

Roundabout



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

July 2018

Mike's message ...

“City of Sanctuary”

At the time of writing the news is focussing on ‘Aquarius’, a rescue boat in the Mediterranean that had up to 900 people crowded on it after they were saved from smaller, fragile vessels. Italy and Malta, refused to allow it to dock. Now Spain has offered them safe haven.

But thousands more are still at risk, and thousands more have already perished.



In 2005 a movement called ‘City of Sanctuary’ was started. It holds the vision that the UK will be a welcoming place of safety for all and proud to offer sanctuary to people fleeing violence and persecution. This year 24th June was observed as ‘Sanctuary Sunday’ although we focussed on it a week earlier at the beginning of ‘Refugee Week’

A ‘refugee’ is someone seeking refuge, looking for a place of safety, of sanctuary or asylum, away from harm. It is an age-old concept and ever present need. Sadly some groups want to portray refugees and asylum seekers in negative ways and seek to stir up hatred and suspicion.

I have been in Refugee camps twice. In 1991, on a visit to Hong Kong, I visited RAF Sek Kong Detention Centre. There 9000 men, women and children were crammed into an area 900 metres by 150 metres on a disused runway. They were Vietnamese ‘Boat People’, most were Buddhist but a sizeable minority were Christian (mainly Roman Catholic). Back in the UK, as part of my theological training, I was involved with a placement in Handsworth helping Vietnamese Roman Catholics to settle here and learn English.

In 1994 I was in Sri Lanka for a month where I was studying the role of the church in reconciliation, in the context of the civil war that was raging there. On a visit to the war area I saw many displaced people but it was in Colombo, the capital, where we visited a camp. That one was in a hall, barely bigger than The Cotteridge Church’s Malvern Room, and was ‘home’ to 450 people comprising 149 families, each family being allocated a 2 metre by 2 metre ‘booth’. They were Tamils who had fled from the war torn north of Sri Lanka. Most were Hindu but again there was a minority who were Christian (again mainly Roman Catholic) and also a few Muslims.

Those who we see today in boats trying to cross The Mediterranean, are often of many different nationalities and faiths, even in the same boat. They all have different stories to tell. Some are fleeing war and violence, some have been victims of extortionate ‘promises’ of wealth across the sea - ripped off by those who

have cast them adrift after taking their money for 'safe passage'. Others are being trafficked and sold into slavery.

One of the glories of Britain is that, throughout the centuries, it has offered a haven to those seeking safety and sanctuary. Many of them have gone on to make valuable contributions to the life of this country; in science, art, technology, medicine and within the communities in which they have settled. As the writer of the Letter to the Hebrews says:

Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. (Hebrews 13 .2)

For the papers about my visits in Hong Kong and Sri Lanka, and more about City of Sanctuary, go to: www.mjclaridge.co.uk

Friends & Family

Over the next few weeks you may see two students around at church. Dan Balsdon and Judith Lincoln are about to leave Queens to enter Methodist Circuit ministry in September. Dan to West Sussex (Coasts and Downs) Circuit and Judith to Leicester West Circuit. While here they'll be looking at various aspects of our life at Cotteridge. We welcome them.

Happy Birthday to Doris Collins - from the end of June. Thank you for all you do for us.



Foodbank

"The summary of the March JCC (in May Roundabout) may have led to a misapprehension regarding the Foodbank's storage arrangements, and we apologise for this.

Item 7 of the summary should be revised as:

"7. It was noted that the B30 Foodbank is vacating the storage facilities at Hawkesley and is intending to hire a unit on the Kings Norton Factory estate."

Hawkesley Church is still supportive of the Food Bank".

Have you noticed the lovely artwork over the coffee bar counter? It

was done by a young lady called Katrina, who is an apprentice carer in our Day Centre. Katrina took GCSE art at school, and it is now her hobby, and she says she has really enjoyed being employed for this extra project. A big thank you, Katrina, for brightening up the Pennine Way. Rita Sutton.



Bring it to the Lord in Prayer

Hello Lord,

Yes, it's me again. I know you're busy but I have a problem and, as always, I need your help.

You see, it's like this. I have an old cardigan. It really is old, but I don't want to get rid of it. Every time I think I will, something holds me back. My old cardigan is out of shape, doesn't look too good, but I'm comfortable in it. It's cosy and snug.

I know what you're saying, Lord.

“What's the problem? Keep your old cardigan until it falls apart.”

