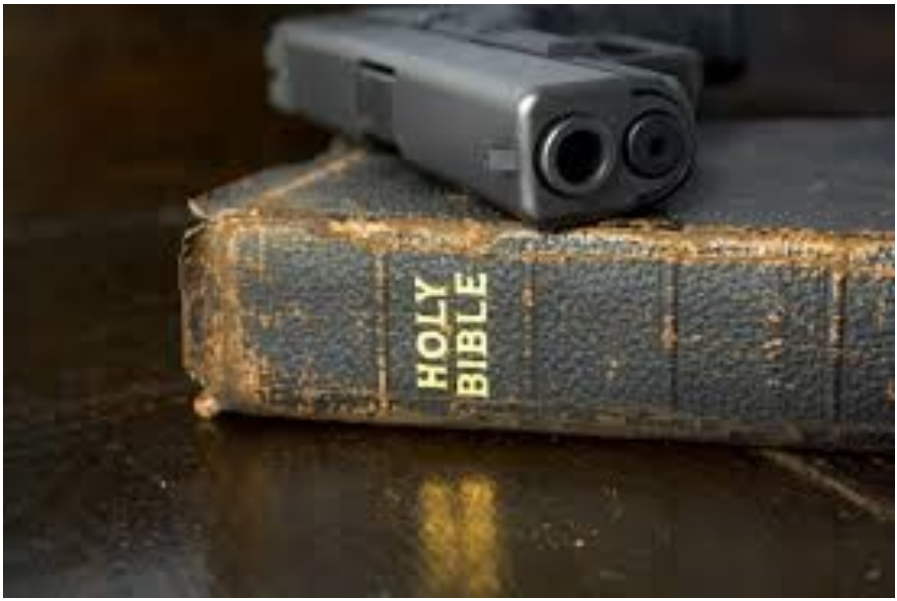
Bournville, Stirchley, Cotteridge & Kings Norton

Points

The bi-monthly mini-magazine of Churches Together in Birmingham 30

War and Peace



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20p where sold

The opposite of war is not peace.....it's love.

Orwell's famous dystopian novel, '1984', had at the centre of its being, the slogans of the Party – War is Peace, Freedom is Slavery, Ignorance is Strength. These tenets of belief were emblazoned on the frighteningly named 'Ministry of Truth'.

Such is the strange world that we live in, that propaganda versions of the truth, (Orwell's Newspeak), are the tools by which wars are won. During a war, the person who controls our 'truth' is the one who is winning the war. We can't all be on the killing fields of Ukraine, or even in the party rooms of Downing Street, so we can only believe those who we trust. So where do we put our trust?

In an age of image manipulation and social media, we know that what appears to us as 'news' is only partial and continually reinforces what we want to see. Those of us who watch the BBC TV news like to believe that we are viewing an impartial view of our world and understanding concepts such as 'war' and 'peace', but we are increasingly aware that the choice of what we see is as orwellian as the novel of 70 years ago.

In April this year, over 1,000 scientists from 25 different countries staged protests following the release of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's new report which warned that rapid and deep cuts to greenhouse gas emissions are necessary by 2025 to avoid catastrophic climate effects. This protest did not appear on national news bulletins.

On 11th July, the Government's Chief Scientific Adviser, Sir Patrick Vallance warned MPs in a Parliamentary briefing: "We face 50 years of really big problems relating to climate, and the nature of that threat to countries around the world means that this has to be one of the things that has

to be on every government's agenda. There is no way we can pretend it isn't happening." Only 10% of our MPs attended this event. None of the current leadership candidates. It did not appear on news bulletins.

So what can we possibly believe about a war (or peace) in Ukraine? Why are we so quick to feel superior to Russians who apparently believe their government's 'propaganda' about national security and a special military operation?

And what do we believe about 'peace'? Is this country at peace with the world, just because we haven't declared 'war' on another nation? Do we, as individuals, feel at peace with a government who have now passed a law confirming that the maximum sentence for peaceful protest in this country is now twice the maximum sentence for grievous bodily harm?

Remember the old hippy slogan, "Make love not war"? Peace is more than the absence of war. Every action we take has to be a positive movement promoting love in the widest sense. Love for our neighbour, our community, our world. Helen Gale

MEMORIES AND MEMORIALS

Do you remember, my old pal Keith, do you still remember
How together we laughed and studied and learned to fly?
Do you still remember when we rowed across that still blue lake?
You were quiet and thoughtful, and far too young to die.

