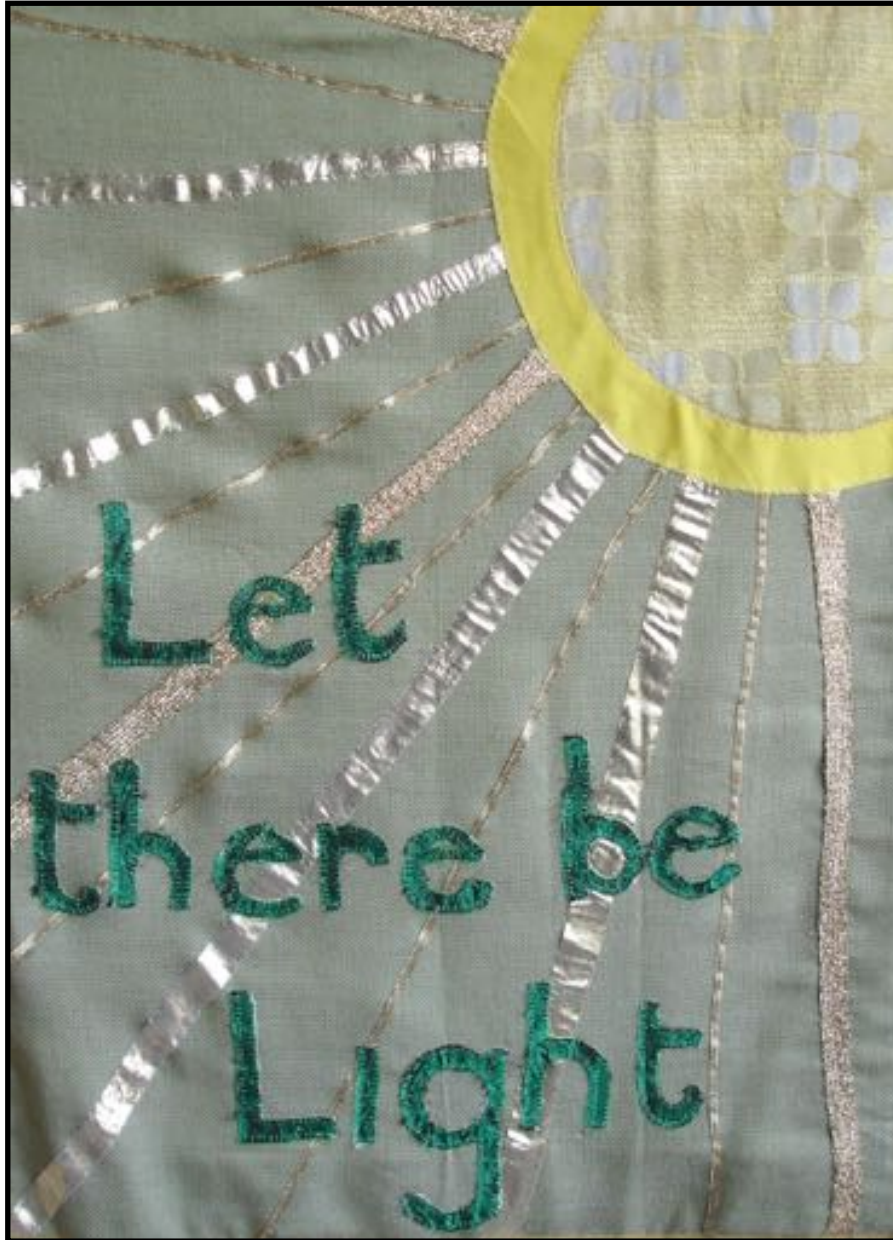


# Roundabout



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

**March 2018**

## From the Vestry

About 350 years ago a shipload of travellers landed on the northeast coast of America. The first year they established a town site. The next year they elected a town government. The third year the town government planned to build a road five miles westward into the wilderness. In the fourth year the people tried to impeach their town government because they thought it was a waste of public funds to build a road five miles westward into a wilderness. Who needed to go there anyway? Here were people who had the vision to see three thousand miles across an ocean and overcome great hardships to get there. But in just a few years they were not able to see even five miles out of town. They had lost their pioneering vision. With a clear vision of what we can become in Christ, no ocean of difficulty is too great. Without it, we rarely move beyond our current boundaries.



In Proverbs we read where there is no vision the people perish ch27 v18. When the church first came together in 1989 it promoted itself on the basis of being a place of proclamation, of service, of reconciliation, and of celebration but the church did not really take in these into account when making decisions.

Thirty years down the line we now have a mission statement which says The calling of The Cotteridge Church is to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission. It does this through: Worship Engagement Service Evangelism Inclusion If we change evangelism for proclamation then the initial letters spell wipes or swipe. The challenge now is to see if we can come up with a mnemonic which summarises our vision.

Perhaps the words of one of the hymns we sing in Singing the Faith will help live out your creed and risk your life for God alone:

Community of Christ,

look past the Church's door and see the refugee, the hungry, and the poor.

