

The Cotteridge Church Witnessing at the Heart of the Community

September 2025

#### Minister's Message

Dear Reader,

Well, what a summer we have been having! The days have been longer, the sun has been shining, and sunscreen shelves in shops can give testimony! There have been laughter and giggles in parks, beaches, and holiday spots as people have spent time outdoors exploring and enjoying God's creation and resting. And now we can all see the signs of change, as the days, little by little, begin to get shorter, signalling the end of summer.

Indeed, September brings change for us. It's just a matter of days before the new academic year begins, as some students return to their old school in a new class and maybe a new teacher too. For some, it is a new school, college or even a new university! Let's not forget those who are starting for the first time in a new job, while others are resuming work. Seasons!

We, as a church, are indeed in a new season, too, where together we are navigating working with new systems and looking at things fresh and building on what we have had, just like many students will be doing, and those who work too, acquiring new knowledge and skills over what they had.

Isaiah 43 quickly comes to mind, 'See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?' This is a passage that gives us God's promise of his work amongst us, which is transformative, especially in uncertainty and challenging times, encouraging us to be hopeful. While we may not escape or stop seeing,



hearing and feeling the effects of all the incidents and turmoil in the world around us, from natural disasters to ongoing wars claiming innocent lives, we can hold on to God's promises to do a new thing that is transformative and shows his presence and the workings of the Holy Spirit.

One of my highlights over the summer was volunteering at the coffee bar. It gave me a chance to see those who came in for a cup of tea or a meal, to have conversations with the people who make our community, to hear the buzzing of people chatting, and to learn something new about our church.

Having a community like ours is indeed a blessing and something worth celebrating, seeing afresh, and while we do that, also be looking for how God is working amongst us. So, I invite you to engage one another in a conversation about the new things you see, but most importantly, the

new things that can be done through us to continue to grow a community of love, of care, of fellowship and friendship.

Looking forward to seeing you when I'm next behind the counter at the coffee bar. With hope,

**Tariro** 

Friends & Family.

Many congratulations and best wishes to the birthday people! Sheila Coward celebrated her 90th birthday at the beginning of August, and we sang the birthday song at the beginning of the service on 3rd August.

Elsa Charlesworth (member and from St.Agnes) was 95 on 24/7/25

Bob Smith (member) was 100 on 31st July and has received his special birthday card from King Charles.

Brian Pascal died at home on 13th August, and his funeral will be held on 4th September at Redditch. We send our love & sympathy to his family and friends.

Congratulations to Keira, granddaughter of Norman and Linda, who has just been awarded her degree in English Literature from Reading University. She will now begin her teacher training.

Revd Ros Murphy sent me the good news about Janice Young, (widow of Bill), whom many of you will remember. She has just married Eddie, in a small, family only, church wedding, and they now live near Weymouth. Her daughter Hannah now has three children, and lives close by. Ros left us twenty years ago now, but still has many friends and happy memories from her time here. She sends her best wishes.

**Tuesday Fellowship** is a group which is open to all. We meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and the 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

Thank you. Linda Mann

**TUESDAY FELLOWSHIP DATES -September 2025** 

DATE		TOPIC	<u>OPENER</u>
September 9th		Holidays	L.M.
•	23rd	Canadian Soldiers:- Rita	H.P.
October	14th	Revd Tariro Mukoja	T.M.
	28th	Favourite Poetry	S.B.

# Services for September and October

	7th September	14th September	21st September	28th September
10:30 am	Revd Tariro Mukoja P & All age Worship	Revd Roger Collins HC	Revd David Butterworth Morning Worship	Revd Cleopas Sibanda HC
	5th October	12th October	19th October	26th October
10:30 am	Revd B. Calvert P & All age Worship & Harvest	Revd Tariro Mukoja HC	Revd Roger Collins Morning Worship	Revd Farai Mapamula HC

Service types: HC - Holy Communion: P - Parade

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

Revd David Butterworth is Methodist Chaplain for the Birmingham District.

Revd Cleopas Sibanda is Co-superintendent, Methodist minister at Carrs Lane, Longbridge & Northfield.

### Didn't we have a Lovely Day ...

Pennine Way trips are not far off their Silver Jubilee! Many people from Cotteridge and the surrounding areas have enjoyed shopping trips, museums, stately homes and gardens, meals out, river trips and much more. We've even had our photo taken





with a million pounds in pound coins at the Royal Mint in Llantrisant!

