, and how an important part of his job was caring for all the Vicars while they are caring for other people. It was then that a boy aged about six put his hand up to ask a question he'd never been asked before, "Who cares for you?"

The Archbishop answered by saying he had a team of people who helped support and care for him, and a loving family too. But also that he knew that God cares for him, indeed the message of the Christian faith is that God cares for everyone - even for those who feel they have no one to care for them.

The Archbishop then thanked the boy for asking and said it was a very kind question that left him feeling that he was being cared for right there and then. We should all remember that boy's question and ask people "Who cares for you?". Because just asking it is such a caring thing.

Friends & Family.

Clive Babb's funeral was held at the church on Thursday 25th January. The church was filled with many people wanting to pay tribute to him.

We are very sad to announce that Hazel Nash has died. Hazel was a much valued member of our church since the three denominations came together, and before that in the Methodist church. She has played a huge part in so many things, including being a lay preacher for us, giving Bible readings, and much comfort and help to anyone needing support. Some tributes to her follow later in the magazine.

Her funeral will be at Lodge Hill Crematorium on Wednesday 6th March at 10.00am.

Following the funeral there will be a Thanksgiving Service for Hazel's life, starting at 11.00am on the same day (Wednesday 6th March) at The Cotteridge Church. This will be followed by refreshments at church.

Ken Fryer, brother of John and Jenny Fryer has died. Ken attended our Boys' Brigade in his youth.

We send our condolences and best wishes to the families and friends of all those who have died recently.

Services for March and April

2024	3rd March Lent 3	10th March Mothering Sunday	17th March Lent 5	24th March Palm Sunday	31st March Easter Sunday
10:30 am	Revd B Calvert Parade	Revd M. Claridge HC	Revd M. Claridge	Revd R. Collins HC	Revd M. Claridge HC
6:30 pm	Revd R. Collins HC	No service	No service	No service	No service
	7th April	14th April	21st April	28th April	
10:30 am	Mr John Cooper Parade	Revd M. Claridge HC	Revd M. Claridge	Revd R. Collins HC	
6:30 pm	LA	No service	No service	No service	

Service types: HC - Holy Communion: P - Parade LA - Local Arrangement.

Communion Services are normally held each week at 10.00 am on Tuesdays

Zoom Services are normally held on Wednesday evenings from 7.30 pm

Thursday 7th March 11.00am Mothers Day Midweek Service (Revd B. Calvert)

Thursday 28th March 7.30pm Maundy Thursday (Revd M. Claridge)

Friday 29th March 10.30am Good Friday Service (Revd R. Collins)

Friday 29th March 11.15am Procession of Witness

Saturday 30th March 8.00pm Easter Ceremonies (Revd R. Collins)

Tuesday Fellowship is a group which is open to all. We meet on the 2nd and the 4th Tuesday of each month at 2.00pm in the Cotswold Room and below is a list of dates with the speakers /activities. Please feel free to come and join us.

Thank you. Linda

TUESDAY FELLOWSHIP DATES March - April 2024

- March 12th Easter Meeting with Barbara
- 26th Easter Poetry
- April 9th Linda W Holiday in Scandinavia
- 23rd Musical afternoon with John Smith

Boys' Brigade February 2024

Our final figure raised for BB week is in excess of £600. Many thanks to church members, parents and friends who made a donation for the continuation of Boys' Brigade at Cotteridge. All sections have in recent weeks taken part in Battalion and Divisional competition with some success.



At the February parade service a number of boys and Orla had a great time taking part in the play organised by Rita Sutton.

Just a reminder that our BB quiz will take place on Friday 5th April starting at 7-45pm. Teams



must consist of no more than six. The cost is £3 per person and all proceeds will be shared as usual between The Cotteridge Church and Birmingham Hospice.

