

Roundabout



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

March 2022

Mike's message ...

Lent and Easter

This year the March/April edition of 'Roundabout' covers all of the period of Lent and Easter itself. It's a season of great contrast, from the penitence of Ash Wednesday (2nd March) to the joyous proclamation of 'Christ is Risen!'

He is Risen indeed! on Easter Day (17th April).



But I'm going to start my words this month focussing on the final Sunday of February because, in a very real sense, that is where the Lenten journey begins.

The Bible readings on 'The Sunday next before Lent' (27th February this year) include an account of The Transfiguration. That's the account in the Gospels (Matthew 17.1-23; Mark 9.2-37; Luke 9.28-48) when on a mountain top Peter, James and John witness Jesus' appearance shining like the sun. Added to which they have visions of the long-dead prophets Moses and Elijah. Hardly surprisingly they don't know what to make of this. Peter fumbles and mumbles about building stone cairns to remember the event and, as he is doing so, a voice is heard, seemingly from a cloud, saying "this is my beloved son, listen to him". They look at Jesus who simply says "You mustn't tell anyone about this!". When you think about it that must have left them somewhat frustrated.

The Transfiguration is a glimpse of God's radiance and glory in the person of Jesus Christ. If you look at the references I gave you'll see they include much more. From the heights of glory the disciples and Jesus return to the nitty gritty of reality. There's a troubled boy and an anxious dad to deal with, and it's in that healing that God's greatness is again glimpsed in the person of Jesus.

The disciples must have been elated. Glory, wonder, awe and popularity. Jesus then puts a stick in their spokes as it were. "I'm going to Jerusalem to die" he said, which no doubt poured water on the fire of their enthusiasm somewhat. They turn inward and start arguing about which of them is the greatest. Jesus borrows a child, places the child in their midst and says something along the lines of "Be like this little one, greatness is found in humility".

The road to Jerusalem that lies ahead, will be one of humility. It leads to suffering, death and resurrection. In The Transfiguration God's glory was glimpsed in a vivid way. In the journey to the cross it is seen again, in love poured out by Jesus Christ for you and me. A love that cannot be extinguished.

Have a holy Lent and a joyous Easter. God is with us.

Friends & Family

We were sad to hear that Jean Purdy died in mid January. Our prayers and good wishes go to her family and friends. Jean lived at Beaumont Park so it wasn't far to walk round to the church on Sunday. During the week Jean could be found in the Pennine Way, reading a magazine or talking to friends, with her cup of tea. The volunteers always remembered she liked it weak. Jean had been a pupil at Kings Norton Girls Grammar School and enjoyed sports. She loved watching wild life programmes , especially Country File, and she had a passion for dogs, especially Golden Retrievers.

In the January edition we recorded that Irene Spooner had died. In this edition we have the tribute for her, given by the Revd Ros Murphy.

Linda Mann is planning to start the WEF meetings again soon. Please contact her for details.

We are planning to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, and are appealing for ideas and helpers. Please volunteer to one of the ministers.

Pennine Way Trips with Rita.

Wed. 23 March Hartlebury Castle, near Kidderminster. Depart 12.30 £18



Wed. 6 April Guide Dogs Puppies Leamington Depart 12.30 £19



Wed. 11 May Bourton on the Water. Depart 12.30 £15

£5 deposit is required for each trip. See Rita Sutton or leave your name & phone



number in "S" pigeon hole.

More trips later.

Rita Sutton

News from Knit and Natter

Knitting and nattering continues with enthusiasm 10.30 – 12 noon on Thursdays. We've been very pleased to welcome new members such that it is sometimes a squash to fit round the table. These last few weeks we have been knitting daffodils in preparation for Mothering Sunday and they have really brightened up the winter mornings.



June Gregory kindly sent us a pattern for little chicks and we will soon have a large flock – each one to be filled with a Cadbury's Creme Egg. But before we get to Easter you are invited to join the

Lent Knitalong!

