

Roundabout



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

November 2022



Mike's message ...

Advent is almost with us! It starts on Sunday 27th November and is the period of four Sundays and the weekdays from then until Christmas. It's a time to prepare to celebrate Christmas, but also to have a 'sort out' in our lives so that we are ready to welcome Christ when we meet face to face.

As many of you will know my Dad, Eric, died in April. In much of his working life he was an engineer with GEC at Witton. He started there as an apprentice in 1943 and, apart from his National Service in the RAF from 1950-1953 (as an engine fitter mostly on Short Sunderland Flying Boats) he worked there (and on projects for them on nuclear subs in Barrow and power stations in Iran) until his late 50s. Then he used some of his redundancy money to set up a Greeting Cards and Gifts Shop in the house on Pelsall High Street where he'd been born and grew up.



One thing that anyone who has an old engineer in the family knows is that, if they can avoid it, they never throw anything away. Dad's house has a very large triple garage, but when he died there was only just enough room to get one car in! It was full of wood, metal, old engineering tools, the skeletal remains of an Austin Seven, old gardening equipment, enough home winemaking paraphernalia to start a small brewery and loads of stuff that "might come in useful one day you never know" as he used to say.

Since April, together with my sister and brother-in-law, we've spent most Mondays having a sort out. We've been absolutely brutal. I've lost count of the times we've been backwards and forwards to 'the tip'). We've sold a few things but, mainly, there wasn't much that could ever be needed by anyone - oh and woodworm. Eventually we could not only see, but also reach, all four walls. Sorted, as they say. Well we're nearly there. We're also having to tackle the upstairs at the shop.

Advent is a time to talk about sorting. All of us gather stuff around us in our lives. As with dad's garage a lot of those things are material items that corrosion, moth, rot - and woodworm! - can destroy. We all have also financial clutter too. A survey revealed that on average in the UK people pay £468 per year on services they never use including gym memberships and streaming services. Imagine what that money could be used for. Then there's all the emotional clutter in our lives - guilt and regrets about the past and often needless worry about the future.

Advent isn't just about preparing cards, baubles and turkeys for Christmas. It is also about looking at our lives and being ruthless at sorting things out. When all sorts of clutter is cleared there'll be more room for Christ in our lives. Then we'll be ready to enter Advent with confidence in the bidding "Come, Lord Jesus, Come"!

Friends & Family

Sheila Smith's funeral was held at Lodge Hill on 12th September, led by Revd Nick Jones. The chapel was filled with her friends and family, and the service was filled with our thanks for the honour of being her friends.

Pete Williams has also died

On a much happier note, we would all like to congratulate Norman M, and Rita S as they enter their ninth decade. Our new member Janet P will be joining them on 9th November. We hope you have a super birthday, Janet.

Our Red Bucket appeal to help the people of Pakistan in the wake of their floods has raised £103. Thanks to all our donors.

Sandra has just finished her 7 x 7 @ 77 walks for BEAT, and has raised over £1,000! Well done Sandra. She is so grateful to all who have sponsored her.

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 MAY – DEC 2022

NOV. 8th	John Smith Seasonal programme	H.N.
22nd	Musical afternoon + Bring & Buy	H.P.
DEC. 13th	Advent Carols + mince pies	L.M.
27th	No Meeting	

Services in November and December

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.

	6th November	13th November	20th November	27th November
10:30 am	Ms Judith Bell Parade	Revd M. Claridge Remembrance Service HC	Revd R. Collins Morning Worship	Revd M. Claridge HC
6.30 pm				Advent Carols
	4th December	11th December	18th December	25th December
10:30 am	Revd Barbara Calvert Parade	Revd R. Collins HC	Revd M. Claridge Carol Service	Revd R. Collins HC

There will be a special service on Christmas Eve, December 24th at 11.30 pm.

10.30am Sunday 4th December Parade/All Age Christmas celebration. Scrooge will be making an appearance in our Christmas play!

