

Roundabout



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

July 2021

Mike's message ...

History is all around us.

History is all around us. That thought has occurred to me time and time again over the last 16 months or so since Covid19 restrictions started.

For one reason it's because I've been producing weekly videos, reflecting on the week's biblical theme, and often drawing on local history to emphasis the theme. For another reason because latterly I've started trying to walk 10,000 steps most days (around five miles), and when you're out walking you see things you certainly wouldn't see when driving.



In Kings Norton, of course, there are the large prominent historic buildings around, and including St Nicolas Church. Delve deeply and they are linked to both the 15th century wool trade and, in several different ways, the 17th century English Civil War. Down the road from there the early 19th century Guillotine Locks can be found and there's also the site, although not marked, of where the Royal Mint produced coins early in the 20th century. There are smaller signs too, the marks where ropes have dug into bridge arches while pulling narrowboats along the canal. Small and large, history leaves its mark.

History is all around us, and not just geographically. It's around us in the sense of time too. History is being made as we speak. We read and learn about Tudors and Stuarts, Black Death and Civil War. Doubtless, future generations will read about the Covid-19 Pandemic. What will they make of these times? What will be the legacy that we leave as hopefully we emerge from them.

The events of history are so often just written by either the victors, in the case of war, or the rich and powerful, in the case of virtually everything else. You have to dig deeply sometimes, to find the truth. That's what lies behind much of the discussion about statues for example. People portrayed as 'the great and good' sometimes hide appalling atrocities committed by them or in their name. This isn't 'rewriting history' as some claim, it's rather revealing the truths buried in history. The legacy of Clive of India including statues in Shrewsbury and on Whitehall aren't only controversial today. It's shocking they were erected in the first place. Samuel Johnson, commenting on Clive's suspicious death said that he "had acquired his fortune by such crimes that his consciousness of them impelled him to cut his own throat". MPs impeached him from his role in the East India Company. But this isn't just about the past, Clive of India's pet tortoise only died in a Kolkata Zoo in 2006 (aged somewhere between 150 and 250!). History is that close. In fact closer. The poisoned legacy of atrocities of the past lives in the conflicts, hardships and injustices that millions face today. We live with history, warts and all.

What legacy of history will we leave for future generations? How will history remember us and the days of Covid-19? History is indeed all around. We can write it, let's hope future generations have cause to remember us well..

Friends & Family

We are sorry to tell you that Anna Drozdz has died. Anna came to our Messy Church group with her children. We send them our love and prayers at this sad time.

We send our thanks to Keith Kaye for his tribute to Edna Badland, who died in February.



Many congratulations
to Joan Clayton,
who will celebrate her 100th
birthday on 8th July

Ed: Many thanks too to all our contributors this time. It really is a bumper issue!

Running for VaccinAid - my 60-60-60 Challenge



Rather than running away from turning 60, I decided to run towards it! So in the 60 days before I reach 60 I am completing 6x 10km runs to raise money for VaccinAid. So far, I have completed five of my runs, all but one in less than 60 minutes of running. By the time you read this I hope to have done them all!

Given the Covid-19 pandemic has dominated my 60th year, I want to use this personal 60-60-60 challenge to raise funds for the huge World challenge of providing vaccines to places of greatest need by supporting

UNICEF's VaccinAid appeal. Thanks to the generosity of nearly 50 people, including several from the Cotteridge Church congregation, I have raised over £1600 so far, helped by the Pears foundation matching contributions since 9th June. Therefore, my target now is to raise £1961! Every contribution will help UNICEF to deliver 2 billion vaccines, as well as treatments, around the World this year. If you do feel able to support this cause, please sponsor me at <https://www.vaccinaid.org/60-60-60-challenge>, knowing that your contribution will be doubled by the Pears Foundation, and further increased if you can Gift Aid it.

Thank you so much if you have already sponsored me, I am humbled by your generosity!



Pam Waddell

Climate Change Emergency

What we do matters!

It really does matter... As we have seen and heard through all the coverage about Climate Emergency on TV and Radio! It's been such a reminder for us all to keep thinking and putting into action how we can make that difference.

I wonder if you are a watcher of Spring Watch?.. Chris Packham and Michaela Strachan spoke continually about our environment, how we care for it and the joy and Well-being we gain from nature. They talked about how we can help to reduce carbon emissions with the lifestyle choices we make. It's not easy but every action we choose makes a difference. **HOWEVER SMALL!**..As the series ended last Friday they challenged us all by saying in these times

"You have to be brave to lead..."

We are all called to lead both personally in our responses to climate change and through our responsibility and mission as Christians to care for our planet... so what can we focus on this month? July is reduce plastic waste month...so...

What we do matters!

Let's do this together

TARGET 3...PLASTIC FREE JULY

Here are some actions we could take to cut the big 4 uses of plastic

- *cut our use of single use plastic bags.
- *cut our use of plastic water bottles
- *try not to use take-away coffee cups
- *cut our use of straws.

As Anne-Marie Bonneau (zerowastechef.com) says..." We don't need a handful of people doing zero waste perfectly we need millions doing it imperfectly"

Let's try this month to make a difference with our use and recycling of plastic.