Take hands with the oppressed, the jobless in your street,  
take towel and water, that you wash your neighbour's feet.  
cry out for justice and for peace the whole world round:

Roger

## Friends & Family

We are sad to announce the deaths of Adrian Smith, Jean Norris, and Christopher Murphy. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families and friends.

I have a very dear old friend, who wishes to be known as "The Old Troglodyte". She has agreed to let me publish an article she wrote some years ago for St George's Church in Edgbaston, and it is reproduced in Roundabout with their permission.

Many of you will now know Sarah Knebel, who has joined our congregation, with her two children - at their behest. She will be conducting services for us, and we asked her to introduce herself here to everyone. [See also the article #Pray24Brum later on in the magazine.]

## Welcome to Sarah

My name is Sarah Knebel. I am a Student Methodist Minister in training and have been linked to The Cotteridge Church, where I am to experience some of the practical elements my training.

I moved, with my two children and my husband, to Birmingham in August 2017 to commence my ministerial studies at Queens Theological College and have enjoyed worshipping at The Cotteridge Church since October.

Born in Romford, I moved to Midsomer Norton, near Bath when I was five and lived there for the majority of my life until our recent move here. I have also lived in Leeds as a University Student and in Germany for a year in my early twenties.

I am married and have two children, both girls, aged three and five years old. When I am not studying I enjoy walking and cycling and can happily lose a few hours curled up with a good book, whilst listening to music. Prior to moving to Birmingham I worked as a Pastoral Worker for the Methodist Church in Keynsham, and before that I was a Commercial Manager for a small digital print company near Bath.

I became a Christian at the age of 16 and settled at my local Methodist church. It was there that I first experienced what it means to be part of the family of God and later became a Local Preacher. I have been testing the call to Presbyteral ministry since 2008 and finally felt I was ready to candidate in May 2016. The candidating process takes almost a year, so it was with great relief and much excitement that I was accepted for training from September of last year on a two year full-time course. I can hardly believe that, as I write, I am already half way through the first year.

I am excited to be at The Cotteridge Church for my practical training, where I will be observing a number of church meetings, helping at Saplings, visiting the CC Day Centre, and preaching, alongside other practical aspects as my role develops.

Please do stop me for a chat if you would like to know more. I am really enjoying getting to know you and would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to you all for the warm welcome you have extended to myself and the children since our arrival.

Every blessing,

Sarah



## Boys Brigade

During February Sharn Khan has attended a President's badge course and has now qualified for his award which we hope to be presented at a future church parade service. Euan Clayton has also attended a one day course towards his Queen's Badge.



The Anchor section spent one Friday making and eating pancakes while the Juniors on the same evening were busy making Valentine cards

Also a reminder of our General Knowledge Quiz on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> April. Full details can be found on a separate page of Roundabout.



Bob Hotchkiss

## Cotteridge Country Walkers: Sandwell Valley

The January outing of the Cotteridge Country Walkers (CCW) stayed in town with the aim of having firm paths underfoot during winter months and keeping the distance from home to the start as low as we could. I've been to Sandwell Valley a few times before but as time passes trees mature and the landscape changes. I was pleasantly surprised by how much there was to see and do in this large green space on the border between Birmingham and Sandwell cut through by the northern section of the M5. The lower section is a flood plain for the River Tame but balancing lakes have been created, and one is managed as a wetlands reserve by the RSPB.

Access to the middle section of the valley is found by driving down Forge Lane opposite the West Bromwich football ground. The western end can be found from Dartmouth Park off West Bromwich High Street close to the new metro line stop.

We started from Swan Pool and walked around the east side of the lake before heading uphill for a mile or so through woodland, passing three lakes created as a natural habitat and full of water birds, crossed the M5 using a footbridge, found a sculpture woodland, and arrived at a Sandwell Park Farm, a Victorian farming museum with a cafe and toilets. Still heading west we skirted round the more formal part of Dartmouth Park before turning north then east along bridal paths and running trails to cross over a second footbridge back over the M5. We continued on to reach Forge Mill Farm, a still working dairy farm where it is free to look around as well as use their cafe and toilets. After lunch we continued around Forge Mill lake. This has a bird hide on the northern bank where we saw lapwing gathering food out on artificial sandbars set in the lake, and a bittern (a variant of a heron) hiding in thicker vegetation. Further on the RSPB visitor centre has a TV display screen showing several different birds coming to their feeding station, notably green parakeets able to overwinter as our climate becomes warmer. We continued round the other side of the lake and crossed over the R Tame before heading back to our car.

Exploring Birmingham and the surrounding countryside on foot is always interesting as well as getting gentle exercise. The CCW lead walks each month throughout the year so look in the weekly newsletter for the next opportunity to join us.