But that's the point, Lord, I don't know whether I should because I have been given a new cardigan. The friends who gave it me say it looks just right on me. Personally, I think the colours are too bright and the shape doesn't do much for me. My friends keep on and on about how I should wear it because it's fresh and fashionable. They think I should just forget my old cardigan.

Lord, I know what you are saying again.

“Be bold and brave, be fresh and fashionable. Wear your new cardigan and enjoy it. You will feel a different person in it, and perhaps that's what you need”

But that's just it, Lord. I don't know if I am bold and brave. I don't think I am ready to be fresh and fashionable. I just don't know about this new cardigan. I really do love my old one. So, you see, Lord, I have a problem. I'll wait to hear from you. Best wishes from me.

P.S. Thank you for listening, Lord, and by the way, you know I'm not really talking about cardigans!

Anon

PRAYING WITH THE SPIRIT

*Sometimes when I pray, I utter the words,
But do not feel or think them.*

*Sometimes when I pray, I utter the words,
Thinking of what I say, but not feeling.*

*Sometimes when I pray, I utter the words,
And both think and feel what I say.*

*An act of will cannot make me feel,
Nor stop my mind from wandering.
An act of will can only make me utter,
So I shall utter the words,
And let the spirit do the rest,
Guiding my mind and my heart as She wills.*

(Author unknown)

From Gordon Parsons

Boys' Brigade

At the Battalion Athletics Sports held at Wyndley Leisure Centre we finished in 3rd position. All the lads took home medals and each one of them had a great time.



Our annual Peckwood weekend took place during June when 20 boys and 6 staff had a enjoyable weekend exploring the woods and playing all the different games. Thanks to all the staff for providing transport and looking after the children.

The company summer outing this year is on Saturday 7th July when we are heading for Barry Island.

The summer session finishes on Friday 20th July. Our annual camp this year is being held at Dyffryn Ardudwy 28th July to 4th August when 11 boys and 10 staff hope to have a sunny and dry week.

Bob Hotchkiss

Which Hymn?

Hymns are often known by the first line of their first verse. BUT how well do you know the first line of their *second* verses? [Answers - 1st line of 1st verse - next time]

1. The Lord, ye know is God indeed.
2. The cattle are lowing
3. We are pilgrims on a journey
4. We came from his blest throne
5. Go through the park, go into the town
6. We thank thee that thy Church unsleeping
7. Round the corners of the world I turn
8. In simple trust like theirs who heard
9. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
10. Jesus promised life to all
11. There in the garden of tears
12. Don't get too set in your ways



Rita Sutton



The Cotteridge Church
Joint Church Council
Summary of Proceedings 17th May 2018

Key Decisions

1. Co-opted JCC Members were confirmed: Dorothy Audley (URC Elder), Laurie Brown (Treasurer), Suzanne Bunn (Anglican Warden), Trevor Jones (Methodist Steward)
2. Neil Walters was elected Chair and Laurie Brown confirmed as Treasurer.
3. David Pycock was confirmed as Minute Secretary
4. Mike Claridge was elected as the Safeguarding Lead on the JCC
5. Clare Naughton was elected Children's Advocate on the JCC
6. Role Outlines for the Chair of Trustees, Trustee Treasurer and Trustee were approved
7. It was agreed to affix a Cigarette Bin to the flower bed wall facing the Church
8. It was agreed that the Building Steering Group could spend up to £1000 per month without seeking JCC approval
9. It was also agreed to hold a "Sunday Forum" every month after family service where members of the congregation could drop in and express and concerns they had to a member of the JCC. The first Sunday forum would be held on 20th May 2018

Summary Proceedings

1. The new elected members of JCC were welcomed to their first meeting: Steve Audley, Peter Rookes and Evelyn Bhajan
2. Steve Audley volunteered to be a member of the Finance and Property Group and Dorothy Audley volunteered to be a member of the Governance group
3. A working party made up of Laurie Brown and Steve Audley was set-up to aid David Pycock in performing Church maintenance
4. It was noted that the Choir was trying out new positions in the Church to ensure they could hear the PA and would continue to experiment until the perfect position is found
5. It was also noted that three people had volunteered to determine the content required on any revised Church website.

The next meeting of the Joint Church Council will be on Thursday 21st June 2018 at 19:30.

