

Roundabout



Celebrating 30 Years!

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

November 2019

Mike's message ...

Let your light shine!

**“LET your light so shine before men,
that they may see your good works,
and glorify your Father which is in heaven”.**
*(St. Matthew 5.16, quoted from
The Book of Common Prayer 1662)*

At the beginning of December we enter the season of Advent - a time of waiting, and of preparing ourselves for the arrival of Jesus Christ. Not just celebrating his birth two millennia ago, but preparing our hearts, minds and lives to welcome him when his Kingdom comes in its fullness. It's also a time of preparation to celebrate Christmas in other ways; buying that turkey, posting cards and, of course, giving presents.

One of the themes of Advent is light. We light a candle each week as we recall the great themes of God's journey with his people. Many churches hold Christingle Services (*Sunday 15th December 10.30am here*) celebrating Jesus Christ as Light of the World.

Thomas Cranmer placed the quotation above, from Matthew's Gospel, in his Prayer Book of 1549. It remained in the 1549 and 1662 're-writes'. Cranmer placed the verse just before the '*Alms for the Poor and other devotions of the people*' were collected. As a reformer, it was certainly no intention of Cranmer to link the giving of money with the "good works" mentioned in the verse. Far from it, opposing such a link that had driven much of the Reformation! Instead the "good works" would be evident in the almsgiving to the poor that was carried out by the church as a community. The church was called to be a Light to the World - and it still is.

The Cotteridge Church is a place where lives are transformed. From the Day Centre providing company for those who might otherwise be alone, to the Food Bank giving hope in times of crisis. From the Safe Space of the Youth Café, to the friendship of Thursday evening Coffee and Chat. The Cotteridge Church is called to be a Light to the World.

Running and maintaining all this takes money. It's a fact of life. As Christmas approaches, and we spend money on presents for loved ones, I invite us all to giving an extra present - a financial gift to the church's work - over and above what we give week by week. We are starting Advent this year with a Gift Day. Can we make an extra donation? Give a special Christmas Present, to the transforming work of The Cotteridge Church? We can give in cash, cheque or BACS. In doing so we can help the Light of Hope to burn on for others and our community, and transform lives through the love of God.

**May the good works of transforming lives continue to give glory to God.
Amen.**

Gift Day - Sunday 1st December 2019



FRIENDS & FAMILY

Congratulations to Doreen Hancox. Happy 80th Birthday.

We are sad to record the deaths of June Burton, and Joyce Clarke in September, and of Tony Brettell in October. Our love and prayers are with their families and friends.

We have had this message from John Tesh

“It has been a privilege and a joy to be the organist at Cotteridge for so long. I found a church where I didn't need to leave my brain outside, where people were working out their faith in practical service to the community. You gave me opportunities to work with the choir, the BB band and other instrumentalists.

Thank you for your encouragement when things went well, and your forbearance when they didn't! Thank you for so many friendships which have brightened my life. I'm looking forward to being with you and playing again sometimes.

God bless you all.”

From Geoff Hulme

Greetings to all members and friends of the Cotteridge Church. It is now three years since I moved to Wales to be near my family. I assure you that during that time you have never been far from my thoughts and prayers. I keep closely in touch with all the news and developments through Roundabout, and I rejoice in the many successful initiatives which make the work possible. I wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas and a joyful and spiritually inspired new year. I have settled very happily and contentedly in Wales.

Best wishes. Geoff Hulme.



with grandchildren on his 87th birthday

In February we celebrated thirty years in our building with memories of the past. In October we looked at our present and our future. Helen Gale and her team organised an Open Day on Saturday October 28th, and together with the Life and Soul team, a service, with Vision as its theme, and celebratory meal on Sunday 29th. Thank you Helen, and the Life & Soul team.

Many friends of the past were invited, and many came. The air of celebration was tangible, as you will see later on.

