

Roundabout



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

September 2024

Mike's message ...



In the last edition of 'Roundabout' I wrote about 'moving on'. I had recently preached at a service for those leaving the Birmingham Methodist Circuit this summer, and took my theme for my letter from that sermon. I already knew then, but wasn't yet able to say, that I too would be moving on soon.

This is my last letter for the The Cotteridge Church's 'Roundabout' magazine because I will be retiring at the end of October. I hope that you'll be able to come along for my final service on Sunday 27th October at 10.30am. It's a service of Holy Communion, led by myself, and the preacher will be Sue Spencer.

I'm in my eighth year of ministry at The Cotteridge Church, having arrived in March 2017. Like ministry anywhere it's been a time of both challenge and joy. We came through the pandemic together and adapted to new ways of worship and serving Christ in our witness and ministry.

It's been a privilege to be part of the ministry of all three denominations here; Methodist, Church of England, and United Reformed Church. As I prepare to leave I am trying to ensure that all three denominations talk to each other to discern the way forward for The Cotteridge Church. In all likelihood The Cotteridge Church will not get a minister 'all to itself', very few congregations do these days, but being part of three denominations will give strength, and sharing ministry would bring added riches of tradition and new ideas. But all that is for the JCC and others to discuss and decide. The excellent three year Strategic Plan recently adopted by the Church Council lays down a clear, bold, and exciting pathway for the next stage in The Cotteridge Church's story.

As for my story, I am hoping to continue that in retirement by offering some preaching appointments on my new local Methodist Circuit. I also want to pursue other interests and activities. I'm hoping to restart my local history and faith videos called 'Coal, Iron, Lime ... and a bit of Gospel' which are in abeyance at the moment.

On behalf of Susan and myself thank you to all with whom we have shared ministry at The Cotteridge Church. You will be in our prayers as you journey on.

Friends & Family.

Revd Donald Sampson celebrated his 90th birthday at the end of June. Congratulations, Donald, from all of us.

Jennifer Moore has moved to a care home in Manchester to be nearer to her son.

Evelyn Bhajan was ordained into the ministry of the Methodist church on Sunday 30th June in Leeds. She will be serving in south Wales.



Mike Claridge is retiring from the Anglican ministry at Cotteridge on 31st October, and is returning to his home turf near Pelsall to serve as a retired minister in the Methodist Church.

Andrea Harley has died. Her funeral was on 16th August at Waseley Crematorium. She was a special and dear friend to many and was our longest and very frequent visitor to the PennineWay community. We send the family our love and condolences.

Warm congratulations to Alex & Vicky Woodhouse on the birth of their son Oliver on 19th August, and also to Linda & John, on becoming grandparents.

Tribute to Andrea Harley

Prayer for Gift of Friendship [used at Tuesday Fellowship]

Lord you have given us the gift of Friendship and we thank you for this blessing.

Many friends have enriched our lives in the Pennine Way.

Let us especially remember Andrea Harley who has left a lasting impression on so many people coming through the doors.

She will be remembered for her caring attitude, encouraging all she met; her enthusiasm and creative talents.

She had time to talk to all the visitors, volunteers about their problems, & also celebrating their success and good fortune.



Many people benefitted from her outstanding artistic skills - skills in presents given to her many friends and in the church displays over the years - perhaps most notably the Tree of Life embroidery, which hangs in our Pennine Way, where she used to sit.

Her dress sense was well coordinated and many of her clothes went for good money in our sale room. She was a very good friend to all. A privilege to have known her.

She will not be forgotten. Amen

Lin Woodhouse

[The flowers on the front cover were arranged in her memory for our service on 18 August]

Services in September and October

	1st September	8th September	15th September	22nd September	29th September
10:30 am	Revd M. Claridge AA	Revd M. Claridge HC	Revd M. Claridge	Revd R. Collins HC	Revd M. Claridge
6:30 pm	Revd R. Collins HC	No service	No service	No service	
	6th October	13th October	20th October	27th October	
10:30 am	Revd B Calvert Parade/AA/HF	Revd R. Collins HC	Revd M. Claridge	Revd M. Claridge/Ms Sue Spencer	
6:30 pm	Revd M. Claridge	No service	No service	No service	

HC = Holy Communion AA = All Age; HF = Harvest Festival

Tuesdays: 10.00 am: There will be a short service of Holy Communion at the Church.

