

Roundabout



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

November 2023

Mike's message ...

Let there be Peace on Earth

I'm writing this in mid-October, far too early to be thinking of Christmas, we're only just passed the "25% of the year to go" mark. Yet one of the 'byelines' of Christmas is very apt for current circumstances. God sent a messengers to shepherds on the hills of Palestine with the greeting of 'Peace on Earth'.



That message appears on 'sugar sweet' Christmas cards with robins and smiling faces of children. But that's not how I'm seeing it at the moment. I hear God's bidding of 'Peace on Earth' but all I'm seeing are images of mutilated bodies and the tears of the grieving and displaced as aggressors in both Israel and Palestine wage death and destruction. Let us also remember that the same is going on between Ukraine and Russia, and elsewhere too. But it's mostly the innocent who are killed and injured, or rendered homeless as they flee missiles and invading aggressors.

Let's be clear. The aggressors are far outnumbered by the vast majority of people, Israeli and Palestinian, who want peace. But aggressors have the upper hand, the power, and the weapons. Rockets fire back and forth between Gaza and Israel, and violence also hits the West Bank, Palestinian territory occupied by Israel. Northern Israel is also currently under attack from terrorists in Lebanon.

How did we get into this mess? The region is the home of three great religions; Islam, Judaism and Christianity. The Palestinian people themselves are diverse: 93% Muslim, 6% Christian, 1% other including Druze and Samaritans. All faiths proclaim Salaam, Shalom, Peace. Incidentally Palestinian Christians use Salaam, and proclaim Allahu Akbar (God is Great) and Inshallah (If God wills it), after all Arabic is their language.

The history, and current demographics, of the region are complex. But we are not completely helpless. We can prayer for peace, we can question what we hear and see in the media, and we can help practically through Christian Aid and other aid agencies who can ensure our gifts of compassion can reach those in need.

Pray for Israel/Palestine, and conflicts elsewhere, and remember the message proclaimed on the Palestinian hillside. That there may be Peace on Earth.

Friends & Family

Beryl Hudson died on 5th September aged 92. Her funeral was held on 9 October in Redditch. We send our condolences and best wishes to her family.

I'm sad to announce that our dear friend Gillian Salkeld has also sadly passed away. Her funeral was held in Redditch on 26th September. She is fondly remembered by so many of us. There was a thanksgiving service and wake for her at The Cotteridge Church on Thursday 28th September. Gill did much of the organisation behind all the embroidered banners we display in the Malvern Room. Ros Murphy has sent a tribute for her which you can see later.

Congratulations to John Cliff, who celebrates his 80th birthday on 3rd November.

Alison Sprackling retired last August, and is enjoying the extra time.

Shirley will be 60 in December. She has been cooking for us for 24 years now. Many congratulations Shirley!

Finally, if anyone would like to order a Christmas pudding to be collected at the fair on 3rd December, please bring a boilable bowl [preferably lidded] containing your contact details to Celia by 12th November. Cost is £7.50 per kg.

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 feel free to come and join us.

Thank you

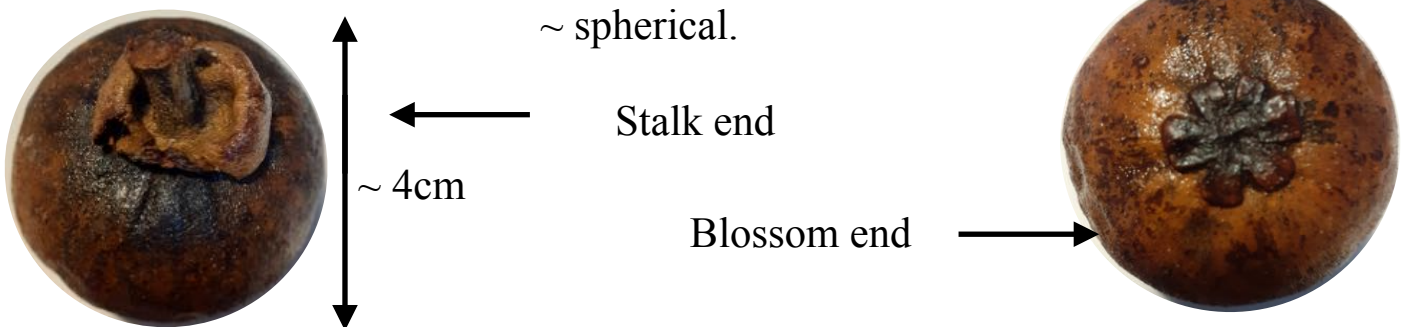
Linda

TUESDAY FELLOWSHIP DATES Sept - Nov 2023

November. 14 th	Roger on his rail journeys
November. 28 th	Mike C. on Advent
December 12 th	Carols & Mince Pies