This Summary is authorised by:

Neil Walters (Chair of Joint Church Council)



The Cotteridge Church
Joint Church Council
Summary of Proceedings 21 June 2018

Key Decisions

1. It was agreed that the Church adopts the ymlp self-managed mailing list product to enable Church members to request electronic copies of key Church documents (such as the Annual Report).
2. It was agreed to move the Church's payroll processing from JLP to the Anglican Diocese
3. Role Profiles were agreed for: AV Operator, Pastoral Visitor, Coffee Bar Volunteer Coordinator, Kitchen Helper and Methodist Property Steward
4. The meeting agreed that Mike Claridge and Roger Collins could sign property leases required by the B30 FoodBank on behalf of the JCC
5. It was agreed that the Treasury Team should hold a secure copy of the membership list to process gift aid claims
6. The JCC approved a request from the Building Steering Group to spend £1,500 + VAT on pre-planning application preparation work for a discussion with Birmingham City Council
7. It was agreed that the next Congregational Meeting would be held on Saturday 13th October 2018 and the JCC would welcome suggestions for agenda items from the Church membership

Summary Proceedings

1. It was noted that new photocopier codes have been issued
2. It was reported that the donation from the B30 Foodbank has been set-up and received
3. The Church's obligations to GDPR have been announced in the weekly notice sheet and that already 15 paper copies of the membership list have been shredded
4. David Pycock will liaise with Jane Stephens on Alarm Maintenance
5. The next Sunday Forum will be held on Sunday 1st July 2018 after the Sunday Service
6. The Treasurer said that congregational giving had increased following the stewardship campaign and that expenditure was down on budget due to the in-house maintenance activities provided by the Church Administrator. The meeting gave well-earned thanks to David Pycock for his efforts
7. The Governance Group reported that they were close to completing the revision of the Church's Constitution and it should be ready by September
8. It was noted that The Cotteridge Church would have a presence at CoCoMAD 2018

The next meeting of the Joint Church Council will be on Thursday 19th July 2018 at 19:30.

This Summary is authorised by:

Neil Walters (Chair of the Cotteridge Church Joint Church Council)

Saint Swithun

Saint Swithun's day in England falls on Sunday 15th July, and he is probably best known for his weather predictions:-

*St Swithun's day if thou dost rain
For forty days it will remain
St Swithun's day if thou be fair
For forty days 'twill rain nae mare
[A Buckinghamshire variation has
If on St Swithun's day it really pours
You're better off to stay indoors.]*



Arms of the Bishop
of Winchester

but there is a good deal more to him than that.

He was born in about 800, probably in Hampshire, and died in 862 in Winchester, where he was the Bishop for the last

ten years of his life, and where he was canonised as their patron saint. It is also where you can find parts of his original shrine, and a modern replacement copy. His name is most likely derived from the Old English "swip" meaning strong.

More than 100 years after his death when Dunstan and Æthelwold of Winchester were inaugurating their church reform, Swithun was adopted as patron of the restored church at Winchester, formerly dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul. His body was transferred from its almost forgotten grave to Æthelwold's new basilica on 15 July 971, and according to contemporary writers, numerous miracles preceded and followed the move. The shrine of Swithun at Winchester was supposedly a site of numerous miracles in the Middle Ages. Æthelwold of Winchester ordered that all monks were to stop whatever they were doing and head to the church to praise God every time that a miracle happened. A story exists that the monks at some point got so fed up with this, because they sometimes had to wake up and go to the church three or four times each night, that they decided to stop going. St Swithun then appeared in a dream to someone (possibly two people) and warned them that if they stopped going to the church, then miracles would cease. This person (or persons) then warned the monks about the dream they had, and the monks then caved in and decided to go to the church each time a miracle happened again.

Swithun's best known miracle during his life, was his restoration on a bridge of a basket of eggs that workmen had maliciously broken.

On his deathbed Swithun begged that he should be buried outside the north wall of his cathedral where passers-by should pass over his grave and raindrops from the eaves drop upon it. He was moved from his grave to an indoor shrine in the Old Minster at Winchester in 971.