The Cotteridge Church Celebration Weekend

The Cotteridge Church turned 30 in February 2019. We put on a display to mark the occasion, but as well as looking back we decided to plan a second celebration with the focus on Looking Forward. That became an Open Day where we invited all groups connected to the Church to showcase their activities. Big display boards were borrowed from our friends at St Lawrence & Selly Oak Methodist church, and on Saturday 28th September we opened our doors to the public. They discovered the Malvern Room had been filled with 19 groups eager to talk about their organisation. We had the Guides (along with Rainbows, Brownies and Rangers), the Boys' Brigade, the Book Club, the B30 Foodbank, the Building Steering Group, Bumps & Babies, Saplings & Messy Church, C2U, Cotteridge Country Walkers, the Day Centre, the Gardening Club, Pennine Way Coach Trips, the Tuesday Fellowship, not forgetting Traidcraft, The Cotteridge Church services and Volunteering! Linda Woodhouse produced a great display combining many of our community initiatives.

With banners and balloons, it became a great showcase for the community presence of our Church, a visible display of how we engage with Cotteridge.



On Sunday morning we had a 'Life & Soul' service on the theme of Vision. This included asking the congregation to note the date on which they joined any part of The Cotteridge Church and then form a line in date order with the longest serving member at the back and the newest member at the front – it

went from 1935 to 2019! We also sang our own 'In this year of celebration' hymn written by Rita Sutton*.

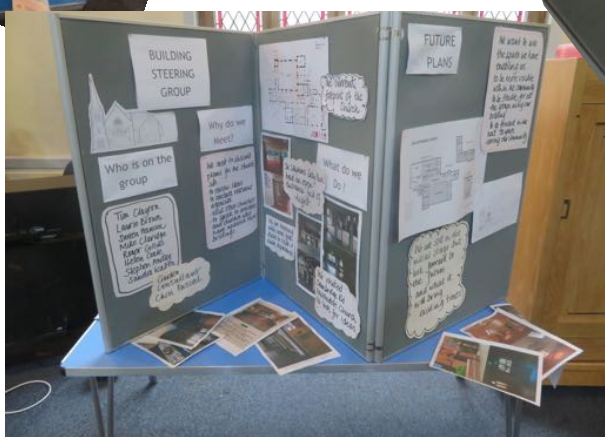
After the service over 60 of us shared a lunchtime meal. Former ministers, Revds Peter Chave, Anne Gibson and Ros Murphy attended in person and spoke of their time at Cotteridge. Revd Paul Whittle sent a video message and Revds Jacky Embrey and Nick Jones sent us messages of support. Mike, as the current incumbent, rounded everything off with his stirring vision of the future.

Our thanks to everyone involved. Perhaps 'Open Church' should be an annual event?

Peter Childs / Helen Gale

* Published on page 9 Ed.





From the Ministers



It was great fun to attend and take part in the celebration of 30 years of the Cotteridge Church. I met many old friends and made a few new ones. As well as being very enjoyable the event was thought-provoking. I shall think of you all taking the pioneering spirit of 30 years ago forward to address new challenges. I was impressed by all the things that go on at the church and in particular the ways you serve the community. As mentioned in my few short words my hopes and prayers for you are that you continue to demonstrate the “style” of Jesus which was and is “holy hospitality”.

Peter Chave

Thank you so much for inviting me to return to the Cotteridge Church to share in your celebrations of thirty years of working together. When I was stationed with you in 1997, it was almost too good to be believed, given my deep concern about the divisions in the wider church.

I was not disappointed in the way that you were already working as one, denominational differences being seen by many as an enrichment of faith, rather than a divisive matter. I felt privileged to spend eight years with you, able to focus on the pastoral care, the deepening of faith, learning about life in a city - having spent most of my life in rural places. Having an administrator to cope with the inevitable, unavoidable matters which govern public institutions, was a great relief.

