

Roundabout



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

July 2024

Mike's message ...

Resume your journey

"You have stayed long enough at this mountain. Resume your journey" (Deuteronomy 1 .6,7)

On Sunday 23rd June I had the pleasure and privilege of preaching at the Methodist Circuit Service at The Church at Carrs Lane where we said our farewells to four ministers who are, in different ways, 'resuming their journeys'.

I took the above verse from Deuteronomy as my text. One of the four ministers was the

Revd Nick Jones, well known at Cotteridge, the others were Alison Richards, Sue Shortman and Deb Humphries. I spoke about how, when we move, there are things that have to be left behind, things we take with us on the journey, and things that we find when we arrive.



I talked then about Francis Asbury, an 18th Century Methodist preacher, later minister then bishop, who'd been born in Hamstead, grew up in West Bromwich and was inspired by John Wesley's preaching. Asbury impressed Wesley too. In his teens Asbury became a class leader in West Bromwich, then preacher and then Circuit Rider (travelling widely preaching) in Staffordshire, Northamptonshire and Wiltshire, among other places. At the age of twenty-six he accepted Wesley's challenge to go to a new Circuit - simply called America.

Asbury said tearful farewells to his parents and set sail. He never returned to these shores, even staying in America during the War of Independence - he's believed to be the only English preacher to have done so. The Church of England, and John Wesley, instructed their preachers to return. Asbury was having none of it.

When Asbury set sail on 4th September 1771, from the village port of Pill near Bristol, a seven-and-a-half week Atlantic crossing lay ahead. A week into this, on 12th September, he wrote in his journal;

Whither am I going? To the New World.

What to do? To gain honour?

No, if I know my own heart. To get money? No;

I am going to live to God and to bring others to do so."

I suggested in my sermon that was a very appropriate text to take with us wherever we journey. It both challenges and inspires us. Wherever we go, let us remember:

I am going to live to God and bring others to do so

Friends & Family.

It was good to see Chris P back in church again after her accident. We send best wishes and hope her recovery continues.

It is good to hear from our friends in Peru again. Their message is to be found later in the magazine.

Many of us will have memories of relatives and friends who were involved in WWII. As we commemorate 80 years since D-Day, we thank and pray for those brave souls who gave their skills, effort, and often their lives for our country.

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. Please feel free to come and join us.

Have a lovely Summer. We will meet again on September 10th

Thank you. Linda

TUESDAY FELLOWSHIP DATES - July 2024

July 9th Celia Lester and her Strange Objects

L.W

23rd Summer afternoon tea

LM

Services for July and August

	7th July	14th July AGM	21st July Pentecost	28th July Trinity
10:30 am	Revd B Calvert Parade	Revd R. Collins HC	Mr John Cooper	Revd M. Claridge HC
6:30 pm	Revd M. Claridge HC	No service	No service	No service
	4th August	11th August	18th August	25th August
10:30 am	Revd M. Claridge Parade	Revd Gary Hall HC	Dr Elizabeth Harris Morning Worship	Revd R. Collins HC
6:30 pm	LA	No service	No service	No service

Service types: HC - Holy Communion: P - Parade LA - Local Arrangement.

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

Please note that the wine served at Communion on the second Sunday of the month will be alcoholic, with a non alcoholic option. The Communion elements will continue to be brought to the congregation in their seats.

Zoom Services are normally held on Wednesday evenings from 7.30 pm

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

Please help our Church Garden

Bob Burton is requesting donations of bedding geraniums for the church garden to add lots of colour for all who visit it. These would be gratefully received.

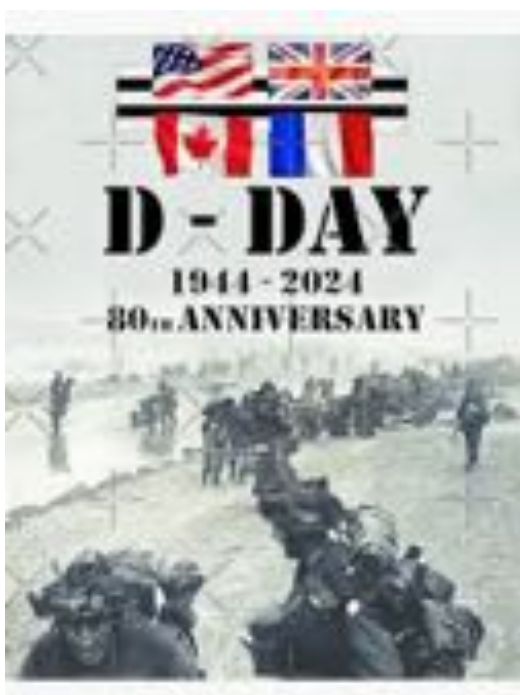
Many thanks.



