

Roundabout



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

September 2023

Pastoral Letter from The Revd Faria Mapamula Co-Superintendent Birmingham Methodist Circuit

Friends,

The summer seems to have taken an early exit, I do not feel very warm!

In last week's OT reading (Genesis 32: 22-31) we heard the story of Jacob, wrestling with 'a man' in the night, the same night he is preparing to meet with his brother Esau after a long time. The encounter leaves him with a broken hip and a new name.

The past few months may have been bruising in different ways for some of us. But we can limp away in the hope that new life is sprouting at the breaking of the coming Methodist New Year.

Yet, this Sunday's Gospel (Matthew 14:22-33) reading gave me so much to ponder on. Jesus has 'left' the disciples alone; a wonderful theological conundrum because being omnipresent, God is still with them! Jesus leaves the disciples to journey in the boat without him: they are fishermen so know how to do this. (But I gather quite a large percentage of fisherman can not swim, they can only rely on their boat). Jesus stays away in the darkest hours of the night, whilst the disciples cope with the choppy waters; which they do because they're fishermen and they also know how to do this.

The disciples are only alarmed when the supernatural literally walks on to the scene; a ghost travelling across the water. Jesus comes to the disciples just before a new day is dawning; a liminal space, a threshold ~ Peter daringly offers a challenge to Jesus, a question laden with fear and then, a holy calling of Peter's bluff.

I am wondering about what Kingdom tasks we are simply left to get on with on 'our own' because we know how to do them? What are we already skilled at?

I am wondering what the new day may bring? I wonder what the new year will bring for us as Circuit and as Church?

But I am learning something, as I keep limping into a holy future carried by sacred winds that blow with whispers of hope. I am learning to say this to myself; I haven't sat with this long enough ...

I don't have words to say what I'm seeing .

Let me ponder .

I was wrong ...

I have not read/seen enough yet.

This is my experience ...

I'm not certain but this is what I trust.

God is love ... God is just ...

Niceness is not justice.

Friends, keep limping ... a new dawn is breaking! Peace to you.



The Rev'd Farai Mapamula -15th August 2023
[Authorised by Revd Mike Claridge]

Friends & Family

The flowers on the front cover were donated by Doris and arranged by Sandra to thank all the volunteers who help in our church.

Note that from 3rd September our evening services will resume - see the services section for further details. We look forward to welcoming you.

We welcomed Revd Phelim O'Hare, Area Dean for Kings Norton, Moseley and Shirley, who led our service on 13th August. This is a new deanery, created in March 2020 to serve a population of about 370,000 people. We enjoyed his service and meeting him.

Congratulations to Emily & Ollie on their wedding, The article you see later on came just too late for the July edition - I apologise to them for this.

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 - November 2023

September. 12 th	Holidays
September. 26 th	Don Hazzard
October. 10 th	Rita on her Palestine Project
October. 24 th	Poetry (Autumn)
November. 14 th	Roger on his rail journeys
November. 28 th	Mike C. on Advent

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 from September 20th.

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

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

	3rd September	10th September	17th September	24th September	
10:30 am	Revd R. Collins Parade	Revd R. Collins HC	Revd M. Claridge Morning Worship	Revd M. Claridge HC	
6.30 pm	Revd R. Collins HC				
	1st October	8th October	15th October	22nd October	29th October
10:30 am	Revd R. Collins Parade/Harvest	Revd M. Claridge HC	Revd M. Claridge Morning Worship	Revd M. Claridge HC	Revd M. Claridge
6.30 pm	Mr John Cooper				

Please note that from now onwards, the wine served at Communion on the second Sunday of the month will be alcoholic. The Communion elements will continue to be brought to the congregation in their seats. Evening services will resume on the first Sunday of each month from September, alternating between Communion and Evening Prayer.

