

# Roundabout



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

**May 2024**

# Mike's message ...

## Ascension Day (9th May)

Exactly forty days after the great feast of Easter comes Ascension Day. That means that it always falls on a Thursday and doesn't always get the prominence it deserves.

Ascension Day is when, according to scripture, the Risen Jesus ended his earthly presence by 'ascending' into heaven. According to Luke in 'Acts of the Apostles' (Chapter 1 vv 9-11), this took place forty days after the Resurrection. Luke does have another account though, in his Gospel (24 .50-53), where Jesus' departure is sooner after Easter. (see also Mark 16.19).

The language of 'ascending into heaven' is strange to us these days. It comes from an age when heaven was 'up there', hell 'down below' and the earth was in between. Someone once called a literal reading of scriptures describing the Ascension as 'Cape Canaveral Theology' with Jesus 'blasting off' into space! That's how many old paintings depict it, and an ornate plaster ceiling in Rome has only Jesus' feet visible, sticking out below a cloud! So what are we to make of The Ascension?

When we celebrate the beginning of Jesus' earthly ministry, at Christmas, we talk of God-became-Flesh (a human being). God sanctifies all human life by becoming part of it in the person of Jesus Christ. At Ascension the Risen Christ, still bearing the marks of human suffering on his hands, feet and side, carries the realities of our human lives into the very heart of God.

Charles Wesley reflected on this in this famous Ascension Day hymn which includes the following two verses:

Hail the day that sees him rise, Alleluia!  
to his throne above the skies; Alleluia!  
Christ, the Lamb for sinners given, Alleluia!  
enters now the highest heaven! Alleluia!

See! he lifts his hands above; Alleluia!  
See! he shows the prints of love: Alleluia!  
Hark! his gracious lips bestow, Alleluia!  
blessings on his Church below. Alleluia!

(For a link to an online service on Ascension Day evening (7.30pm) contact me on [mike.claridge@thecotteridgechurch.org.uk](mailto:mike.claridge@thecotteridgechurch.org.uk) or via [www.mjclaridge.co.uk](http://www.mjclaridge.co.uk))



## Friends & Family.

Hazel Nash's funeral was held at the church on Thursday 7th February. The church was filled with many people wanting to pay tribute to her, and several members of the congregation paid their tributes for us all to hear and appreciate.

We are very sad to announce that John Burton has died, and we send our prayers and best wishes to his family and friends. His funeral took place at Lodge Hill Crematorium on Thursday 11th April. He was a regular attender at our Coffee Bar.

Many congratulations to Sheila Boulds, and Jennifer Moore, who have reached the magnificent age of 90. Very best wishes for a happy 91st year to you both.

Revd Michael Blood - our founding Anglican minister - was 80 in April. We send him our congratulations, very best wishes, and thanks for all his service to us. Your editor has also reached 80!

Please look at the back page of our magazine. This lovely photo was taken by David Cattrill, on the afternoon of Friday 15th March, when taking his son to Boys' Brigade.

**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.

Have a lovely Summer. We will meet again on September 10th. Thank you. Linda

### TUESDAY FELLOWSHIP DATES - May-June 2024

May	14 <sup>th</sup>	Favourite Hymns
	28 <sup>th</sup>	Beetle Drive
June	11 <sup>th</sup>	Rita on tracing her ancestry
	25 <sup>th</sup>	Roger Collins on Foodbank/Fairtrade
July	9 <sup>th</sup>	Celia Lester and her strange objects
	23 <sup>rd</sup>	Summer afternoon tea.

## Services for May and June

2024	5th May	12th May ACM	19th May Pentecost	26th May Trinity	
10:30 am	Revd B Calvert Parade	Revd M. Claridge & Ms Sue Spencer HC	Revd R. Collins	Revd M. Claridge HC	
6:30 pm	Revd M. Claridge HC	No service	No service	No service	No service
	2nd June	9th June	16th June	23rd June	30th June
10:30 am	Revd M. Claridge P	Revd Roger Collins HC	Revd M. Claridge MW	Revd Carlton Turner HC	Revd Mike Claridge MW
6:30 pm	Revd Mike Claridge EW	No service	No service	No service	No service

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

MW/EW Morning/Evening Worship

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.



