

Roundabout



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

May 2018

Mike's message

May Days!

May Day is a special day with origins as a Spring Festival going back many centuries and, from the nineteenth century onwards, also observed as International Workers Day. This year May also contains three very special Christian festivals, the dates of which vary each year as they are linked to Easter.

The first of these, forty days after Easter, is **Ascension Day** (Thursday 10th May). According to Luke the Risen Jesus ended his earthly presence by 'ascending' into heaven. In Luke's 'Acts of the Apostles' (Chapter 1 vv 9-11), this took place forty days after the Resurrection. Luke also has a different account, in his Gospel (24 .50-53), where Jesus' departure is sooner after Easter. (cf Mark 16.19).

The language of 'ascending into heaven' is strange to us. It comes from an age when heaven was 'up there', hell 'down below' and the earth was in between. Someone once described the idea of the Ascension as 'Cape Canaveral Theology' with Jesus 'blasting off' into space! That's how art often depicts it, and an ornate plaster ceiling in Rome has only Jesus' feet visible, sticking out below a cloud! So what are we to make of The Ascension?

When we celebrate the birth of Jesus we talk of God affirming the sanctity of human life by becoming part of it in the person of Jesus Christ. At Ascension the Risen Christ, still bearing the marks of human suffering on his hands, feet and side, carries the realities of our human lives into the very heart of God. Charles Wesley reflected on this in this famous Ascension Day hymn, one verse of which reads:

See! he lifts his hands above; Alleluia!
See! he shows the prints of love. Alleluia!
Hark! his gracious lips bestow, Alleluia!
Blessings on his Church below. Alleluia!

In his ministry Jesus spoke about sending a 'blessing' to his people. He'd spoken about an Advocate or helper (John 14 25ff). It's this gift that we observe at **Pentecost** (Sunday 20th May) which used to be called 'Whit Sunday'. The name Pentecost also refers to a Jewish harvest festival held 50 days, hence the name, after Passover. The disciples were celebrating this when they received the gift Jesus spoke of which we refer to as the Holy Spirit. Luke records this in Acts (Chapter 2) but again there's an alternative interpretation, by John, that the Holy Spirit was given on Easter Day itself! (John 20 .19-23).

The third special day is **Trinity Sunday** (Sunday 27th May). This is least 'scriptural' of the days as the formulation of the idea of 'Trinity', God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, was a development of the early Christian Church (see Matthew 28.19 where it's believed to be added as a 'postscript'). One God in three persons? That needs an article of its own!



Friends & Family.

Many congratulations to Clive Babb on the celebration of his 95th birthday.

Thanks to Sarah Knebel for leading our services.

We are sad to announce the deaths of Lewis Norris, Kathleen Edwards, Gladys Osman and Marjorie Healey. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families and friends.

And, some super news of our young folk ...

Rose Claridge and Kathryn Clayton enjoyed the unique experience of dancing in the Commonwealth Games Closing Ceremony, as part of the handover to Birmingham for 2022. This was broadcast live on TV, to an estimated 1 billion viewers! [They are in the M of BRUM!] They are looking forward to what is to come in 2022.



Congratulations to Christine Turner, who recently celebrated her 21st Birthday.

Congratulations to Alex Clayton, who has qualified as a Special Police Constable in the Hampshire Police Force, alongside working on his History degree.

Congratulations to Imogen Sprackling, who completed an M.A. in British Politics last year and is now working as a Research Consultant for a firm called SQW in London. Her work includes research and analysis on projects related to economic and social development.

Euan Clayton and Jake Allen spent a week of the Easter holiday touring the Czech Republic and Slovakia, with the Birmingham Schools Symphony Orchestra. They performed in concerts at three venues, including a de-consecrated Jesuit church in Skalica and the Slovak Concert Radio Hall in Bratislava. Apart from the concerts, a real highlight was a day sightseeing in Vienna.

Ros Murphy sends her regards to all at The Cotteridge Church. Peter Childs happened to go to the Sunday morning service at the Stratford Methodist Church and the first person to greet him was Ros. "It was nice to find a friendly face waiting for me at the door. She looks exactly the same and is still fit and well. She's looking at possibilities of moving to be nearer her daughter who is a minister in the Manchester circuit."



CC Day Care

Our Church Day Centre continues to flourish, with more referrals - and a waiting list of elderly people needing help.

Thanks go to our hard-working staff & volunteers, who continually strive to make it a safe, caring place.

Knit & natter sessions are on the go, & with signs of Spring, some baskets will be planted out in the next few weeks.

Wool & board games are always welcome - please see Michelle (manager) or Chris Pascal.

Safeguarding – Why all the fuss?

Content Warning: This article discusses sexual abuse and some readers may find this distressing.

