

Bournville, Stirchley, Cotteridge & Kings Norton



# Points



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

## Living With Change



## **'Those who cannot change their minds cannot change anything'**

We all live with change. All the time. No options really. Nothing we can do will stop those increased wrinkles. Or the reduction in hearing. Or dimming of the eyesight. Increased technology may help us, but no-one, thankfully, even film stars with facelifts, has ever lived for ever.



Football's attitude to change has always bewildered me. (Actually, much about football bewilders me.) A football team is failing. A new club manager is appointed to a great fanfare. This person is going to be the answer to all our problems. Six weeks later, the team is still losing .... and the manager is sacked. And off we go again. Surely something is wrong with the team; the players on the field.

We have the same reaction to politics. The country is failing. (14 years of austerity, for example.) We need a change. A new prime minister is appointed to great acclaim. A huge Parliamentary majority is achieved. Two years later, when 'change' has not been achieved to the degree expected we, apparently, need a new Prime Minister.



So this living with change is about expectation. As social media jet propels our daily living pace ever faster, as 'breaking news' happens at ever increasing speed, we are encouraged to expect overnight results in a situation which is not capable of delivering them.

Living with change is about compromise. As I write we have just completed the local elections. 'Change' was a definite theme of these elections. Many seats changed hands. Many new councillors with exciting ideas and enthusiasm, but without experience, have been elected. Birmingham's local government is going to witness a great deal of change. We have moved from a single party controlled council to one of no overall control (NOC). Somebody is going to have to adapt. Proba-

bly quite a lot of people. What is difficult to predict is whether local government becomes stronger with change through negotiation or more unstable with continual infighting.



The point is *how* you live with change. We can rail against it. We can shut ourselves away from it and pretend it isn't happening. We can live our lives as we always did and pretend that nothing has changed. And we all know churches (or church members?) who attempt to do that. That way lies imminent stultification and eventual extinction.

If we accept that change, including for our churches, is inevitable, then the skill is in managing that change; in responding to it in the most positive way. These days it is difficult for many churches to grow and thrive. We need not just to live with change, but sometimes to actually drive that change.



Once supporting change we need be concerned with the pace of change.

We need a vision that we have agreed on. And then we need a path of travel. Too slow and we lose people – and enthusiasm. Too many beautifully annotated annual 20-page strategic plans and we die of boredom. Too fast and we risk missing antagonising people because we haven't explained enough.

Basically, living with change is about how you **think** about change.

As George Bernard Shaw said,

[“Progress is impossible without change; and those who cannot change their minds cannot change anything.”](#)

Helen Gale

# A Trinity of Transformation

Yeast, salt and light  
each able to transform  
one state of being to another,  
but together they become  
images for our understanding

It is as if  
we are the fruit of God's planting.  
From harvested grain  
we can become fine flour  
as we pass between life's millstones

The yeast of compassion  
lightens our heaviness.  
The salt of our deepening faith  
adds flavour.  
living water of God's Spirit  
transforms our very being.

As time passes  
we become like risen dough.  
Baked with the warm of Jesus's light  
we become bread to be shared  
in God's world.

We have little to offer  
but from our little, freely given,  
God creates enough and to spare  
because only a little is needed.

IF we cooperate  
and contribute our yeast, salt and light,  
we become a miniscule trinity of love.

Rev Ros Murphy

# Fearing Change

The apostles had been living in fear. Fear for their lives. Although Jesus had risen from the dead and appeared to them they remained lost and frightened and hidden away. But Jesus chose an important Jewish celebration the Feast of Weeks (Shavuot) to instil in them the gift of the Holy Spirit.



Acts tells us that there were many people in Jerusalem from the known wide world

“Parthians, Medes, and Elamites, inhabitants of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the districts of Libya near Cyrene, as well as travellers from Rome,”

*(Modern day equivalents are Iraq, Syria, Turkey, Israel, Palestine, Iran, Armenia, Afghanistan, Libya, Egypt, Italy and Pakistan)*

who had come to celebrate this Jewish feast when God gave the ten commandments to the Israelites on Mount Sinai.

This gift of the Spirit transformed Peter and the other disciples. Peter emerged from the locked room and proclaimed the Word of God in a language that could be understood by everyone visiting Jerusalem.

The frailty of Peter’s human feelings was removed with such profound change that passed beyond human comprehension.



