

Roundabout



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

September 2022

Mike's message ...

Autumn anxieties

It always comes as a shock that autumn is rapidly approaching - although, hopefully, there'll be a bit of an 'Indian Summer' to round off what's been a very hot year.

That itself brings anxieties of course as the hot summer has led to a depletion in water supplies in reservoirs. In truth what we need is a long wet autumn to replenish the supplies.

Utilities are another source of anxiety too. Rising gas and electricity prices are a source of concern for all of us. We see figures being quoted that are frightening. It seems as though those in charge of the country don't care about the issues that many people face. It's hardly surprising that there's growing disquiet. Industrial action is on the increase as people rightly try and ensure fair pay and working conditions. Maybe there'll even be a General Strike. We may also have to face power cuts if the situation doesn't improve.

Where in all this can we find some solace? There's a saying that "Whatever happens the sun will rise again tomorrow" and that's very true. Creation, the natural environment around us, continues to exist, despite our inadvertent attempts to suppress and damage it. We can give thanks for it. Autumn is sometimes called the church's 'Season of Creation'. There's always been time to give thanks, whether at Harvest Festival or other festivals, for all that earth supplies. In the early 13th Century St Francis wrote a hymn of praise known as Canticle of the Sun. There's a version of it in our hymn books (StF 99) called "All Creatures of our God and King".

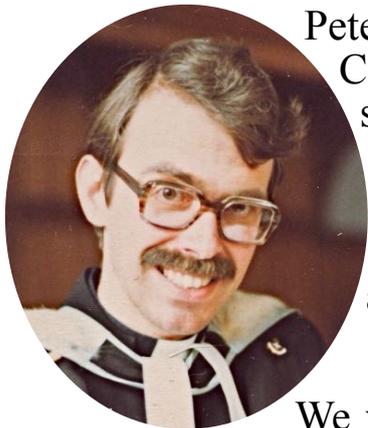
St Francis is of course the Patron Saint of our Church of England neighbours, St Francis, Bournville. St Francis Day is Tuesday 4th October and there's an open invitation to join them that evening at 7.00pm for Holy Communion followed by light refreshments. It'd be a great way of roundign off what promises to be a wonderful week here at Cotteridge for our Green Week. It'll include a Green Fair on Saturday 1st October, Harvest Supper and Barn Dance, and our Harvest Festival on Sunday 2nd October at 10.30am. Details elsewhere in this magazine.

Let's give thanks for what God has given us in creation, while at the same time holding before him all our anxieties. Remember that the authorities can't reasonably expect you to pay any more than you can afford! If you're in difficulty contact your suppliers as soon as you can. Here at Cotteridge we'll be endeavouring to open the church building longer hours to be a 'warm space' for all to share.

We're in this together - and God is with us!



Friends & Family



Peter Chave celebrated 30 years in the URC ministry on 15 July. Congratulations Peter! We really appreciate your service, and your continued connections with us.

Sheila Smith died on 21st August. Our thoughts and prayers are with David and their family. We give thanks for Sheila's warm friendship, and service to this church.



We were sorry to hear of the death of Rod Simkin. He ran the Coffee and Chat group at The Cotteridge Church for many years. His funeral was held at Harborne Baptist Church. Again, our thoughts and prayers are with Maggie and the family.

Barry Jones has died. He was a caller for folk dancing, and visited us on a number of occasions.

We welcome Janet Phillips to our membership. She writes "I was a member of Trinity URC in Kings Heath from 1970 until the present, but now have found travelling there too difficult, and I am so pleased now to be a member of the Cotteridge Church."

Tuesday Fellowship is a group which is open to all.

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

Thank you

Linda

TUESDAY FELLOWSHIP DATES September – October 2022

SEPT. 13th	Holidays	L.M.
27th	Mike Claridge	M.C.
OCT. 11th	Roger's Railway Journeys	R.C.
25th	Make us laugh – jokes	L.W.

Boys' Brigade

On Saturday 2nd September some of our leaders and boys handed out recruitment leaflets in Cotteridge and we hope this may lead to more boys joining the Boys' Brigade.

BB restarts on Friday 9th September and, as usual, new members will be made most welcome.