11.00am Thursday 15th December Midweek Christmas Celebration with Day Centre, C2U, and sixty pupils from Year 5 at Cotteridge School. We shall enjoy Carols, Christmas readings, and lighting candles for our world.



Reverend Jenny Adams

Some of you may remember Jenny Adams, who was born when we worshipped at Kings Norton United Reformed Church (KNURC) and who was baptised there in 1981. When KNURC joined together with the Methodist and Anglican churches in Kings Norton, the Girls' and Boys' Brigades at the URC merged with the existing ones at the Methodist Church.

The Brigades were well known for their ambitious productions, and Jenny was given the role of Joseph in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat*. Pat Walker, the Girls' Brigade Captain at the time, found out that Roger Jones was looking for singers for his latest production, *Jairus' Daughter*, so sent him a recording of Jenny singing. She auditioned and was given the lead role, which led to her travelling around the country with Roger Jones and the rest of the cast to perform. Jenny experienced different forms of worship through her involvement with Roger Jones, and this was a time of exploring her faith. Although she decided not to be confirmed as a teenager, she remained interested in Christianity and reading the Bible, and decided to study Theology and Religious Studies at Cambridge University.

After meeting her husband, Pete, at university, they stayed on an extra year together then moved to London. They got married back at The Cotteridge Church in 2008 and started a family. Having settled in Surbiton, they became very involved in St Matthew's Church, initially as a gateway to the local Church of England Primary School.

It was whilst they were living in Surbiton that Jen felt a call to ordained ministry. I am not sure that she anticipated the seven year journey to where she is now. After five years in the 'discernment process' (discerning whether ordination was God's will), and two years studying at St Mellitus College in London, she was ordained Deacon at Southwark Cathedral on 25 June this year. It was an incredibly emotional service to watch the 17 ordinands making their vows and to see her become Reverend Jen Houghton.

Jen is now continuing her training as Curate at St Andrew's Church, Ham, where she works four days a week. Although life is busy with three young children and a husband with a demanding job, Jen is really enjoying her new role. She is looking forward to July next year when, God willing, she will be priested. I know she is grateful for the love and support of the clergy, congregation and children's workers in her formative years, and the many seeds of faith that were sown during her time at The Cotteridge Church.



Christine Adams

Our glorious cathedrals...by bike!

Cycling along a quiet Cornish lane I heard rising from the valley below the sound of muffled bells. 'Dong, dong, dong'. I looked at my watch. It was 12noon, Friday 9th September. The bells rang as they had done over hundreds of years to announce the death of a monarch. The Queen who had reigned for all my life had died. I had heard the news the day before when travelling on the train to Truro but to hear the ancient bells was very moving.

With my cathedral cycling companions I was on the last of our cathedral cycling trips for the year. In July we had cycled on the hottest day on record from Chichester, via Portsmouth to Winchester and then Salisbury. In August, expecting cooler weather in the north, we travelled by train to Carlisle. In Carlisle cathedral we participated in the cathedral's summer attraction 'Resting under the Stars'. Deckchairs and scatter cushions were provided to lie back and look up at the cathedral ceiling all painted with silver stars on a dark blue background. With headphones we listened to sounds representing the passage of time. The first sound was of gently flowing water recorded in the nearby River Eden. A timeless sound. The river flows on through all the ups and downs of our human lives.

I think of all our cycle trips...covering the whole of the Midlands, East Anglia, London, Kent, Essex, the southern counties this one in the north of England was my favourite.



Far from being cooler we cycled from Carlisle, along Hadrian's Wall in the second heatwave of the year, to Newcastle. The scenery was stunning. On our third night we stayed in Castle College, part of Durham University, opposite Durham Cathedral.



