

Bournville, Stirchley, Cotteridge & Kings Norton



Points



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

The Importance of Community



'The Importance of Community at Cotteridge church

One of the main aims of the Cotteridge Church is to serve our community. We do this mainly through welcoming people into our daily Cafe where they can enjoy meeting other people.

We also encourage groups to hire our rooms for their meetings. One of these groups is a student group called Communicate to You or C2U. We try to integrate these students, who come from all walks of life, into our cafe and kitchen to improve their life skills and they in turn teach us how to communicate effectively with people who have Special Needs.



Roger Collins and several of our congregation are very involved in running the local B30 Food Bank, which is, unfortunately, greatly needed in our community. My particular involvement in the Community is as secretary of our Tuesday Fellowship. This group was originally, 60 years ago, a Young Wives group and has evolved over the years from being an all women's group into a group which is open to anyone who is interested in our meetings. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month, not in August. Our programme of meetings is on display in the cafe and involves a variety of speakers on topics from holidays, music, history and current affairs. When we haven't got a speaker we have afternoons when we listen to music, read poetry or play games. All are welcome.

During the week Linda W runs a shop which is open during cafe hours and has a huge variety of clothes and bric a brac as well as a book shop which is very popular and again is open to all.

When our original congregations, Anglican, Methodist and URC came together as the Cotteridge Church our vicar at the time, Rev Michael Blood, had someone come to him on Watford Rd to say how she and her friends really appreciated all the things that the church was doing and how we had "put the heart into the Community". Hopefully we are still maintaining this status.

Linda Mann

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 Questions

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 here again from our M.P. Al Carns.

Watch this space!

Rev'd Barbara Calvert, August 2025



Two Communities

I would like to tell you about two very different communities and some of the people that lived there.

Growing up in the Black Country

It was the mid 1940s and 50s: We lived in a party yard along with about 6 other families – rather like the back-to-back houses, Hurst St, Birmingham. Frankly, they were more or less slums. Remnants of bomb shelters remained in the yard. Only one of our neighbours had a TV and we watched the 1953 coronation with them. My dad had a friend who was a taxi driver, his was the only car on the street. The taxi driver played the piano in the local pub. There were about 5 pubs within 5 minutes' walk from us. Entertainment centred about two things: Pubs, and neighbours gossiping. Men went to the pub, while men and women gossiped in the yard – Sometimes there was a 'bust up' (disagreement), in which case silence ensued for a day or two.



When I was about 6 and was sent to Sunday School. I didn't like Sunday school. I thought it totally unfair that I was made to go, because my parents, aunts, uncles, and grandad, didn't go to church (except for weddings and funerals). The matter came to a head when the Sunday school teacher said we were going to do a play (I was to be a shepherd). Anyway, I was told I had to

wear swimming trunks and an old curtain. That was the last straw - I flatly refused! So ended my religious education for about the 10 years.

My dad had a rickety old bike with a carrier (seat) on the back for me. Later, I had my own bike. It cost the princely sum of 10 shillings (50p) and I painted it black, to cover the rust. All the other kids had similar transport. We amused ourselves by playing on the bomb sites and by throwing bricks at each other. But we also liked cycling to the factories

and peering in through the open doors and glassless windows. One of our favourite places was the rolling mill. It smelled of hot steel. We watched the men with their leather aprons and heavy boots, using tongs to guide the red-hot strips of steel through the rolls. It emerged from the other side and snaked across floor. The floor was covered with thick metal plates. I think they were making railway lines.



But it was not all industry: There were several parks within walking distance, with swings and roundabouts, and the countryside was only 15 minutes bike-ride away. There were fields and streams and, ironically, coal mines and shale dumps. That was where the M5 is now. We caught tadpoles and took them home in jam jars.



It was the 1950s, and the era of the Teddy Boys - we lived in fear of the Teds. They were easily recognisable with their long Edwardian-style jackets, velvet collars, drainpipe trousers and thick crepe-soled shoes (brothel creepers). Their hair was greased at the front to form a quiff, and the sides slicked-back to form a 'Duck's Arse' DA,

at the back. There were often fights between rival gangs. Their weapons of choice: Bike chains, knuckle dusters and cut-throat razors – a nasty lot...

I began studying engineering at the local technical college when I was about 15. The Reverend Handel Broadbent, taught us how to make things. He was a methodist. However, he never mixed engineering with religion, but he quietly tried to keep us on the straight and narrow. One day my friends were trying to teach me how to play cards, Handel caught us and expressed his displeasure! I still can't play cards. However, he never objected to us smoking – but then he did smoke a pipe himself! I digress: More importantly, Handel was a wonderful craftsman: He was a silversmith, wood carver and blacksmith, and made lots of

stuff for his church. He encouraged me to make things, in true Black Country tradition. In fact, I made a Christmas Nativity Set for one of his church-run community centres.