Wednesdays at 7.30 pm: There will be online worship on Zoom from September 20th.

Contact Revd Mike Claridge < mike.claridge@thecotteridgechurch.org.uk > for access details.

Revd Mike Claridge produces a regular notice sheet, which can be accessed via the church web site. This will give details of online services, and zoom interactions etc. Please note that the wine served at Communion on the second Sunday of the month will be alcoholic. The Communion elements will continue to be brought to the congregation in their seats.

Evening services will resume on the first Sunday of each month from September, alternating between Communion and Evening Prayer.

Holy Cross Day Saturday 14th September 2024

The Feast of the Cross [sometimes called Holy Rood Day]

The Palace of Holyroodhouse, in Edinburgh lies at the foot of the Royal Mile, and is the official Scottish residence of King Charles. Next to the palace are the ruins of Holyrood Abbey, founded by David I in 1128, and served as a church until its destruction in 1570. All that survives now is the ruined nave.



Legend of the ‘Holy Rude’

Legend has it that David I was hunting in the royal forest of Drumsheugh when he was thrown from his horse below Salisbury Crags. He was speared in the thigh by the antlers of a ‘muckle white hart [stag]’. Had it not been for the ‘holy rood’ (crucifix) that miraculously appeared in the king’s hands as he grappled with the animal, he would surely have died. In thanks to God, David endowed a ‘monastery of the Holy Rood’ close to where he escaped death.

The Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, celebrated every year on 14 September, recalls three events:

1. The finding of the True Cross by Saint Helena. Helena was the mother of Constantine the Great, and legend states that she found wooden fragments of the cross during her pilgrimage to the Holy Land in 326. Adoration of these fragments gave rise to their sale. However John Calvin pointed out that all these fragments if put together would fill a large ship! Some Roman Catholic theologians disputed Calvin’s objection, and claimed that the blood of Christ gave the true cross a material indestructibility, so that it could be divided indefinitely without being diminished.
2. Under Emperor Constantine, around AD 327, Bishop Macarius of Jerusalem caused excavations to be made in order to ascertain the location of Calvary as well as that of the Holy Sepulchre. It was in the course of these excavations that the wood of the cross was recovered. It was determined by Macarius to be authentic (the crosses of the two thieves were also recovered) and for it Constantine built the Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre. The dedication of churches built by Emperor Constantine on the site of the Holy Sepulchre and Mount Calvary, gave cause for the capture of Constantinople by the Crusaders in 1204.
3. The restoration of the True Cross to Jerusalem in AD 629 by the Byzantine emperor Heraclius, after it had fallen into the hands of the Persian Emperor Chosroes II in the AD 614 Sasanian conquest of Jerusalem.



Subsequently, pieces of the True Cross relic were distributed across the empire and by the turn of the 5th century were venerated as far away as Italy.

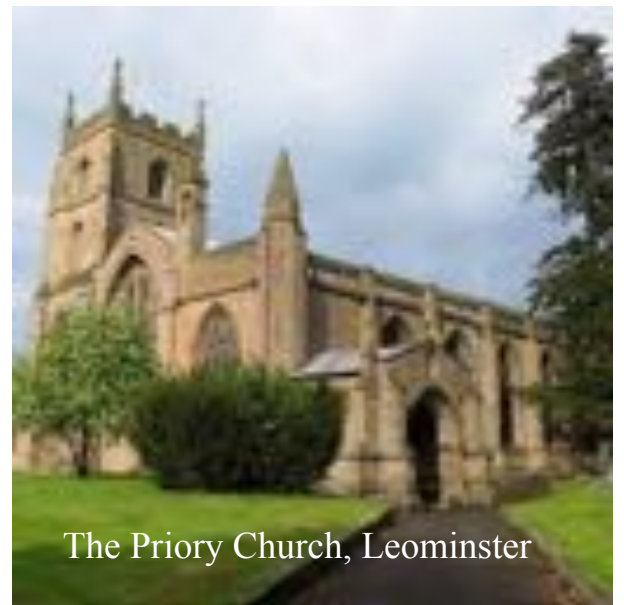
The Feast of the Finding of the cross was celebrated in the Roman Catholic church until 1960, when Pope John XXIII omitted it from the calendar.

