

# Roundabout



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

**September 2021**

# Mike's message ...

## Issues matrimonial

We don't get many weddings here at The Cotteridge Church. Even so I recently had to pay a visit to Birmingham Register Office on wedding related matters. More about why in a moment.

While I was there the Registrar asked if we had many weddings. I explained that as far as location is concerned we are sandwiched between "Cadbury's Theme Park" Bournville and "Mediaeval Building Theme Park" Kings Norton. All we can offer is a busy traffic island! A bit flippant maybe but surroundings, and our lack of parking, don't make us the most attractive of nuptial venues for anyone other than the most faithful of church members.

My visit was to hand over our Marriage Registers, both the Church of England and Authorised Person (Methodist and URC) ones. Back on 1st May the procedure for registering marriages changed. The first significant change since 1837! There are no longer any registers to sign. Instead a printed schedule with all the details of the couple, occupations, parents, addresses etc is obtained and, at the ceremony, the couple, witnesses and minister all sign it. The document has to be returned to the Register Office as soon as possible after the service. Only then, within 14 days, do the couple get their Marriage Certificate, whereas before they were given it on the day. I'm not convinced the changes are for the better, and the delay in issuing the certificate can be problematical for some couples. One good thing though, the details registered on the schedule now include the names of the mothers of both the bride and groom - which marriage registers didn't.

The registrar asked, "Are you fully familiar with the new system?" I told him I'd watched the instructional videos but would brush up my knowledge in the event we actually get a wedding or I take one elsewhere. By the way, under C of E procedures, Banns remain the "preliminary to marriage" so you'll still be hearing those called in church from time to time.

The two systems, Church of England marriage and Authorised Person marriage, are very different in how the schedule is produced. As a result I had two lots of videos to watch! Both here, and in my previous appointment at West Bromwich, I've been registered to conduct weddings under either system. Which brings me to the other recent change.

At its Conference at the end of June The Methodist Church agreed that its buildings could be used for, and ministers could officiate at, same-sex marriages. In doing so The Methodist Church has followed the decision the URC made a few years ago. As an Ecumenical Partnership our situation is complicated somewhat by the C of E, which is still a long way off making a decision. I am hoping that our building can be registered to do same-sex marriages, even before the C of E agree or otherwise, and that, in my role as an Authorised Person, I can be registered to officiate at ceremonies here or elsewhere. Legalities may intervene so we'll have to wait and see.



## Friends & Family

Chris Pascal is recovering from surgery. We send her our love and very best wishes. David Pycroft retired as our administrator at the end of July. We thank him for his service to our church, and wish him peace and joy.

Brian Vine has left a very generous bequest to the church, for which we give our thanks.

Stephanie Kelly has died. She was in her 91st year. We send our prayers and best wishes to her family.

We also record the deaths of Mandy Barber, who was a member of Coffee and Chat, and of David Hill. We send prayers and best wishes to their families and friends.

Rita Sutton "Braved the Shave" on 19th August, in aid of the Macmillan Cancer charity. She would be grateful to receive your sponsorship. Rita has also risen to Neil Walters' challenge and has made her own Desert Island Discs choices. Enjoy her article in the magazine.

You may remember that ten years ago Lin Brown and Eira Hoadly held a joint "zero-ending birthdays" party at church. Eira has visited Lin and Laurie in Yorkshire, - see her article further on.

We are also delighted to be able to sing hymns together in the church - albeit beneath a face mask. It was also wonderful to have John Tesh playing the real organ on 22nd August too. Come and join us on Sundays at 10.30 am.

We apologise that there are no JCC meeting reports in this edition, due to a fault in the office computer.

## 60 60 60 VaccinAid challenge

Pam Waddell recently completed her 6x 10km runs in the 60 days before her 60th birthday (all but one in less than 60 minutes!) for UNICEF's VaccinAid appeal. Thank you so much to all for your generosity that contributed towards Pam raising over £2,400 (plus gift aid) to help UNICEF to deliver 2 billion Covid vaccines, as well as treatments, around the World this year.

## Welcome to Revd Barbara Calvert

The Methodist Circuit recently asked me if we would like the Revd Barbara Calvert to join our ministry team.

I said "Yes please!"