Peter Childs





The Cotteridge Church  
**Joint Church Council**  
**Summary of Proceedings 18th January 2018**

### **Key Decisions**

1. It was agreed that role outlines for: Day Centre Volunteer, Foodbank Management, Saplings, Co-ordinator, Saplings Leader, Saplings Helper, Coffee Bar Volunteer, Flower Arranger, Parish Safeguarding Coordinator, Parish Identity Verifier and Pastoral Link should be adopted.
2. The provisions of the “Moving Towards a Statement of being an Inclusive Church” were adopted.
3. It was agreed that Lent Courses should be run, both, at 11:00 on Tuesdays and 19:30 on Wednesdays.
4. It was agreed to apply for a maintenance grant to cover the repairs to the tower.
5. It was agreed that Keely Tattersfield as fundraiser to secure funds for here ongoing activities and for APEC to further develop plans for the development of the Church buildings.
6. The appointment of Sarah Knebel to the Young Peoples Forum was approved.
7. The date and time of The Cotteridge Church Annual General Meeting was agreed as 10:30 Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> April 2018.

### **Summary Proceedings**

1. It was reported the “Switch My Business” has provide a cheaper quote for the electricity supply and the church is now registered with them for both gas and electricity.
2. The chair noted that our caretaker, Colin, has decided to retire due to ill health.
3. It was noted that, although the Young People’s Christmas Service had been affected by the adverse weather, those who did attend enjoyed making Christingles.
4. It was confirmed that Life and Soul will continue to run the morning services on fifth Sundays.
5. The Treasurer noted that there was a considerable shortfall against budget in Congregational giving (£6,505) and Room Hire (£3,040).
6. The Treasurer also noted that there was a deficit of recurring expenditure over recurring income of £19,743, which if it continues means the Church will run out of funds in seven years.
7. It was reported that a Stewardship Campaign has been planned for March and will be launched on Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> March 2018.

### **Referrals**

1. Advice will be sought from Cotteridge Fire Station regarding replacement batteries for the defibrillators.
2. Fund raising for the Foodbank’s contribution in support of the Church facilities it uses to be discussed by the Foodbank Steering Group and a discussion document presented to the next JCC meeting.
3. The Finance and Property Group is to obtain the appropriate number of quotes for the replacement of the Administrator’s office computer.

The next meeting of the Joint Church Council will be on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2018 at 19:30.

*This Summary is authorised by:*

*Laurie Brown    Chair of the Cotteridge Church Joint Church Council.*



The Cotteridge Church  
**Joint Church Council**  
**Summary of Proceedings 15th February 2018**

### **Key Decisions**

1. It was agreed that Shirley Payton would take over the caretakers cleaning responsibilities and that David Pycock would pick up many of the odd jobs previously performed by the caretaker.
2. The Parish Policy for responding to Domestic Abuse was adopted after it was agreed to rename it as The Church Policy.
3. It was agreed that the approval of appointments to the minister, but not the approvals of role outlines.

### **Summary Proceedings**

1. It was noted that David Pycock has plans in hand to replace the faulty emergency light fittings.
2. It was noted that Doreen Hancock had volunteered to be the take the role of Building Steering Group Treasurer.
3. A discussion took place on the effects of the United Kingdom adopting The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), replacing existing data protection legislation, on The Cotteridge Church.
4. It was noted that lent courses begin next week on Tuesday mornings and Wednesday evenings.
5. It was stated that volunteers were being sought for Sunday Coffee service, 1-2 Vestry Stewards, Male readers and Christian Aid week collectors.
6. It was suggested that a partition to fill the window space from the Pennine Way into the old photocopying room, to prove an extra advertising board and a post box.
7. The Treasurer reported that income for the first two months of this year was £16,000 while expenditure was already £23,500.
8. The Treasurer also reported he was going to change the accounting for this year to produce amalgamation of all Cotteridge accounts for the Charity commission but ask Sue and Gary Brookes to look at amalgamated Church and Catering accounts separately so the Church has meaningful figures to identify short falls.
9. It was noted that this was going to be Laurie Browns last JCC as Chair. The JCC expressed their thanks for his work during the past two years.

### **Referrals**

1. On Roger Collins request the Finance and Property Group are to calculate the cost to the Church of hosting the B30 Food Bank.
2. Simon Roper will be asked to investigate if a speaker can be installed to allow the Choir to hear the service.

The next meeting of the Joint Church Council will be on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2018 at 19:30.

*This Summary is authorised by:*

*Laurie Brown    Chair of the Cotteridge Church Joint Church Council.*

## The Cotteridge Church - Feasibility Study Update

At The Cotteridge Church we have been working with APEC Architects to consider the re-ordering and modernisation of our building. It is now some 30 years since our Church building was developed and parts are looking tired. So back in May 2016 a feasibility study was started to enable us to look at our changing needs, how we wish to develop what we do and how our building can be developed to best serve these changes.

**Phase 1** of this study concluded in June 2017 after consultation with our stake holders and resulted in a design brief and proposed layout plans. A report of this process was presented at the Congregational Meeting in June. Feedback from this process resulted in the need for a phase 2.

**Phase 2** was started in September 2017 to address the feedback which highlighted the need for people to be able to see options in 3D, especially design options for the frontage of the Church. This work was started by APEC Architects who then presented design options to the Building Steering Group (BSG). Three very different designs were chosen, and elevation drawings and 3D models were prepared. These went on display in October 2017 in Church and comments and preferences were requested.

A



B



C



The information collected from the questionnaires was presented to the BSG and JCC in November 2017. The result was published in the notice sheet.