Bob Hotchkiss

Burns Lunch 25 January



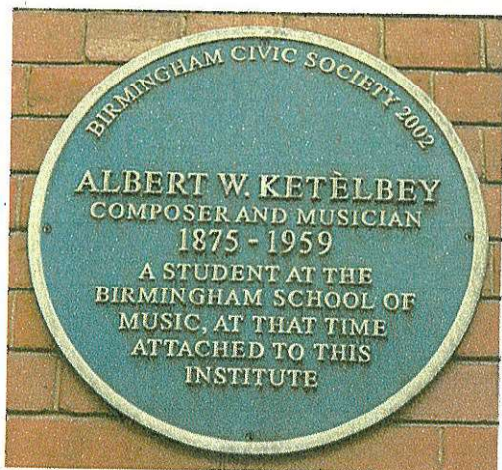
Haggis, Neeps and Tatties were served to Pennine Way customers on Thursday 25th January to the accompaniment of Scottish music, to celebrate the famous Scottish poet Robert Burns, who was born on that day in 1759.

Many thanks to Shirley and Tina, who prepared and served it in their new bright red uniforms.



In a Monastery Garden Albert Ketèlbey

A short while ago I was given a pile of old piano music. The attractive picture of the monastery garden lead me to play the music. I was immediately transported back over 60 years to when my mother used to play this music on an old 78 'His Master's Voice' record. You may recall this romantic tune.

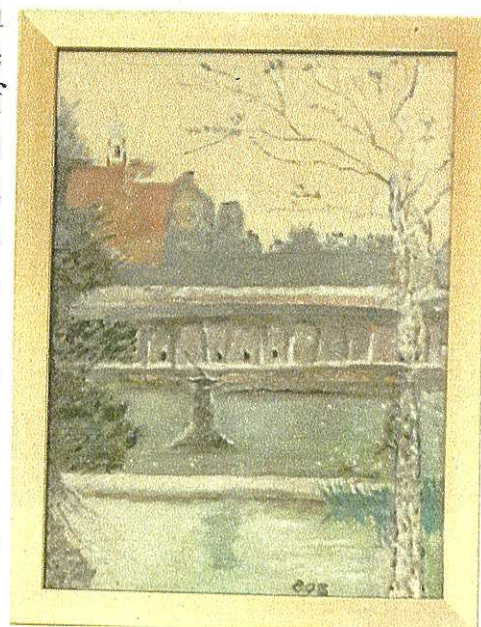


Albert Ketèlbey was born in Aston in 1875 and wrote In a Monastery Garden in 1915. He wrote a number of popular light compositions including In a Persian Market. He attended the Birmingham School of Music and this is commemorated with a Blue Plaque in Birmingham City centre.

He died in 1959.

You can ask me to play to you on the piano or perhaps, more accurately, listen to it on Youtube. I've even attempted to paint the garden as a picture. →

Bob Burton



Tributes to our dear friend Hazel Nash

In memory of Hazel Nash.
"Rejoice for a sister deceased!
Our loss is her infinite gain."
from Dot Tesh



Hazel Nash.

A little lady with a huge faith & heart.

Hazel was part of a big, happy group of young people when our church building was the Methodist Church, Kings Norton.