There is a statue of St Swithun in Stavanger Cathedral in Norway. Benedictine monk Reinald of Winchester went to Stavanger as its first Bishop in around 1100. *C.Lester*



Statue of St Swithun
Stavanger Cathedral

Services for July and August

	1 st July	8 th July	15 th July	22 nd July	29 th July
9.00 am HC	Revd R. Collins	Revd M. Claridge	Revd R. Collins	Revd M. Claridge	Revd R. Collins
10:30 am	Revd R. Collins Parade	Revd M. Claridge / Mrs S. Knebel HC	Revd R. Collins	Revd M. Claridge HC	Revd M. Claridge
6:30 pm	Revd D. Sampson HC	Café Church	Revd M. Claridge HC	Mrs S. Knebel	Revd M. Claridge
	5 th August	12 th August	19 th August	26 th August	
9.00 am HC	Revd M. Claridge	Revd M. Claridge	Revd R. Collins	Revd M. Claridge	
10:30 am	Ms S Spencer	Revd L. Dixon HC	Revd R. Collins	Revd M. Claridge HC	
6:30 pm	Revd R. Collins HC	Revd M. Claridge	Revd M. Claridge HC	Revd M. Claridge	

Communion Services are held each week at 10.00 am on Tuesdays

Church Day Centre.

Our Day Centre continues to thrive, with numbers increasing .



CC Day Care



Babs & I spent a very hilarious time with some of the members planting up the hanging baskets!!!

It was wonderful watching people recall their previous skill & being pro-active.

Do go & look at their handiwork.

Thanks to all who have contributed table games & wool.

Chris Pascal

Communicate 2 U

If you enjoy our coffee bar services, you will have noticed that we have a new team of volunteers to help all our regulars. They are from a local organisation Communicate 2 U, based in Selly Oak.



A quote from their web site:-

“We are a not-for-profit social enterprise established in 2011 to address the issues created by poor communication between people with learning disabilities and the health and social care sector.

Our key aims

•To empower people with learning disabilities and anyone with additional communication needs by utilising their expertise as communication experts to deliver training in communication skills.

•To create socially valued, meaningful employment for these communication experts.

•To promote social inclusion and challenge negative perceptions of people with additional communication needs.

•To support organisations to comply with equality legislation and make their services more accessible.

Our team

Our communication expert workforce is recruited from Selly Oak Trust School, and Midland Mencap, and trained by Communicate 2 U.

Our new volunteers have brought a breath of fresh air, with smiles and enthusiasm. They are very welcome and we thank them.

June 9th was a **BUSY DAY!**

During the **morning** we held the

Big Brekkie

for Christian Aid, and Clare Naughton was extremely busy making bread rolls, and everything you would expect to have for your Big Brekkie, in our kitchen.

Invaluable help with tea making, and waiter services

were by Nikki, Amun, Harpal and Alysia with Mandy from Communicate2U.

We made £100 for Christian Aid, and fostered our links with our neighbourhood.

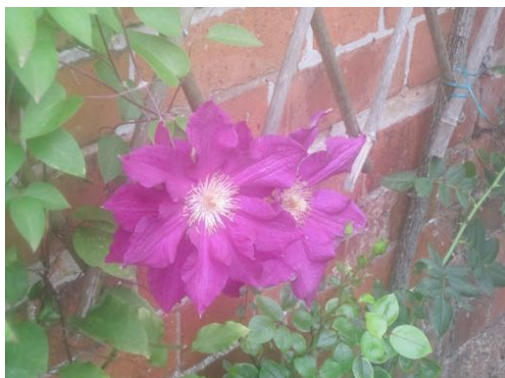
It took quite a long time to do all the washing up!

In the **afternoon**, the sun continued to shine down on us at our annual

Garden Party,

which was well supported by local visitors and passers by, and raised £295 for our garden. There were stalls selling books, dvds, bric-a-brac, jams plants and ice cream, and a raffle. Karen and her son played folk dance music in the garden, and there were lots of cakes to eat. Cups of tea were brought to us by Communicate 2 U.

We would like to thank all our helpers for both events



Cotteridge Church supports Church Urban Fund

‘Changing lives and communities together’

The Church Urban Fund is a charity that supports church-based social action projects which are helping to transform lives all over the country, including here in Birmingham. These include homelessness projects, food banks, holiday clubs for children, providing places of welcome in local communities, working with those in financial distress and bringing ethnically diverse communities together.

You may remember that we recently took part in the ‘Know your church, know your neighbourhood’ project. CUF is also a funding partner for the facilitation of this project.

Several members of the Cotteridge Church have been collecting their small change which has then been donated to CUF. Small change adds up! Our total collected this year is £93.69. For those who already have a CUF small change box, please hand it to me when it’s full and I can provide you with a new box. If anyone would like to start collecting their small change, please ask me for a box. Place it somewhere handy at home and drop your small change in it- every little helps!