We have decided to have a sponsored 12 hour games night on Saturday 5th November for Juniors and Company sections. This will start at 7.00 p.m. and last until 7.00 a.m. on Sunday morning. As this will replace the traditional BB week we are hoping the lads will get sponsored. Phil Adams will be having a cake sale after church on the Sunday, and again, all the money raised will go to Boys' Brigade funds.

Our enrolment service has been arranged for Friday 7th October, starting at 7.30 p.m. when our company chaplain and president will be present

Bob Hotchkiss.



A Strange Encounter

I was in Birmingham City centre a week or two ago, and needed a sit down and a cup of coffee. The café I went to was empty, and I settled down in a corner to enjoy my drink. A rather emaciated, shabbily dressed, unshaven man came and sat down at a neighbouring table slightly less than 6 feet away. I wasn't happy! "I've just walked all the way from Pinfold Street," he announced. This did not reassure me, but I somewhat warily, congratulated him.

At this point the waitress brought his coffee complete with a paper napkin. He smiled, took the napkin, and wiped his nose with it very thoroughly. He then folded it into four and carried it gingerly between his thumb and forefinger out to the nether regions of the café. I managed to resist an urge to move to a far corner of the room.

On his return he started talking in a very pleasant way. We had a very interesting chat and from his phraseology I'm pretty sure he had some sort of medical background. After about half an hour I reluctantly took my leave and his brain seemed to slip again.

"Can we meet up again the day before Christmas?" he asked.

I couldn't get him out of my mind and have reflected since on what a weird, wonderful, even scary thing the human brain is. Even more so on how wrong it is to judge people by their appearance and any first impression they may give.

Sheila Boulds

Cotteridge Church Bookcentre



Meru Herbs is a female-led co-operative in rural Kenya and is dedicated to fair trade principles.



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Mango Jam



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Very Best Wishes, Evelyn.

As we reported in the July edition, Evelyn Bhajan has now become a Methodist Minister in Cardiff. To mark her new rôle and to give thanks for her membership, she joined Mike in the service on 10th July, to receive a blessing, and to give us her sermon on the Good Samaritan.



We hope she settles in Cardiff to have a happy and rewarding time



Welcome back and Congratulations Hazel

It was good to welcome Hazel back to the church, after a long absence, on 19 July.

On 7th August Mike presented her with a certificate to commemorate 40 years of service as a lay preacher.

The Methodist Church recognises the contribution to its life and worship made by Local Preachers. The preaching of lay people has always been at its heart. Significant anniversaries of people becoming Local Preachers (known as being 'recognised') are marked by Certificates. For particularly long service the Certificates are signed by the President and Vice-President of Methodist Conference.

Hazel began preaching while working as a missionary of Ivory Coast (Côte D'Ivoire) in West Africa. This year she has been presented with a long service certificate. The Certificate, recognising that Hazel started her preaching in 1982 was signed by The Revd Sonia Hicks (President of the Methodist Conference 2021/22) and Barbara Easton (Vice-President 2021/22).



We congratulate Hazel on this significant anniversary and we give thanks for her ministry among us.

Climate Change Emergency

..What we do matters!

Well done and Congratulations to The Cotteridge Church for attaining the Bronze Eco-church Award.

We will be celebrating our award during Big Green Week later this month. It is a milestone in our quest to make a difference for our church and community in light of the climate issues we are facing today. We were close to getting the Silver Award but there are issues over Insulation in the building, I know you are aware of this in winter especially. However we will be looking at this in light of energy costs rising over the coming months.



You can hardly miss all the Climate change emergency headlines.

We have seen record breaking temperatures in August, drought being declared in many regions and water shortages everywhere. I know we are all trying to limit our water usage and finding ways of using less. We use 150 litres a day..which is high compared to some European countries. More about, and actions we can take, in another month.

So we can all make a difference by looking at saving water, reducing our energy usage and may be even walking more and looking at car sharing if it's possible for you.

On a completely different note I was so interested to hear from my granddaughters, who were at a Coldplay concert, what the group was doing to reduce its Carbon footprint. Peloton bikes to pedal were placed around the Stadium harnessing energy for the next concert! There were pads on the floor to jump on during the concert that again made energy. So as well as enjoying the music they were making a difference to their carbon footprint. (sustainability.coldplay.com) An idea for the future?