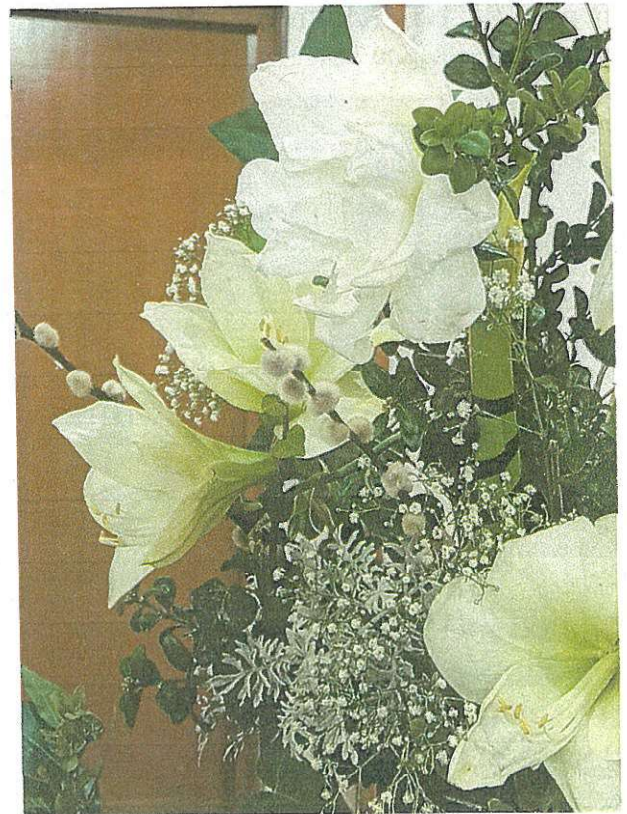
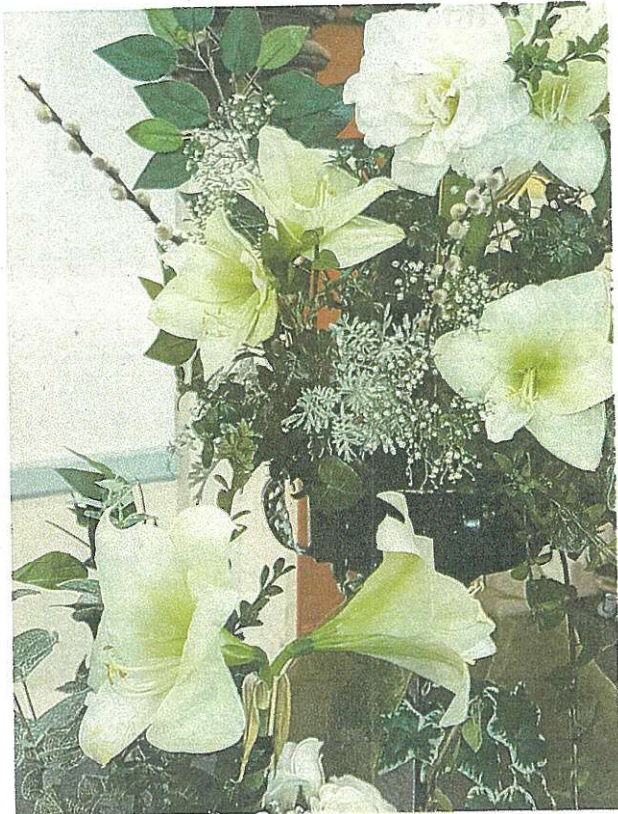
It was the 50's & the evangelic era; Billy Graham was a regular visitor to Birmingham Town Hall : Hazel was part of our group & "went forward" with some of us offering ourselves to God.

She became totally single- minded in her assurance that The Lord would guide her life.; she trained as a nurse& was accepted by the Methodist Missionary Society, going to West Africa training junior nurses & then teaching & training Youth & children in the Church.

Hazel's faith was strong; to be part of the congregation when she preached was a joy, and I would go home rejoicing.

She lived so close to God. We will miss her presence & prayers, but she is at peace with her Lord.

RIP. from Chris Pascal



My memories of Hazel

I haven't known Hazel for as long as most of you but my memories of a very special lady will always be with me. When I joined The Cotteridge church I was very involved with the Day centre. It was at our meetings that Hazel would always give a report on her visits to the Centre. She took responsibility for talking to the folk there asking them if they were satisfied with their care; asking too what could make their days happier. I would listen to these - aware of the time Hazel spent with them and how sensitive she was to their needs and requests. After Hazel relinquished this job, others tried but never managed as she did.

Then of course we were all blessed with the services she took as a Lay reader. Her words came from a lifetime of serving her Lord. We listened avidly and appreciated the preparation and thought that went into those times.

Hazel would be seated in the Pennine Way talking and helping members of the Chinese community, sharing experiences and teaching English to them.

Then of course we had the beginning of Saplings and I can still hear in my mind James saying of a craft activity he was doing "sit here Hazel..sit with me". Hazel loved coming with the children on Friday mornings, accompanied by Hilary and other family members. It was a special time with them all as she brought them on the bus. I can't imagine how she did it...so often with all three children...amazing.

Just recently over the last few years, Hazel became a prayer partner with me as we prayed for one of my grandchildren. Hazel's words and encouraging emails kept me both positive and full of hope. Special Bible texts would be shared and updates on the situation would bind us together. As Hazel said to me recently "It's like she's a member of my family". I couldn't ever ask for more than that.

I can't thank Hazel enough for her support and loving care over the years. She loved the flowers arranged in church and every year dedicated a Sunday to her family. The Spring flowers were her special favourites and these I will arrange in her memory.