Barbara is a Supernumerary Minister - that means "retired but active". She's worshipped with us from time to time for a while and pre-lockdown was a regular at Saplings with her grandson. Barbara will be giving us some of her time to work especially with older adults and the Day Centre. She'll also continue to preach here regularly. She is also giving time to Hazelwell Church. Although Barbara has already started working with us it all formally starts on 1st September, the beginning of the Methodist Connexional Year, so Welcome Barbara!



Mike Claridge

## Singing Rounds

An early form of community singing used in both church and pub was 'rounds'. This is where one verse of usually four lines is sung over and over again. In order to make it more melodic the singers divide themselves into four groups. One group leads off from the first line and keeps going. When the first group have sung their first line the second group start from the beginning and they also keep going. Groups three and four also join in from the beginning after a one line delay and continue until all four groups are singing the same verse but all are singing a different line. It requires the skill of keeping to the same rhythm and listening to everyone else. It is not usual to have musical accompaniment making the result 'a cappella', as well as 'polyphonic' because each line is sung against all the other lines.

The well known tune 'Frère Jacques' is often used as an early recorder piece but the text lends itself to being sung as a round. Because the phrases repeat it also lends itself to a 'call and response' teaching style where a leader can sing the phrase and those learning repeat that phrase. As I was checking some facts on-line I found several English translations have altered the original French meaning, and maybe I'm becoming more impatient as I get older but what is often portrayed in children's cartoons as a cute sleepy friar should be a more urgent 'Wake Up!' call to someone who is not paying attention.

Frère Jacques, Frère Jacques,  
Brother Jacques  
Dormez-vous? Dormez-vous?  
Are you asleep?  
Sonnez les matines! Sonnez les  
matines! Ring the matins (bell)!  
Ding, dang, dong. Ding, dang, dong.  
Ding dang dong.



When I was learning this one I didn't understand French. My third line became an incomprehensible 'Sunny lemon tina'. For church use some hymns such as 'Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God' have a verse followed by a chorus. In a form of round it is possible to divide singers into two groups. One group begins with the verse. They sing their chorus as the other group starts the verse. The result makes a joyful noise.

Peter Childs.

## Saving the Planet

I was remembering an incident from school days prompted by an email I received from the Birmingham diocese telling me that the Licensing of the new Area Dean for Kings Norton, Moseley and Shirley would take place on the 13th September at St John's, Longbridge. I used to attend Turves Green Boys Comprehensive School and every Christmas we attended a carol service at St John's, just up the road.

I was in my first year of sixth form and feeling very unwell as we tramped off up Turves Green Road to attend the carol service. We had only been there ten minutes when I fainted, and a teacher rushed me home to be cared for by my mother.

Nothing extra ordinary there, it was what happened two hours later that stays in my memory, when my friend John appeared on his motorbike to tell me that all the boys in the sixth form, with the exception of me, had been EXPELLED and I was now the only pupil in the form. I never quite found out what they had done, but rumour had it they had flooded the school gym, I am not quite sure how or why.

Luckily for John and my friends, the school relented on the first day of the new term and re-admitted them, although things changed and we were under much closer supervision from then on as we had been found not to be as adult as they had thought we were, which I thought was very unfair as all I had done was faint.

Having recollected that incident, it started bringing back other memories of school and I confirm they were the best days of my life. Strangely I can't remember myself or any of my friends playing truant, I think that was because school was so enjoyable, we didn't want to miss a moment.

I do remember when we were asked to take the morning assembly and had a flaming row over which music to use, we were allowed to play one track over the schools PA system to illustrate our theme. Most of my friends wanted to use a rock song, I can't remember which one, but it wasn't even vaguely connected to our theme, which was "the human race's destruction of planet earth". Our form master said he would lend us Joni Mitchell's 'Ladies of the Canyon', which as you know, features the song 'Big Yellow Taxi', which had some merit, but my friend Paul Ford and I, who were both big Don McLean fans wanted to use his song 'Tapestry' from the album of the same name. We got our way, as I usually did and played 'Tapestry' and then did our pitch on having to change our ways or we were going to destroy the planet. It went down very well, and we spent the rest of the day being complimented by boys from lower forms on what we had said. Who would have thought in 1975 a group of seventeen-year-old schoolboys were trying to save the planet.

Then we grew up, became the adults our school wanted us to be, bought cars, took foreign holidays by jet, and continued the destruction.