The Wednesday Zoomtime is very special as we worship together. We sang a challenging song last Wednesday June 16th the words so meaningful for our task ahead

"...rest for the ravaged earth. Oceans and Streams

Plundered and poisoned our future, our dreams

Lord end our madness, carelessness, greed

Make us content with the things that we need."

"... God of the Poor..Beauty for Brokenness" By Graham Kendrick

What we do matters....

Thank you

Sandra Walton

Edna Badland 16 June 1921 - 7 February 2021

We are sad to record the passing of Edna Badland on 7th February 2021, just four months before her 100th birthday.

She had a full eventful life, and was a faithful member of the Methodist Church.

Edna was born in Walsall, but apart from her first two or three years, she spent all her life in the Cotteridge and Kings Norton area. On leaving school, she entered wholeheartedly into Church activities, becoming a leader in the Cubs, and the Girls' Brigade, and later running the Women's Guild, helping with the coffee bar and the Church choir.

Her first employment was with Cadburys in various departments.

At the age of 18 years, her life changed with the death of her father, and the onset of the second world war.

Edna was left to look after her mother and her younger siblings, whilst still carrying on with her employment. At this time she was put on war production, making anti-aircraft rockets. When this work was transferred to Wales, she volunteered for work as a tram conductress. Life was difficult, looking after the home, and working shifts, and she often commenced her day at 4.00 a.m. She had many stories to tell of her life at this time - air raids, extinguishing incendiary bombs, being strafed by enemy aircraft whilst travelling along the Bristol Road in her tram. At the end of hostilities, Edna resumed her occupation at Cadburys, and found time for her love of music with the Church choir, and with the Bournville Operatic Society productions.



From 1946, when she married her husband Leonard, until his death in 1994, would have been the happiest time of her life, together with her daughter Hazel, she was able to indulge in her great love of travel.

Edna moved to the Spinney on the Redditch Road in 1997, but sadly, five or six years ago, her health began to decline; she gradually became more housebound, suffering from loss of eyesight and hearing. However Edna did not let this get her down. Often when walking down the corridor she could be heard singing hymns.

She had a great faith.

God bless you, Edna.

Enter your well earned rest after a life well lived.

Keith Kaye.

Ed: Visit the website <https://ednabadland.muchloved.com>

It is a website dedicated to her memory, and has several photos, and memories of her there. It invites donations for the Air Ambulance and RNLI in her memory.



The Cotteridge Church
Joint Church Council
Summary of Proceedings 13th April 2021

Introduction

The Meeting was held via Zoom

Key Decisions

1. It was agreed that the congregation could exit the Malvern room via the Pennine Way doors after Sunday Worship.
2. It was decided that the Coffee Bar could re-open from 17 May 2021.
3. A revised Complaints Procedure was approved by the JCC.
4. Fr Allan Clements was approved as the auditor.

Summary Proceedings

1. The meeting discussed a more flexible exit strategy after Sunday Morning Services.
2. Servicing of the hand sanitisers was discussed as they seemed to have dried up through lack of use.
3. Restarting Messy Church was discussed with an early restart via Zoom.
4. A proposal from Catering Services to re-open the Coffee Bar from 17 May with the serving of all-day breakfasts was discussed.
5. Thanks were given to those distributing spring bulbs and other materials.
6. It was noted that Peter Childs would come to the end of his tenure as Chair of Finance, Property and Management in September so another Chair would need to be appointed.
7. It was further noted that there was a build up of cash in the vestry safe which needed to be recorded and banked.
8. It was felt that the Covid notices in the Church should be re-worded to be more positive.
9. The Administrator summarised the errors in Haven Power and explained that the Church should soon be refunded.
10. As noted in the media there are changes to the marriage registration process and that the Church would need to return its registers in May.

The next meeting of the Joint Church Council will be on Thursday 10 June 2021 at 19:30.

This Summary is authorised by:

Mike Claridge (Chair of the Cotteridge Church Joint Church Council)



The Cotteridge Church
Joint Church Council
Summary of Extraordinary Proceedings 27th April 2021

Introduction

The Meeting was held via Zoom to review the Church accounts and discuss the opening of the Day Care Centre.

Key Decisions

1. The Church Accounts for 2020 were accepted by the meeting.
2. It was decided that the Day Care Centre could re-open on 24th May if a number of adjustments were made to its Risk assessment.
3. It was agreed that the Administrator should be un-furloughed for 25-hrs a week.
4. It was agreed that until 21st June 21 only previous hirers should be accepted
5. It was agreed to remove the hazard tapes from the toilet cubicles and one urinal

Summary Proceedings

1. Alex Woodhouse attended the meeting to present the Church Accounts as prepared by the diocese.
2. The meeting discussed the opening of the Day Care Centre on 24th May and the latest Risk Assessment was reviewed.
3. How long the Administrator should return from furlough was discussed.
4. When the Church should start accepting room letting was discussed
5. Restarting the 9.00am Sunday service was discussed but its venue was contentious.
6. Thanks were given to those distributing spring bulbs and other materials.