On behalf of the Church Urban Fund:

‘Thank you for changing lives’

This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord’s people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. 2 Corinthians 9:12

Alison Sprackling

Democracy’s Twilight?

“...I will tell the boroughmongers that they will find it as easy to turn the sun from its course as to make the English people now be content with less than the Bill of Reform.”

Image the scene, 200,000 men, women and children in a peaceful and well-behaved gathering in the natural amphitheatre of New Hall Hill there to listen to the leader of the Birmingham Political Union, Thomas Attwood, speak in support of the Great Reform Act on 7th May 1832. Attwood’s “great meeting of all the inhabitants”, so controlled, so ordered, appeared like an army in embryo, a challenge to national order and threat to the ruling elite. So frightened



Statue of Thomas Attwood
in Chamberlain Square

were the members of the House of Lords that they passed the reform act into law rather than risk being overthrown by revolution. And so, the United Kingdom began its long and continuing journey to a fully franchised population and a true Representative Democracy.

As we enter a period of history where democracy is in decline across the world and where dictators are abusing the ballot box to bolster their positions, from Russia to Kazakhstan and from Venezuela to Turkey; where foreign governments use subversive methods in attempts to adversely affect the outcome of national elections. We should rush to the defence of our democracy in the United Kingdom, for as Churchill said “Many forms of Government have been tried, and will be tried in this world of sin and woe. No one pretends that democracy is perfect or all-wise. Indeed, it has been said that democracy is the worst form of Government except for all those other forms that have been tried from time to time...” House of Commons speech 1947.

The United Kingdom is not the only Representative Democracy we all live within, The Cotteridge Church is another, the members of the Joint Church Council (JCC) are elected by the Church’s congregation to make decisions on their behalf. I am lucky that in my parliamentary constituency the seating MP, whom I voted for, represents my views in almost all the debates he talks part in, but I am sure that there are others in Northfield who find his stance on many issues jar with theirs. Members of the JCC will make decisions based on their own conscience and in accordance with the Church’s mission statement unless they are informed of the desires of the congregation.

To this end on, Sunday 20th May 2018 the JCC instigated what is being called “The Sunday Forum”, an open meeting, held after the Sunday morning service, where members of the JCC will listen to the concerns of any member of the congregation who wishes to attend and voice their opinions. Everyone will be listened to and their concerns acted on by the JCC or one of its sub-groups and the outcomes will be discussed at the next Sunday Forum and published in Roundabout.

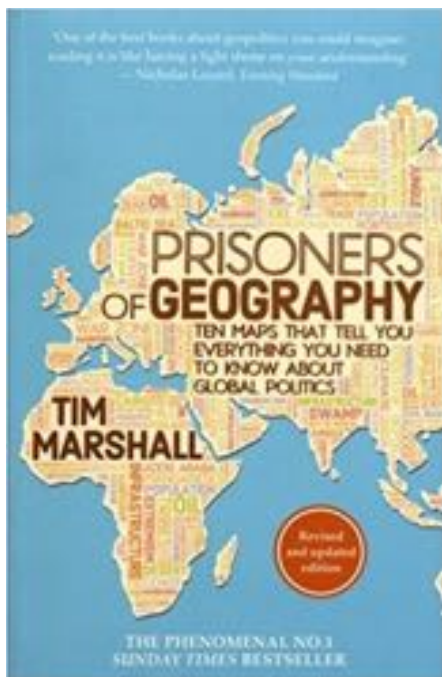
All views can be voiced, because, as Evelyn Beatrice Hall wrote in her 1906 biography of Voltaire, “I don’t agree with what you say but I will defend to the death your right to say it.” So basically, please come along to the next Sunday Forum and tell us what is on your mind.

If you travel to Washington, District of Columbia and visit the giant Abraham Lincoln at the far end of the Mall, look in the rooms to either side of the statue, where the greatest speech ever made is inscribed on the stone of the walls, a speech that ends “...and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.” The Gettysburg Address 1863.

Don’t let democracy perish in the United Kingdom or in The Cotteridge Church.

Neil Walters

Book Group



When it was suggested that we read *Prisoners of Geography*, written by Tim Marshall, it looked a bit turgid. Nothing could be further from the truth, this is a fascinating account of how different countries/areas are constrained or developed by their internal geography or boundaries with other countries. Mountains and rivers give access to hydro-electric power, natural resources such as gas and minerals help the financial development but for a massive country like Brazil, the Amazon rain forest has restricted development and communication. Perhaps of greatest significance is access to sea ports and trade with other countries. Add to this the Panama canal and Suez canal that enable ships quicker access around the world. China seemed to pop up in every chapter, keen to develop trade and expand across the globe. Look at

Japan, 4 large islands and 6848 smaller islands, how did they become so significant in World War II?