It was fortunate that we had saved our West Country trip from Truro to Exeter and Wells to last as it was the most challenging. Day one from Truro to Launceston was 62 miles and 4,500ft of climbing along constantly undulating lanes and then up on to Bodmin Moor. The brooding atmosphere of the moors reminiscent of Daphne du Maurier's gothic tale, 'Jamaica Inn'. The next day an ascent of Dartmoor and then the Mendip Hills. But every trip has been wonderful... the joy and freedom of cycling with each day ending in one of our glorious cathedrals has been an absolute delight.

'These journeys of discovery will bring us back to where we started...but we may no longer be the same people. With a refreshed mind and an enhanced way of seeing, we may discover God where God has always been – right in the midst of the everyday.'

'Every Place is Holy Ground' by Sally Welch.

Thirty-five cathedrals ticked off in our Pilgrim's Passport.

Next year...Chester, Liverpool, Manchester and Bradford... I can't wait!

Barbara Calvert

God HAS saved the Queen.

Windsor Castle Thursday 8th September 2022

Our nation, and also the whole of the world were moved and saddened to hear of the death of our beloved Queen on Thursday 8th September. She had been such a valuable and constant part of our lives for so many years.

That day there were many rainbows in the sky - above Windsor, and above Balmoral, which hardly ever has a rainbow. God used the Rainbow as a sign for Noah, and I am sure He used it again here.

The BBC gave us remarkable live coverage of all that happened. The outpouring of love and tribute for her was phenomenal. The organisation of it all was exemplary, and made us proud to be British.

Memories of the Queen

Mike Claridge: Here's a photo that I took way back in July 1981 at The Royal Agricultural Show at Stoneleigh. The man with her is (I think) the President of the Royal Agricultural Society.



Celia Lester. In November 1955, the Queen visited King Edward VI School in Edgbaston. I had just started as a pupil at Camp Hill, and, being the oldest in my form, was chosen to be amongst the crowd of pupils in the school grounds.

As we give thanks for her life of dedication and service to her people, let us also pray for her successor King Charles III





September 8th 2022

‘My kingdom is not of this world’.
Jesus’ answer to a questioning Pilate.
The truth of that statement sinks deeply into my very being today,
as we reflect on the death of Queen Elizabeth
after such a long, dedicated life.

The instantly winging responses are deservedly world-wide:
Tributes and memories
Flowers
Crowds
Laying in state
Funeral plans
Immense sadness and thanksgiving ...

What a contrast with the Jesus so rapidly crucified,
accused of claiming to be a king:

A cross
A hasty linen-wrapped burial by two men watched by a few women
A borrowed rock tomb
Sealed and guarded –
lest a stolen body might challenge the finality of death.
No procession
No religious service
No obituaries ...

And yet -
the death of that ‘king’ two thousand plus years ago
influenced the life, words, and actions of our Queen –
and millions of others, down through the centuries,
across the globe
and continues, unabated,
as each committed person, high or lowly
contributes to making our world a better place.

Jesus’ words were so true.
‘My kingdom is not of this world’.
Not indeed in earthly terms of wealth, power, status,
but undefeatably demonstrating,
in that spiritual reality which we call eternity
that ‘king’ Jesus, through the power of God’s Holy Spirit,
here and now and yet to come
is indeed a king.

Ros Murphy

*[Ros has recently published the second volume of her book “Glimpses of God
“- available from Roger Collins at the Church Book Shop.]*

Campanology and the Queen

Everyone has heard church bells ringing out across towns and the countryside but the way the process works is less well known. Each metal bell weighing around a tonne is mounted on a wooden frame, and that frame has a pulley wheel about the size of a cartwheel. The number of bells in a church tower vary but eight is common. Before bell ringers start they position all the bells 'up', meaning the open end points to the sky in an unbalanced position. By pulling a rope set around the pulley wheel the bell is pulled off balance in a controlled manner which allows it to swing nearly in a full circle before coming back to its resting place. That circular movement gives two strikes of the clapper, one on the forward stroke, one on the back stroke. It gives two bright 'tangs' whenever the metal clapper hits the rim of the metal bell. It creates a bright joyful sound that is often used as a backdrop to weddings or national celebrations.