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This Summary is authorised by:

Mike Claridge (Chair of the Cotteridge Church Joint Church Council)

Our friends in Peru

We have just heard directly from them. The pandemic is hitting Peruvians hard. Peru is a beautiful country, but not rich, and its health service was unprepared and underfunded. Only about 4% of its adult population is fully vaccinated. Most of its workers have to continue working, or face starvation, and often overcrowded homes make social distancing impossible.

Penny says “Yes indeed, the govt finally came clean; from at least last July occasionally excess death statistics would hit the news, showing that the numbers stated as deaths were grossly understated. They didn’t even actually include all the deaths where covid was given as a cause, unless they had been officially reported to the epidemic centre. (Just including these would have given a number about half way between the original figures and the ones we NOW have!) It is very sad that we are now way ahead on the deaths per capita table; so many people died because there were no ICU beds or oxygen. Whilst at the beginning it was understandable that we had underestimated the number of beds needed and the amount of oxygen that was going to be required, when we got to the second wave it was rather less forgivable. Anyway, numbers are actually dropping a bit now so we hope and pray... Plus vaccination **is** happening, albeit slowly. We continue to help with material needs eg in the soup kitchens, so it’s good to have that opportunity. In the Church itself we restarted in-person prayer meetings, which is good. We DID have some services too but quite often Sundays are lockdown - elections, or to avoid family get-togethers. Yesterday Lima went down to tier 2 so hopefully we’ll restart again in July. But I HAVE had my sort-of Messy Church most Saturdays. Parents can eg go to restaurants with children, so we have tables with an adult and the family members on each table. We try to do 2 activities plus a story. A great way to see the (non-Church-going) parents!”

Juan Carlos Marces, husband of Jean Morgan’s friend Penny, posted on Facebook a paraphrase of Psalm 130 to pray for his church in Peru.

To you I call Lord
From the bottom of my anguish.
Listen, Lord, my voice!
Don’t close your ears
To the cry of my plea!
Lord if you would look at our sins
Who could stand in your presence?
But in thee we find forgiveness, for you to be revered.
Lord, all my life I have waited on you,
and I have trusted your promises.
I wait for you, Lord, with all my soul,
As the sentinels expect the morning,
As the watchers expect the new day.
People of God in Peru, trust in the Lord,
For the Lord is merciful:
In him is abundant redemption!
The Lord will save the people of God in Peru,
Of all their sins. Amen.

Ed: Let us add our voice to that.



Just 5 bars now in stock at the book centre



90p each 4 for £3.60



£24.99 recycled glass bowl
with teak root stand - one only left



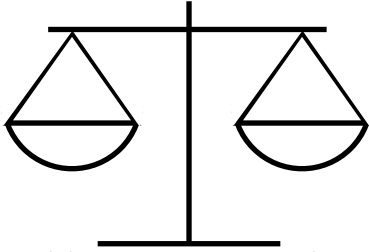
£19.99 elephant bag
we have 5 of these left



FACE MASKS £4

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WHITBY HERITAGE TRAIL

The Whitby Heritage Trail is a series of 9 life sized sculptures by local artist Emma Stothard inspired by the fishing heritage of the town. The placing of the sculptures is to encourage visitors to explore parts of Whitby they might not otherwise see.



Initially it was the Fishwife that caught our attention, she is a galvanised wire sculpture near the swing bridge in the centre of Whitby.

As we walked down Skinner Street on our first evening we came across the photographer Frank Meadow Sutcliffe who captured the very essence of everyday life particularly of local fishermen and their families.

When we found the Net Mender at the bottom of Flowergate we realised there must be more to the sculptures! Net menders were a regular site around harbours repairing the nets

Our search took us to the West Cliff to find Skipper Dora, the first female skipper of a fishing boat on the North East Coast

Each piece takes around four weeks to create. After initial sketches and models, Emma creates a steel armature – or skeleton – using box metal to create something “a bit like a stick figure” in the pose she wants.

Further along the cliff we found the Crow's Nest (invented by a Whitby sailor).





We'd walked past the Ganzey Knitter the first evening at the top end of Flowergate!

Beside the Bandstand were the Herring Lassies (gutting, salting and packing the fish in barrels), they travelled down the coast from Scotland following the shoals of fish.

Bridgander is on the East side of the swing bridge, look out for the fishermen leaning against the harbour railings sharing his knowledge and looking at the weather before determining to set sail to sea.

Finally after much searching we found Penny Hedge in church Street on the other side of the river, a man blowing a horn beside the hedge he has planted, on the eve of Ascension Day. The relic of a local medieval custom.

Roger and Jane.



Services for July and August

	4th July	11th July	18th July	25nd July	
10:30 am	Revd M. Claridge	Revd R. Collins HC	Revd M. Claridge	Revd B. Calvert HC	
	1st August	8th August	15th August	22nd August	29th August
10:30 am	Revd R. Collins	Revd B. Calvert HC	Revd M. Claridge	Revd M. Claridge HC	Revd R. Collins

Please note that at present there are no services on Sundays at 9.00 am or 6.30 p.m.