Do you remember we shared five stations – meals, sports and crew room,
And steered restless, nimble craft through cloud to breathless blue?
At last we had our wings pinned on and Graduation Dinner.
You were in the ranks of the most trustworthy and true.

Lindsay, my lanky Aussie friend, do you still remember
Our passion for HP sauce sandwiches in protest
Against those night flying suppers? Months later you and your crew
Went down in flames. One survived, six went to your long rest.

Fellow Australians Wilfred and George, the greatest joker,
Lie in nearby West Country plots at peaceful Haycombe,
Overlooking rolling downland, while at Montchauvet, in France,
John lies, all three far from familiar fields of home.

Chubby Len, from Ontario, you swapped insults with Harry,
Quite outrageous, but funny. You went down with your crew.
In the vast war cemetery shared with Alfred, Jim and Bob,
British and Canadian, we thought of all of you.

Do you remember, Keith, the patchwork quilt of woods and fields?
On the memorial for aircrew with no known grave
At Runnymede, one of the fellowship of twenty thousand,
Your name is inscribed amongst colleagues loyal and brave.
Where spring sun glints on the Thames, and autumn mists shroud the stones,
Tears and memories mingle for the young life you gave.

Jack Finch is a deceased member of The Cotteridge Church. Jack was in Bomber Command in the RAF during the second World War.

Weapons of Choice

When I was a small boy I had a terrible temper. On one occasion I wanted a water tommy gun from the local toy shop. It cost 19 shillings and 11 pence (about £20 today). I was not allowed to have it and threw an awful tantrum. Eventually I had to settle for a water pistol (4 shillings). Thereafter my weapons of choice were: Catapult, bow and arrow, and peashooter. I suppose a lot of little boys went through a stage of playing soldiers after the 2nd World War. Anyway, for me it went away in my early teens, never to return. Thankfully, the temper went away, too.

I am reminded of the story of another boy, and his weapon of choice - a sling shot. I am of course talking about the story of David and Goliath. David had a serious purpose in mind for his sling shot. The Philistine and Israelite armies had gathered for war. The Philistine champion, Goliath, had challenged the Israelites to put forward a champion to fight him, but King Saul and the Israelites were too scared to do anything. More importantly Goliath had insulted their God. David decided to do something about it, and you all know the rest of the story…

Bournville is a major centre for Quakerism with several Meeting Houses and Woodbrooke Quaker College. I am not a Quaker myself, but have a lot of respect for Quaker beliefs, particularly pacifism. Quaker or not, I firmly believe that everyone has God-given talents, but talents should be used for good not evil – our choice! I had a friend, who was a skilled engineer, and his job had been to make weapons. One day he told me: 'I've made a lot of bad things in my time, but now I make clocks' - The delight in his voice was deafening.

Mowgli

As at Wardha
C.P.
India.
23.7.'39.

Dear friend,

Friends have been urging me to write to you for the sake of humanity. But I have resisted their request, because of the feeling that any letter from me would be an impertinence. Something tells me that I must not calculate and that I must make my appeal for whatever it may be worth.

It is quite clear that you are today the one person in the world who can prevent a war which may reduce humanity to the savage state. Must you pay that price for an object however worthy it may appear to you to be ? Will you listen to the appeal of one who has seliberately shunned the method of war not without considerable success? Any way I anticipate your forgiveneas, if I have erred in writing to you.

Herr Hitler
Berlin
Germany.

I remain,

Your sincere friend

M.K.Gandhi

FOR THE SAKE OF HUMANITY

MOHANDAS GANDHI to ADOLF HITLER
July 23rd, 1939

On July 23rd 1939, as tensions mounted in Europe following Germany's occupation of Czechoslovakia, Mohandas Gandhi, the famously non-violent leader of the Indian independence movement, wrote a letter to the man who was orchestrating what would become World War II: the leader of Nazi Germany, Adolf Hitler. As it happens, Gandhi's letter – a clear and concise plea for Hitler to avoid war "for the sake of humanity" – never reached its intende recipient due to an intervention by the British government. Just over a month later, the world looked on in horror as Germany invaded Poland, thus beginn the largest, most deadly conflict in the history of the world.

The Hidden Load

Meet Amy

Amy is a mom of 2 kids, 9 and 12. She's been happily married to Simon for 14 years now, a marriage that's been filled with the usual bumps and adventures. Amy is a senior executive for a consulting firm, and loves her work and the impact she has on her customers.