By then we had moved to the luxury of a council house, which had a real bathroom - not just a tin bath that hung on a nail in the scullery. It was only about a mile from 'the party yard', but it was still well and truly The Black Country. From my bedroom I could see seven chimney stacks that belched smoke. We gave them names depending on the smoke: The red, yellow, black chimney, and so on...

Once again, community entertainment centred about the pubs. My nearest pub didn't have a piano, instead, it had a rather fancy electric organ. We drank and sang till closing time...

The move to Bournville



I was in my mid-twenties and had exchanged my battered old bike for a Mini car, and discovered Bournville.

Bournville couldn't have been any more different from the Black Country. No Pubs, no chimneys, no heavy engineering, but lots of trees, green spaces,

streams and ponds, and a nice clean chocolate factory.

We often meet visitors from Cadbury World looking round the green. One day a group of visitors asked where they could get a drink. We said, 'Nowhere - Bournville is 'dry', there are no pubs'. They looked on in disbelief. I have never yet met a resident who has complained about the absence of pubs. In fact, they rather like it, and say there is never much rowdiness, drunkenness or litter – nice, in fact.

The Cadbury factory was begun in 1879. In 1893 the Cadburys purchased an additional 120 acres of land on the Bournbrook Estate to build a model village to provide better living conditions for their workers. Compared to the slums of Birmingham and the Black Country, it was heaven on earth.



Most residents of B30 will of course know Bournville well - my apologies for telling you things you already know. Mrs Mowgli and I are relatively new-comers to Bournville and have only lived here for 50 years - families have lived here for generations. It is a very close community. We usually meet someone we know when we are out - a bit like my early days in the Black Country.

I should mention that other people were making chocolate at the time. The thing which gave Cadburys the edge was that some members of the family were involved in engineering - Laurence Cadbury, for example. So, they had the expertise to make machines to automate chocolate manufacture.

The Cadburys provided employee training, not just in work related matters such as food technology and engineering, they also encouraged employee's musical and artistic interests. They built Bournville Art School, Linden Road, and next to it, perched on top of Bournville Village Primary School, the Carillon. They sent Trevor Workman BEM to study music at The Royal Birmingham Conservatoire. He's now been playing the carillon for 60 years – Well done Trevor. Trevor is also a talented organist and pianist and plays regularly for services at St Francis Church. Every year since 1949, on Christmas eve, several thousand people gather on Bournville Green, to sing carols accompanied by the carillon. It is the biggest carol service in Birmingham. They sent Noel Hudson, another employee, to the Conservatoire to study double bass and jazz, and he became well-known on the Birmingham jazz scene. Incidentally, both friends of mine. I'm sure there are numerous other examples of the excellent way the Cadbury's treated their employees.



The Cadburys were of course Quakers and built several Friends Meeting houses. But they did not just supportive of their own beliefs, they contributed to the building of several churches including St Francis Anglican Church on Bournville Green and the Serbian Orthodox Church, on Griffins Brook Lane.

I'm sure you are all familiar with Bournville green with its quaint black and white shops dating back to 1905 and the Rest House in the centre of the Green, built in 1914, but do you know about Bournville Garden Centre, off Maple Road? Once again, its roots lie with the Cadburys who set up a garden centre for villagers to buy vegetable plants for their gardens – all the original houses have ample gardens. As far as I know, it is

the only Garden Centre that resides in a wood, namely Stocks Wood, once part of the Forest of Arden.

The Cadbury Family no longer own the Cadbury Company. It is now owned by Mondelez International. However, George Cadbury established Bournville Village Trust back in 1900. They continue to manage and develop the estate, with Cadbury family members serving as trustees. Bournville changes little, which is what I like. What an amazing and unique Cadbury legacy.



My religious education began again about 40 years ago. Our first daughter had just arrived. We were overjoyed, and anxious to get her baptised. With trepidation, we asked the then vicar of St Francis Church, Canon Keith Withington, if he would do the job – half expecting him to say ‘Umm, do you come to my church?’. But, without hesitation, he said: ‘Of course I will’. We have been going to St Francis Church ever since...

Conclusion

Asked where I come from, I would probably say: My roots are well and truly in The Black Country of the late 40s and 50s, but I love Bournville and cannot think of a better place to live. And my two favourite places: Fish and chips at the Black Country Museum, and a picnic by the Pond in Bournville.