Pilgrims' Way Stage Three: May 2021

Halling - Canterbury

The Pilgrims' Way from Winchester to Canterbury was an old route 1,000 years ago, but the current route was created to mark the Millennium. Swithun, a former bishop of Winchester who died in 863 AD, requested he be laid to rest in the cathedral grounds. When they later added new buildings in 971 AD they brought his tomb inside. It supposedly rained for 40 days and nights in a meteorological protest. Pilgrims started walking to Winchester. A couple of centuries later Thomas à Becket became archbishop of Canterbury at a time when his role was to collect taxes for King Henry II. Becket renounced that role in favour of more money for the church. The phrase that has come down to us over the centuries has Henry asking 'Who will rid me of this troublesome priest?' Four knights at court obliged by riding from London to Canterbury in 1170 AD and murdered Becket inside the cathedral. This so shocked religious sensibilities he was quickly canonised. Pilgrims who had gone to Winchester to touch the shrine of St Swithun often continued 136 miles east to touch the shrine of Thomas à Becket.

We had already walked from Winchester as far as Halling on the R Medway. At the end of May we walked the remaining forty miles.

We drove to Lower Halling just south of Rochester and parked by the ruined bishops' palace in Ferry Road. Pilgrims walking in from the west would have either swum



Brother Percival, near Harrietsham



across the Medway at this point or paid for passage on a small boat before walking south (upstream) to the next town of Aylesford. We kept our feet dry by using a new bridge crossing and covered 4½ miles in about 2 hours then caught the train back. The next day we started from Aylesford parish church to get our passport stamped. One fun part of walking this route is that many churches along the way keep a unique ink stamp and pad. When you start at Winchester and tell them you are walking the route they will issue everyone with a paper 'passport'. As you pass churches on the route you can sometimes find their stamp near the

book stall, or if the church is closed you can contact the church warden and sometimes they are willing to open up and give you a guided tour plus use of their stamp. We then mostly followed the North Downs Way to Harrietsham often along roads named the 'Pilgrims' Way', calling at Detling and Thurnham parish churches by appointment. We used the train to return to our hotel.

The third day we drove up the line and walked Harrietsham-Boughton Lees before spending the night in Wye at the New Flying Horse. The name refers to a locally bred racing certainty. The next day we did the final 13 miles following the Old Canterbury Road, passing through Godmersham Park with connections to Jane Austen. As you approach Canterbury you can get a fine view of the cathedral near Harbledown, mentioned in Chaucer's Canterbury Tales. About one mile from the cathedral itself is St Dunstan's church where we picked up a penultimate stamp



before ending our walk at the cathedral. Our passports received one final stamp in the cathedral shop before some of us attended sung evensong at 5.30 pm. We came back the following morning for matins at 9.30 am then toured the cathedral before any paying visitors arrived. A lit candle marks the place where Thomas à Becket's shrine had been until 1538 AD when Henry VIII th ordered it destroyed and removed all mention of him.

It's a lovely route in a nice part of the world, and of course you can reference books full of historical information about the churches and abbeys you pass along the way interspersed with the names of kings and religious leaders 1,000 years ago.

Peter Childs May 2021



Boys' Brigade

On Friday 13th March 2020 when our normal BB night finished nobody had any idea that our next face to face activity would be 454 days later. On the 11th June 2021 Boys' Brigade



finally re-started outdoors at Kings Norton Park. Most of the boys and leaders turned up for a really good night and it seemed as if we had not been away. We will continue outdoors till the end of term and look forward to the

new session back to normal in September.

Since January the Anchors and Juniors have held Zoom meetings every Friday and we thank all the leaders involved in arranging them for the boys. Bob Hotchkiss



Ed: Many thanks also to all the BB members who have contributed articles for our magazine throughout this pandemic.

Church Flowers Update

As many of you know Lin Brown was the mainstay for the flower ministry at our church. When Lin and Laurie left for Yorkshire last August, Lin handed the mantle to me! WHAT A CHALLENGE! With the Covid restrictions in place and the church closed I didn't have to do anything, but now we are back with the building open and Face to Face worship it's time to get into action again.

I have been using silk flowers since Easter but it would be wonderful if some weeks we could have fresh flowers again. So from July I will put a rota by the doors into the Malvern room for you to sign up. If you would like to either arrange the flowers or donate for them please let me know. I have just returned from putting an arrangement of iris and carnations so I have made a start!

If you would like to share this task with me ... **Please let me know...**

I welcome ALL help and support. Thank you

Sandra Walton

A Warm Welcome Awaits at the Cotteridge Church Café



For several weeks now, the Cotteridge Church Café has been open Monday-Friday from 8.30am to 1.30pm, offering hot drinks, snacks, sandwiches, an all day breakfast menu and a hot meal option at lunchtime. We have a steady flow of customers; regulars are delighted to be back and new customers are trying us out. The busiest day is usually Tuesdays, when we are really happy to have extended our partnership with C2U with them in charge of the café on term-time Tuesdays, using it to train their students, who are doing a great job.

If you have not been back yet, we can assure you that the kitchen staff, volunteers and C2U will offer a warm welcome, whilst following Covid-safe procedures.