I met in the coffee bar, people whose paths would not have crossed mine, encountering many whose basic needs were not being met elsewhere. They did receive care and often food from us, but we too received insights, care and friendship. It was a privilege to be with people for the celebrations and the sadnesses of their lives, a way of reaching out just as we are taught by Jesus.

Study groups of various kinds illustrated Michael Blood’s comment when I arrived, that “This is a church where you don’t have to leave your brain outside the door”. This was enhanced by the best church book shop I have ever encountered, thanks to Roger and Jane.

Rita Sutton’s trips to Israel, Jordan and Oberammergau bonded many of us, as did the monthly coach trips. It was lovely to welcome visitors for many years to the little church across the road from my house in Warwickshire.

Returning to be among you recalled so many memories of people and events. It was good to see familiar faces, but also to see new ones, demonstrating that this is not a church hanging on despite falling membership. It is so healthy to realise that some activities had ceased to have a useful life, but there are new ones, especially the food bank fulfilling the role of the church to care for all. It was good too to see those who were young parents when I was with you, now clearly shouldering leadership roles. (When we queued up in the service, according to when we came to the church, it was



lovely to be told by the young man in front of me that I had baptised him). In so many churches, elderly people struggle on but you are fortunate there. I shall continue to pray for you as a shining light in what has become a dark world. I treasure all my memories of being with you. Very sincerely, Ros

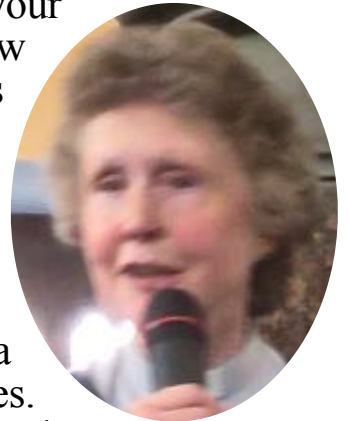
It was lovely to be back at Cotteridge church to share in your anniversary celebrations. It was especially good to renew acquaintance with 'old' friends and see their continued faithfulness as disciples in the life of the church. It was also good to see evidence of renewal in the involvement of new people, new initiatives and projects which are a response to fresh needs and opportunities.

I found the time line we formed in Sunday's service during the singing of the hymn 'let us build a house' very moving. It was a visual reminder of the fact that we stand in a long line of witnesses.

At the back of the church there was a large gathering, symbolising the strong foundations of faith the Cotteridge church builds on, with new shoots stretching forward to the present day. I was conscious too, of those I had known who are no longer with us, those who are now part of the communion of saints, in whose lives the vision of the church had also been lived out and handed on.

The weekend evoked many rich memories for me. I am so grateful for the friendship, collegiality, worship, learning and opportunities for service I knew at Cotteridge. Once again I realise how privileged I am to have been a minister there. Thank you for a special weekend and the glimpse of how you are continuing the church's ministry.

God bless you all, Anne Gibson



Congratulations on reaching 30. That is a milestone worth celebrating. Mary Steph & Rachel join me in sending our very best wishes and are so sorry that we can't be with you. It's hard to believe that it's 21 years since I caught the 11 bus from Winson Green to join the team alongside Michael & Ros. Steph was three and a half and Rachel eighteen months to begin a journey short of 10 yrs. My special memories include the development of our relationship with the church in Timisoara & going to Romania to visit; the book group; film group [I remember especially "Kinky Boots"]; Holiday clubs; Café church. Mary led Junior church for several years; Christmas services; Becoming honorary president of the Tuesday Group after Ros retired... But in many ways it was the ordinary life of Cotteridge which I always enjoyed:- Crosses held high on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday meals; BB celebrations; fascinating study groups & so much more - not forgetting the coffee bar. I really enjoyed being part of the Saturday team.

The last 11 years have been very different, and I'm sure it's where God wants me to be, but I do miss being part of a local church & we all have lots of good memories. Well done on the 30.