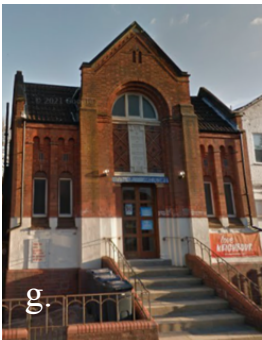
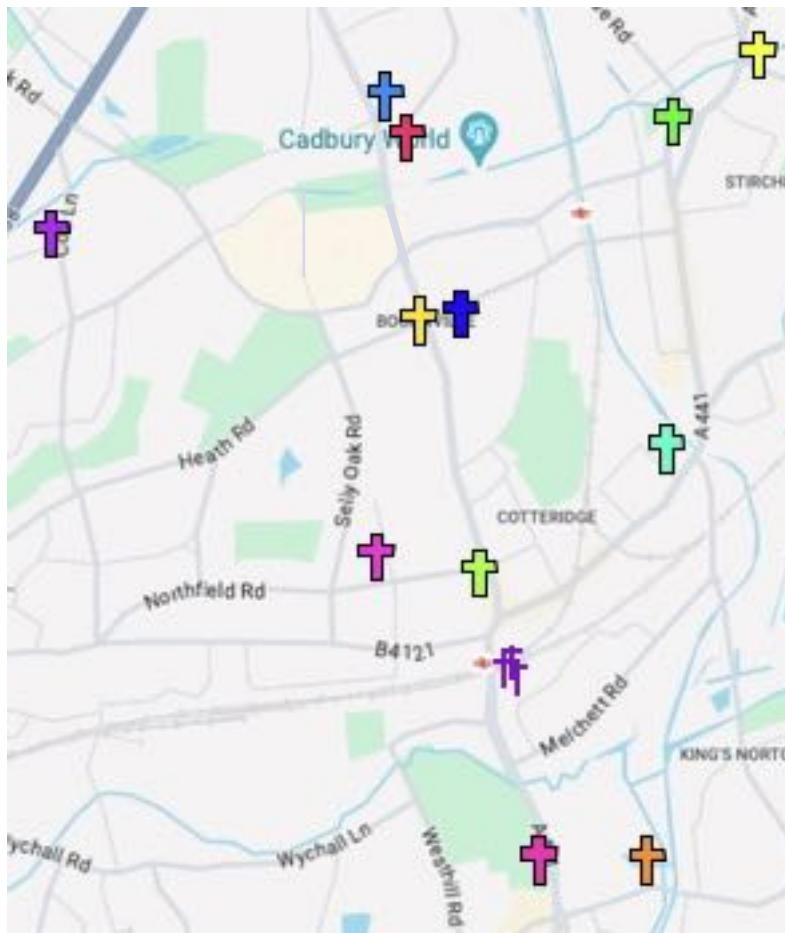
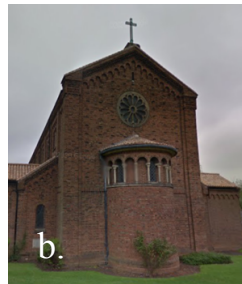
## Churches near ours

Birmingham did not have a cathedral until 1905, and therefore denominations other than Anglican were free to set up churches in the area. Thus Birmingham became home to many churches of different denominations, many of which can be found near our Cotteridge Church. ✝

How well do you know the churches in our area? There are many, and I have chosen just twelve and marked them with coloured crosses on the map. There is a list of their names, and of the denominations represented, and a small picture of each. Can you match them all, and complete the table?

### Churches:

- |                                      |                                |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Birmingham Presbyterian Church    | 7. St. Andrew's                |
| 2. Bournville Christadelphian Church | 8. St. Francis of Assisi       |
| 3. Bournville Quaker Meeting House   | 9. St Joseph's & St Helen's    |
| 4. Cotteridge Quakers                | 10. St. Nicholas'              |
| 5. Grace Church                      | 11. Serbian Orthodox Church    |
| 6. Kings Norton Baptist Church       | 12. Stirchley Community Church |



Area on map	Church name	Denomination	Picture
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			
11			
12			

Can you complete the table by adding Church Name -as a number from 1-12  
Denomination as a capital letter A - J  
Picture as a lower case letter a - l

A completed table can be found at the end of the magazine.

**Denominations:**

- A. Anglican
- B. Baptist
- C. Birmingham Collective
- D. Catholic
- E. Christadelphian
- F. Eastern Orthodox
- G. Elim
- H. Methodist
- I. Presbyterian
- J. Quaker

Celia Lester

**Boys' Brigade**

Our annual General Knowledge Quiz took place recently and raised £307 which has been shared by The Cotteridge Church and The Birmingham Hospice. Philip Adams organised a bake sale at the quiz and many thanks to those who donated cakes. Finally thanks to everybody who turned up on the night and all the BB leaders for their help and last but not least our quiz master Mike Meadows.



The quiz winners were 'The Welsh Wizards'

Finlay who is really keen on sailing came 1<sup>st</sup> in a team race around the Isle of Wight. He also has a cup to prove it.



Well done Fin.