We are also experimenting with some new features and services that you might like to try out:

- A new addition to the menu for the summer is cream tea – scones with clotted cream and jam, and a large hot drink, all for £3
- In fine weather we have outside tables at the front, and soon we will be opening the side entrance to allow access to the newly improved garden at the back, which includes a covered area. Dogs (on lead) are welcome in the garden.
- On most Tuesdays we have books and crafts etc from C2U for sale in the Malvern Room. We will soon be selling home-make cakes too.
- For Beaumont Park residents, we are trialling a hot meal delivery service (£5 for main course and pudding). See the posters in the Beaumont Park reception area for information on menu and how to order.



The Café is an important community service we provide; in better times it also contributes to church funds, but we have not got back to that stage yet. So why not come along to support us, while enjoying a warm welcome and some tasty food and drinks. We also encourage you to tell your friends and local family about the café and, finally, we would welcome anyone who might like to volunteer in the café, we always need more help - please get in touch with

Phil Adams (volunteer coordinator - phildogster13@hotmail.com) or
Pam Waddell (catering chair pam.waddell@thecotteridgechurch.org).

Come and visit us soon - a warm welcome and good food and drink awaits!

The Catering Working Group

GOD CREATED EVERYTHING, YET NOTHING EXISTS.

Physicist Albert Einstein is believed to have arrived at his Theory Of Relativity by both straight and crooked thinking;- whether Euclidean geometry applied everywhere in space, so that the three angles of a triangle might sometimes add up to total more less or exactly 180 degrees at various times.

The statement above (the heading) is both straight and crooked thinking. This because the word 'nothing' has a multiple meaning varying with context and surrounding words. Mathematicians had to invent nothing (no thing), zero, zilch, nowt to intervene between positive and negative numerals, but in the heading here its purpose is to contrast with 'EVERYTHING'.

So the straight thinking is included to make the reader think below around and above the superficial. 'Nothing' can possess quantity. It can be nothing existing or absence of anything, no action, no activity.

It is a human propensity to measure and value things and ideas numerically and/or verbally.

You are invited to ponder and speculate, appraise and postulate:

God created everything, yet nothing exists.

Gordon Parsons.

NHS

The NHS National Thank You Day is on Sunday 4th July, the day before the NHS turns 73. Together coalition will lead a national day of thanks and recognition to celebrate the incredible work of our NHS staff, all key workers and others in our communities who have helped us through this challenging year.

<https://thankyouday.org.uk>



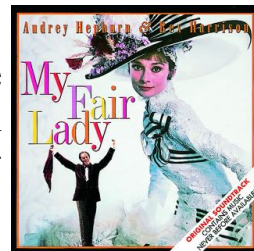
July 5th 1948 was an historic moment in our country's history. It was the day our pioneering National Health Service (NHS) was born, bringing free healthcare to everyone. We have treasured it ever since, but never more so since March 2020 when the Coronavirus pandemic gripped the UK and utterly changed all our lives.

The first NHS, Social Care and Frontline Workers' Day takes place on Monday, July 5th 2021 with a series of events involving every aspect of society and raising money for two excellent causes – NHS Charities Together, which supports 250 hospitals and their charitable trusts, and the National Care Association, representing 1.6 million workers caring for some of society's frailest citizens.

Desert Island Discs

I thought I would write something to challenge to everyone. I know that Celia sometimes worries she will not have sufficient copy to fill the pages of Roundabout so I decided to write something challenge you to help. I am the castaway. I will pick eight records and explain why they each have resonance to my life. I will then pick a book to add to the Bible and Works of Shakespeare and then choose a luxury to lift my spirits as I saunter the sands of my new home.

Disk One: ‘Wouldn’t it be lovely’ from ‘My Fair Lady’ by Lerner and Loewe (best sung by Marni Nixon from the film soundtrack). When I was little, we always had a Radiogram - it was a piece of furniture dominating the living room. We had a limited number of records - “Good Time Cha Cha: which my father had borrowed from a friend and never returned, my brother’s only single ‘Midnight in Moscow’ by Kenny Ball, bought, from the Record Shop in West Heath, and my mother’s much loved huge collection of Lerner and Loewe Musicals. I only liked ‘My Fair Lady’ and I used to sing along when the words ‘It’s Rather Dull in Town, I think I’ll take me to Paris, Hmm’ echoed around the room. So, I choose this record because it reminds me of my Mother and my idyllic childhood.



Disk two: ‘The Ellan Vannin Tragedy’ performed by The Spinners.

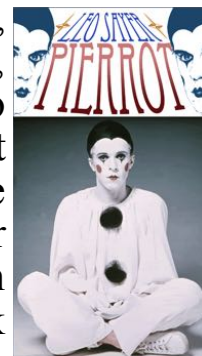


When I was at Junior School it was at the height of the second folk revival so when we sang along to school’s radio it was always folk songs, and I can still remember mystifying my mother with the request from one of my school teachers to come the next day with a pair of white pocket handkerchiefs. It was so he could teach my class how to Morris Dance. As a family we very rarely went to live music events, but

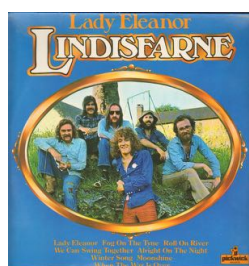
we never missed a concert by The Spinners. We took our summer holidays in Wales until 1965, after which we often went to the Isle of Man, Initially, I think, at the insistence of my brother who wanted to see the steam trains. Once we went to see the Southern Hundreds Races in Castletown, in July, and I have been hooked on Motorcycle Road Racing ever since. So, I choose this record to remember my time at Junior School and happy, always sunny, holidays in dear Ellan Vannin.

