

Roundabout



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

July 2026

Minister's Message

As I write this, summer is beginning to make itself felt around Cotteridge. The days are longer, gardens are flourishing, and many people are looking forward to holidays, family gatherings, and a change of routine. Summer is often a season of refreshment, offering us an opportunity to reflect on God's goodness and faithfulness.

At The Cotteridge Church, we are blessed to be at the heart of a vibrant and diverse community. We continue to see people coming through our doors for worship, fellowship, a cup of coffee in the café, community groups, or simply a friendly conversation. These encounters remind us that the Church is far more than a building. It is a living community of people seeking to share God's love in practical and meaningful ways.

The summer months invite us to notice God's presence in creation. Whether we are walking through local parks, tending our gardens, enjoying a trip away, or simply sitting in the sunshine, we are surrounded by signs of God's creativity and care. In a world that often feels hurried and uncertain, these moments of beauty can help us reconnect with God's peace.

Summer is also a time when many of us seek rest. Jesus understood the importance of rest and renewal. He invited His disciples to come away from the demands of daily life and spend time in quiet reflection. Rest is not a sign of weakness or inactivity; it is part of God's gift to us. It allows us to restore our strength and renew our relationship with Him.

Yet even as routines change, our calling remains the same. As followers of Christ, we are called to live out God's love wherever we are. Whether we are travelling abroad, spending time with family, volunteering in the community, or simply meeting neighbours in Cotteridge, we have opportunities every day to show kindness, generosity, and compassion.

One of the great strengths of The Cotteridge Church is its commitment to serving the wider community and to making Christ's love visible. None of this would be possible without the dedication of our volunteers, church members, and friends. Thank you for the many ways you contribute to the life and witness of our church.

We are particularly mindful that summer can be a difficult season for some. While many enjoy holidays and celebrations, others may experience loneliness, illness, bereavement, or financial worries. As a church family, let us continue to pray for one another, offer support where we can, and ensure that no one feels forgotten.

As we look ahead to the months before us, let us give thanks for all that God has done and trust Him for all that is yet to come. May this summer bring each of us moments of joy, rest, friendship, and spiritual renewal. And may we continue to respond to the Gospel of God's love in Christ, living out our discipleship in worship and mission.

With every blessing for a peaceful and refreshing summer.



Revd Tariro Mukoja

Friends & Family.

Rachel Hayhow is now well settled at the home she is in in Wales. She has views of the peninsula from her window and has been on a couple of trips to Criccieth by wheelchair access taxi. Rachel would like to send her love to all who remember her at Cotteridge and is very grateful to Jane who sends her the newsletters so she can keep in touch with what's happening in Cotteridge.



C2U held a memorial service for Stephen Battle-Welch on Wednesday 17th June at 4pm. It was a beautiful gathering and a lovely way to share memories of the great man.

Mary Whetnall has died. Mary was Joan Whetnall's daughter, and was a member of the Methodist church and a junior church teacher but didn't continue into the Cotteridge Church. She was a member of the Dramateurs.

Chloe Sprackling has married. We send our congratulations and best wishes.

[see the article later]

Mandy Parkes of C2U is completing the Mighty Hike in aid of Macmillan at the end of June. Here is a link to sponsor her if you'd like to. <https://donate.justgiving.com/fundraising/madelines-fundraising-page2027/donation-amount>

Services in July and August 2026

	5th July 5th after Trinity	12th July 6th after Trinity	19th July 7th after Trinity	26th July 8th after Trinity	
10:30 am	Revd Alison Geary P. & All age Worship	Revd Tariro Mukoja HC	Revd Farai Mapamula Morning Worship	Revd Roger Collins HC	
	2nd August 9th after Trinity	9th August 10th after Trinity	16th August 11th after Trinity	23rd August 12th after Trinity	30th August 13th after Trinity
10:30 am	Revd Tariro Mukoja Morning Worship	Revd Roger Collins HC	Revd Farai Mapamula Morning Worship	Revd Caroline Homan HC	Revd Israel Selvanayagam Morning Worship

Service types: HC - Holy Communion: P - Parade

Revd Alison Geary is a minister in the United Reformed Church

Revd Caroline Homan is a supernumerary methodist minister Selly Oak Methodists/SCM

Revd Israel Selvanayagam is a Methodist minister

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

Communion Services are normally held each week at 10.00 am on Tuesdays.



The Cotteridge Church
Congregational Meeting and Denominational AGMs
Summary of Proceedings 10th May 2026

Present: Revd. Tariro Mukoja (Chair), Norman Mann (Secretary), Rev'd. Roger Collins, and 18 members.

Apologies: Apologies were received from 9 members.

Revd. Tariro Mukoja welcomed the members attending, and opened the meeting with devotions.

Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the Congregational Meeting and Denominational AGMs held on 18 May 2025 were unanimously agreed. Proposer Jane Stephens, seconder Janet Hall. The Chair will sign the minutes.

Matters arising

Celia Lester expressed her gratitude to those who contributed to Roundabout, and, in the interest of good communications, she asked that a summary version of the minutes of JCC meetings be made available for inclusion in Roundabout. This previously was the practice but has since lapsed. The Secretary agreed to follow up.

At this point the meeting adjourned for the denominational AGMs to take place.

United Reformed Church AGM

Revd. Tariro Mukoja chaired the meeting.

Dorothy Audley, a URC Elder, agreed to stand again as a Co-opted member of JCC, and the meeting unanimously agreed the appointment. Proposer Norman Mann, seconder Janet Hall.

Dorothy provided some background to the appointment of the new URC minister, and the support being provided.

Dorothy was thanked for her work as Elder during the past year, particularly in regard to the ministerial appointments.

The URC AGM then closed.

Anglican Annual Church Meeting AGM

Tariro Mukoja chaired the meeting.

- Norman Mann was unanimously elected to serve as Church Warden and as a Co-opted member of JCC. Proposer Dorothy Audley, seconder Doris Collins. There is a vacancy for a second Warden.
- Revd. Tariro Mukoja will serve as Chair of the PCC.
- Norman Mann was confirmed as Vice-Chair, and Rev. Roger Collins as a member. Proposer Jane Stephens, seconder Dorothy Audley. These appointments were unanimously agreed by the meeting.
- Norman Mann was confirmed as a representative at Synod by virtue of his position as Church Warden.

The Anglican Church Meeting AGM then closed.

Methodist AGM

Revd. Tariro Mukoja chaired the meeting.

Mike Meadows explained that he was happy to continue to fulfill the duties of Senior Steward at the Cotteridge Church. However, for understandable reasons, he was not able to represent the Church at Circuit events.

Several members expressed their gratitude for everything that Mike does within the Church, and were more than happy for him to be appointed as Senior Steward. Proposer Dorothy Audley, seconder Jane Stephens. The appointment was unanimously agreed by the meeting.

The issue of external representation will be addressed when the new Methodist minister is in place.

The Methodist Annual Church Meeting then closed.

The Congregational Annual General Meeting reconvened with Revd. Tariro Mukoja as chair.

Election of JCC representatives

The Chair confirmed that none of the current JCC members is due to stand down, and they will serve for a further one or two years. However, Phil Adams has stood down due to work commitments; Phil was thanked for his contribution to the work of the Council, particularly with regard to the Boys' Brigade and Church Café.

Revd Roger Collins confirmed that he had received no nominations for additional elected members of JCC.

An updated list of members to serve on JCC from the date of this AGM is attached to the minutes.

Membership matters

Dorothy Audley explained that the number of members at 31 December 2025 was 106, compared with 109 at the end of 2024.

This was made up of 70 members on the active list, and 36 members on the community list.

Annual Report and Accounts for 2025

Annual Accounts

Stephen Audley introduced the Accounts for 2025, which had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Financial Review on page 11 of the Annual Report provides a summary of the key factors impacting the Annual Accounts.

Income for the year was below the previous year, partly due to lower Planned Giving (fewer members), lower Room Hire income, and a significant Legacy in 2024.

At the same time, in spite of initiatives to reduce expenditure, costs continue to rise, particularly Utilities and Staff costs, while, although there has been progress, the Café is still running at a loss.

In order to save costs, minor refurbishment work is carried out "in house", however, major projects will require internal fundraising or grant funding.

The net effect of the reduction in Income and increased expenditure, was a small deficit in the year.

The Chair thanked Dorothy and Stephen for providing members and JCC with regular financial information through the year.

The acceptance of the Accounts was proposed by Jane Stephens, seconded by Mike Meadows, and unanimously agreed by the meeting.

The meeting unanimously agreed to reappoint the Independent Examiner. Proposer Dorothy Audley, seconder Stephen Audley.

Annual Report

Norman Mann thanked everyone who had contributed to a very comprehensive review of Church activities in 2025. He encouraged members to take time to read about the rich variety of activities which take place in the Church each day of the week every week of the year. He drew particular attention to the extent to which we rely on an "army" of volunteers, many of whom are not Church members.

The meeting unanimously agreed to accept the report, proposed by Tariro Mukoja and seconded by Mike Meadows.

Any Other Business

There were no items of Other Business.

Strategy Plan Year 2, Progress Review

In 2024, the Church AGM agreed a three-year Strategic Action Plan. We are now at the end of Year 2 of the Plan, and a detailed paper prepared by Pam Waddell, had been circulated prior to the meeting.

The paper sets out progress (colour coded), against the eight higher level Objectives and the detailed Action Plan elements.

Members were encouraged to feed back to Pam any comments or suggestions, as we review progress to date, and move forward into year 3 of the Plan.