With the lighter nights now approaching we will start to do activities outside. In June probably the highlight of the year we will once again be having our 'Peckwood Weekend' for the whole company and hoping for a dry and sunny 3 days.  
 Bob Hotchkiss



# The Bayeux Tapestry



When I was at school we used to be taught various bits of history but one fact always came up. The Battle of Hastings, 1066. Other seemingly important dates such as the more recent First or Second World War didn't get a mention. My school history stopped at the repeal of the Corn Laws in 1832. I learnt other facts from TV or books. These days '1066 And All That' seems to have faded from the national memory.

In 1995 I took myself off on a cycle trip to see the Normandy beaches famous for the D Day invasion in 1944. I pitched camp at a little place called Port en Bessin then cycled to Bayeux the first town to be liberated, and spent an hour or so looking at this remarkable historical document. It was made in England around 1068, commissioned by bishop Odo, and shows events leading up to 1066 from the Norman point of view. Embroidery is used to make pictures on a piece of woven cloth 73 metres long, almost the length of the inside walls of Reims cathedral. It seems the original cloth is missing the last two panels. I am not aware of anything like it. History comes down to us in many forms. Books, paintings, pieces of pottery,



even oral stories. These days we get cinema or TV dramas, and the internet is an endless source of search results. But I don't know of any other historical narrative embroidered to create vivid pictures of events 1,000 years ago. The tapestry luckily survived the French Revolution, although at one point it was used to cover wine and cheese on carts, and it survived the German invasion of France in 1939.

My granddaughter Sophia is taking her GCSEs this year. How should we celebrate all her exam studies? Maybe we could start with a trip to Normandy? Among other things we could visit the Bayeux tapestry. It turned out we would have a long wait. It is closed for refurbishment until 2027! However my museum curiosity had filed away a little fact: 140 years ago Victorian needleworkers had made a good copy. Ladies in Leek, Staffordshire had carefully dyed yarn in woad to match the original shade of thread

then embroidered the whole thing. In addition later artists had added their version of the missing panels. Victorian sentiments had airbrushed out some of the more explicit sex scenes but apart from that it was as close a copy as you could wish for on permanent display in Reading museum. We drove down on Maundy Thursday and spent some time viewing the Leek version. It's all free, no charge. If you are near Reading I would recommend you take a look.

Peter Childs



# Afternoon Tea



**Sunday 19th May  
3:00 - 5:00 pm**

**5 Middleton Hall  
Road  
Cotteridge  
B30 1AB**



Fairy Cakes



Cakes and Scones



Sandwiches



Quiz



Plant Sale



Card or Cash

All money raised goes to work among the world's poorest communities  
Christian Aid is a Registered Charity number 1106853 at address 35-41 Lower Marsh, London, SE1 7RL



# Earth Day 22nd April 2024



God showed his promise to Noah with a rainbow, described in Genesis Chapter 9:-  
And god said “This is the sign of the Covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come.  
I have set my rainbow in the clouds and it will be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth.

Whenever I bring clouds over the earth, and the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will remember my covenant between me and you, and all living creatures of every kind. Never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life.”

We could also make a promise to do our part to restore and maintain our beautiful planet.





## Tributes paid to Hazel Nash at her Funeral.



“Following the sincere tributes to Hazel from friends at The Cotteridge Church, I would like to express the love and thanks of the wider Church community in this area. Hazel was a true ecumenist and embraced all the different denominations, traditions and worshippers. In particular she supported Churches Together in B30, especially the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity when she was always willing and available to help with the Unity Services. Also she took part regularly each year in the Women's World Day of Prayer, as committee member and active participant. We all valued her friendship, her sincerity, her faithfulness and good humour. Knowing Hazel meant that you knew more about God's love and providence, and were brought

closer to Him. We trust that she is now rejoicing in His presence and praying for all of us!”

Jackie Edmunds, previous parishioner of St. Joseph and St. Helen RC Church.

To me, Hazel was a source of inspiration and encouragement. A truly great commando for Christ, and the working of His kingdom. Donald Sampson.

Hazel was a member at Cotteridge for many years but we gradually picked up an acquaintance by both being a regular member of the dozen or so who attended evening services. I used to live off Wharf Road. Hazel lived further along. We would sometimes catch the #18 bus together or sometimes walk down the hill. If Helen Gale happened to be at the evening service she would offer Hazel and myself a lift. When covid restrictions turned into various patterns of lockdowns I knew Hazel well enough to offer to add her grocery shopping to my regular trips. It wasn't a problem for me to pick up a few items to my regular list. At the start we didn't even risk face-face contact. The arrangement was for her to use one of my spare shopping bags, write a list, put £10 in, then leave it on the outside door handle. I would return an hour or so later with her shopping and change, leave it on the doorstep, ring her bell, then walk away. Naomi would sometimes make the delivery if I was busy. As restrictions eased and the risk went down we sometimes said hello from a distance. In short it became a sociable call that didn't cost me more than a few minutes when passing, and Hazel was always on time and always paid up. She was someone you could do business with and it was a pleasure to help out where I could.