Tabloids love their headlines, “Political Correctness gone mad” and suchlike. Childhoods are ruined because conkers are too dangerous¹. Now, obviously, nobody is allowed to work with children because they might be a paedophile. Everyone knows that paedophiles like to lurk in bushes in parks, right?

Not true: 90% of sexual abuse experienced by children and young people is carried out by people they already know². That means people they’re related to, family friends, and people they meet through activities and organisations they’re involved with. Organisations including churches.

Resistance to Safeguarding training is widespread in churches. A 2016 report³ carried out for the Church of England says:

“There remains in some parishes resistance to the need for DBS checks for longstanding volunteers. This arises because of a perception that doing so is an insult to people who have been doing unpaid tasks for a long time, and because the process is viewed as bureaucratic and mainly being the responsibility of volunteers. In one diocese, people are still being appointed prior to their DBS and/or references being received, despite the policy which prohibits this.”

This seems familiar: we run the risk of putting off volunteers because of the requirements for safeguarding or (worse) we are suggesting that current volunteers are unsuitable. Nobody is suggesting that, we need a rigorous system to keep everyone safe.

So why *is* Safeguarding such a big priority now? Well, in short, there are two key objectives: to make that nobody is going to be harmed and to prevent and stop abuse as quickly as possible. When put so plainly this seems entirely reasonable, doesn’t it?

Where does the difficulty come from? I’ve heard people say “We never had all this in my day”, “we’ve survived this long doing it that way”, “why is this SUDDENLY such a big thing?”

It is precisely because of the past that Safeguarding procedures are so carefully implemented now. The damage caused by historic abuse is widespread and severe. The number of people reporting sexual abuse they suffered in childhood has almost doubled since 2013/14, according to the NSPCC. More than 60,000 cases of non-recent sexual abuse against children have been recorded by police forces across the UK between 2013 and 2017.⁴ It far outreaches the high-profile sex-abuse cases of Operation Yew Tree.

¹ Actually, they aren’t. The HSE makes it quite clear that this is a misinterpretation of health and safety rules, here: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/myth/september.htm>

² Radford, L. et al, (2011) Child abuse and neglect in the UK today. More statistics here: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/child-abuse-and-neglect/child-sexual-abuse/sexual-abuse-facts-statistics/>

³ Carmi, E. Constant, H. and Ellery, S; Social Care Institute for Excellence (2016), Independent auditing of diocesan safeguarding arrangements for the Church of England, Pilot overview report.

⁴ <https://www.birminghammail.co.uk/news/midlands-news/number-adults-reporting-sexual-abuse-13910134> accessed April 2018.

There were no expectations of Safeguarding in those dark days. Abusers were given opportunity to continue their abuse again and again. Because of those failures to protect the children of that time, untold thousands of adults of today live with the aftermath of the abuse. Adult survivors of child abuse are still haunted by their experiences several decades later. They are more likely to suffer with depression, anxiety or to consider self-harm or suicide than their peers⁵.

Past history and present research is what informs current Safeguarding procedures. The basic principles are pretty straightforward and understandable:

That vulnerable people should be protected from anyone who has a known history of abuse (includes DBS screenings).

That vulnerable people should be protected from any opportunity for grooming or abuse – this include rules around all communication, photos and staffing.

That there should be an easy way for anyone to report any concerns of abuse, and that those reports will be appropriately handled.

That anyone working closely with vulnerable people receive appropriate training on how to prevent, recognise and report abuse. It is very rare that children report abuse – more frequently it is detected by a responsible adult.

That there is a culture of Safeguarding where all people have responsibility to make the community a safe place.

The bottom line is that Safeguarding really is for everyone – we all have a Christian obligation to ensure that everyone feels safe in our community, as well as a legal one, and the best part is that we can all feel safe, too. And it's not just about sexual – all forms of abuse can ruin lives. Emotional abuse is now counted as a criminal offence. We all need to consider how we speak to each other: bones heal but words can hurt for a lifetime.

Some of the conversations I've had and overheard in recent months lead me to question whether we all share the same Christian values. Righteous anger definitely has its place in Christian life, but gossip and bullying are completely unacceptable. Doubt is thoroughly Christian too and has a role to play; I'm certainly not afraid to tackle awkward topics as this article shows.

There is an appropriate way to handle conflict; stirring up dissent is neither useful nor helpful. All it seems to achieve is widespread mistrust and misery. All communities have contentious issues, it's human. Our issues must be raised at the right time and in the right forum, and we must all find a way to disagree with respect and to seek truth and guidance from God. Making the right decisions is a burden shared by the representatives on JCC AND by the other members of the church. We need to work together to build a safe space to have difficult conversations.