Usually we go out for the afternoon - in July this year we visited a horse and donkey rescue centre near Banbury - heartbreaking to hear their stories. Occasionally we go out for the day, and this year it was to Liverpool. It's a great city, buzzing with lots to do. The Ferry 'cross the Mersey was top of some people's list. Others opted for the Hop-on/Hop-off bus, which takes in most of the city's landmarks, including the





two magnificent Cathedrals. Three of us, after enjoying our fish and chips - well, what else! - took a boat trip around the docks. It was very relaxing and we learned a lot about the history of the port.

We're looked after very well on a comfortable air-conditioned coach by Hollywood Travel. Our driver, Norman, who has driven us for years, is an absolute

diamond! He takes us smoothly and safely on our trips and always manages to find an alternative route if there are holdups anywhere.

Last year we even dared to go on holiday to Eastbourne, and it was a great success. We're going to the same place and same hotel this year - so it seems a holiday will become a regular item on our programme. Look out for the 2026 details.



# The Cotteridge Church

#### **Joint Church Council**

#### Summary of Proceedings Wednesday 16th July 2025 19:30

1. The meeting opened with a short prayer.

2. Apologies: Mike R., Roger C., Jane S.,

Present: Dorothy A., Stephen A., Tariro M., Farai M., Mike M., Alison S., Pam W., Norman M., Monica T., Philip A.,

3. Minutes of meeting: Previously circulated, were agreed as being an accurate

record.

4. Post AGM Administration:

a. Chair: A discussion took place regarding the person elected to the role of Chair of JCC reverting to being filled by a rotation of the ministers. This being against the church's Constitution as it currently stands, it was proposed that Rev. Tariro M., be Chair until the next AGM, at which time a decision could be made on whether the constitution should be amended to revert to the ministers in rotation, taking the role as Chair to JCC. The proposal was carried by a majority vote: 8 in favour with 2 abstentions.

Minute Secretary: There was a discussion on the necessity of reverting to having a Minute Secretary in place of the current arrangement.

Two proposals were tabled.

1. That the roles of Chair and Secretary be separated, and a decision in principle be made to pay the Administrator 3 – 4 hours extra each month for their attendance at JCC meetings to take the Minutes.

2. That the Administrator be asked to attend the meetings of P&M and CSC, to be available to answer pertinent questions.

Both proposals were carried by a majority vote, with 8 votes in favour and 2 against, for each proposal.

Rev. Tariro M., Rev. Farai M., and Sandra W., are the Line Managers for the Administrator, and the above arrangements have been discussed with the Administrator.

Treasurer: The current treasurers will continue for the time being. It was noted they wish to hand the role on once robust procedures for financial matters are in place.

b. Assigning Trustees to church committees: Trustees were assigned to the committees as follows:

Worship and Pastoral: Roger C, Jane S, Mike M, Monica T.

Property and Management: Stephen A, Dorothy A, Mike R, Norman M. Community Services: Alison S, Philip A, Pam W.

- 5. Update on Lloyds Bank details: Trustee details as request by Lloyds will be forwarded shortly, a few pieces of information awaited.
- 6. Safeguarding: Nothing has been reported since the last JCC meeting. It was noted that we follow the C of E Safeguarding procedures, the Administrator has undertaken the Leadership Training and is responsible for Safer Recruitment. How safeguarding issues are reported was discussed, and it was

agreed that for confidentiality a Safeguarding email address is to be set up. The Administrator to be requested to action this.

#### 7. Reports:

Finance: The report had been circulated previously, with an additional document distributed at the meeting. Figures raised several questions, specifically regarding the costs of utilities, which have already used up a large portion of the planned contingency for the whole year in the first half of the year alone. The figures for room were questioned and answers are to be sought.

# Action: Information regarding Hire figures to be sought from Administrator.

It was agreed to have an updated forecast for the year, based on the first half year results against the budget would be prepared in time for the next meeting.

#### Action: Treasurers to review first half year figures against the budget.

The Finance Policy was presented to the meeting; this had previously been circulated. The reasons behind the need for a policy were explained. A few amendments were recommended and noted for inclusion in the final document.

The proposal to accept the Finance and Procedures Policy with the suggested amendments was agreed unanimously. It is anticipated that the policy may take a month or so to fully implement.