There being no other business, the meeting closed with Tariro leading the closing devotions.

Norman Mann Secretary 10/5/26

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

Thank you. Linda Mann

TUESDAY FELLOWSHIP DATES -July 2026

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>OPENER</u>
July 14th	On Safari! Sheila B.	
28th	Afternoon Teas	L.M.

We now have a break for August. The next meeting will be the 8th September when we will talk about what we did over the summer.

Thank you all for your support over the year.

Creation

In our services recently, we have been encouraged to reflect upon our Creator God. My latest Bible reading was an example of this:

Genesis 1: 1-4)

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness.

John 1: 1-4

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

The service, given by Revd Caroline Homan was meaningful, relevant and sincere. It got me thinking...

I can create things - like jam, cake, knitted blankets etc. **BUT** I can only do this if I have the appropriate raw materials. If I had no fruit and sugar, I could not create any jam.

Our Creator God made the universe from nothing. I doubt we will ever know how.

That in itself is almost unbelievable, but let us delve a little more deeply.

Many of you will know that I used to teach Chemistry to schoolchildren - especially sixth-formers.

This involved giving them a detailed understanding of how substances interact. All substances are made from atoms, which are incredibly small. If you put a pencil dot [graphite - a form of carbon] on a piece of paper, it would take you a whole lifetime to count the atoms you put there! More detailed research tells us that all atoms are made from just three types of even smaller particles - the proton, neutron and electron. Protons and electrons have opposite and equal strength charges - like magnets, neutrons have no charge. Neutrons and protons clump together - the nucleus, - and are surrounded by electrons in orbit to make an atom. In an atom the number of protons and electrons is equal, so atoms have no overall charge. The number of protons in an atom defines its identity [e.g. Hydrogen has one proton, Iron has 26]. Then there is the energy which enables them all to move around and interact.

Now just think of the millions of different substances we have around us - gases like oxygen, methane, & helium; liquids like water, petroleum & mercury; solids like sulphur, diamonds and gold - and then mixtures of things like air, orange squash, and wood. and fabrics.

It beggars belief to think that they are ALL made from just three little particles, and some energy.

It is also amazing to realise that when these little particles come together in suitable types and quantities LIFE can be created too.

It makes me respect even more our Creator God.

It also makes me appreciate why we needed and need prophets to explain to us how we should follow and worship our God.

Celia Lester

The Climate Crisis

What we can do however small does make a difference

Our weather recently certainly does show us the effects that climate change is having on our lives and environment. I listened to one of the programmes from the Chelsea Flower Show when a tree grower was talking about the need to think into the future when planting any trees...our changing to a more Mediterranean climate meant the need for plants, and trees that need less water...hard to imagine when it's been so wet lately.

I was moved during our recent Christian Aid service as we listened to the hardship and needs of others in Africa. The hymn we listened to and watched was really poignant, so I make no apologies for letting it be the focus of this article. The words speak for themselves and are very powerful. Please read it carefully and thoughtfully...let it inspire you and give you encouragement to continue to do all you can to make that difference...however small.

Let justice roll like a river

(Fishy music ...video on YouTube...written for Christian Aid week 2026)

This song reflects on climate justice and the importance of taking action together

Let justice roll like a river

Our wonderful planet is hurting - It's time for people to act

The global climate is changing - It's not fiction it's a fact.

Leaders will you listen ...Leaders will you listen

Solutions to the crisis are already in your hands

It's time for climate action - already we're taking a stand

Companies will you listen...Companies will you listen

Let justice roll like a river...We want a fair world for all

Let justice roll like a river

People in power hear our call.

Floods and droughts are threatening homes - Surely this isn't right

You've let this go for far too long - Now we are paying the price.

Companies will you listen ...Governments will you listen

Let justice roll like a river - We want a fair world for all

Let justice roll like a river - people in power hear our call

Let's harness the sun the wind and the tide

And stop burning fossil fuels

Let's keep up the pressure...with hope for the future

On people who make up the rules

Leaders will you listen? Companies will you listen?

Governments will you listen?

Everyone will you listen?

Let justice roll like a river

We want a fair world for all

Let justice roll like a river

People in power hear our call

Let justice roll like a river

Thank you for continuing to make that difference...keep going!