Before I risk falling off my soapbox, the whole point of this article is this: Aside from legal and denominational obligations, Safeguarding keeps everyone safe. Can we please move on from conversations about whether it's really necessary?

Clare Naughton

⁵ <http://www.heretohelp.bc.ca/factsheet/childhood-sexual-abuse-a-mental-health-issue>, full references in this article.



The Cotteridge Church
Joint Church Council
Summary of Proceeding 15th March 2018

Key Decisions

1. The JCC will adopt an action log with actions given dates for completion to enable the JCC to have more time-effective meeting agendas.
2. It was agreed to change two of the sockets in the Pennine Way to USB charging points. Thanks was given to Peter Rookes, who agreed to fund the equipment.
3. It was agreed that all paper work for JCC meetings must be submitted to the Secretary ten days before a meeting and sent-out seven days before the meeting to allow Trustees to come to the meeting prepared.
4. The following safeguarding role outlines were adopted: Steward Co-Ordinator, Door Steward, Book Steward, Vestry Steward, Communion Preparation Steward, Communion Steward, Bible Reader, Intercessional Prayer Leader, Sunday Security, Choir Member, Trustee and Safeguarding Lead and Trustee, Trustee and Children's Advocate.
5. It was agreed to replace the coded lock on the door to the Bredon Room.
6. A paper presented by Peter Rookes, to set-up a Mission Group at The Cotteridge Church was agreed.

Summary Proceedings

1. Thanks, were expressed to Clare Naughton, Craig Naughton and Alex Whitehouse for their work on resurfacing the Coffee Bar counter and the addition of a blackboard area above the counter.
2. It was noted that the Administrator was getting to grips with his role and is covering many minor maintenance issues and is therefore working additional hours.
3. It was reported by the Treasurer that room hire was well below budget and that if 'front loaded' gift aid was deducted from income the to-date deficit was around £8,000.
4. It was stated that safeguarding role outlines were still required for Luncheon Club, Coffee Bar Volunteer – training under 18s, Coffee Bar Co-ordinator, AV Operator, Methodist Steward, Church Warden and URC Elder.
5. It was noted that several volunteers still needed to complete their CO and C1 safeguarding training and they were urged to do so as soon as possible.
6. The meeting discussed the receiving of communion by children and asked Mike Claridge and Roger Collins to discuss this topic and report back to the next JCC meeting.
7. It was noted that the B30 Foodbank had been given notice to quit the storage facilities at Hawkesley and are intending to hire a unit on the King's Norton Factory estate.
8. Thanks were given to Clare Naughton and Jane Jones, who offered to fund a Cotteridge Church pitch at Cocomad.
9. It was stated that the Annual General Meeting of The Cotteridge Church would be on Saturday 21st April 2018, commencing at 10:30.

The next meeting of the Joint Church Council will be on Thursday 19th April 2018 at 19:30.

This Summary is authorised by: Pam Waddell (Acting Chair of Joint Church Council)



The Cotteridge Church
Joint Church Council
Summary of Proceedings 19th April 2018

Key Decisions

1. It was agreed that at least one Boys Brigade Officer should have taken the Anglican C0 and C1 safeguarding training before boys are taken offsite and that all Officers should have taken the Anglican C0 and C1 safeguarding training before BB Camp this year.
2. The latest iteration of the Church Governance Structure was accepted.
3. It was agreed to update the Church's website with the room hiring information to promote further room lettings.
4. It was agreed to adopt the following mission statement "The calling of The Cotteridge Church is to respond to God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission" and that this should be presented to the Congregational AGM.

Summary Proceedings

1. Thanks were given to David Pycock for completing the application for NCT part funding of the tower repairs. David was asked to arrange for a contractor to perform the work .
2. Peter Rookes reported that he had gathered a small group of people to look at outward mission.
3. It was noted that membership stood at 181.
4. The running of courses, in the same vein as the Lent courses was discussed, perhaps using new material from the URC.
5. It was noted that it was important to have a variety of people preaching at services.
6. The revision of the Church's Website was discussed, including the renewal of the Church's domain name and post meeting research showed it was registered until 21st September 2018.
7. The new EU General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) which comes into force this month was discussed.
8. A revised Mission Statement and Principles were discussed, with some concern about the intelligibility of the words used in the principles to young people raised. It was also suggested that the principles should be illustrated with pictures.
9. Everyone was reminded that the Annual General Meeting of The Cotteridge Church would be on Saturday 21st April 2018, commencing at 10:30.
10. Thanks were given, in her absence, to Doreen Hancox for her 13 years as both Church Secretary and Secretary of the JCC.
11. Thanks were also extended to Jane Jones, who completes her three year service on the JCC.

The next meeting of the Joint Church Council will be on Thursday 17th May 2018 at 19:30.