Most recently, in 2023 two fragments of the relic were donated by the Holy See to King Charles III of the United Kingdom as a gift on the occasion of Charles’s coronation. The fragments were placed inside the Cross of Wales, a processional cross of the Anglican Church in Wales that was used to lead the king into Westminster Abbey for the coronation ceremony.

Celia Lester

'Threads through Creation'

Whilst staying in Leominster recently, I came across an amazing textile exhibition in The Priory Church. This was the work of textile artist, Jacqui Parkinson and consisted of twelve huge silk panels retelling the story of creation from Genesis.



The Priory Church, Leominster



Panel 1. In the beginning

The panels took nearly three years to complete and they contain eight million stitches!

In the setting of the Priory church, they were quite awe-inspiring: standing back you could take in the whole colourful scene, whilst close-up you

could see all the detail of fabric, dye and many, many stitches (some done by hand). Each panel was accompanied by information including the Bible verses and an explanation of Jacqui's ideas and representation.



Panel 6 Water & Sky



Jacqui Parkinson
with Panel 10 Two Trees, Two keepers

Jacqui's previous textile project, 'Threads through Revelation' toured cathedrals from 2016-18 and she has a plan for one last, huge project: 'Threads through the Cross'. This will tour alongside her first two projects as 'Threads through the Bible' in 2025, beginning at Liverpool Cathedral. It will comprise 44 huge panels and will be breath-taking in scale. I shall certainly be looking out for an opportunity to see it!

These 12 panels will be in Sherborne Abbey from 29th August - 6th October, and will finish in Hexham Abbey from 10th October - 23rd November.

Alison Sprackling



THE COTTERIDGE CHURCH HARVEST BARN DANCE



Join us for an evening of celebration
Saturday 5th October 2024
6:00pm - 9:00pm
Tickets £8.00 per person



Fish & Chips or Pizza supper included
Please sign up on the notice board to book your food.



Making a difference to our Planet.

It's been a busy Summer for sporting activities. The Olympic Games in Paris has been an event that's been exciting to watch as we share in the achievement of the Athletes. So I thought I'd scratch under the surface to find out how they have been planning to make this an Eco friendly Games. We are all aware of the massive Carbon footprint that brings the teams to Paris...but what have they tried to do to make a difference in 2024.

The Games had to be sustainable and aligned to the Paris Agreement that took place in 2015 regarding the Climate Crisis . The Planning was to halve the carbon footprint of other Games and to reduce the emissions. To this end they funded a programme that would avoid and capture carbon emissions, with the aim to offset all the footprint of all the travelling etc.

So let's start at the beginning. In planning for the Games - Paris calculated the first "material footprint" which mapped out the resources required in every area and how the life cycle of all the resources could be managed - from seating to tents, from beds and chairs to tennis balls.

The opening ceremony on the Seine, when we watched the boats carrying the athletes - 30% of those boats were electrically propelled. Charging points along the River have been extended so many more electric vehicles and boats can use them. We all watched anxiously to hear whether they would be able to swim in the Seine. A programme to accelerate the cleaning of the water was put in place, but we all witnessed what happened when it rained. Pollution solutions are being planned and it is hoped that by 2025 all Parisians will be able to enjoy swimming in the River. An ambitious target!

Let's go on now to the venues. 95% of the venues used were already in existence. So new building projects were minimal. Innovative projects and solutions for energy, food, transport and digital services were found. Compared to past Olympics, there was less single use plastic, less food waste, all water bottles were reusable. If diesel generators were needed they were powered by biofuel, hydrogen or batteries. There was a policy to recycle and reuse furniture - coffee tables made out of recycled badminton shuttlecocks, and sports equipment etc.

The medals are interesting too. They have been made from iron from the Eiffel Tower. When it was renovated recently they kept the old metal, preserved it and 18 grams was used in each medal. The Silver and Gold medals contained recycled silver and gold and the Bronze medal made from copper, zinc and tin from reused metal scraps from the Monnaie de Paris, a government-owned company making the French coins.