Look what Bob Burton has found

1. On a beach in Suffolk



2. In a field near the Maypole, Kings Heath

What do you think they are? We are not quite sure, but our suggestions are given at the end of the magazine

~ 10 cm





Memories of Gill Salkeld

Gill was one of the first people to welcome me when I came as the Methodist Minister to Cotteridge in 1997. I soon realised how committed she was to her faith and ways of expressing it in her daily life, in the church and elsewhere.



Gill had been head of a primary school and could be relied on in many of the organisational ways now required in church life in terms of church councils and various other meetings, more complex in Cotteridge where our roots were in three denominations, but now united as one very active community, welcoming people from all faiths or none, not just on Sundays, but during the week too. There was plenty to keep Gill and countless others busy. She could always be relied on to complete effectively whatever she had undertaken, often with the sense of humour so clear in the photograph on the memorial service booklet. A joy to remember.

Her leading of worship was living out in daily life of neighbours as well as an important factor!



inspiring, but also rooted in the commitment to God and our ourselves. Common sense was

Gill was also a real source of making group which met years, and enabled deep aspects of our faith and abilities to contribute to who come into the Gill soon became much more

inspiration to the banner-regularly for a number of thinking about various familiar encouraged those with various deepening the faith of those church, even today.

remained friends long after I moved on, meeting occasionally either here in South Warwickshire where I live, or finding somewhere to meet for lunch, initially with Sue Sutcliffe, who had been the church administrator.

than a colleague and we

The lunch club which met on Fridays for older people, was run while I was at Cotteridge by Gill and various others and was so much appreciated as it included enabling people who were often very infirm, to get to church and enjoy the company as well as a hot meal from the church's kitchen. Sadly, as health problems multiplied, Gill and her husband, Len, became recipients of these lunches.

It was hard to see the deterioration, both physically and in her thinking. Visiting Gill and Len at home and finally on one occasion in the care home marked such a decline. Gill was a fragile shadow of her former self.



I can only feel relief that this difficult time has come to an end and her beloved family don't have to witness ongoing problems but there is a great thankfulness for all that Gill contributed to this world, to the many pupils who passed through her hands, to the various other organisations to which she was committed and above all to the church which meant so much to her. I shall always be grateful for all that she contributed to my life.



Ros Murphy

More Memories of Gill Salkeld



I first met Gill Salkeld in May 1992. Having seen an advert for the Head teacher at Four Dwellings Infants School. I made an appointment to go and look round the school. I was met by the present Headteacher, Gill Salkeld. She showed me round talking proudly of the children and all they had achieved. She introduced me to staff who were obviously sad that Gill was to retire. Gill was looking forward to



handing over the reins and had plans for all that she was going to do, including more activities at the Cotteridge Church. I immediately wanted to get the job there - the atmosphere in the school was so welcoming and open - created, of course, by Gill and her team.

Thankfully I was successful and started my job there in September 1992. My connection with Gill though, didn't end there. She was always interested to know how the school was doing, visiting us on many occasions. I visited her at home and spent time with her and Len, seeing his model railway and hearing, of course, about Australia, where he was from.

Forward on to 2006: and after retirement decided I wanted to belong to a local church. Of course as soon as I arrived at Cotteridge there was Gill to welcome me and introduce me to many of you who are there now. I know Gill was instrumental in starting the Lunch Club, to which my mother used to go. Gill was also part of the team which created the beautiful hangings that we have in church at the moment. She was a lay reader and often took services. Her retirement had been busy outside of the church also, as she became a Trustee of Homestart, the charity that we have

supported at Cotteridge in our toy services. She encouraged Chris Pascal and me to join her and Sue Sutcliffe at Homestart and we are both still Trustees there.



Thank you Gill for all the lives that you changed and influenced - both in education and in the church. Thank you for your life that was lived for others. Gill will not be forgotten - her legacy is all around us.



Sandra Walton.

Conscientious Objectors

Many of our older members will remember Margaret & Hilda Cragg, members of the URC, and who lived in Acacia Road.