Peter Childs.

## Easter Chicks

Many thanks to our knitters [and natterers!] and to Chris Pascal's friend. We sold over 100 little chicks filled with Cadbury Creme Eggs, and they were much appreciated.



## A spare ball of wool?



Our Cotteridge Crafters/Knit and Natter group has a large quantity of wool which has been generously donated. Wool of any colour can usefully be employed knitting or crocheting scarves or blankets. These are the items most in demand by homeless and refugee charities.

How about knitting a scarf like this one that Barbara knitted recently?

All you need are some 4mm needles

and balls of wool in random colours. The scarf is knitted across rather than down.

### Vertical scarf

Cast on 250 stitches. Each row is in knit (Garter stitch).

Knit across leaving a length of wool at each end. These lengths of wool will form the tassels.

Change to a different colour for each row.

Continue knitting changing colour each row until you have completed 7 inches forming the width of the scarf.

Cast off.

When you cast off you will be surprised to see the length of the scarf. The only minor difficulty is keeping all the stitches on the needles so choose long needles and knot the ends together if you find the stitches slipping off the end. It's very satisfying, easy to knit, uses up odd balls of wool and creates a lovely colourful, warm and useful item.



### Blanket



Knitting squares for blankets can be a bit tedious. They are also inclined to end up slightly different sizes. Sewing them together then becomes an art form in itself! Celia introduced us to the idea of knitting squares in different patterns and knitting continuously a strip of 10 squares. This makes the whole process much more enjoyable and sewing up is then only a matter of sewing 6 strips of 10 squares together to make a lovely warm, colourful blanket like this one.

Each square should be 6 inches square.

You could knit all squares in garter stitch (every row knit) or try a variety of patterns such as these:

Use DK yarn & size 10[UK] needles

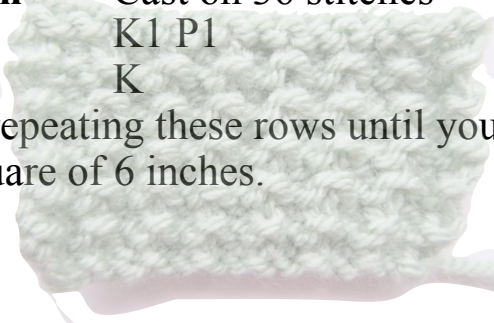
#### Rice Stitch

Cast on 36 stitches

Row 1 K1 P1

Row 2 K

Carry on repeating these rows until you have a square of 6 inches.



#### Simple

Cast on 36 stitches

Row 1 & 2: K1, P1, K1

Row 3 K

Row 4 P





**Granite** Cast on 40 stitches  
 Row 1 K  
 Row 2 K2 tog across row  
 Row 3 K into front and back of each stitch  
 Row 4 P

**Farrow Rib** Cast on 37 stitches  
 Row 1 K2 P1 to last st K1  
 Row 2 P1 then \*K2 P1 to last st

We can send you more patterns if you wish - just contact us.

Luckily a member of our group is happy to join the rows of 10 squares together if you are not keen on sewing up.

So do come along to Cotteridge Crafters/Knit and Natter 10.30 – 12noon Thursdays or get knitting at home and donate your rows of 10 squares and we will see to the rest. Knit for Peace distributes the blankets and scarves to those in need.

Barbara Calvert

### A Sprig of Green - HOPE!

In 1971 I boarded for my first ever aeroplane flight. We went to Leningrad, where Richard had agreed to meet with botanists there to teach them a technique he had developed for plant identification. [The Russians had seconded Czechs Eva & Joseph Kloz from Prague to do this, but they bravely refused unless Richard agreed and was invited too.]

We stayed at the Europa Hotel on the Nevsky Prospect. Russia was SO VERY different from anywhere else I had been. People were very restricted in what they could do, say, or where they could go. Everyone had a right to have a job [The Government boasted that they had no unemployment!] However, this meant some jobs were really inefficient. Women were given small hand held rush brushes to sweep the pavements, so it took about five of them to do the same as one with a broom.

Close to the hotel, where the road crossed the Griboyedov canal was a large church. Christianity was banned and the church main door was firmly padlocked. The church was very dark, covered with soot, and looked neglected.

