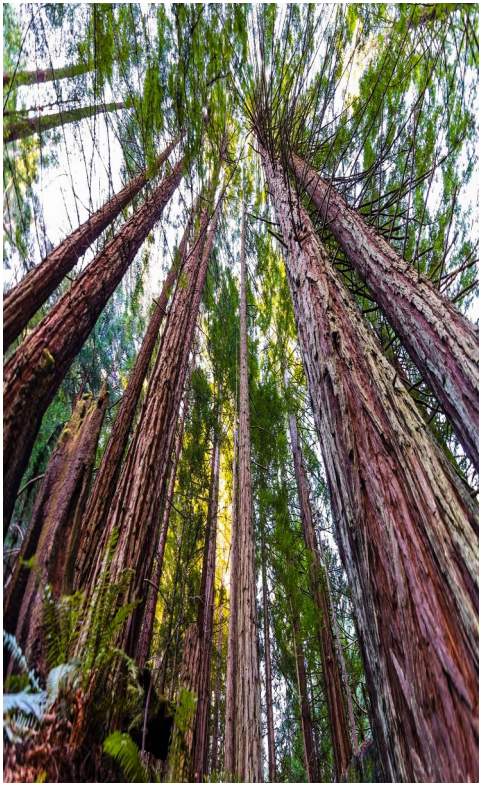
Bournville, Stirchley, Cotteridge & Kings Norton

Points

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

Our Changing World



February 2025 no 134

20p where sold

Rock-hard IT

'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God'. According to Wikipedia, this passage from Genesis was probably written in about the 5th century BC. Tradition credits it to Moses. Ironically, Information Technology (IT) began a lot earlier - with cave painting. Some of the paintings show the interaction between man and animals and are about 40,000 years old. The important point is, even after such a long time, we can still see and understand the message.

In the years that followed, IT moved on a pace with the development of writing, drawing, painting, printing, mathematics… and so on. I would like to concentrate on the technology of capturing the image, in particular Photography. Photography was invented by Joseph Nicéphore Niépce around 1822. Kodak introduced acetate safety film in 1908. Film photography has changed little since then. The little boy on the rocking horse was taken in about 1947 using a Kodak Box Brownie. And, yes, it's me. These old black and white prints are a lasting record of the past.

The first digital cameras became available in 1990. They have advantages over film cameras - but there are problems, too. Digital cameras use computer technology, which is continuously changing. Let me explain: In the 1970s we stored data on punched cards, which needed a small army of operators to do the punching. Then came 5¼" floppy discs, next 3½" floppy discs, and then CD laser discs. These memory systems are obsolete, and now data tends

to be stored on memory chips. A 1 Terabyte chip (1 million, million, bytes of data) is commonly available and is about the size of a fingernail. So, what if you've stored your precious pictures on a memory system, and the system becomes obsolete! It gets worse: What if your computer no longer runs the program/software that was used to edit and save your pictures. Worse still: What if your computer fails and you loose your pictures completely. I am not talking hypothetically – These catastrophes have all happened to me!

So, what's the solution? In a word – hardcopy. It means taking a step backward, avoiding electronic storage and using film and paper prints instead. In fact, some photographers say film has a unique 'look' which they like. But film is no longer readily available and is expensive. Processing is expensive, too. Never-the-less, there seems to be a growing trend towards using film. But hope is at hand: It is said that China will be selling film sometime this year. They have built a manufacturing facility in collaboration with Kodak. That should bring the price down.

I am lucky, I've spent more time using film than digital photography, and I already have some old film cameras. In fact, I've just bought another one for the princely sum of £10, so they needn't cost the earth.

Anyway, back to cave painting – Rock-hard IT. That's the answer.

Mowgli

"To live is to change, and to change often is to become more perfect"

Cardinal John Henry Newman

Inner Transformation

Spirit of God,
Unseen but powerfully active in our world,
Guide and strengthen us
As, each day, we step anew
on the journey of transformation.
Help us to move on
from the unavoidable self-centredness
of the new-born
to become reflections
of your humble glory.

May we understand and embody
your values
of loving concern,
justice,
and concern for the common good.
As we travel through life
may we each play a tiny but important part
in the enlightening
and transforming
your world,
initially here, and then on into eternity.