Welcome to our Lent Knitalong! Victoria Methodist Church in Bristol is hosting their third Lent Knitalong and are excited to be joined this year by knitters all around the UK (and some further afield!) Participants will receive weekly emails split into daily segments, each containing a daily reflection and a couple of rows of knitting pattern (or knitting 'clues'). The exact design of the knitting pattern is a surprise, but knitters will create a cushion cover which can be sewn up on Easter day. The daily reflections and meditations have very kindly been written by Ministers, local preachers and worship leaders in the Bristol area and beyond. Schedule: Reflections and knitting clues for the first week of Lent (Weds 2nd - Sat 5th March) will be emailed out on Monday 28th February. Thereafter, you will receive emails each Friday during Lent for the following Sunday - Saturday (apart from the final week, which will also include Easter day)

What a great initiative! No great knitting skills are required. To join simply email:

learning@vic-methodist-bristol.org.uk

and if you do facebook you can join the group: Vic Methodist Bristol Lent Knitalong 2022. And our next knitting project? Queen and Corgis! To be displayed at the Platinum Jubilee Garden party 1.30- 4.30pm Saturday 4th June

Barbara Calvert

CHURCH GARDEN

We are planning to create a "Platinum Garden" for the 2022 Queen's Jubilee Celebration. Opening on June 4th, there will be a Summer Fair/Garden Party, when the new/renewed/ renamed Garden will, hopefully, be in bloom.

[See Sarah's article later]

A Silver Birch tree is to be planted at the front of our building, along with new flower planters & possibly small raised beds to help make Cotteridge a "green space"

The side & main back garden will have a Wall Mural painted by C2U, a water feature & raised beds for vegetables as well as flowers - all part of the overall design.

We need helpers!!

Please contact Sarah Molloy, Barbara Calvert or Chris Pascal. This is a Garden for everyone to enjoy!!

Many thanks.

Chris Pascal.



Remembering Irene

Reading a review of Irene's life and activities makes me aware that she was very much a 'brummy' born, bred, educated, employed and spending the rest of her life in that city. But more than that, she was essentially a Bournvillite - if there is such a word - living much of the time in Kingsley Road or not very far away.

Being the middle one of three sisters she learned early to relate to others and it is no surprise to me to hear these words about her- supportive, kind, a rock for those in difficulty, consideration of the needs of others, having time for everyone, compassionate, thoughtful very fair, reliable, developing many home-based skills for which she is remembered.

Her employment though included management skills in the Domestic Bursar field, eventually with responsibility for all non-academic arrangements at St Andrew's Hall, one of three Selly Oak Colleges where she worked. She must have been devastated when this kind of work came to an end with the closure of that college.

Irene must have been keeping an eye open for further managerial work because when the Cotteridge church advertised for a new administrator, Irene applied. This is a very unusual church with Anglicans, Methodists and members of the United Reformed Church working together as one unit, in one building, focussing on community care for anyone who comes through the door, as well as the usual spiritual activities. Although Irene was not a church member, she fitted so well into this role. Church life has changed enormously so that many ministers have to spend much of their time on administrative work, neglecting the care and spiritual needs of people.

Irene was in a way, the answer to a prayer, for she fitted the bill so expertly. She already knew a lot but also knew where to find any information lacking, all filed meticulously so that she could locate it at short notice. But Irene did more than this. The church is open daily with a coffee and lunch bar, in those days, two-day centres for the elderly. It became a place for lonely, needy people to gather, often daily - and Irene was there, ready to listen, summon one of the three ministers - or the police if necessary! Working with her was such a privilege and she continued to be there long after I left, sometimes having to struggle with the conflicts of interest which are almost inevitable in large institutions. I can think of situations with which I would not have known what was needed, but together, we were often able to provide help, sometimes through the external agencies which Irene could locate.

But Irene's employment was only part of her life. While she was able, her garden was a real joy to her, often leading to Facebook pictures, sharing her delight in plants, but then there were also images of sewing, crocheting, crafting, often making gifts for others. Nine boxes of hand-made Christmas decorations in the loft must have been quite an achievement! Her early interest in catering stayed with her, cooking both for her family and for friends. Her skills were certainly not just administrative.

I don't think that I ever saw a photograph of Irene, though I can picture her friendly face in my mind. It is therefore not surprising to hear that her major dislike was having her photograph taken!