We almost wept when we saw that **every day someone put a small sprig of green leaves inside the padlock** on the main door.

Now it has had 27 years of restoration, but it has not been reconsecrated. It has been dedicated to the memory of assassinated Tsar Alexander II, who was killed in the city in 1881; and now only memorial services take place there. It is now one of the main tourist attractions in Saint Petersburg. A small step in the right direction!

Celia Lester



The Church - after refurbishment



## Preparing for Easter



After the 6 weeks of Lent when flowers are absent from the church, it's a joy to decorate ready for Easter. So it was early in the week before Easter when I go to find the Easter lilies. They always need time to begin to open, I treat them with respect as they are taken from room to room, seeking the right temperature - not too hot and not too cold.

Then of course we have the tulips and daffodils both real and knitted to add to the many vases and display. This year for the first time we had an Easter tree in the church. I am grateful to Linda for providing the Easter eggs on the tree and other decorations. On the Saturday before Easter we gather together and I am so grateful for the support of Linda Woodhouse and Chris Pascal. We worked through the morning, deciding what and where the decorations should go.

We've already got plans for next year, an idea I saw from the photos Lin Brown sent me of the decorations at Selby Abbey. They had used plants, stones and figures to make the "Garden of Gethsemane". So ... if you can join us next year to bring this idea into reality, or help in anyway you will be so welcome. There is always something to be done and it's an opportunity to talk and share.

Again thank you to the team and I know you all enjoyed and appreciated our Easter Preparations...for Easter Day .

Sandra Walton and  
the Easter flower team.



## The Pennine Way trip in April

The Pennine Way trip in April was to Stratford. The river was high so our boat ride was cancelled. Instead some of us went on a bus trip and how glad we were that we did because the commentary was so interesting.

Beginning, of course, with William Shakespeare - we found out that his father, John, was a glove maker. His mother, Mary Arden, was the youngest of eight daughters.

Although Shakespeare had three children with Anne Hathaway, none of his grandchildren survived so there are no direct descendants of William.

The bus took us out into the beautiful countryside. We saw lots of thatched cottages and this led to some quaint stories. The phrase "good night, sleep tight" comes from a time when all sorts of creepy crawlies might be around

the bedroom. So the mattress had to be tied tightly to the bed frame. And creepy crawlies falling from the inside of the thatch led to an ingenious idea. A large piece of material would catch any 'nasties' and so four posts were attached to the corners of the bed and the material stretched across - hence the four poster bed came into being. Then we heard a rather unpleasant story. Years ago it was believed that secretions from a frog, put into the mouth could cure certain infections. Some time later people started saying, "Oh, you must have a frog in your throat."



Anne Hathaway's Cottage



Back to the bedroom. Sleeping arrangements many years ago were also very interesting. Families usually had one bed and perhaps a second one for guests. Parents slept in the bed, boys and servants slept on the floor. For girls a ledge was built on the wall at a distance from the floor (creepy crawlies). If a girl did not get married she was said to be 'left on the shelf'.

It's true you do learn something every day. Perhaps not going on the boat trip wasn't such a bad thing after all.

Rita Sutton



## Margaret Cragg's Curry Recipe

Many of you will remember that I wrote about the Cragg family in the November 2023 edition of Roundabout. Margaret's mother was the head cook for Lord Sefton [who owns the Aintree racecourse] After her marriage she had to leave his employment, but was often called back to help, especially when the king was visiting! Her daughter Margaret inherited her cooking skills, and, because she lived as a missionary in South India for many years, she became an expert on Indian cooking also. She never bought ready mixed spices, but made her own. She gave me this recipe for Chicken Korma, which I am sure you will find delicious if you decide to make it. I think you could make a batch of the Korma mixture, and keep it in a well sealed jar for future use.

I remember many years ago, she came to help my husband Richard at Winterbourne House at the University, when he was giving a day course on herbs and spices for any adults who wanted to attend. [Rather like U3A now] I was enrolled to do some herby/spicy catering, and Margaret came to help with the Indian spices. She dressed in a sari, and sandals, and spoke about her culinary experiences in South India. We served this Korma for lunch. Margaret went back in her mind to her time in India, and ate her curry as she did there - with her right [clean] hand. [Often there were no hand washing facilities, so one hand was kept clean and the other did the dirty work.]