While looking up the lyrics I quote below I found out something very interesting, it was that very song, Don McLean's 'Tapestry', that prompted people to form the organisation, Greenpeace.

Tapestry opens with the lines:

"Every thread of creation is held in position By still other strands of things living

In an earthly tapestry hung from the skyline Of smouldering cities so grey and so vulgar As not to be satisfied with their own negativity But needing to touch all the living as well"

And ends:

"Every fish that swims silent, every bird that flies freely Every doe that steps softly Every crisp leaf that falls, all the flowers that grow

On this colourful tapestry, somehow, they know

That if man is allowed to destroy all they need

He will soon have to pay with his life, for his greed"



So, play 'Tapestry' to yourselves whilst listening to the only voice that makes any sense in this crazy world - Greta Thunberg, and do what she tells you. Maybe school children will save us after all.

Neil Walters

## Coventry Cathedral - Life on the Breadline

One Saturday afternoon I went by train to Coventry to see a photographic exhibition at the Cathedral. The exhibition was called 'Life on the Breadline'.



Imagine my surprise when I saw in the exhibition something I had made. One of the photographs illustrated all the knitted food campaigners had been asked to send to Church Action on Poverty. The knitted food items were then sent to every M.P. up and down the land to urge the Government to commit to halving food hunger by 2025. There in the exhibition photograph were my knitted sandwiches!



A small action but our small actions all added together can make a big impact. I remember years ago hearing Gordon Brown when he was Chancellor of the Exchequer. He described the huge impact of the campaigning post cards on the Pentecost 2000 campaign to cut the debts of the poorest nations in the world. He took all the thousands of postcards he had received in a sack and then, at a meeting with the G7 leaders, tipped them out on the table in front of him. What an impact!

On the radio the other morning Chris Packham was suggesting we set our alarm clocks to wake us up just 15 minutes earlier each morning. We can use that time to act on the devastating impact of climate change. He then calculated how many hours of action that would amount to if 53 million adults took 15 minutes of action each day. I cannot remember the figure – but it was huge!

Taking one small action is empowering – it changes us and can change the world. So, get those knitting needles out!

Revd Barbara Calvert (Supernumerary Methodist minister)

Church Action on Poverty is proud to play a leading role in End Hunger UK. Our goal is that the Government commits to taking action to halve food poverty in the UK by 2025, by addressing the underlying causes of poverty.

In her sermon on 25th July, Barbara noted that 80% of food banks are run by faith groups.

## Visiting Yorkshire



As you are all aware, the lockdown restrictions have made seeing family and friends exceedingly difficult recently,



but happily, at the end of July, I was able to go and stay for a few days with Lin and Laurie Brown in their new home in North Yorkshire.

On a flying visit to Birmingham, they collected me, and we drove up to Thorpe Willoughby in just under 2 ½ hours- a very easy journey. On the way we called in to see Chris and Caroline's new home in Laughton en le Morthen, which is well placed for both their places of work.

Lin and Laurie have settled in well and the house is very comfortable, and they have worked hard on the garden with only a few gaps in the borders to fill. From my bedroom window I watched

the birds whose chattering woke me. I saw ponies grazing, and one morning I saw two hares squaring up to one another in the field behind their house.



We visited the RHS Harlow Carr, near Harrogate, enjoying a Betty's picnic, and a stroll through the lovely gardens. There was a display of sculptures created by Robert James, a winner at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show, celebrating 100 years of Alice in Wonderland.

I was pleased to be able to worship with them on Sunday morning in the magnificent Selby Abbey, having visited it earlier in the week, where I was shown round, and where we stopped for a coffee in the little Abbey Coffee Shop. Selby Abbey has a fascinating

history, beginning in 1069, and became a famous monastery, and one of the wealthiest in Yorkshire. The beautiful stained glass windows are amazing, and some of them have the coats of arms of the chief families in the northern counties, including a descendant of the Washington family which was used as a model for the American flag the "Stars and Stripes"



With lots more places to see in such a lovely county where Lin and Laurie have found a great location, another visit is definitely called for as soon as possible!

Eira Hoadly

# Climate Change Emergency

## What we do matters!

**It really does matter!** I hope that you are finding ways of helping our planet in your daily lives. What we do as individuals does make a difference...however small. Perhaps eating less meat, changing household cleaning products to a more ecological brand or thinking ahead with meals to prevent food waste? 20% of all food bought is thrown away, a shocking statistic in times of Food Banks.