Hazel was such an encourager, so full of faith. I, along with all of us will miss her so much.

Thank you Hazel, for being You. Thank you.

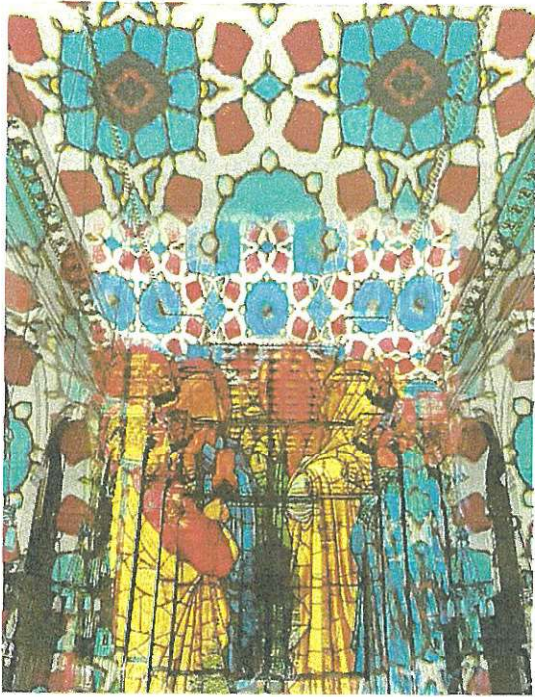
Sandra Walton



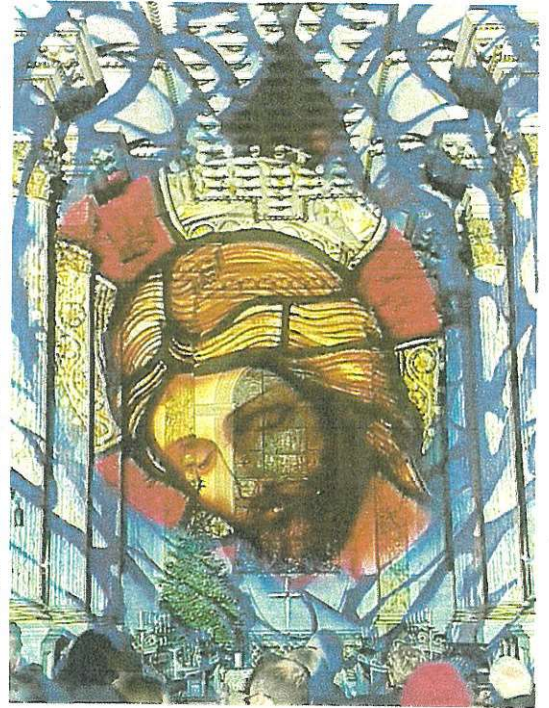
The Cotteridge Church 20th Anniversary in 2009

Enjoying a Garden Party in 2013

Divine Beauty at Night



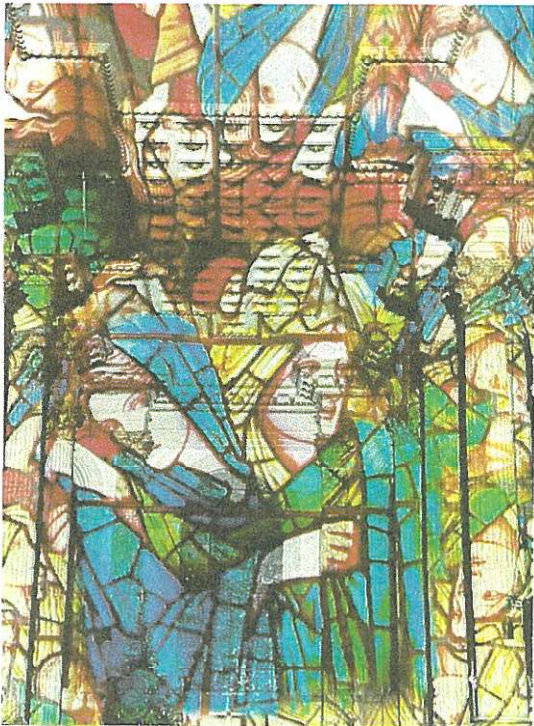
Birmingham Cathedral is home to four very special stained glass windows designed by Pre-Raphaelite artist Edward Burne Jones. The windows were installed over a 12 year period from 1885 to 1897 prior to St Phillip's being granted its Cathedral status.



