

Roundabout



**The Cotteridge Church
Witnessing at the Heart of the Community**

September 2017

Mike's message ...

Reformation 500

This year is the 500th Anniversary of The Reformation, the period in history that saw enormous changes in the life of the church and wider society.

In English minds The Reformation is often associated with King Henry VIII (1491 - 1547) and his break with Rome over marriage to Anne Boleyn in 1534. But a tide of reform was already washing over European churches. Henry was initially on the side of the Pope who, in 1521, declared Henry to be 'Defender of the Faith'. Henry was given this title to reward him for a document he wrote called "Defence of the Seven Sacraments". In it Henry criticised those who were attacking the theology of the Roman Church. Among those was the German theologian Martin Luther (1483 - 1546) and it's an action of Luther's that we are recalling on its 500th Anniversary.



On 31st October 1517 Martin Luther nailed a document to the door of All Saints' Church, Wittenburg. The document, "The 95 Theses", criticised elements of (then) Roman Catholic thinking notably the "selling of indulgences". This was an idea that donations to the Church would ensure the giver had, following their death, a speedier entrance to heaven. It implied that "good works" were necessary to ensure salvation rather than "justification by faith alone". Luther's protest was the catalyst that started the greatest political and religious upheaval Europe has ever seen. Those that protested against Rome and its teaching would become known as Protestants. But it would also lead to a root and branch reform of the Roman Catholic Church itself - known as the Counter Reformation.

In reality The Reformation is much more complex than a tiff between Luther and the Pope. It was a period that stretched over more than a century. At the death of Henry VIII the church in England had changed little, with services still in Latin for example. It would take the reigns of Edward VI, Mary and Elizabeth until a distinctive Church of England emerged. Church leaders such as the Scot John Knox (1513 - 1572) were also influential. Knox was influenced by John Calvin (1509 - 1564) in Geneva and, on return to Scotland, started the ball moving that would lead to establishing the Presbyterian Church.

Change is constant and necessary. In time the Church of England would change further and from within it, two hundred years later, would emerge Methodism. The Presbyterian Church would also see many changes and, just a few decades ago, would in England join with other churches to form the United Reformed Church.

At The Cotteridge Church we represent a coming together of three reformed churches - each of those three themselves a drawing together of different traditions.

We are a living sign that God's people are always changing through the life of the Holy Spirit dwelling within us.

You can find out more about Reformation 500 at: www.reformation500.uk

From the Editor

Because we had so much information to present in the July edition of Roundabout, I had to omit two lovely articles, so, with apologies for their tardiness, I include them now.

A new Piano



During the service on 14th May Mike Claridge dedicated the new piano bought and given by John Cliff in memory of his wife Janet. It is much lighter and more versatile than our old one, and it sounded very good too, as John Tesh put it through its paces. Many thanks John. Music is a lovely way to remember Janet, who was a member of our choir for many years.

Cyclists Memorial Service

We were honoured to have with us at the morning service on May 21st members of the Federation of Birmingham Ex-Service Associations to commemorate the bravery of the



cyclists veterans of the two world wars.

In those days there were no mobile phones, but communication was vital, and needed to be as fast as possible. Thousands of cyclists signed up to go to the front, and transport these messages, but we know little today about their heroism. Our service gave a meaningful remembrance of their dedication to their country.



Friends & Family

On Sunday 6th August we welcomed Stephen Babbs-Ashton in Holy Baptism. It was good to meet so many of his friends and family too.

Christopher & Margaret Bond have moved house - still in Chipping Norton. Lin has details.

Although we knew it was imminent, the death of Primrose Garrow has hit us all hard, and we extend heartfelt sympathy to her husband of just four short years, Jim, and to all her friends and family. You will find below tributes to Primrose. We shall always remember her for her sense of humour, her strength of character, her wisdom and compassion, and her clear understanding of and commitment to her God.

Primrose Garrow 20th April 1940 - 5th July 2017

Born in Southampton, Primrose was brought as a small child with her mother to Birmingham to be closer to family, as her father was in the R.A.F.

Her education at Woodlands Park School and George Dixon Grammar School for Girls enabled her to fulfil her dream of working in a bank, and she was employed with the Bank of England in Birmingham. She had a variety of jobs, and for the last 20 years there was secretary/PA to the Agent, and also recruited many school leavers. It was with much regret that Primrose, having battled with rheumatoid arthritis for many years finally had to face the fact that she could no longer continue at the Bank.

She spoke of the day when she went to Head Office, to be told by the Bank's doctor that she must give up work - almost immediately. (She was just 45).