But if someone dies each clapper can be muffled to sound more respectful, more quiet. The usual practice is to 'half' muffle the clapper, that is to say fit a leather pad on the forward stroke but leave it open on the back stroke. That creates a dull 'thud' sound on the forward stroke but leaves the bright 'tang' sound on the back stroke. It is also possible to fully muffle the clapper with a different set of leather pads which muffle both strokes. That will only give a 'thud' sound on



every strike. However for the funeral of HRH Elizabeth II I heard one peal on the radio and realised they had fully muffled the first seven bells but had only half muffled the biggest and eighth bell, the tenor. The result was a respectful muffled 'thud' sound on all the first eight strokes followed by the same muffled sound on all the first seven back strokes, but then the big tenor sounded a bright 'tang' sound on the eighth back stroke. That created a funereal tolling sound on every sixteenth note. Our 17th century forefathers who invented these techniques knew a thing or two.

Peter Childs



There are no facts only interpretations

On the evening of the Sunday 4th September, I found myself worriedly walking up and down Franklin Road looking for Tim and Alison Sprackling's house. I had bumped into Tim on a train into New Street on the preceding Saturday and asked him for his Post Code and House Number, But I had written the house number down incorrectly. I was attempting to attend the SPARK House



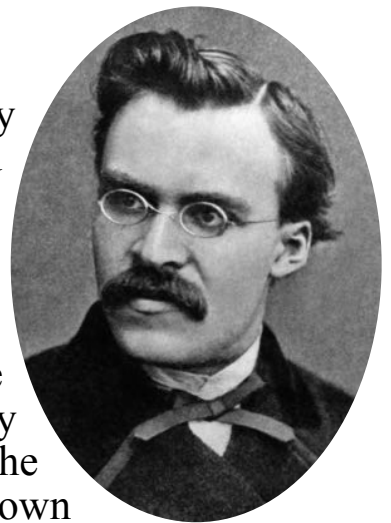
Group and was worried as it was my turn to lead the session and I didn't want to be late. As I am sure you are all aware there are two SPARK groups at Cotteridge, which meet on the first Sunday of every month, one group meets at the Church and another, the house group, which meets at different members' houses. We get together to discuss various topics of a religious nature. I feel very privileged to be a member of SPARK and look forward to the

meetings and the interesting exchange of views that takes place. Both groups are looking at parables currently and at the house group whoever is the designated leader pick the topic, I had picked Mark 10:25 "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God." So, I was glad when Tim appeared in a doorway and show me where his house was.

I opened the session with a quote from Friedrich Nietzsche which I think represents the very nature of SPARK and why I love it so much,

"There are no facts only interpretations"

everyone present can express their own views frankly, nobody right, nobody is wrong and as I hoped the parable I had chosen drew us into deep discussion about the nature of wealth and whether the Lord saw being rich as a sin, with a panoply of different thoughts being expressed. It is nice to hear other people's opinions and modify my own on listening to them. The needle/camel verse, and it is just that one verse and appears in Matthew and Luke as well as Mark virtually word for word in all versions, is both short but challenging. The preceding verses suggests that Riches are the possessions we own and should give up to follow Christ and gain eternal life, while the following verses suggest that its our family and friends that are our true riches and we should give them up to follow Christ and enter the Kingdom of heaven. The general feeling of the group was our riches are particular to each individual and are those things that we would be unwilling to give up even to gain eternal life. I will let you all think on the verse and come to your own interpretation.



The house group is currently full, but there is plenty of room at the Church group so talk to Jane Stephens about joining in the discussion, it is so worthwhile. I know SPARK is an acronym*, but I can't remember what for, but I should be writing it Spark, but I think it's the spark in my life and thank my fellow "Sparker" for being there for me.