This Summary is authorised by:
Laurie Brown (Chair of Joint Church Council)

101%

I am one of those sad people who quite enjoy playing with numbers. If you have similar tendencies, I think you will enjoy this, which was published on youtube in 2010 [<https://www.youtube.com/embed/h60r2HPsiuM>], and reproduced here with permission. [No prizes for spotting any non sequiturs!]

What does it mean to give MORE than 100%?

Ever wonder about those people who say they are giving more than 100%?

We have all been in situations where someone wants you to GIVE OVER 100%.

How about ACHIEVING 101%? What equals 100% in life?

This is obviously a mathematical conundrum.

Let us suppose each letter is assigned a value A-Z:- 1-26

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

H	A	R	D	W	O	R	K		
8	1	18	4	23	15	18	11		98%
K	N	O	W	L	E	D	G	E	
11	14	15	23	12	5	4	7	5	96%

A	T	T	I	T	U	D	E					
1	20	20	9	20	21	4	5		100%			
L	O	V	E		O	F		G	O	D		
12	15	22	5		15	6		7	15	4		101%

Therefore one can conclude with mathematical certainty that:

while **hard work** and **knowledge** can get you close, and **attitude** will get you there, it's the **Love of God** that will put you over the top!

Celia Lester.

Boys' Brigade

Many thanks to everybody who supported our annual general knowledge quiz and special thanks to our company president Mike Meadows for being our quiz master. A grand total of £317.50 was raised and shared between St Mary's Hospice and The Cotteridge Church.

We now look forward to the warmer weather and lighter nights as we begin the summer session. Our Peckwood weekend which is one of the most popular activities has been arranged for the





weekend of 22-24th June. Summer camp this year is a return to Dyffryn Ardudwy [28th July-4th August]. We have also arranged the B.B. outing to Barry Island for Saturday 7th July.
 Bob Hotchkiss

Services for May and June

	6th May	13th May	20th May	27th May
9.00 am H.C.	Revd R. Collins	Revd M. Claridge	Revd M. Claridge	Revd M. Claridge
10.30 am	Miss Sue Spencer Parade	Revd M. Claridge H.C.	Miss Hazel Nash	Revd M. Claridge H.C.
6.30 pm	Revd R. Collins H.C.	Café Church	Revd M. Claridge H.C.	Revd M. Claridge
	3rd June	10th June	17th June	24th June
9.00 am H.C.	Revd M. Claridge	Revd M. Claridge	Revd M. Claridge	Revd R. Collins
10.30 am	Revd M. Claridge [Parade]	Revd Barbara Calvert H.C.	Mrs Sarah Kneble	Revd R. Collins H.C.
6.30 pm	Revd R. Collins	7.30 p.m. Political Night Prayer	Revd R. Collins H.C.	Miss Hazel Nash

Communion Services are held each week at 10.00 am on Tuesdays

The Church Annual General Meeting

On Saturday 21 April, approximately 50 Church members attended the Church A.G.M. and the denominational A.G.M.s.

The business part of the meeting was devoted to electing the U.R.C. Elders, members of the P.C.C., the Senior Methodist Steward, and Joint Church Council representatives, as well as receiving the Annual Report and Accounts.

The following Church members were elected to serve:

Dorothy Audley - U.R.C. Elder (Co-opted member of J.C.C.)

Laurie Brown and Suzanne Bunn - Anglican Wardens (Suzanne the Co-opted member of J.C.C.)

P.C.C. members	Mike Claridge (Chair)	Roger Collins (Vice-Chair)
	Laurie Brown	Suzanne Bunn
	Lin Brown	

Trevor Jones -Senior Methodist Steward (Co-opted member of J.C.C.)

Peter Rookes, Evelyn Bhajan and Stephen Audley (Elected members of J.C.C.)

Introducing the Report and Accounts, Laurie Brown explained that additional schedules had been included in order to make clear the financial position of the Church alone. In 2017, the Church had gratefully received two one off income payments totalling over £60k, but, excluding these, there was a deficit of £14k. Initial indications are that the Stewardship campaign will enable the Church to break even, in line with the Budget. Thanks were expressed for such a positive response.

Following questions and discussion, the meeting approved the Accounts and the amended Report.

The second half of the meeting was devoted to an update of our vision for the future.

Mike Claridge drew on the history of The Cotteridge Church to demonstrate the importance of developing a shared vision together. From the founding of the three Churches in Cotteridge 120 years ago, through the coming together of the three Churches in the 1980s to the present, people of enterprise and vision enabled the Church to become what it is today. Our task is to build on that, and develop a vision for 10, 20 or 30 years down the line.

To do nothing is not an option; we need more space, the layout is not ideal for today's needs and, looking to the future, will restrict opportunities for growth.