Other climate news

What a celebration we had in Birmingham as we hosted the Commonwealth Games. The City Council has pledged to plant 2022 trees in honour of the Games to offset their Carbon footprint. Well done Birmingham.

Other events this month.

2nd -18th September PoliNations takes place in Victoria Square Birmingham. I am sure this will be well worth visiting. We are a very Bio Diverse city...and this festival celebrates Plants. 80% of the plants found in the UK city gardens come from overseas. I know Celia could tell us so much more about this...maybe in the next Roundabout?

The BIG GREEN WEEK is being celebrated from September 24th-October 2nd this year. A chance for us all to both celebrate the Harvest we have and to think about climate action. Look out for more information about this and especially our GREEN FAYRE on October 1st.

So thank you for all the difference you are making! Please share any ideas you have and remember...

We can all make a difference

Sandra Walton



Saint Gregory the Great - 3rd September.

Gregory was the first Bishop of Rome for 13 years from 3rd September 590 until his death on 12 March 604.

Since then there have been a further fifteen popes called Gregory, but he was the first.

[It was Pope Gregory XIII who set up the Gregorian calendar in 1582]

This St Gregory instigated the first large scale mission from Rome, the Gregorian Mission, to convert the then pagan AngloSaxons in England to Christianity.

He is famed for his sayings such as:

“Non Angli, sed angeli, si forent Christiani.” = "They are not Angles, but angels, if they were Christian". This aphorism, summarising words reported to have

been spoken by Gregory when he first encountered pale-skinned English boys at a slave market, sparking his dispatch of St. Augustine of Canterbury and Paulinus of York to England to convert the English, according to Bede.

A Roman senator's son and himself the Prefect of Rome at 30, Gregory tried the monastic life, but soon returned to active public life. Although he was the first pope from a monastic background, his prior political experiences may have helped him to be a talented administrator. During his papacy, he greatly surpassed the emperors with his administration in improving the welfare of the people of Rome.

He also reformed church liturgy, introducing Gregorian chant. Gregory's writings about saints, including Saint Benedict, helped the growth of Benedictine monasteries in the Middle Ages.

Gregory had a deep respect for the monastic life and particularly the vow of poverty. Thus, when it came to light that a monk lying on his death bed had stolen three gold pieces, Gregory, as a remedial punishment, forced the monk to die alone, then threw his body and coins on a manure heap to rot with a condemnation, "Take your money with you to perdition." Gregory believed that punishment of sins can begin, even in this life before death. However, in time, after the monk's death, Gregory had 30 Masses offered for the man to assist his soul before the final judgment.

He organised the resources of the church into an administration for general relief. In doing so he developed a talent for and intuitive understanding of the principles of accounting, which was not to be invented for centuries. He required his churchmen to seek out and relieve needy persons and reprimanded them if they did not. In a letter to a subordinate in Sicily he wrote: "I asked you most of all to take care of the poor." The success of this won the hearts and minds of the Roman people. They then looked to the papacy for government



19th century mosaic in Westminster Cathedral,
Non Angli sed Angeli



The Cotteridge Church
Joint Church Council
Summary of Proceedings 7th June 2022

Introduction

The Meeting was held in a Hybrid Mode with members attending in Person and via Zoom.

Key Decisions

1. Stephen Audley and Dorothy Audley were appointed as Joint Treasurers
2. It was agreed to match the NCT grant from Church Funds
3. It was agreed that the HR Aspect of the Property and Management Committee work be moved directly under the JCC.