**For Our Tomorrow,
they gave their Today**



We will remember them



Summary of JCC meeting held on Tuesday 11th June 2024

Present: Mike C., Dorothy A., Stephen A., Jane S., Roger C., Neil W., Mike M., Mike R., Alison S., Chris P., and Phil A.,

Apologies: Sandra W., and Pam W.,

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting, especially the new members appointed at the AGM. The minutes of the meeting in April were agreed as correct.

The matters arising accepted the reviewed AOC for CSC and the TOR for the Catering Working Group.

It was noted that a meeting concerning the new URC pastorate now clashes with the Election Hustings on 19th June. The Chair will attend the meeting at Weoley Hill URC, the chair will invite a church member to attend also.

The reception area has now been cleared and the printer brought downstairs. A table is required in the area and one will be provided shortly.

The Foodbank Wheelie Bin has been swapped with a smaller bin. The larger Wheelie bin will be returned and placed back in Pennine Way.

The current chair will continue for the coming year, with assistance from another JCC member at some times.

The current Treasury Team will continue for the coming year. Thanks were expressed to the Treasurers for the work they undertake.

JCC members were assigned to the other committees. A list of committee members is available upon request.

Church members are to be asked to consider joining a committee to broaden the knowledge and skill base of members. A note will be placed in the next edition of Roundabout.

Reports: No Administrative report available.

Finance: Some movement between restricted and designated funds was discussed and agreed. Ongoing issues with the finance team at the Diocese continue to delay the 2023 accounts being finalised. This will be resolved shortly.

P&M: Building issues are ongoing, damp issues in Cheviot are again being investigated.

CSC: No report.

Worship and Pastoral: Their last meeting had to be postponed due to an external incident. The membership list amendments as discussed at the AGM have been implanted.

Strategy: The meeting received the final strategy document and implementation plan. Going forward the groups taking the lead on implementing the Action Plan are to discuss the plans at their next meeting and report back to JCC in September. The fundraising group has been set up.

Correspondence: All DBS and Safeguarding records are up to date.

Membership: It was reported that a member is to celebrate their 100th Birthday shortly. A card is to be delivered from the church.

A service at Carrs Lane Church on 23rd June is being held at which Nick J., will say goodbye.

Events: There will be an Afternoon Tea on 21st August, this will be advertised shortly. The church has accepted an invitation to serve Strawberries and Cream at the Bournville Festival during the afternoon of 29th June, anyone willing to assist is asked to speak with our Administrator.

There being no further business, the meeting closed with the saying of The Grace at 20:15.

Next meetings: 10th September, 19th November.

A glorious Sunday afternoon in May



It was a delight to be able to welcome so many people to our garden for the Tea Party for Christian Aid. We had folk from Cotteridge Church, Cotteridge Quakers, Selly Oak and Northfield Methodist, friends and neighbours including lots of children charging down the slide and chasing the chickens. The sun shone bright, the flowers bloomed, baking done (with many thanks to Celia for all her contributions - cakes, chairs, tables etc) and kettles boiled.

Reuben (2½) was still practicing his version of Happy Birthday “appy ‘irthday oo you” confused by the mention of ‘party’.

Thank you for coming and making the occasion such a joy. We also raised around £750 for Christian Aid. A great outcome – thanks everyone.



Barbara, Hilary, John, Arthur, Fergus and Reuben.

Requiescat in Pace. ... “-ly” in peace

Our language has one of the most comprehensive, diverse and extensive vocabularies of any language. Just think how many different ways there are to express an idea. Language develops to suit the situations and conditions of its users, and obviously these will differ from one tribe to the next. Vikings, Jutes, Celts, Angles, Saxons,

Romans etc. would all have brought their own tongues, and words from all of these are now found in English.

When the languages come together, as land is invaded, there will be different ways of expressing similar, but slightly different things. They will all mean much the same, but all will be very slightly different.

e.g. WORK [noun]: labour, toil, industry, elbow grease, grind, slog, drudgery

WORK [verb]: toil, labour, slave, operate, perform, function.

Similarly different languages adopt different rules for their grammar, and pronunciation, and this does make English Grammar quite difficult. This mixture of language sources also means we often have the same combination of vowels pronounced differently, [e.g. tough, though, through, bough] or different combinations pronounced the same [e.g. rare, prayer, fair]. All of this makes English a difficult language to master. Mensa in Toronto, Canada, produced a poem called “English is Tough Stuff!” which really demands a good knowledge of the language to read it correctly.