Mowgli,

Giving and Receiving

Love your neighbour as yourself.
JOY: Jesus first. Others next, yourself last.
Sentiments imbued from early days.
Actions of love, done for others,
others who are really Jesus in disguise,
sometimes heavy disguise.

So, we keep busy,
Sometimes frantically busy.
Helping, listening, showing compassion.
Putting our efforts into doing, doing for others,
proof of our love and commitment to God.

yet we need to be receivers too, not just givers,
Jesus, whom we call Master, Lord, Teacher, Healer,
God himself in human form, yet also a receiver.

You accepted:
meals from Martha, from Simon the leper,
Care from three Marys, Joanna, Wife of Herod's steward,
unnamed women from Galilee.
The list could continue

Understanding God, we confess
that so often we rush to be givers,
perhaps feeding our own satisfaction in feeling needed,
yet by our busyness,
denying the less confident
their opportunities to give too.
Help us to be humble enough to be receivers as well as givers,
to accept graciously, and with true thankfulness,
the gifts which others offer to you through our receiving

Rev Ros Murphy

My age group knows best !

In the vicar of Dibley, The vicar Geraldine Grainger says to her parochial church council that they need to come together to create an event to raise funds. The exact reason escapes me but it was probably to repair a leaky roof.

Immediately the farmer Owen Newitt pulls out his cheque book and says 'How much do you need?'

Problem solved I hear you ask? No of course not. Raising much needed funds is secondary to bringing the community together and working as a group.



When we work together we create an environment where there is an exchange of ideas. These ideas are discussed and then decisions are made about the best way forward as a group. If you are a baby boomer then you fully comprehend this concept of co-operation and compromise. But if you are born after 1980 then the idea may feel somewhat strange to you. And if you are born after 2000 then it seems daft to compromise. If this generation has an idea then it should be used rather than a watered down version of it.

So each generation has their own viewpoint and motivation. Each group is convinced they know best.

The Gen Z group prefer to outsource the entertainment. This allows small creative enterprises to sell their handmade items such as recycled jewellery, upcycled woollen knitted scarves and hats, hand printed fairly traded cotton items, FSC sustainably sourced wooden crafts. The baby boomers prefer a hands on approach and bake scones and cakes selling them below the price of the ingredients and energy costs. But all are united in the fairly traded tea and coffee.

There is no right or wrong answer. It is a constantly evolving environment. The important factor is that there should be regular events. For example one regular event every two months to bring everyone of all ages together. There are easy, low cost events such as quizzes and talent contests which allows the natural talents in each parish community to rise to the surface with more complex events perhaps once or twice a year.



John Slevin

Foodbank

We received in 1200Kg of food and gave out 1908Kg feeding 226 clients on 108 Vouchers

Urgently Needed

Rice (500g),
tinned spaghetti,
tinned soup,
tinned meat/meat products,
tinned rice pudding,
tinned fish (mackerel, tuna, sardines, salmon),
baked beans,
UHT semi-skimmed milk,
UHT whole milk,
chocolate bars,
long-life juice (not needing refrigeration),
liquid/bar soap,
toothpaste,
gender neutral shower gel

Lower in Stock

Low stock
Tinned/carton instant custard,
tinned vegetables (peas, carrots, sweet corn)
tinned tomatoes,
tinned fruit (not rhubarb, prunes or grapefruit)
jam/honey,
small jars instant coffee (not decaffeinated),
tea bags (40's or 80's),
instant hot chocolate (not cocoa powder),
pasta sauce,
instant potato,
instant noodles,
squash,
cereal (not greater than 500g),
tinned/packet vegetarian meals,
sweet biscuits (not multi-packs, as they often have no ingredients listed on the packs inside),
sugar (500g),
toilet rolls,
laundry powder/liquid (not family sized),
washing-up liquid,
gender neutral shampoo.

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PEOPLE IN CRISIS**

Donations welcome

B30 and South Birmingham Foodbank
Charity Number 1197620
Lloyds Bank
Sort code 30 - 98- 97
account no. 68010562

The Importance of Church Community According to the Bible

The Bible places significant emphasis on the importance of church community as a vital part of the Christian life. From the earliest days of the Church, believers gathered not only to worship God but also to support and encourage one another. Scripture teaches that faith was never meant to be lived in isolation but within the context of a loving, committed community.

In **Acts 2:42-47**, we see a powerful picture of the early church. Believers devoted themselves to teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayer. They shared their possessions and cared for each other's needs. This model highlights how church community is a place of spiritual growth, mutual support, and active love.