Bolivia has the natural gas that Chile craves and Chile has access to sea ports which Bolivia desperately needs for development but neither will give way in negotiations.

Finally, look at Great Britain, we have no borders, access to North Sea Gas and only 20 miles across the channel to a huge area for trade (but we won't go down that road). It really is worth a read and it's an easy read divided into bite sized chapters.

Tim Marshall has written a second book, *Worth Dying For*, The power and politics of flags. This book looks at the power and politics of the symbols that people are rallying round; the symbols that unite us and divide us. I understand there will soon be a third book out soon and centring around walls.

Our next book is Eleanor Oliphant is *Completely Fine* which is a feel good book about the very worst and the very best that humans are capable of. It is a very popular book featuring in the top ten paperback charts for many weeks and loved by everyone I've spoken to who has read it. The meeting to discuss this book will be on Tuesday 17th July at 7.0pm at 40 Middleton Hall Road. If you want to come along just for this book or to join the group, new members are always welcome. Ring Christine Adams on 0121-458-5607 for further details.



Christian Aid Week 2018

“standing together to help families weather future storms - #StandTogether”



ironically will be remembered for being the driest and warmest Christian Aid Week in Birmingham for many years. Our collectors were hampered this year by folk not answering the door because they were sitting in their back gardens enjoying the sunshine. Despite this 2018 proved to be one of the best years since 2013. An overall

total of just over £3500 was collected and gift aided in our small area by The Cotteridge Church, St Joseph and St Helen's and The Cotteridge Quakers. Many of our collectors reported a far better response this year ... stories being told range from envelopes with donations waiting by the door to bags full of loose change and notes being handed over at the last moment. It certainly seems to help that our collectors are becoming regulars being remembered from one year to the next and we are most grateful to everyone who not only collected but also delivered the envelopes to those who helped us count the cash.

Reverend Barbara Calvert who presided at one of our communion services in June told us about Haiti where the Christian Aid campaign was focussed this year and from personal experience confirmed how our donations help this one of the poorest countries that has been and no doubt will be again ravaged by storms and hurricanes.

“Marcelin's story

In Haiti, Marcelin raised his three daughters alone. They've endured some of the worst natural disasters on earth. They're not just survivors. They're fighters. But they're only so strong. They won't survive the next hurricane without your help. This Christian Aid Week, you can be in their corner. You can help them build a home that will weather the next storm, so they won't need to fight to survive anymore. Christian Aid Week unites kingdom builders like you from all walks of life. We step out in mission for our neighbours like Marcelin, because we believe in life before death. We believe God's Kingdom is stronger than the storms.”

Thank you ... everyone ... We believe God's Kingdom is stronger than storms.

Lin & Laurie Brown

Prayers of Intercession

It has become the norm now that a member of the congregation delivers the prayers of intercession each Sunday. But did you know that they also write them?

INTERCESSION



We are a small team and recently some of us have begun to help and support one another in this privilege. We have been sharing ideas, information and notes so that no one feels overwhelmed by the task.

And have you noticed that we are all female? It would be marvellous if some of you men would join our team.

Speak to Mike or Roger or one of the ladies on the list for more information.

Botanical Sanctuary

On 17th June, Mike gave a moving and very relevant service on the theme of Sanctuary, and he has given me permission to write in support of that.