A Right Royal Honour



Kris Darnley liked visiting fire stations when he was young so it's perhaps no surprise that he became a fire fighter. Kris is now, after nineteen years service a Group Commander in Central Birmingham. However his first choice was the army. It was when his mother said NO! that he applied to the Fire Service and the Police. The Fire Service replied first and so Kris joined up - but how was he chosen to take part in the Coronation Procession? His name was put forward to the National Fire Chiefs Council and

five weeks before the Coronation Kris heard he had been chosen. The Chief Fire Officer rang him and at first all Kris could say



was 'Pardon?' He would be one of only twenty from Fire and Rescue, a great honour. Kris was shocked, amazed, but very proud. It seems that King Charles himself had expressed the wish that the civilian services should be represented on that historic day. He was informed by the Home Office that he had to be available from 5th to 7th May. He would be marching and street lining. His colleague, Dave Cross, Group Commander in Birmingham, at Kings Norton Fire Station, helped him rehearse and drilled him hard. Kris quickly became a celebrity and he was invited to the school his four children attend to talk to the pupils.

On 5th May Kris met his fellow officers. They were staying at a hotel by Tower Bridge



and it was in the car park that they drilled until every move was perfect. On 6th May Kris with the others marched early in the morning to the Foreign Office, past the Cenotaph, along Whitehall, around Trafalgar Square and back down Whitehall. Later he was part of the street lining contingent.

It had been a very long day, his back ached and his legs felt very heavy but the excitement and atmosphere had lifted him up. He felt a great sense of pride. The procession had been immaculate. He will never forget that day and to help him remember he has been awarded the Coronation Medal. Well done, Kris, we are very proud of you.

Rita Sutton

Thank you Kris for sharing your story.

Another Cotteridge Gem!



I suppose when the Fire Station is mentioned, most of us think about how careful we have to be walking past because of the cobbles. However, just look up and see the date - 1930. Our fire station was built in the "now famous on all antique programmes" Art Deco period. The building, started in 1929, was designed by the then City Surveyor Herbert Humphreys. He adapted the Neo-Georgian style of architecture and it was used on other West Midlands Fire Brigade buildings.

The Engine House is Grade II listed because of the quality of its facade - symmetrical, with decorative windows, embellished arches and crown moulding.

It is also intact in many details inside. The most special feature is the terrazzo floor.

The word comes from the Italian- meaning terraces. Terrazzo is a composite of marble chippings. It originated in 16th century Italy, and used by Venetian workers, not wanting to waste small pieces of marble [early recycling!] The difference between mosaic and



mosaic is that mosaic has individually placed pieces and terrazzo is random. The floor in the Engine Room has patterns of red, grey and green.

The firemen at Kings Norton were once very kind to my mother. After my father died she could not get up to my second floor flat [no lift] I asked the firemen if they could help. They gave her a firemen's lift and we enjoyed Sunday lunch together. Later they came back, and successfully brought my Mum back to Beaumont Park.



One final thought as Christmas approaches
Keep on looking while you are cooking
50% of house fires start in the kitchen!

Rita Sutton

Firemen and Christmas at Cotteridge



I think we should recall here also that the firemen helped us with our Christmas tree outside the Church in 2016

C.L.



Oldbury Cottage Care Farm

Oldbury Cottage Care Farm offers people with learning disabilities and/or dementia the opportunity to work on a traditional small farm. It teaches them to care for farm animals and grow vegetables such as beans, tomatoes, cucumbers etc. This greatly helps the participants' sense of well-being.



On the Open Day we saw sheep, goats, chickens, pigs, several local craft workers and a beekeeper.

So much can be achieved with the hard work of staff & volunteers.

Bob Burton

Website: <https://occf.org.uk>

Small steps to save our Planet



When I saw this photo on Facebook I knew I needed to pass it on to everyone through our Eco Church Roundabout page.

It's very simple but just says again all the little things we can do to make a difference. It becomes even more important for us all to do more, every time I write. The issues with wildfires, storms, heatwaves, rain and flooding are constantly in the news and our response has to be to put pressure on the government and nations to do it all it can to support the climate emergency and look at our own response too.

