

Roundabout



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

November 2017

Mike's Message



The season of Remembrance and Hope

It's November. The year is already drawing towards its close. Within a week or so of this magazine being published the German Christmas Market will be open in the City Centre. Christmas seems to sneak up on us earlier each year. But there's a lot to do before then.

November starts with a time of remembering. It's a time when the Church has traditionally thought, during the season of All Saints and All Souls, of those who have died. Then comes Remembrance, as we recall those who have

died in conflict; long ago, more recently and in current combat. Next year, in 2018, Remembrance Sunday will fall on 11th November itself, exactly 100 years since the Armistice that brought the First World War towards its end at the Treaty of Versailles in 1919.

As November draws to its close we will still have that beautiful and reflective season of Advent ahead of us. Advent is very short this year, as the Fourth Sunday of Advent is Christmas Eve. We'll be holding a Study Group during Advent but, to get four sessions in, we'll be starting early. Join us on Tuesdays at 11.00am (28th November, 5th, 12th and 19th December) as we ask 'So what are you waiting for?' It looks at time and our attitude towards it. In Advent we not only look back through time to the birth of Jesus at Bethlehem, but also look forward towards his return at the end of time.

Then it'll be Christmas with all of its excitement and reflection. There'll be special services and special events. A time of enjoyment and family. But of course for some it's a time of loneliness and fear, of memories of things past and hardships of the present. Together we all hope for the gift of Peace and Goodwill for all the earth.

Writing a magazine letter to cover this season of Remembrance and Hope brought to mind the following poem. It was written at Christmas 1916 by Leslie George Rub, an Australian soldier who had experienced the horrors of the Battle of the Somme. That particular battle had finished a month earlier but hazards still remained. Rub's sarcastic poem epitomises both the horror and futility of war. Rub ridicules both the war and his own officers in a forthright way maybe that's why it's not as well known as the world of some others:

Christmas Day On The Somme

'Twas Christmas Day on the Somme
The men stood on parade,
The snow laid six feet on the ground
Twas twenty in the shade.

Up spoke the Captain 'gallant man',
"Just hear what I've to say,
You may not have remembered that
Today is Christmas Day."

“The General has expressed a wish
This day may be observed,
Today you will only work eight hours,
A rest that’s well deserved.

I hope you’ll keep yourselves quite clean
And smart and spruce and nice,
The stream is frozen hard
But a pick will break the ice.”

“All men will get two biscuits each,
I’m sure you’re tired of bread,
I’m sorry there’s no turkey
but there’s Bully Beef instead.

The puddings plum have not arrived
But they are on their way,
I’ll guarantee they’ll be in time
To eat next Christmas Day.”

Leslie George Rub <http://www.greatwar.nl/frames/default-christmaspoem.html>

Private Leslie George Rub died on 23rd September 1917
in the Third Battle of Ypres (Passchendaele).

“Your parcels would have been in time
But I regret to say
The vessel which conveyed them was
Torpedoed on the way.

The Quartermaster’s got your rum
But you may get some yet,
Each man will be presented with
A Woodbine Cigarette.”

“The Huns have caught us in the rear
And painted France all red,
Pray do not let that trouble you,
Tomorrow you’ll be dead.

Now ere you go I wish you all
This season of good cheer,
A very happy Christmas and
A prosperous New Year.”

May this season be for you one of reflection and hope as we prepare to welcome the Prince of Peace.

Friends & Family

Congratulations to Norman & Linda Mann, who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 16th September. Thanks for the cake too!

We were saddened to hear on 2nd September of the sudden death of Revd David Littlejohns. David was minister of the URC’s Cadbury Pastorate, comprising Weoley Hill URC, Weoley Castle URC and Bournville (Beaumont Road) URC. David was inducted only a few months ago, in January this year, having moved to Birmingham after ministry in Worthing. We send love to David’s wife Hilary and the family and assure them that they are in our thoughts and prayers at this sad time.



Alison Miller writes that her mum, Pat Walker, is now settled in Stennards Care Home on Middleton Hall Rd after what has been a very stressful summer for the family. She collapsed at home in July and was in the QE hospital for 2 weeks and then transferred to Bromford Lane Care Centre in Washwood Heath for assessments for a further 5 and a half weeks. Dad particularly found this difficult as it was so far away.

Congratulations to Maggie Simkin who competed in the Birmingham Half Marathon on October 15th. Maggie has over 20 medals from different races - but this time she not only completed the race, but won first prize for her age group. She was presented with a lovely little silver coaster.

Well done Maggie! Keep on running!

APEC design options are on display.

The Building Steering Group invites all to view 3 design options by APEC Architects for the church. These are on display in the front lobby of the church between the door to the Malvern room and the door to the balcony.



There are 3 alternative designs and matching layout plans along with models that can be tried out on the model of the church. The model of the church is the original from the previous work some 30 years ago also carried out by APEC Architects. Please have a look, consider the designs and the corresponding layouts. Please look carefully as different designs do result in different layouts and possibilities for what we have in the building e.g. a church office and welcome desk. You are invited to fill in the comments slip returning it by posting in the provided box.