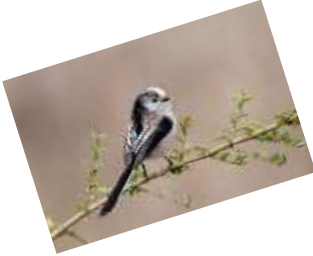
There are many opportunities in the biblical stories which move and change us. But I think the impact of the change Peter and the other disciples underwent was truly momentous.

Whilst we focus on God made man in Jesus, let us give time and reflection on God who leads us in our spiritual life’s journey

John Slevin

# change in the RSPB rules for bird feeding.

The RSPB has radically changed its advice on bird feeding after a year of research on bird deaths.



It's now advising that we put out no peanuts or seeds for birds from the start of May to the end of October when the risk of spreading the fatal trichomonosis disease



is at its highest.

It also recommends that all flat feeders are retired, as research shows that they harbour infected food and bird droppings.



Hygiene is key, so change to a once or twice weekly cycle of cleaning feeders with a pet friendly spray and moving them around the garden.



Put out only mealworms and suet over summer.

This advice comes from Nature news at [RSPB.org.uk](https://www.rspb.org.uk)

Linda Mann



# Life Changing

New ideas are often devised by a few talented individuals. I would like to tell you about my favourite life changing ideas, how they began, and how they developed.

**Fish and Chips** - Joseph Malin, a Jewish migrant opened the first fish and chip shop in Bethnal Green, London in 1860. There are currently about 10,500 fish and chip shops in the UK.



**Fizzy Lemonade** – It seems like this came to us in two parts: Sweetened lemon water arrived in Paris in about 1630. The ‘fizz’ arrived later in 1767 when Joseph Priestley found a way of infusing water with carbon dioxide and making carbonated water. By the 1830s companies had combined the two to make Fizzy Lemonade as we know today.

**Motor Car** – Karl Benz, a German engineer, patented a gasoline-powered automobile in 1885. It had a single cylinder four-stroke engine that produced about 0.75 hp. By comparison a modern Ford Focus car is about 120 hp.



**Penicillin** was discovered by Sir Alexand Fleming in 1928, but he was unable to identify the active ingredient. In the 1940s a team at the University of Oxford purified the active ingredient and that allowed the drug to be mass produced. Penicillin went on to save countless lives in World War II. However, it was not until 1945 that key workers, namely: Fleming, Florey and Chain were awarded the Nobel Prize. No doubt, we have all benefited from that work.

**Computers** – Charles Babbage is often quoted as the father of computing, and he did indeed devise several computers. In 1822 he designed his so-called Difference Engine, which was intended to compute mathematical tables, but was never completed. In 1834 he devised his second ma-



chine, which he called his Analytical Engine. This was also a mechanical computer, but like his Difference Engine, it was never completed in his lifetime.



If Charles Babbage was the father of computing, Ada Lovelace was certainly its mother. Lovelace was an English mathematician. She met Babbage in 1833 when she was 18 and became particularly interested in his Analytical Engine. She was first to recognise that computers had wider use beyond merely calculation

and was the first to publish what we now call a computer program. She married Viscount Ockam 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Lovelace in 1835. Hence, Ada's full title was: Ada the Countess of Lovelace. Who could fail with a name like that!

It wasn't until 1945 that anything resembling a modern electronic computer arrived and that was ENIAC (Electronic Numerical Integrator and Computer, University of Pennsylvania). It used 18,000 vacuum tubes (valves), weighed 30 tons and measured 100 feet long x 10 feet high x 3 Feet deep. Quite a contrast to today's pocket calculators!



Television – John Logie Baird demonstrated the first television in 1926, but it was nothing like modern televisions because it used a mechanical picture scanning system. In about 1934 Marconi-EMI developed the electronic television system which used a cathode ray tube to display the picture. And now of course

we have giant LED flat screen TVs in most homes.

So, there you have it: My choice of life changing ideas, and, in a nutshell, how they came to be. I wonder what will be next? I hear talk about artificial intelligence and robotics. But, along with most people, I remain ignorant.

## Heraclitus: "Change is the only constant in life."

When we are young we want to change the world, but as we become old we like change less and less and sometimes we even become afraid of change. How does that happen? Although I am older, I don't feel any different inside to the person that I was when I was in my twenties. I still carry with me the many of the loves that I revelled in when I was much younger: art and music, reading, spending time with family and friends, putting the world to rights over a glass of wine. And yet I am aware that I have changed in many ways, some of them stare me in the face whenever I look in the mirror! Experience, joys and sorrows, the ups and downs have marked my face, I have learned so much from the people I have met, the books I have read, the paths I have followed, the skills I have learned, and these define me even more than the way I look.