What we can do as a church community also has an effect too and to that end we at The Cotteridge Church have joined “**ECO CHURCH**” It is a project designed by a.Rocha supporting Churches on their quest to become more Eco aware as we care for God’s Earth. I presented this to the recent Property and Finance Meeting and they asked me to share it with you.

**ECO CHURCH** is a way of monitoring progress through 5 key areas of OUR church life. Those being..

1. Worship and teaching
2. Management of Church buildings
3. Management of Church Land
4. Community and Global engagement
5. Lifestyle

How does it work? Churches complete an online Eco Survey of the 5 areas.. The questions in each section are far reaching and through the answers you are awarded an award either. Bronze, Silver, Gold or No Award. for each section .It also indicates what needs to be worked on to achieve other levels. In March Mike began the survey which showed we were already at award level in certain areas.

Worship and Teaching.....	Silver
Buildings.....	Bronze
Land.....	No award yet
Community&Global.....	Bronze
Lifestyle.....	Silver.

**Our next task** was to identify a small group who would look at issues from the survey and work together to act on it. So Peter Childs, Carole Allen and myself are eagerly looking at what next!. The area of Re-cycling was high on our list so we have begun to explore ways of managing this within our church building. Other areas we are considering are completing an Energy Audit/ Carbon footprint of our church and continuing to raise Awareness of Climate Change.

So this is very exciting as we are learning together and finding ways of caring for our planet.

**KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK EVERYONE**

**What you are doing does make a difference!**

Sandra Walton

## Harvest Festival



Harvest Festival is the time communities come together to express gratitude for the local crops and to celebrate their safe harvesting. This year we will be celebrating Harvest in a different way but we hope we will all be able to contribute to our celebration.



Many city gardens and parks have apple trees, apples are one of the first fruits most of us become familiar with and, because they keep well, we eat them for a large part of the year, so this year we will be celebrating apples particularly.

Most of us have memories linked to apples or recipes involving them, so we are asking anyone who has anything about apples (including crafts or art) that they would like to share to send them in by Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> September so that we can include them in our display.

On Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> October if you would like to put an apple or a bowl of apples in your window it would help us all to feel part of our community.

If we receive enough apple recipes we hope to produce a booklet, copies of which will be sold later in the year.

Please bring or send all contributions (preferably with your name on them) marked Harvest to the church or email them to [jane.stephens@thecotteridgechurch.org.uk](mailto:jane.stephens@thecotteridgechurch.org.uk)

Let's hope for a fruitful Harvest for us all!



Jane Stephens

## Services for September

	5th September	12th September	19th September	26th September	
10:30 am	Revd R. Collins	Revd M. Claridge HC	Miss Hazel Nash	Revd M. Claridge HC	

## FLOWER ROTA

The Flower Rota is now on display in the Pennine Way. It has still lots of empty dates. Please consider if you can offer either to arrange the flowers, or to make a donation for others to do it on your behalf.

I believe the flower ministry enhances our worship and to that end I really value your support. Thank you

Sandra Walton

## Desert Island Discs - from Rita

### Disc 1. Run Rabbit Run - Flanagan and Allen

As I was born during WWII, this song will remind me how often we ate rabbit, how I had to wear a liberty bodice, and how many times Tommy Handley triumphed over the German agent Funf, according to my brother's comic. After the war I never wanted to eat rabbit again, and didn't until I was once in Germany. I wasn't told and thought it was chicken!



### Disc 2. Jack Point's "I have a song to sing-O"-

from The Yeomen of the Guard by Gilbert & Sullivan



I was six when my mother took me to see Iolanthe at the Concert Hall in Bournville Lane. I loved the fairies, but I had a shock later. My mother told a friend that the Queen of the Fairies had taught her boxing! WHAT?! My mother wasn't sporty. Years later I found out it was the order in which you put the chocolates in the box at Cadbury's.

However, I have chosen Jack Point's song because my brother played that part. When Jack died at the end, brother Geoff milked every drop out of the song. He stumbled down the steps, white faced, and eventually "died" of a broken heart. I shall laugh because Geoff was so convincing that my mother shouted out "Oh dear! Oh dear!"