Ps 118 v 23. The Lord has done this and it is marvellous in our eyes I'll be well retired by the time you reach 40, so maybe I'll make that one!

Continue well & may God bless you all. Paul Whittle



In this year of celebration

In this year of celebration
Help us, Lord, to show your love
In our words and in our actions
With the Spirit from above
Should we falter, should we stumble
On the path that you have shown
Be our guide and inspiration
Leave us not, we pray, alone

In the noise and strife around us
Let your voice sound firm and clear
We are here as your disciples
Following our Saviour, dear
Should we falter, should we stumble
On the path that you have shown
Be our guide and inspiration
Leave us not, we pray, alone

Let us show your love to others
Those we meet from day to day
Open hearts and hands in welcome
To all those along our way
Never falter, never stumble
On our path, but not alone
You our guide and inspiration
'Til we meet before your throne

Rita Sutton - To the tune of "Ode to Joy"

Poppies and Pigeons



I was sitting on a bench in Harborne High Street, outside Boots to wait for them to complete my prescription. I counted 60 pigeons on the roof of the building on the opposite side of the road. They were all shuffling around, and looking intently at the pavement just down from where I was sitting. When I came out from Boots a few minutes later, most had flown down. There was a lady, white haired, busily breaking up a loaf of bread into small crumbs and throwing it to them. I mentioned to her that I had counted 60 of them. She smiled. "I have to feed them," she said. "My grandfather used to keep pigeons, and every so often disappeared with them for a few days. Long afterwards we found out that he kept the carrier pigeons for the army during the First World War. I feed them now in his honour."



Celia Lester



The Cotteridge Church Joint Church Council

Summary of Proceedings 25th September 2019

Key Decisions

1. The JCC agreed that the B30 Foodbank Van could park at the front of the Church two days a week.
2. The JCC agreed that CCDC staff would assist in putting the 'No Parking' barrier across the entrance of the Car Park and co-ordinate with the Ring and Ride drivers to let them have access.
3. The JCC agreed that the Car Park could be used for B30 Foodbank customers for immediate pick-ups only and this would be co-ordinated by Foodbank volunteers.
4. The JCC approved the role outline for the Pennine Way trip co-ordinator.
5. The JCC agreed that David Pycock should pursue an improved heating control system with Swart Service Solutions.
6. The JCC decided that the new Chairs in the Malvern Room would be of a uniform colour, rather than multi-coloured as per the example of Cambridge Road.
7. It was agreed that old chairs should be sold when the new Chairs were in use.
8. The JCC agreed that there should be a Christmas Tree outside the Church again this year.
9. It was agreed that Saplings could store a wheeled bookcase on the west wall of the Malvern Room.
10. It was agreed that the Church should host a Youth Café and Safe space on Wednesdays from 15:30.

Summary Proceedings

1. An issue around the use of the Car Park preventing the CCDC Ring and Ride buses accessing the Church to deliver or collect customers was discussed at length.
2. The meeting discussed the implementation of a more sophisticated heating control system proposed by the Administrator, to enable better control of the Church's heating.
3. It was with sadness the JCC accepted the resignation of Peter Rookes as a trustee. Peter has been finding it hard to attend the JCC meetings with all the other charitable work he performs.
The JCC thanked Peter Rookes for all the hard work and effort he has put in on behalf of the Church.
4. It was reported that the membership of the Church had reduced to 165.
5. It was noted that the Deanery Chapter of the Anglican Church were at The Cotteridge Church this month and celebrated eucharist in the URC manner.
6. It was announced that the Christmas Fair would be held on 30th November 2019.
7. It was noted that the Anglican Diocese were not able to offer face to face C0 and C1 training to catering services for the foreseeable future.
8. The meeting discussed more convenient storage for the Sapling Group.

The next meeting of the Joint Church Council will be on Thursday 17th October 2019 at 19:30.

This Summary is authorised by: Neil Walters Chair of the Cotteridge Church Joint Church Council.