An email which she sent to me from her bed in Moundsley Hall revealed that she had been suffering for quite a long time, certain that it was cancer, so having decided to ignore it and let it take its course. By the time I heard from her, she described what she could remember and what she had been told of the major trauma on April 6th 2021 and subsequent induced coma because of very serious complications. She told me how much weight she had lost, and all the things she could no longer do or indeed have any prospect of doing, despite various attempts to rehabilitate her. The hope that she expressed was to be able to return to Kingsley Road, probably bed-ridden, but there was no sense of self-pity, though she was sad that Barry's visits had only been allowed to be very few. Even then, she was anxious about his well-being.

A well-loved Methodist hymn, which she probably never heard, seems to me to be about people like Irene. It expresses the view that 'God is calling up his angels - but his angels here are human, not the shining hosts above, for the drumbeats of God's army are the heartbeats of our love'.

There are many people like Irene who do not find the institutional church relevant and yet they live such caring lives - including those described as 'the amazing angels in ICU when Irene was unable to communicate with her family. They not only looked after her and saved her life but sat reading out her families' messages to her and found time to speak to Barry two or three times a day'.

How much our world needs those human angels. Despite the sadness of today, we are able to be thankful for all that Irene did. The world is certainly a better place because she has been here.

Rest in peace Irene. You will long be remembered and loved.

Ros Murphy

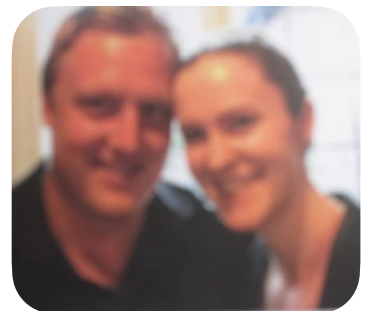
Boys' Brigade



Ian Sherwin who has been with the BB since the age of 5, was married recently in Stratford upon Avon and everybody in the company send their congratulations.



Finlay has now completed his badgework for the president's award, and this will be presented in Church to him



Alex, a member of our Junior Section, read for the first time at the February Church Parade Service, and did an excellent reading. We hope this is the first of many.

We may be short of numbers at present, but all the leaders and boys are keen and hope our

numbers pick up in due course

Bob Hotchkiss.



Climate Change Emergency

..What we do matters!

It really does matter...we can all see in our weather forecasts and news coverage the effects of climate change in our country and around the world..

I know we are all finding ways of helping our planet in our daily lives. What we do as individuals does make a difference.....however small. Hope you managed to think of an Eco-resolution.

Just two ways we can make a difference...

This month marks the 25th annual Fairtrade Fortnight. Events are planned with the proceeds going to support farmers in Ethiopia, Kenya and Honduras giving them the opportunity to work in an environmentally friendly way. We are a Fair trade Church and Roger has always got a wonderful range of goods ...so **LET'S SUPPORT FAIRTRADE**

The second suggestion is about **Earth Hour on MARCH 26TH** Every year at **8:30 pm** millions of people across the world show their support for our planet, raising awareness of nature loss and climate change, the two biggest threats facing our Earth.

IDEAS FOR EVERYONE

- GET SOME CANDLES READY and Switch off all non-essential lights for one hour.
- Have dinner if you are eating at that time - by candlelight.
- Have a night of Board Games ...or stories - by candlelight
- Go out and look at the night sky and think about what we can do to save our Planet.

There are now 192 countries taking part in this initiative...so try and take part knowing it is making that difference. There is lots of information online at www.earthhour.org

Then it will be Earth Day on April 22nd .information on that next month. So thank you for reading this and being ready to make that difference together.

KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK EVERYONE

What YOU are doing is making a difference!

Sandra Walton

Cathedral Cycle Challenge

In the summer of 2021 Cycling UK, the British Pilgrimage Trust, Sustrans and the Association of English Cathedrals launched the Cathedrals Cycle Challenge. A cycling friend and I decided that there could be no better way to celebrate our significant birthdays next year than to take up the challenge to cycle to all 42 English Cathedrals in the year ahead.