However, changes on this scale will require significant investment, and Keely Tattersfield is helping us to realise the vision and identify potential sources of funding.

Keely explained her previous experience in this area and how she has helped other Church organisations realise their vision.

She was keen to stress that she will facilitate, but the vision is the vision of this congregation. The vision will feed into a flexible master plan, but given the size of the project, it will be a phased implementation and the plan may very well change over time.

She emphasised the need to remember that this project is not about bricks and mortar, but about people. It is about transforming people's lives in this community.

She concluded by affirming that "it is very doable!"

Following Keely's presentation there was an opportunity to meet with her for questions and comments.

Bible Languages

According to the Gospel of St Mark Chap 16 v17, Jesus foretold that the disciples would speak in tongues, a prophesy enacted on the Day of Pentecost, when they addressed the crowds in Jerusalem [Acts 2 v1-12], and were understood by people who used many different languages.

The Bible was first written in Aramaic, and in Biblical [or Classical] Hebrew. The first translation from this Hebrew version was into Greek, and from that into Latin, and now so many other languages. Whenever a text is translated from one language to another there is a possibility that the exact meaning will be altered slightly. Also, when an account is first written it assumes that it will be read in the context of the period. As the centuries have passed so our life patterns and experiences have changed, and thus it is possible that our understanding of a biblical text will have changed from the time when it was first written.

So, I thought it might be interesting to see what the Bible would have looked like two thousand years ago. The Lord's Prayer is perhaps one of the most familiar texts .

In *Aramaic*. Aramaic was written from right to left. Transliterated it would read

Abunan [Our Father]

de be su mayya [Who in Heaven is]

Yithqaddash shmak [May Thy Name be Holy]

Teethe malkuthak [May Thy Kingdom Come]

Teh'we ra'uthak [May Thy will be done]



In *Hebrew* Hebrew was also written from right to left, and the written text did not include vowels. These were added according to the context.

Avenu [Our Father]

She-ba-Sha-Mai-Yeem
[Who is in Heaven]

Yeet-Ka-Desh [Sanctified
be]

Sheem Cha [Your Name]



In *Koine Greek* [Koine Greek was the version spoken by the ordinary folk, and understood by all. It was the version used when the Bible was first translated into Greek, and the version from which other modern versions were derived]. Now we can read from left to right.

Pater Imon [Our Father]

O en tois ouranois [Who art in Heaven]

Agiasthito to onoma sou [Hallowed be thy Name]

Eltheto ee basileia sou [Thy Kingdom come]

Genithito to thelima sou [Let there be Thy Will]

Os en ourano, kai epi tis gys [As in Heaven and the same on Earth]

In **Latin** Again we read from left to right, and the alphabet is familiar.

Pater Noster [Our Father]

Sanctificetur nomen tuum

Fiat voluntas tua

Sicut in Caelo et in terra

Qui es in Caelis [Who art in Heaven]

[Hallowed be thy Name]

[Thy Will be done]

[in Heaven and in Earth]

Let us be thankful that others had the gift of tongues, and that we can read the Bible in our own language, and let us do it with appreciation and careful understanding.

Fundraising Bulletin to the end of April 2018

Funds raised to date:

Church Urban Fund: £93.69 from small change collecting boxes [Alison Sprackling]:- To Church Urban Fund

Burns Night Supper & Ceilidh: £381.50 [Pam Waddell]:-To Church funds.

Pancake Party £107 for Food Ministry.

Easter cards sale: 31.91 for Church Funds.

Easter bake sale: £72.60 for Church Funds.

BB quiz £317.50 divided equally between St Mary's Hospice and the Church.

Book sales £335 to date for church, Day Centre and Cotteridge Youth

Photo Competitions: Ice & Water raised £80 for Day Centre.

Event	Year to Date	Event	Year to Date	Event	Year to Date
Church Urban Fund	£93.69	Photo Competitions	£80.00	Easter Bake Sale	£72.60
Pancake Party	£107.00	Burns Night	£381.50	Easter Cards	£31.91
BB Quiz Night	£317.50	Book Sales	£335		
				TOTAL	£1419.20

Recipients Internal	£ Year to date	Recipients External	£ Year to Date
Church Funds	£756.42	Church Urban Fund	£93.69
Church Youth	£111.67	St Mary's Hospice	£158.75
Day Centre	£191.67		
Church Food Ministry	£107.00		
Total	£1166.76	Total	£252.44

We really need some more people to volunteer to run an event for us - with help. If you could help, please talk with Chris Pascal, Jane Jones, Linda Woodhouse or Celia Lester.