Primrose had been brought up in a Christian Home, and was confirmed into the Church of England at the age of 15. Due to an aunt being seriously ill and a family holiday being out of the question, she was encouraged to go on a Methodist Guild holiday to Abbot Hall, near Grange over Sands. Not only did she fall in love with the Lake District, which she visited practically every year from then, but she also joined the Methodist Church. That year was a real turning point in her life. She held nearly every job available to a lay person: B.B. Officer, G.B. Captain, member of the choir, drama society, church steward, circuit steward, Sunday school teacher, class leader, pastoral visitor, member of endless committees, including the Kings Norton Fifty Club, of which she was president twice, but above all a Local Preacher for over 50 years. It was going to take a service that she fell and broke her hip. After a long period of time, and three hip replacements Primrose faced up to the very difficult decision that she would no longer be able to take appointments. For many years she was on the committee of Leaders of Worship and Preachers Trust, and was Chairman of Homes Board, a rôle she really enjoyed, particularly visiting the various Homes. Primrose had also been Chair of the Evans Homes in Selly Oak, was a Magistrate for over 20 years and also a member of the Bournville



Tenants Association for many years. and vice chairman for the last 15 years. She also found the time to be a Ward Visitor at the Royal Orthopaedic, and Chairman of its League of Friends Committee.

Another really big change for her was when, in 2011 she took a service at Beaumont Road U.R.C. and noticed a gentleman she hadn't seen there before. Most of you will know the rest of this story, because the following year she and Jim were engaged and in



October 2013 were married here in the Cotteridge Church.

Primrose has been a keen photographer, a member of the Methodist Guild Holiday Fellowship, where regular Saturday rambles took place. She also loved to travel and always said how privileged she had felt to have been able to visit so many places at home and abroad. She

loved music, and had been a very good pianist before the rheumatoid arthritis took hold.

Taken from the tribute read by Ted Robertson at the funeral

I do have some fond memories of Primrose, although I always saw her as an authority figure as the first time I met her I was just joining the Life Boys (Later Junior Section of the Boys' Brigade) which Primrose led at the time and I was terrified of her.

Neil R. Walters

Along with her thoroughly enjoyable services, thought provoking sermons, great choice in hymns and not forgetting her sense of humour, when JCC asked the small group to look at and oversee the ministerial vacancy, Primrose added her considerable expertise to our work in preparing the Pastoral Profile, to our discussions, brainstorming meetings and always gave prayerful, thoughtful insight into the needs of Cotteridge. I am missing her enormously.

Lin Brown

Before Primrose married Jim and I married Ken we used to go on holiday together. We went to Sidmouth in Devon twice a year, visiting local places and many National Trust properties including Greenway, home of Agatha Christie. We also went on a cruise along the River Danube - all extremely enjoyable. She was a good friend and I will miss her.

Jennifer Moore

Well over 40 years ago, Primrose had a Siamese cat (VERY precious to her) She thought I'd like to look after the pet for 2 weeks, so my 4 children (between ages of 7, and 11) could enjoy playing with her, and she'd have company. Good idea at the time, but what a responsibility for me!!! I do remember putting a long elastic lead on her so she could play in the garden, not thinking she'd climb trees!!! It was such a nightmare trying to untangle a very expensive & loved cat. What a relief when she returned, & all was well. Needless to say, I didn't offer to do it again.

Chris Pascal



Sunday 30th July 2017 was the fifth Sunday of that month and as The Cotteridge Church tradition dictates, something new and unusual took place. Roger asked the congregation to think about the original aims of the church: A place of reconciliation, A place of proclamation, A place of service and A place of celebration. Then he asked everyone to discuss, in groups, what six new aims could replace them and represent our current ethos.

I enjoyed this process so much, and whilst trying not to offend the excellent preachers the church has each week, I seldom find myself thinking in depth during a service, but this exercise had my mind running in all directions. I think I surprised the group I was in by declaring straight away that our first aim should be ‘Worship’ and when asked why I said I believed it was the most important thing a Christian could do. In my head, I had Christ’s answer to the doctor of law when he was asked which was the greatest commandment in the law:

“Master which is the grett commaundment in the lawe? Jesus sayde unto him: thou shalt love thy lorde god with all thyne herte, wyth all thy soule and with all thy mynde. This is the first and that grett commaundment.”

The Gospell of. S. Mathew Chapter 22 – William Tyndale’s New Testament 1526

My favourite theological book is “The Cloud of Unknowing”, a medieval English mystic text, whose central premise is that God cannot be known as a cloud sits between mortals and God, but we can understand grace through God’s love for us and we should reciprocate and love God with our whole being. As the unknown author writes:

“But now you will ask me, ‘How am I to think of God himself, and what is he?’ and I cannot answer you except to say ‘I do not know!’ For with this question you have brought me into the same darkness, the same cloud of unknowing.”

The Cloud of Unknowing – Unknown Author circa 1370

I understand how he feels, I find myself, as a temporal creature, living within time and space, unable to contemplate an eternal existence outside the effects of time’s arrow directing cause and effect. However, I can feel God’s love for me every second of every day of my ephemeral life and wish to love God in return to whatever limited capacity I have.