Disk Three: ‘The Show Must Go On’ by Leo Sayer performed by Leo Sayer.

As I entered Secondary School my own musical tastes began to form, mainly through watching “Top of the Pops”. Thursday night was sacred, first I watched that and then ‘Tomorrow’s World’ and you needed to watch both or face ostracism at school the next day, because you couldn’t join in any conversations. I loved Leo Sayer, - the stage presence in the white make-up and Pierrot costume and the oversized gloves. I remember clutching my pocket money in my hand as I travelled into Birmingham City Centre to buy ‘About a Boy’ - the first album I ever bought. This disk reminds me of distinct person in my own right.



Disk Four: ‘Lady Eleanor’ by Alan Hull performed by Lindisfarne.



There were two distinct cliques in my class at secondary school, those who thought Free were the best rock band in the world and those that thought it was Lindisfarne, you can guess which clique I was in, but don’t tell anyone, the first single I ever bought was ‘All Right Now’, even today I feel like a traitor. Many years later I remember being at

The Red Lion Folk Club in Kings Heath listening to the Albion Band when the news of Alan Hull's death broke. Julie Matthews said "We will be thinking of you, Alan, which ever place you're in" and Simon Nicol said "Oh I think we can be sure where he is" and the audience burst out laughing, knowing Hull's reputation.

This record is chosen to remind me of my days at secondary school where I was always looked on as an angel by the teachers, unlike junior school where I was thought of as the devil incarnate and eventually sent to a child psychologist. Happy days!

Disk Five: 'Now Be Thankful' by Dave Swarbrick and Richard Thompson performed by Fairport Convention.



I remember when my musical tastes changed, literally overnight. It was a Thursday during advent 1973 and I was sitting in front of the television watching Top of the Pops when the studio light went down and five figures dressed in long white shifts and carrying large white candles singing a 16th century Carol, in Latin, a cappella. When I got to school the next day, I couldn't stop raving about what I had heard. On the Saturday I collected up all my pocket money and rushed to the Birmingham City Centre and bought every Steeleye Span album I could find. I learnt the history of the band and how it had been founded by a Bass Player called Ashley 'Tiger' Hutchings. a founder member of Fairport Convention and who now had a new band, The Albion Band. I have seen various line-ups of Steeleye, Fairport and the Albion over the years - all good. The most amazing reality television format yet invented was 'Ridge Riders' a programme combining Classic Motorcycles, Folk Music and Archaeology. Television doesn't get much better than that. The Folk Music was provided Chris While, of the Albions, Phil Beer, of Show of Hands and, of course Ashley Hutchings, who wrote a new song every week for each episode.

I selected this record to acknowledge one of Ashley's bands and the song writing talents of Swarbrick and Thompson. "Now be Thankful to your Maker".

Disk Six: 'Tequila Sunrise' by Don Henley and Glenn Frey performed by The Eagles.



When I went to work as a Computer Operator for Lucas Industries, I spent most of each shift in the air conditioned, windowless, environs of the Computer Rooms, listening to the hum of large blue boxes, we were an IBM shop. Before I was taken on, some of my fellow Operators demanded something to compensate for the poor working conditions and were allowed to buy a Cassette Tape player and an Amplifier. They also gave them a small amount of money to go to

HMV to buy some tapes. Unfortunately for most of my colleagues they gave the money to Phil, who had an unusual taste in music and during a period of 'New Wave', 'Two Tone' and 'Ska' came back clutching Cassettes by Fairport Convention, Richard Thompson and the Eagles. It was the first time I had heard The Eagles, but I was bowled over by the songs and the singing voice of Don Henley. I was told the whole computing complex knew when I was on mountable disk duty because the building rang with The Eagles being played at full blast. I remember hearing Tony Blair saying on Desert Island Discs that if he could play guitar like Robert Johnson he would not be in politics and I thought, yes, and If I could sing like Don Henley, I would not be in IT! I picked this record to remind me of my friends at Lucas and my forty-two-year career in what I still insist on calling Data Processing

Disk Seven: 'Down to the River to Pray' Traditional performed by Alison Krauss and Union Station.

Although I was very close to my late brother, we were dramatically different. I am tall and angry; he was short and calm. He loved steam railways; I like Motorcycle Road Racing. Musically we had very different tastes, I like English Folk-Rock and Country my brother liked, well not a lot in actuality, But the



one artist he loved was Alison Krauss. I am not sure why and personally I don't like her music. But I had them play 'Down to the River to Pray' at his funeral as I know he would have liked that. Although I don't like Krauss I do like the song and can remember walking through the echoing halls of my employer's headquarters building in Farnborough singing it at the top of my voice and getting some strange looks.

So, this is for my beloved brother, who I miss dearly and think about every day.