Πάτερ ἡμῶν ὁ ἐν τοῖς οὐρανοῖς·

ἀγιασθήτω τὸ ὄνομά σου·

ἐλθέτω ἡ βασιλεία σου·

γενηθήτω τὸ θέλημά σου,

ὡς ἐν οὐρανῷ, καὶ ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς·

The purpose of truth

I am currently reading a book my brother bought me for Christmas, “Reality is not what it seems – The journey to quantum gravity” by Carlo Rovelli. I had not got very far into when I was brought up short by a quote from Plato, who was attempting a rebuttal of Democritus’s ground-breaking theory of the universe. It was not his opposition to the theory of atoms, that surprised me, but the underlying argument he was using that made me think.

“I had expected to be first told that the Earth was flat or round, but also that, afterwards, the reason for the necessity of this shape would be explained to me, starting from the principle of the best, proving to me that the best thing for the Earth is to have this shape. And if he had said that the Earth was at the centre of the world, then show me how being at the centre was of benefit to the Earth” from *Phaedo* by Plato.

I think the truth of the statement “The Earth is round” is generally accepted, we have seen its shape from space, we have circumnavigated it and we have measured its diameter, but do we know how being round benefits the earth. Does truth have a purpose, or do we just accept it is as it is.

We are living at a time where the very nature of truth is being challenged and the term “post-truth” is in common usage, but as Pilate asked Jesus “What is truth?”, “Pilate sayde unto hym: what is trueth?” *Gospel of St John Chapter 18 William Tyndale 1526*. Although Pilate leaves with the question hanging in the air Tim Rice attempts to answer it by expanding on Pilates question in the libretto to “Jesus Christ Superstar” where Pilate sings: “But what is truth? Is truth unchanging law? We both have truths – are mine the same as yours?” *Jesus Christ Superstar Sir Tim Rice 1970*.

In this extension to Pilate’s question Sir Tim manages to encapsulate the core teaching given by God on Earth, that the law is mutable. It wasn’t callousness that prevented the Priest and the Levite coming to the aid of the beaten man on the road to Jericho, Luke 10: 25-37, it was the law, if they had tended him they would have become ritually unclean and could not perform their religious duties. By extension truth is also mutable and what is a truth to one person may not be a truth to someone else. Californian, “Mad” Mike Hughes is currently constructing a rocket to launch himself into orbit so he can prove that the Earth is actually flat.

As A.J.Ayer said “...an empirical hypothesis is to enable us to anticipate experience. Accordingly, if an observation to which a given proposition is relevant conforms to our expectations, the truth of that proposition is confirmed. One cannot say that the proposition has been proved absolutely valid, because it is still possible that a future observation will discredit it.” *Language, Truth, and Logic A.J.Ayer 1936*

If quantum gravity proves to be a viable proposition, as the *New Scientist* headlined earlier this year “What if there are no laws of nature”, there will be no such thing as empirical reality. Everyone will have their own reality based on the truths they hold and even those truths may change over time, if time exists.

Ayer answers my original question, does truth have a purpose, succinctly when he says “...to enable us to anticipate experience.”
Neil Walters.

ONLY REMEMBERED

"ONLY REMEMBERED,
ONLY REMEMBERED,
ONLY REMEMBERED
FOR WHAT YOU HAVE DONE"

The above words are a snippet of the lyrics to a song sometimes favoured by Alvechurch Community Choir. They are true, aren't they, whether we be alive or dead. Goals, objectives, milestones, accomplishments are just some of the drivers of human interest. But I want to ask - what if remembrance is of what you have NOT done ?

This widens the field tremendously, for the world is full of horrific happenstances but also more full of those that never were (Let us thank God, praise his holy name) Pause a while in praise that goodness always overcomes darkness, that flickers can be fanned into mighty towers of light, that the pulse of life is eternal, we share it because of the conquest of death by Christ Jesus, who is our infinite hope.

Gordon Parsons

Biblical Mothers

Answers

1. Samuel	<u>Hannah</u>	7. Ishmael	<u>Hagar</u>
2. Isaac	<u>Sarah</u>	8. Solomon	<u>Bathsheba</u>
3. John the Baptist	<u>Elizabeth</u>	9. Jacob & Esau	<u>Rebekah</u>
4. Seth	<u>Eve</u>	10. Timothy	<u>Eunice</u>
5. Jesus	<u>Mary</u>	11. Cain & Abel	<u>Eve</u>
6. Moses	<u>Jochebed</u>	12. Joseph & Benjamin	<u>Rachel</u>

Poppies in Hereford

Earlier in the month I made a point of visiting Hereford on Good Friday and found the cascade of poppies tumbling down the west wall. They are ceramic artwork originally commissioned to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the First World War and were installed in the Tower of London. Some are now on tour and I caught the Hereford Cathedral version.

Peter Childs



EASTER HAPPENING

Once again, Young Church and Saplings families gathered together early on Easter morning for breakfast, fun and worship, prior to the morning service. We enjoyed a wonderful selection of bacon sandwiches, waffles, hot cross buns etc.