A Call to Action - There's a role for everyone



Having attended The United Reformed Church Synod recently I would like to share with everyone just a little of what struck a chord with me during the event. We have been talking a great deal for seemingly a very long time now at Cotteridge about Vision, our vision for the church and The Cotteridge Church in particular. The following struck a chord:

*Vision: A picture of the future that produces **passion**.*

*Without **passion** then the vision will fall flat.*

*We **must** focus our energy as we **cannot** do everything!*

Discipleship – All Christians should be growing disciples, and all disciples should be growing as leaders.

Leadership is for all, it is not about the top man (or woman) minister or members of the church council. Leadership is about:

- *Caring- for the church*
- *Shepherding – tending- providing a safe space*
- *Being a rôle model- “follow me as I follow Christ”*
- *Teaching- passing of the faith*
- *Parenting- helping others develop and mature*

All the above are nurturing roles, not about exercising authority or domination.

Leadership is character based, rather than status or rank

*We are **ALL** called to be leaders and are **ALL** equipped for some role.*

- *We can show the way – by example*
- *We grow leaders by growing character, which is done through deepening our discipleship*
- *We can mentor others – helping them grow in faith and discipleship*
- ***Everyone must do something***

*Churches must have a **secretary** (Church Structure) and a **treasurer** (Charities Act) That does not mean though that one person must do the job on their own, if the work load is too onerous, then break the role down so as to share the load.*

One analogy given was: if there's no one to arrange the flowers then don't have flowers, the church won't fall down and the Holy Spirit won't be angered!

*Do **what** we **can** and do it **well!***

We heard of a church that asked the community it served what they needed / wanted. The response was “a playground”. The church had land so let the community know that although the church would not be able to fund the building of a playground they could provide the land.

Together the community and church provided an essential provision for the area. Later a café was installed too.

- Reminds me of Cotteridge having the youth room and coffee bar, which is now available for a safe space for youth on a Wednesday afternoon.

We don't always need to provide everything, sometimes we can be facilitators.

We must all do something

We must ALL do something! That was the message given to those attending the URC Synod recently.

Some are no doubt thinking “I've done my bit”, “I'm too old”, “I'm too young”. Synod says NO to all of these thoughts. ALL MUST DO SOMETHING!

Do what though?

The list is almost limitless, there are numerous tasks that we can be called upon, asked to take on, or offer to do.

As we approach Advent (time of preparation), perhaps on this coming Stir-Up Sunday, besides stirring up our Christmas cake mixture, we could take the opportunity to Stir-Up ourselves. To wake ourselves up to the issues affecting our World, our Nation, our Local Community and Ourselves!

It is often all too easy to get complacent and simply take things for granted.

Perhaps during the coming Advent period we could take the opportunity to shake ourselves up a little and consider our own role within our church, within the community and within our family?

What can we do? *Well, Anything!*

No matter our age or our abilities, there is a role for everyone!

No matter how small our contribution may seem, it can have a huge effect upon others.

A friendly word, a cheerful smile, a happy welcoming greeting are worth a million pounds to a lonely person.

- Volunteer – gardening, serving on the coffee bar, helping at Saplings, etc, etc.
- Try a new activity
- Join a working group
- Help at any of the events held here throughout the year: setting up, clearing away, selling or simply joining in and chatting with visitors
- Visit the coffee bar, to have a snack or simply to meet others, there's always likely to be someone in need of a chat
- Share your skills and expertise – perhaps you could start your own group of crafts or a games group, who knows?
- Come to meetings
- Write an article for the Roundabout magazine – about your life, a skill you have, or an interest you could share with others

In the words of the URC Moderator “We MUST all do something!”

Don't wait to be asked! Some folk are so busy doing multiple tasks that they can't go around seeking new helpers, if you have time to spare, skills to share and love meeting others then – What are you waiting for?

Have a word with Pam Waddell, our Volunteering co-ordinator!