So - please follow some of these small steps. Print the photo out and put it on your fridge door... think about ways *you* can make that difference.

I wonder if you have been watching the programme "Earth". It certainly has been incredibly informative. The recreation of how our planet came to being is amazing. Chris Packham's commentary as ever is instructive and challenging as he draws comparisons with then and now.

So read the above mindfully and think of changes we can make in our lives to support this emergency. Everything we do however small is making that difference.

Thank you

Sandra Walton

Chicken leg casserole.

We all know and feel the effects of the enormous rise in food prices, so I thought it might be good to have some economic recipes. Here is one of mine. It feeds 4 & is easy. Sainsbury's [and very possibly other supermarkets] sell a pack of 4 or 5 chicken legs for just over £2. Just add a few vegetables, and some stock, and you can feed 4 people with a good balanced meal for about £5.00

You will need a large casserole, and the means to cook it.

Ingredients

- 1 pack of chicken legs
- 2 large carrots
- 1 large or 2 small leeks
- 2 sticks celery
- Mushrooms if liked
- 1 stock cube

Flour to thicken gravy [either plain wheat flour or cornflour]

Seasoning

Potatoes - to give the starch balance.



Method: Prepare vegetables, as you can see above:

Prepare gravy by mixing about 1 dessertspoonful of flour with water, [added a very little at a time to prevent clumping] until free flowing. Thicken by adding some boiling water, and stir to mix. Crush the stock cube, and stir it in. Check its seasoning, and add more pepper & salt as desired. Most stock cubes have enough salt already.

Place the chicken in the casserole, and add the vegetables scattered evenly around.

Pour over the gravy. Place the lid on the casserole and place it in the oven [med/low heat] with the whole potatoes for about two hours. Check to see if cooked.

Serve. Enjoy!

Celia Lester

Raisons d'être

Reading the articles about Joan and Steph in the July edition, and Kris and the Oldbury Cottage Care Farm in this one has inspired me to discuss a topic which has been on my mind for some time.

What am I here for?

After I retired from the job I loved - teaching Chemistry, my children left home to begin their adult lives, and my husband died - all within a short period of time - I was left with little purpose in life. Family and friends were very kind and supportive, and visited and entertained me, but I needed projects in which I could be useful and help other people.

In June the BBC Midlands Today featured a 91 year old widow, who now helps primary school children improve their reading skills via the internet, through the Bookmark Reading Charity. She said doing that was a privilege and a gift and gave her much joy and fulfilment, and made her life worthwhile. The volunteering work had filled a "huge hole" in her life after the death of her husband, she said.

"It's made life worth living, I've got some purpose and it's so rewarding."

One of her pupils moved to the UK from Central America three years ago, unable to speak English. The 91 year old received special permission to carry on working with her after the initial six weeks and now they have done more than 40 sessions. The pupil said she was a "great teacher, I do really like her," adding she gave the lessons "10 out of 10".

Our church provides so many opportunities for people who need help, and also, very importantly for people who want to volunteer and help others. There are so many folk here who give freely of their time and skills. I am sure they feel valued and worthwhile, giving them joy, and knowing that they are part of our valuable community. You have only to see members of C2U smiling as they help clear up in the coffee bar, or sell goods to raise funds. People who greet you when you come, who help with the Garden, with the Day Centre, in the Kitchen, with the general organisation, and in so many other ways. Look in their eyes and you can see it brings pleasure. They know they are being useful, and worthwhile people. They are all ready to talk to you, and show friendship.

I feel very sorry for all those who think *they* are the most important beings, and that everyone else should be subservient. Some are just "boy-racers", some are multibillionaires, some are drugs barons. How do they come to think that way?

I am sure that faith can help a lot with this. Our Bible so often mentions the good deeds done, and encourages us to follow Christ in helping and showing love for others. It is the same with many other faiths too. It is so enriching to do so. C.L.

Boys' Brigade

Our annual family outing took place in July with a great day in Weston-Super-Mare enjoyed by everybody.