As I arrived at this thought I was brought up short by the third verse of the last hymn which mirrored my musing:

“Let us build a house where love is found
in water, wine and wheat:
a banquet hall on holy ground
where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus,
is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us”

Let us build a house where love can dwell – Marty Haugen 1994

So, as we move forward in defining our aims for the future, let us place our love of God at the centre of all we do.

Neil Walters

The Kings Norton & District U3A (www.Kings Norton & District U3A) is holding its next monthly general meeting on Tuesday 5th September at NEW TIME 2.10 p.m in St Joseph & St Helens Church Hall, Station Rd., Cotteridge. The speaker is David Berry and his subject is "A Humorous Look at Retirement"

There will be the usual tea & biscuits.

We are getting nicely established now with a membership of over 200, and some 40 plus Interest Groups up and running. The October meeting will be held at the same place and time on October 3rd., the Speaker TBA.

Boys' Brigade 14th August

Our annual BB/GB camp with our friends from Quinton took place during the first week of August. Despite the weather not being great everybody enjoyed themselves. It was held at a new site for us about 4 miles from Bovey Tracey near Haytor Tor. On the Sunday we held our parade to the Methodist church where we met a member of the congregation who is 104 years old! Other activities during the week included laser shooting in the woods, swimming in the open air pool, visiting a football match - Bovey Tracey v Taunton Town, walking round Paignton eating chips, camp bonfire and a walk up the hill to the top of Haytor Tor where the group held their evening devotions. The usual sports activities included table tennis and football competitions. Tom Bunn's tent won the football and also the tent competition. Euan Clayton's tent finished in 2nd place. Thanks to all the staff for their hard week and also the boys for their excellent behaviour. Next year we are off to Dyffryn Ardudwy.



Boys' Brigade starts on the 8th September when new members would be most welcome. Our enrolment service has been arranged for Friday 6th October. The 7th Birmingham company celebrates 110 years this October and at the parade service on the 1st we hope to have a birthday cake.

Our annual BB week - the one week in the year when we ask for donations starts on Sunday 5th November - when we will be having a sleep over in the church on the Saturday night. On that Sunday we will also be having a cake sale.

Bob Hotchkiss





Overview

Following the presentation of the proposed plans that emerged from the Architectural Feasibility Study, we received a huge level of feedback from a wide variety of the church congregation and church building users.

Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to consider the proposals, and to put together their thoughts.

A detailed document recording all of the responses has been put together and sent to the Church Building Sub-Group. This document is intended to summarise some key issues that arose, and to set out the proposed next steps in the process.

Summary of Key Strategic Issues arising from Feedback

Given the volume of feedback received, this document does not cover all of the different areas of the church buildings that were commented on - this information can be accessed from the detailed record referred to above. There are some aspects of the proposals that are, at this stage, subject to 'fine tuning' once the strategic approach is agreed. These include the exact location and layout of WCs, the Chapel position, the size of kitchen required, the external landscaping (front and back), storage provision and design etc.

Instead, the points below summarise some of the key issues raised that will inform and direct how the proposals can be further developed to help the church decide on what is the right *strategic* approach:

- The proposed new glazed extension on the forecourt was the most 'divisive' element of the scheme, with a near 50:50 split for and against this 'intervention'. Certain reservations related to matters of function or details that could be addressed through design development. However, other people's objections were to the principle of such a development.
- Of those that were against the proposed large café at the front, it was clear that a number of people felt that more focus should be directed on improving the current entrance and café area and were keen to see what an alternative design such as this would be like.

APEC Comment: During the development of options, APEC did explore such an approach. At the time, it was felt by the Building Group that it did not meet the brief as well as the option that was subsequently developed further. However, given the feedback received, APEC propose that this option is revisited so that it can be put alongside the current scheme as an alternative.

- The support of or objection to the current proposals, for some, related to how people view the future of the Church (i.e. not the 'building') and whether it should be changing to attract more people.

APEC Comment: This is a discussion that is very important to have, and whilst it is *related* to the architectural proposals, the answers lie with the Church, rather than your architects.

- Setting aside people's views on whether such a statement is the 'right thing' for the Church to do, it was clear that some people felt that they could not decide whether they supported the proposed extension at the front without seeing what it looked like and how it connected to the existing church.

APEC Comment: We can entirely sympathise with this viewpoint. The three-dimensional treatment of this extension was considered during our design development, but given the complexity of it, it was beyond the scope of the study to develop the design to show elevations (but is a natural next step if there's sufficient support for this approach or, in order for people to make up their mind).