Amy loves to have coffee with her friends on the weekends, she loves a walk on the beach with her family, and when she has spare time, she relishes being able to escape into a crime novel, with no distractions, no meals to cook, and no to-do list.

The only problem...

Amy hasn't read a crime novel in what feels like years, and the last time she felt the sand between her toes was months ago… She's battled at work this month juggling the needs of her kids who are on school holidays with the demands of her clients and responding to colleagues.

Amy feels overwhelmed. And yet she doesn't know how to get herself out of this hole she finds herself in.

I mean… she loves her job, she gets on well with her colleagues, and she loves seeing the impact of the work she does. She loves her family, and cherishes being a Mom, and although it currently doesn't happen as often as she would like it to, she still manages to have some good catch-ups with her friends.

Amy's just not sure why she feels like this. Why she's feeling overwhelmed with everything.

Until, one evening as she escapes to a hot bath for some 'self-care', she comes across an article as she's scrolling through LinkedIn about 'The Hidden Load.'

And it gets her thinking about what this 'Hidden Load' means.

- The impact it has on her job and her organisation.

- How many other women that she works with, and is friends with, feel the same way?
- How the men in her world would respond to hearing this,
- And what needs to be done to solve this problem?

The hidden load is everything that moms have to think about. It's making sure that the loo paper, toothpaste or soap isn't running low, it's thinking about what's for supper tonight, if she has all the ingredients, and if not, when she'll be able to pop to the shops or do the online order to make sure supper can be made, as well as have the appropriate food for the kids to pack into their lunchboxes.

It's knowing that little Toby has a football match on Friday, and that the consent form still needs to be signed for him to play, a lift needs to be organised for him to get from school to where the match is being played, and then if it's going to be Mom or Dad who attends the actual match…

He also told her last night that his football boots are too small for him, so that needs to be added to the list of things to get this weekend, and also, heavens above, please can someone add powder to the shopping list because those football boots smell like something has died in them.

This hidden load also includes wondering whether you need to get the kid onto some different vitamins, adding some superfood to his diet, or whether he should be drinking more water because no shoe should smell that bad!

On their own, these may all seem like small tasks – but they all add up, physically, mentally and emotionally. And when you ask any heterosexual couple with kids which partner is most likely to handle these tasks - chances are that it's the moms.

It's exhausting. And instead, it needs to be balanced.

How can we lessen mental loads in 2022 and beyond?

Partners (Moms and Dads)

Share this article with your partners and colleagues.

· Talk about this hidden mental load. We need to communicate what happens in our heads in order for the load to be shared. We need to make the invisible more visible to start seeing this change.

· Schedule weekly conversations with your partner to talk this through, and to balance the tasks out - not just the actual tasks, but the planning and thinking that goes into them too.

· Moms - Relinquish control. Acknowledge that things might be done differently, and be ok with that.

· Dads - understand that "You should have just asked" does not help. By saying this you're still suggesting that the moms are the project managers… THIS is a prime example of what contributes to the hidden mental load.

Understand that doing the grocery shopping is a help… but it's the 'meal plan to decide what needs to go onto the shopping list, as well as checking the pantry and fridge for what's needed, plus making sure you do all this while sticking to your budget', that forms the hidden mental load. Oh, and don't forget that the friends coming around for dinner on Friday night are vegan, so make sure you take that into consideration when making the meal plan.) Jude Foulston

EcoChurch:

During September there will be a week of events around Environmental issues in the area.

Once details are known, information will be put onto this page.

During that week it is hoped we will hold an Exhibition of Produce from your home and/or allottment.

To include vegetables, flowers, baking etc. Details will be posted here.
Do come back here from time to time to learn of other events and activities that may be of interest to you.

https://www.thecotteridgechurch.org.uk/news/forthcoming-events/

Bournville Folk Presents:

A BARN DANCE

SATURDAY 24th September 2022

7.30 - 10.30 p.m.

Music by Fiddler's Elbow
Caller Mandy Nayak

St Francis Church
The Green, Bournville B30 2AA

Bring and Share Supper

Adults £6 Children £3.00
Family £15

Tickets: Mandy Nayak

phone 0121 243 8867 text 07531661066

If you want to pay on the door please phone or text to let us know you are coming

Do you like walking but are not able to walk
as far as you used to at the moment?

Walk & Talk

led by members of
South Birmingham Ramblers
might be just what you need...