Disk Eight: 'Bible and a .44' by Ashley McBryde performed by Ashley McBryde.

Let's get up to date. I found a new television channel a few years ago on Virgin-Media called 'Total Country' and when I got back each night after visiting my brother in his care home I used to tune in to it and immerse myself in Country Music. I can't say I liked much of the music as Taylor Swift has ruined the genre by moving it to popular cross-over music, it's where the money is, apparently! Some songs



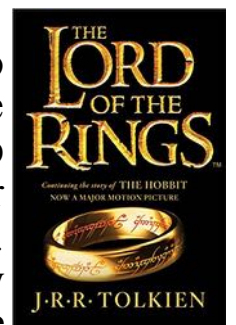
were good though, and I used to look forward to them playing 'The Dixie Chicks' or 'Kenny Chesney', but the one artist I was always hoping to hear was 'Ashley McBryde'. She is the exact opposite of Swift, a short, chubby, brunette covered in tattoos, but she sings real country songs with a real country voice. I have been obsessing on her music ever since I first heard her, and hoping she will play Birmingham at some time, which she hasn't as yet. If you have watched the film 'Wild Rose' starring my name sake Julie Walters, you will have seen McBryde, as she was the singer in the booth doing a session at the BBC for Bob Harris.

Strangely enough I returned home after my brother's funeral, switched on the Television only to find out that the 'Total Country' channel had closed down. It was only there while I needed it.

So, I pick this record as it represents the future and moving forward with life.

The Book: 'The Lord of the Rings' by J.R.R. Tolkien.

Every time I listen to Desert Island Discs, I think it's very unfair you get to choose eight records, but only one book. I am being castaway on a remote island, with no hope of rescue. So, I need to pick a book which can keep me occupied for ever. So, I have selected a book which can be read over and over again with enjoyment, I have already read the "Rings" six times. I remember the first time I read it was during English in Secondary School. I am not a quick reader, but I am dogged and used to complete the



set books when I was given them, returning to school, to ask what I should read next, get quizzed on the book I was claiming I had read. A lot of my school mates used to claim they had read then, without doing so, and get told to see if I could find something in the stockroom. I remember coming home with a dog-eared copy of Geoffrey Household's 'Rogue Male' and my brother seizing it and showing me where he had made notes in the margin when he read the same copy.

Eventually, in exasperation my teacher gave me permission to read "The Lord of the Rings" in school time, just to keep me quiet. I remember getting told off by him, because I had just got into Shakespeare and he caught me reading the "Rings" with a copy of "Measure for Measure" hidden inside the cover.

The Luxury: Russian Caravan Tea, - Kettle, Tea Pot, Cup and Saucer.

There is nothing as refreshing as a good cup of tea and the Russian Caravan Blend you can purchase from the Kings Norton Farmers' Market is the finest you can get. Life would be intolerable without as soothing cup of tea, drunk from a proper cup and saucer.

So, there is the challenge, who wants to be next to describe their life in eight records and a book?

Neil Walters

Ed: Do you remember Michael Blood taking Roy Plomley's part and interviewing Joe Stephens in the Friends Meeting House, to raise funds for the rebuilding of our church?

Church Garden

I wanted to let you know that C2U have been working hard on the church garden. Weeding, potting, painting and sanding furniture and cutting back. All looking good.

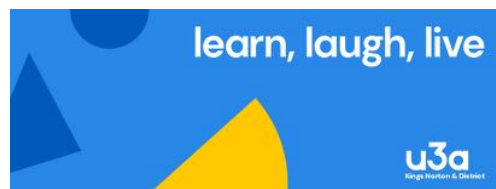
Mandy Parkes



Many thanks to C2U for all their hard work. We really do appreciate it. It is also very encouraging to see the preparation which indicates that we shall actually be able to use and enjoy our garden again soon.

LOCAL u3a SEES POST-LOCKDOWN UPSURGE OF INTEREST

Founded four years ago, the Kings Norton & District u3a has flourished, with membership now running at around 250. It has developed a remarkable and very broad range of 39 interest groups from Architecture to Bird Watching, from Family History to Keyboard Playing. As the country progresses out of the Covid crisis, the Kings Norton & District branch of the u3a, the 'lifelong learning' organisation, is experiencing a surge in membership enquiries.



We particularly look forward to seeing new members who may have felt very isolated recently," says Lorna Brown: "Non-members can come to the monthly meetings as guests, to see what we do." To find out more visit www.u3asites.org.uk/kingsnorton

Invitation to SPARK (monthly discussion group)

For several years a group of about eight of us have been meeting monthly on Sunday evenings to discuss and explore a range of topics around Christian life and teachings. We light-heartedly called ourselves SPARK (Spiritual People Accessing Religious Knowledge). With an open and trusting environment, helped by coffee and cake when we can, SPARK has enabled us to explore our beliefs and faith in action at a deeper level, through self-led online courses or books. The original group comprised Young Church leaders, but the membership has evolved over time, and we are now keen to open the idea up to more people by splitting and seeding two groups, keeping to small groups to enable inclusive discussion.