**Korma Curry** - from south India. Not hot but rich & spicy

Korma Mixture - same in all korma recipes

- 2 tsp ground almonds
- 3 tsp ground coriander
- 1 tsp ground turmeric
- 1/2 tsp ground cumin seed
- Pinch ground chilli
- Pinch ground pepper

Mix all together & use as required

### **Chicken Korma**

1 chicken boned, and cut into pieces [or equivalent ready boned pieces]

Marinade: 12 tsp sour curds or natural yoghurt  
4 heaped tsp ground turmeric  
2 cloves garlic - crushed

Other ingredients 2 oz butter, or chicken fat  
1 large onion finely sliced  
1 inch piece fresh ginger  
6 cloves 6 cardamoms  
4 heaped tsp korma mixture  
salt & lemon juice



Mix all together.

2 inch stick cinnamon

Marinate the chicken for 1 hour, covering it carefully with the marinade mixture.

Put the butter in large frying pan & fry onion with the ginger, cloves, cardamom, cinnamon & garlic (these may be tied up in muslin if preferred). Cook until onion is about half done. Add the Korma mixture. Stir well & cook for about 4 minutes.

Add the chicken pieces & marinade & mix well. Cover & simmer until chicken is cooked. Add salt & lemon juice to taste.

Serve with boiled basmati rice

Delicious!

Celia Lester



## The Happy Regulars

If you come into The Cotteridge Church during the week you're very likely to meet one of the 'Happy Regulars' who enjoy our café. Why do they like it? How did they find it? What are their favourite meals? Is it value for money? Well, let's find out.

Brenda, Phil, Colin and Ellen come into the Pennine Way every day. Brenda found the café by chance about seven years ago and had a cup of coffee. She told the family and they have been coming in ever since. They live a bus ride away (for Phil two buses) but say it's worth the trip because The Cotteridge Church is such a friendly place. They've got to know people, and the volunteers know exactly how they like their tea and coffee. They enjoy a nice meal too, their favourites being cottage pie or cheese and potato pie and it's very good value for money. The Pennine Way is a really good meeting place and it's obvious that other people think so too.

Bill used to come up to Cotteridge frequently to visit one of the many cafés. One day he met his neighbour, Steph, one of our volunteers, and she brought him into The Cotteridge Church. He doesn't go anywhere else now and has been coming every day of the week for a year. He says, like a lot of other people, that the volunteers are so welcoming and friendly and Sarah helps so many people. It only takes him five minutes on the bus and after a bit of shopping it's into The Cotteridge Church to read the paper and enjoy beans on toast. He says he surprised to find such a great café in a church. It's very good value for money. He likes the atmosphere. There's always something going on and the young people who help in the café are well looked after. Bill has told lots of people about us. (thanks, Bill)

Sue first came into the Pennine Way when she and her daughter, Nicola, brought Sue's grandchildren to Messy Church five years ago. She finds everyone friendly and the volunteers are so good that they start getting her small tea even before she has ordered it! She enjoys toast and marmite too and thinks it is all good value for money. She's made lots of friends, browses in the shop and has found out about our trips so she can enjoy an afternoon out.

Andrea has probably been visiting the Pennine Way longer than any other customer. She has been coming since the café first opened after she noticed the sign when the family drove past. She says that there was a lovely atmosphere and the people serving were so friendly. She loved the fact that there was 'proper' coffee. She has noticed how over the years the menu has developed. Then she would have a scone or perhaps cheese on toast. Now she is spoilt for choice. The other plus is that you can make so many friends and sit as long as you like. She is amazed at the brilliant value for money. Other places in Cotteridge are much more expensive. Andrea says that even all those years ago she felt drawn to this place and is so glad she found it.

And what about the 'newbies'? Jill and Phil and their 18 month old grandson, AJ, found us eight months ago. They think, like many others, that the volunteers are so welcoming. People seem to interact with one another quite easily. AJ loves strolling up the Pennine Way, looking in the book room and playing with the toys. Jill thinks the menu is very good value for money.

Footnote - while I was talking to people about the Pennine Way a man came up to me. "Do you do the trips?" he asked. "I was talking to someone at the bus stop and she told me about this place." He immediately booked two places for Ludlow in July. You can say what you like about the internet but word of mouth is still a great thing.

Rita Sutton

## The Strategy Group - time for action!

For several months a small Strategy group has been working with our church members and wider community to shape a mission, vision and strategic plan for The Cotteridge Church for the coming years. We are very grateful for the excellent engagement with both the questionnaire phase and the consultation event with church members in March. All this has resulted in some really constructive feedback and suggestions for action, which has enabled us to finalise a draft Strategy and Action Plan that we hope you can all see is a real joint effort and belongs to the whole church.

The draft Strategy and Action Plan will be discussed with church members, hopefully leading to its approval, at the Annual General Meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> March (immediately after the Sunday service). It will be shared in advance via Sarah's weekly email on 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> March and paper copies will be available on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup>

and 12<sup>th</sup> May, to give you all time to consider the documents.