The windows depict four key scenes from the life of Christ ie Nativity, Crucifixion, Ascension and Last Judgement.

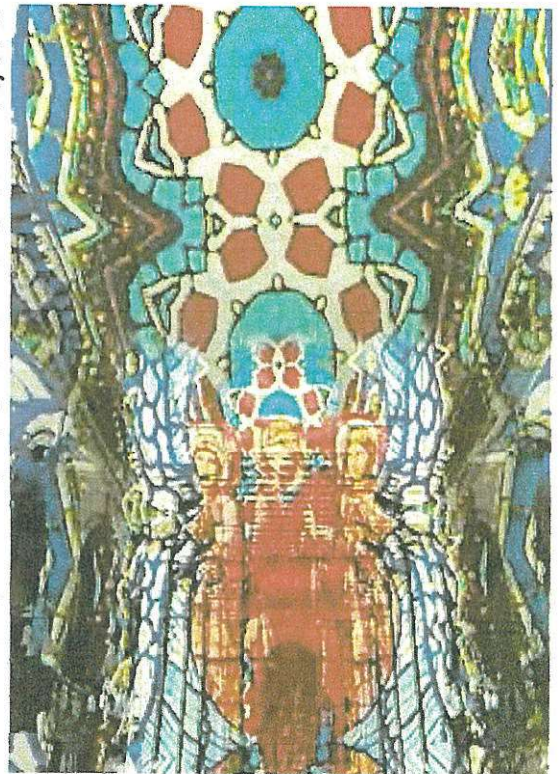
The Divine Beauty Project involves the cleaning, repair and conservation of these magnificent windows, considered to be the pinnacle of Birmingham's artistic heritage.

Whilst principally funded through a substantial grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund there have been numerous funding initiatives such as the very recent "Divine Beauty at Night"; which was a sell out show of immersive sound and light based upon the four windows and telling the story of their imagery and history.



Colourful sections of the windows were projected onto the interior of the Cathedral accompanied by specially commissioned music.

There followed a visit to the equally magnificent Old Joint Stock, directly opposite the main entrance to the Cathedral. It made for a very enjoyable Saturday night out.



Michael Ravenhill

The Strategy Group - thank you and next steps

A small Strategy Group has been meeting for several months now, set up by JCC and representing different areas of our church life. The aim of this group is to work with our church members and wider community to shape a mission, vision and strategic plan for The Cotteridge Church that is delivered in a sustainable way that makes best use of our people, money and building.

The Strategy Group has been gathering together existing data and information, material from previous discussions, consulting with JCC and its sub-committees and, most recently, conducting a series of questionnaire surveys. **A HUGE THANK YOU to the 120 people who responded to these surveys!** As a result of all this, we have some really valuable information that will really help us to make the Strategic Plan reflect and serve The Cotteridge Church members and wider community.

The next stage is a lunch and discussion session on 17th March after the morning service, when church members and worshipers are invited to lunch and facilitated discussions to begin to identify the more detailed actions that we need to take to deliver our mission and vision. A summary of the questionnaire responses will be available the week before to help you to prepare for this discussion.

This lunch session will be followed by further input from the Joint Church Council and sub-Committees, to enable a full draft strategic plan to be developed, including the four elements of - The Church Mission Statement; Vision Statement and Values; Objectives; and Action Plan. This draft document will be brought to the Church AGM on 12th May for discussion and, hopefully, approval by church members.

Pam Waddell (Strategy Group)

Music in Church

John Tesh and Bill Cooper put in sterling work playing the organ for us to sing hymns and responses during our morning services. Over the past year myself and Gill Brettell have added our skills once a month on the digital piano. Usually when it is my turn to play I invite Karen and Neil to add their talents on the violin or the clarinet. The ministers build their service by choosing hymns from *Singing the Faith*, an excellent publication crammed full of the best hymns currently on offer. I hope our musical efforts enable you as the congregation to joyfully lift your collective voices in praise as we sing the gospel, but it is a two-way situation. The musicians are there to help you sing. If you would prefer a different volume, tempo or pitch, or anything else within our control, don't be afraid to make your views known.