Our new session starts on Friday 8th September and as usual all new boy's will be warmly welcomed in all age groups.

The enrolment service has been arranged for Friday 29th September at 7-30pm. Saturday 4th November is the start of our BB week and as usual we intend to have a sleepover and bake sale on Sunday after the parade service.

Bob Hotchkiss

St Mary's Church, Elmley Castle

The Cotteridge Country Walkers are usually a hardy bunch but a dire weather forecast on the booked walking Saturday in July gave too many pause for thought. As walk leaders Naomi & I cancelled the booked date and rebooked it for a week later. After sunny skies all week the second Saturday annoyingly became wet all day. The few who turned out ended up touring the walk route by car. But all was not lost. The walk had been set to start in the village of Elmley Castle, Worcs, a pretty little place with an historic pub and ancient church. Villages around the route have similar thatched cottages and ancient churches, all well worth a look. We spent an hour in St Mary's deciding if the rain was ever going to ease off before giving up. Our visit was well rewarded.

We found two amazing tombs commemorating two families. One had life-sized

reclining figures of the Savage family dating from 1631. You occasionally find one reclining figure in churches, occasionally two side by side, always depicting a husband and wife. This one had three figures: Gile Savage and his wife Catherine but also his father somehow made it into the statuary as a third figure, all exquisitely represented in rose coloured alabaster. Catherine is depicted as holding a posthumous child, and the four surviving children wearing fine cloaks are depicted kneeling reverently at

the feet of their parents. It is an amazing piece of carving and design created four hundred years ago.

Near the Savage memorial is an even more elaborate tomb depicting the 1st Earl of Coventry. It appears he was killed in the English Civil War because he is shown in a lifelike pose stooping as he fell, seemingly to defend the royal crown. It's an impressive piece of white marble carving but it didn't suit everyone's taste. The 2nd Earl refused to allow his father's monument in the family church at Croome D' Abbot. Luckily the 1st Earl's widow had remarried and was now the wife of Thomas Savage back at Elmley castle. She persuaded her new husband to allow the 1st Earl's memorial to rest in Elmley parish church. Visitors get two for the price of one, although two large tombs do rather take up a lot of space in a modest parish church



Congratulations Emily and Ollie.

"We had an absolutely wonderful day for Emily and Ollie's wedding on Easter Saturday. It was lovely to share in such a joyous occasion at Cotteridge Church. Of course myself and Emily's Dad met at Cotteridge Church through GB and BB and Emily attended GB there for many years.

My Mum, Pat Walker, was captain of GB as was my sister, Helen Bentley so it was lovely to be welcomed back into the fold of Cotteridge.

Mum would have loved it that Emily and Ollie married

at Cotteridge Church. When she was in Stennards Care Home she used to try and set her up

with one of the carers ha! She would love to know how happy she is now. Dad, of course, played his part at Cotteridge Church. He used to do the shopping for the Coffee Bar on a weekly basis. He knew Emily was getting married and it

was his dying wish to go to the wedding but unfortunately it wasn't to be.

It was then, a bitter sweet day but I'm sure Mum and Dad were looking down on us ensuring that the sun shone and a lovely day was had by all.

Special thanks to Sandra for doing the flowers in Church and making it look so lovely, to Brian Taylor for doing the service, and for all our friends at Cotteridge Church who came to wish Emily and Ollie well."

Alison Miller.

THE COTTERIDGE CHURCH HARVEST BARN DANCE

SATURDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER 6.00PM - 9.00 PM

Join us for an evening of celebration

- | | |
|-------------|-------------------------|
| 6:00 - 6:30 | Fish & Chip Supper) |
| 6:30 - 7:15 | Dancing |
| 7:15 - 7:45 | Dessert |
| 7:45 - 9:00 | More Dancing till close |

Tickets £8.00 per person

Please book through Sarah or Dorothy
by 25th September.