Professor Jack Hawkes of the Botany Department at Birmingham University had the inspiration to start an M.Sc course on conservation of plant genetic resources, aimed principally for students from developing countries so that the original wild species, and primitive cultivars of world crops could be preserved for posterity. The “Green Revolution” has vastly increased the yields of our crops, but often wide areas are planted with genetically identical plants. If disease strikes, the whole lot could be wiped out. [This would be infinitely worse than the Irish potato famine.] By conserving the original and genetically diverse species and cultivars, we provide the raw materials for all future crop breeding programmes. So in a sense he was offering these original plants a botanical sanctuary. There is now a vast nuclear proof underground bunker beneath the grounds of Kew’s country home at Wakehurst in Sussex, where they store seed from over 34,000 wild species of plants, and there are other similar bunkers in many other parts of the world. My husband Richard, and Prof. Hawkes ran this course in Birmingham, and we were enriched by meeting students from all over the world, whom we entertained with garden parties every so often. Some of these have human Sanctuary stories to tell. Peter’s family escaped from East Berlin with nothing, and were given Sanctuary in the West. He went to Nepal to advise on the effects of deforestation. Whilst there he and his wife adopted an orphaned and sick baby Nepalese girl, who is now living near to them in Texas. His M.Sc went on to become a Ph.D, from which he went to Indonesia, and then Peru to organise the plant gene banks there. Then there was Quat, who arrived with his new wife Yong, and we had quickly to arrange different accommodation for them. He was a Ugandan Asian, and whilst studying here was made stateless. His country of origin refused to accept him, even though he was very able and hardworking. Prof Hawkes pulled a few strings, and got him a job with IBPGR [International Board for Plant Genetic Resources] in Nigeria, and he obtained the relevant citizenship. They named their son Jack by way of thanks. Laya’s story is poignant. She is Iranian, and her family served the Shah of Iran. Whilst in Birmingham she met a Mexican, and after her Ph.D. was completed, she went to Mexico with him, they married and she had a son. Her husband became violent towards her, and she narrowly escaped with her life. She could not go back to Iran as she had a child by a Christian, and she would have been punished as an unmarried mother. She had to leave her son with his grandmother, whom she loved, and she became an illegal immigrant in the U.S.A., where she was exploited by those who had brought her there. She eventually got her green card, but her health has suffered. She is now living in Los Angeles, and has become a Christian. So - people and plants - both can be in need of sanctuary, and both can benefit us greatly.

Celia Lester

Forthcoming Events



Spring Sale

Hardback

Paperback

Saturday 14th July
from
10.00 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.
at
The Cotteridge Church

BRIC
- A -
BRAC

DVD

Jams

Proceeds shared between
the Church, Day Centre and Cotteridge Youth



CoCoMAD
music • art • dance

22nd Annual!

12noon
SATURDAY
7th JULY 2018

I ♥ THE PARK

Friends of
Cotteridge
Park

The small, but perfectly formed,
festival in Cotteridge Park

www.cotteridgepark.org.uk

We shall be joining CoCoMAD this year, and invite you all to come too. A programme of events is available from the church, or from the CoCoMAD web site



Birmingham Methodist Circuit
Children And Youth
Caring - Growing - Equipping

Networking
Outreach
Events
Community
Training

Saturday Fun Day
at Barnt Green Scout & Guide Centre
Blackwell Road, Barnt Green
B45 8BT

SATURDAY 14th JULY 2018
2pm - 7pm

Come prepared for outdoor activities

An afternoon & evening of indoor & outdoor fun & games with a BBQ & worship.
Mains will be provided. Donations of sides, salad or desert are welcome!

Please invite your family & friends,
See you there!

tbrooker@birminghammethodistcircuit.org.uk **0121 705 7367**

The Outward Mission of Cotteridge Church

When the JCC recently reviewed and updated our church structure, we were concerned to find that Mission no longer appeared. We recollected that we did at one time have a Church in Society Committee which dealt with home mission and a Mission Committee, which dealt with overseas mission, through which, in particular, we supported the church in Timisoara. Sadly, it would seem that, for whatever reason, this aspect of our work has taken a lower profile.

We are all conscious of individuals in our congregation who continue to do valuable work in our local community and overseas. We, therefore, agreed that our church should have a means of recognising and supporting them in their work and to encourage and facilitate others both individually and corporately. This would be achieved by forming a Mission Action Group which would map mission activities already carried out locally nationally and globally, and support the groups and individuals carrying out these activities. Then encourage, facilitate, promote, coordinate and support new initiatives.

It can be argued that our church is judged by its outward mission, i.e. the way in which we serve God by what we do to improve the lives of people around us in our own community, in our nation and globally. We are guided by the proclamation in the letter from James 2:14: "...So it is with faith: if it is alone and includes no actions, then it is dead."

The Mission Action Group will consist of a minimum of 6 members, excluding the Coordinator, each of whom will serve initially for 3 years. The Coordinator will be appointed by the Cotteridge Church JCC. Members will include individuals with current or recent experience of mission activities at home or overseas.

In the first instance, these will include:-

Dr Peter Rookes (Coordinator); Revd Lorraine Dixon; Evelyn Bhajan; Suzanne Bunn; John Cooper (Christian Aid); Revd Roger Collins (Foodbank); Hazel Nash (Catering); Ruth Roadley-Battin (Youth) ; Alex Woodhouse (Logistics). Each will bring to the group perspectives based on their own experience, rather than as representatives.