The world has been constantly changing. The landscape never stays the same, for millennia the physical nature of the world around us has been changing; by the elements, the climate, people's activity and their use of the earth, and more recently, the digital age and the advances of technology.

In time we must change. Our bodies age; a child grows taller, matures physically, muscles strengthen. As the decades pass and we grow older the process begins to reverse; we may lose height and muscle power, and slow down.

And yet I don't feel any different inside to the person that I used to be.



I have an old family photo; one of my young mother, smiling happily as she twirled in a dress with a nipped in waist and wide flouncy skirts (sadly now lost but similar to picture left).

A second, black and white photo shows my parents' wedding. Beside the wedded couple were my maternal and paternal grandmothers (right). Carefully dressed for the occasion, they were grey-haired,



respectable with just a hint of a smile, even stately. The date: September 1952, when the bride was about 25 and the grandmothers in their early 50s. Yet the difference in style between the two generations shows a great chasm. Could all these sophisticated women really be dressing in the same year and from the same fashion magazines?

It seemed to me that my grandmothers had reached a time in their lives when they felt they should present themselves as stately matriarchs, heading towards a respectable old age. This shows a huge contrast to my own experience of preparing to be mother-of-the-bride which necessitated excited shopping trips, hairdressers, make-up artists. I wondered if for them the marriage of a child had marked a new era in their lives when life needed to become more sedate and dancing and fun passed to the next generation.

Today's social media and newspapers show that both men and women of all ages strive to stay young by their appearance. Plastic surgery can iron out laughter lines, hair dyes transform pepper and salt hair. Fashion becomes an agent to simulate eternal youth. Bound neither by age or gender, colours, patterns, hemlines and style become mix and match across the genders and the generations. Can we really slow down change by our outside appearance?



Does our appearance now reflect the change in the way we perceive ourselves and how we wish to live? Does it signify how much more

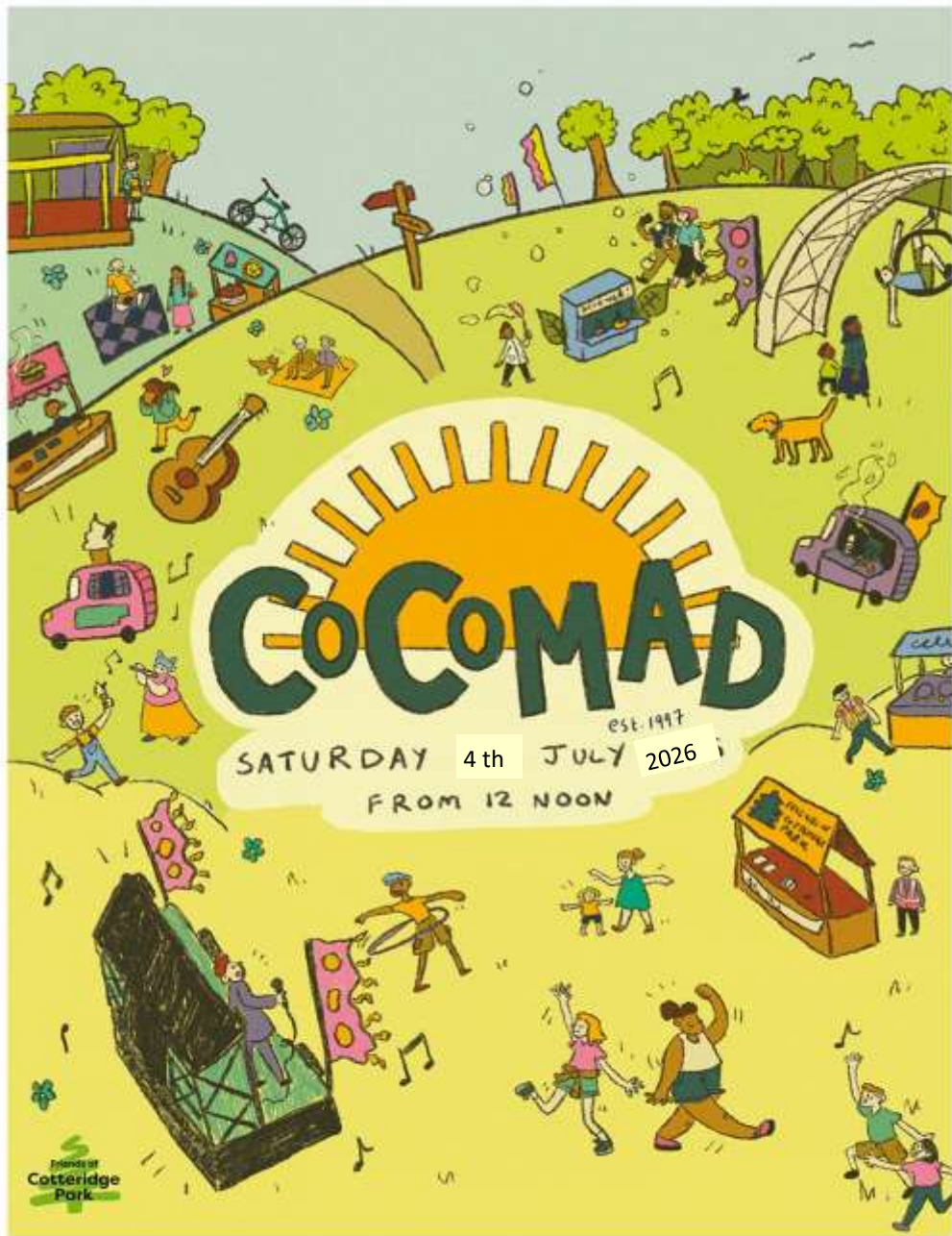
freedom we have to choose our way of life and how much this has changed over the past 80 years? Today's septuagenarian or octogenarian may not wish to live sedately or retire to the shadows when the next generation comes of age. In 2026 at the age of 88 Harry Newton continues to run and was the oldest person to enter the London Marathon. Some nonagenarians choose to go tandem sky diving, not for the faint hearted!