CSC: The report had been previously circulated. Christmas has been discussed for which a working party will be formed to sort details and arrange. The use of Saplings toys by Homestart group was discussed. Homestart are interested in holding play sessions at Cotteridge for a different group of parents to those attending Saplings. As we have little storage available it is suggested they have the use of church equipment. This was unanimously agreed. There is money designated for equipment for Saplings for repair and replacing of equipment. The treasurer suggested Saplings should have an annual budget towards replacing equipment.

Worship: There was no information to report to JCC.

P&M: The report had previously been circulated. No action from JCC required.

Strategy: Chairs of Committees are reminded that we now need to move forward to Year 2 action plans.

Administrator: The report had been circulated previously.

The Legacy from Mr Christopher Bond was noted. Contact with the Bond family on behalf of the church will be made shortly.

The matter of the building being found unlocked on several occasions was noted. The current Rota for locking up has been updated. Key holders to be reminded of the procedure to be followed when locking the building.

A request for the burial of ashes has been received. This has been discussed by the ministry team. The garden is not consecrated ground. Burial of ashes is not permitted, scattering of ashes is permitted.

A request to purchase a lifetime Microsoft license was approved.

A request to have a skip for disposal of rubbish was approved.

Sorting Bredon room cupboards and the office was discussed. The suggestion is that professional shredding services to be used to dispose of documents over seven years old, (after scrutiny to ensure important documentation is safely retained) with documentation under seven years old being stored securely in the building.

- 8. Correspondence: None received.
- 9. Membership: Membership currently stands at: 70
- 10. Future Events:

July 21st: Al Carns at 19:30 (An offer to open the café was received.

20<sup>th</sup> July St. Martins church 4pm, a service of celebration following the Birmingham Diocese becoming the first Anglican Diocese in the country to be awarded A Rocha UK's Silver Eco Diocese Award. Two members from P&M have agreed to attend.

29th July Farewell service at Lozells Methodist

28<sup>th</sup> August: Commissioning service to recognise Norman M., as Churchwarden 11.Denominational Items:

- a. Anglican
- b. Methodist
- c. URC- October 17<sup>th</sup> 18<sup>th</sup> October, Hilton Birmingham Metropole, The NEC. Poster on notice board.

Business Meeting via zoom on  $23^{rd}$  October via zoom for Synod Representatives. 19:00-21:00

12.A.O.B. It was reported that the air hockey table in Bredon room is broken. This has been noted previously and is listed for repair at a future date.

A Risk Assessment is now due, a member of JCC is to be asked to undertake the assessment.

Action: Chair to arrange.

The possibility of future opportunities for holding events with other churches was raised, also the opportunity for sharing resources at times. The matter will be on the next CSC agenda for discussion.

Our Churchwarden is to be commissioned in August - see future events above The outgoing Chair was formally thanked for their work.

It was officially noted that the Line Management for the Administrator are following the Methodist plan for line management of staff. The Finance Policy will be forwarded to them in time for their meeting next week.

Farai asked if the issue of Holy Communion had been raised during her short absence from the meeting. No issues had been raised, the expectation that issues would be discussed by the Worship and Pastoral Committee and brought to JCC via their report.

An advertisement for a Home Help found on display in the Pennine Way was shown to the meeting. The nature of the advertisement raised Safeguarding concerns. The issues of having such advertising in the building will be discussed with the Administrator.

- 13.Date of next Meetings: 18/09., 11/11.,
- 14. The meeting closed with the saying of The Grace at 21:34

# WWII VJ Day 15th August 1945

This year we celebrated the 80th Anniversary of the end of WWII. On Sunday the 10th August, the BBC Antiques Road show held a special programme from the National Memorial Arboretum at Alrewas, near Lichfield. There were many valued items brought, and stories shared, and it was a very moving programme.





As the fighting ended in Europe, Allied service personnel in the east were still engaged in fierce warfare.

Burma (Myanmar) was liberated by the 14th Army, the principle British fighting force in the east. It was composed of personnel mostly from the Indian Army, plus African, British and Gurkha units. They pushed determined Japanese forces back through hundreds of miles of malaria-infested jungle, supported by continual supply drops from the air.