Neil

**Seeking Purposeful Analytical Realistic Knowledge*

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

SATURDAY 3RD DECEMBER 2022

10:00AM - 2:00PM

@ THE COTTERIDGE CHURCH, B30 3EJ

Father Christmas

Cakes

Tombola

Mince Pies

Plants

Cards

Jams

Games

Chutneys

Soft Toys

Books

Crafts

Festive Baps

Soup

Hot and Cold Drinks

Non Alcoholic Punch

FREE ENTRY



Volunteers Very Much Needed

We would be very grateful for help with setting up, running, and clearing away for the Fayre. If you can help with anything, please contact Dorothy Audley

< dorothy.audley@thecotteridgechurch.org.uk >

Thank you



On October 13th C2U hosted a Coffee Morning to raise money as they did last year. It proved very successful and raised £358 in total. The total was raised from a wide variety of baking curtesy of church staff, kitchen staff and customers of the Church Café. The total was boasted by donations from Saplings, book and mini market sales. The surplus cake went for sale in our Café.

A big thank you from the organising team to all the people who supported the venture.
Mandy /C2U staff and students.



Updates and Events November 2022



Interfaith Week 2022 will officially be Sun 13th – Sun 20th Nov - we will, as usual extend by a few days either side of this.

The **Launch will take place in the Council House starting at 2.30 Wed 9th Nov.** If you would like to attend please contact pjrookes@gmail.com.

Interfaith Week is the highlight of our Interfaith year in Birmingham. It is a valuable opportunity to raise the profile of faith organisations: of what we do as individual faith bodies; how we work together in a spirit of cooperation; the major contribution we make to life in our amazingly vibrant and diverse city; and is a springboard for further interfaith work during the course of the year. This is the 14th year for National Interfaith Week, and our Birmingham programme is again being coordinated by Birmingham Council of Faiths.

So far we have 14 events at the planning stage. If you have an idea that you would like to discuss, or would like to mark a date and time in the programming for your activity or event please contact pjrookes@gmail.com, 077033 36088.



Graded Care Profile 2 (GCP2) for Practitioners (3-part) Training

MONDAY 5 DECEMBER 2022 (10:00 - 11:30)

Venue: The Hub, Hazelwell - 318 Vicarage Road Kings Heath Birmingham B14 7NH

We have also added new dates for:

- **Safeguarding for Senior, Designated and Operational Managers**
- **Working with Resistant Families**
- **Professional Curiosity**

<https://booking.lscpbirmingham.org.uk/>



Faiths Promoting Health and Wellbeing Forum on Zoom

The next meeting will be at 2.30pm on Thurs 17th Nov on Zoom

This is an open forum for anyone interested in faith and health.

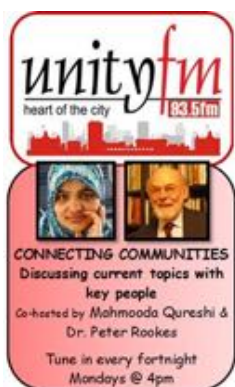
In addition to the regular topics including the Healthwatch and Public Healthwatch updates we will be discussing –

Safeguarding in Places of Worship
BeeZee Bodies

Child Neglect Strategy
Parenting Apart

Alis Rasul will talk about her Community Engagement and Service Equalities role in the Community Health Trust.

If you have a topic you us to discuss, or would like to attend please contact pjrookes@gmail.com



Unity FM 93.5 – Connecting Communities Programme

Forthcoming Programmes - Broadcast live at 4.0pm on FM 93.5

Mon 6th Nov – Faith Covenant

Mon 14th Nov – TBA

Mon 28th Nov – Violence against Women and Girls - Stalking

Blue Plaques in Birmingham – Part 1.

Whilst scooting along in my mobility scooter towards Five Ways, I noticed a house in Harborne Road with a blue plaque on its wall. I know there is another in Harborne for the painter David Cox, and I wondered how many other important people have blue plaques on Birmingham buildings.