This phase 2 included consultation with church members, volunteers, employees and building users. A total of 82 questionnaires were returned and the following preferences were stated:

Option A	11 respondents
Option B	34 respondents
Option C	31 respondents
No preference	3 respondents
None	3 respondents

The results showed that those who had been unable to make a decision previously, with the help of 3D models had now been able to do so. Feedback to option C was generally not positive giving little or no merits to the design, practical or operational advantages rather 'least disliked'. While feedback to options A and B was generally positive. Option A providing many of the practical solutions to needs raised in phase 1 and option B providing the wow design factor. Many saw merits in both of these designs. Taking the positive and constructive feedback to options A and B it became clear that new design work could be developed combining these two designs.

The proposal to develop plans based on the positive feedback to options A and B was put to JCC in November 2017 and agreed.

**Going forward** we need funding to be able to develop the plans further. In January 2018 the JCC agreed to work with Keely Tattersfield a professional fundraiser. Keely will be working initially for 3 months to raise money for both her own work, of submitting funding applications and that of APEC Architects. If funding is secured APEC Architects will carry out design develop. This will include consultation with the wider community, submission of pre-application design enquiry to both the Methodist Church and Local Planning Authority and a full Planning Application. The process will also require business planning to ensure there is a plan for sustainability.

**We are at the beginning** of a journey that aims to see our Church grow and develop further to serve our community for many years to come. The building is only part of the solution for a sustainable future, as we explore ways of serving our community, growing younger, increasing our income and our giving. Let's work together to ensure a purposefully future serving God in the heart of Cotteridge.

Jane Jones – *on behalf of the Building Steering Group*

### **How well do you know Mothers?**

We shall be celebrating Mothering Sunday - the fourth Sunday in Lent - on 11th March. It was the day on which people would visit their "mother church" but it has now become an occasion for honouring mothers, and for their children to give them presents, and is now widely known as Mothers' Day.

So it would be fitting to see if you know who was the mother for each of a number of biblical characters.

*Answers next time*

#### **Who was the mother of ...?**

1. Samuel	Peninah	Hannah	Abigail	Esther
2. Isaac	Rebekah	Sarah	Salome	Gomer
3. John the Baptist	Elizabeth	Joanna	Deborah	Mary Magdalen
4. Seth	Bathsheba	Eve	Deborah	Esther
5. Jesus	Mary	Martha	Miriam	Ruth
6. Joseph	Rachel	Rebekah	Leah	Hannah
7. Ishmael	Sarah	Hagar	Bilhah	Rebekah
8. Solomon	Michal	Tamar	Bathsheba	Jezebel
9. Jacob & Esau	Rebekah	Rachel	Miriam	Sarah
10. Timothy	Phoebe	Lois	Eunice	Salome
11. Cain & Abel	Hagar	Ruth	Eve	Delilah
12. Joseph & Benjamin	Anna	Rachel	Keturah	Lydia



## The Old Troglodyte Learns a Thing or Two

My old friend of the brown hat and gloves taught me a lot about Birmingham. My initiation in 1950 into Midland iron founding industrial and Non-conformist circles brought both shock and admiration. Firmly corrected for having referred to "Cuventry" on my arrival, I was told "Here we say Coventry". "Yes", said the old man at the dinner table, "and we don't always trust 'em!" It seemed there was a long standing rivalry, but a deep and sympathetic view of that war-shattered city. I was also informed "Birmingham is the second city of England - after London, of course" This title "Second City" which I heard on numerous occasions, seems to have disappeared. The population of Birmingham was over a million then, and even beat Manchester, to everyone's satisfaction round that dinner table.

A loyal and and discreet clerk at the Lord Mayor's Office informed me at some social gathering in the Council House about 1951 "Birmingham, you see, was an unchartered city until comparatively recently, and this allowed non-conformist preachers to preach within the town itself, since the law of the land, under the Five Mile Act, prevented such folk from preaching within a chartered town. This act therefore, allowed the non-conformist ministers and their followers to come into the town of Birmingham. Hence the migration of Quakers, Unitarians, Baptists, Methodists and the like."

So this explained much to me. Thus came the ideals, endeavour to introduce reforms and local planning for the well-being of industrial citizens. Consequently there came slum clearance, deep sewers, fresh Welsh water, and improvements to industrial employment for a number of factories and districts.

There was much still undone, but beginnings were made. Perhaps the clean water made a major improvement also to morale. Garden city and local development of housing and care of old people began. The Birmingham Council for Old People introduced a chiropody service, day centres and meals-on-wheels [largely taken over today by the Local Authority]

I saw this at first hand one day when I was present at a selection committee I served upon. A lesson that has remained with me. An old old Quaker sat directly across the table from me [We were considering an application for housing in a new Voluntary Scheme for retired residents] and said "It is NOT what she has in the bank [it was £500 - in the 1950s] but what is her NEED" That word "NEED" has stood before me ever since. The Friends, so often, have seen a gap, often undefined and not necessarily evident, between statutory provisions of laws or local authorities and reality.