Their father was a postman, and delivered Mail in the northwest of England, wearing clogs. Their mother was the head cook for Lord Sefton, who owns the Aintree Racecourse where the Grand National is held. Postman met cook, and they married. In those days female servants could not remain in employment if they married, but Mrs Cragg was often called back to cook when the king came for the hunting! [The quantities in her recipe book were in bushels!]

Mr Cragg was a conscientious objector during WW1. He was definitely not doing that for lack of courage. He went to the front to help look after the horses, but he also had the very important job of taking wounded from the battlefield and looking



after them. He had a gift of healing, despite no official medical training. After he had helped soldiers to recover, very often their wives visited his wife in Bournville to ask her to thank her husband for saving the life of theirs.

Hilda worked in the accounting department at Cadbury's, and Margaret, after deciding a life selling dresses to the affluent was not for her, went as a missionary to southern India, serving with Harry Wightman*, who also worshipped at the URC. Her main job was to help the villagers to understand what a healthy diet was, and how to grow and provide it for their families. Whilst there she felt a call to return home to help her sister. When she got home she found her sister was suffering from ulcerative colitis, and was seriously ill. She changed the diet, and gave her a vitamin B rich diet instead. Hilda recovered. This disease had not been fully treatable before, and several specialists visited her to find out what had happened. She had inherited her father's healing gift. She also inherited her mother's gift for cooking. Our family enjoyed many suppers at their home, especially after the Carol Service on the Bournville Village Green. Having worked in India for many years, Margaret was also able to make excellent real Indian curries - not from bought curry powder, but from all the individual spices and herbs.

* Harry Wightman was honoured in 1983 for 50 years service in the ministry of the URC.



Celia Lester

The Cotteridge Church Day Centre says Goodbye.

On October 6th. Many of us gathered to say Goodbye to Simon and Michelle and other day centre staff who have worked so hard over so many years. They provided such excellent care for the members and pre Covid of course there were up to 20 members attending daily. Since Covid this of course has been a different story. We welcomed back Donald Sampson who was Chair of the Day Centre Committee for many years to formally thank Michelle and Simon and other volunteers who were present that day. Tracey and Nikki who were also staff were not able to be there but Donald's message was for them as well.

We all wished them happy and rewarding days in their new positions. Simon is training to be a nurse and Michelle begins a new career with the Co-op Funeral Service. They will be missed and we give them every best wish for their future. We all hope they will visit us when they can and we can hear how they are getting on. Thank you Donald for sharing this with us. It was so good to see you back at Cotteridge again.



Back row:
Simon Paskin, Revd Donald Sampson,
Michelle Madden
Front row:
Cathy Morrison and Donna Coltman

Sandra Walton



Pennies, pounds and ounces

The British originally used the pound as a unit of weight. They began to use it as a unit of currency in Anglo-Saxon times, over a thousand years ago, because 240 silver pennies [known as sterlings] weighed roughly one pound. So instead of saying "a pound of silver pennies", people would just say "a pound" for short. [The current price of silver is approximately £282 per lb.]

So there was a link between the two kinds of pound!

£ s d for money; lb oz for weight: libra is latin for balance/weigh. We use 2 different symbols for currency £ and weight lb, but they come from the same root

240 was a very convenient number to use as it divides by 2,3,4,5,6,8,10,12 so could be split up equally in many ways. Originally the pennies were worth much more. I remember a child's bus fare was $\frac{1}{2}$ d when I was little.

The name "penny" comes from the Old English pennige (pronounced ['pennije]), sharing the same root as the German pfennig. Pennies were, confusingly, abbreviated to 'd'. This is because the Latin word for this coin was 'denarius'. **Matthew** 18 mentions denarii as the sum owed to one slave servant by the other slave servant.

The abbreviation d. was used until decimalisation in 1971, when pennies were abbreviated to p. Traditionally there were all made from copper, but in 1992, it was realised that the cost of copper was too high, and the copper in them was worth more than the coin, so they are now made from copper plated iron - try testing the newer ones with a magnet!

1 shilling equalled twelve pence (12d).

I was looking at different one & two penny coins. Look at the relative amounts of copper in them, - remembering of course, that now a 1p coin has the value of 2.5d coins.



1797 - 2d and 1d



1900s - 1d, $\frac{1}{2}$ d, $\frac{1}{4}$ d



>1971 - 2p and 1p

The pictures are to scale! The 1797 2d is less than the current 1p! The difference...

INFLATION

It is little wonder that we are all feeling the effects of it. It makes us realise what an amazing job our foodbanks, and other charities are doing to help.