- The proposals engendered some debate about whether there was 'the demand' for a larger café in the area, and whether the target audience of parents with young children would come. Some felt that this demand doesn't exist, and others felt strongly that there is a big gap locally in such provision- and that the Church could benefit from both economic benefits of revenue, as well as much greater footfall of the demographic that is currently missing in the Church and church buildings.

APEC Comment: From experience on other projects, once some further architectural development has taken place, we would strongly recommend that wider community consultation on the proposals is undertaken. Not only will this assist in your decision-making with regards to the commercial viability of a larger café, but will raise your profile in the short-term, and, if a need is identified, evidence can be gathered as part of the process that can feed into future funding bids.

- The provision of a new church door to the north of the nave was the subject of some debate. Without knowing how it may look from outside, in context, many found it difficult to decide whether this was desirable and/or viable. The requirement for there to be a porch/ lobby was also raised by several people.

APEC Comment: We recommend that this proposal is developed in a little more detail both in plan, and elevation/3D sketch to test its functional viability and to show how it would look from outside, in particular.

- On the basis of the proposals initially put forward, the Day Centre had some key concerns about loss of spaces for some of their activities, as well as a concern about the proposed new access arrangements. Since the original plans were presented, some amendments were made that now meet the needs of the Day Centre. Overall, there is no loss of area but the proposals rely on the Day Centre sharing its dining space - a matter for building management and bookings. The Day Centre is satisfied with the changes.
- Some contributors felt strongly that the day centre provision should be increased, to meet rising demand. However, others felt that this would be at the detriment to other existing/potential centre users.

APEC Comment: The brief that we developed with the Building Group put the Church's existing Day Centre provision as a priority. However, the brief also recognised that the church has to be inclusive for the wider community; many sections of which are underrepresented in the Church and church building. As it stands, we believe that the current proposals meet the needs of the brief; achieving a balance between meeting the Day Centre needs- and those of the elderly people for whom the Church is such a focus, whilst being more inclusive and welcoming to other sections of the community. Should the Church feel that the Day Centre and/or provision for the elderly needs to grow, this would require a change to the brief.

Proposed Next Steps

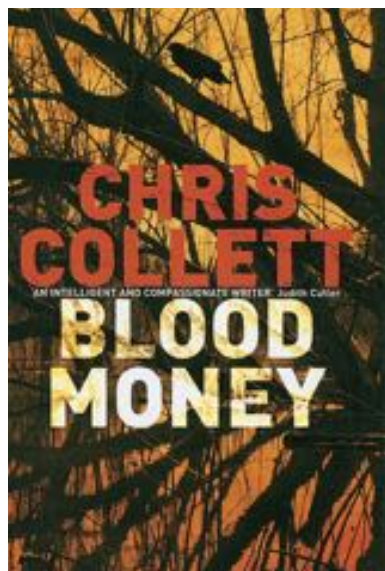
On the basis of the above points, we propose the following next steps in the development of the proposals:

- Explore and develop an alternative option that focusses more on the existing, single entrance and the Pennine Way.
- Develop designs of how the proposed extension may look in elevation/3 dimensions - including making a physical model of this area.
- Develop designs of how the new North door to the church may look and incorporate a lobby.
- Present proposals to the Church and church users

In addition, as noted above, following this process, we would recommend that the proposals are presented to the wider community - but subject to a separate exercise to be agreed.

When Book Club met the author

Book Clubs generally choose books, read books and discuss them. We talk about what the author might have meant, why we think the characters behaved as they did, whether there was any underlying experience that the author had which initiated a particular story line ... but it is often just conjecture on our part.



However, at our last Book Club, we had the very interesting experience of not only reading 'Blood Money' by Chris Collett but actually having Chris Collett present to talk to us – especially as the book she suggested we read was based in Birmingham. Chris is a volunteer at the B30 Food Bank and lives locally and graciously accepted our invitation to come and share her experience of 'being an author'.

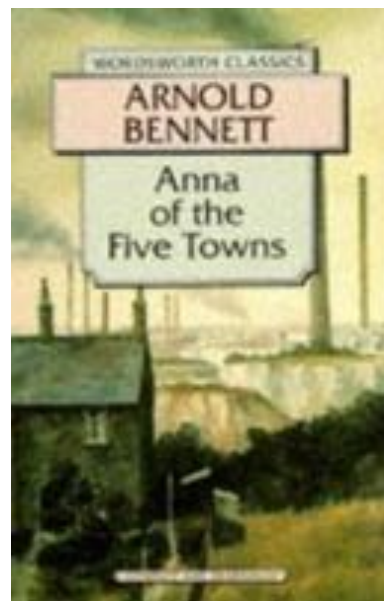
We were somewhat awed at the prospect of meeting the writer, but when we discovered someone who could author 8 books, while bringing up two children and having a full-time job we were even more impressed! Chris was very unassuming about her achievements, recalling how she enjoyed writing as a child and then recounting how she 'fell into writing by accident'.