Cotteridge Tea Party



During the afternoon of Wednesday 23rd August we hosted a traditional tea party. Real tablecloths, lots of bone china tea sets, complete with tea pots, and delicious food. 26 people enjoyed the feast, and the atmosphere was full of warm friendship. Our guests included a number of Quaker friends, and a group of seven friends having an afternoon out. We hope to repeat it in a few months time.

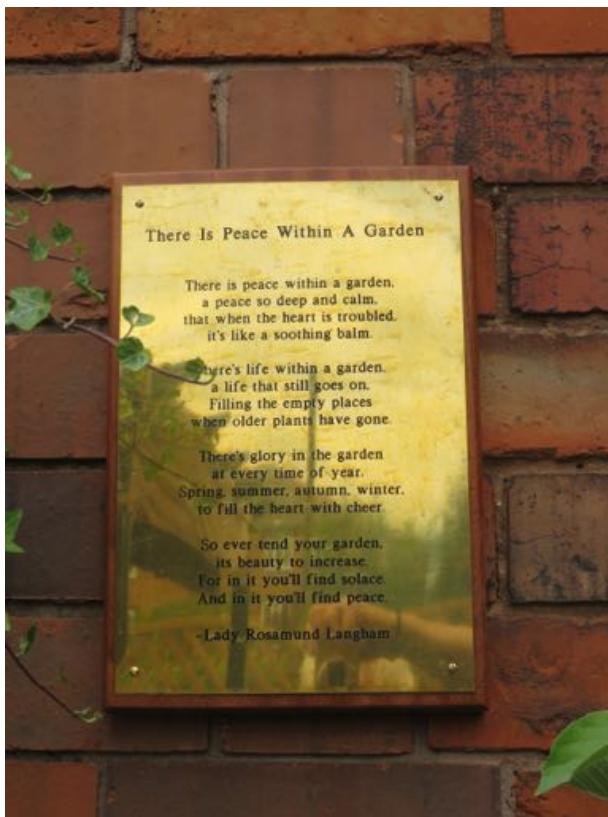
Many thanks to all who helped.



Co-op Garden Club meeting.

Members of the Co-op Garden Club joined us on 23rd August to see our refurbished garden, and learn what we are doing with it. Barbara Calvert and Celia Lester gave the talk, and afterwards we returned to the Clent Room for tea, and the members took part in a Bible Plants Quiz, and a “Make your own passion flower” kit. It was a friendly and constructive meeting.

Sue Letts, who heads the club said “Members really enjoyed the whole evening. So big thanks to Celia. The takings for the evening of £70 have been given to the church”.



This plaque is on the wall of the vestry in the Bible garden

There is Peace within a Garden

Lady Rosamund Langham

There is peace within a garden,
a peace so deep and calm,
that when the heart is troubled,
it's like a soothing balm.

There's life within a garden,
a life that still goes on.
Filling the empty places
when older plants have gone.

There's glory in the garden
at every time of year.
Spring, summer, autumn, winter,
to fill the heart with cheer.

So ever tend your garden,
in beauty to increase,
For in it you'll find solace,
and in it you'll find peace

William Tyndale 1494 - ca 6th October 1536

He was not actually a saint, but made a great contribution to our faith. He was an English biblical scholar and linguist, and became a leading figure in the Protestant Reformation during the years leading up to his execution. Possibly he is best known as the translator of the Bible into English - a translation drawn from the original Hebrew and Greek texts, and the first to take advantage of the printing press. The King James Version, produced in 1611 drew much from the Tyndale translation - estimated to be 83% of the Old and 76% of the New Testaments.

His work "The Obedience of a Christian Man [1528]" was used by Henry VIII to break the church in England away from the Catholic church in 1534. However, in 1530 Tyndale wrote The Practice of Prelates, which opposed Henry's plan to seek the annulment of his marriage to Catherine of Aragon, which brought him into dispute with the king.

Tyndale was born near Dursley, in Gloucestershire, and studied at Magdalen Hall Oxford, gaining a B.A in 1512, and an M.A in 1515, which enabled him to begin studies in Theology.