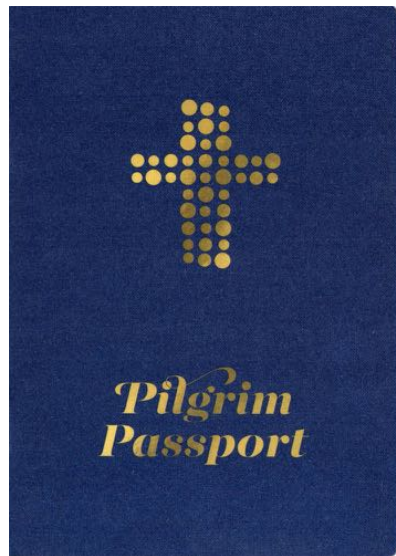
Birmingham Cathedral was our first port of call and from there we cycled along the Birmingham and Fazeley canal, through Sutton Park and along the quiet lanes of Staffordshire. The famous three spires of Lichfield Cathedral guided us in, and we were welcomed warmly at the Cathedral. Just 19 miles from Birmingham this will probably have been our shortest ride.

Worcester to Coventry was next on the list. The cold chill of the day with the black silhouette of distant trees against a grey sky reminded me that it was St Agnes' Eve, made famous by John Keats poem:

‘St Agnes’ Eve – Ah, bitter chill it was!
The owl, for all his feathers, was a-cold;
The hare limped trembling through the frozen grass,
And silent was the flock in woolly fold:
Numb were the Beadsman’s fingers, while he told
His rosary, and while his frosted breath,
Like pious incense from a censer old,
Seem’d taking flight for heaven, without a death,
Past the sweet Virgin’s picture, while his prayer he saith...’

Since then we have done Derby to Leicester, and Gloucester to Hereford, and Hereford to Worcester.

Storm Franklin made the ride from Gloucester to Hereford more challenging as we cycled into a gale force wind but it is all great fun.



We have a Pilgrims Passport which is stamped at each cathedral. On the last page of the passport there is a Thomas Merton prayer which begins, ‘My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going.’ Which made me smile as we do take a wrong turning occasionally.



But on the back of the Passport is the Gaelic blessing,

May the road rise to meet you.

May the wind be always at your back’

Now that is something I do hope for on our cycling adventures.

Barbara Calvert

Join us at The Cotteridge Church
as we celebrate Mothers' Day and honour all of the
wonderful women and motherly figures around us.

Celebrating Mothers' Day
Thursday 24th March 2022 - 11.00 am

The Cotteridge Church Day Centre and C2U invite you
to join them for a celebration of Mother's Day
Music and Song, Story and Reflections
Everyone is welcome

Mothering Sunday Celebration
Sunday 27th March 2022 - 10.30 am

Join us for an All Age Service
Bring along a photo of your mother
or the person who raised and cared for you to
help us make a display during the service.
[all photos will be returned]
Look out for the famous knitted daffodils and
chicks!

COTTERIDGE CHURCH BOOKCENTRE
TRAIDCRAFT'S NEW CATALOGUE IS NOW AVAILABLE



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new product

RASPBERRY Jam £4.99



Easter Cards £6.00



Easter Eggs

£5.00



£5.95



£10.00



£4.05

or Pick up a Catalogue and to place orders tell Roger or Jane?



**How would you feel
if you had no option but to take on a debt,
then had no control over when
or how to pay this back?**



Our social security system is meant to protect us and yet the very system intended to support people in being able to afford the essentials, is dragging people deeper into debt. Design flaws within Universal Credit, such as the five-week wait for a first payment, are pushing people into impossible decisions where they are caught between taking on more debt in the form of an Advance Payment, or cutting out essentials such as food and heating.

And like all loans, this must be paid back. But the amount deducted off people's monthly payments often leaves them with no option but to use a food bank, with their incomes cut by up to a quarter.

Similarly, when the benefit system makes overpayments by mistake, people have to pay this back too, but they are often powerless as to when or how the money is clawed back by the government. This would not be allowed in the private sector.

Nearly half of people referred to food banks in the Trussell Trust network are in debt to the government.

This simply isn't right.

In pioneering work, co-produced with people on Universal Credit, our latest research project aimed to understand how government debt is driving food bank use. Through the project we heard how people are often pulled deeper into poverty and feel the social security system fails to treat them with basic respect.

We want change. Not only to ensure that our social security system doesn't pull people under, but also so that people are treated with the dignity and respect that they deserve, and can, at the very least afford the essentials.

This is part of Trussell Trust campaign against universal credit.