Summary Proceedings

1. Mike Claridge said he would Chair the current meeting but would like a new Chair to be elected going forward. Dorothy Audley said she would chair the next JCC then and update the meeting on her decision.
2. Mike Claridge Welcomed new Trustees to the meeting and confirmed that: Neil Walters would continue as Church Warden, Mike Meadows would continue as Steward and Dorothy Audley would continue as Elder.
3. The meeting then discussed the election of a Treasurer, and it was proposed that Stephen and Dorothy Audley take over the roll jointly due to their experience of running their own company.
4. The assigning of Trustees to sub committees was discussed. Stephen Audley stepped down from the Community Services Committee to give him more time to perform the Treasurer Role. Chris Pascal was appointed to the Worship and Pastoral Committee and Sandra Walton was appointed to the Property and Management Committee.
5. The Church Membership now stands at 135.
6. The meeting reviewed the report from the Worship and Pastoral Committee. Barbara Calvert raised an issue with the draft preaching plan as her commitments with other churches in the circuit conflicted. Mike Claridge said he couldn't submit a plan for July and August as nobody was available due to holiday commitments.
7. The removal of the Cross at the front of the Church at Pentecost was questioned but it was said that removing and replacing it periodically at significant points in the year would have more impact. It was also noted that it may need planning permission if it were going to be permanent.
8. The meeting then reviewed the report from the Community Services Committee. Pam Waddell commented that the Coffee Bar was performing much better than forecast. Pam also noted that Saplings had restarted, and that John Cooper was looking at ways to welcome refugees to the Church.
9. Pam Waddell gave special thanks to Barbara Calvert for the work she has been doing for the Older Adult Working Group.
10. The meeting then reviewed the report from the Property and Management Committee, Stephen Audley said that we had been awarded a grant from NCT of £2,000 to go towards the repairs highlighted in the last Quinquennial report.
11. Stephen Audley confirmed that the ventilation in the chapel was being investigated.

The next meeting of the Joint Church Council will be on Thursday 11th August 2022 at 19:30.



The Cotteridge Church
Joint Church Council
Summary of Proceedings 11th August 2022

Introduction

The Meeting was held via Zoom.

Key Decisions.

1. The meeting decided to set up a new fund-raising group to try to fix the Church's finances.
2. It was agreed to Convert the flower bed next to the garden gate to a Wheelie Bin store.

Summary Proceedings

1. Dorothy and Stephen Audley said they had not been able to prepare a finance report as they hadn't yet got access to the Church bank accounts but Stephen added that to date the Church had spent £50,000 more than it had received.
2. It was noted that church membership now stood at 133 and the meeting welcomed Janet Philips who had just transferred from Trinity Church Kings Heath. The Meeting reviewed the Report from the Property and Management committee and discussed if the flower bed at the front of the Church next to the gate to the garden should be converted to act as a Wheelie Bin store.
3. A long discussion took place on how the Church Premises could be opened and locked to support Saturday lettings and it was suggested that all key holders should be approached to see if they would be willing to join a rota.
4. The latest eco-policy was reviewed but it was pointed out that most of its requirements had not yet been implemented and perhaps a Sunday service could be used to explain its structures to the congregation.
5. The meeting discussed the disruption to Saplings caused by the Malvern Room being used for a First Aid course when C2U usually set up for the next days' session.
6. It was noted that the last week in September would see the Church host 'The Big Green Week', with a Green Fayre that week and a Harvest Supper and barn dance on the 1st of October.
7. The meeting then discussed the provision of storage in general and storage to make Sapling's setup and packing away easier, this was going to be passed to the Property and Management Committee.

The next meeting of the Joint Church Council will be on
11th October 2022 at 19:30 and will be a Hybrid meeting.

My Special Garden

In June we had a lovely Sunday service in the garden. The weather was good to us and we were able to appreciate all the hard work done by the garden gang. I was thinking about gardens when I went home, especially another garden in Birmingham with special meaning for me.

While I was researching my family history I came across a church I didn't know much about. It was where my paternal grandparents were married in 1902 - St. Thomas' in Bath Row, off Broad Street. I found out the following: after the Battle of Waterloo in 1815 Parliament set up a commission to build so called "Waterloo Churches" as an act of National Thanks. Building began in 1818 and two of these churches were in Birmingham. One in Dale End was demolished years ago but the other St. Thomas in Bath Row, originally seating 2,600, is still there. Rather, the tower and west portico are still there because on December