We hope to have met before the next issue of Roundabout, when we will be able to say a little more about our next steps. I attended the Methodists for World Mission a few weeks ago, and will attend the USPG (United Society, Partners in the Gospel) Anglican mission conference in the next couple of weeks, and will say more about this in the next issue. Blessings.

(Dr)Peter Rookes Mission Coordinator

Building Project

The building project at The Cotteridge Church is an ambitious and exciting one for the whole community. I have joined the team to look at how this project will be funded and to make those funding applications.

The first thing that it is important to note is that this will not be a one off project. The scheme proposed will be split into complementary stages which will take place over a period of time. This not only makes funding more accessible but will also ensure that disruption to your everyday operations will be minimalised, - it is very important that you can stay operational throughout any building work. This also means that elements of the plan that have not been fully agreed or decided upon can be developed further, nothing is set in stone yet.

The second thing to note is that, even though this is a building project funding, applications will not be about bricks and mortar. This is a project about people and improving outcomes for the whole community. Funding applications will therefore reflect how these new spaces and improvements will improve things like community cohesion, reduce social isolation and enable people to play a more active role in the community.

Work is already well underway to start to deliver the master plan of improvements and further consultation identified that the garden and outside space would be a good place to start. Thank you to everyone who came to the open garden event and who has given us feedback. The crux of the feedback was that the garden is not

very accessible currently, especially to the Stay and Play groups and the Day Centre. We have worked with APEC to produce a plan which will include a platform lift to the rear of the building and a ramped access to the side. It will also replace the current security door and high wall with a metal gate and fencing so the garden can be seen from the street. Funding applications have already been submitted for this and we will have an



outcome in the Autumn, we will also continue to look for alternative funding as a “plan B”.

We will now be reviewing the rest of the project to decide which elements to include in the next phase. There will be more consultation during this process so please look out for signs around the building for details and I look forward to hearing your thoughts there.

Keeley Tattersfield [Funding Support]

Fund Raising Bulletin to the end of June 2018

Funds raised to date:

Church Urban Fund: £93.69 from small change collecting boxes [Alison Sprackling]:- To Church Urban Fund

Burns Night Supper & Ceilidh: £381.50 [Pam Waddell]:- To Church funds.

Pancake Party £107 for Food Ministry

Easter cards sale: £31.91 for Church Funds

Easter bake sale: £72.60 for Food Ministry

BB quiz £317.50 divided equally between St Mary's Hospice and the Church

Book sales £525 to date for Church, Day Centre and Cotteridge Youth shared equally.

Garden Party 9th June for garden £294.69

Christian Aid total collected by us, St Joseph's & St Helen's & Cotteridge Quakers. £3500

Big Brekkie 9th June for Christian Aid ~£100

Photo Competitions: Ice & Water raised £80 & Hats £42 for Day Centre

Donations for Food Mission £7.86

Event	Year to Date	Event	Year to Date	Event	Year to Date
Book Sales	£525.00	Photo Competitions	£122.00	Easter Bake Sale	£72.60
Pancake Party	£107.00	Burns Night	£381.50	Easter Cards	£31.91
Christian Aid	£3500.00	Big Brekkie	£100	Garden Party	£294.69
BB Quiz Night	£317.50	Church Urban Fund	£93.69	Food ministry	£7.86
				TOTAL	£5553.75

Recipients Internal	£ Year to date	Recipients External	£ Year to Date
Church Funds	£747.16	Church Urban Fund	£93.69
Church Youth	£175.00	St Mary's Hospice	£158.75
Day Centre	£297.00	Christian Aid	£3600.0
Church Food Ministry	£187.46		
Garden	£294.69		
Total	£1701.31	Total	£3852.44

The fund raising team urgently needs volunteers to help plan and organise events. Please see Chris Pascal, Linda Woodhouse or Celia Lester if you would be willing to help us.



Roundabout is the bi-monthly newsletter of The Cotteridge Church.
Large print issue is in the Pennine Way, and available to download from our web site.

Your Editor from January 2017 is Celia Lester

Please send copy for the next edition by 24th August 2018
to 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

Website: www.thecotteridgechurch.org.uk

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

Instagram [the_cotteridge_church](https://www.instagram.com/the_cotteridge_church)

The Cotteridge Church: Registered Charity No 1143091