B30 Foodbank on January 19th submitted a charity application which on the 21st January was approved. Now known as B30 and South Birmingham Foodbank, it will take time to change everything over. We are still part of the Trussell trust. The major advantage is that we now have our own charity number for fundraising

Roger

Fair Trade Quiz

1. When was the first Fairtrade banana sold?
2. Which town was first in the world to achieve Fairtrade status?
3. The first fair trade label was called Max Havelaar, after a character from a novel written in the 19th century. From English folklore, who was the character of Max Havelaar similar to?
4. Fairtrade (one word) and fair trade (two words) mean two different things. True or false?
5. How many countries across the world are fair trade products sold in?
A. 57 B. 98 C. 120
6. In what year did Traidcraft Co-found the Fairtrade Foundation?
7. What is the name of the world's only fair trade, organic palm oil?
A. FairPalm B. FairPlay C. Fair&Square
8. What is the minimum total Fairtrade ingredients content required to receive the Fairtrade Foundation's Fairtrade Mark?
9. Which of these products can not be Fairtrade certified?
A. Rubber B. Coffee C. Fish
10. Which Traidcraft product was the first to go 100% transparent?

SO, HOW DID YOU DO?

10 points - Wow, impressive. You're a fully-fledged fair trade genius.

7 - 9 points - Get you!

You certainly know your stuff when it comes to all things fair trade.

4 - 6 points - Good effort, with a little bit of work you could be top of the class!

1 - 3 points - It's the taking part that counts, right?

0 points - That's a fair trade fail from us!

9. Fish; 10. Coffee;
1. 2000; 2. Garstang; 3. Robin Hood; 4. True; 5. c; 6. 1992; 7. a; 8. 20%;

Answers

Where now for Cotteridge Church?

For over 40 years the Cotteridge church has acted as a focus for local church life and community.

The period of covid closures, adaptation and challenges has hit reset on what is possible and is to be expected.

The Church Council, alongside many quiet conversations have all identified a wish to not just restart what happened before. Friends have moved on, patterns of meeting have stopped. New things have become possible.

So, we invite everyone in the church to come and spend a day together for a time of community reflection and building.

We'll be gathering at Four Oaks Methodist Church on Saturday 25th June. The church is very close to Four Oaks Station. A train from Kings Norton goes straight through to Four Oaks. A suitable train time would be the 9.16am from Kings Norton. This would arrive Four Oaks 9.58am. Coffee at Four Oaks on arrival ready to start the planned day at 10.30am. The day will finish by 4pm.

We'll be taking time to think and share what, for you, is the heart of Cotteridge Church? What does it do well in ways that feed you spiritually or serve you practically?

Nobody knows what the future holds. But it's hoped, by the end of the day, we will have shared as a church community how we wish to navigate this together.

Following the day, the Church Council will be able to take the thoughts, hopes and dreams expressed and use them in discerning the way forward. The Church Council will then be able to produce a plan for us to work to. All our denominations encourage this as a process, for example the Church of England - Birmingham talks about a 'Transforming Church Action Plan'. Ours though will be an ecumenical process and document.

See you there.

P.S. Nearer the time a booking form will be available from Sarah (Administrator) so we can be sure of who is coming. There is no charge.

Barbara Calvert

[Four Oaks Methodist Church

155 Lichfield Road, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands B74 2UU]



Four Oaks
Methodist Church





Platinum Jubilee Garden Party

With 2022 marking the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, we're getting very excited and want to bring the community together to celebrate the momentous occasion.

It has been decided that we will hold a Summer Garden Party here at the church on Saturday 4th June, 1:30pm – 4:30pm.

We are hoping to tie the party in with the completion of our garden project so it will be a double celebration for us!

It's been far too long since we've been able to comfortably think about social gatherings. And so, as we move on, what better way to get everyone together than to celebrate Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth and her 70 years on the throne!

We will be holding our very own 'Platinum Pudding Competition' so we are calling on our avid bakers and pastry chefs to start thinking of a culinary creation that is fit for a queen.

As with all events around the church, they are only possible when people come together and work as a team. I know that many of you enjoy helping out and so I would ask anyone who hasn't already done so, to come and see me about jobs that are available and how you can get involved.

Whether you are a royalist or not we want to create an atmosphere for everyone to enjoy.