Dorothy Audley



CC Day Care

Our Church Day Centre has just received a “REM Pod” helping to change the quality of life for people with dementia. This involves a large screen showing various scenes, and is designed to be an immersive experience

with stimuli being via sight, sound, smell and touch.

Ours is one of the first Day Centres in the Midlands to have a REM Pod!!

Once it is up & running, the staff will be pleased to show anyone who is interested.

Congratulations staff !!

Chris Pascal

A National Landmark of Hope

A huge project is on the way to build a national landmark near to Coleshill, it is to be 50 meters high!

The aim is for this to be a place for people to visit to remind generations of God's goodness.

For more information on the project please visit:

- www.thewall.org.uk
- Facebook - TheWallOfAnsweredPrayer
- Twitter – thewall2020



The project asks for people to provide them with their stories of prayers that have been answered.

Do look at the details and provide your own stories should you wish.

Dorothy Audley

HAY GREEN METHODIST CHURCH

Hay Green Methodist Church held its last regular monthly morning worship in July this year, and on 29th September they held a Thanksgiving Service to celebrate 87 years of worship and praise.

The Church opened in 1932 to serve a growing community in Bournville, the same year as the coming together of the larger Methodist denominations, indeed it was the only Methodist Church to open in that year. The foundation stone was laid by Dame Elizabeth Cadbury, in commemoration of the Methodist



Union, along with stones laid on behalf of Selly Oak Primitive Methodist Church, Stirchley United Methodist Church and Kings Norton Wesleyan Methodist Church.

The service was led by the Reverend Donald Sampson, (minister for the last two years), the speaker was the Reverend Jane Wilson, previously a member at Hay Green but now a minister in Keynsham near Bristol, and the traditional and rousing hymns were chosen by Church members.

In the congregation were people who had special memories of Hay Green; Church members, people who had been baptised or married at the Church, as well as friends and supporters from across the Circuit.

After the service the celebrations continued with a shared lunch.

Norman Mann

Boys' Brigade

Our enrolment service and presentation of 'The best boy awards' took place in September. Thanks to Mike Claridge and Mike Meadows for their attendance. Chris Butt and Euan Clayton are due to attend the two day Youth Leaders course shortly.

The annual BB sleepover took place on Saturday 2nd November.



Our Boys' Brigade week starts the following day- on Sunday 3rd November, and any donations towards the work of the brigade would be received with thanks. [Our capitation fee to national HQ is expected to be in the region of £700 this year]

Bob Hotchkiss

Postage Stamps

Please save used postage stamps, and put them in the box by the pigeonholes in the Pennine Way. The stamps are sent to Leprosy Mission. Leprosy is a disease curable with early treatments.

Myra Dean



Services for November and December

	3rd November	10th November	17th November	24th November	
9.00 am HC	Rev'd R. Collins	Rev'd M. Claridge	Rev'd M. Claridge	Rev'd R. Collins	
10:30 am	Rev'd L. Dixon P	Rev'd M. Claridge HC	Ms S. Spencer [Bap.Claridge]	Rev'd R. Collins HC	
6:30 pm	Rev'd R. Collins HC	Café Church	Rev'd M. Claridge HC.	Rev'd M. Claridge	
	1st December	8th December	15th December	22nd December	29th December
9.00 am HC	Rev'd R. Collins	Rev'd M. Claridge	Rev'd M. Claridge	Rev'd M. Claridge	Rev'd R. Collins
10:30 am	Rev'd R. Collins P & Gift Day	Rev'd Gary Hall HC	Rev'd M. Claridge XT	Rev'd M. Claridge CCS	Life & Soul
6:30 pm	Rev'd M. Claridge ACS	Café Church	Rev'd R. Collins HC	Miss Hazel Nash	Rev'd R. Collins HC

Service types: HC - Holy Communion P - Parade ACS - Advent Carol Service
 XT - Christingle CCS - Christmas Carol Service denotes Young Church