The children enjoyed a number of crafts - Easter Egg crosses, Easter cards, Easter sticker story, edible Easter gardens and shaving foam marbling butterflies, representing new life, to hang from the cross they built in the Malvern room.

We had a short, fun time of worship, led by Rev Lorraine Dixon, where we learned once again, about the Easter story. And finally, the children raced outside for an Easter egg hunt around the garden!

It was great to have fun, food and worship together, before joining the morning service.



Our next event is a Fun Day, which we are organising along with other local Methodist churches in our circuit. All are welcome.

Birmingham Methodist Circuit
Children And Youth
Caring - Growing - Equipping

Networking
Outreach
Events
Community
Training



Saturday Fun Day

at Barnt Green Scout & Guide Centre
Blackwell Road, Barnt Green
B45 8BT

SATURDAY 14th JULY 2018
2pm - 7pm

Come prepared for outdoor activities

An afternoon & evening of indoor & outdoor fun & games with a BBQ & worship.
Mains will be provided. Donations of sides, salad or desert are welcome!

Please invite your family & friends,
See you there!

tbrooker@birminghammethodistcircuit.org.uk 0121 705 7367

Judge not, lest ...

Running a Foodbank is tough. One of the most difficult things is hearing members of our wider community, who don't work closely with the Foodbank, talking about our clients.

Such opinions are often deeply held and sincerely believed ... but do need to be challenged.

For example: "They can't be that poor, I've seen them come in cars." Or, "If they were really desperate for food, they wouldn't smoke." If you sometimes think this, here are a couple of things that might influence your thoughts:

All clients are sent to us by professionals, so once they arrive with a 'red' voucher, we have an agreement to feed those people who have been deemed in need. We cannot turn them away because we do not like certain aspects of their life.

Each client is initially only allowed to have 3 vouchers in 6 months – that is, they can only receive 3 days' worth of food every 8 weeks. It is not a huge amount of help. If for each 100 people we help, there are one or two who are out to defraud us, that is probably a statistic worth risking.

Just because we give people food, we cannot police their lifestyle. When you are in work, have a stable lifestyle, a reasonable income, a supportive family etc it is probably easier to make a decision about giving up smoking (or drinking or junk food eating). However, when you live, as many of our clients do, in an unstable world, on zero hours contracts, with broken families and without any form of obvious support, then sometimes smoking cheap roll ups is the only form of pleasure you might have. If you are trying to hold down one or two badly paid jobs, it may be that a car is essential for getting the children to school on time and you to work. The cars that sometimes come to The Cotteridge Church during Foodbank hours may be social workers who are picking up food on behalf of clients who cannot get to us themselves.

We ask our volunteers not to make judgements about the people who come to us. We ask them to listen. There are often behind the scenes circumstances which most of us are lucky never to experience. We have had people in tears because we are the first people who have listened to them in days.

We are not naive. (We have a saying ... "We are nice, but we are not stupid"). We have got older and wiser in the almost 5 years the B30 Foodbank has been open and unfortunately we are tougher about those that we refuse or those we check.

If you would like to come in and discuss this further, please do contact us and come and see the Foodbank at work (Tuesdays & Fridays 2.30 p.m. – 4.30 p.m.) .



Helen Gale / Roger Collins

Silver Acorn

Peter Rookes has been to Windsor Castle with Sara-Jane, his daughter, to receive his Silver Acorn. "It was a great privilege to be in the company of so many committed Scouters, meet Chief Scout Bear Grylls and be present for the review of the Queen's Scouts by HRH Princess Beatrice". His roles include:



“County Faiths and international Advisor - I visit groups and individuals to help them with their faith and international activities.

Birmingham Course Director for the Scout of the World Award for 18-25 year olds. We have held 2 Discovery Weekends in Birmingham, and I went to Belfast recently to help launch the Award in Northern Ireland

Training Advisor for the 304 Muslim Scout Group, through which I advise adult leaders on their training needs and validate the training they have undertaken.”

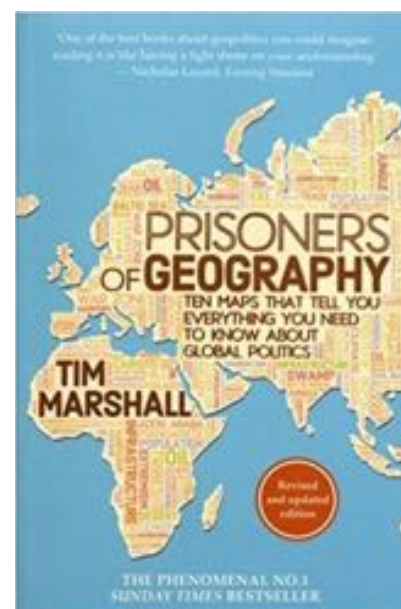
[The Silver Acorn was instituted in 1932 as an award to rank between the Medal of Merit and the Silver Wolf. It was instituted as a St George's Day Award in 1933. The Silver Acorn, worn on an orange ribbon around the neck, and emblems or pin badge with

an orange knot is awarded for specially distinguished service for a period of not less than twenty years.