Think of a sun-drenched afternoon, good company, cream teas & music playing..... I'm already looking forward to it!

Sarah Molloy

From our Friends in Peru

Jean Morgan has received their January Newsletter, and thought we might enjoy sharing some of it.

Marcés Mailing

New Year Greetings to all. We start by recommending you to listen to the BBC podcast about Peru [<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/brand/b006qt55>] It gives a good idea of the situation in El Nazareno, and it was interesting to hear things emphasised which we take for granted!

We **could** and **did** meet in Church at Christmas with the protocol of vaccination carnet, face masks etc. It is so much more satisfactory than online attempts [internet is unreliable, and many have no access] It was wonderful to welcome the parents - not churchgoers, but accompanying their children. Children in the Diocese had a treat at Christmas. We had a gift to buy presents for them all. For some this was the only present they received,





such is the economic situation here. Each child was also given the booklet “What is Christmas?”- the greatest gift is Jesus!

Communal kitchens are still a huge help to many, and we are thankful for the funding to support some of them. Two we are involved with in the El Nazareno area have just had their turn in receiving two months’ aid from a supermarket chain. This really involves what the

supermarket has not sold: soft tomatoes, rice in bags with a hole in etc.

Online schooling has been the only option for two years now, but it has not worked as many have no internet access, suffered a lack of parental encouragement etc, so have lost that schooling. It is planned, but not guaranteed, to restart partly in-person schooling in March



On the brighter side, covid deaths are certainly down, but who can say about the number of cases. Certainly many have had it without knowing. Tests are not free, but vaccinations have been widely accepted, and double vaccinated over 18s are now eligible for their booster.

Thank you to those who have supported us in so many ways. By doing this you too are part of what happens here.

Penny

Please pray for:

Juan Carlos: responsibilities in the Cathedral [Dean & in charge of Spanish speaking group]; Diocesan responsibilities [Christian formation].

Penny: Responsibilities in J el N [Lay rector] Diocesan responsibilities [Children’s Ministry].

JC & P working out priorities and use of time, supporting each other in two churches; adequate rest & plans to visit the UK [April - July]

Bishop Jorge Luis: wisdom in leading the diocese

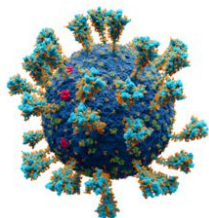
Diocese: safeguarding part 2 in March

Jésus el Nazareno: Children’s work - for helpers; growth in Christian knowledge

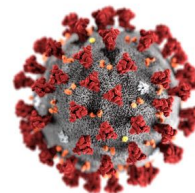
El Nazareno area; communal kitchens, schooling

Cathedral: for people to attend in-person services

Country of Peru: political, economic and education systems, and all thus affected



Covid Alphabet



A	is for	Antibodies	the more the merrier
B	is for	Better	We're <i>nearly</i> there
C	is for	Covid	the villain of the piece
D	is for	Distance	always keep yours
E	is for	Exercise	it keeps you healthy
F	is for	Family	you can only see via Skype
G	is for	Grief	that this causes you
H	is for	Hope	it is there if you look for it
I	is for	Infected	make sure you are not
J	is for	Jesus	Trust Him
K	is for	Kindness	even of strangers
L	is for	Love	lots of it around
M	is for	Medicines	they can make you feel better
N	is for	New Normal	what's THAT?
O	is for	Outside	the best place to meet
P	is for	Parties	BANNED! -for quite a while
Q	is for	Questions	we all want answers to
R	is for	R number	so important to control the infection rate
S	is for	Singing	but only in the bath!
T	is for	Temperature	isolate if you have one
U	is for	U-turns	never heard of them!
V	is for	Vaccines	life savers indeed
W	is for	Working	if you are lucky
X	is for	X:-	signifies the uncertainty we still feel
Y	is for	You	what are you doing or not doing with your life?
Z	is for	Zero Restrictions	YIPPEE!! Pray it is not too soon.





The Cotteridge Church
Joint Church Council
Summary of Proceedings 18th January 2022

Introduction

The Meeting was held in a Hybrid Mode with members attending in Person and via Zoom. There was only one item on the agenda to discuss what the Church should do with a sizeable charitable donation the Church had just received.