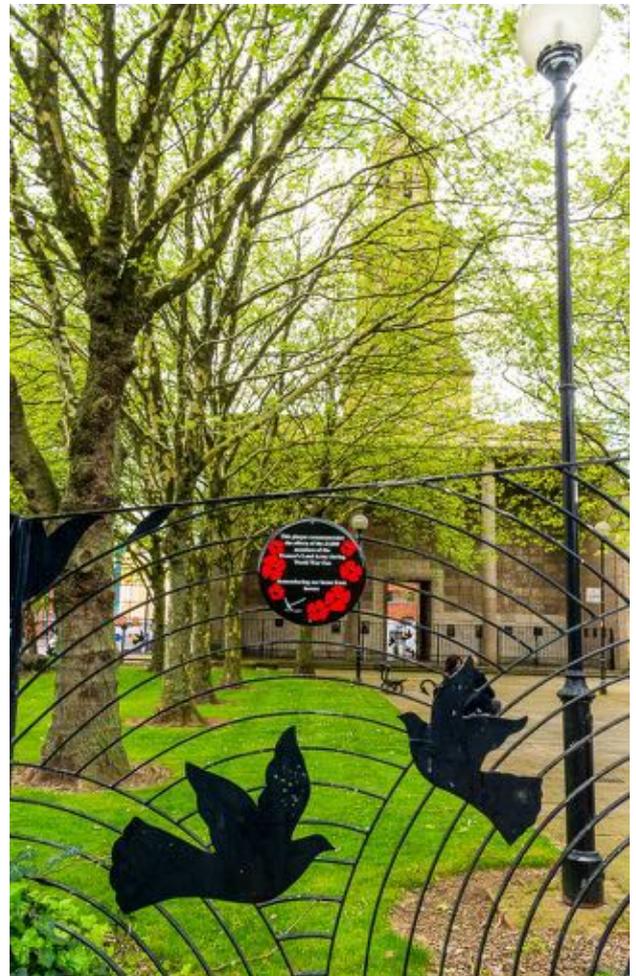
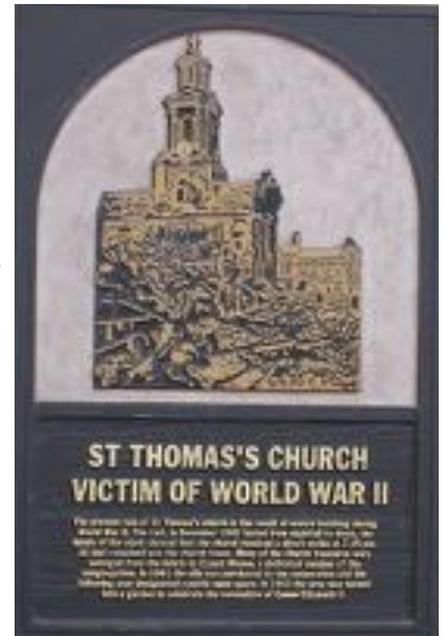
11th 1940 a bomb destroyed most of the building. Instead of demolishing the rest, it was decided to keep what was left and make the gardens around the tower into a Peace Garden. The colonnade, built as part of the Hall of Memory project, was re-erected at the Peace Garden when Centenary Square was laid out.

In 1998 the G8 summit was held in Birmingham and each of the world leaders planted a

tree there.

This hidden gem is just round the corner from the hustle and bustle of Five Ways.

Rita Sutton





ST FRANCIS DAY CELEBRATION

TUESDAY 4 OCTOBER
7.00P.M.

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE
SERVED AFTER A SERVICE OF
HOLY COMMUNION

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ST FRANCIS CHURCH
SYCAMORE ROAD
BOURNVILLE
B30 2AA



BIG GREEN WEEK

SEPTEMBER 24th-OCTOBER 2ND

We are looking forward to celebrating our wonderful earth and how we as a community are taking action to tackle climate change and protect nature.



There is a busy week planned with lots of activities and ways everyone can take part... Here is the timetable so far.

Wednesday September 28th Harvest Tea. 2:30 - 4:30 pm.

Rita Sutton is planning this with help and Support from Shirley in the Kitchen. It will be a ticket event. Price £3. All are welcome especially those who regularly go on Rita's trips !!

Tickets from RITA.

Thursday September 29th Midweek Service. 11:00 am. .

A Harvest Celebration ... All are welcome

Saturday October 1st GREEN FAYRE. 10:30 - 2:00 pm.

Stalls to include:- Toy Swap; Upcycled good quality clothes; Linda's Books; Celia's Jams, cakes and cards; Plants and seeds; Nature crafts; Garden in an Unusual Container Display [with a prize for every entry]; and many others.