### Disc 3 Bridge over Troubled water - Simon & Garfunkel

I've always liked their music and I play a tape when I'm pretending to do work.



I've chosen it for the words. If anyone was my bridge over troubled waters it was my Dad.

Some of the words:

"When tears are in your eyes, I'll dry them all"

and he did

"I'm on your side when times get rough"

and he was

"All your dreams are on their way"

and he worked so

hard so that Geoff and I could fulfil ours.

and lastly

"I'm sailing right behind"

and he still is.

These words speak to me of him and how he was always a support, but never getting angry when I didn't take his advice. He gave me strength of character and confidence. He encouraged me and my brother to take all opportunities [which he had never had] and never to say "I wish I had"

### Disc 4 Bright College Years- The Yale Anthem

My husband Peter, was invited to Yale in 1972 to do research. We had a wonderful year. My father came to stay and after the Yale/Princeton football match we went to the traditional concert that happens on that weekend.

To give you a flavour of the words:-

It starts

"Bright College Years, with pleasure rife.

The shortest, gladdest years of life"

and ends

"Where'er upon life's sea we sail

For God, for Country, and for Yale"

At the end of the concert the Yale Anthem is sung. Everyone stands, and in the last line you have to wave a white hanky. I can still see my father, waving eagerly with his freshly laundered white hanky.

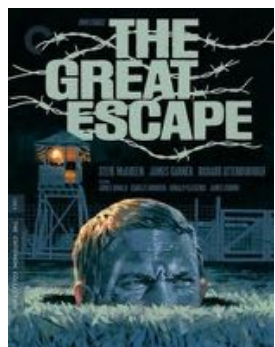


## Disc 5 Edelweiss from The Sound of Music

There are several reasons why I have chosen this. Firstly I shall enjoy pacing the sands of my island, belting out the words [in German, of course]. Secondly I've done the Sound of Music tour so many times and I've visited Stowe in Vermont where the von Trapps settled. I know all the things wrong with the film. The oldest child was a boy, not a girl; the dates are all wrong, and Christopher Plummer didn't carry Gretl up the mountain because he said she was too "chubby" and there had to be a thin stand-in. [notice you don't see the face] But the most special reason- Edelweiss is the song sung in English by a little blind boy at the Al Shurooq School in Bethlehem. As he sang so sweetly, our group from the UK dissolved into tears.



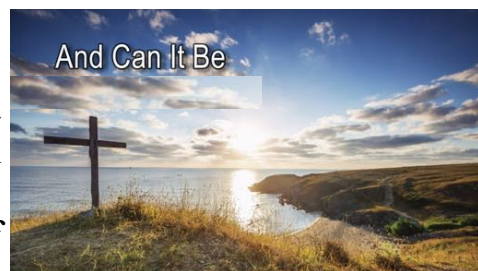
## Disc 6 The theme music from the film "The Great Escape"



This will be my exercise record - marching up and down the beach and waving my arms! There are, however, other reasons. I took my great nephew Cameron when he was 15 on a holiday to Europe. We went into Poland and visited the remains of the camp in the forest. A mock tunnel had been made to show its length and Cameron went through it, pulling himself along on a trolley, as per the film. I couldn't do it because, like Gretl, I was too "chubby". My main reason for this choice - this music was played to take my brother's coffin out of the church at his funeral. He loved the film. Everyone was smiling as we "marched" out of the church, just like my brother always smiled despite his disabilities.

## Disc 7 The Charles Wesley Hymn "And can it Be"

This is a nod to my Methodist friends at The Cotteridge Church, but there are other reasons for choosing it. It is a great hymn of triumph. We sang it at the funerals of both my parents. Michael Blood always announced it as "the cyclists' hymn" - my chains fell off! The memory of singing it that will always remain with me is when I had all my teeth removed. I expected to count backwards to be put out, but I was asked to sing my favourite song. I said I would sing my favourite hymn, and do you know - they hadn't heard of it [shame on them] So I began belting it out. I fell asleep and woke up with no teeth. The last two lines of the hymn give me such confidence and with that disc on my desert island I shall dread nothing!