If you would like to discuss the options with a member of the BSG please see the timetable on the display showing when a member of the group will be present or stop any of us for a chat.

The BSG: Mike Claridge, Roger Collins, Jane Jones, Clare Naughton, Sandra Walton, Helen Gale, John Cliff, Tim Clayton and Laurie Brown.

GOD IS INTENTIONAL.

Theorists and theologians, when considering the cosmos, are apt to talk of "intelligent design" to describe the handiwork of the Creator. Yet there is a further dimension, sometimes overlooked, that reveals the loving kindness, the parental ownership, exercised naturally and supernaturally by His power, His divine connivance and planning, His scheme of things. That is; - God intended for each of us, each animal, bird, fish, reptile, insect plant, every organism capable of living growth, to come into existence, to pulse with the cyclical rhythms of the seasons, to have being and enjoy the breath of life. Yes, plants breathe, too. (If they didn't, neither would we, since they replenish the atmospheric air we inhale with the life giving gases essential to our breathing apparatus. Next time you contemplate a tree, imagine !)

The intentionality of God applies to all your circumstances, your situation, work life if you have any, your relationships, more fundamentally to precisely when you were conceived, and born, your early learning and the formation of the you that you are, as well as your journey through time and space to this moment and forever into the continuum.

Isn't it comforting to know that you are "God's Intended"?

Gordon Parsons



The Leprosy Mission
England and Wales

Munia was found begging at a train station when a kind stranger noticed her disabilities and took her to nearby Purulia hospital, West Bengal, where

her leprosy was treated. On arrival at Purulia hospital, Munia was in a terrible way. When her family suspected she had leprosy they set fire to her and chased her from her home with knives leaving her traumatised and believing she was unlovable. At Purulia hospital her left foot was so badly infected that amputating it was the only way of saving her life and she was treated for severe ulcers on all limbs.

Thanks to you and the kindness and love she has received from staff at Purulia hospital, Munia has blossomed. She

helps the other patients on the ward and has taught herself crafts including embroidery and making rag rugs. Amazingly she can now even stand up on shoes especially made for her at Purulia hospital. She even took her first steps during a recent concert in the hospital chapel!



Money raised from the sale of stamps will help the charity to continue with its valuable work. Please place stamps in the box by the pigeon holes in the Pennine Way. Thank you.

Myra Dean



From Diane Apostolakopoulos in Greece.

Diane was part of the Methodist circuit here for many years, and likes to keep in touch with us.

This is in reply to a poem which appeared in the November issue last year. There is so much more to what is often regarded as the grey month of November. A glorious start to the month as churches are decorated with white daisies for the All Saints' Day

The swallow has flown away and the thrush is silent, but our own cheerful robin in his red vest will stay and keep us company in the chilly days ahead. Frosty days often bring clear dark skies at night when stars seem to shine the brighter.

It's not long before family pets are kept safely indoors while fire, sparklers and colourful fireworks recall events of long ago.

Children don't mind a rainy day if it comes with paper, crayons, scissors and glue - longer evenings when gardens make fewer demands are an excuse to draw the curtains and set aside time for home activities - reading, sewing, craft projects, writing a letter to an absent friend...

Reach for scarf and gloves mid-month when we stop and stand, recalling the sacrifice that war demands of so many - poppies red worn with pride and thankfulness.

The last day of the month is when we remember St Andrew, more so if roots are further north. Just before that Advent comes, the start of the Church year. So as the calendar year gradually draws to an end, there is much to look forward to each day with the glorious expectation of wonderful things to come.

So throughout November and before we think of Christingle and carols, let us not forget that the Lord has blessed us with abundance and give thanks - during grey November.

Diane Αποστολακοπουλος



**The Cotteridge Church
Joint Church Council
Summary of Proceedings 21st September 2017**

Key Decisions

1. It was agreed to investigate small cards which could be placed on the collection plate to indicate payment by standing order (with appropriate wording)
2. It was agreed that Bredon Room should be used as youth hub

Summary Proceedings

1. Jane Jones reported that most of the JCC members had been through their DBS check and now needed to complete the CO course online.
2. Jane Jones said she had been approached by both the Foodbank and the Day Centre for advice on safer recruitment.
3. It was reported that Life and Soul would move from Sunday afternoons to the fifth Sunday service for a one-year trial period.
4. Jane Stephens reported that she had consulted La Banca who had agreed that the Church could use their frontage as a fire assembly point.
5. Jane Jones reported that Laurie Brown had signed the contract for the next stage of building refurbishment and plans are in hand to appoint a fundraiser.
6. Jane Jones reported that the Building Steering Group had now been constituted in line with its Articles of Commission.
7. Clare Naughton said that the options for the future of catering services would be presented to the October JCC.
8. Concerns were raised on the staff to client ratio within the Cotteridge Church Day Care Centre.
9. The replacement of the current carpet cleaner was discussed with options on buying a new cleaner or hiring a cleaner when needed.
10. The meeting was told that the falling masonry is unlikely to be covered by the insurance.
11. The Treasurer reported that congregational giving, room hire and fund raising are well below budget and the Church is looking at a substantial deficit at the end of the year.