We learnt about expert sources and the checking of behind the scenes details. We heard how Chris uses post-its to plot the novel, including the use of different colours for plots and sub plots. Blood Money also gave us plenty of content discussion as it is not just a cops and robbers book, but one that centralised on issues of childcare and nurseries, of trafficking and prostitution.

What else? If you are planning to market a book in the States, don't choose a title with the word 'honour' in it - spelling causes confusion. Oh, and don't believe everything about Birmingham that you might you read in Chris' novels – she does make things up!

Helen Gale

Next Book Club: 12th Sept. 'Anna of the Five Towns' by Arnold Bennett. Ring Christine Adams on 0121 458 5607 for further details.



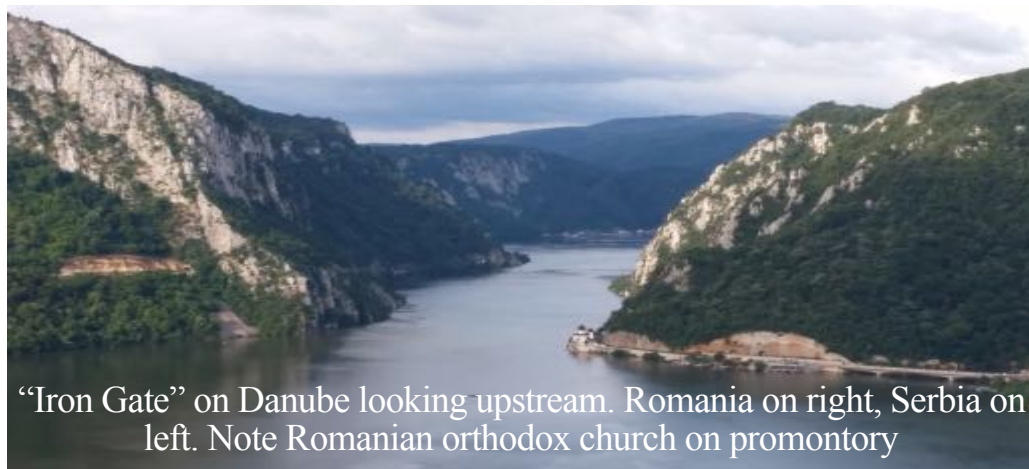
Birmingham – Black Sea.

There are a number of Euro-Velo (EV) cycle routes that criss-cross Europe. The EV6 follows three rivers: the Loire, the Saône, and the Danube. If you start from the western end at St Nazaire on the Atlantic coast of France and follow the EV6 4 500 km east, you reach the Black Sea in Romania. On the way you cross France, Germany, Austria, Hungary, Serbia, Croatia, and Romania.

I set out in 2016 from Birmingham in June and again in August to reach Passau on the border of Germany and Austria. This year I returned to Passau and continued east. Three weeks later I reached Constanta on the Black Sea.

Passau was founded by the Romans and sits at the confluence of three rivers. I was following the Danube but the R. Inn comes down from the Brenner Pass to double its size, and the smaller R. Inz also adds a significant amount of water. Going downstream of course the Danube became ever wider. German river boats (schiff) ply between Passau and the Black Sea. One popular idea is to take a German bike (rad) from the stock on board, and each morning cycle 50 km downstream to meet the rad-schiff at the next mooring point. Tourists use the boat for meals and sleeping but they also get to see the cycle paths and towns along the route. I didn't have the option of a boat but often I was in a group of twenty or so other cyclists following the EV6 who turned out to be from a rad-schiff.

Like all big rivers, the Danube has provided a transport corridor connecting major towns. People associate the Blue Danube with Vienna from Strauss waltzes but there are many important and often beautiful towns like Bratislava, Budapest, or Belgrade, all situated on the river. The EV6 in the upper reaches was well signposted and I always knew where the river was at any time so I navigated by following the river, I didn't need to use maps. I aimed for a daily distance around 100 km [~62 miles] each day and tried to reach the next big town if possible where I generally camped, but if campsites became full or scarce I sometimes had to resort to a hotel. This was especially true in Romania where I didn't see a single campsite along my route. All the countries I cycled through except Serbia are in the EU, but after Bratislava I left the eurozone and each country I crossed after that meant another currency.



As the Danube leaves Serbia to pass into Romania it has cut its way through the Carpathian mountains. For 150 km I cycled through a narrow limestone gorge. At times there wasn't enough room for both the road and the river, meaning the road became a series of

unlit tunnels.

Serbia, Croatia and Romania were all new countries for me and I wasn't sure what to expect. Cyclists coming the other way warned of packs of feral dogs in Romania, and some of the cyclists had armed themselves with pepper spray or a noisy cap

gun. I found as I cycled through rural villages packs of dogs would give chase, but I gradually realised they only barked at the wheels, they never tried to bite me. After a while I simply ignored them.

