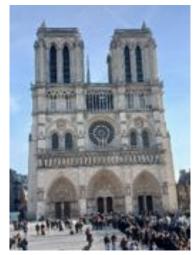


The Cotteridge Church Witnessing at the Heart of the Community

March 2025

### Minister's message

The iconic Notre Dame Cathedral Paris—meaning 'Our Lady of Paris'—is a masterpiece of French Gothic architecture. Built back in the 12th century, the important monument has



witnessed many historical events. It has also inspired Victor Hugo's story of the Hunchback of Notre-Dame.

The first noticeable feature was the raised staging in front of the cathedral which gave a superb picture of the cathedral and from this picture you can see plenty of people were visiting.

Outside the cathedral, you can admire its grand exterior which is framed by an elegant pair of bell towers, stained glass windows and an ornately decorated facade with grand statues.

Tickets to visit are free if you book on the cathedral's website but it might take two or three days before being available.

Entering the cathedral the cleanliness of the stone work and the stained glass is simply amazing.

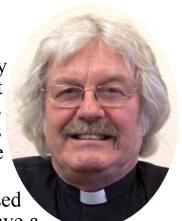


Visiting in January the crib scene was still there and I took a picture also of a gold circle which I have now discovered represents the crown of thorns.

Notre Dame always reminds me of this story which I first heard when I was 18 listening to a broadcast from Lee Abbey.



A bishop was preaching to a congregation in Notre Dame Cathedral. He told of three young men, secular and godless, who wandered into the cathedral one day. Two of them bet the third that he would not make a fake confession. He accepted the bet. The priest realised what had happened, so when young man finished his fake confession, the priest said, "For every confession there is a penance. See that great crucifix over there? Go to it, kneel down and repeat three times as you look up into the face of the crucified, "All this you did for me, and I couldn't care less." The young man came out of the confessional box and told his companions what had happened and asked for the money "Oh no," they said. "Do what they priest said, and we'll pay up." Walking slowly to the great crucifix he knelt down and looked up into that suffering face with its searching eyes of love. Then he began, "All this you did for me, and I..." He got no further. Tears flooded his eyes. His heart was broken by repentance. There his old life ended and a new life began. Finishing his message, the bishop said, "I was that young man." Nothing draws the lost back to God more powerfully than the love of Jesus Christ. "What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear." That's why the sinners and tax collectors felt drawn to Jesus. **Roger Collins** 



# Friends & Family.

Linda Woodhouse's husband John died on 17th January. His funeral service was held at the Robin Hood Crematorium on 17th February. We send our love and prayers to Linda and Alex, and their families.

Geoff Hulme died peacefully on Friday 7th February. He and Barbara, and their family were active members of the URC, and joined The Cotteridge Church when the three denominations came together. His funeral will be held on 14th March at 12.30 p.m. and is available via Zoom. He will be remembered as a very sincere practising Christian, who lived out his commitments in care and kindness.

**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. Please feel free to come and join us. Welcome to our 2025 meetings. Thank you. Linda Mann

## **TUESDAY FELLOWSHIP DATES - March - April 2025**

I C HODII		
DATE	TOPIC	<b>OPENER</b>
March 11 <sup>th</sup>	Music CD afternoon	L.W
25 <sup>th</sup>	Sandra Walton Caring for the Planet	L.M
April 8 <sup>th</sup>	Poetry for Easter	H.P
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Barbara cycling in Ireland	B.C

## Services in March and April 2025

	2nd March	9th March Lent 1	16th March Lent 2	23rd March Lent 3	30th March Lent 4
10:30 am	Revd Barbara Calvert All age Worship	Revd R. Collins HC	John Cooper	Revd Farai Mapamula HC	Revd Jenny Tomlinson
6:30 pm	No service	No service	No service	No service	
	6th April Lent 5	13th April Palm Sunday	20th April Easter	27th April Easter 2	
10:30 am	Lynn Weaver	Revd Farai Mapamula HC	Revd Gary Hall Morning Worship	Revd R. Collins HC	
6:30	No service	No service	No service	No service	

Please note that the wine served at Communion on the second Sunday of the month will be alcoholic [non- alcoholic wine is also available - in a metal cup]. The Communion elements will continue to be brought to the congregation in their seats, and glasses will be collected during the final hymn.

Revd Farai Mapamula is a Presbyter at Selly Oak Methodist Church.

Revd Jenny Tomlinson is Archdeacon of Birmingham.

Lynne Weaver is a lay chaplain for Methodist Homes for the Aged.

Revd Dr Gary Hall is a Methodist Minister at The Queen's Foundation.

