Bournville, Stirchley, Cotteridge & Kings Norton

Points

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

Retirement

Words to the carols for Carols on the Green are on the back pages of this edition

December 2024 no 133

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Not everything is getting worse

In the sixties, when retirement seemed a lifetime away, my image of the future was of a beautiful benign world. A bit hippyish. Gentle and full of love and peace.

As I write, Donald Trump has just won the American election and I am terrified of the world that I am bequeathing my children and grandchildren.

Growing up and being educated in a post-war world, I really thought we could make the world a better place. We would not make the mistakes our parents had in creating world wars. I lived in a modern city, went to a multicultural university, had multinational friends. We would be able to talk about the world and how to make it a better and more equal place for everyone. I thought reasonableness and rationality would rule.

By the time I got to retirement we would all be living in a world where jobs were satisfying, but were balanced by a meaningful home and community life. A world where everyone who wanted one had a house. Where everyone had enough food. Where we could travel anywhere and see our wonderful world.

Now I'm here and I'm looking back on the mistakes I made, the things I didn't see coming, the views I didn't hold, the actions I didn't take.

And I think my gentle church family, both at home and in the wider community has to take some responsibility. Sundays were quiet, peaceful days which lulled us into a sense of quiet, peaceful Christianity. Anger and arguing were not a part of my Christian upbringing. Loud voices were not encouraged. Disparate views were not welcomed. Compromise was always the answer.

We did campaign for a better world. We supported Shelter. We raised money with 24 hour table tennis tournaments (No, I never understood the connection either.) We went carol singing for Oxfam. We promoted the New Internationalist and Third World First. We had soup and

cheese lunches for Christian Aid.

BUT, it was a naïve form of campaigning. The inherent belief was that if only everyone **understood** that the world would be a better place if they all went to church and looked after their neighbour, then it would all be alright.

But it wasn't and it isn't.

And therein lies just one of my mistakes. It was still about 'othering'. I liked everyone. I wanted them all to come here and be my friends..... providing, of course, that white people were still comfortably in the majority and that all the black or brown people would think and dress like me.

I thought that all children could be taught to succeed, providing they were quiet and obedient in class and did their homework. I didn't realise that so many children grow up in an environment where space for learning is impossible and not valued.

I thought that all I read in the papers was true. I didn't realise that some people deliberately told lies. I believed in free speech, not recognising (as is now the case) that the richest person in the world owns X/Twitter. Number 2 owns The Washington Post. Number 3 owns Facebook. Numbers 6 and 7 started Google. Free speech? Really? ¾ of the circulation of British newspapers is controlled by 4 families..... and only read by retirees. I didn't see the growth of social media. I thought people would use mobile phones to talk to each other.

So, my retirement isn't full of the beautiful, rainbow-lit, green vistas of happy people. I believe retirement is a time to get angry and not settle for a walk into the sunset or a slide into invisibility.

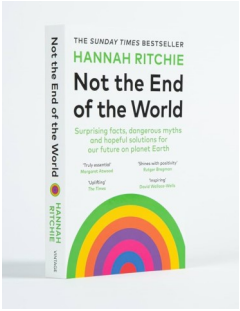
For most of the readers of this publication.....Our houses are paid for. Our pensions are comfortable. Our children have left home. Our grandchildren are (mostly) healthy. But we are a privileged minority and

we need to use our position to continue to fight for the rights of those who do not have our privileges.

Yes, we can volunteer for all sorts of good causes, but we need to keep argumentatively active. Yes, we may have health issues, but we have time to write emails and articles, to respond to and initiate social media postings, to turn up at meetings, to go to MPs surgeries, to protest that the life we wanted for everyone is not here.

I don't want to be young again. I'm glad that I'm not facing a world where the rich get richer, where the planet gets hotter, where self-interest and selfishness seems to dominate.