The energy supplied by EDF was 100% renewable and in the Stade de France 650 LEDs were installed reducing electricity costs there by 80%.

So the city of Paris - as a result of the Olympic Games - has a future resilience plan for the future years. What a legacy for France and what an example for us all!

It's so interesting to hear of all these ideas and know that everyone is making that difference.

Keep going with the differences you are all making to your life style choices.
Every small change is helping our Planet.

Sandra Walton

THE PEACE ROSE

This photo of the Peace rose in my garden is very apt at this moment in time. A further example can be found in the church garden where it was planted as a memorial to a past church organist.

“My peace I give to you”
(John 14:27).

Bob Burton

When I received this from Bob, it reminded me of a book “For Love of a Rose” by Antonia Ridge, which tells the story of this rose. It was created by the Meilland nursery in northern France, in around 1939. The rose was unlike anything Francis Meilland had ever grown before, producing the most beautiful blossoms. He took cuttings from it, and entrusted some of these to a U.S. consul who took it with him as he left France, promising to send them to an



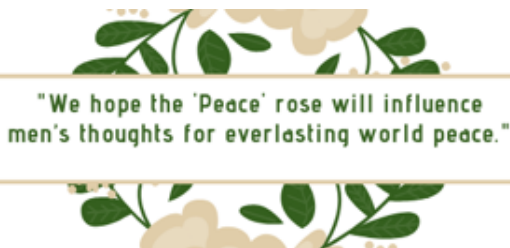
American grower. It was four long years before the Meillands heard that it was safe. On the day that Berlin fell [April 29th 1945] rose growers held a ceremony in California to christen the rose “Peace” and two white doves were set free to fly across a beautiful blue sky. Later in 1945 a Peace rose was handed to each of the delegates at the inaugural meeting of the United Nations in San Francisco. Attached

was a note:

I mentioned this to Bob. He replied that it was one of two roses inherited from his father, who had been a Japanese prisoner of war.

Let us hope and pray that we will be able to celebrate more peace, especially in the dreadful conflicts in Ukraine & Gaza

Celia Lester



Church Garden

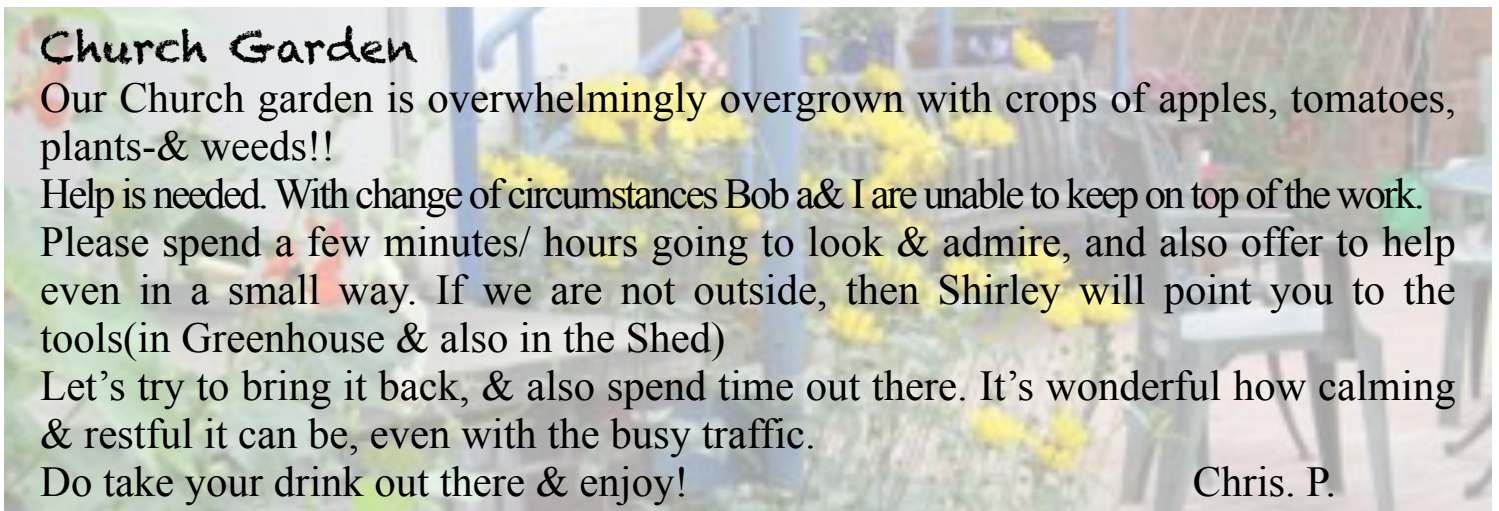
Our Church garden is overwhelmingly overgrown with crops of apples, tomatoes, plants-& weeds!!