As a follower of the Church of England, I found the discipline of accepting the worship in many non-conformist services rather difficult. It made me examine my own beliefs and rituals. Having married a non-conformist, I had to accept and enjoy and learn another form of worship. My father was right: there are many routes to God and possible salvation. But I did miss the cross on the altar. That made me think hard and made me strong in my own established ways of worship. But it also, I think, made me more tolerant, and so realise that it was all a form of devotion and worship. Tolerance and admiration for other beliefs and views - yes, but quite a discipline. It seems to be a point particularly relevant to life today. This has left me with a special loyalty for my own church, yet coupled with an admiration and greater tolerance for other rituals and beliefs.

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## IS THERE ?

Is there anything new under the sun ?

On the evening of a recent Friday in an upper room of Alvechurch Sports and Social Club, raconteur and leading light of Alvechurch “Am Drams” Chris Davies said these words during concert storytime

“Don't you believe it when they say to you,  
There is nothing in this world that is entirely new.”

“There is nothing new under the sun” though an old adage is a groundless falsehood. For in and throughout every fraction of a nano-second everything changes, seen or unseen. known or unknown, either things grow or they decay.

It is impossible to deny that all things change with time, including both solid objects, ideas and human mores.

There is an exception. “The same today, the same for ever - Who like me God's praise should sing?”

Even God's word changes as any member of a church study group will tell you as found in many interpretations and translations of the original and later modifications depending upon which Bible edition is consulted.

Word choices are important. Send us out in “Newness of life” is not an empty benediction to close church worship. It is a solemn promise available lifelong to all “in both sickness and health”. It is a spiritual promise.

Christ died for us at Eastertide that we may live “In newness of life” all our days.

Greetings to all, especially readers of Roundabout.

Gordon Parsons

## Mud, Mud, Glorious Mud

Please forgive me if, when you asked, “Did you have a good holiday?” and “Did you have lovely weather?”, I snorted and pulled a face. Doing sponsored walks in the Holy Land is not really a holiday for me because I'm not a walker. However, having said that, it is very inspiring to walk in places you have read about since Sunday School Days. And the weather - not too good! In January 2012 it snowed just before we started our Jerusalem walk! This time, the weather was very cold and dry when we walked, and very cold and wet on the days in between. When I say wet, I mean soaking, drenching, “you have never seen rain like it” wet. [That's why I came home with a streaming cold]. In Nazareth the torrent of water rushing down the street took out a manhole cover. It was like the dancing waters.

There were four walks this year. The first one in Jerusalem, was somewhat disrupted by a certain Mike Pence, vice president of the U.S.A. Security was more tight than ever and some of our route had to be changed. The walk was along the Via Dolorosa, which is now the Muslim market, so we were pushed and jostled and we had to cope with lots of steps. After lunch we could choose how we completed our walk. I chose the route



## Via Dolorosa, Jerusalem



that by chance passed the Austrian Hospice, where we just had to stop for Apfelstrudel and coffee [well it would have been rude not to!] We continued to the garden Tomb and finished at our hotel. One down, three to go.

I didn't do the second walk because it was vertical, down the Wadi Qelt to a Greek monastery and up again. Several people opted out of that one, and I won't tell you what the people, who did it, said.

After this I couldn't wait to get to Galilee, not knowing that they had had some of that very wet rain the week before. Our third walk was round the top of the lake to Capernaum. It went very well at first but then we encountered ... mud! It was thick and black and I had to be pulled out of it several times. We had lunch and some people decided to walk on while the rest of us opted to be taken by coach to the place where we would get the boat to cross the lake. There was no rush, so eventually we got on to the coaches

just as we saw the walkers coming back. The rest of the planned route was flooded.

At the end of that day I binned my trainers! The weather for our fourth and final walk was better. I only did parts and was taken by golf buggy between various stages. The Huleh Valley in the north of Galilee is a wonderful bird sanctuary and we saw lots of amazing species.

I was raising money for the Bethlehem Al Shurooq school for the visually handicapped. The work done there is so impressive. Because they have few resources, the teachers are extremely



Huleh

imaginative in the materials they use. The

## Al Shurooq School, Bethehem



runny nose, and ruined trainers.

classes are small and the teachers so dedicated. Every penny raised goes to the projects run by Palestinian Christians.

We pay our own expenses and the McCabe Educational Trust, which organises everything, takes no admin. fees. 75 people from all over the U.K. walked and the amount raised will be £50,000 plus. I can't thank you enough for sponsoring me. The smiling faces of those children at the school were well worth my aching legs,

Rita Sutton.

## The Tuesday Fellowship

This is a new group which has been formed from an amalgamation of 2 groups which have been running since long before the formation of The Cotteridge Church. The 2 groups were The Tuesday Women's Guild and the Tuesday Women's

Fellowship (formerly the Women's Evening Fellowship and before that Young Wives). The memberships of these groups has declined over the past few years and as we have similar interests we thought it would be sensible to put the groups together into one group. The name of the new group is The Tuesday Fellowship. We hope that the new name will open up the membership to men as well as women. Most of our members are retired and we meet for fellowship at 2.15 pm on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month. We have speakers coming to talk on a range of topics usually travel related and we also have music, poetry and quiz afternoons but we meet mainly to enjoy each others' company. Our subscription is £1.50p payable at each meeting attended which includes a cup of tea or coffee at the beginning of each meeting.