That BBC programme got me thinking. In 1947 when I was about three, my parents moved into the first home they actually bought, in Yardley. It was a semi detached, and the family in the other half were Johnny and Topsy Bladon and their children. Johnny was a major in the British army and served in Burma. Like so many members of our armed forces, however, he never spoke about any of his experiences there. He did, however, contract malaria, which returned fairly frequently to make him very ill, and we had to be careful to be very quiet in our home not to disturb him. I remember he was treated with quinine.



Many years later I met the warm, friendly, generous

Andrew Lowndes, a cousin of my husband Richard. He led a battalion of soldiers from south to north of Italy, liberating people as they went. Again, that time in his life was never referred to even though he was awarded a military medal for his services. Looking back, It seems that a very large number of people tried to bury their terrible memories of WWII, so that they could concentrate on the better times they were having afterwards, and live a normal life. They did not show their emotions very much.

We must continue to remember our brave forces who gave so much for our freedom. Let us hope and pray that our remembrance will reduce the risk of further conflict.

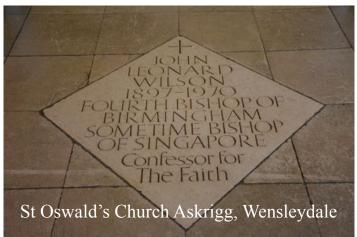
Celia Lester

# My Bishop Hero

While I was watching the VJ Day Commemoration Service from the National Memorial Arboretum I suddenly thought of someone whom I admired so much. During the war Leonard Wilson was Bishop of Singapore. He was captured by the Japanese and taken to Changi prison camp. During his time there he was tortured unmercifully, being beaten every day. However much pain he had to endure he would not give in to hate. He spoke of the love of Jesus time and time again. His torturers could not understand this and tried even harder to break him. They did not suggested the continued to talk she



him. They did not succeed. He continued to talk about the love of Jesus.



When he was liberated he returned as Bishop of Singapore. One day he was conducting a confirmation service and in the line of people he saw one of his cruel torturers. The man had been brought from prison. After the service Bishop Wilson went to talk to him. The man said," You never cursed us as others did, you never showed any hate." Because of this the man had become a Christian.

In the 50s and 60s Leonard Wilson was

Bishop of Birmingham. He confirmed me in St. Agnes church. I knelt in front of him and looked up. He had such a lovely face and a little grey goatee beard. (He was sitting in the Bishop's chair that is now in the corner of the Malvern room). When I was a few years older I walked around the Outer Circle bus route in support of CND.



When we passed near to Bishop's Croft in Harborne Park Road there was Bishop Wilson, standing on the back of a lorry to bless us as we passed by.

He was a wonderful man who touched many lives.

# Local democracy at work

My twelve-year-old grandson sends me a message, 'Nan, if Labour don't have the election earlier than they have to, I can vote in the next election'! I sense his excitement and share his enthusiasm. Secondary school age is just the time to encourage young people to debate the challenges facing our world today, locally and globally. Just the time to engage them in the democratic process by using their vote and thereby establishing a voting habit.

The democratic system is so much stronger with an informed and engaged electorate – of all ages. In the Selly Oak,

Birmingham constituency the local churches have taken the initiative to organise 'listening events' with our local M.P. We held such an event in January when the topic was Energy and the Environment.

'Let's End Poverty' was the next topic for debate held on Monday 21st July at The Cotteridge Church. This was the timetable:

#### Listening event with Al Carns M.P. 'Let's end poverty'

- 7.00 Welcome from the chair: Rev'd Tariro Mukoja (Anglican Minister, The Cotteridge Church)
- 7.05 Anne Cole: B30 and South Birmingham Foodbank
- 7.12 Dr Qiam: Adam Mosque, Balsall Heath
- 7.19 Al Carns M.P.
- 7.34 Questions
- 7.44 John Cooper: Global poverty
- 7.56 Al Carns M.P.
- 8.06 Ouestions
- 8.10 Al Carns M.P.
- 8.15 Close: Rev'd Farai Mapamula (Methodist Minister, The Cotteridge Church)



Our speakers were inspiring providing information from their perspective to inform our thinking and responses. Timing was strictly adhered to by our excellent chair, so no one could dominate the discussion. Our M.P. responded with honesty from his perspective (and that of the government's!) He responded directly to peoples' questions. Of course, we didn't all agree but that's the point. This was

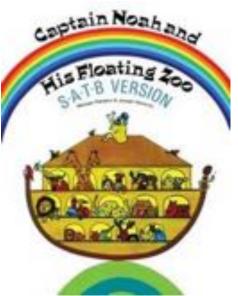
local democracy at work, at the same time strengthening and building community. It is a model that I hope could be rolled out in other areas, other constituencies. Initial thoughts here are to hold the next 'listening event' in about six months with the topic of 'Youth and Youth Unemployment'. We look forward to hearing from some young people in our area, to hear their perspective; invite questions and hear again from our M.P. Al Carns. Watch this space! Rev'd Barbara Calvert

On Friday 5th September, Al Carns M.P will be holding a surgery here between 5:00pm & 7:00pm.