# Climate Change - Every Action Matters

#### What we do, however small makes a difference to our planet.

It was such good news to receive from First Mile the certificate that you see printed in this article. We have been working with First Mile for several years now at church and every year they keep us posted on how our re-cycling has progressed.

You may have seen Peter and Sarah place the white bags near the kerb to be collected as soon as they are full. The system for them works by us purchasing the bags and then they collect them ready to be recycled to the appropriate places. We often keep the recycling near the Clent room and from there it's removed outside.

I know it seems ironic celebrating this milestone whilst we in Birmingham are not able to have our recycling collected as normal. Let's hope that a solution can be found asap so we can carry on the good work.

So the certificate congratulates us all at The Cotteridge Church in sending nothing to landfill in the past 12 months from their collections. It also tells us how much we saved our planet. So much to be thankful for ... and much to continue in 2025. However small our contribution is to this and other forms of recycling..please continue! There are lots of other ways we can recycle in our homes.



Batteries are so important as they contain precious materials, so many shops nearby have collection points. The Co-op also have a collection point for plastic coverings.

Charity shops and our own shop can Upcycle clothes, books, china etc.

Linda is always ready to receive your gifts.

Trying not to waste food is always top of my list ... thinking of soups to use; left over vegetables; and freezing those items that can be used again - and so many more.



I've recently come across a series of books by Nancy Birtwhistle called Green Living ... made easy. She puts forward Eco -tips for your home - saving Time and Money - A good resource that might give you some ideas.

So as we progress into Spring let's carry on with all the good things we are doing. However small, you know it makes a difference, not only for us but for our children and their children. Thank you for all you are doing ... and to First Mile for their contribution in supporting the Climate emergency.

Sandra Walton

## The Cotteridge Church Joint Church Council Summary of Proceedings 15th January 2025

The meeting opened with prayer.

Minutes of previous meeting: These were agreed as being a correct record. Matters arising:

Ministry going forward: Awaiting news.

The review of the Staff Handbook. This will be undertaken by the Chair in due course.

The AOB item of Evac chairs had been taken to P&M and discussed. The discussion determined these were not required in the church building at this time.

Safeguarding: There have been no safeguarding issues raised.

Reports: Reports from Community Services, Worship & Pastoral, Property & Management, & Administrator had already been circulated

**Community Services Committee**: CSC continues to have overview of community events, and overview of local and global Mission activities of the church. The Social Justice Plan was presented to the meeting, and approved.

Worship: Key dates to be entered in the church diary.

Publicity: To be arranged to raise awareness amongst members and the wider community.

Direct Community Action: Discern ways to expand the offering on the café / Encourage support to campaigns through action: writing letters MP's etc. / Supporting the development of advice giving and access to support and benefits visitors may need / Encourage support of fundraising events.

Long term engagement: Continue support to the local foodbank / Working with any children and families worker – through holiday clubs.

The current position of the strategy, as relevant to the Committee were noted.

A suggestion to provide vouchers for foodbank users to redeem at the café were approved.

**Worship and Pastoral Committee**: The recommendation to JCC is that on the second Sunday in March, Holy Communion would use the Common Cup. One chalice will hold non-alcoholic wine and a further chalice will hold alcoholic wine, in addition there will be glasses of non-alcoholic wine for anyone not wishing to drink from a common cup. The recommendation was agreed by the meeting.

A member has been approached with a view to taking on the role of Churchwarden and it is hoped to ratify the appointment in the near future.

The location of the War Memorials was discussed following a question raised on Social Media. This is being looked into for further discussion at a future meeting.

The Chair confirmed that the Strategy is discussed at each Meeting.

Display posters are being sourced for the Tower and Front of Church for specific festivals, and social justice events.

## Property and Management Committee:

The projector is now working and in position once again.

Decoration of the Cotswold room is still in progress, and the work on the plasterwork in Malvern is booked for February half-term.

Replacement light bulbs in Malvern remains a problem, due to ordering and delivery issues.

Storm damage to the Christmas tree meant the tree was unlit for part of Advent.

The Committee continues to raise awareness of environmental concerns, and through the work of one particular member, church members are encouraged to be more environmentally aware.

Pipe lagging around the building to reduce waste, heat and resources is to be carried out, and work to refurbish the vanity units in the toilet areas and fit sensor taps.

The report noted the Committee's response to the Strategy.

Administrator: Work to clean the kitchen canopy should proceed.

Room hire is improving slightly, and there is a lot of interest in hiring the building. An issue with locking the building of an evening was noted.

Churches Together in B30: Their meeting is due shortly.

Finance: The accounts for 2024 are being finalised.