Referrals

1. The Foodbank Steering Group should remind their volunteers on the restrictions on using the Church car park.
2. The Finance and Property Group is asked to review the proposed room hire charges for 2018.
3. The Church Administrator will be asked to send both the JCC Secretary and the Finance and Property Group Chair copies of the Worship Risk Assessment.
4. The Church Administrator will be asked to ensure all users of the photocopier have the correct user code.

The next meeting of the Joint Church Council will be on Thursday 16th November 2017 at 19:30.

This Summary is authorised by:

Laurie Brown Chair of the Cotteridge Church Joint Church Council

Celebrating and Promoting Volunteering

On 15th October we celebrated all the Volunteers who make the Cotteridge Church the vibrant place of worship, outreach and service that it is, in a special morning service.

Together we worked out that we have over 300 volunteering roles in more than 50 categories from annual Christian Aid collection or occasional fundraising events to weekly coffee bar or singing in the Choir. Volunteers are drawn from the congregation and from the wider community, with every member of the church who is able undertaking something, and some doing 10 or more roles! But more help is always needed somewhere.



We heard from volunteers why they do it and what they get out of it, which includes having fun, meeting people and building fellowship, contributing to the community, giving something back to the Church, being able to use a skill or having a creative outlet. The Bible also asks us to 'use whatever gift you have received to serve others' 1 Peter 4:10, and to 'carry each others' burdens, and this way, and this way you will fulfil the law of Christ' Galatians 6:2.

The service was an opportunity to thank all our many volunteers and celebrate all their contribution (with chocolate!), but we are always looking for more help, with current vacancies listed below. If this article or the service has inspired you to do something more or different, either contact me, Pam Waddell (via the 'W' pigeon hole, 0121 459 2396 or pam.waddell@thecotteridgechurch.org.uk) or, if you think you can help with any of the roles below, please contact the coordinator listed directly.

Current volunteering vacancies:

Vestry Stewards – Sunday morning, every few weeks (Mike Meadows)

Readers & Intercessions (male) - Sunday morning a few times/year (Mike Meadows)

Weekday Coffee Bar – regular weekday helpers and reserves (Linda Mann)

Saturday and Sunday coffee – monthly and occasional reserves (Pam Waddell)

NEW Tuesday evening Coffee Bar - regular but not necessarily weekly (TBA)

Fundraising – event helpers at various times (Brian Pearson/ Celia Lester/ Chris Pascal/ Linda Woodhouse)

Choir – weekly rehearsals and Sunday mornings (John Tesh)

Branding/ Marketing help for catering – no fixed time (Clare Naughton)

Project Manager for design of new Website – no fixed time (Clare Naughton)

Christian Aid collecting – annually in May (Lin and Laurie Brown)

Flower arranging – occasional or regular Saturday (Lin Brown)

Saplings - every 2 or 3 Friday mornings (Jane Jones)

Thank you all for your efforts and let's keep serving others with a joyful heart!

Pam Waddell (Volunteering Promotion and Recruitment Co-ordinator)

Fund Raising Bulletin September 2017

Activities during September & October:

Book Sales have totalled £996.60 [including the Autumn Sale] divided equally between the Church, the Day Centre & Cotteridge Youth

Photo Competitions so far have raised £124 for the Day Centre

Friday September 29th Macmillan Cake Sale raised £208

Harvest Meal 1 October Raised ca £100 for Church Food Ministry

October 8th Organ Recital by Colin Kinton [£150.82 -St Basil's & £25.70 - Church

Forthcoming Events:

Photographic Competition on Doorways. [Linda Woodhouse]

Great Cotteridge Bake Off Sunday 29th October [Clare Naughton]

Children in Need Coffee Morning/Bake Sale 17th November [Clare Naughton]

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 end October

Event	Year to Date	Event	Year to Date	Event	Year to Date
Book Sales	£869	Photo Competitions	£124	Organ Recital	£176.5
Easter Canisters	£361.0	Garden Party	£348.00	Macmillan Coffee Morn	£208.0
BB Quiz Night	£307.0	Church Urban Fund	£130.00	Harvest Meal	£100.00
Christian Aid Week	£8603.0	CoCo Mad [Labour Party]	£1000	Autumn Sale	£127.6
TOTAL					£12354.1

Recipients Internal	£ Year to date	Recipients External	£ Year to Date
Church Funds	£511.4	Christian Aid	£8603.0
Church Youth	£332.2	Church Urban Fund	£130.0
Day Centre	£456.2	St Basil's	£512.0
Food Bank	£1000.0	St Mary's Hospice	£153.5
Garden	£348.0	Macmillan	£208.0
Church Food Ministry	£100		
Total	£2747.8	Total	£9606.5

Birmingham Vélo - We Did it and Thank You!