We meet on Friday mornings
at 10.30 at Rowheath Park Car Park
for a One Mile walk lasting approx 30 minutes
followed by
Refreshments and a Chat at Rowheath Pavilion

We are a friendly group and look forward to seeing you if you would like to join us

To find out more info please contact
Jenny (444 4094)

Foodbank

Urgently Needed

Tinned or packet food, Ready made custard tins or cartons not powder, Packets of sweet biscuits) not family packs), Tinned tomatoes, Tinned fruit in juice (not prunes or grapefruit), Long life fruit juice, Instant Hot chocolate (made up with water not milk), Rice (500G), Gender neutral shower-gel, Toothpaste, Liquid or bar soap, Dog/Cat food, Strong carrier bags.

Low in stock

Tinned potatoes, tinned spaghetti, squash, long-life fruit juice, UHT semi -skimmed milk, dog/cat food, instant hot-chocolate (not cocoa powder), instant coffee (not decaffeinated), porridge (not greater than 500g), ready-made custard (tinned/carton); UHT whole milk, tinned rice pudding, tinned meat (ham, corned beef, pork sandwich, pulled pork, chicken), teabags (40's or 80's), jam/honey, biscuits, chocolate and snack bars, liquid/bar soap, laundry power/liquid (not family sized), gender neutral shower-gel, gender neutral shampoo, sugar (500g), toothpaste, single or duo wrapped toothbrushes

Well Stocked:

. Pasta shapes, dry spaghetti, baked beans, tinned/packet vegetarian meals, tinned/packet soup, tinned vegetables, noodles, instant potato, nappies size 1 & 2, baby food , gender neutral roll-on deodorants, sanitary pads, baby wipes, washing-up liquid.

Please do not donate:

Decaffeinated drinks or fruits infusions, Bottled water, Large bottles of lemonade or coke, Any foods containing alcohol, Cooking ingredients, Fresh produce including vegetables, eggs and bread. Non-dairy items or gluten free items, Coffee beans, Large boxes of teabags (120's or larger), Very large boxes of cereal or porridge, Loose tea, Cocoa powder, Tampons, Make up, hair accessories, perfume or after-shave.

Thank you helpers

Click on the different links below to find out what's happening in your church

(Crl + click on link)

https://www.facebook.com/rowheath.pavilion/

https://ssjandh.org

https://bournvilleparishchurch.org.uk/

https://www.facebook.com/BournvilleParishChurchStFrancisOfAssisi/

www.ascensionstirchley.com
https://www.facebook.com/AscensionStirchley/

https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Religious-Organization/Bournville-Quaker-Meeting/

https://www.facebook.com/Cotteridge-Quaker
https://cotteridgequakers.org.uk/

https://www.thecotteridgechurch.org.uk/
https://www.facebook.com/TheCotteridgeChurch/

https://www.birminghammethodistcircuit.org.uk/church-page/st-andrews-b30

https://www.weoleyhillchurch.org.uk/links.php

https://www.birminghamvineyard.com/

https://www.facebook.com/vineyardbham/

https://b30.foodbank.org.uk/

https://www.birminghamchurches.org.uk/news/

https://ctb30.org.uk/

CHURCH CONTACTS

For further details of worship and/or activities at any of the churches please contact the people below:

- St. Andrew's Methodist Church
  Revd. Farai Mapamula - 427 1747
- Bournville United Reformed Church
  Revd Leonora Jagessar - 472 0730
- Society of Friends, Bournville
  Claire Bowman - 07753 635438
  Room Hire, 471 2155
  annegiles57@gmail.com
- St. Francis Church, Bournville
  Rev Canon Richard Wharton - 472 7215
- Rowheath Pavilion Church
  Inter regnum
  Office - 458 1711.
- Society of Friends, Cotteridge
  Chris Martin - 475 2088
- The Cotteridge Church
  Revd. Mike Claridge - 433 5176
  Revd. Roger Collins - 459 4009
  or Church Office - 433 5518
- Ascension Stirchley
  Revd. Catherine Grylls - 443 1371
- Catholic Church of Ss Joseph and Helen
- Catholic Church of St Paul's
  Father David Barry - 458 1236

"Points" is published by Churches Together in Birmingham 30 for the exchange of ideas and news. Opinions do not necessarily reflect the official policy of the churches as a group or individually.

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Next Issue's Focus will be

Going Eco

Deadline for articles: 17 September