However, while we have a regular music rota each Sunday morning, the former choir has disappeared. I for one think we are poorer for losing the choir. Should we be doing more to use the talents of some of our voices, or indeed create a space for different or younger musicians to add their talents? One thought I had is to create a 'praise' choir. I usually play a selection of hymn tunes as 'fillers' for a few minutes before and after the service. If members of the congregation wanted to add their voice to sing the hymn while I play the melody, that might work. It would also create a space where we could try out new hymns before asking the congregation to sing them. I also think we ought to encourage new, sometimes younger, talent. If any budding musician wants to add their skill, let me know.

Peter Childs

**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 5th April
7:30 for 7:45 start
@ The Cotteridge Church



www.facebook.com/7thbhambb

cotteridgeboysbrigade@hotmail.com



@7thbhambb

www.7thbhambb.co.uk

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

These are now available from the church.



Do the flowers?

I couldn't even arrange a vase let alone a big pedestal in church. However, one Saturday morning, some years later I found myself doing just that and I've been trying to improve my efforts ever since. I don't think I could have begun to do it without the help and encouragement of Doris Collins and Eira Hoadly. They took it in turns to stand patiently by me as I began my first attempts. They offered suggestions but never tried to impose their ideas even when my first arrangements were a little strange!

I now find it very satisfying arranging a pedestal in the New Year in memory of my brother and sister in law. The one I do in September is in memory of my parents who married on September 5th. This year I'll be doing one in memory of Joan Clayton for her birthday on July 8th. Flowers can be arranged not only in memory of loved ones but for all sorts of occasions - to celebrate a birthday, a baby, exam success, a new job. Flowers celebrate all things and remind us of all things, and please don't forget flower arranging is very much a unisex activity. So come along, have a go, we'll help!

Do the flowers? Who me? Yes, **you!**

Rita Sutton





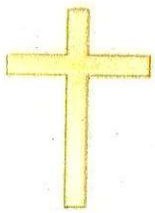
The Cotteridge Church
Joint Church Council
Summary of Proceedings 6th February 2024

The Chair requested permission to record the meeting to enable the minutes to be typed up at a later date. This request was agreed.

1. The meeting opened with a short prayer by the Chair.
2. Present: Mike C., Dorothy A., Stephen A., Neil W., Jayne S., Roger C., / Sandra W., and Chris P. joined via Zoom.
3. Apologies: Received from Pam W.,
4. Minutes of previous meeting: A verbal summary of the previous meeting held on 7th December were accepted.
5. Matters Arising: Safeguarding: The Chair noted that two persons were needed to join the Safeguarding Team. Members asked to consider the role themselves or consider who may be approached. Sale room extremely popular, - income in excess of £400 raised during January. Policy Reviews: See item later in Agenda.
6. Safeguarding: No issues have been raised. Training and records are up to date.
7. Reports:CSC: received: The proposed Garden Party in July clashes with CoCoMad. Another date needs to be arranged to avoid local events. Worship: received: Leadership of Lent courses was discussed. A meeting to discuss Messy Church is taking place soon. P&M: no report received, A verbal report was given. The damp issues in Cheviot are being looked into. The silver EcoChurch award is awaited.Admin Report: Sarah noted issues she is having with finance. The treasury team note ongoing issues which have delayed management accounts being presented. Work is ongoing to remedy the issues. A proposal to ask all church groups to order via Easy Fundraising was discussed. A proposal was made, seconded and voted on. The meeting agreed the proposal. Details to be sent to all church group leaders. CTB30: Minutes available on the church noticeboard.
8. Correspondence: Church website: This is in need of updating. Work is planned to update the site. Access to Global office remains the same. Strategy Group: Things are moving forward.Saplings Carers/Parents and Tuesday evening groups are still to receive the questionnaires, this to happen after half term.Policies: A number of policies were issued to members for review.
9. Membership: Now stands at 117 following the deaths of Chris M., Clive B., and Hazel N.,
10. Events: The Burns Night Lunch proved very popular.
11. Denominational matters: Anglican: Mike C., attended an oversight ministry meeting. Methodist: Although Stipendiary Minister numbers are reducing, the circuit vacancies have been filled without using newly trained staff. URC: The Moderator is holding a meeting with all local Elders in March.
12. A.O.B: Opening up the window space into Clew room was discussed, this is ongoing.
13. Meeting closed at 20:30 with the saying of The Grace.
14. Future meetings: 16/04., 11/06., 10/09., 12/11., AGM Sunday 12th May.