After signing up in mad moment, and a summer of (intermittent) training, our mother and daughter team tackled the first Vélo Birmingham on Sunday 24th September - 100 miles of hills and valleys of Birmingham, Shropshire and Worcestershire, with 15,000 other cyclists. The sun shone and the crowds came out to cheer which, together with the camaraderie and the joy of cycling on roads closed to cars, made for a brilliant if tiring day.



On our long training rides we had plenty of time to consider what charity we want to support. Moved by the plight of children who are refugees or suffering in disasters, we decided to raise funds for Save the Children, which helps over 22 million children a year. They save children's lives and challenge world leaders to keep to their promises to give children a brighter future.

We are delighted to report that we raised £815 in sponsorship (£966 with gift aid) for this worthy cause, with almost 1/3 of that coming from members of the Cotteridge Church, who are always so generous. Our sponsorship page is still open at <https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/pamchristine100> should anyone else wish to donate.

A HUGE thank you to all of you for your kind contributions!

Pam Waddell and Christine Turner

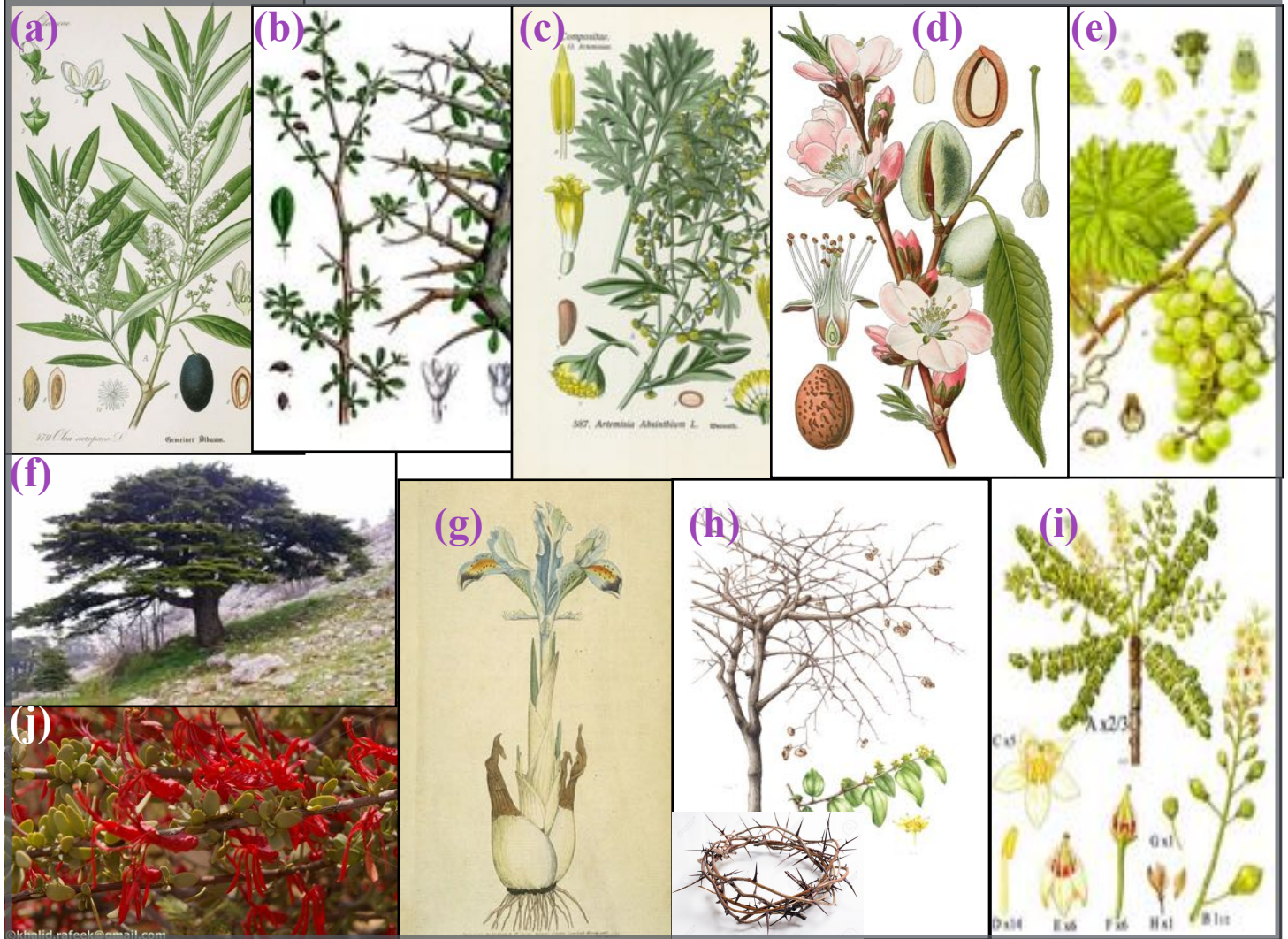
Bible Plants.