However, there is no denying that retirees are tired. We don't have the energy of youth or the media skills of the generations below. So let's not be entirely doom-laden. In Hannah Ritchie's book, 'Not the end of the World', she points out that those of us inclined to a pessimistic view of our world assume that **everything** is getting worse. And it's not. Our problems are huge, but they are solvable. We do have a future. If we retirees keep predicting doom and apocalyptic disasters, then there is a danger that the next generation will respond with 'why bother'?



So my next year of retirement will not **just** focus on my worries about global warming, the lack of biodiversity or the domination of single use plastic. I am going to move to 'conditional optimism' .....perhaps.

Helen Gale

Define Retirement -
‘A withdrawal from one’s occupation’

But not from life! And having gained a wealth of experience isn’t it the ideal time to share it?

In the days before nuclear family structures, grandparents would live at home with one of their children, usually the youngest daughter, and they would be tasked with childcare duties. They also bagged the warmest seat in the house next to the fire. They would teach the youngsters nursery rhymes and counting songs and their prayers. There would be rambling stories to inspire the young mind. It also helped oldies to use their memories and keep their brains active. The grandfathers often died within two years of retirement as they struggled with the sudden change.

‘But times they are a changin’ and we have retirees who are sixty six going on forty six and not ready to pop their clogs. Exhausting manual jobs are less common and we are living longer in our post employment era. We have brains that need stimulation and hearts that need exercise physically and emotionally. And childcare? Yes that still exists.

Youngsters no longer sit at their grandparents knee. Instead they are off to nursery school, and often taken there by the grandparents who then attend their U3A (University of the Third Age) classes. https://kingsnorton.u3asite.uk/

As I ponder my move into retirement I have just returned from the funeral of my mum. She never knew the meaning of retirement! She trained and worked as a nurse before and during the second world war and in the days before penicillin. Barrier nursing was the standard procedure and Covid was a reminder of what she had been doing eighty years previously. However in those days when you

married it was expected that women would retire from nursing and devote their time to raising children. Childcare and nursery schools didn't exist. Nor did ready meals or supermarkets.

Shopping was an excursion to the local shops with a baby in a very large heavy pram which became useful for creatively surrounding the baby with the produce.

Eventually mum retired from childcare as the children fled the nest and she looked for a third career. Being so long out of the job market was a challenge but it was easily overcome with her resilience. She trained in retail, selling quality furnishings with names such as Ercol and Stag and G-plan. Who remembers the Ideal home exhibitions?

But too soon the retirement word loomed large. Like most retirees, visits to distant shores sounded attractive albeit for her, it involved places like Oberammergau, Assisi, Jerusalem, Lourdes among many other places. But at home she saw her equals with time lying heavy on their hands and so she set up an indoor carpet bowling group in her local church hall. Her intention was to keep the oldies mobile and sociable. Within two years the concept spread and there was a local league with teams who had their own team shirts with logos and competitions and cups. Sounds to me like a U3A precursor. So for her Retirement meant new opportunities. What extra will you be doing in your new chapter in life?

John Slevin

RETIREMENT RAMBLINGS

As we drove through the pretty Sussex countryside, 91 year old Nanna always provided us with the usual continuous running commentary on anything and everything from the beautiful sky, or stunning oak tree, to the awful state of the nation or the latest family news/gossip. After a mysterious silence of ten minutes, I began to get worried, so I shouted back from the front seat " Are you alright Nanna?"

"Oh yes dear" she immediately replied " …….I was just reciting the periodic table in my head" !

On a similar occasion, some months later, she became unusually quiet, and on asking if she was okay, she replied:

"Oh yes dear, I was just reciting all the kings and queens of England in chronological order. It's good for the brain, dear"

Nanna certainly thoroughly enjoyed her retirement doing the things ***she*** wanted to do which included volunteering at church, supporting a variety of charities and, of course pursuing her interests. As an excellent pianist, she would power her way through Chopin, Schubert and Beethoven. She learnt to recognise every tree, wild flower or bird flourishing in these isles. Already a fluent German speaker, she decided to learn French and Spanish to a good standard too. In her retirement, her hunger for knowledge was insatiable, she travelled widely within the British Isles and abroad delighting herself in all the possibilities life had to offer; expanding her knowledge of history, art, literature and anything else going! It didn't help ones self-esteem to challenge her at a game of scrabble or to sit with her when watching University Challenge!