Details to follow.

We also plan to serve homemade vegetable soup at lunchtime and have an assortment of cakes for sale, baked with either fruit or vegetables. Please sign on the list in the Pennine Way if you can help with this.

Saturday October 1st Harvest Supper and Barn Dance 6:00 - 8:00 pm

Tickets £8 Adults £20 Family.

Ploughman's supper and soft drinks included in the ticket price.

Sunday October 2nd. Parade service 10:30am

All Age Harvest Festival

Presentation of our BRONZE ECO -AWARD.

What a great week we are going to have... come along and join in.

Sandra Walton

THE GREAT BIG GREEN WEEK participants include:



Foundation



WWF



FAIRTRADE



National Trust



Used Stamps for Christian Aid.

You may have noticed, possibly some years ago, a box in the Pennine way, by the pigeon holes labelled Used Stamps for Leprosy Mission. Myra Dean used to collect these so they could be sold to stamp collectors to raise money for the Leprosy Mission. When she could no longer do it, Hazel Nash took over, and then Linda Mann. It became more and more difficult to dispose of the stamps, especially during the pandemic, but Linda and Jean Morgan felt there should be some way of making use of them, and had heard of several charities which did so in the past.

Jean found out that Christine Adams was collecting stamps for Christian Aid at St Nicholas Church, Kings Norton, and she had a friend who was willing to take them there for us. Christian Aid is, of course, an organisation we already support at Cotteridge.

So- we now have a new box, in the same place [and with the same decoration, but a new label] for "Used Stamps for Christian Aid." They would like any postage stamps, British, or foreign, undamaged.

Please leave them with a small margin of the paper of the envelope [~¼ inch] around them.

Many thanks.

Vivien Meadows Headpiece Exhibit.

Many of you will remember Viv as a member of our Church, and before she moved to the West Country. She has sent information about the Wells Art Contemporary 2022 Exhibition held in the Cathedral, and online during August. It is the 11th edition, and

over 3,200 artworks have been submitted by 1,600 artists from 47 different countries. From these a committee selected 120 works from 111 artists to portray painting, drawing, printmaking, photography, mixed media, & sculpture. These were displayed in the Cathedral, and competed for a number of prizes.

At the time of writing the exhibitors' work can be seen on the festival website <https://www.wellsartcontemporary.co.uk/shop>

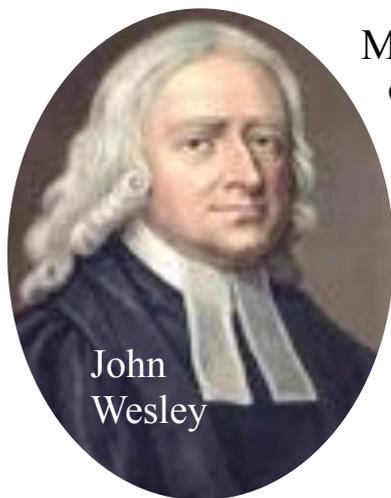
Viv's Headpiece was selected to be one of these exhibits.

Congratulations Viv!



WESLEYAN ANGEL

This rare religious artefact from the 1790s featured on a past episode of the Antiques Roadshow.



Made from a vertebral bone of a ox, it was a religious souvenir from one of John Wesley's evangelical campaigns where an ox was regularly roasted. You can see the original angel's face.

Bob Burton



Nostalgia isn't what it used to be!

As some of you may have noticed I wasn't at Church on Sunday 10th July. I was on Holiday in the Welsh borders. One day I went to Machynlleth to visit MoMA Wales, one of my favourite Art Galleries which has a superb permanent collection of Welsh modern art and also hosts some excellent exhibitions. On the day I visited they were hosting an exhibition of local works on the subject of Home. There was an adult section and a children's section, and the most startling thing was how the adult and how the children saw home. Most of the adults painted mountains, whilst the children all painted their pet. So, to a Welsh child, home is not the house they live in or their parents, but fluffy the cat! I voted for my favourite artwork in both sections and the adult piece I voted for was a painting showing a woman diving into the sea whilst being mobbed by Seagulls. I think it was the painting's title that intrigued most - it was called 'Aberystwyth Dreams in Albuquerque'.