Styles of Christian Crosses

The cross, or crucifix is the main religious symbol of Christianity, and is recognised the world over. Obviously it symbolises the crucifixion of Christ, and therefore the importance of the resurrection to our faith, and that the Easter festival is the most important.



Latin

Crosses are used widely within and outside churches, in bibles, jewellery, cemeteries, accident sites, and so on. The style of cross has been customised in many ways. Possibly the best known are the Latin and Greek styles.



Greek

The Latin cross represents a fairly close representation of the cross on which Jesus was crucified. There are many variants of this, where the ends of the cross have had extra embellishment, often for artistic effect.

The Greek cross has arms of equal length. Prior to Christianity this shape was used by Pythagoras, who used its arms to symbolise earth, air, fire and water. The Christian version was used to represent the church itself - spreading the Gospel to the north, south, east and west.



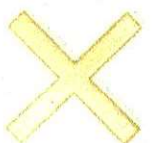
Maltese

The Maltese cross has equal length arms, which taper towards the centre. It has been used in many different military awards, including the Victoria Cross, and the Iron Cross. It looks strong, and thus depicts both a protection from harm and a display of strength.

The Celtic cross is essentially like the Latin one, but has a ring surrounding the intersection. It dates from the early middle ages and spread from the Celts in Ireland, to those in Scotland, and thence more widely. Some say the ring was added as a support to hold the cross together, others that placing the cross on top of a ring represents Christ's supremacy over the pagan sun.



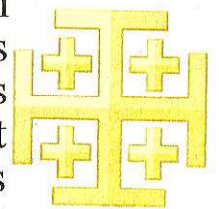
Celtic



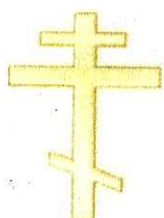
St Andrew's

Saint Andrew, one of the Apostles, was crucified by the Romans. It is said he considered himself to be unworthy of crucifixion on a cross shaped like that of Christ, so chose the Saltire, or X shaped cross. The Scottish flag depicts the saltire also, because St Andrew is their patron saint.

The Jerusalem cross is like a Greek cross, with a cross bar on each end, and four small simple Greek crosses in each quadrant. Its symbolism has several explanations. One is that the large central cross represents Christ, and the four small ones represent evangelists, or that Christ is the central, and the other four are quarters of the world. It is also used as the arms of the Kingdom of Jerusalem, a Crusader state established in the Levant after the first crusade.



Jerusalem



Russian

The Russian Cross has been used since the 16th century in Russia, and bears much similarity with one found in the 6th century Byzantine empire, which has the lowest cross beam slanted in the opposite direction. The top crossbeam represents the King of Glory, the second is the main bar to which Christ's hands were nailed, and the lowest represents the footrest, which prolongs the torture, slanted so that the upper end points to heaven, and the lower to hell. Today this cross is widely used in Russian, Czech, Polish and Slovak Orthodox churches.

Celia Lester

Church Garden.

It's still winter, but there are signs of a "Wake-up" in our Garden .

After the seriously wet, windy & chilly weather we've had to cope with the need for some TLC [helped by man & woman power] is necessary. The flower beds need cutting back & the soil turned. (especially at the front of the Church)

Pots, planters & boxes are looking decidedly sad, & these could be a very satisfying job to take on. We are planning a Church Garden Weekend in July, when we will serve Afternoon Tea on Saturday, & Family Service on Sunday with a bring & share Lunch - all outside (weather permitting!)



It is planned that all organisations & individuals using our building will be encouraged to pick an area - front or back - to adopt & bring to bloom.

We do have a greenhouse at the side of Church which is available for anyone who fancies growing Spring/Summer seeds.