Yes, my mother-in-law Nanna, was a real tour de force! Our children thought Nanna was an expert on everything too, and on one memorable country walk, six year old Ruth, after listening carefully to Nanna's observance of everything on the grass, broadcast an unforgettable compliment.....

“You're an expert on poo Nanna, aren't you?”

In retirement, my father was a little different. Yes, he fed his mind by reading again all the books he had enjoyed as a child (particularly Dickens), followed by all the books he had always wanted to read, especially the classics, but he also followed his creative hobbies too; furniture making and wood carving. At the age of 79, he moved house to be near us. He dismantled and re-erected a large shed and greenhouse, took up cycling, walked four miles each day delivering and collecting our youngest daughter to and from primary school, and he insisted on mowing our enormous lawn, even though he had quite a sizeable garden of his own to tend! Dad loved doing things, being helpful and being with friends and family. Every week he took a blind friend to the local pub quiz. Their 'Old Codgers' Team' got banned from playing, because they won every time!

Retirement is a gift and it is what we make of it. Not everyone is fortunate enough to make it to retirement age, and so we must count our blessings. Perhaps the retirement I would least like to emulate is that of our old friend Geoff. At the age of 60, and on an extremely generous pension, he retired from a demanding high pressured job, only to become a full time university lecturer! Delivering lectures to over 100 students at one sitting, to be followed up by hundreds of essays to mark, exams to set and moderate, and reports to write, would not be my idea of a fun retirement. However, although very busy, Geoff enjoyed the new challenge!

Because we are all so different, so will be our ideas of a good retirement. When I retired from teaching, I decided to run a B&B. Compared with teaching, it seemed

really easy. I was free most afternoons and every evening; no more taking home of marking and reports, no more parents' evenings. I didn't exactly dislike these activities, but I just wanted to take back some control of my time and have some freedom! I could now block out whole swathes of time on the calendar to visit friends and family, have them come to stay, and I could create more time for church and voluntary work and time to help the family when the need arose. If I did have a free evening or weekend when teaching, I was often too tired to do much with it! In my new venture, it was a privilege to meet guests from all four corners of the U.K and even of the world: to introduce them to our beautiful city of Lincoln. I loved hearing them wax lyrical about what they had been up to and how they loved the double-yolked organic eggs which appeared with regularity on their breakfast plates! As I believe ' a stranger is a friend you haven't yet met', I found giving hospitality stimulating. I was doing something I loved ***and*** actually getting paid for it! Running a B&B certainly wouldn't suit everyone, but it definitely suited me, and the guests sensed it!

I no longer run the B&B and have moved with my husband to Bournville to be nearer to family. My retired husband Geoff cannot completely hang up his boots and still enjoys teaching and preaching for the church. The great thing is, we can do as little or as much as we want to do of the things we love. Retirement gives us more time to reflect, to pray, to listen, to care and with God's help, to use the wisdom we have learnt over the years. Hopefully we are more tolerant and less judgmental, and it is hoped that we can understand more fully the beauty of Christ's teaching. In retirement let us pray that we may always be a blessing to others, even when our health is in decline and our strength fading; a word of encouragement here, a generous gift there, a smile here and a word of appreciation there, a prayer here and a prayer for ever. It is my joy to belong to a church which bears the name of Saint Francis. We cannot go far wrong if we regularly meditate upon the inspiring prayer attributed to this great saint. Jane Harris

Prayer of Saint Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:

where there is hatred, let me sow love;

where there is injury, pardon;

where there is doubt, faith;

where there is despair, hope;

where there is darkness, light;

where there is sadness, joy.