Lin Brown

Book Group

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 15th May at Helen Gale's house. We are reading Prisoners of Geography by Tim Marshall, a fascinating look at past, present and future factors that determine world history. We are tackling this an area at a time and have allocated different regions to members. Helen kicks off with Russia, followed by China and the USA. There are 10 regions in total and we plan to discuss this book over two meetings. If anyone would like to join us and take the unallocated areas of The Middle East or The Arctic, we would be pleased to see new members. For further information contact Christine Adams on 458-5607



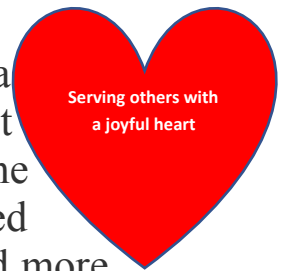
Pennine Way Trips

Wednesday 13th June:	Whichford Pottery, Shipston on Stour	£12
Wednesday 11th July	Falconry Centre Hagley [& Webb's Garden Centre]	£12
Wednesday 8th August	Stratford + tea at the Methodist Church	£15
Wednesday 12th September	Day Trip Weston Super Mare	£12
Saturday 13th October	Day Trip The Royal Mint near Cardiff	£25

See Rita Sutton to book your place, and for more information.

Can you give a little more time?

It is great news that the recent Stewardship Campaign has had a really positive impact on the financial giving to the Church. Is it also time to ask if you can give a little more time to support the work of the Church? The Stewardship Campaign stressed the need for more income to keep the Church running - likewise we need more volunteers in all sorts of areas if we are to keep the good work of the church going. As with financial giving, every little helps and we have a whole range of possible ways you could help to suit your skills, interests and time availability. Please do speak to me or contact me in any of the ways listed below if you feel you may have a little more time to give and want to discuss volunteering opportunities.



Below are just some of our new or particular needs for volunteers. Please contact me or the coordinator listed directly if you might be able to help:

- **Christian Aid Collectors:** Christian Aid Week starts 13th May - even an hour house to house collection would be great. (Contact Lin and Laurie Brown)
- **Coffee Bar 'reserves':** Perhaps you cannot commit to a regular weekday slot, but could stand in occasionally to cover holidays etc. (Contact Linda Mann)
- **Saplings help with snacks:** Could you spare an hour or so on a Friday morning every few weeks to prepare and tidy up after snacks for Saplings? (Contact Jane Jones)
- **Summer holiday events:** Foodbank and Saplings are joining forces again after last year's success and need volunteers. Even if you can only help once in the school holidays, please get in touch. (Contact Jane Jones or Helen Gale).
- **Supporting worship:** There are various roles required during the Sunday service and currently - duties less than once a month. (Contact Mike Meadows)
- **Flower arranging:** For those who want a bit of creativity on Saturday morning - frequency is very flexible. (Contact Lin Brown)
- **Fundraising events:** These take various forms throughout the year – what about adding your name to a list of people that might be called on to help?

Pam Waddell (Volunteering Promotion and Recruitment Co-ordinator)

pam.waddell@thecotteridgechurch.org.uk, 0121 459 2396 or via 'W' pigeon hole

The Cotteridge Church

GARDEN PARTY

Saturday 9th June

2.00 p.m. - 4.30 p.m.

**Come and enjoy our lovely garden,
have tea and cakes,**

listen to music,

and browse our stalls,

Join in competitions and activities!

Entrance FREE!

Proceeds will be go to our Garden Fund



Roundabout is the bi-monthly newsletter of The Cotteridge Church.
Large print issue in the Pennine Way

Your Editor from January 2017 is Celia Lester

Please send copy for the next edition by May 24th 2018
to roundabout@thecotteridgechurch.org.uk

The Cotteridge Church, Pershore Road South, Birmingham B30 3EJ

Tel: 0121 433 5518 Fax: 0121 459 6909

Email: administrator@thecotteridgechurch.org.uk

Website: www.thecotteridgechurch.org.uk

Twitter: @CotteridgeChurc [facebook.com/TheCotteridgeChurch](https://www.facebook.com/TheCotteridgeChurch)

Instagram [the_cotteridge_church](https://www.instagram.com/the_cotteridge_church)

The Cotteridge Church: Registered Charity No 1143091