It is a lovely experience to be outside in a garden, helping it to flourish.

Please help.

Bob & Chris can be contacted for any details you may need.

Many thanks - let's rekindle the joy of gardening and the amazing results.

Many thanks. Chris Pascal

Please Help us.

1. Would members who order items online please consider joining Easyfundraising. This is a way of purchasing items you want, through suppliers who will make a donation to charity. By ordering via Easyfundraising and nominating The Cotteridge Church as your chosen charity, the church can receive donations at no additional cost to yourself.

Please see the Administrator or check out the media screen in the Pennine Way for more details.

Over the last few months the church has received donations amounting to over £50 through the purchases of just a few members.

The small amounts donated through each purchase can lead to significant sums being raised. Do give it your consideration. Many thanks.

2. Safeguarding: We are seeking two additional members to join the Safeguarding Team.

Could you assist by being a Named Person, who receives notifications of Safeguarding concerns for a three month period of each year?

If you feel you could, please speak with Dorothy, who will explain the role and the training requirements. Many thanks

Dorothy Audley



Birmingham's Lost Philosopher

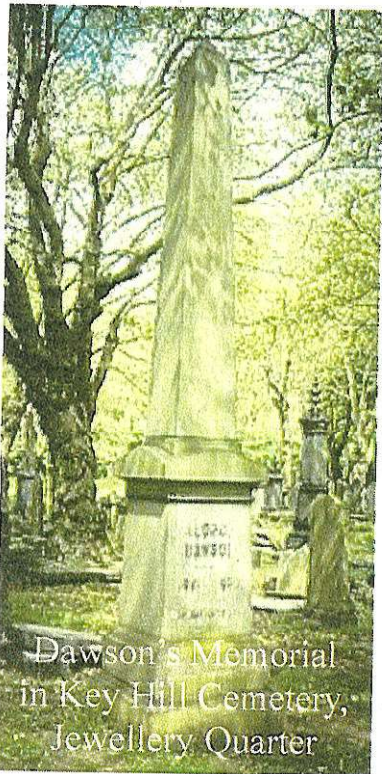
On the corner of Middleton Hall Road and Pershore Road South, where Sophie's and the flats are, there used to be a house called Watford House. For a short time a very prominent person lived in it.

George Dawson was born in London in 1821. He became a preacher, lecturer and activist. In 1844 he moved to Birmingham to become minister of the Mount Zion Baptist Church. His sermons attracted large crowds, but he was a bit of a rebel so his supporters had a chapel built for him and this opened in 1847.

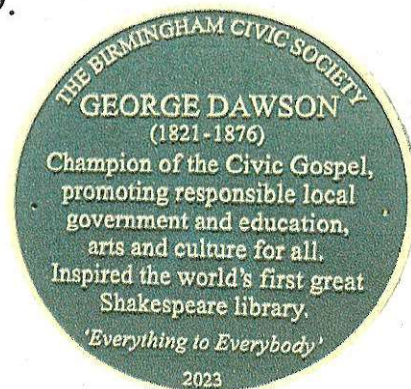
Dawson developed the idea of the Civic Gospel to improve conditions and quality of life for citizens. His sermons inspired many people and a number of influential men joined him - Joseph Chamberlain, George Dixon, Robert Martineau, and members of the Kenrick family. Seventeen of his congregation became Town Councillors, and six of them became mayor.

His ideas helped transform Birmingham and develop free education. Dawson was described as "the greatest talker in England". He lectured on English Literature at the Birmingham and Midland Institute, helped found the Shakespeare Memorial Library, and spoke at the opening of the Birmingham Reference Library, calling it: "this glorious library".

Dawson died in 1876 at Watford House. His statue, which used to stand in Victoria Square, is now in store at the Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery. There is a blue plaque in the Central Library in the Shakespeare Memorial Room on Level 9.



Dawson's Memorial
in Key Hill Cemetery,
Jewellery Quarter



When he died it was said that Birmingham was the envy of the civilised world.

Rita Sutton

Easter Chicks

Hand knitted Easter chicks will soon be on sale from the Coffee Bar, each containing a Cadbury Creme Egg.

ENJOY!





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 May 2024 edition by 24th April 2024 to
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