If the Strategy and Action Plan are approved, this is only just the beginning – a plan is no good unless it leads to action! We sincerely hope that church members and our wider community will continue their engagement and get involved in aspects of the delivery where they can, in whatever way they can. The Joint Church Council and its sub-Committees will have oversight of the delivery and will monitor progress, of course, helping to ensure that all the plans move forward. It is likely that there will be bids for funding to enable delivery of some of the plans, and possibly fundraising campaigns. But, just as developing the Strategy and Action Plan has been very much a shared effort, let's work together to deliver the vision and plan that we have created together to build a welcoming, vibrant and inclusive community for Christian worship, fellowship and service at The Cotteridge Church.

Pam Waddell (Strategy Group)

**"Books and doors are the same thing. You open them, and you go through into another world." - Jeanette Winterson**

Do you wish you got round to reading more books? Do you wish you had more people to discuss your reading with? Would you like to have ideas for further reading? Have you got a pile of books by your bed that you never get round to reading? ***Did you know that there is actually a Cotteridge Church Book Group?***

A small group of us associated with The Cotteridge Church have been reading together for a long time (Well, we began when Revd Paul Whittle was a minister – and he left a long time ago.)

We meet in each other's houses one evening every six weeks or so with a break over the summer. The programme is decided at the beginning of the year by suggestions from the members and includes fiction and non-fiction, modern and classical reads. There is no pressure to be a literary expert!

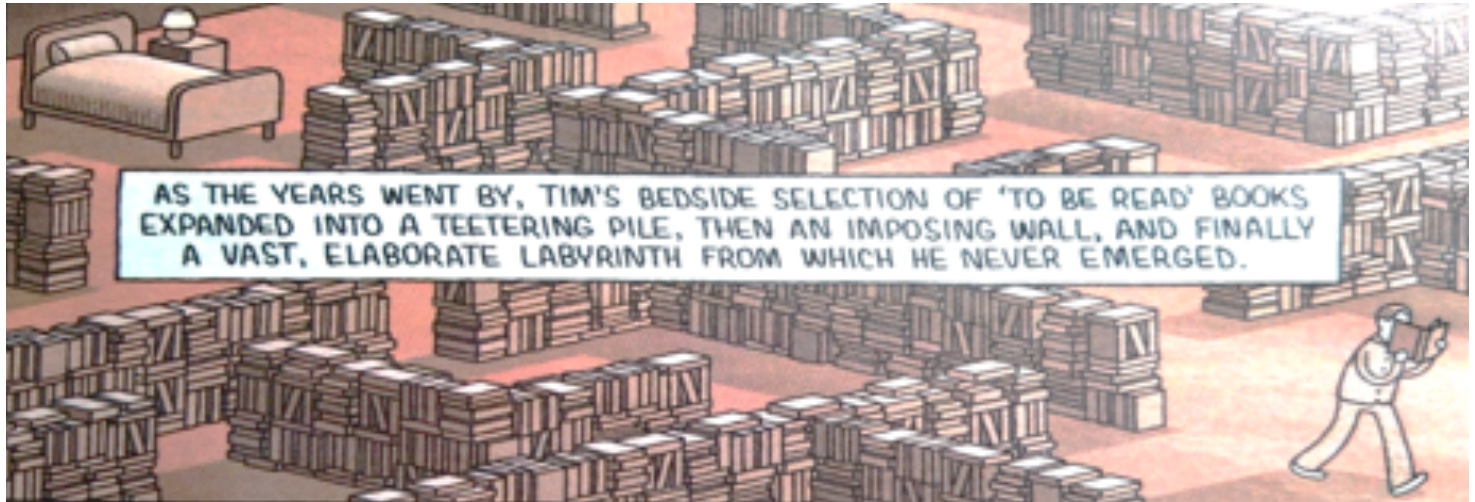
We enjoy the "What did you think about ... ?" or "Did you think ... was really believable?" or "Which character did you like best?" or even "What else have you been reading recently?"

Recently a couple of our group have left for various reasons and we are looking for some new members. Our next couple of reads are:

'Why I'm No Longer Talking to White People about Race' by Reni Eddo-Lodge on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July 'Far From the Madding Crowd' by Thomas Hardy on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September.

It's a Book Group that encourages all of us to read more ... as well as a chance to chat and put the world to rights!

If you are interested, please feel free to email me at [helenmgale@gmail.com](mailto:helenmgale@gmail.com) or speak to Linda Mann. Helen Gale



Tom Gauld *The Guardian*

## C's Chop

Summer is a'coming - we hope! So I thought you might enjoy a cold picnic lunch. I used to cater a lot for such, whilst my husband was lecturing students from all over the world on the Crop Conservation & Genetics Resources M.Sc. course at the University.