Surrender the Things of Youth

Retirement is nothing new. Numbers 8:23-26 contains the only indirect reference to retirement in Scripture, namely: Now the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, *'This is what applies to the Levites: From twenty-five years old and upward they shall enter to perform service in the work of the tent of meeting. But at the age of fifty years, they shall retire from service in the work and not work anymore'.* This is thought to have been written in about 1300 BC. Of course, things have changed somewhat since then.

And so, to bring things more up to date. In1927, Max Ehrmann wrote the prose poem Desiderata which includes the phrase: *'Take kindly the counsel of the years, gracefully surrendering the things of youth'* - Ehrmann was clearly talking about retirement. It is fascinating to hear my friends quote from Desiderata, whatever their faith.

I am long retired (about 20 years in fact). Mrs Mowgli is retired, too. We really enjoy retirement. I can't say my heath is perfect, but it's a lot better than some. We both have lots of interests. I like making things in my workshop and Mrs Mowgli really likes cooking – and is very good at it, too. Interests are so important to us all in retirement, as are friends. Some of our friends have a strong faith and some have no faith at all – but that's ok.

I don't drive anymore, because my reactions are a little slower than they were. Thankfully, Mrs Mowgli is our chauffeur. Having said that, we don't travel anything like as much as we used to. It's about 10 years since we went on holiday abroad. We are very happy to stay around Bournville.

As part of my job, in the early 1970s, I was taught computing. The technology has changed, but I still use a computer every day, and so does Mrs Mowgli. I can't remember when I last went in a shop, and I've not been to Birmingham for about 10 years. I can get everything I need online, mainly from Ebay or Amazon, such as parts and materials to

make things. Mrs Mowgli doesn't go to the shops much either. She does most of the food shopping online and a nice person in a van delivers it. If we want to visit exotic places, we can do that online, too – it's cheaper, and as I said, I don't drive anyway.

Covid was life changing. I can easily catch anything that's going, so we had to observe a very strict lockdown. We began going to the model boat Pond, thinking it should be safe in the open air. We have a Family Membership of the Model Boat Club, so we can all enjoy 'playing with boats'. Our friends at the Pond are all retired. Some travel as far as the Cotswolds. They say the Pond and Bournville is one of the nicest places in England. We sail our boats and talk of trees and streams. If it's a nice day, we have picnics outside. If it rains, we retire to the boat house. Very often some kind soul goes to the bakery, on Bournville Green, to buy lardy cakes – our favourite.

At this time of the year, I begin to think a lot about Christmas - I really love Christmas. I'd like to tell you a Christmas story, but frankly, I found it difficult to find a link between Christmas and Retirement. After all, biblically, Christmas is more about the start of life, rather than later life. However, may I suggest that Christmas is the time when retired people relate most closely to younger people - more so than at any other time of the year.

I really love my children, and it's nice they only live about 20 minutes away. I talk to them on WhatApp at least once a day and see them about once a week. We have a grandson who is three years old and is an absolute delight. Christmas is a time to make toys – like my grandad and my dad made for me. I make 'em, he breaks 'em, and I fix 'em. When he's a bit older, I'll teach him to make things himself - but back to Christmas…

I told you that when I was little, my father dressed up as Father Christmas. I'm embarrassed to say, I didn't realise who it was until I was

maybe six, and that's when I found the red cloak and beard in the attic! I have no intention of emulating that performance – my Grandson is far too bright for that.

And so, how will we retired folk celebrate Christmas with the children: It's a time to dress up, and eat too much, while the little ones dream of wrapping paper, cardboard boxes, and await Santa Claus.

- We oldies look on with joy and amazement –

Mowgli,

Nine Lessons and Carols

Sunday 22 Dec 2024, 6:30 p.m

Join us for a traditional service of lessons and carols.