Key Decisions

1. It was agreed that a designated fund account should be set up to hold this money.
2. It was agreed that some of the donation should be allocated to the rear garden and opening up the front of the Pennine Way.

Summary Proceedings

1. Neil Walters confirmed he had written a letter to the charity on behalf of the JCC to thank them.
2. The idea that the money should be used to provide disabled access to the Bredon Room via a stair lift or lift from the client room was discussed.
3. Also, the idea that the front of the building should be opened up and used as an extension to the coffee bar was discussed.
4. Work on the garden was brought up, including making it more accessible, with a hope that the work could be completed by the Platinum Jubilee.
5. Providing The Cotteridge with a much-needed green space by planting native trees at the front of the Church was tabled.
6. A simplified, but more functionally rich AV system was discussed.
7. Modernised facilities and refurbished upstairs offices were discussed.
8. A young children's area in the Pennine Way was mooted.
9. How some of these suggestions would fit with the overall rebuilding work envisaged for the church was noted.

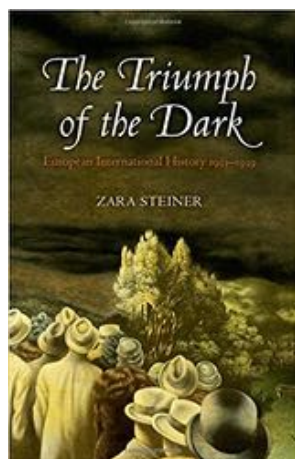
The next meeting of the Joint Church Council will be on Tuesday 9th February 2022 at 19:30.

This Summary is authorised by:

Neil Walters (Chair of the Cotteridge Church Joint Church Council)

Judging a Book by its Cover

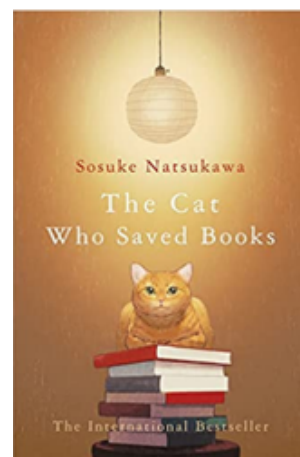
You have all heard the saying “Don’t Judge a Book by its Cover” and I usually read the back cover and the inner fly to understand what a book is about before I buy it, but just occasionally I forget this principle and dive in, purchasing something because the cover intrigues me. I remember some years ago seeing a book, called ‘The Triumph of the Dark’ by Zara Steiner, whose cover had a sepia painting of a long line of men in trilby hats and overcoats stretching into the distance. I so loved that painting that I bought the book and found it to be a history looking at politics in Europe in the nineteen thirties, starting at Hitler’s election as Chancellor of Germany and leading up the entry of France and Britain into the already occurring Second World War. I was happy I bought it as the subject was interesting and Steiner’s use of English a delight, I would recommend it, but it is only for hardened readers as it is over one thousand pages of tightly packed text.



Just before Christmas I was captivated by the cover of a CD, I was in HMV in town intending to buy some albums for my Cousins in Aberdovey. As I entered the store, it was the one in the sellers display to my left a photograph, no text, of a woman with dark hair, wearing one of those Tushingham in every can remember. I bought it that were destined for actually looked at the back I vowed I would never do, I album, as the Comedian say “Taylor Swift is not a Country singer”. I pondered sending it to the west coast of Wales, but I realised I could not subject Elizabeth and Trevor, my cousins, to the musical inanity that is Taylor Swift, so it lies, still unwrapped in a drawer.



A few day’s after that I did a similar thing when browsing for books to send to Elizabeth’s Sister in Barnaby-in-the-Willows. I saw a volume called ‘The Cat Who Saved Books’ by Sosuke Natsukawa. The cover had a painting of a ginger tabby cat sitting on a pile of books, I was enchanted, and bought it straight away. I will not tell you what happens in it as that would spoil it for you, like telling you the ending of E.Lockhart’s ‘We were liars’, but I will say buy it as it is a brilliant novel and Louise Heal Kawai’s translation brings the characters to life, but, indeed it is a book about a cat that saves books. I will not say it is life changing, I have only read one of those, ‘Girl Friend in a Coma’ by Douglas Coupland, but I found ‘The Cat Who Save Books’ life affirming. I don’t know who the Cat was, but I have a theory, buy a copy, read and enjoy it and perhaps we can discuss who you think the Cat was.