The Apostle Paul often describes the church as the "body of Christ" (**1 Corinthians 12:12-27**), where every member plays a unique and essential role. Just as a body cannot function properly without all its parts, the Christian life cannot flourish without connection to the church. Each person contributes to the health and mission of the whole.

In **Hebrews 10:24-25**, believers are encouraged not to neglect meeting together but to “spur one another on toward love and good deeds.” Regular gathering strengthens faith and builds unity, helping Christians remain steadfast in their walk with God.

Furthermore, **Galatians 6:2** calls believers to “carry each other’s burdens,” showing that church is not only a place for worship but also for compassion and care in times of need.

In summary, the Bible teaches that the church community is essential for encouragement, growth, service, and unity. Through authentic relationships, shared faith, and collective worship, believers reflect God’s love to one another and to the world

Chat GPT





**FIND OUT
MORE**



HAVE YOU HEARD?

BULLS ARE COMING TO BVT

CAN YOU BULL-IEVE IT?

To celebrate 125 years of the Bournville Village Trust, we will be decorating a Bull for the Wild in Art trail in partnership with Birmingham Hospice.

GET INVOLVED!

The Bull will be popping up around the estates so keep a look out for an event near you!

CHAT TO US 0121 472 0199
www.sellymanormuseum.org.uk



TREASURE ISLAND

Swashbuckling family fun
this summer holiday

Tuesday 19th - Friday 29th August



SCAN ME



0121 472 0199
www.sellymanormuseum.org.uk



Bournville
Village Trust

**SELLY
MANOR** 

Common Threads

Tuesday 12th August – Thursday 16th October

Selly Manor Museum



An exhibition exploring the elaborate,
intriguing, and beautiful collection of Selly
Manor and its connection to the National
Trust's Packwood House.

William A Cadbury
Charitable Trust



Bournville
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SELLY
MANOR



Normal admission applies T: 0121 472 0199



Rowheath
Pavilion

FRIDAY NIGHT QUIZ

2ND & 4TH
FRIDAY OF
EVERY MONTH

CANCELLATIONS ANNOUNCED
ON SOCIAL MEDIA.

- ☐ ARRIVE FROM 6:30PM FOR 7PM START
 - ☐ £2 EACH (CASH PAYMENT ON THE DAY)
 - ☐ MAX TEAMS OF 6 - MUST PRE-BOOK
- ENJOY FOOD, DRINKS AND SNACKS FROM
THE BAR OPEN TIL 10PM!



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ANY OUTSIDE ALCOHOL IS PROHIBITED
AND WILL BE CONFISCATED.



FROZEN JR.

6th September 2025 at 2pm and 7pm
BOURNVILLE PARISH CHURCH, ST FRANKS

Tickets: Adult - £10 child - £5 carer - £7
contact - 07709 726 691 or stagefrightnbc@gmail.com

Music and Lyrics by Kristen Anderson Lopez & Robert Lopez. Book by Jennifer Lee

Based on the Disney Movie written by Jennifer Lee

Directed by Mat McAvoy
Produced by Liz Boraston
Music Director Laura Joy Godwin



This amateur production is brought to you by arrangement with Musical Theatre International

1st & 3rd
Tuesday
of each month
5-6pm

Bournville
Parish Church,
Sycamore Road

£2 suggested
donation

Refreshments
Provided



Breathe Collective

INCLUSIVE CHOIR

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



BOURNVILLE
PARISH CHURCH



For further information contact
Laura - 07817617923
godwin_laura@hotmail.com
Jacci - 07522961087
jacqueline.boraston@gmail.com

Selly Oak

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with Dementia

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activity group for people living
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Covid-19
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**Come along, build new friendships, and join in with
our exciting range of activities, including Cognitive
Stimulation Therapy, reminiscence, crafts and much
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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:

Suki Mob 07799 341 227



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 ...

WORK SPACES AVAILABLE

BOARD GAMES

WELCOMING

FAMILY FILMS

24 Pershore Road South
Cotteridge
Birmingham
B30 3EJ

The Cotteridge Church

0121-433-5518

administrator@thecotteridgechurch.org.uk

#warmwelcome #wearecotteridge #community #thecotteridgechurch

Warm Spaces

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

Cotteridge Church

Monday -Friday

9.30 am –1.30 pm



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

(Ctrl + 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/share/1AcRNVQWxJ/?mibextid=LQQJ4d>

<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
Rev. Farai Mapamula - 427 1747
- Society of Friends, Bournville
Claire Bowman - 07753 635438
Room Hire,
bqmroombookings@gmail.com
<https://centralenglandquakers.org.uk/room-bookings/bournville>
- 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
Rev. 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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Next Issue's Focus will be

Our Bible stories

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