Help is needed. With change of circumstances Bob a& I are unable to keep on top of the work. Please spend a few minutes/ hours going to look & admire, and also offer to help even in a small way. If we are not outside, then Shirley will point you to the tools(in Greenhouse & also in the Shed)

Let's try to bring it back, & also spend time out there. It's wonderful how calming & restful it can be, even with the busy traffic.

Do take your drink out there & enjoy!

Chris. P.



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

Welcome to our Autumn meetings. Thank you. Linda Mann

TUESDAY FELLOWSHIP DATES - September - November 2024

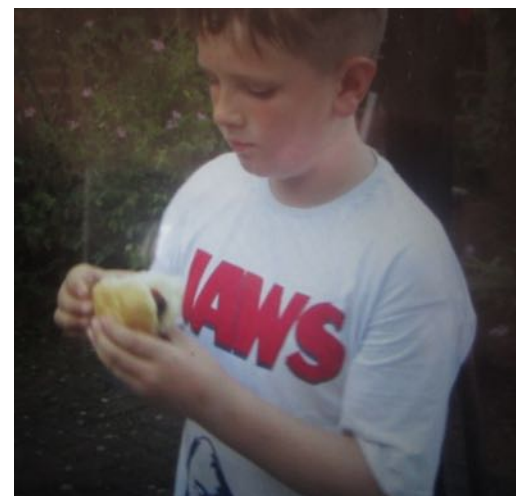
<u>DATE</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>OPENER</u>
September 10 th	Holiday Reminiscences	L.M.
24 th	Barbara Calvert - Bike Ride	H.P.
October 8 th	Poetry - Winter	S.B.
22 nd	Linda Woodhouse - Part 2	L.M.
November 12 th	Music Afternoon - Favourite CDs	H.P.

Boys' Brigade

Our family outing was a great success. A full coach load had a great time in Weston, with the warm sunshine a welcome bonus.



Four of our BB leaders helped at the Bournville Festival on the strawberry and tea stall. It was a very busy afternoon, but we all enjoyed ourselves.



The session finished with hot dogs in the church garden [Thanks to Chris Adams], and we start again on Friday 6th September when, as usual, any new members would be most welcome.

Bob Hotchkiss

Joan of Arc



Kingdom of France

On a recent trip to France I stayed two nights in Rouen, the capital of Normandy. It is a fine city sitting on the banks of the meandering R. Seine, about two hours drive downstream from Paris. A notable event in Rouen's history is that during the Hundred Years' war the English captured the charismatic young woman known to the French as Jeanne d'Arc. Rouen became the place where she was put on trial and burnt at the stake.



Kingdom of England

When William the Conqueror became king of England in 1066, William and later kings claimed ownership of significant lands in northern France. Henry V and later Henry VI even vied with the French king Charles VI and later Charles VII to be the the rightful heir to the French throne. They sent armies to France for over a century from 1337. Initially they had great success, capturing large areas of northern France including Paris, before moving on to lay siege to significant towns in the Loire valley.

Joan was born in NE France. As a young girl she could see visions of St Michael and other saints, and they had told her to rid France of the English. She managed to get an audience with Charles VII. In April 1429 he sent her to help defend Orleans against an English siege. Joan slipped through English lines and got into the town where she rallied the French defenders. Nine days later the siege was lifted. Joan became a celebrity and took the title the 'Maid of Orleans' to underline her chastity. She is often portrayed wearing shining armour and proudly waving a French banner, triumphantly riding her horse through

claimed she



cheering French crowds. The French now had God on their side. This victory made it possible for Charles to get to Reims where all French kings were historically crowned. Joan insisted Charles go to Reims without delay and be crowned King of France. She was given a prominent place at his coronation.