Rev Ros Murphy

The Nicene Creed

This year the week of Christian Unity focussed on the Nicene Creed. This article gives some background information on the Creed. Nicaea is now called Iznik and is near Istanbul in Turkey.

Until the early 20th century, it was universally assumed that the Niceno-Constantinopolitan Creed (the more accurate term) was an enlarged version of the Creed of Nicaea, which was promulgated at the Council of Nicaea (325). It was further assumed that this enlargement had been carried out at the Council of Constantinople (381) with the object of bringing the Creed of Nicaea up to date in regard to heresies about the Incarnation and the Holy Spirit that had arisen since the Council of Nicaea.
Additional discoveries of documents in the 20th century, however, indicated that the situation was more complex, and the actual development of the Niceno-Constantinopolitan Creed has been the subject of scholarly dispute. Most likely it was issued by the Council of Constantinople, even though this fact was first explicitly stated at the Council of Chalcedon in 451. It was probably based on a baptismal creed already in existence, but it was an independent document and not an enlargement of the Creed of Nicaea.
The so-called Filioque clause (Latin filioque, “and the son”), inserted after the words “the Holy Spirit,…who proceeds from the Father,” was gradually introduced as part of the creed in the Western church, beginning in the 6th century. It was probably finally accepted by the papacy in the 11th century. It has been retained by the Roman Catholic, Anglican, and Protestant churches. The Eastern churches have always rejected it because they consider it a theological error and an unauthorized addition to a venerable document.
The Nicene Creed was originally written in Greek. Its principal liturgical use is in the context of the Eucharist in the West and in the con-

text of both baptism and the Eucharist in the East. A modern English version of the text is as follows, with the Filioque clause in brackets:

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father [and the Son],
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Melissa Petruzzello.

Whatever happened to letters?

The way we correspond with each other has changed dramatically over the last few decades. Up until the 90's people would send letters if they wanted to interact with someone this was before the days of the internet and mobile phones.

If you wanted to phone someone you had to find a phone box in the street and have enough change to put in the box! If the letters were particularly meaningful or of sentimental value people saved them.

My Grandmother had a bundle of letters which were sent by my uncle who was fighting in the 2nd World War. I have letters sent to me by my Father who travelled a lot with his work and sent letters to me and my sister from all over the world. As a result of this I started a stamp collection and became interested in geography. I still have these letters along with some letters sent from my husband before we were married when we lived at opposite ends of the country.

At a service last week we had a reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians and we had a discussion about how much poorer our knowledge of the early church would be without Paul's letters to the early church communities. Today communication is fast by email or mobile phone but none of these communications are saved. There is no hard copy of these communications which can be passed down through the generations which will surely be a loss to historians writing the history of our times in the future.

Linda Mann

Brum Energy

Footsteps is part of BrumEnergy, a collaboration of six community organisations supporting people of Birmingham to: Be warmer and more comfortable at home

- Save money on energy bills
- Improve their health and well-being
- Reduce carbon emission

  BrumEnergy is led by Birmingham Voluntary Service Council and other partners include Acocks Greener, Community Energy Birmingham, ecobirmingham, MECC Trust, Birmingham Green Doors and Witton Lodge Community Association.

  Footsteps role is to connect BrumEnergy with Birmingham's faith communities.

  Ways to save energy in the home range from small steps that help reduce electricity use, through low-cost changes that can make big differences to a complete 'retrofit' that can reduce energy use and costs by up to 80%.

Energy Saving Flashcards

To help you find the right energy saving action for you, Footsteps has developed sets of energy saving flash cards that give basic information about a wide range of ways to save energy and reduce bills.

The cards have been successfully used including:

- As a basic source of information about ways to save energy;
- At 'conversation starters' at community events, Places of Welcome, Energy Cafes and similar;
- Hand-outs at meetings;
- Presentations to groups;
- and in other ways.

  The information on the cards has been drawn from a range of sources. Footsteps is indebted to the Centre for Sustainable Ener-

gy, Citizens Advice Bureau, Energy Saving Trust, Birmingham Energy Advice Manual and other sources as well as the knowledge and experience of Footsteps members.