Perhaps when I feel the same as I did 40 years ago, I really am the same person, but enhanced by the years of experience. After all, it is the way I feel and act that define me, not just the way I look. Bring on the crows feet!

As Alan Wilson Watts said "The only way to make sense out of change is to plunge into it, move into it, and join the dance."

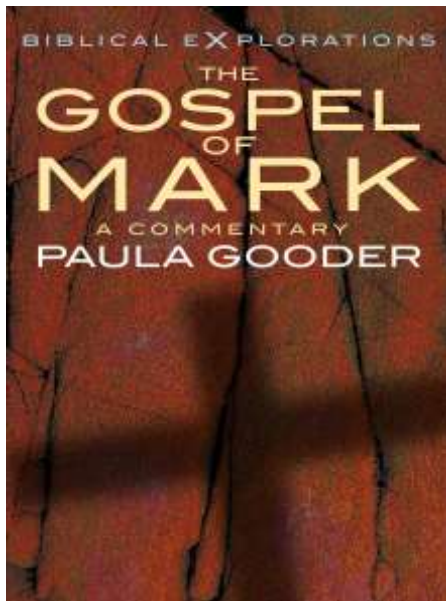
Sally Slevin



Churches Together will have a stall at CocoMad this year.  
So please come along and say 'Hello'

## Book Review – The gospel of Mark

The fourth volume in the Biblical Explorations series from bestselling New Testament writer Paula Gooder turns to the earliest and most urgent of the Gospels: the Gospel of Mark. Direct, fast-paced and vivid, Mark's Gospel has long captivated readers with its immediacy and unvarnished portrayal of Jesus' ministry. In this volume, Paula Gooder opens up Mark's distinctive voice, exploring its structure, themes and theological vision, and tracing the dynamic way it announces the good news of God's kingdom. Moving through the Gospel section by section, she sheds fresh light on Mark's storytelling, his portrayal of discipleship, and his striking emphasis on mystery, challenge and revelation. Particularly helpful for preachers, the book demystifies unfamiliar terminology, clarifies key concepts and offers vital historical and literary context that brings Mark's narrative into sharper focus for today's readers. Biblical Explorations is an exciting series offering accessible and informed study of the best-loved texts in Scripture. Rooted in the conviction that deeper understanding of the Bible leads to deeper discipleship, it is an essential resource for preachers, teachers and study-group leaders, as well as anyone who simply wants to know the Bible better.