Sandra

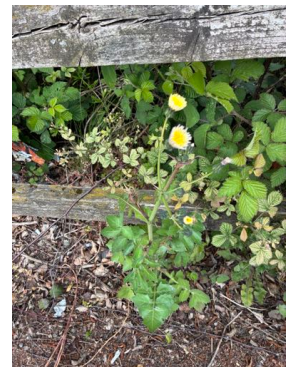
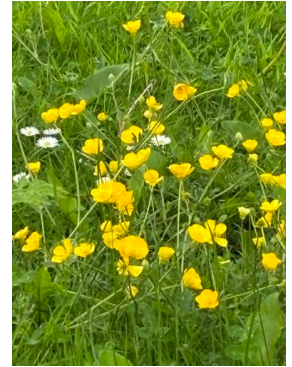


Enjoying Spring

My car developed a fault & I took it to Vertu Motors in Kings Norton for repair. I decided to use my mobility scooter to get home again to Edgbaston. There were a few spots of drizzle en route, but mostly it was sunshine. En route I was again reminded of the wonderful array of beauty that our natural world has provided us with this year. The blossom has been spectacular. There were daisies, moon daisies, hawthorn, blackberry and cow parsley in the white section, sow-thistle and beautiful buttercups were everywhere, and provided a golden glow. Near where Aston Boulevard joins the New Fosse Way I was delighted to find a fumitory.

The animal kingdom - as birds, also delighted me. Any of you who shop at the Selly Oak Shopping Park [where Singletons nursery used to be] will have seen lots of large crows. Well, there are going to be more! There is a crows' nest at the top of the sewer ventilation post opposite the new building development on Harborne Lane. I noticed a crow fly to almost the top of it, and go in head first. It then flew off again, but there were lots of twigs poking out.

Finally, as I was going along Metchley Park Road towards Harborne, a little robin flew down right in front of me. I had to do an emergency stop to avoid it. It was not a bit scared of me, and pecked something from the pavement, and looked at me to see if I would give it something more. Sadly, I didn't have any mealworms. We are truly blessed.



Church Garden.



The Garden Gang has been tirelessly working hard to keep up with the ever growing plants, trees, - and weeds.

The little water feature has nearly been completed, & will look amazing.(thanks to Mike)

Brian is finding wooden items to paint, & Janet is specialising in rose cutting!

Jane & Mike (other one) are managing to keep the weeds at bay in the car park, finding it difficult working there on a busy day! CTU have also been working hard in the garden under the advice & practical help from Mandy &



staff. Thank you, guys.

Bob & I are so grateful being able to keep the team together, & all we need now is for you all to visit us.

You will be amazed!

July 11th 10.00- 1.30. A mini summer fayre will be held in the garden & stalls will be inside.

Proceeds will be for Christian Aid, Church and Garden funds.

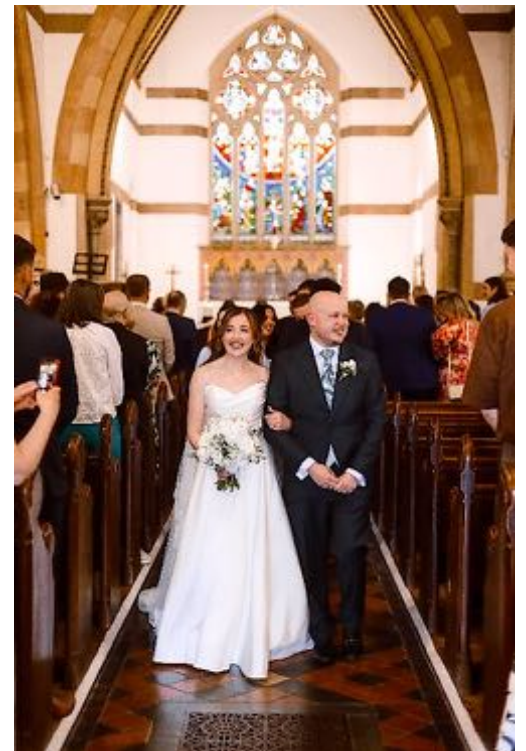
We are truly blessed.

Chris P

Congratulations!

We are delighted to share the happy news that our youngest daughter, Chloe, was married to her fiancé, Tom, at St Mary's Church, Selly Oak on Saturday 23rd May. It was a joyous celebration and they were surrounded by their family and friends and blessed with a beautiful sunny day. Chloe (who looked stunning!) was attended by her sister, Imogen, who was 'maid of honour' and six more bridesmaids, including Tom's sister. The reception was at Red House Barn in Bromsgrove, where guests enjoyed a traditional wedding breakfast and speeches, followed by cake cutting and dancing into the night. Chloe and Tom had the most wonderful day and we are pleased to introduce the new Mr and Mrs Newbold!

Alison and Tim Sprackling



Boys' Brigade



Our Peckwood weekend took place in June. Despite lower numbers everybody had a great time. Our chaplain Tariro visited us on Saturday and we appreciate her giving up her time and hope she enjoyed Peckwood.



Our Junior section entered

the International Games which is open to companies all over the world and finished in 109th place with over 300 entries.

Our Family outing to Weston Super Mare takes place on Saturday 11th July and most of the seats on the coach have now been sold.

Bob Hotchkiss





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

Your Editor from January 2017 is Celia Lester

Please send copy for the September 2026 edition before 26th August 2026 to
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