Flash card formats

Each flash card has basic information on an energy saving action on the front and, on the back, suggestions and tips on how to reduce energy use.

Flash cards can be downloaded below as PDF files. One set has 1 card per A4 page for viewing and slide shows. The other set has 4 cards per A4 page, to make 4x A6 sized cards These are designed to be printed double sided on A4 paper or 160 gsm light card on a colour inkjet or laser printer. Each A4 sheet is then cut into quarters to give four cards.

Printers vary in their double-sided printing capability so you will need to check out how best to print the cards on your printer. It is easiest if you have access to a colour printer that has a sheet feed that will automatically print double sided. Otherwise, you will need to print one side first and then turn the card over.

Topics

1 Easy ways to Save Energy

2 Simple Improvements

3 Heating and Controls

4 Tackling Damp and Mould

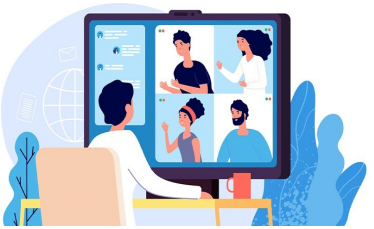
5 Insulation Improvements

6 Paying Bills

7 Sustainable Energy

There is Nothing Permanent Except Change

Change in the form of technological advancement is all around us and within us. We appreciate it whenever we ask our smart phones to play a music track or set a reminder, our car's sound system to make a phone call, our tablets for video conferencing to talk to friends and relatives on the other side of the world. Slogging to the shops when the car is in the garage can be avoided if we turn to internet shopping . And when did we last open a dictionary or encyclopaedia to check a fact? With these few examples we are only scraping the surface of scientific advancements.



While embracing the advantages of the above, care is needed to educate ourselves about the possible dangers of becoming too reliant on these things without questioning and evaluating potential pitfalls and traps.

Many of these "handy improvements" may have a downside; mis-information, deep fakes, the dark web. Even "Dr Google" should be treated with caution if we are not to become paranoid about our health!

What of changes in our lives which are not a direct result of technology? Changes of circumstances or intrusions into our lives which we may perceive as detrimental to us? As the world becomes more global with progress it appears to shrink, we can no longer remain insular and inward looking. War and persecution in distant lands, poverty and climate changes, are among the reasons that people are drawn to our country. Strangers from other ethnic groups who bring with them ways of living which are unfamiliar to

us. We may feel suspicious of anyone who appears dissimilar to us; dresses differently, whose faith we do not understand, and music that is alien to our ears. Cultures that we do not understand can cause us to feel threatened and fearful and we retreat, mistrusting their presence.

Everything changes, the question is, do we change with it?

Change can be unnerving it can push us out of our comfort zone, yet we have a choice in how we handle change; we can step back, withdraw, push away. This may not make us feel any more content because it does not always bring resolution.

The Greek philosopher Heraclitus said you cannot step into the same river twice as the flowing water is forever changing. All things will pass, change that we consider good or bad, will change again. We can welcome new possibilities that will enhance and deepen our lives and allow others to wash over us. By embracing the unfamiliar our lives can be enriched. Fresh ideas and interpretations can broaden our understanding of the world, bring knowledge and open up new possibilities. They can provide opportunities for new experiences and allow us to make new friends, learn and develop new skills and open our minds to a more complete and fulfilling life.

It can be done - we Brummies have taken the Balti to our hearts and consider it our own!

Sally Slevin

CHANGE IS ALWAYS SCARY …… ISN'T IT?

"I don't like change! I like things to stay as they are"

How often do we hear these comments from our friends and acquaintances? But this attitude can hold us back, we can become stale, 'stuck in a rut', particularly as we are getting older. We need to consider why we are frightened of change and address it. We have all been through many changes in our lives – changing schools, jobs, moving house and big changes in our personal lives. Through change we can learn and grow.

The title of a lifestyle guide by Susan Jeffers 'Feel the Fear and do it Anyway' sums it up perfectly. She helps people to address their fears and find out what is holding them back thus enabling them to change and move on.