St Francis of Assisi Church
Sycamore Road Bournville Birmingham, B30 2AA

Candlelit Christmas Carol Concert

Sunday 22 December 2024 at 5 pm

St Joseph & St Helens Church, Station Road, Kings Norton

1st & 3rd
Wednesday
of each month
2.30-3.30pm

Bournville
Parish Church,
Sycamore Road

£2 suggested
donation

Refreshments
Provided

Breathe Collective

INCLUSIVE CHOIR

An inclusive choir for individuals who are disabled, neurodiverse,
for those with additional needs & their carers

BOURNVILLE
PARISH CHURCH

For further information contact
Laura - 07817617923
godwin_laura@hotmail.com
Helen - 07436021333
communitybournville@gmail.com

Selly Oak NNS
" Live Laugh Love "

Christmas Concert

Bournville Parish Church

Bournville Parish Choir

Bournville Vocal Ease Ladies Choir

Bournville BellePlate Group

Breathe Collective

with

The City Of Birmingham Brass Band

Friday 13th December 7pm

Tickets £8, Children £5

Parish Office - 0121-472-7215

BOURNVILLE
PARISH CHURCH

https://www.tickhetsource.co.uk/
bournville-parish-church/t-yaymeeq


KINGS NORTON
CHRISTMAS
FARMERS MARKET
SATURDAY 14TH DECEMBER
10AM - 5.00PM
FEATURING AMAZING LOCAL TRADERS, FESTIVE MUSIC, TREATS & GIFT IDEAS, THE BIGMAN HIMSELF...
SANTA BABY
MERRY
CHRISTMAS
LOCAL FOOD
SANTA WILL BE ON THE GREEN 11.30-3.15
FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY
KINGS NORTON GREEN
A TASTE OF THE COUNTRY IN THE CITY
FREE PARKING AVAILABLE AT THE BULLS HEAD

Concert for Human Rights

08/12/2024, 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm

at *Bournville Quaker Meeting House*,
Bournville Birmingham

Bournville Quakers are hosting Amnesty Bournville & Freedom from Torture for their annual concert to raise awareness of human rights issues and raise funds for the two organisations.

World music – Song – Dance – Spoken Word:

Tyriq Baker & friends (music),

Magdalen Gorringe and friends (dance),

Robert Edwards (tenor),

Spoz (spoken word, guitar),

Skylarks Community Choir,

and more.

Refreshments from 2pm, concert starts at 3pm
Stalls: Amnesty / Write for Rights, Freedom from Torture, Palestinian goods and more.

Tickets £10 per person (free to Under – 16s)
at the door (cash, card or cheque) or
email john@johndolan.co.uk
all proceeds go to Amnesty International,
and Freedom from Torture

Bournville Quaker Meeting House
65 Linden Rd - Bournville Birmingham B30 1JT

Foodbank

Last month we received in 2595k and gave out 1964k feeding 216 clients

Urgently Needed

UHT whole milk,
tinned spaghetti,
pasta shapes, rice (500g),
tinned/carton
instant custard,
chocolate bars,
jam/honey,
long-life fruit juice (not needing refrigeration),
tinned rice pudding,
small jars instant coffee (not decaffeinated),
instant noodles,
sweet biscuits (not multipacks, as they often have no ingredients listed on the packs inside),
liquid/bar soap,
toothpaste,
size 5& 6 nappies

HELPING LOCAL PEOPLE IN CRISIS

Lower in Stock

cereal (not greater than 500g)
uht semi skimmed and whole milk
small jars of instant coffee (not decaf)
tinned meat - ham, corned beef, spam, pulled pork, chicken, stewing steak, curry, sausages, meatballs
pasta sauce
tinned soup
jam and honey
long life fruit juice (no refrigeration)
instant hot chocolate (not cocoa)
squash
cat food
tinned or packet vegetarian meals
sugar (500g)
toilet rolls
washing up liquid
noodles
instant mash
baby wipes
sanitary towels, laundry liquid/powder (not family sized), nappies 6

TWILIGHT TERRACE PRESENTS

Step into Christmas

FRIDAY 20TH DECEMBER

7.00PM - 11.00PM

Dance the night away to your favourite Christmas classics & more provided by a DJ!