Communion Services are held each week at 10.00 am on Tuesdays

Christmas Services

Wednesday 18th December 7.30 pm Community Carols Rev'd M Claridge

Christmas Eve 11.30 pm Midnight Communion Rev'd M Claridge

Christmas Day 10.30 am Holy Communion Rev'd R Collins

Saturday 30th November 2019

The Cotteridge Church

10am-12pm

CHRISTMAS Fair

**Santa
Cakes
Games**

**Books
Toys**

Admission: Adults **50p** Children **Free** (Ticket includes raffle ticket)

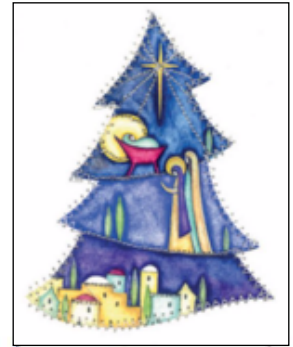
Charity Christmas Cards



Nativity Star
20 cards £4.95



Silhouettes of Christmas
20 cards £4.95



Patchwork Nativity
20 cards £4.95



Lord of Lords
20 cards £4.95



Christmas Scenes
20 cards £4.95



African Nativity
20 cards £4.95



It's Cold Outside
10 cards £3.50



Thinking of you at Christmas
6 cards £3.00



Advent Calendar 2019
£2.95



Christmas Windows
20 cards £4.95



The Holy Family
10 cards £3.95



Pompom Pals
10 cards £3.75

Charity Christmas Cards



Holy Night
10 cards £3.95



In His Mother's Arms
10 cards £3.95



Dove of Peace
10 cards £3.95



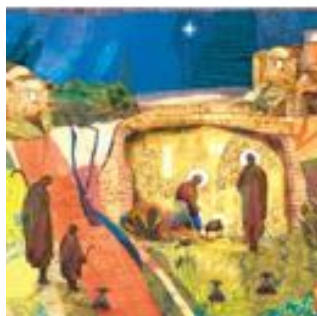
The Everlasting Light
10 cards £3.95



Adoration of the Baby
10 cards £3.75



The Road to Bethlehem
10 cards £3.75



Let All Creation Rejoice
10 cards £3.75



Robin Red Breast
10 cards £3.75



The Christmas Story
10 cards £4.50

Available in the Church
[Order forms also available]





National Interfaith Week, this year occurs between Sat 9th and Sun 17th November, for which the Birmingham Council of Faiths is again coordinating the Birmingham programme. The aims of Interfaith Week are to strengthen interfaith relations at all levels; increase awareness of the different and distinct faith communities in the UK, in particular celebrating and building on the contribution which their members make to their neighbourhoods and to wider society; and to increase understanding between people of religious and non-religious beliefs. The event will be officially opened by the Lord Mayor at the Launch event in the Council House at 2.0pm on Wed 6th Nov. Please let me know if you wish to attend.

We interpret the week liberally in the Birmingham programme to avoid too many clashes of dates. Including the launch event, there are 15 events in total. They are all open for anyone to attend with the exception of those stated to be CLOSED or by INVITATION. There is a wide range of activities including discussions, celebrations, spiritual reflection, health and environmental seminars, and a fun evening.

I have listed brief details of the 15 activities below. Full details are available in our printed booklet which you can view on our website at bhamfaiths.org.uk or can be picked up at our Launch Event on 6th November.