After three weeks from Passau (seven weeks from Birmingham) I reached Constanta on the Black Sea. That was followed by a short train ride to the Romania capital Bucharest and a flight back to Birmingham.

Peter Childs.



WORDS CAN KILL.

“A gentle answer turns away wrath, But a harsh word stirs up anger” Proverbs 15v1

The gospel writers, especially John, who began his testimony by echoing Genesis' opening words, knew the power of language to win minds, change minds, influence thinking and by the inventive use of imagery plant ideas, both simple and sophisticated.

John writes *“In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God”* (v1) and *“All things were made through Him and without Him nothing was made that was made”* (v3) Chapter 1.

A diagnostic test to detect memory loss consists of asking clients to name random everyday objects, such as "spoon", "book", "soap" or "keys". Occasionally we all forget the right word for things or names of people we are ordinarily familiar with, but over forgetfulness may mean a stage has been reached where help and personal care and attention needs to be provided.

It occurs to me that unless something has a name or description (its "tag") its existence, if out of sight or if it is a cerebral idea, is near impossible to convey with accuracy except in the way we are today used to, in writing, via the press, or audio-televisually

Jesus was a master of “the word”. His parables and sayings have cascaded down nearly twenty centuries and are still talked about all over the modern world.

In the period before Christianity became extant Jesus' teachings were of radical notions most feared by tyrants and despots. “Love thine enemies” was as alien a concept as “love thy neighbour as thyself” where “neighbour” included “foreigner” who may have acquisitive designs on your land, your home, your belongings, your possessions, your daughters, - therefore to be viewed with suspicion.

It is sad that sometimes (too often) similar suspicion affects diplomatic relations among the nations.

At root of most squabbles between peoples is a belief that resources are unequally shared, “hogged” by the possessors or unfairly held out for ransom.

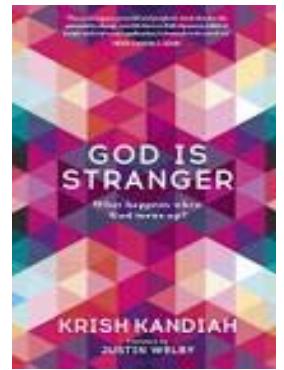
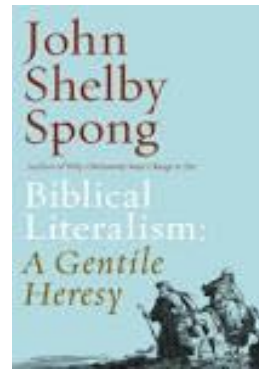
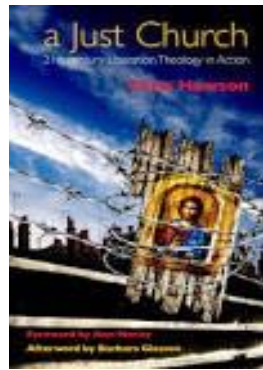
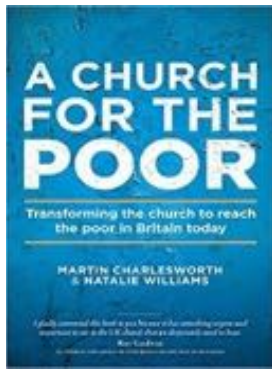
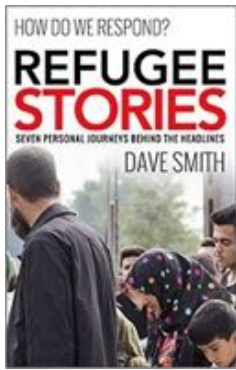
We would all do well to remember that all anyone should ever need or want is
“JUST ENOUGH”.

Gordon Parsons

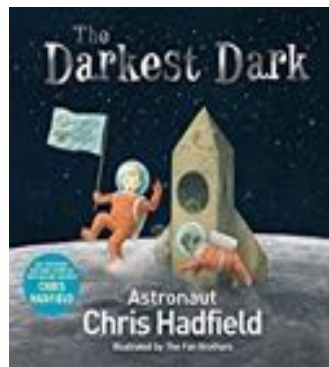
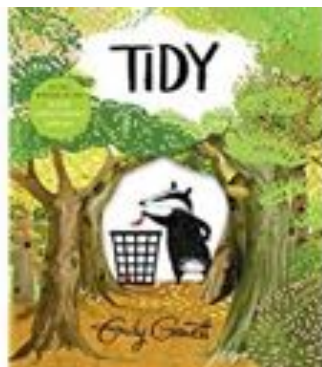