**Publisher:** Canterbury Press Norwich

**ISBN:** 9781786227652

**Number of Pages:** 240

**Published:** 30/10/2026

**Width:** 15.6 cm

**Height:** 23.4 cm

Paperback / softback £16.99

*Looking for some ideas for reading?  
Want to share your books with friends?*

### **The Cotteridge Book Group**

*(members are current or previous members  
of the Cotteridge Church)*

meets in the evening about once every 6 -8 weeks in  
one of our own homes to discuss a selection of books –  
mostly fiction, both classics and modern.

If you are interested and would like a look at this year's programme, please  
email Helen Gale at  
[helenmgale@gmail.com](mailto:helenmgale@gmail.com)



# Foodbank

## Urgently Needed

- Tinned/carton instant custard
- Small jars of instant coffee (not decaf)
- UHT long-life fruit juice (not needing refrigeration)
- Liquid/bars of soap
- Tinned spaghetti
- Jam and honey
- Sugar (500g)
- Tinned fruit in juice (not rhubarb, prunes or grapefruit)
- Tinned meat /meat products
- Cereal (not greater than 500g)
- Toothpaste

## Lower in Stock

- Tinned rice pudding
- Rice (500g)
- Tinned tomatoes
- Baked beans
- Sugar (500g)
- 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
- Toilet Rolls
- Tinned soup
- Washing up liquid
- Instant hot chocolate (not cocoa powder)
- Laundry powder/liquid
- Gender neutral shampoo and shower gel
- Chocolate bars
- Pastas shapes
- Instant potato
- Instant noodles
- Gender neutral shampoo and shower gel.
- UHT semi-skimmed milk

## Donations welcome

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

**HELPING LOCAL  
PEOPLE IN CRISIS**

Research has revealed the concerning signs of hardship deepening and becoming normalised in communities across the UK. 14.1 million people in the UK, including 3.8 million children, faced hunger in 2024 simply because they didn't have enough money to afford the essentials.

Clients needing food are referred to the foodbank by e voucher through a referral agent or Citizens Advice 0808 208 2138 or call Birmingham City Council on 0121 216 3030  
Distribution of food, Clients or their representatives will need to collect the parcels from B30 Foodbank Quaker Friends Meeting House 23a Watford Road B30 1JB on Tuesday and Friday between 1.30 and 3.30 pm Enquiries [info@b30.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@b30.foodbank.org.uk)  
Donations to the B30 Foodbank at the Warehouse 17 Castle Road B30 3HZ on Tuesdays and Fridays between 2.00 and 4.00p  
Phone lines for clients 07582 143 972 and for donations 07985 629 201

Or scan the QR code below and make a donation





# With Love From Bournville

**7pm | Thursday 25th June 2026**

**at Selly Manor Museum**

*Enjoy a heritage talk with expert Bob Booth, and discover historic postcards and photos of Bournville*

**£7 per person, booking essential - call 0121 472 0199**

MULTI-AWARD WINNING

# Rhos Male Voice Choir

Musical Director - James Llewelyn Jones

# LIVE CONCERT



WITH SOLOIST  
**GRACE  
FARRELL**  
(SOPRANO)

Get ready for an electrifying evening with current National Eisteddfod of Wales champions Rhos Male Voice Choir. Feel the energy of live music, thrilling performance and wonderful melodies.

£15

TICKETS AVAILABLE BY  
CALLING SALLY POWELL  
ON 07870 196061 OR ON  
THE DOOR

Saturday  
13<sup>th</sup> June  
5PM

BOURNVILLE  
PARISH CHURCH,  
ST FRANCIS OF  
ASSISI

RMVC.CO.UK

# Bournville Lunchtime Concerts



Summer 2026

- 17 Apr Alex Wyatt (piano)  
1 May Xingtian Ge (soprano) & Yizhue Lin (piano)  
15 May Eira Lynn Jones (harp)  
5 Jun Paul Carr (organ)  
19 Jun Ulrich Heinen (cello) & John Humphreys (piano)  
3 Jul *Minerva Flutes* - Emily Hicks, Christy Chen,  
Emma Brown & Su Newton Ede  
17 Jul Marek Orszulik (guitar)

- 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  
bournvill lunchtimeconcerts@gmail.com*





Rowheath  
Pavilion

# FRIDAY NIGHT QUIZ

2ND & 4TH  
FRIDAY OF  
EVERY MONTH

CANCELLATIONS ANNOUNCED  
ON SOCIAL MEDIA.