He became fluent in French, Greek, Hebrew, German, Italian, Latin and Spanish, studying in Cambridge from 1517 - 1521. Partly because of his disputed views on making Christianity widely available to all, he left England for Europe - possibly Hamburg, and then Wittenburg, where it is thought he began translating the New Testament into English. He was a supporter of Luther, and hence incurred condemnation as a heretic from Cardinal Wolsey in court in 1529.

Because of his opposition to Henry VIII's annulment of his marriage, Emperor Charles V was asked to extradite him to England. He was seized in Antwerp in 1535, and held for a year and a half in the Castle of Vilvoorde near Brussels. Eventually he was tried on charges of Lutheran heresy, found guilty by his own admission and sentenced to execution, despite Thomas Cromwell's intercession. He was strangled whilst tied to a stake, and his body was burned.

There is a memorial to him at Vilvoorde, where he was executed, and also this one in the Victoria Embankment Gardens, London.

In his brief but very busy life, he wrote numerous books, and made many contributions of phrases still in common use today: Let there be light; my brother's keeper; the salt of the earth; a law unto themselves; the signs of the times; filthy lucre; the powers that be. - to name but a few.

In 2002 he was placed 26th in the BBC's poll of 100 Greatest Britons.



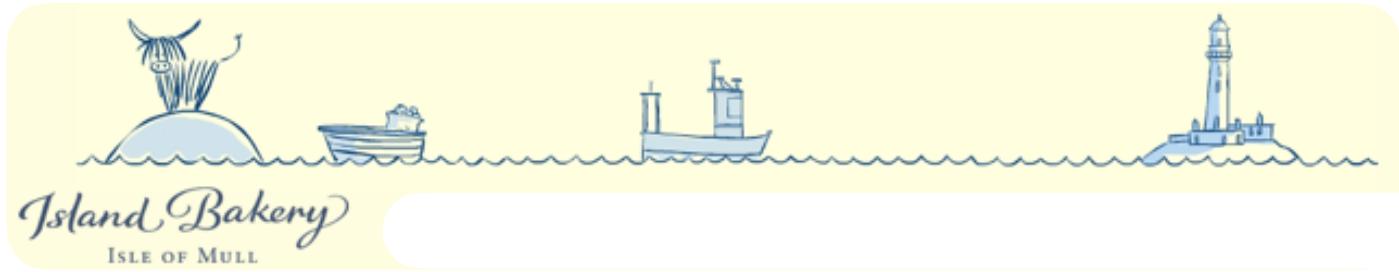
Celia Lester

COTTERIDGE CHURCH BOOKCENTRE

WE ARE FAIR TRADE LTD



The Island Bakery Story



Joe & Dawn Reade were fresh-faced and naïve young graduates of the University of Edinburgh when they started baking bread in a converted garage in Tobermory in 1994. The



local baker was retiring, and the islanders needed someone to keep them in lovely fresh loaves.

In 1996 they bought a shop premises on Tobermory's Delicatessen. It was

colourful Main Street, which became the Island Bakery through stocking the deli with tempting speciality foods that Dawn realised that there was a bit of a gap in the market for tempting organic biscuits. Keen to make something that could travel beyond Mull, the Reades thought that biscuits seemed to be an excellent product to introduce to places beyond the island's shores.

In 2001 Island Bakery Organics was born. Initially the range had just 4 varieties. Quality not quantity! The first biscuit customers included Harvey Nichols & Selfridges. Within the first year the company picked up several Great Taste awards and scooped an Organic Food award.



By 2007, the biscuit side of business had overtaken the deli, and the Reades made the difficult decision to sell their shop to concentrate on biscuits. Soon afterwards, plans were made to build a new bakery. The new premises were completed in June 2012. Powered by local renewable energy – wind and water for electricity, and wood for heating the ovens- the building makes Joe & Dawn feel all grown up now.

Roger Collins



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Large print issue is available to download from our web site.

Your Editor from January 2017 is Celia Lester

Please send copy for the November 2023 edition by 24th October 2023 to
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