Correspondence: A successful meeting was held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January with Practical AV. We are currently awaiting a revised quotation.

Membership: Membership currently stands at 72. A list of members' names and their Pastoral Link will be printed and available in the Office.

Christmas Fair: Successful, raised just short of £1400.

- Stacking of chairs in Malvern remains an issue. A notice is planned to raise awareness of the need to stack chairs safely.
- Providing a Christmas Day for vulnerable individuals will be discussed in more detail nearer the time.

Arranging chairs in different layouts will be tried throughout the year.

Dates for future meetings:13/03., 13/05., 16/07., 18/09., 11/11., AGM Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2025 The meeting closed with the saying of The Grace at 21:25

# SPRING IS ON ITS WAY!

February and March can be particularly cold and dreary months. Here is a simple craft idea to bring cheer and colour into your home.

Many craft shops sell inexpensive plywood shapes which can be painted and personalised with photographs of family or pets. As illustrated, simply paint floral shapes, beads and decorations can also be added.



I have decorated a variety of shapes with some special needs people and children and they really enjoyed the activity. The finished products can be given to friends or housebound people to bring colour and cheer to their lives. Bob Burton



# January 27th 2025

International Holocaust 80th Remembrance Day

My daughter decided to do a Gap year between A'levels and University, and to Teach English as a Foreign Language. [TEFL] She went to London to learn the basics of TEFL, and was eventually sent to Poland - to the beautiful city of Kraków in the south. Naturally we went to visit her, and to spend a holiday in Poland. Whilst in Kraków we considered visiting Auschwitz, which is about 35 miles to the east. My first thought was that this was a holiday to be enjoyed, rather than horrified, but further reflection told me that it could be a once in a lifetime opportunity to see what really happened to the Jews who fell vicim to the Nazis, and ever since, I have been grateful for that opportunity. As we approached, the first thing we saw was the railway track, which ended close to the camp. We walked in under the Arbeit Macht Frei archway, and were immediately engulfed by the atmosphere. What made the biggest impression on me was the realisation that not only did the Nazis want to rid their country of Jews, they deliberately wanted to hurt them mentally and physically as much as they possibly could. We were shown rooms full of spectacles - taken so their owners could not see properly; shoes, so they had to walk barefoot; walking sticks, crutches, and artificial limbs, so they were handicapped; children's toys, and so on. There was a crematorium, so they could see when their kinsmen were being burned from the smoke emitted. All this in addition to being undernourished, without adequate shelter or clothing, and being made to toil for most of their waking hours. Children younger than 12 were not considered old enough to do useful work, and so were killed. For young children to survive, they had to pretend they were old enough, and could endure the stresses that the work generated.

What can generate such hatred - hatred of other human beings who had not wronged you? How can despotic leaders persuade so many followers to perpetrate their evil?

Moslems, Jews and Christians all have a faith in the same God. We have all been inspired by prophets sent to help us to understand - how such an amazing God could have created our world, and loves us - and how He would like us to live our lives - based on love. Our forms of worship differ, but there are many basic formats which we share.

As King Charles said at the Memorial Service - We must never forget the wrong that was done. We MUST endeavour to build strong links of friendship and trust. Sadly, but understandably, hatred breeds hatred. If a nation has been victimised, it will seek revenge, and retribution. It will hate those who caused its suffering. Jews were granted access to what is now Israel after WWII, obviously, in part to try to compensate for

some of their suffering under the Nazis. Some have now decided that the whole of that area should be theirs, and are inflicting dreadful suffering on civilian Palestinians, and other Moslem nations adjoining Israel. This will breed hatred of Jews by those hurt. We must pray for the overthrow of despots, and for humane and able leaders to take all our nations forward for the benefit, and survival of humankind. Celia Lester



# The Cotteridge Church Pennine Way Trips 2025



2024 was a very busy year for Pennine Way Trips with two groups to Boundary Outlet for bargains and over 80 people enjoying the early Christmas shop and meal. The first 5 day holiday to Eastbourne was also a great success and Eastbourne has already been booked again for early September. (look out for details soon)

This is what has been planned so far for 2025 (more to follow later) If you would like to go, book with Rita on Tuesday or



Thursday mornings in church or leave name and phone number in 'S' pigeon hole.

1. Trentham Gardens Wednesday 16th April £24.00



An Italian style garden, with a mile long lake. wildlife, a wildflower meadow, and woodland. If you like to browse shops, the Trentham Shopping Village has timber lodges, gift shops and cafés.

The coach will leave The Cotteridge Church at 12.15 p.m., and returns at 6.30 p.m.