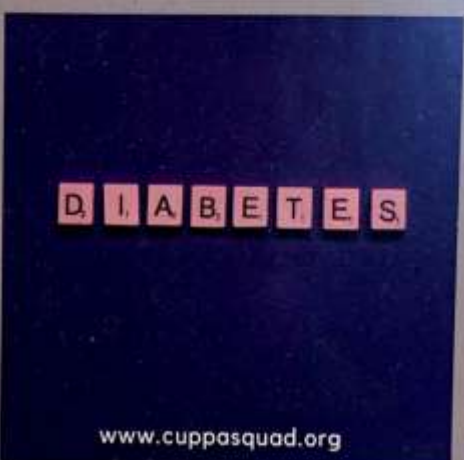
- ARRIVE FROM 6:30PM FOR 7PM START
  - £2 EACH (CASH PAYMENT ON THE DAY)
  - MAX TEAMS OF 6 - MUST PRE-BOOK
- ENJOY FOOD, DRINKS AND SNACKS FROM  
THE BAR OPEN TIL 10PM!



SECURE YOUR  
PLACE NOW



ANY OUTSIDE ALCOHOL IS PROHIBITED  
AND WILL BE CONFISCATED.



[www.cuppasquad.org](http://www.cuppasquad.org)


# LET'S GET MOTIVATED TO MANAGE OUR HEALTH & WELLBEING


Every 3rd Thursday from  
12:30pm - 1:30pm

VISIT US AT

**THE HUB ON THE GREEN**

27 SYCAMORE ROAD, BOURNVILLE, B30 2AA

One More Challenge  #justmore

One More Challenge  #justmore

 **Cuppa Squad**  
Where healthy gets happy



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

• Live  
• Laugh  
• Love •

# Tim, Mel & Friends Spirit Of Rosa

Are you interested in having a  
musical group play at your  
Community space or venue ?



If you are interested please  
contact:

Tim - 07708382391

## 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.

Curtain Call Theatre Company Presents...

Classic fairytales brought to life, from magical movie moments to musical showstoppers

# VARIETY SHOW


*Once Upon a Song*


**SATURDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2026**  
2:30PM & 7:30PM


Adults - £10  
Over 60s & Child - £8  
Under 3s - free

St Davids Church,  
Shenley Green B29  
4HH

To Book Tickets Please Scan the QR Code  
or contact us via


 curtain\_call\_theatre\_company

 Curtain Call Theatre Company

 thecurtaincalltheatrecompany@gmail.com



SCAN ME



# Bournville Art Club

In the heart of Bournville  
Paint and relax in a creative  
calm environment.  
Adult beginners and advanced  
painters welcome  
Every Thursday 2pm-3.30pm  
£35 all materials included  
Refreshments available

Contact: Emma Richter  
emmarichterarty@gmail.com  
Mobile: 07549988474

# 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://ssiandh.org>

<https://bournvilleparishchurch.org.uk/>

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

[www.ascensionstirchley.com](http://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 Ping Ting Chen 448 9619
- Society of Friends, Bournville  
Claire Bowman - 07753 635438  
Room Hire,  
bqmroombookings@gmail.com  
[https://centralenglandquakers.org.uk/  
room-bookings/bournville](https://centralenglandquakers.org.uk/room-bookings/bournville)
- St. Francis Church, Bournville  
Rev Canon Richard Wharton - 472  
7215
- Rowheath Pavilion Church  
Office - 458 1711.
- Society of Friends, Cotteridge  
Chris Martin - 475 2088
- The Cotteridge Church  
Revd Tariro Mukoja - 443 1371  
Revd. Roger Collins - 459 4009  
or Church Office - 433 5518
- Ch of the Ascension Stirchley  
Revd Tariro Mukoja - 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.

Contact “Points”: c/o Mr John Slevin (Editor) 54 Bunbury Road, Northfield Birmingham, B31 2DW. E-mail: [johnslevin@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:johnslevin@blueyonder.co.uk) Or ring the Editor, Mr John Slevin on 0121 476 1942.

*Roger Bunce*

*Gill Broadhead*

*Editorial Committee:*

*Linda Mann*

Next Issue's Focus will be

## **Pubs and Churches**

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

15 July