Anyone who is interested has the option of joining one of two groups from September (subject to any household mixing restrictions), both meeting on the first Sunday in the month:

1. To meet in members' homes (rotating basis) at 7.45 for 8pm, with numbers limited to eight.
2. To meet in church at 7.30pm (or following the evening service if appropriate).

Both groups will follow the same course, from September this will be based on the film 'I Daniel Blake'. The plan is for the two groups to meet altogether at church from time to time, so the provisional schedule is:

5th September: joint meeting at church to watch the film

3rd October: Session 1

7th November: Session 2

5th December: joint Christmas (social) meeting

2nd January: Session 3

6th February: Session 4

6th March: Session 5



If you are interested in joining one of the groups, please contact Jane Stephens (jane.stephens@thecotteridgechurch.org.uk or 07800 815074) or Pam Waddell (pam.waddell@thecotteridgechurch.org.uk) and let us know your preference for the home or church based group and we will allocate on a 1st-come, first-served basis.

Come and join us to explore our faith together!

It is with great sadness that we mark the death of Bert Gedin, one of our longest serving, most loyal members – Bert could always be relied upon to turn up – and to ask the question that so many of us were thinking, but didn't ask. A number of us attended his simple funeral service at Rowley Regis Crematorium. As always, it was hard saying goodbye to a much loved friend.



Diary Dates

Monday 12th July - 8.00pm - Sikh led Faith & Reflection – everyone welcome.

Thursday 22nd July - 2.30pm – BCF:Faiths Promoting Health & Wellbeing Forum.

At the May meeting, we discussed the ICS (Integrated Care System; Safeguarding in Faith Settings, Cruse Bereavement Service; Covid Recovery; Community Stroke Rehabilitation; Public Involvement in Biomedical Research; Community Network Support Officers; and Unity FM 93.5 Connecting Communities.

Mon 13th September, 7.00pm – BCF AGM, when Shenaz Sajan will be installed as our new Chair, everyone welcome. More details in the next issue.

If you are interested in attending and/or have an item that you would like us to discuss, please contact me on **pjrookes@gmail.com**.

Project 3D

Project 3D Funding Competition opens on 7th June and will issue grants of up to £10,000

for projects focussing on a wide range of areas including behaviour change, air pollution, transport, energy and health. To apply, organisations should be not-for-profit and legally incorporated. The funding is aimed at community based projects which use data to target interventions, and have defined and measurable outcomes to help reduce Birmingham's carbon emissions.

Some example project ideas:

- *A community energy group wants to install more solar PV.*
- *A health charity want to install outdoor gym equipment in parks working with communities with high levels of obesity.*
- *A foodbank is looking to start some vegetable growing projects for their customers.*

We'd like to see applications from a broad range of Birmingham based groups representative of the diverse city, so we'd be very grateful if you could share this funding opportunity with other community groups. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact us to discuss, as we're keen to make the application process as smooth as possible.

https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20015/environment/2026/climate_emergency/4



Footsteps

Faiths for a Low Carbon Future





“Do I get a choice?”

One of the things that has significantly changed at B30 Foodbank over the last 18 months, is the amount of choice a client now has in the food they are given. Pre-covid, our “Meeters and Greeters” chatted with the client and worked through the food list with them, and made it as personal a list as was possible given the circumstances of it being a foodbank and not a shopping trip.

As soon as we moved to delivery (Spring 2020), we had to move to pre-packed bags as well. To compensate for the lack of individual client-volunteer conversation, we put in one of each of some items, instead of either/or (e.g. tea AND coffee; rice AND pasta shapes) and bag packers got very thoughtful at putting in a variety of soups, a mixture of crisp flavours, etc. Very soon, those taking the voucher details began to ask vital questions of those referring: e.g: did the client eat meat, did the client require additional household/toiletry items, etc. As time has progressed, and particularly now the clients are coming to collect their food again, there is a little more conversation, and a small amount of “tailoring” can be done to the food parcels - but, the level of choice is definitely still less than it was.



And then you compare it with how you might do your own shopping. Do you do it to a tight budget, and go for the lowest price possible on each item, including scouring the “reduced shelf” for potential purchases? Do you do it going for all British grown/made? Do you do it for Fair Trade? Do you aim for plastic-free? The options and combinations are endless, but you get the idea.

And more basically than any of the above; does the client get the choice of coming to the foodbank in the first place? When you literally have no money for food, because it has all gone on essential bills such as rent and utilities, you are left with no choice but to ask for food from an agency such as a foodbank. So many of our clients are left in impossible situations: e.g. wages are too low to cover essentials, and benefit claims to “stop the gap” take too long to actually kick-in. They have no choice but to come to a foodbank.



It isn't right that anyone should be forced to use a charity for the essentials.



Those of us who DO have the choice, have the associated responsibility to use our voting and lobbying powers to change things. One of the big advantages of being affiliated to the Trussell Trust is that they use the data from each participating foodbank to lobby and to inform government of the real situation. Challenging inaccurate and derogatory stereotypes of clients is also vital: especially if made by local or national leaders.

And never take for granted, the privilege of having a choice.

Sylvia Fox B30 Foodbank



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Large print issue is available to download from our web site.

Your Editor from January 2017 is Celia Lester

Please send copy for the next edition by 26th August 2021.
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