We would be pleased to welcome new members. For further information please contact Linda Mann or Hazel Nash.

### Short of time but still want to volunteer?

Every issue of Roundabout now features areas of the Church's work

where we are particularly short of volunteers. This time we feature a range of opportunities particularly suited to those who cannot commit to frequent volunteering but still want to do their bit.

If you are interested in volunteering in any of the areas of particular need below, contact me or the coordinator listed directly:

- **Christian Aid Collectors:** Christian Aid Week is coming up in May and we are in need of collectors. This is only a couple of hours of work once a year to contribute to the considerable funds we raise each year. (Contact Lin and Laurie Brown)
- **AV Operators:** An essential role on Sunday mornings only about once a month or less. It involves setting up, running AV during the service and packing up after – full training is provided. (Contact Mike Meadows)
- **Supporting worship:** There are various roles required during the Sunday service and currently we are short of Vestry Stewards and (male) Bible readers. Again, you would be on a rota with duties less than once a month. (Contact Mike Meadows)
- **Sunday coffee:** Serving teas and coffees with a smile is a great way to contribute to fellowship amongst the congregation and talk to lots of old and new friends. Once a month you would set up, serve and clear up with another volunteer. (Contact me)
- **Flower arranging:** For those who want a bit of creativity on Saturday morning (with a free coffee from coffee bar!) Training can be provided and frequency is very flexible. (Contact Lin Brown)

We always have a variety of vacancies, so if you think you want to help in any way on a regular or occasional basis, please contact me to discuss a role that might suit your interests and availability.



Pam Waddell (Volunteering Promotion and Recruitment Co-ordinator)  
[pam.waddell@thecotteridgechurch.org.uk](mailto:pam.waddell@thecotteridgechurch.org.uk), 0121 459 2396 or via 'W' pigeon hole

## **Pennine Way Trips 2018**

**Wednesday March 14th** Whichford Pottery, Shipston on Stour  
**Wednesday April 11th** Day Trip The Royal Mint, near Cardiff  
**Thursday May 10th** Upton Boat Trip, with Cream Tea

Please contact Rita Sutton for more information, and to book your place.

# **7<sup>th</sup> Birmingham Boys' Brigade**



**Presents...**



## **The Annual**

# **General Knowledge Quiz**

**On Friday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

**7:30pm for 7:45pm start**

**At The Cotteridge Church**

>the adventure begins here

**Entry is £2 per person**

**6 people maximum per team**

**Feel free to bring your own drinks &  
nibbles**

**Raffle with PRIZES to be won**

For more information please visit our website

[www.7thbhambb.co.uk](http://www.7thbhambb.co.uk)

# Life and Soul 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017

## ‘Transformation’



On the cusp of the year we had our second Sunday morning Life and Soul service, put together by a team from the congregation. We took as our theme ‘Transformation’ and explored this through a variety of ways in the service:

- We used song to think about how we speak out and stand up and take another step towards transforming our own lives and those of others.
- We used a Bible drama to look at examples of people whose journeys saw their lives transformed e.g. Naomi and Ruth, Joseph and Mary, and Saul.
- We participated in a choice of activities to explore the theme further, including:
  - **‘Move’**: drama games based on transformations,
  - **‘Create’**: making a visual picture of where we’ve come from as The Cotteridge Church, where we are now and where we’re going,
  - **‘Write’**: letters to ourselves in the past and in the future,
  - **‘Discuss’**: journeys that have been transformational.

Throughout the service there were many opportunities for sharing our ideas, experiences, thoughts and talents. It was a time filled with fellowship and a perfect moment to glance backwards at the year just ending, then focus on the future through the year just beginning.

The sharing and fellowship continued after the service as we enjoyed a delicious soup and roll lunch together.

We have received positive feedback from many who attended e.g. ‘I was not sure about coming but so glad I did - thank you for all your efforts’. If you haven’t been to a ‘Life and Soul’ service, the next one will be in the morning on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> April when the theme will be Simon Peter. Come along and try it!

If you would like to be involved in planning and/or contributing to future services (which will continue to be on the fifth Sunday in the month) please get in touch with Pam or Clare (see below).

Alison Sprackling

[pam.waddell@thecotteridgechurch.org.uk](mailto:pam.waddell@thecotteridgechurch.org.uk)

[clare.naughton@thecotteridgechurch.org.uk](mailto:clare.naughton@thecotteridgechurch.org.uk)



Percy is a little pigeon, and he's very hungry. Life on the streets is tough, and every time he tries to get hold of a scrap of food, bigger, beefier birds bat him away. He's about to give up when someone offers him her very last chip

A moving and uplifting story about struggle against adversity and the kindness of strangers. 10% of the profits from the sale of the book go to The Trussell Trust, supporting a network of 435 Foodbanks across the UK.