There are many plants mentioned in different parts of the Bible. My late husband was a professional botanist, and one of his friends who worked in the herbarium at Kew wrote a book about them [Illustrated Encyclopaedia of Bible Plants - F. Nigel Hepper]
Can you match the names to the pictures, and link to a Bible reference?

Bible References:

1. Genesis 43:11 2. Exodus 3:2 3. Judges 9:9; Psalm 52:8 4. 1Kings 5:10; 2Kings 19:23 5. Isaiah 5:1 6. Jeremiah 9:15; 7. & 8. Matthew 2:11 9. Matthew 6:28; Luke 12:27 10. Matthew 27:29; Mark 15:17

Pictures



Plant names

- A Boswellia sacra
- B Cedrus libani
- C Artemisia absinthium
- D Paliurus spina-christi
- E Loranthus acaciae
- F Oleae europaea
- G Amygdalus communis
- H Iris palaestina
- I Commiphora myrrha
- J Vitis vinifera

[Answers next time]

Celia Lester

Plant	Picture	Name	Bible Ref.
Lilies of the field			
Frankincense			
Myrrh			
Almond			
Grape			
Olive			
Wormwood			
Crown of thorns			
Burning bush			
Cedar of Lebanon			



The Cotteridge Church



Christmas Fair

Saturday 2nd December

10.00 am - 1.00 pm

Gifts

Games

Come!

Enjoy!

Music

Hot Mince Pies

Santa

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Charity Christmas Cards
Send a card that says more

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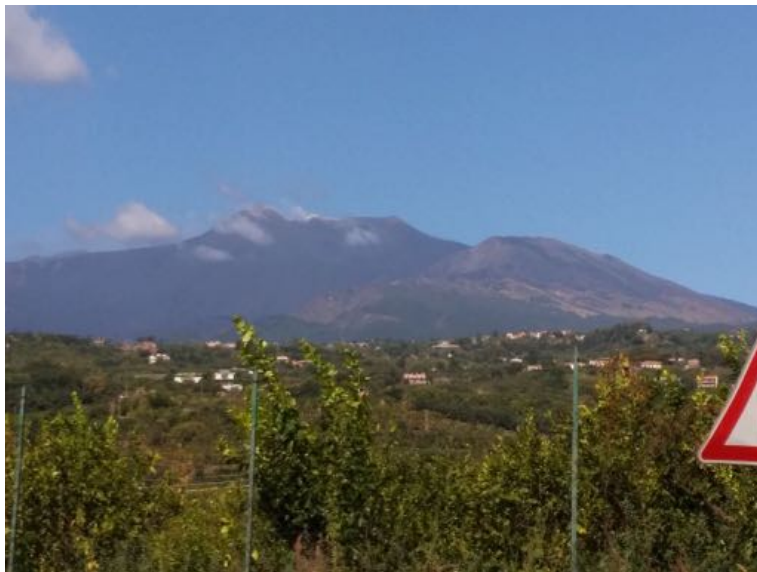
G

!

Cycle Ride 2: Malta – Orte

If it is summer I'm usually cycling somewhere. In June 2017 I finished cycling the Euro Vélo 6 from St Nazaire-Black Sea, completing Europe west-east. I did local things at home through July, then found the EV 7 joins Europe south-north from Malta – North Cape in Norway. With the summer still giving long hours of daylight I took a flight from B'ham – Malta in August before heading north, but with hindsight I might have gone at a cooler time of year. Summers in Malta are always hot and dry, but this year they had a heatwave. A few days before I arrived Valletta hit 44°C. Luckily it cooled off by the time I landed and I started cycling in 'only' 38°C. Malta is of course a small island with a heritage of British rule although these days that is fading somewhat now they are independent and in the EU. Their currency is the euro but everyone spoke English, they drive on the left, and their electrical sockets take the familiar three pin plug. I stayed at Zurrieq near the airport and Valletta for a couple of days then caught a ferry north to Sicily.

The ferry docked at Catania then I cycled 100 km along the southern coast to the next ferry point at Messina. Everything was again hot and dry with a sparkling blue Mediterranean sea on my right hand side and Mount Etna rising high up on my left. Lava from volcanic eruptions had been cut into big smooth blocks and used to pave the roads. At Messina I took a 20 minute ferry to Reggio Calabria and began cycling north-west along the mainland of Italy keeping the sea on my left hand side. Everything was very hot and dry. Signposted rivers had no water in them, cactus was being used as



stock-proof fencing. This part of Italy was quite mountainous and my route followed a series of bays and headlands with the road parallel to the bright blue sea. In places the mountains swept right down to the sea. Sometimes the road engineers had cut a tunnel through to the next bay, or sometimes they had cut a cornice route that snaked around the headland. Tunnel options were more level and cooler but bicycles were more hidden from the traffic. I was more visible along the cornice but the persistent sun reflected off the rocks making a hot day even hotter.