Celia Lester



**The Cotteridge Church
Christmas Fair**

Saturday 2nd December 2023

11:00am—2:00pm

Free Entry!

Santa's Grotto

Festive baps

Mulled fruit punch

Tombola

Table-Top-Sale

Cake sale

Christmas goods for sale

Tradecraft

Plant Stall

The Memory Tree

And much more ...



Beaumont Park Macmillan Coffee Morning



This was a great success and raised ~ £230 for the charity

Pat Humphrey.

CRU and the Cotteridge Church combined to hold another Macmillan Coffee Morning. It too was a great success, and raised over £300 for this very worthy charity.

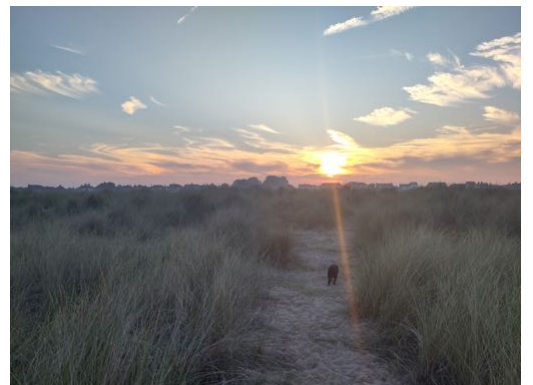
Well done everyone who baked served and ate

News from Judith Bell.

We're settling in well. It's quite a different pace of life from being in Birmingham.



My colleagues have responsibility for more rural parts of the circuit, but my responsibilities are mainly in towns and villages on the coast so it's a place of contrasts. Urban buildings, including industrial sites, sit alongside great natural beauty.



Early days have been mainly about getting to know the people and the area - a couple of photos from my orientation walks attached. I've also attached a photo taken at my welcome service - my first outing in a dog collar, but something I'm slowly getting used to.



Best wishes,
Judith

I'm not in the Christmas Story



I'm not in the Christmas story,
though I was there on the night,
The ox and the ass get a mention
but I had to stay out of sight.



They said a rat wasn't wanted on anyone's Christmas card,
I try to understand that but it really is quite hard.



I'm not in the Christmas story,
though I heard the angels sing,
People said I would frighten the baby,
his movement might make me sting.



A scorpion isn't in keeping with manger and stars and straw,
You won't see me in the paintings,
I'm out of sight by the door.



I'm not in the Christmas story, though I saw the kings pass by,
A wolf might unnerve the camels
and make the baby cry.



I had to stay in the background
so I could have a peep,
To see the wonderful presents
and the baby fast asleep.

So, when you read the story, remember that we were here,
The scorpion, rat and sly old wolf just watching, but not too near.

Pennine Way Trips

**Early Christmas Shop and Lunch
Wednesday, 22nd and 29th November 2023**



Shopping at Melbicks, Coleshill
and lunch at The Lake at Barston

£28. 10.30am start, return 3.30pm (approx)



Menus from Rita Sutton. Deposit of £8 required.

Rita Sutton

Services for November and December

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 from September 20th.
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.

Christmas services:

Tuesday 12th December: 7.15 pm Outdoor Carols.

Sunday 24th December : 11.30 pm Midnight Communion

Monday 25th December - Christmas Day: 10.00 a.m.

Services for November and December

	5th November	12th November	19th November	26th November	
10:30 am	Revd B. Calvert Parade	Revd M. Claridge HC/R	Revd M. Claridge	Revd R. Collins HC	
6:30 pm	Revd.A. Richards HC	No service	No service	No service	
	3rd December	10th December	17th December	24th December	31st December
10:30 am	tba Parade	tba HC	tba	tba HC	tba
6:30 pm	tba	No service	No service	Midnight Communion	

Boys Brigade

All the boys and leaders received their new membership cards from our chaplain Mike Claridge at our enrolment service.



We are planning a sleepover on Saturday 4th November with our BB week starting the following day. Any donations towards the running of the company would be appreciated. There will also be a bake sale on Sunday morning.

Euan Clayton who for the last 4 years has been at university has now returned and we all welcome Euan back to BB on Friday nights.



Mike Meadows our President presented the 'Best Boy' awards to Tali [Juniors], Tommy [Company], Finn [Seniors] and the Ron Clarke Trophy to Alex.