PRICE 6.99

## Services for March and April

	4th March	11th March	18th March	25th March	
9.00 am H.C.	Revd M. Claridge	Revd M. Claridge	Revd M. Claridge	Revd R. Collins	
10.30 am	Revd M. Claridge Parade	Revd L. Dixon H.C.	Revd M. Claridge Stewardship	Revd R. Collins H.C.	
6.30 pm	Revd R. Collins H.C.	Café Church	7.30 pm PNP	Choir	
	1st April	8th April	15th April	22nd April	29th April
9.00 am H.C.	Revd M. Claridge	Revd R. Collins	Revd M. Claridge	Revd M. Claridge	Revd R. Collins
10.30 am	Revd M. Claridge Parade H.C.	Revd R. Collins H.C.	Ms Sarah Kneble	Revd M. Claridge Stewardship H.C.	Life & Soul
6.30 pm	Revd R. Collins H.C.	Café Church	Revd M. Claridge H.C.	Miss Hazel Nash	Mr John Cooper

Communion Services are held each week at 10.00 am on Tuesdays

### Easter Services

Thursday	29th March 7.30 pm	Maundy Thursday Service
Friday	30th March 10.30 am	Good Friday Service
	7.30 pm	Good Friday Service
Saturday	31st March 8.30 pm	Easter Eve: Easter ceremonies

### Fundraising Bulletin March 2018

2018 began well with an enjoyable and successful Burns Night celebration, which raised £381 for church funds.

On Shrove Tuesday we had a very busy and tasty pancake party, with lots of help from the guides, and raised £107 for our Food Ministry

Book Sales have raised £156 so far, of the £1500 target, and the Photo competition on Ice and Water is over £50 so far.

The Church Urban Fund has raised £93

#### Forthcoming Events:

The BB quiz takes place on Friday 6th April [Teams up to 6 members @ £2 per head]. Proceeds will be divided between the Church and St Mary's Hospice.

Easter Sunday Bake Sale [1st April] for Food Ministry.

Easter Canisters will also be distributed then - proceeds for St Basil's.

Bake Sale Sunday 3rd June

Annual Garden Party in August

BB Week. The members of BB will be collecting on Sunday 4th November to aid their running costs.

**Volunteers** to help us organise and run events will be warmly welcomed.

## **Pancake Party**

“We should do a Pancake Party” Said Mike at a fundraising meeting sometime last Autumn. Or at least, that was the gist of it. “Yes!” I said, “Let's!”

I have to confess that, come February, I was slightly concerned whether anyone would come or how the idea would be received. Tuesday nights are busy at Cotteridge; could this event show us the potential for a Tuesday-night opening?

I am delighted and humbled to report that the event was a roaring success. Thanks to my ex-chef friend Shilpa, and a very capable team of Guides, we had a constant line of pancakes being served, and the atmosphere in the Pennine way was warm and festive. Guide leaders Tracy and Mary were on-hand to help and I am very grateful for their kindness and can-do attitude. I had originally suggested that we split the proceeds, but the Guides insisted that the full £107 should go to the Food Ministry. I was moved by their generosity and enthusiasm, and I fervently hope that we can find occasion to work together again, soon.

## **Food Ministry**

Having raised £222 for Food Ministry last year, it seemed time to start putting it to use, so in these colder months Shirley and Tina have been cooking up hot soup to serve to Food Bank clients. A small gesture, perhaps, but hopefully a welcome one. We would welcome any other ideas for how the Food Ministry money could be used – the only proviso is that it needs to involve providing for people in need of food and love.

## **Coffee Bar facelift**

The countertop in the Coffee Bar has needed attention for quite some time; David kindly agreed to get some quotations for replacement, but with a new countertop priced at up to £5000, we needed to find another solution. With a bit of enthusiasm and a rather clever worktop-resurfacing product, Alex, Craig and I took on the DIY task and we think it looks rather good. The original worktop remains in-situ, but has been filled, painted and varnished with a specialist hard-wearing epoxy resin (with added sparkles!). While we were working, we have also painted in a new blackboard above the counter so that we can display our menu clearly and attractively to customers. Along with the increasing range of lovely cakes coming from the kitchen, and the promise of some new table-cloths, it looks like 2018 is off to a fresh start!

## **Church Day Centre**

Our Day Centre continues to flourish, with numbers increasing, mainly because of the closure of other centres.

Due to the energy and care of our dedicated staff, members are being helped and encouraged to retain their dignities and memories.



**We thank them.**



## Cotteridge church book centre



EASTER CARDS BEST PRICE £1.60 for a pack of 4  
Easter eggs milk real easter £3.99



THE NEW TRADCRAFT CATALOGUE IS NOW AVAILABLE  
*NEW FOOD STUFFS FISH 4 EVER*  
*TUNA /SARDINES/ MACKEREL*

### Editor's Note.

You will no doubt realise by now that we are working hard to reduce our annual deficit, so that we can maintain all the activities so valued by everyone. Having explored the cheapest ways to produce Roundabout, we conclude that "In house" photocopying remains the cheapest, but it does cost about 40p per copy to produce. We do not have plans to charge for Roundabout, but do ask that you take only as many copies as you need.