Google came up with quite a few, some of which I knew, but many I did not.



If you want to do some research yourself, try
<https://www.birminghamcivicsociety.org.uk/map>
for starters.

1. Mary Cottrell 11/8/1868-18/11/1969



She was the first woman Birmingham City Councillor, Labour and Co-operative Party, in 1917; board member of Ten Acres and Stirchley Co-operative Society, 1909 and Co-operative Wholesale Society, 1922. The plaque is on the former site of TASCOS bakery. [Just above it the concrete says "The Former Bakery"]

Situated at: 1389-1391 Pershore Road, Stirchley, Birmingham, B30 2JR

2. George Cadbury 19/9/1839 - 24/10/1922



Not many have TWO blue plaques! One is overlooking the Bournville Village Green, close to the Quaker Meeting House, and the other is in George Rd Edgbaston, where he lived for nine years.

Situated at: Bournville Village Green, Linden Road. George Cadbury has a miniature locomotive named after him, originally owned by the husband of his daughter Elsie Dorothea. George Cadbury was one of the prime movers in setting up The Birmingham Civic Society in 1918. Cadbury donated the Lickey Hills Country Park to the people of Birmingham. He also donated a large house in Northfield to the Birmingham Cripples Union that was used as a hospital from 1909. It is now called the Royal Orthopaedic Hospital. The Bournville Building Estate was created in 1895 by George Cadbury, as was the Carillon School in 1906.

Celia Lester

Boys' Brigade



Our annual enrolment service took place in October with our chaplain Mike Claridge and company president Mike Meadows. The boys were given their new enrolment cards and the



'Best Boy' trophies were also presented.

At the Harvest / Parade service Tali and Mikey did the readings and both of them were congratulated afterwards by members of the congregation for their part in the service.



Saturday 5th November is the date for our 12 hour games sleep over. We are starting at 7-30pm on Saturday then after breakfast attend the parade service. We are also hoping to have a bake sale on Sunday organised by Phil Adams. Any donations towards BB funds would be appreciated.

Bob Hotchkiss

Catch 22 - Poverty

Catch-22 was a novel by Joseph Heller, published in 1961, and made into a film in 1970. The phrase is now well known and often used in today's society

A "Catch-22" is "a problem for which the only solution is denied by a circumstance inherent in the problem or by a rule." For example, losing something is solved by looking for the lost item until one finds it. But if the thing lost is one's glasses, one cannot see to look for them – a Catch-22. The term "Catch-22" is also used more broadly to mean a tricky problem or a no-win or absurd situation. [Wikipedia]

Poverty is such a situation. If you are in poverty ordinary things cost a lot more. If you need a new pair of shoes, for example, you are forced to buy a cheap pair, which will last only a few months. If you are not in poverty, you can buy a well made pair, which will last for years, and maybe cost less than twice the price of the cheap ones. Similarly, if you are in poverty and owe money you have not got, you can either not pay, and risk brutal measures against you to recover the value of your debt, or take out a loan. Ordinary banks will not give loans to folk with unsuitable credit scores, so they use a loan shark, pay exorbitant interest rates over a long period of time, forcing even more debt.

Many folk in this position have to have a prepayment meter for their gas and electricity. They are charged at a higher rate than those who can pay by direct debit, so again the impoverished are penalised. Most of the poor people will be in rented accommodation so the rent they pay goes straight to the landlord, and they are not accruing any asset as those who pay mortgages do. They have no property at the end of it all.

IS ALL THIS FAIR?
WHAT IS THE WAY OUT?

I did hear of a Conservative follower praising the present Government for the number of food banks we now have feeding the needy!

THERE SHOULD BE NO FOODBANKS!

We should NOT need them. The fact that we do, and that generous people supply and run them suggests that so much more help is needed to make our system fair, and not to favour the rich. Let us all do what we can to improve the situation for those folk who are deprived - often through no fault of their own. Let us help them to regain their rightful status, and be proud of who they are.