2. Hereford Wednesday 14th May £17.00



Hereford is a beautiful city on the banks of the River Wye, with a magnificent cathedral, and lots of shops. One of the timber framed buildings houses the Black and White Museum.



The coach will leave The Cotteridge Church at 12.15 p.m., and returns at 6.30 p.m.

3. Day Trip to Liverpool



Wednesday 18th June 9.30am - 7.00 pm £28.00 Get a combined ticket for the "Hop on - Hop off" bus, and the the Ferry

bus, and the the Ferry 'Cross the Mersey. Visit the Cavern Club, or one of the two Cathedrals, and, of course, you will find lots of shops and museums. The Albert Dock, and



surrounding area have many eating places.

The coach will leave The Cotteridge Church at 9.30 a.m., and returns at 7.00 p.m.

# Let's End Poverty!

Have you seen the 'Let's End Poverty' poster displayed on the outside wall of the church? This is part of the Cotteridge Church's strategic aim to:

#### 'Develop ways to raise awareness of social issues including peace and justice, locally, nationally and globally; to be a good neighbour to people in need and to challenge injustice.'



As part of fulfilling this aim, the church has chosen two ecumenical charities to use to guide our prayer, worship and action. On the global front we will continue to link with **Christian Aid** (look out for more about that in the next issue of Roundabout!) and nationally we are developing a new link with **Church Action on Poverty.** 

Founded in 1982, Church Action on Poverty is a national ecumenical Christian social justice charity, committed to tackling poverty in the UK. They work in partnership with churches, and with people in poverty themselves, to tackle the root causes of poverty. Their vision, as a Christian organisation, is that the UK can and must be transformed into a country where everyone can live a full life, free from poverty.

Their aims are:

- To build a social movement drawn together around a common cause.
- To work with the real experts; those who live with poverty.
- To speak truth to power to build a broad support for action.
- To mobilise the power of civil society, equipping people to work together for change.
- To use the media to tell stories pointed to long term solutions rooted in compassion and justice.
- To help churches be catalysts for change and affirm the gospel imperative to give priority to the poor and marginalised.

We will be thinking more about all these issues in our worship on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> March, which will be centred around **Church Action on Poverty Sunday, 'Dreams and Realities'.** At the service you will have a chance to find out more about the people behind these portraits which you may have spotted in the notice sheet in recent weeks.

Look out for more information about Church Action on Poverty in future editions of Roundabout as we work together to end poverty!

Alison Sprackling





Annual Garden Party Tea for Christian Aid 3-5 p.m. Sunday 18th May

5 Middleton Hall Road Cotteridge B30 1AB

All Welcome.



And now faith, hope and love remain, these three, and the greatest of these is **love** 1 Corinthians 13:13

# Act on Poverty

# Join our Lent Course 2025!

A new dynamic course to inspire and call us all to prayer and action. All materials will be provided. Roger, Barbara and Israel will lead and we're looking forward to as many people as can make it joining us.

Dates:	Topic
10.45am Tuesday 11th March	Prophetic
10.45am Tuesday 18th March	Broken
10.45am Tuesday 25th March	Generous
10.45am Tuesday 1st April	Located
10.45am Tuesday 8th April	Hopeful
10.45am Tuesday 15th April	Together

Each week is independent so come to all or as many weeks as you can. Even if you can only make one you will still be very welcome!

If you are unable to come to the group (and without any ministers at the moment it isn't possible to offer alternative times – next year!) the materials can be emailed or printed for you to read at home.

After we have finished the course, we are planning to invite our Local M.P. Al Carns to a public meeting on the theme:

## Let's End Poverty

Barbara Calvert

# Yoga for body, mind, and soul.

#### An introduction to new Yoga classes starting on Monday 3rd March at The Cotteridge Church.

I started my yoga journey 20 years ago for the physical benefits. I've stuck with it because, quite simply, it improves everything. I learned how to breathe fully, focus on what I felt inside and outside, and find resilience and self-compassion. Studies are clear on the physical benefits of regular practice – it improves balance, flexibility, strength, cardiovascular health, and muscle tone. However, yoga isn't just about the physical, it's a holistic practice that benefits the body, mind, and soul.

Yoga helps calm the mind, reduces stress and anxiety, promotes better sleep, and supports the brain to work better. For me



hat t means switching off my

monkey mind, stopping the constant internal chatter so post practice I feel relaxed, peaceful, calmer, and more aware of my body. This seeps into everything I do: how I relate to others, how I manage work, how I eat and sleep, and the choices I make about everything.

Starting yoga can feel intimidating because of worries about flexibility, fear of being judged, not understanding the terminology, feeling you are not doing it right, and the potential for injury or discomfort. Seeing images of advanced poses on social media can also make yoga seem unattainable to a beginner. The point to focus on is how yoga makes you feel. Everyone's body is

different, with different strengths and weaknesses - yoga helps increase body awareness and focus on challenge without harm.