## #Pray24Brum

The 18th – 25th January is marked by many churches across the world as a Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. It is a time when we pray with and for each other across our Christian traditions.

Now in its 4th year Birmingham has shared in this international week of prayer and celebration of faith by coming together in one of the city centre churches for 24 hours of prayer. Each hour is led by a different church, group of churches or Christian organisation from across the city region, and we all were invited to come and pray with them: whether that meant calling in for a few moments, staying in prayer for a few hours, or coming and going throughout the two days.

This year the 24 hours of prayer was spread over two days from 8.00am to 8.00pm on Friday and Saturday 19-20 January 2018 at St Martin in the Bull Ring with the theme: *Discovering the heart of God in the heart of the city.*

Mike and Sarah led an hour's meditation with prayers and readings from 3.00pm on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> to which I went. Walking through the bustling Bull Ring shoppers I was a bit saddened by the proliferation of spending going on whilst a dedicated group of people were praying for our city.

During the hour long meditation after Mike introduced The Cotteridge Church and how we came together as three denominations Sarah handed out three strands of three different coloured cord each representing the three denominations. It was whilst meditating on these three strands and our church I thought about the 30 odd years gone by so quickly and what the church has given to me, meant to me and my faith and involvement. I found myself weaving the strands together in a plait and as I came to the end of the strands I realised one section wasn't quite as neat as the most part. A bit like us at Cotteridge I thought! We have our ups and downs, trials, good and fun times together and the bump in the plait represented this. However, running through each strand was a common thread, a white thread and it struck me that in the middle of everything we do at Cotteridge we are bound together



by our faith in God. It is God in the middle of everything we do, united with one another we turn together towards God, praying with one heart for our church, churches within our city and our world.

Lin Brown

## FAITHS FOR FUN EVENT Sun 11<sup>th</sup> March 2018, 1.30 - 5.30 p.m

A reminder that this multi-faith fun event takes place at Hamstead Hall Academy. Full details and an application form were published in the January edition of Roundabout - see <http://www.thecotteridgechurch.org.uk/news/roundabout/roundabout.php> or contact Dr Peter Rookes directly by email [pjrookes@gmail.com](mailto:pjrookes@gmail.com) or phone 477 2282



BIRMINGHAM  
COUNCIL OF FAITHS

## Mission at Cotteridge Church

During the last few weeks, I have been thinking and praying about the mission of Cotteridge Church, particularly in relation to vulnerable and marginalised people in Birmingham and in the poorer countries of the world. The work which Roger and his team do in the Foodbank is a great credit to everyone involved. I was also delighted to see that Roger is planning to use the very moving film 'I, Daniel Blake' as the focus for the Lent group. I have, however, been unable to identify any overseas mission initiative since we worked with the church in Timisoara. As you know, Jean and I worked for 8 years in Papua New Guinea and for 4 years researched Christian health services in developing countries, with field studies in Kenya, Uganda, Malawi and India.

If you are interested in finding out more about the current thinking in mission, there are 3 opportunities coming up within the next few months. I am attending all 3, so if you would like to know more contact Dr Peter Rookes - in church, email [pjrookes@gmail.com](mailto:pjrookes@gmail.com) or phone 477 2282:-

USPG's Conference '**Rethinking Mission: Living in a Religiously Diverse World**' will be held on **Sat 17th March 2018**, 9.30am – 3pm, in St Philip's Cathedral, Birmingham, £10.

Speakers from around the world will inspire, challenge and enthuse us as together we reflect on how we live and engage in mission in religiously diverse situations:-

The Very Revd Canon Hosam Naoum: Dean of St George's Cathedral, Jerusalem and Secretary of the Heads of Churches in Jerusalem

Deaconess Yit Ching Li: Diocese of West Malaysia, Anglican Province of South East Asia

The Revd Christine Benoit: First woman ordained in the Diocese of Seychelles, Anglican Province of the Indian Ocean

Richard Reddie: Theologian, researcher and author, UK

**Africa: Gospel and Culture:** Methodists for World Mission Conference exploring African theology and associated social and economic issues, **1st to 3rd June 2018**, Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire.

The Church is growing in Africa despite encountering various challenges. How has culture permeated the living out of the Gospel in Africa? Come and explore African theology and social and economic issues through stories, art, music and worship.

Speakers include:-

Archbishop Josiah Idowu-Fearon, Sec Anglican Communion Office

Mrs Matilda Johnson, Vice President, World Federation of Methodist & United Church Women

£125-£160, [bookings@mwm.org.uk](mailto:bookings@mwm.org.uk)

**All Things are Possible** USPG Annual Conference

Mon 2 July (registration from 3pm) - Wed 4 (ends 2pm)

High Leigh Conference Centre, Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire EN11 8SG

Discover how Anglican Churches in Africa, Asia and Latin America are engaging with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

With workshops and speakers from throughout the world church, our annual conference is an opportunity to explore how your church can play its part in tackling poverty, fighting inequality, campaigning for climate justice, and much more.

£70 per night, <http://www.uspg.org.uk/conference/>



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