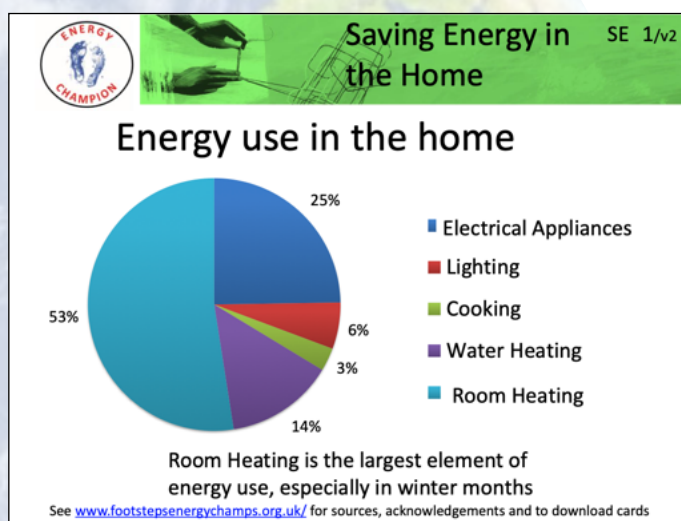
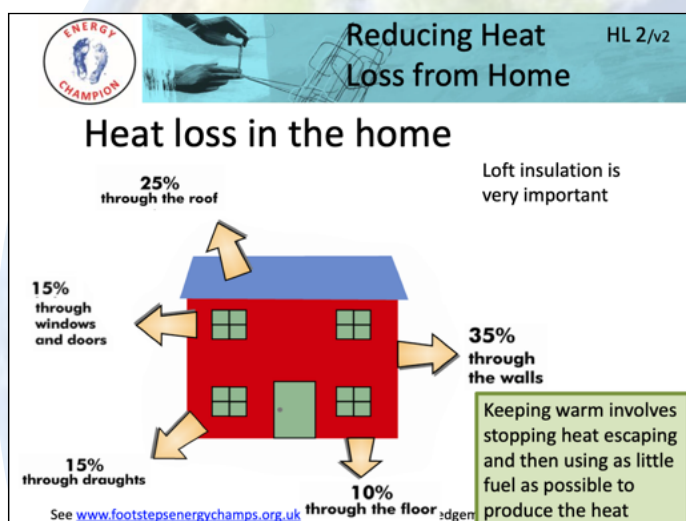
Bob Hotchkiss

Our Climate emergency

When we are faced with the dreadful situation in the Middle East it's hard to think about anything other than praying for peace. However, we need to focus on what we can do today...

Every time I write this article the need to do more to save our planet gets greater. It means that it gets more important for us all to do what we can to make that difference. A few weeks ago I attended a BACA.(Birmingham Anglican Climate Action) zoom meeting titled."Warmer Churches, warmer homes". We listened to speakers from different churches in our area looking at the decisions they were taking regarding heating systems. Ones that saved energy but kept folk warm whilst attending worship. Ideas ranged from Heat Pumps to Infra Red Chandeliers. All fascinating .

We then heard from John Nightingale about the work that Footsteps have been doing in preparing flashcards on different subjects to help us all with our energy



consumption at home. Here are 2 illustrations about heat loss in our homes and energy use in the home. These are just 2 of the flashcards they have produced. To see them all please visit their website..footstepsbcf.org.uk.

In the picture of the house you can see for yourself where the greatest heat loss occurs and maybe look at insulation ideas for your home. We are looking into this for the church buildings too.

In the second photo the chart shows energy use in our homes, obviously our heating is the main use but our appliances do use alot of energy too... something for us all to think about as we approach the winter. Footsteps have produced these amazing cards so please have a look at the others - they are Heating systems and controls / Tackling Damp and Mould /Insulation /Paying Bills.

Can I finish with some words Roger used in a recent service.

...and in the small ways, O God... may our small difference be a big contribution to your saving work in our world.

Thank you for continuing to think about what we can all do to make a difference.

Sandra Walton

Beryl Hudson

05:01:1931 - 05:09:2023.

Beryl and Peter were faithful members of our church for many years, and helped with a wide variety of activities. Peter died in 2016, aged 90, and Beryl reached 92. They were married for 61 years.



Beryl asked that her body be cremated, and the ashes were scattered in the Garden of Remembrance at the Redditch Crematorium, where she will once again be with Peter.

Bob's Treasures.

We think this is a Medlar fruit



and this might be a portrait of William Shakespeare





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 January 2024 edition by 27th December 2023 to
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