I think we have lost the battle with collective nouns being singular i.e. “the team WAS” is correct, but nearly always we hear and see “the team WERE”. Team is a singular noun, and thus should have a singular verb. The same goes for committee, group, council etc. etc.. Even the BBC is guilty of this one!

However, I think we should maintain an urge to keep adVERBS to describe verbs and adJECTIVES for nouns. Many adverbs end in **-ly**, which the corresponding adjective does not include e.g. beautifully - beautiful; comfortably - comfortable; quickly - quick. Now, so often I no longer hear the **-ly** - particularly in TV adverts. “Play lotto and win BIG!”; Breathe HAPPY! It really hurts me! Please help to conserve our wonderful language, and do not consign “**-ly**” to the graveyard of disuse. C.L.

A Civic Gospel

Inspired by his non-conformist beliefs the preacher George Dawson declared “A town is a solemn organism through



Memorial to George Dawson, in Key Hill Cemetery, by the Jewellery Quarter

which shall flow, and in which shall be shaped all the highest, loftiest and truest ends of man's moral nature”

This idea that all people needed to be fed both in the body and the mind lay behind the work of Dawson, the Congregationalist pastor Robert Dale, the politician Joseph Chamberlain, George Dixon and other visionaries in the development of Birmingham in the late 1800s.

There was a strong emphasis on improving the living conditions of Birmingham's residents and also their educational and cultural opportunities resulting in the building of the Birmingham & Midland Institute, public libraries, art galleries and public parks and gardens.

For many years the maintenance of these buildings has been neglected and sadly many of them are under threat of closure, however there are campaigns launching to save these precious places. If you are interested in finding out

more please talk to me.



Jane Stephens

PLEASE can you help us?

We have a number of vacancies on church committees, and so we ask everyone to consider using their knowledge and talents by joining a committee to enhance the work of the church. The committees involved are:

Community Services
Worship and Pastoral
Property and Management

For more information on any committee please speak with myself or one of the Chair persons.

Dorothy

THE CHURCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Church Annual General Meeting was held on May 12th and attended by 28 Church members.

The first half of the meeting was concerned with important governance matters.

- The following were elected to serve on the Joint Church Council for the next twelve months:
Dorothy Audley, Neil Walters and Mike Meadows were appointed as URC Elder, Anglican Warden and Methodist Steward respectively, and will serve as co-opted members of JCC until the next AGM.
Steve Audley, Michael Ravenhill and Alison Sprackling, were elected to serve as full members of JCC for a three-year term.
- Mike Claridge reported that JCC is undertaking a review of criteria for Church membership.
- The publication of the final Accounts for 2023 has been delayed, but they will be circulated as soon as they are available, and a further meeting will be arranged to approve them.

The second half of the meeting was devoted to a presentation of the Strategic Plan by members of the Strategy Group led by Pam Waddell. Following widespread consultation, the Group has developed a plan for the next three years, covering all aspects of Church life. Importantly, the plan clearly defines timescales, and which Church groups are responsible for various actions. JCC has overall responsibility for the plan and for monitoring progress.

The report was unanimously endorsed by the meeting.

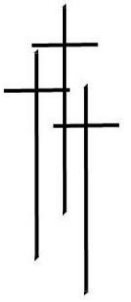
The intention is that there will be regular updates to keep members informed of progress.

Following the formal meeting, members enjoyed a bring and share lunch.

Norman Mann

Seen outside the church at Headley Heath Life Church Centre.

Seven Days without Prayer make one weak!



Marcés Mailing May 2024

Dear everyone

As we get older the days seem to pass faster, but finally here is our latest prayer letter - to those who wonder if they missed one, the previous one was sent in December.

Thank you for all your prayers, which encourage us so much. We give thanks to God for answered prayer, but please CONTINUE to pray, as we see too where the enemy is trying to attack in so many ways, both small and large. God bless



Juan Carlos and Penny

Since we last wrote, (yes, it WAS before Christmas), our activities have changed - in Penny's case there is a slightly reduced responsibility, whereas Juan Carlos now has the extra pastoral responsibility of **San Juan Evangelista** (SJE), situated relatively near where Jesús el Nazareno is. Originally for 6 months (March to Sept) it is now open-ended, which has the advantage of giving opportunity to make future plans with the Church Council. Compassion has been working here; this project (like all Compassion projects in Lima) has not received new children for over 12 years but there are still a few working through the system. One result of this ongoing support is that the teenagers in the Compassion project are about to start music workshop (guitar and singing), to which others can be invited. Please pray for this.