On day three as I came towards Sapri the road was temporarily blocked by a landslip. I had to wait overnight in a hotel before I continued the next morning. After one week I left Calabria behind and reached Salerno, then cycled on to Naples passing Pompeii and Mount Vesuvius. Sure enough, the road surface again became smooth basalt lava blocks. By now the intense heat of the south had dropped to a more comfortable 35 C and the cactus gave way to olive groves.

I continued to follow the coast as far as Terracina before turning more inland towards Rome along the Appian Way. This was the first proper Roman road, dead straight to the nearest coast, built in 320 BC as a fast military route to get troops to Brindisi. It proved to be very successful and was copied extensively, leading to the saying 'all roads lead to Rome'. At Rome I camped up and cycled around the town to revisit St Peter's Square,

the Coliseum, Trevi Fountain, and Place Navoli before cycling one more day north. On this route I met a number of pilgrims walking to and from Rome, staying overnight in pilgrim hostels and churches along the way. When I reached Orte I decided to end the ride for this season and boarded a train to Venice before flying home from there to Bristol. In short I've made a start on the EV7 and will probably return to Orte next year to continue cycling north. Peter Childs. August 2017



Lyrics and Literature

Have you noticed that many popular songs make reference to, or take their theme from, literature? From Robert Plant's allusions to the works of Tolkien in in such Led Zeppelin's songs as "The Battle of Evermore" to the almost outright plagiarism of John Steinbeck's "The Grapes of Wrath" by Woody Guthrie in the "Ballad of Tom Joad".

I was thinking about this when I was reading Mike Claridge's excellent "Reformation 500" article in the September edition of Roundabout. Especially where Mike writes "Change is constant and necessary". This reminded me of the lyrics of a Jefferson Airplane song, "Crown of Creation", where the beautiful, but disturbing voice of Grace Slick sings "Life is change, how it differs from the rocks".

The lyrics of that song have always seemed familiar, but it wasn't until the invention of the World Wide Web and Wikipedia that I could discover why. Paul Kanter, Jefferson Airplane guitarist and writer of the song had taken the words almost verbatim from one of my favourite books, "The Chrysalids" by John Wyndham. This is one of the three books I try and re-read every year if I can, the others being Jane Austin's "Pride and Prejudice" and William Gibson's "Neuromancer", so I should have made the connection long ago.

Wyndham has much to say about change in the book and I am always stirred by his statement "The essential quality of life is living; the essential quality of living is change; change is evolution: and we are part of it. The static, the enemy of change, is the enemy of life, and therefore our implacable enemy." As I used to say to my students when I taught project management for my company, "Change isn't good, it isn't bad, it's inevitable". John Wyndham put it more eloquently than either Paul Kanter or myself when he said "But life is change, that is how it differs from rocks, change is its very nature."

So let's not be afraid of change, it's how we measure life, let's embrace it!

Neil Walters

What's in a Worship Busy Bag?

On Sunday 10th September, we held our Youth Commissioning Service, where we celebrated our young people in Young Church, Boys Brigade and Saplings. This marks the start of our new academic year and is also a good time to look forward to new things. This year, we introduced our Worship Busy Bags. These bags can be borrowed by all young people aged up to 11 years during All Age Worship services and returned to the box before they leave.

The bags contain a mixture of items to keep the children busy and engaged during the service, as they sit with their families. There are three types of bags for the different age ranges. So what will you find in your Worship Busy Bag?

Every bag contains a bible story book and a prayer card. For pre-school children, there is also a toy. The bags for the 7 – 11 years age group have pipe cleaners, a fiddle toy, dry erase board, pen & eraser, whilst the 4 – 7s bags are the same, with the addition of stickle bricks. There are 12 different bags for each age group, so there's lots of choice! The bags are proving very popular!

The bags and their contents have been purchased with the Young People's share of money raised by Linda Woodhouse, through her sale of 2nd hand books. We are most grateful to Linda for her hard work and generosity.



B30.foodbank.org.uk
07582 143972



Christmas Food

Please buy an item from this list for the foodbank

In addition to our normal nutritional supplies, in the weeks leading up to Christmas the B30 Foodbank will try to provide Christmas food items for local individuals & families in crisis.

Thank you for your support





Advent Study Groups

“So what are you waiting for?” 11.00am on Tuesdays 28th November and 5th, 12th, 19th December

Christmas Fair

Saturday 2nd December at 10.00 am Stalls, competitions, refreshments.