Cotteridge Book Centre

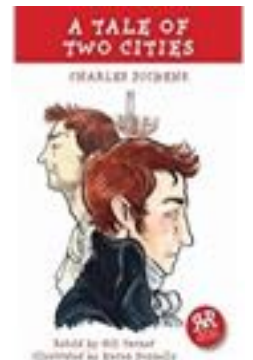
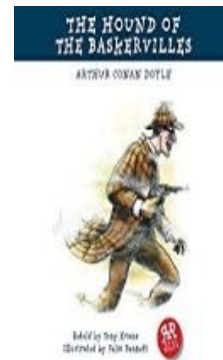
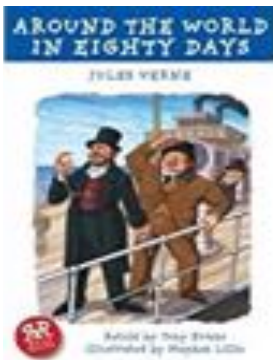
New titles



Picture books



Real Reads



Gift

Books



Birmingham Calendar



Traidcraft Catalogue



We can now take card payments when staffed

Fund Raising Bulletin September 2017

Activities during July & August:

Garden Party raised £348.11 for the Garden [despite thunder storms & hail]

Easter Canisters have raised £361 for St Basil's

Book Sales have totalled £746 divided equally between the Church, the Day Centre & Cotteridge Youth

Photo Competitions so far have raised £101 for the Day Centre

Forthcoming Events:

Photographic Competition on Doorways. [Linda Woodhouse]

Saturday 23rd September: St Chad's Pilgrimage [Revd Mike Claridge]

Friday September 29th Macmillan Cake Sale [Clare Naughton]

Sunday October 8th at 3.00 pm Organ Recital by Colin Kinton [Celia Lester]

Saturday 14th October 10.00 am - 1.00 pm Autumn Book Sale [Linda Woodhouse]

Saturday December 2nd 10.00 am - 1.00 pm Christmas Fair [Celia Lester]

If you would like further details about any of these events, or if you can help us to run them, please contact the organiser above [shown in brackets].

Funds Raised Year to August

Event	Year to Date	Event	Year to Date
Book Sales	£746.0	Photo Competitions	£101.0
Easter Canisters	£361.0	Garden Party	£348.0
BB Quiz Night	£307.0	Church Urban Fund	£130.0
Christian Aid Week	£8603.0	CoCo Mad [Labour Party]	£800.0
TOTAL			£11396.0

Recipients Internal	£ Year to date	Recipients External	£ Year to Date
Church Funds	£402.0	Christian Aid	£8603.0
Church Youth	£249.0	Church Urban Fund	£130.0
Day Centre	£350.0	St Basil's	£361.0
Food Bank	£800.0	St Mary's Hospice	£153.5
Garden	£348.0		
Total	£2149.0	Total	£9247.5

Garden Party



The weather forecast was dire - and correct! We had thunder and hail. BUT spirits were high, and even though we had to enjoy the lively folk music from Karen and her son indoors instead of out, all those attending had a good time, enjoyed chatting to friends, and especially made great inroads on our copious supply of delicious cakes.



So despite the elements it was a successful event and we made £348 for the garden.

Many thanks to all who came, and especially to all who helped.

St Francis Church Flower Festival

Lin Brown and Sandra Walton are taking part in this, and would very much welcome your support.

Donations to the Flower Fund are always gratefully accepted.

**ST FRANCIS CHURCH
FLOWER FESTIVAL
AND
BOURNVILLE
HERITAGE OPEN DAY
2017**

September 8th -11th
Friday 10 – 5
Saturday 10 – 5
Sunday 11 – 5
Monday 10 - 5

**'Angel Voices Ever Singing'
is our Theme**

**Donations in aid of
St Francis Church Organ Fund**

Day Centre



The Day Centre members painted and decorated these pots in the Friday art/craft sessions. Some were sold at the Garden Party and others in the Pennine Way. An enjoyable activity for them.

Autumn Book Sale

We invite you to an Autumn Book Sale on Saturday 14th October from 10.00 am - 12.30 pm, when we will be selling books, dvds etc alongside Jams and Jellies, Cards, and Bric-a-Brac.



Cotteridge Young Church

Congratulations to Charlotte Jones on a 1st in her Natural Sciences degree. She will now study for an MA. Congratulations also to Tom Bunn, Natalie Turner and Robbie Jones on their A levels. Tom is taking a gap year. Natalie will be studying Psychology and Robbie, Mechanical Engineering, both at Sheffield University. Anastasia Claridge is starting her English degree at the University of Keele. Chloe Sprackling is spending the 3rd year of her French degree at the University of Quebec. Congratulations to Kathryn Clayton, Euan Clayton and Beth Jones on their GCSE results. They're now moving on to A levels. We wish our young people all the best in their studies.