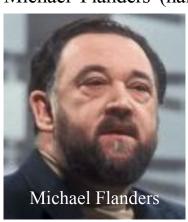


#### Captain Noah and His Floating Zoo

We're very fortunate in Birmingham to have access to good quality music, and in some cases concerts are free. I recently went to a lunchtime jazz concert at the central art gallery. The Monday before I heard a classical performance of Shostakovich's Fifth in St Mary's Acock's Green. They only asked for donations. St Francis' Bournville recently staged 'Ocean World'. Over 200 people were treated to a beautiful and in some cases amusing reflection of the oceans and our responsibility to look after them, followed by a retiring collection for WWF. Their director Laura Godwin made an appeal for suggestions of future pieces they might perform. It got me thinking and I found Captain Noah and his Floating Zoo. (The story of Noah can be



found in Genesis Chapters 6-9.) If you haven't come across this one before the story starts with an Austrian Jewish musician Joseph Horowitz, who escaped Nazi persecution and came to England in 1938 as a refugee. He wrote many musical pieces including ballet and symphonies but on this occasion in 1970, he teamed up with Michael Flanders (half of Flanders & Swan) who wrote the words to produce this



children's cantata, a choral piece suitable for schools. It has a jazz feel. The music score with words can be found on-line. The work received the 1976 Ivor Novello Award for the Best British Work for Children.

The Birmingham Post critic Kenneth Dommett stated, "Joseph Horovitz's Captain Noah and His Floating Zoo is an established favourite wherever and however it is performed - the immensely witty and skilful

Joseph Horowitz

libretto by Michael Flanders makes it a sure-fire winner." A former teacher at Thomas Aquinas school told me they had staged it.

Peter Childs

#### Homonyms 2

I have thought of a few more homonyms which have some connection with churches. Here they are - answers at the end of the magazine.

- 1. Central passage in the nave of a church/ piece of land surrounded by the sea.
- 2. Skin on a fruit/ what church bells do.
- 3. Type of rush/ what we do with the Bible during services.
- 4. Universal weight of something/ type of service in some denominations
- 5. Section of a book/ assembly of Canons in a Cathedral Celia L.

#### Church Garden:

I was talking to Brian, one of the garden volunteers. He had been working hard and had stopped for a cup of tea. I hadn't been in the garden for a while and he told me that when I did go in I would have a surprise. So I went and what a lovely surprise. I won't tell you! Just go and walk round the corner and there before your eyes will be that lovely surprise.

# World Homeless Day: Friday 10th October 2025

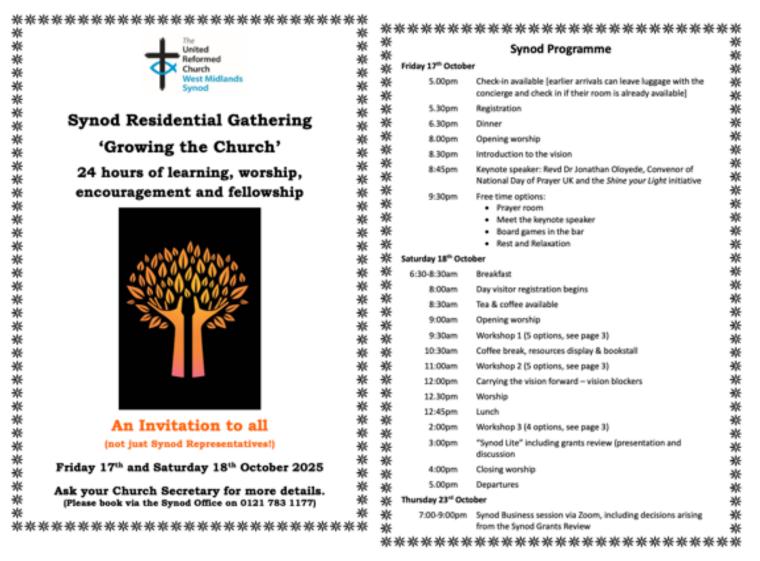
World Homeless Day was first held in 2010 to draw attention to the needs of homeless people and provide opportunities for the community to get involved in responding to homelessness. It is a global initiative highlighting the challenges faced by people experiencing homelessness.