Advent Carol Service Sunday 3rd December at 6.30pm

Young Church Christmas Celebration: Sunday 10th December at 10.30am

A Day of Celebration concluding with Carols by Candlelight
Wednesday 20th December 7.30pm

Christmas Eve

9.00am Holy Communion

3.30pm Crib Service

10.30am Carol Service

11.30pm Midnight Communion with carols

Christmas Day

10.30am Christmas Worship with Communion



Birmingham Council of Faiths

Speak with pride, listen with respect

supported by QE Hospital Chaplaincy

Faiths, Health & Wellbeing Seminar

(Free of charge)

Thurs 16th Nov 9.30 am - 3.30 pm (registration 9.00 am)

Postgraduate Centre, QE Hospital

Presentations include:- Dignity for All, Disability Resource Centre, Services for People with a Learning Disability, Citizens Advice Witness Service, Spirituality and Disability

Just a Minute - 2 minute news briefs, What's New in Healthcare, Queen Alexandra College - visually impaired, etc. Mindfulness for Health

Mental Health Survey – will be carried out by the Commissioning Support Unit during registration and breaks. Participation is entirely voluntary

*Online Certificates of Attendance will be issued on request for Continued Professional Development.

*Admission is free, but please bring your own packed lunch.

Book your place at <https://www.eventbrite.com/d/united-kingdom/faiths-health-and-wellbeing-seminar/>

Full details on Birmingham Council of Faiths website:- www.bhamfaiths.org.uk and Dr Peter Rookes at pjrookes@gmail.com, phone 477 2282 or 077 033 360 88

National Inter Faith Week 11-19th Nov 2017

Birmingham Programme

Please find below the list, in chronological order, of events taking place in Birmingham during Interfaith Week. These are registered with IFN (Interfaith Network) www.interfaith.org.uk, which is responsible for the overall programme across the UK, and listed on the website of the Birmingham Council of Faiths at www.bhamfaiths.org.uk, on which full details of these events are available. We hope that you will find something of interest and attend one or more of these events.

Thursday 9th Nov, 1.00 pm, Devotional programme 'Celebrating Interfaith - The Golden Rule': QEH Chaplaincy, B15 2GW

6.00 pm, Spiritual but not Religious: ERI Building (room G51), University of Birmingham, B15 2TT

Friday 10th Nov, 2.30 pm, Birmingham Launch Event: Council House, B1 1BB

Saturday 11th Nov, 10.30 am, Scout & Guide Remembrance Commemoration: Scout War Memorial, Cannon Hill Park, B13 8RT

5.30 pm, BIG Interfaith Social: Food, Faith & Friendship: KSIMC Mosque, 17 Clifton Road, B12 8SX

Monday 13th Nov, 7.00 pm, Musical devotions: 16 Reddings Road, Moseley, B13 8LN

Thursday 16th Nov, 9.30 am (Reg from 9.00 am), Faiths, Health & Wellbeing Seminar: QEH Postgrad Centre B15 2GW

6.30 for 7.00 pm, Interfaith Variety of Performance, LDS Church, 4-8 Hampton Lane, Solihull, B91 2PT

Sunday 19th Nov, 1.00 pm, Real People Honest Talk, Abrahamic Foundation, 215 High St, Smethwick, B66 3AH

2.00 pm, Tread Lightly on this Earth 2017, The Progressive Synagogue B15 1HD
1.00 pm, Real People Honest Talk, Abrahamic Foundation, 215 High St, Smethwick, B66 3AH

Monday 20th Nov, 7.00 pm, Film Night - "The Imam and the Pastor", 123 Bournbrook Road, Selly Park, B29 7BY

(Dr) Peter Rookes (pjrookes@gmail.com, or phone 0121 477 2282 or 077 033 360 88).

Administrator.



Our Administrator Irene Spooner has decided that the time has come for retirement, and for more attention to be given to her lovely garden, so we shall be bidding a fond farewell to her at the end of November. I am sure you will all join me in wishing her joy, happiness, and also freedom from all the stresses that her work here has entailed, [though she must have enjoyed it to have stayed with us for such a long time] and give her our sincere thanks for her service to our church and community over the past 19 years.

Boys' Brigade

Our enrolment service took place during October and the Company Chaplain, Revd Mike Claridge presented the boys and staff with their new membership cards. Mike Meadows then awarded



the Best Boy trophies to Zac Fernando / Daniel Brownsword [Anchors], Calum McRobie / Finlay Attril [Juniors], Kieran Oliver [Company], Euan Clayton [Seniors] and Tom Bunn [Ron Clarke's Memorial Shield].



We also celebrated the 110th year that our Company has been in existence. At the Church parade



Service we had a special cake, made by Celia Lester.

BB week is taking place from 5th - 12th November, when we raise funds towards the cost of running the company.

The boys are planning a sleepover for the Saturday night when they will be baking cakes for the cake sale on Sunday

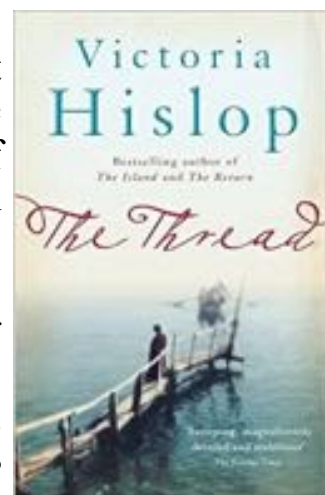
We also have two teams taking part in the Junior Section Quiz heats when we hope to reach the finals in November. Christine Adams has again agreed to be Quizmaster.