The personal benefits I have experienced have motivated me to share yoga with others. Working with young people has led me to focus on teaching a younger age group. I want to provide a safe space away from our digital world, a place to find inner peace, and a stronger, more flexible body.

I hope you feel inspired to try yoga and to share this article with friends, family, and loved ones. There is nothing to lose but so much to gain.

I hope to see you on the mat.



**Class details** 

Start Date: Monday 3rd March 2025

Time: 1800-1900 (please arrive by 1750)

Place: Cotteridge Church, B30 3EJ Cost: £4.00 for 16-18, £6.00 18-30

Offer: First Class half Price

After class social with tea/coffee available from Cafe

email: louiseatyuvana.yoga@gmail.com

# Donations to provide hot meals for Food Bank customers:

Our Church Café provides a warm welcome and good value meals to the Cotteridge Community throughout the week. But for some even our prices are unaffordable. So, throughout February, we have been seeking £5 donations, each of which will provide a token for Food Bank users during



Lent to be exchanged for a hot meal and a drink (or two children's meals). Any of our 'daily hot meals', such as beef stew and dumplings, lasagne or veggie chilli, or a large cooked breakfast are included in the offer.

The Foodbank will start to distribute named vouchers in March which can be exchanged in the Cotteridge Church Café during normal opening hours up to the end of April. This is another way that we are seeking to offer a Warm Welcome to those going though challenging times.

Two weeks after launching the initiative we had already collected enough donations to provide 24 vouchers, so let's keep collecting and do our bit to help those in need in our community. If you would like to donate, please do so by cash or card at the coffee bar till after the Sunday service or whenever the coffee bar is open. Thank you for your support.

Pam Waddell



Dot Tesh sent me this photo of Geoff Hulme, seated left of centre, as a memorial to him.

Boys' Brigade



At the recent BB Bake sale which Phil Adams organised we raised £142 for company funds. Many thanks to Jo, Chris A, Linda M, Dorothy, Celia and Phil for their



donations of cakes and to everybody who bought them.

company section took part in the Division's Christmas Quiz and again we finished in 1<sup>st</sup> place.

Our annual General Knowledge Quiz with Mike Meadows as quizmaster has been arranged for Friday 25<sup>th</sup> April at 7.45pm. The proceeds will be shared between St. Mary's Hospice and The Cotteridge Church. Teams of up to 6 people and the cost is £3 per person. There will be a chance to buy a

baked potato with filling at the interval. We have held this quiz for 30 years and look forward to everybody's support. Bob Hotchkiss

## Blue Plagues

Our city has produced many notable people, who have now been honoured with a blue plaque.

The blue plaques scheme was founded in 1866, and is run by English Heritage. It celebrates the links between notable figures of the past and the buildings in which they lived and worked. It includes people who died more than 20 years ago.

There are many blue plaques near our church. Here are just a few examples.

## 1. Mary Cottrell



11/8/1868-18/11/1969

First woman Birmingham City Councillor, Labour and Co- operative Party, 1917; board member Ten Acres and Stirchley Co-operative Society, 1909 and Co-operative Wholesale Society, 1922.

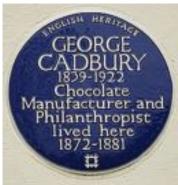
Situated at: Former site of TASCOS bakery. - 1389-1391 Pershore Road, Stirchley, Birmingham, B30 2JR



[I can remember TASCO existing many years before Tesco!- C.L.]



# **2. George Cadbury** 1839 - 1922



The Bournville Building Estate created in 1895 by George Cadbury Situated at: Bournville Village Green, Linden Road, Selly Oak, B30 2AA

32 George Road, Edgbaston



The estate hosts the only carillon

school in the United Kingdom. George Cadbury has a miniature locomotive named after him, originally owned by



the husband of his daughter Elsie Dorothea. George Cadbury was one of





the prime movers in setting up The Birmingham Civic Society in 1918. Cadbury donated the Lickey Hills Country Park to the people of Birmingham. He also donated a large house in Northfield to the Birmingham Cripples Union that was used as a hospital from 1909. It is now called the Royal Orthopaedic Hospital.

# 3. Julia Varley 16/3/1871 - 24/11/1952



Suffragette and leading organiser of women's trade unions in Birmingham and the Black Country

Situated at: 42, Hay Green Lane, B30 IUN



Celia Lester



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 2025 edition by 24th April 2025 to roundabout@thecotteridgechurch.org.uk

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