The Holy Spirit as fire was the theme presented by one of the Churches in S. Lima at the recent Pentecost celebration. These occasional celebrations provide opportunities for fellowship, especially for younger people. This particular event was held in **Jesús el Salvador**, where we ministered for many years; it was great to see some faces from then, especially the then-children who are now young adults.

Another metaphor used for the Holy Spirit, that of water reminds us of the importance of **water** in daily life. A fact brought home especially when you have none (often the case in El Nazareno, where apart from those who have no running water anyway there are frequent cuts in the supply). Whilst most people take precautions and have water in reserve (taking care to protect this from the dengue-carrying mosquitos which have been all-too-prevalent recently), we are sometimes caught unprepared. Such was the case on Maundy Thursday; I suspect Jesus did NOT send any WhatsApp messages to the disciples saying I will be washing your feet; please bring water! Then, when the water comes back and has been gushing for 2 days (tap not turned off), we use 96% of the income from the recently-held flea market to pay the bill! (Churches are charged for water at commercial rate 4 times the domestic rate). Yes, water is a blessing and needs to be respected!



We both continue to have other responsibilities. JC continues to spend approx. one week a month in **Arequipa**, where he is currently organising the first English-speaking service there for many years, with full support of the British consul there. This service was on 9 June. Having been concerned about which English speaking member of clergy could help, it was wonderful to discover that this date coincided with the visit of a SAMS Ireland group who will be leading some training seminars in Peru 4-14 June. God obviously had it all in hand!



General Election 4th July Comment from Bishop Michael

'As the United Kingdom prepares for a General Election on 4 July, senior Church leaders in the West Midlands issued a joint statement.

We recognise the sacrifices made by those who serve in political office, and we encourage

Parliamentary candidates to commit to working to erase systematic poverty. We urge them to commit to building an immigration system that operates with compassion, justice, transparency and speed, and encourage them to commit to supporting efforts to create an environmentally sustainable future.

We encourage everyone to exercise their democratic right to express their opinion through the ballot box and we urge all to engage in a spirit of respect, truth and kindness.'



The Next Forum will be on Thurs 25th July at 2.30pm

We will be discussing:

The Orchid Prostate Cancer Project conclusion - Ali Orhan

Healthwatch - Prostate Cancer Impact Report

Suicide Prevention Faith Resources - Faith Action

PAC UK - Adoption and Permanency – Lauren Carr

and - much more

Anyone with an interest in Health and Wellbeing can attend – contact pjrookes@gmail.com

SREBRENICA MEMORIAL DAY

11th JULY 2024, 1.0pm

BIRMINGHAM COUNCIL HOUSE

Srebrenica Memorial week is held annually to commemorate the 1995 genocide in which over 8,000 Bosnian men and boys were murdered during the mass ethnic cleansing of Bosnia-Herzegovina. The mission of Remembering Srebrenica is not only to pay tribute to the victims and survivors of the genocide but also to highlight how important it is to combat hate and intolerance today.

It is particularly poignant in Birmingham given the significance of the city to Bosnian refugees. Many families settled here during the 1990s and Bosnia House, based at the former Sparkhill Police Station, has international significance to the Bosnian diaspora. Srebrenica Memorial events will be taking place across the UK in the middle of July.



George Fox Pilgrimage and Concert

This year Quakers are marking 400 years since the birth of George Fox, one of the founders of Quakerism.

Quakers from Cotteridge, Bournville and Selly Oak are organising a Pilgrimage with stops for learning and reflection on Sunday 14th July. The Pilgrimage will be followed by a concert, Nudges and Winks'. You are welcome to join, but you need to register

<https://www.birminghamchurches.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/George-Fox-Pilgrimage-Flyer-14th-July-2024-page-001-768x1086.jpg>

Boys' Brigade



We have just returned from our Peckwood weekend. All the lads had a great time in the sunshine playing games in the woods. We also went to the local park where the local summer fête was being held. [They even gave all the boys free ice cream & crisps!] Football and rounders games were arranged and on Saturday night they watched the film "Shrek 1".



One of the boys lost his trainer in the mud when running through the forest and Rob Seward put his wellies on and managed to find it.



Everybody arrived home safe but very tired. Thanks to all the leaders for their hard work and we look forward to our next visit.

Our family outing to Weston Super Mare takes place on the 13th July and the summer session finishes the following Friday.

Finlay Attrill will become a leader when we resume in September. Fin has been a member of BB since the age of 5, and it's really good that he will continue helping.

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 2024 edition by 25th August 2024 to
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