C's Chop was a favourite. Named because I am C, and most of the ingredients begin with a "C". It keeps for at least 2 days in the fridge, and is very easy to make. Quantities vary with the number of people you need to feed, but you need approximately equal amounts of:

Cucumber                      Celery                      Capsicum [deseeded] [Red pepper]  
Cox apple [cored and peeled]    [Braeburn will do since Cox is scarce]  
Currants [but sultanas are nicer]

Chop these into roughly cubic sized pieces [~1cm], place in a bowl and mix. Add a little salt & pepper, and stir in some thick Greek yoghurt. Store in the fridge until needed. Enjoy! Celia Lester







**BIRMINGHAM COUNCIL OF FAITHS**

***Faiths Promoting Health & Wellbeing***

**The next Forum  
will be at 2.30pm  
on Thurs 23rd May  
on Zoom.**

The information shown below has been sent to us by Dr Peter Rookes.  
If you are interested in any of the content, and need further information, please contact him:

Joint Secretary and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sector Liaison Officer

Birmingham Council of Faiths, Phone – 077033 36088, [pjrookes@gmail.com](mailto:pjrookes@gmail.com)

### **Launch of Birmingham Citywide Small Grants**

Applications are now open for public and VCFSE sector organisations in Birmingham to bid for Citywide Small Grants being made available via the Fairer Futures Fund. A total of £2.46 million is available for organisations in Birmingham to bid for up to £15,000 per year, or up to a maximum of £45,000 for individual projects over a three year delivery period.

**BIRMINGHAM  
FAIRER FUTURES FUND  
CITYWIDE  
SMALL GRANTS**

The fund is part of a strategic vision to radically transform how health and social care services are delivered in Birmingham and Solihull, which, over the next five years will see services become more integrated and delivered as close as possible to citizens' homes, whilst the focus will shift towards preventing ill-health. More than 50 voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise (VCFSE) sector organisations have already received over £2.1million of the Fairer Futures Fund across Birmingham and Solihull to date. Projects are wide-ranging - from supporting bereaved homeless people to mental health resilience building workshops for young people in schools in deprived areas.

This latest pot is being distributed in partnership with Heart of England Community Foundation, and is being overseen by the Birmingham Place Committee to ensure funding meets the best interests of the health and care needs of the local population.

For more information on how to apply, visit the Heart of England Community Foundation website.

The deadline for the Citywide Small Grants is 5.00 pm on Friday 12th July 2024



## CONNECTING COMMUNITIES

Discussing current topics with key people

Co-hosted by Mahmooda Qureshi &  
Dr. Peter Rookes

Tune in every fortnight; Mondays @ 4pm

Broadcast live at 4.0pm on FM 93.5 on alternate Mondays

The next programme will be broadcast on Monday 13th May about Foodbanks.



### Inter Faith Network for the United Kingdom

A letter from Secretary of State Rt Hon Michael Gove MP has been received stating that the Government will no longer be funding this. Its closure has taken place on 30th April.

Discussions are ongoing as to how it might continue its work.

### Churches Answer Sheet

Area on map	Church name	Denomination	Picture
1	8	A	b
2	6	B	c
3	2	E	k
4	7	H	h
5	4	J	c
6	12	G	a
7	5	C	i
8	3	J	f
9	1	I	g
10	11	F	d
11	9	D	i
12	10	A	j

### Weather prediction??

Do you know the saying? :

If the Ash is out before the Oak,  
we shall surely have a soak

But

If the Oak is out before the Ash,  
then we shall only have a splash

Well the Oak is certainly out before the Ash this year. I wonder if the old saying will hold, now that the climate is so unstable. Let us hope we shall get a bit more fine weather & sunshine.



This photograph was taken on 15th March 2024 by David Cattrill.

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 July 2024 edition by 28th June 2024 to  
[roundabout@thecotteridgechurch.org.uk](mailto:roundabout@thecotteridgechurch.org.uk)

The Cotteridge Church, Pershore Road South, Birmingham B30 3EJ

Tel: 0121 433 5518 Fax: 0121 459 6909

Email: [administrator@thecotteridgechurch.org.uk](mailto:administrator@thecotteridgechurch.org.uk)

Website: [www.thecotteridgechurch.org.uk](http://www.thecotteridgechurch.org.uk)

Twitter -[X]: @CotteridgeChurc      [facebook.com/TheCotteridgeChurch](https://facebook.com/TheCotteridgeChurch)

Instagram [the\\_cotteridge\\_church](https://instagram.com/the_cotteridge_church)

The Cotteridge Church: Registered Charity No 1143091