Jeremiah 29:11 tells us "I know the plans for you" declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future"

I have been reading Paula Gooder's book 'Women of the Nativity', An Advent and Christmas journey in nine stories. Sarah's story is the first in the book. It tells the story of Abram and Sarai later to be renamed, by God, as Abraham and Sarah. It is a story of two people who, being guided by God, went through tremendous changes in their lives.

They were uprooted by God from their very comfortable lives with a promise to Abraham that he would become the 'Father of a Great Nation'. Genesis 12:1-3. This sounded impossible – they had no children, but they did as God asked. For 25 years, trying to keep faith that God's promise would be fulfilled, they lived an uncomfortable nomadic life, suffering many upsets and hardships, wandering through Canaan.

There must have been many times when they had serious doubts that that Promise would ever be fulfilled – Sarah was by now past child bearing age. Then one day their camp was visited by three strangers. Abraham was told by one of them “Your wife will bear a son” Sarah was by then a very elderly woman and must have continued doubting this was possible but she did indeed bear a son and named him Issac, whose descendants would become a great nation.

The Serenity Prayer

God grant me the Serenity to accept the things I cannot change,

the Courage to change the things I can,

and the Wisdom to know the difference.

Attributed to Reinhold Niebuhr.

Mrs Mowgli

A BIG Thank You

At Carols on the Green on Christmas Eve we raised £2,627.85.

All the money donated will be given to

Bournville Lunchtime Concerts

Spring 2025

17 Jan	Gen Li (cello) and Elizabeth Haughan (piano)
7 Feb	Minerva Flutes - Emily Hicks, Christy Chen, Emma Brown and Sue Newton Ede
21 Feb	*Romanza!* - Victoria Brawn (oboe) and Eleanor Hodgkinson (piano)
7 Mar	Robert Markham (piano)
21 Mar	Darren Hogg (organ)
4 Apr	Joe Chu-Yu Yang (violin) and Eric McElroy (piano)

- Fridays, 1:00-1:45pm, at Bournville Quaker Meeting House, 65 Linden Road, Birmingham, B30 1JT
- Free admission – retiring collection
- Tea, coffee and biscuits available from midday – bring your own sandwiches.

Join our Concerts mailing list!

Scan here or simply send an email to
bournvillelunchtimeconcerts@gmail.com

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 "

LIVING WELL with Dementia

A stimulating, fun and inclusive activity group for people living with dementia

Supported by the Covid-19 Support Fund, established by the insurance and long-term savings industry

Covid-19 Support fund

Alzheimer's Society United Against Dementia

Come along, build new friendships, and join in with our exciting range of activities, including Cognitive Stimulation Therapy, reminiscence, crafts and much more. Lunch and refreshments provided.

Location: Bournville Quaker Meeting

Date: 2nd Wed Every Month

Time: 10:30am - 12:30pm

Cost: Voluntary Contribution

To book a place or for further information please contact:

Soki Mob: 07799 341 227

Foodbank

Last month we received in 1090 kg and gave out 1794 kg feeding 198 clients

Urgently Needed

UHT whole milk

Tinned/carton instant custard

Small jars of instant coffee (not decaf)

Rice (500g)

Instant noodles

Tinned rice pudding

Liquid/bars of soap

Toothpaste

Jam and honey

Long-life fruit juice

HELPING LOCAL PEOPLE IN CRISIS

Lower in Stock

Cereal (not greater than 500g)
UHT semi skimmed milk
Baked beans
Tinned spaghetti
Tinned meat - ham, corned beef, spam, pulled pork, chicken, stewing steak, curry, sausages, meatballs
Tinned fruit (in juice - not prunes, grapefruit or rhubarb)
Tinned vegetables (peas, carrots, sweet corn)
Pasta sauce
Tinned fish (mackerel, tuna, sardines, salmon)
Squash
Tea bags (40's or 80's)
tinned or packet vegetarian meals
sugar (500g)
Nappies (most sizes, except 4's)
Toilet Rolls
Tinned soup
Washing up liquid
baby wipes
Instant hot chocolate (not cocoa powder)
Laundry powder/liquid
Gender neutral shampoo and shower gel
Tinned tomatoes
Chocolate bars
Pastas shapes
Instant potato
Sweet biscuits (not multi-packs, as they often have no ingredients listed on the packs inside)

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
  - 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

Making Things

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