In later battles however Joan was captured and handed over to the English. They imprisoned her in Rouen and put her on trial. French clerics sympathetic to the English questioned her closely and eventually found her guilty of wearing mens clothes and being under satanic guidance. She was burnt at the stake on 30th May 1431 aged just 19 years. If French clerics had found Joan guilty of being a witch then her unwavering public support for Charles undermined his right to be the French king. In 1456 more French clerics reviewed the trial evidence and concluded she had been found guilty by false procedure. They overturned the verdict and publicly tore up the trial edicts.

The French eventually threw the English out of France, only allowing them trade control over Calais. In 1920 Joan was canonised by the Roman Catholic church.



If you go to Rouen today look for the church built in 1979 in the market square close to the river. It's a beautiful modern building dedicated to a brave young woman who is venerated as a patron saint of France.

Peter Childs [with thanks to Wikipedia!]

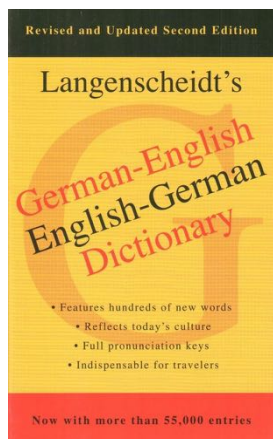
English is Tough Stuff!

Reading Celia's article about language in the July edition of Roundabout started me thinking about all sorts of quirks in languages. I taught German for 30 years and occasionally English as a Foreign Language. English is a wonderfully mongrel language, not always easy for non-natives to learn. I taught English to adults in Germany and the question was always - "why is it like that?" Then, when I taught German to adults in the Brasshouse Language Centre in Birmingham, it was the same question - "why is it like that?" The answer is because it is !

For instance, German has one form of the present tense, English has three- I play, I am playing, I do play. We know how to use these different forms but it is quite a mountain to climb for new learners. I used to say it was the English revenge. English has one word for "the" German has many (not just three - far more). There are many words for "a" as well, so this evens things up. Teaching English made me think a lot about rules in my own language- like this " You will do that for me, won't you" What's the rule?? It's all a question of following patterns just as you would when cooking, knitting or consulting a car manual.

Here's an example of patterns. When a child is starting to speak we smile when a little one says "I drank my milk" That child is following a pattern, a complicated structure. The child had thought - I play/ I played. I walk/ I walked - therefore I drink/ I drank. Sorry little one, you just have to learn there are irregular verbs in English and in other languages too.

I think when you learn a foreign language you have to clear your mind a bit of your own language and prepare for things to be different. There are sometimes words that are called 'false friends', that is words that look like your language but are not what they seem. So, the word 'gift' in English is a word we like - ooh, someone has got me a present - but beware! That word in German means poison. The German word 'Mist' means muck or manure so when German children learn 'I missed the bus' they get the giggles - and what about Doris Day singing ' in the morning mist



two lovers kissed' it doesn't bear thinking about! Don't even get me started on the word ' fahrt'. If you learn German you just have to get used to saying it. When my parents stayed with us in Germany a man at the petrol station said to my mother "gute Fahrt" meaning have a good journey. My mother was outraged but my father couldn't stop laughing. (some of you knew my mother, Madge, but did you know that she once spoke German on Sky News? You may wonder why, if you ask me I'll tell you.)

Here's another thing about language that you might not have thought of. In English stories roosters say cockadoodledo but not in other languages. In German it's kikeriki, Polish kukurykuu, French cocorico and Dutch kukeleku. By the way - in Japanese frogs say kero kero.



I said before English is a mongrel language. We've taken in so many words but we don't even think of them as anything but English - bungalow from Bengali, Kindergarten from German and you could go on and on. Talking of foreign words I have a theory. Use a foreign word and you can charge more. Gateau is French for cake but I'm sure more is charged for a slice of gateau than for a humble piece of cake. Panini is only the Italian word for sandwich but it sounds posher. Latte means milk in Italian but use it as the name for a particular cup of coffee and make a fortune. Barista is Italian for server but it sounds more upmarket. It's time to claim back our words!