PHOTOBOOTH & PROPS AVAILABLE!

CHRISTMAS JUMPERS & FANCY DRESS ENCOURAGED FOR A CHANCE TO WIN

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

ROWHEATH PAVILION, B30 1HH

Rowheath Pavilion

Prayer in the way of Taize

6pm Sunday 19th November
St Francis,
Sycamore Rd, Bournville, B30 2AA

6pm Sunday 17th December
The Church at Carrs Lane,
Carrs Lane, Birmingham B4 7SX

6pm Sunday 21st January 2024
St Paul's in the Jewellery Quarter
St Paul's Square, Birmingham B3 1QZ

All Welcome
For more information contact
phpaw2@btinternet.com 0121 478 3841

Rowheath Pavilion Church

Place of Welcome

Pavilion has a session every Friday morning with refreshments in the Rowheath Terrace Room.

There's lively conversation, drinks and snacks every Friday morning in Rowheath hall.

How do you join?

You just walk in anytime between 10.30 and 12.00 on Friday! But for Covid safety you must give contact details.

Why is this group happening?

The Places of Welcome network was set up in 2012 because of concerns about loneliness and isolation. We are proud to be part of this great initiative.

The Cotteridge Church

You are invited …

Warm Spaces - where people can gather for free in a warm, safe, welcoming place and enjoy a hot drink and some company.

Cotteridge Church
Mon-Friday 9.30 am –1.30 pm

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
- Society of Friends, Bournville
  Claire Bowman - 07753 635438
  Room Hire, 471 2155
  bqmroombookings@gmail.com
- St. Francis Church, Bournville
  Rev Canon Richard Wharton - 472 7215
- Rowheath Pavilion Church
  Rev Dave Price
  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
  Inter regum - 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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Editorial Committee: *Roger Bunce* *Gill Broadhead* *Linda Mann* *Margaret Scorey*

Next Issue's Focus will be

Our Changing World

All are invited to submit an article. If you wish to do so please send to the Editor by:
15 January

Carols on the Green

Christmas Eve

6.00 pm on Bournville Green

Bring your lanterns

All proceeds go to local charities

Here are the words for the carols

Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child

He came down to earth from heaven
who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor and mean and lowly
lived on earth our Saviour holy.

First verse sung by the children only

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky
looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep in the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus!
Look down from the sky,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.

While shepherds watched
their flocks by night,
all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down,
and glory shone around.

'All glory be to God on high,
and to the earth be peace;
good will henceforth from heaven to earth
begin and never cease.'

O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming;
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him,
still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy child of Bethlehem,
descend to us we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in,
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell:
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel.

We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.

O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.

Glorious now, behold him arise;
King and God and sacrifice:
Heaven sings: ‘Alleluia’; ‘Alleluia,’
the earth replies:

O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
let earth receive her King;
let ev’ry heart prepare him room,
and heav’n and nature sing,
and heav’n and nature sing,
and heav’n, and heav’n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth the Saviour reigns!
let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of His righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

Hark! The herald-angels sing
glory to the new-born King,
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled.
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim,
‘Christ is born in Bethlehem.’
Hark! the herald-angels sing
glory to the new-born King.

Hail, the heaven born Prince of peace!
Hail, the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.
Hark! the herald-angels sing
glory to the new-born King.

Silent night, holy night,
all is calm, all is bright;
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light;
radiance beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him,
born the King of angels;
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing all ye citizens of heav'n above:
"Glory to God in the highest:"
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born on Christmas morning;
Jesu, to thee be glory given:
word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing:
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord

Thank you for your support.
On behalf of Churches Together in B30
we wish you a happy and peaceful Christmas