However, it was the second day out I wish to talk about. I went to Craven Arms, partly because it's got the best charity bookshop in the country, always with a well-stocked travelogue section. You get the feeling that everyone in Craven Arms doesn't want to be there! But the town is also the home to one of my favourite museums. Tucked down a side street by the free car park, is a small museum called 'The Land of Lost Content' - named for a line from one of my favourite poems, Poem 60 from 'A Shropshire Lad', which is all about longing for things past. The museum is also about nostalgia and contains a unique collection of items representing normal life over the last seventy years. There are countless Girls' Brigade uniforms of different ages and many National Milk tins just like the one I used to keep my marbles in. But at the back of one of the vast

display halls is the first Washing Machine my mother ever had. My mom was so pleased when she took delivery of it as up till then she had done all the washing by heating up pans and pans of water over the kitchen fire and using them to fill a large barrel which stood at the front of the coal shed and then putting the dirty clothes in it she would beat them to death with a club she called her podger. Every time I visit 'The Land of Lost Contents' I stand and



stare at that washing machine and remember how I, and mom used to fill it with cold water and send my Action Man up and down it dressed in his deep-sea diver's suit. On a landing further up in the museum there is a 'Johnny Seven - One Man Army', the must-have toy of 1965, which my parents bought me as a present for being so good when I had my tonsils out, heaven knows where they got the money from. There is an exhibit just full of Party Sevens, I sure you remember them, they were impossible to open without getting beer everywhere. My school sixth form organised a disco at a local hall and were told never to darken its doors again as we managed to cover the whole floor in two inches of beer while trying to get into our Party Sevens. I love this museum as it brings back so many memories, especially of my marvellous mom, and I am glad I am writing this on a computer because if I were writing this on a piece of paper it would be soaking wet by now as I am crying all the time. But the other reason I am crying is on leaving the building I got talking with Stella Mitchell, the woman who put this collection together and she told me that due to financial difficulties the museum would be closing early next year, and the collection sold off.

So, if you haven't been to 'The Land of Lost Content' or if you have and like me, loved it **Go Now** before it's too late.

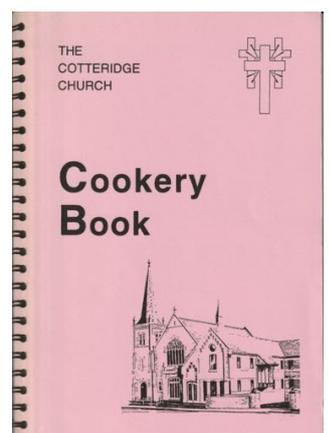
Neil Walters

Cotteridge Church Cookery Book

Rita Sutton and I were chatting recently, and reminisced about the Church Cookery Book - published in 1993. We both have a copy. We also both thought it would be a good idea to have Cookery Book 2. If you agree, and would like to contribute, please give your recipe, if possible with a photo of the finished article to one of us, and if we get a good response we will produce Volume 2. Recipes must be your own, and not copied from any published literature.

Let's get known for culinary excellence!

Celia Lester.



SEVEN X SEVEN @77

We all know of many difficulties experienced within families during the Pandemic and subsequent lockdowns. There has been an incredible rise in children suffering mental health issues. One of these areas - Eating Disorders has risen by 400% in the past 2 years and it is this that has affected my family.

My granddaughter's name has appeared on our prayer list for many months and I am so grateful for the prayers of our church community for her and her family. She was diagnosed with Anorexia in September 2020 and has spent time in hospital and within a Unit supporting young adults suffering this Disorder. However like so many it is a daily challenge for her to overcome the negative and destructive thoughts. More funds are needed to support families and raise the profile to gain those resources so vitally needed.



I want to be actively involved in doing something to help. So during September when I shall be 77, I am setting myself a challenge to walk 7 kms around 7 parks in Birmingham...celebrating the green public spaces around us in Cannon Hill Park, Cotteridge Park, Rowheath Park, the Rea Valley route and where my family live in Loughborough, Liverpool and Milton Keynes.

**I want to do my utmost to raise awareness and funds for
BEAT**

BEAT is the UK's Eating Disorder charity that supports anyone with an eating disorder and their friends and families, as well as professionals working with or worried about an individual in their care.