Languages have been so much part of my life. I even enjoyed learning Latin at school. This was because at KN Girls we had a most imaginative Latin teacher. She taught us some structures by doing the Hokey Cokey - yes really! Is Latin a dead language? Not if you can say the following- can you guess?

James Cagney once said in a film. Tu, rattus turpis!

Brian Wilson's pop group was Pueri litoris

and Captain Kirk often said to his chief engineer Me transmittite sursum, Caledoni!
So there you have it. A brief stroll through the wonders of language. So I'll just say goodbye, adieu, auf Wiedersehen, ciao.

Rita Sutton

Christmas Fair



This year we are planning to hold our
Christmas Fair on
Saturday 30th November.

Please put the date in your diary.
If you would be willing to have a stall,
or to help in any way, please tell Dorothy.



More information will be available later.

Farewell to Revd Mike & Susan Claridge

As you will have read in Mike's Message, he will be leaving us on 31st October. His final service will be on Sunday 27th October, when we shall thank them, and bid them farewell formally. Please make a note of the date in your diary, and we look forward to seeing as many of our members as possible then.

From Peter Rookes

Greetings Friends

Please find attached our August edition of BCF Update and Events. Could we please draw your attention to :-



1. On August 8th, the visit of the Prime Minister, Sir Keir Starmer, who advised us of the decisive action the government are taking to halt the anti-Muslim violence across many parts of the UK. He also advised us of the grants available to improve security in mosques. It was a good opportunity to talk to him and Justice Secretary, Shabana Mahmood, about the important role of Faith organisations in our city,

where 80% of the population claim a faith affiliation, in building cohesion and the importance of how our Faith Covenant with the City Council and other statutory organisations is working.

2. BCF AGM on Mon 16th Sept at 7.0pm at Ramgarhia Sikh Temple - all welcome
3. Annual Subscriptions due £10 - if you are not a member, why not join now, email pjrookes@gmail.com.
4. BrumEnergy offers free independent home energy advice from local trained advisors. Advice can range from a short conversation or home visit to advice about how you can make changes to your day to day energy use. They can also supply warm home packs of items to keep you warm and save energy in your home, as well as signposting you to other organisations which can provide wider support.

Every Blessing Peter and Bilqees



Would you like to join our **Exploring World Faiths** sessions. To do so, you would need to join the u3a any of the South Birmingham u3as Kings Norton, Kings Heath and Moseley, or Harborne and Edgbaston <https://www.u3a.org.uk/>. There are 2 programmes

Local programme we meet monthly on a Thursday morning and are currently exploring Christianity starting with the Catholic Church.

19th Sept - we will be visiting English Martyrs Church, Sparkhill, where we will meet Mauricio Silva and some of our Faith Guides

Webinars: Mon 16th Sept - Charity in Faith

Mon 11th Nov - Faiths in Society

Please book on Eventbrite in the usual way by clicking -
u3a website - Learn - Subject Advice - Exploring World Faiths - Upcoming
Webinar. These webinars are open to all members of the u3a and start at 10.00am.
Further details - Dr. Peter Rookes, National Subject Advisor
u3a Exploring World Faiths, 077033 36088 pjrookes@gmail.com.



CONNECTING COMMUNITIES

Discussing current topics with key people

Co-hosted by Mahmooda Qureshi &
Dr. Peter Rookes

Tune in every fortnight; Mondays @ 4pm

Listen live on Unity FM 93.5 to our next 2 programmes at 4.0pm

Mon 2nd Sept - Food banks

Mon 16th Sept - Simon Foster, Police and Crime Commissioner - To be confirmed

Derek & Pauline's Corner Shop



Derek & Pauline
Hughes have been
running this
convenience store in
Cotteridge on the
corner of Rowheath
Road for 60 years -



an event which featured on BBC Midlands Today on
Friday 23 August. Many congratulations to them both.

Bake Sale



at



The Cotteridge Church

Raised £110.10p
for Church funds



Many thanks to



donors, helpers, and buyers!



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 September 2024 edition by 29th October 2024 to
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