Bob Hotchkiss.

Book Group:- Victoria Hislop - The Thread

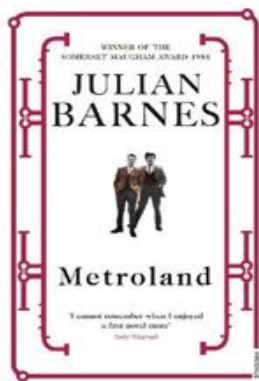
We discussed this 3rd book written by Victoria Hislop at our recent book club meeting. We were all impressed with the depth of research the author had carried out on the history of Greece, from the perspective of Thessaloniki between 1917 and 2007. We felt that there is, perhaps, a lack of general awareness of the major population changes between Christians, Muslims and Jews, which had taken place following the fire, civil war and a later earthquake.

Hislop relates the story through the lives of a young couple, Dimitri, son of a wealthy businessman from whom he becomes alienated, and Katerina who is stranded in Thessaloniki, when her home in Asia Minor is destroyed by the Turkish army. These lovers spend many years apart as Dimitri fights first for the communists and is later incarcerated, and Katerina is trapped in a loveless marriage. There are many twists and turns before they are later reunited following Dimitri's release and Katerina is widowed. The story is told by the couple to their grandson, Mitsos, in 2007.



This is a highly recommended read, as are Hislop's other books for example: 'The Island' deals with life on the leper island of Spinalonga, 'The Return' about the Spanish civil war, and 'The Sunrise', which focuses on the invasion of Famagusta in Northern Cyprus. All well researched and very readable

(Dr) Peter Rookes



The next **Book Group** will be held on Wednesday 15th November at Alison Sprackling's house at 7:30pm. We are reading Julian Barnes' book Metroland. Christopher and Toni grow up in suburbia on the Metropolitan line but as they reach adolescence they decide to go to Paris to learn more about life. A well respected first novel. For further information please contact Christine Adams

Services for November and December

	5th Nov	12th Nov	19th Nov	26th Nov	
9.00 a.m. H.C.	Revd M. Claridge	Revd M. Claridge	Revd R. Collins	Revd M. Claridge	
10.30 a.m.	Miss S. Spencer	Revd M. Claridge	Revd R. Collins	Revd M. Claridge	
6.30 p.m.	Revd R. Collins	Café Church	Revd M. Claridge	Revd R. Collins	
	3rd Dec	10th Dec	17th Dec	24th Dec	31st Dec
9.00 a.m. H.C.	Revd M. Claridge	Revd M. Claridge	Revd R. Collins	Revd M. Claridge	Revd R. Collins
10.30 a.m.	Revd M. Claridge Parade	Revd M. Claridge Young Church Christmas Celebration	Revd R. Collins	Revd M. Claridge Carol Service	Life & Soul
3.30 p.m.				Crib Service	
6.30 p.m.	Revd M. Claridge Advent Carol Service	Café Church	Revd M. Claridge H.C,	No Service	No Service
11.30 p.m.				Revd M. Claridge Midnight Communion	

Advent Study Groups : “So what are you waiting for?” Tuesdays at 11.00 a.m on 28th November, and 5th, 12th and 19th December

Wednesday 20th December 7.30 p.m. Carols by Candlelight - Revd M. Claridge

Christmas Day: 10.30 a.m. Christmas Worship with Communion - Revd Lorraine Dixon

Communion Services are held each week at 10.00 am on Tuesdays

The Proceeds from the Summer Garden Party

have been spent on a large water hose, and large indoor plants for the church building and Day Centre.

Many thanks to our supporters and helpers.

The gardeners REALLY need practical help - we usually work on Tuesdays and Fridays. Do PLEASE come along and give us a hand.

Chris Pascal.



The Garden of Daily Living

Plant three rows of peas

Peace of mind

Peace of heart

Peace of soul



Plant four rows of squash

Squash gossip

Squash indifference

Squash grumbling

Squash selfishness

Plant four rows of lettuce

Lettuce be faithful

Lettuce be kind

Lettuce be patient

Lettuce really love one another



No garden is without turnips

Turnip for meetings

Turnip for service

Turnip to help one another

To conclude your garden you must have thyme

Thyme for yourself

Thyme for family

Thyme for friends



Water freely with patience and cultivate with love.

There is much fruit in your garden because you reap what you sow.

You may not be green fingered in real life

But as the garden of your daily living exists in your mind,

Anyone can become a great head gardener.

Anon. Discovered by Susan Claridge

From the Editor

I hope you enjoy this edition of Roundabout, which marks the end of my first year of editorship. I would like to thank all the contributors to this and to the previous 5 editions. Roundabout could not exist without you. The folder "Next Roundabout" on my computer is now lying empty, to await what 2018 will bring! Celia Lester



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Your Editor from January 2017 is Celia Lester

Please send copy for the next edition by December 22nd
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