Joint Church Council

Summary of Proceeding 20th July 2017



Key Decisions'

1. Laurie Brown was elected Chairman and Doreen Hancox Secretary of the JCC
2. Laurie and Lin Brown were elected joint Church Treasurers
3. Peter Rookes was co-opted to the JCC
4. The 'Volunteering Promotion and Recruitment' role profile was approved and Pam Waddell was thanked for taking on the role
5. The 'CCDC Safeguarding Policy' was approved
6. It was agreed that the Building Steering Group should find a suitable Fundraiser to enable the church to move forward with the building redevelopment
7. Alex Woodhouse was confirmed as the Treasurer of Catering Services
8. The latest revision of the Church Structure diagram was approved
9. The membership of the Young People's Forum was agreed
10. The membership of the Treasury Team was agreed
11. The use of the Malvern Room by the B30 Food bank, when not in use, was agreed

Summary Proceedings

1. Susan Claridge, Jane Stephens and Neil Walters were welcomed to the JCC as newly elected members
2. Roger Collins and Mike Claridge were welcomed as ex officio JCC member
3. It was noted that the numbers at 9am service were growing
4. John Cliff has as agreed to continue as Property Steward

Referrals'

1. The Church Administrator will be asked to change the CCTV signage to make it less threatening
2. Norman Mann will be asked build a list of eMail addresses of member of the congregation who wish to receive Congregational Meeting documents electronically
3. The Church Administrator will be asked to ensure legionella checks are carried out
4. The Foodbank Steering Group will be asked to review their 'Articles of Commission'
5. The Digital Communications Group should look at the churches policy for the use of Social Media and the design of the churches website
6. The Volunteering and Recruitment Promoter will be asked to look at recruitment beyond the congregation
7. The Older Adult Forum will be asked to look at the employment of an Older Adult Worker
8. The Young Peoples Forum will be asked to look at the employment of a Youth Worker

The next meeting of the Joint Church Council will be on Thursday 21st September 2017 at 19:30. This Summary is authorised by:

Laurie Brown Chair of the Cotteridge Church Joint Church Council

“OK Shirley, can you do 65 for lunch?”

For 4 Wednesday mornings in August, the Malvern Room, the Cotswold Room and the Clent Room were taken over by about 40 children and their parents or carers – Holiday Events had arrived!

The Cotswold Room became our breakfast room, the Malvern Room our main activity room – including a bouncy castle - and the Clent Room was filled with tables for lunch.

The summer break is a long (and expensive) time to entertain young children, so a joint venture was planned between the B30 Foodbank and Saplings with lots of support from the Joint Church Council to see if we could support young families from the neighbourhood.



We approached local primary schools, children’s centres and Foodbank voucher holders with an offer of 4 mornings providing breakfast, activities, entertainment and lunch for families with youngsters up to the age of 11 – all for free! We were able to do this because of generous support from The Trussell Trust who provided funding, the Church which provided the venue, Saplings who provided most of the equipment and the Foodbank which provided the volunteers, not forgetting Shirley and Tina in the kitchen who provided fabulous food for all!

As a joint venture, it seems to have worked really well. We are already getting requests for next year (!) and one of our feedback sheets included the comments, “I think this is fantastic. We can’t afford to go away, so this has been a weight lifted from us. Well done to all the volunteers and organisers. God bless you all!”



Sue Clayton, Helen Gale and Jane Jones

“I honestly don’t think anything needs improvement!”

What feedback to get on our newest community venture – Holiday Events!

Organ Recital



We are delighted to invite you to another Organ Recital from Colin Kinton on Sunday 8th October from 3.00 p.m. Entrance is free, but there will be a retiring collection to help support St .Basil's, a charity which works to help disadvantaged young people. Very many thanks to Colin.

Light refreshments will be served afterwards. Donations from these will help the work of our church.

Church Services September & October

2017	3rd Sept	10th Sept	17th Sept	24th Sept	
9.00 a.m. H.C.	Revd M. Claridge	Revd M. Claridge	Revd R. Collins	Revd R. Collins	
10.30 a.m.	Revd M. Claridge	Revd M. Claridge	Revd R. Collins	Revd R. Collins	
6.30 p.m.	Revd M. Claridge	Café Church	Revd M. Claridge	Political Night Prayer @ 7.30 pm	
	1st Oct	8th Oct	15th Oct	22nd Oct	29th Oct
9.00 a.m. H.C.	Revd M. Claridge	Revd R. Collins	Revd M. Claridge	Revd L. Dixon	Revd M. Claridge
10.30 a.m.	Revd M. Claridge	Revd R. Collins	Revd M. Claridge	Revd L. Dixon	Café Church/ Life & Soul
3.00 p.m.		Organ Recital			
6.30 p.m.	Revd R. Collins Foodbank dedication	Café Church	Revd M. Claridge	Revd D. Littlejohn	Mr J. Cooper



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Your Editor from January 2017 is Celia Lester

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