Celia Lester

Would you like a Trip to go Christmas Shopping!

If you want to avoid the crowds in town, why not join us for our early Christmas shop and meal outing. The shopping is at Melbicks, a large store near Coleshill,



and the meal is at The Lake at Barston



There are two dates to choose from:

Wednesday 23rd November or Wednesday 7th December

The price is £28, which includes a two course meal with tea and coffee. [Deposit £8]
See Rita Sutton to book, and to see menu choices, or leave your name and phone number in the "S" pigeon hole

Revelation 22.v.2

“...and its leaves are for the healing of the nation...”

During our Harvest service on October 2nd we all wrote our hopes for the world on leaves and placed them on a tree. Here are some of the responses.

I hope...

That there will be peace in the world

That the sun will shine high and bright in the sky

That extinction due to human action can be prevented and we can find safe homes and food for all

That the Amazon rain forest is saved

That we can live in harmony with all creation - animals and people living side by side.

I hope...

That everyone can work together to prevent climate change.

That we can live more eco-friendly each day thereby reducing our carbon footprint.

That our Countryside will be looked after for our future

That we can heal the planet and bring about equality

That people everywhere recognise the climate crisis and demand government action

That money is found to insulate homes.

That wealth is shared in our world.

That there is a willingness to protect our world and that we can play our part.

We can stop children and families being hungry.

That our children can get to see the benefits of action taken to stop climate change.

That people will stop throwing litter everywhere.

I hope... that the overwhelming evidence for the need for climate change will provide inspiration for ALL in power to do ALL they can to save the eco-system of our planet.

Some very interesting responses . It is a prayer list of hope for our world

“That the leaves of our trees indeed will bring healing to our nation.”



Sandra Walton

Climate Change Emergency

What we do matters!

Thank you so much everyone for supporting Big Green WEEK...what a great time of celebration and community involvement we had together.

I am so grateful to Arthur Cooper for carrying out 21 Carbon Footprint surveys during the Green Fayre. It was really interesting to see the results. Most CO₂ emissions were in the home...heating /insulation, followed by Food. Third... our Households and fourth was Travel. There are lots of carbon footprint calculators available.. It is so interesting to see what we can all do to make a difference in our footprint.

There has been so much said in recent weeks about rising energy costs and rising food prices. It is more important now than ever to look at ways we can reduce our energy consumption and waste less food.

We know we have been advised to...

Turn down our central heating thermostats by 1 degree

Use radiator controls in rooms.

Try not to put furniture in front of radiators.

Dry washing outside whenever possible

Draw curtains to keep the heat in.

And I know you have got many other good tips too, including putting more layers of clothes on of course.

To think it's nearly November and of course Christmas is on the horizon. Here are some suggestions to make Christmas as eco-friendly as possible.

Buy a real tree and plant it afterwards in the garden to re-cycle it.

You could make your own Christmas cards or buy ones that use re-cycled paper and use Fairtrade too.

If you are buying gifts that need batteries think about including re-chargeable ones.

Avoid glittery or shiny paper...if it doesn't scrunch up and stay in a ball.....then it can't be re-cycled.

Take a walk during the holidays and enjoy being outside with nature keeping warm.

Freeze leftovers from the Christmas dinner and of course making soup from them is an excellent idea too.

Whatever you manage to do in the months ahead...you are making a difference and that is so important. Thank you for all your support for the eco-group over 2022 and we look forward to setting targets for 2023

We can all make a difference

Sandra Walton

A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

For the first time in 15 years the night cereus cactus bloomed!

A ritual of carrying it from our small greenhouse to the landing window sill was performed every autumn. As the years passed, it got taller and more spiky and we got weaker and more unsteady!

Suddenly this September it produced an enormous bud and one memorable night it opened, filling the greenhouse with a beautiful perfume. We photographed it at 10pm and the following day it died.