Sat 2nd Nov, 11.00am - 4.00pm, Celebration of the 200th Anniversary of the Birth of the Báb, Faiths Gallery, BMAG, Chamberlain Square

Tues 5th Nov, 12.30 - 2.00pm, Multifaith Diwali, Bandi Chhor and Guru Nanak Celebration, QE Hospital Multifaith Centre, B15 2TH

Wed 6th Nov, 2.00pm - 4.30pm, Launch Event, Council House, Victoria Square

Thurs 7th Nov. 11.00am - 4.00pm (Registration 10.45), Seminar – ‘First 1000 Days (of life)’, QE Hospital Education Centre

Fri 8th Nov, 6.00pm - 8.30pm, Religiophobia discussion, MEND Offices, 28 George Street, B12 9RG

Sat 9th Nov, 10.40am - 11.30am Remembrance Service, Scout War Memorial, Cannon Hill Park, Pershore Road, B5 7RL

Sun 10th Nov, 11.30am - 5.00pm, Towards a Better Understanding of Israel/Palestine part 2, Quaker Meeting House, 40 Bull St, B4 6AF

Sun 10th Nov, 5.00pm - 7.00pm, Family Fortunes Evening, Clifton Road Mosque, B12 8SX

Mon 11th - Fri 15th Nov, School Interfaith Activities, CLOSED event for pupils of King Edward VI Camp Hill School for Boys, B14 7QJ

Mon 11th Nov, 11.45am - 1.00pm, Celebration of the birth of Bahá'u'lláh and the Báb, QE Hospital Faith & Community Centre

Mon 11th Nov, 7.00pm - 9.00pm, Listening to Different Experiences, St Anne's Church, Park Hill, Moseley, B13 8DU

Wed 13th Nov, 12.00 - 3.00pm, Multifaith Appreciation, CLOSED event for Birmingham City University Students.

Thurs 14th Nov, 7.00pm - 9.00pm, Dialogue and Dinner, By INVITATION only, Manaret Foundation, 155 New Coventry Road, Sheldon, B26 3DX

Sun 17th Nov, 2:00pm - 4:30pm, Tread Lightly on this Earth, Shree Ram Mandir (Hindu Temple), 8 Walford Rd, Birmingham B11 1NR

Mon 18th Nov, 7.45pm - 9.00pm, Faiths and Reflection, Clifton Road Mosque, 17 Clifton Road, Balsall Heath, B12 8SX

For our café church evening on Sunday 10th November we will be going to the Family Fortunes evening at Clifton Road Mosque in Balsall Heath, B12 8SX, which starts at 5.00pm. Please let me know if you would like to attend.

Peter Rookes

Dr. Peter Rookes, pjrookes@gmail.com, 077033 36088.

Thinking and Reading

A wise man once said ‘Reading without thinking will confuse you. Thinking without reading will place you in danger’. I am sure everyone at Cotteridge thinks deeply all the time:- I know I do. I am constantly thinking about philosophy and my thinking is firmly based in the Analytic school as I find everything tends to be based on logic and logic doesn’t work without a firm definition of language.

I also think deeply on theology and my personal relationship to God, trying to strengthen that relationship hour by hour, minute by minute. But, as stated above, ‘Thinking without Reading will place you in danger’, so I also read to inform my thinking. I have a varied and catholic taste in reading matter from Philosophy, Now magazine to Emma John’s Wayfaring Stranger (a book on how she went from being the sports editor of the Observer to learning to play Blue Grass fiddle in North Carolina). On my ‘to read’ shelf at the moment is a book by Edward Knapp-Fisher called Eucharist, a many-sided mystery, which I intend to read to increase my knowledge on this thorny topic and maybe even change my current thinking. In trying to ensure that the congregation of The Cotteridge Church doesn’t put itself in danger by thinking on theological matters without reading, the Church is trying to promote a facility we have had for many years:- our Christian Lending Library. The bookshelves containing our collection have been placed in a more prominent place, under a light fitting, on the western wall of the Malvern Room with a register to fill as you borrow books. Please feel free to browse and borrow books as your thinking guides you. Also, if you have any Christian books you think may interest other members of the Church please donate them to the library by passing them on to Dorothy Audley or myself.



Oh, and by the way, if you were wondering who the wise man was that said the opening quote, it was a little-known philosopher named Confucius!

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