## Disc 8 My last disc is Edith Piaf's "Non, je ne regrette rien"



As I said with Disc 3, my father encouraged me, and my brother Geoff, to take all opportunities and not to live with regrets. Whatever life has brought, I don't regret anything. I wouldn't have missed any of it - good and bad. Difficult things help you to find out what is important and what you are made of. With the love and support of other people, you can cope with much more than you ever thought you could.

There is also a funny memory of this song. When I was in digs at University with my friend Joy, the landlady was married to a much older man, but once a week, she went to London to meet her lover. We always knew when she was going because early in the morning we could hear her singing this song!

**My Book** is a very large volume of German Poetry

**My Luxury** - a VERY large bottle of sherry [*no* comment please] which I will take just a sip from every day to make it last.

Rita Sutton

## Boys' Brigade - Looking to the future

With BB successfully meeting in the summer at Kings Norton Playing Fields, we look to our future meetings with great anticipation. Thank you to parents, boys and staff who have made all this possible.



While there are a lot of unknowns for the next few months, we plan to still continue to meet at church in September. Our first meeting will be Friday 10<sup>th</sup> September and is welcome to new comers and returning boys. Our enrolment service will take place on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> October.

I have to admit that I felt worried prior to our BB return, almost thinking that BB may not survive. I've said previously that BB has always been a core part of me,



and the one place I return to support me in tough times. It is safe to say that BB has done it again. I believe that while there is uncertainty in the future months, there is also a lot of hope and positivity that can be had. From the BB perspective, it is due to our boys, parents and leaders that show me personally that 114 years of history can still continue to grow. In conclusion, I think the reminder of the Anchor still holding firm is a lesson that we can all remember.

Ian Sherwin

## Helping to restore our Community



As with other churches, the last year has left our church struggling with finances in all areas. I enjoy doing table top sales - a hobby since I was a teenager. As a result I am doing regular sales of books, Bric a brac, craft cards, home-made chutneys and recently Celia's home-made jams. So far the sales have been well supported with the added bonus of bringing much needed revenue to our coffee bar.

Sales take place on Tuesday morning, when advertised outside.

In school time our C2U students run a craft table, bric a brac and Maariah's home made cakes. Once a month we shall have a bake sale with all cakes large and small individually wrapped, dated and ingredient marked.

**Please** support this venture if you are in Cotteridge on these days, and pop in for a coffee, or a snack in our café:- you can be sure of a warm welcome.

To support our Day Centre I am collating a "Flowers throughout the Year" photographic competition, in the same format as in previous years. Enter a flower photo with £1. The money raised will go to the Day Centre. Everyone is invited to vote for their favourite photo, and the winner and runners-up will receive a prize. The photo must have your name and contact details on back.

A poster in church will give more details and closing date.

Linda Woodhouse

## Canterbury Cathedral stained glass



This window depicting the prophet Nathan is thought to have been made between 1130 and 1160.

Some of the stained glass in Canterbury Cathedral is thought to be some of the oldest in the world. A series of 86 windows depicting the ancestors of Christ was installed from the late 1170s until 1220, some of which were used in the restoration after a serious fire in 1174. However, a new study by University College London, has found that several were created before the fire, and would have been in situ when Thomas à Becket was murdered in 1170, and a kneeling King Henry II begged for forgiveness.

The new technique, which is completely non destructive, & called x-ray fluorescence, was developed for this purpose. It does not need to remove the glass from the windows. A simple small hand held device is held close to the window.

It throws a beam on to the window, which causes the substances in the glass to radiate. This radiation acts like a fingerprint, and enables its age to be calculated.

Stained glass production began in the 8th century, but the earliest existing stained glass in Europe dates from the 1130s. This new data now enables the glass in the Cathedral to be classified with the oldest known.

Celia Lester

**BCF Date for your Diary: Mon 13<sup>th</sup> Sept, 7.0pm**

BCF AGM at Clifton Road Mosque, presided by our Honorary President, the Lord Mayor Cllr Muhammad Afzal, Shenaz Sajan (Muslim) will be installed as our new Chair and Andrew Nicholls (Buddhist) will be installed as our Vice Chair, Dan Griffiths (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints) will become Advisory Chair.

Hear what we have been doing during the last year

And hear our Guest Speaker – Sheikh Nuru Mohammed

The meeting of the BCF:Faiths Promoting Health & Wellbeing Forum was very positive. We are moving forward with mental health & with safeguarding training in faith buildings.