In the Californian desert they are normally pollinated by moths and form a red fruit. An event not to be missed. This year the plant is too tall for the window sill so we're hoping for a mild winter.

Bob Burton

Cotteridge Church - A Warm Hub

We are hoping to use our church to help those who have problems funding their heating, to keep warm in a friendly and comfortable place during the day, so they need not use the heating. The Knit & Natter group is making scarves and woolly hats to keep them warm. If you would like to join in, wool and patterns are available from Barbara Calvert.

Lest we Forget





THE GREAT BIG GREEN WEEK



@ The Cotteridge Church
28th Sept - 2nd Oct

Reflections

What an amazing week we had!

Thank you everyone for supporting and enjoying a week when we really did celebrate our wonderful planet and all it gives to us. We are so thankful for the Harvest, for the food we have to eat and are mindful of those who are not so fortunate and how we can support them.

As I think back to the events there are so many highlights to share:

***Rita's Harvest Tea** was our first event and it went down very well with the 40+ folk that attended. Tea was drunk, cakes and rolls eaten, quizzes enjoyed and a beetle drive completed by the guests. Thank you Rita

***The Thursday Harvest service** saw us come together with the Day Centre members, C2U and friends from the Pennine Way. The Knit and Natter group had made a marvellous array of knitted fruit and vegetables that adorned the table. Thank you to them and to Barbara for leading us in our Harvest worship.

***Our Green Fayre** held on Saturday was a great success: Celia's Jams and Cards stall, Plants, Up-cycled Clothes, Books, and Discovering your Carbon footprint. (Thank you





Arthur!) The miniature gardens in unusual containers were really good too.

The children's outdoor play activities were a great hit a big thank you to Lizzie for providing such seasonal play.



The Coffee bar was so busy with lovely home-made soup , sandwiches and cakes made with fruit and vegetables. In fact they took more that day than they normally do in a week! Thank you everyone who was helping there - you deserve a medal !

***Barn Dancing** was held that evening and enjoyed by all who went completing a very tiring but successful day



***Harvest worship** led by Barbara Calvert...an all age celebration was the highlight for everyone. The church was packed and decorated for Harvest with flowers, fruit and food donated for the Food Bank. The Boys' Brigade readers were excellent as were the impromptu drama group . Marilyn Hull presented us with our Bronze EcoAward...a real milestone in our progress as a church towards Net ZERO and we spent time thinking about our hopes for our Planet, as you will have seen earlier in Roundabout.



Thank you everyone for taking part:-

Giving time, energy and showing a willingness to journey with us
in our Big Green Week Celebrations.

Sandra Walton and the Eco Church group.

Book Sales and Mini-Markets

These ventures have been going well raising much needed money for Church and Day Centre. 2022 has seen a new way for the money allocation. It is now split up into two half yearly pay outs which is more efficient and money is available sooner.

A few mini-markets have raised money for the Ukraine appeal, the Flower Fund, and more recently the Macmillan Nurses Coffee Morning.

The Church is holding a Christmas Fayre on Saturday December 3rd and I am in need of Children's Books please.

Finally a big thank you to all those who have supported the ventures as customers or donors of books and articles to sell.

Linda Woodhouse

Church Garden.

After a wonderful summer, with our garden looking very colourful as well as producing tomatoes & runner beans providing fresh veg for Shirley, it's time to clear the annuals & plant winter pansies, cyclamen, & bulbs.

Our small 'garden gang' is in need of help!

Even an hour would help, so please contact Chris, Sandra or Bob.

It's lovely to see this outdoor space being used by so many people.

If you haven't seen it lately, please take your drink & enjoy being in our garden.

Chris Pascal.

Church Recipe Book.

Thank you for recipes you have given me. BUT we need lots more to make a book! Please could we have some more?

Many thanks.

Thank you to all the faithful contributors of articles for this Roundabout Magazine. Your work is really appreciated.



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Your Editor from January 2017 is Celia Lester

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