Neil Walters

COMMUNION TOKENS

I thought members would be interested to see this unusual Communion Token from my collection. Issued between 17th - 19th century, these were used by the Church to ensure members were genuine paying people and not persecuting members of another religious persuasion. This example has a religious text; many had a Communion table number on them.

Now Covid restrictions are being lifted, there is thankfully no need for Communion tokens to return.



Bob Burton

Services in March and April

Tuesdays: 10.00 am There will be a short service of Holy Communion at the Church.

Wednesdays at 7.30 pm There will be online worship on Zoom. Contact Revd Mike Claridge < mike.claridge@thecotteridgechurch.org.uk > for access details.

	6th March	13th March	20th March	27rd March
	Lent 1	Lent 2	Lent 3	Lent 4
10:30 am	Revd M. Claridge Parade	Revd R. Collins HC	Mrs Judith Bell Morning Worship	Revd Barbara Calvert HC Mothering Sunday
6:30 pm	Revd R. Collins Lent Course	Revd M. Claridge Lent Course	Revd Barbara Calvert- Lent Course	Revd R. Collins Lent Course
	3rd April	10th April	17th April	24th April
	Lent 5	Palm Sunday	Easter Day	Easter 1
10:30 am	Revd M. Claridge Parade	Revd R. Collins HC	Revd M. Claridge HC	Revd R. Collins HC
6:30 pm	Revd M. Claridge Lent Course	Revd Barbara Calvert Taizé	-	-

Lent, Holy Week and Easter

Ash Wednesday 10:00 am in church 7:30 pm Zoom

Maundy Thursday 7:30 pm in church

Good Friday 10:30 am & 7.30 pm both in church

Easter Eve 8:00 pm vigil & Ceremonies in Church

Lent Course: Caring for Creation:

Sundays from 6th March at 6:30 pm;

Tuesdays from 8th March at 11:00 am. in church.

All Welcome.

αγάπη ξενία φιλαυτία έρως φιλία στοργή

The Greeks had a word for it!

[Well - six, actually!]

Love

The Greek words are distinguished by the object of the love, but here I want to think of it from its source.

Obviously, as Christians, we believe that love emanates from God, and that we should try to emulate that, and give love in return, to God and to His creation.

All life forms are genetically programmed for self preservation - without that they would not survive. However, we have increasing evidence that a very large number of animal species from crabs to albatrosses and, surprisingly, some plants seek favourable relationships with one another - sometimes with their own species, and sometimes with other species. The most obvious is of a parent for its young, but we have filmed evidence of a sperm whale defending a dolphin pod from a killer whale, and an adult male lion affectionately greeting the human woman who raised him from a cub.

But let us consider love in its human context. Through Jesus, God strongly stressed that we should love one another. But love is an amazing thing, and like nothing else I can think of in that it is unlimited.

When I married my husband, loving him did not reduce the love I had for my parents [though inevitably I spent less time with them]. Similarly when my son was born, I loved him, but I loved my husband, parents and friends just as much as before. The same went when I had my daughter. So, I think love is limitless. Also, loving is so good for the soul. It brings great pleasure to me, as well, I hope, as being beneficial for those I love.

Never has it been more important that we show love in many different ways - most importantly for our planet so that we can steer it back to health, inspiring others to join in the effort; but also to try to strengthen international friendships and improve trust and fair treatment by each nation for the others.

It is a big ask. We pray to Jesus to let his love enable all of us.

Celia Lester

Agape Xenia Philautia Eros Philia Storge

Finally!

When you retire and begin to slow up a bit, it is very easy to let your brain do the same thing, BUT if you want to keep it, you must keep it busy. So, here is a little something to help.

If you take any 3 letters of our alphabet, you can arrange them in six different ways:-

ABC ACB; BAC BCA CAB CBA

In this case only one of these is an actual word. Lots of combinations will give you two words, BUT how many can you find that give you THREE?

[Hint: good starting points: 2 vowels, or two consonants which often go together either way, such as ST, TR etc.] All emailed solutions will be included next time.

C.L.



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Please send copy for the May edition by 22nd May 2022 to
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