Presentations were given on:-

Plasma Donation, Social Prescribing, Migration Policy & Practice  
Cruse Bereavement Service, Healthwatch update

The next Forum meeting will be at 2.30 on Thursday 16th Sept on Zoom.

**Thurs 11th Nov, 2.30pm Interfaith Week Launch**

Inter Faith Week takes place this year from Sunday 14th to Sunday 21st November.

It is a tremendous platform to: learn more about different faiths and beliefs and the communities that follow those: highlight the contribution of faith communities to society: encourage understanding about and between different faith and belief groups: and encourage inter faith cooperation.

It's a Week for everyone – young and old and of different faiths and beliefs, including non-religious beliefs. Activities benefit those who take part; they also send a strong message that good inter faith relations in the UK matter and that there is appreciation of people's faiths and beliefs and how those inspire them to contribute to the community and live well together.

Birmingham Council of Faiths will again coordinate the Birmingham Programme. It's not too early to start thinking about an activity, nothing is too big or too small, that you could arrange – contact [pjrookes@gmail.com](mailto:pjrookes@gmail.com) to discuss your idea.



**Volunteers Needed - 2022 Commonwealth Games**



We're looking for spirited, dedicated and dynamic volunteers to be the heartbeat of the Commonwealth Games, a community of passionate people coming together to help deliver the biggest sporting and cultural event the West Midlands has ever seen.

Birmingham and the West Midlands is a community of communities, home to more than 180 nationalities.

The Commonwealth Collective will represent the vibrancy and diversity of our people at Birmingham 2022, a home Games for every nation. As part of the

Commonwealth Collective, you'll be the public face of Birmingham 2022, the heart and soul of the Games experience for athletes, officials, spectators, and a global audience of more than one billion.

To register to be considered for a volunteering position, please complete the registration form in the following link: <https://workforce.birmingham2022.com/register>. If you have any special requirements in order for you to take part please email [getinvolved@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:getinvolved@birmingham.gov.uk) with details of your background and requirements before you register.

**The Birmingham Museums Trust** is developing a new Vision, which will shape what we do across all our nine sites. Our aim is to become **a socially useful service for the people of Birmingham**, ensuring that everyone can access our sites, services and collections; see themselves as part of the city's story; use our sites to benefit them; and for local groups and organisations, that we can be part of you achieving your missions and aims.



**Birmingham  
Museums**

Some of us are attending a consultation in September. If you would like us to express views on your behalf, please email [pjrookes@gmail.com](mailto:pjrookes@gmail.com).

**Near Neighbours Network** is a new opportunity for individuals and organisations to connect with other like-minded people and groups beyond our Near Neighbours areas.



We remain committed to creating strong and cohesive communities at local level, but we also want to create a wider national network where all the groups and individuals involved with Near Neighbours can share good practice and expertise and build new partnerships.

The Network will also enable our hubs and partners to offer knowledge, training, online events, & downloadable resources, to a wider audience. We will aim to offer monthly online seminars to those who join the network, sharing knowledge about finding funding, good practice on community engagement and experience and expertise on faiths working together.

The network is free to join and you can withdraw at any moment.

We offer small grants between £250 and £3,000, as seed funding for local groups and organisations, working to bring neighbours together and improve their local area, encouraging social interaction and social action. Eligible groups and organisations must be working in one of the **11 areas** covered by Near Neighbours and aim to develop relationships across diverse faiths and ethnicities. Funds can support a broad range of work; environmental, social, cultural, artistic, and sporting. Applying for funding is easy, our Near Neighbours local coordinators help organisations with planning, applying and implementing their project.

### **Bring it on BRUM!**

This is an Online Activity Portal for all young people and families and is packed with free ideas and resources to keep the whole family busy, with indoor and outdoor games, quizzes, dance, nature trails, park activities, food videos, cook alongs, and so much more. The Department of Education has designed and funded this for children [5-16 yrs] who access free school meals, to serve disadvantaged communities most impacted by pressures of school holiday periods.

For details visit [www.BringitonBrum.co.uk](http://www.BringitonBrum.co.uk)

Dr Peter Rookes



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to [roundabout@thecotteridgechurch.org.uk](mailto:roundabout@thecotteridgechurch.org.uk)

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

Tel: 0121 433 5518 Fax: 0121 459 6909

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

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

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

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