As a challenge it would be great if anyone would like to join me on a walk (you don't have to do all the 7 kms) or sponsor me by visiting.

Justgiving.com and typing in my name.

All funds raised go directly to BEAT

Thank you for your help and support. Please come and talk to me about the challenge. I will be posting regular updates on social media and hopefully in our own notice sheet too.

Sandra Walton

Services in September and October

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

Wednesdays at 7.30 pm There will be online worship on Zoom.

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

Mike Claridge produces a regular notice sheet, which can be accessed via the church web site. This will give details of online services, and zoom interactions etc.

	4th September	11th September	18th September	25th September	
10:30 am	Revd M. Claridge Youth Celebration	Revd M. Claridge/ Ms Sue Spencer HC	Revd R. Collins Morning Worship	Revd M. Claridge HC	
7:30 pm	Spark				
	2nd October	9th October	16st October	23rd October	30th October
10:30 am	Revd Barbara Calvert parade/ Harvest Festival	Revd R. Collins HC	Mr John Cooper Morning Worship	Revd M. Claridge HC	Revd M. Claridge Memorial Service
7:30 pm	Spark				

Spark resumes after its summer break. from the evening of Sunday 4th September at 7.30 pm. We are now discussing the interpretations of Parables in the current times . If you are interested, please come, and if you would like further information, please contact Jane Stephens.

< jane.stephens@thecotteridgechurch.org.uk >



SCHINDLER'S LIST



In July Naomi & I took a city break to Krakow, one of Poland's finest cities I'm told, although I can't comment as it was my first and so far only visit to Poland. As well as the usual tourist things to see in the city, travel companies also organise tours to nearby places infamous in WW II such as Auschwitz-Birkenau 70 km further west. I have to say I preferred to view fine art in the museums and declined a day trip to Auschwitz.

However a more positive place to visit that also gave a window on



WW II was the ceramics factory in Krakow formerly owned by Oskar Schindler. The factory was about twenty minutes walk from our hotel on the south side of the R Vistula. Inside was a museum that told the story not just of 'Schindler's List' but of the Nazi invasion of Poland and the subsequent holocaust of Jews in Krakow. It made for a sobering experience on a fine sunny day.



You are first of all presented with a lot of black & white photographs depicting Krakow life before the Nazi invasion of 1939. Plenty of smiling faces, parties, picnics. However German response to conquered territory was to enslave the population, Polish as well as Jewish. The Germans began by declaring the city to be 'German' by removing Polish street names. The main square became 'Adolf Hitler Platz'. Many

thousands of Polish citizens were forced to leave the city and coerced into working for the German war machine on the promise of good food and good wages. Then the Germans designated a small section of the city to be 'jewish' and moved all Jews into that area. Over time they built a high wall all around while still adding to the population. Living space became 2 square metres per person. Then they cut off



supplies of food and water. Not surprisingly people started dying of starvation and disease. Community groups responded by offering free school meals with education but Germans made that illegal. Even then the mortality rate wasn't fast enough for the Nazis so they eventually emptied the ghetto. Armed soldiers would enter crowded tenement building and force everyone to line up in the street. Children would be thrown from upper windows onto waiting army trucks below. Sometimes they missed. Everyone then walked to a prison camp where it was easier to work the remaining ones to death. Rescue of sorts came when the Russian army arrived in January 1945. Roman Polanski was one of the few survivors.

Schindler was a German business man who found he could make a living winning contracts from the German army. He disliked the brutality in full view, but he also realised he could cut his production costs by using free Jewish labour. He used his profits to bribe local Nazi officials to put named Jews on his company 'payroll'. Schindler was able to keep about 1 000 people working at his factory where he organised food and medical care and kept them relatively safe from the chaos outside. He was arrested more than once by the Nazis but he always managed to bribe his way back to freedom. He is also portrayed as a womanising business man who failed at peacetime commercial success. The factory survivors mostly emigrated to America and Israel but they kept his memory alive. When he died he was buried in Israel.

Peter Childs July 2022



Blue skies, and mermaids, beach games, sea shells and friendship were in plenty on 24th August. Michelle and her team organised a lovely “Day Out” for all the members of the Day Centre, and you could even see the sea!





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