Birmingham University organised an event in 2024 to focus on Birmingham's urgent need for



more social housing amidst a shortage of over 20,000 homes. The discussion centred on the profound impacts of housing insecurity on children and families, touching on education, employment, community health, and cohesion.

The URC is holding a meeting at the Hilton Birmingham Metropole, The NEC Birmingham, Pendigo Way B40 1PP



More details can be found on their website: <a href="https://icdev2.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/2025-Growing-the-Church.pdf">https://icdev2.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/2025-Growing-the-Church.pdf</a>, and they can be contacted by email: <a href="mailto:moderatorspa@urcwestmidlands.org.uk">moderatorspa@urcwestmidlands.org.uk</a> or <a href="mailto:admin@urcwestmidlands.org.uk">admin@urcwestmidlands.org.uk</a>



# Fairtrade Fortnight 2025 will take place 22 September – 05 October

fairtraderesourcenetwork.org

#### Fair Trade Pros and Cons

#### PROS



Minimum price ensures a fair wage



Fair trade boosts community strength



Fair trade increases social equality



Fair trade encourages sustainability



Fair trade improves working conditions and reduces child labor



Fair trade allows small producers to compete globally

#### CONS



Fair trade benefits farmers but not hired workers



Fairtrade certification requires fees



Fair trade requires time and community investment



Fair trade products may be more expensive



Fair trade products must be globally exported



Buying fair trade may limit your options

# Hymn for the Green Church



Green was the earth when you dreamed it and made it mountains so high, and the water below; creatures so varied, of fur, fin and feather finding their home in the sun, wind or snow Made man and woman to show forth Your pleasure, promised them shelter, their freedom, their food charged them to cherish Your earth and its treasure, lit night and day, then You saw it was good.

Gold was the hope when we shared in Your making learned what could grow from the treasures we find, mined from the ground, from the water and forest, honed in the test tube, the circuit, the mind; endless our hunger for greater possessions reckless our use of each finite resource; grey now the skies as we live our obsessions, wasting Your gifts, and with little remorse.

Red is Your promise of justice and healing, costing You all, for our sakes, for all life; open our hearts to Your grace, now revealing new ways to work, and move, dream, share and thrive. Let us rejoice in your covenant rainbow, trust as we trusted You through the Great Flood Praise your abundance, forgiveness and wisdom cherish Your gifts, for we know they are good.

Words by Anna Briggs, winner of the BBC hymn writing competition in 2006 sent from Catshill Methodist Church

Boys' Brigade

Good news that Rev Tariro Mukeja has agreed to be our new company chaplain and will lead our enrolment service on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October.



Our Weston-Super –Mare family outing in July was again a great success and we were lucky with the weather again.

The BB session finished at the end of July with hot dogs for the Juniors .Many thanks Christine Adams for donating and the cooking.

The new session starts on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> September and we would welcome any new lads.



**Bob Hotchkiss** 

# Planning Community Activities for Christmas

We would like to get a small group together to refresh and oversee the range of community activities we run around Christmas in a coordinated way.

This is a great opportunity for us to engage with regular visitors and new faces.

If you would like to join the Community Christmas planning group, or have ideas to

share with them, please speak to < barbara.calvert@methodist.org.uk >





#### Homonyms 2 Answers:

- 1. Aisle/isle 2. Peel/peal
- 3. Reed/read
- 4. Mass
- 5. Chapter



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 2025 edition by 24th October 2025 to roundabout@thecotteridgechurch.org.uk

The Cotteridge Church, Pershore Road South, Birmingham B30 3EJ

Tel: 0121 433 5518 Fax: 0121 459 6909

Email: administrator@thecotteridgechurch.org.uk

Website: www.thecotteridgechurch.org.uk

X [Twitter]: @CotteridgeChurc facebook.com/TheCotteridgeChurch

Instagram the\_cotteridge\_church

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