

Roundabout



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

November 2018

Mike's message

What do you believe?

I know it may seem a strange question but, "What do you believe?" I don't mean "what do you think you should believe? But what do you actually believe?

Sometimes the Church (and I mean the Church in its widest sense, not just The Cotteridge Church) gives the impression that, if you going to belong, you must believe in a whole range of statements. You can be assured that, when you stand in church on a Sunday morning, and we say the prayers and sing the hymns there will be others, like you, that are thinking, "Really?" or, "Do I believe that?"

As individuals we shouldn't be made to believe but there are religious groups that do precisely that. The mainstream churches would refer to them as cults. Cults manipulate their followers almost by "brainwashing". How then do we compare and cope with belief?

We need to think of belief as personal. An individual's belief - your belief, my belief - is only part of the wider belief of the Church. That's why, when we stand together as a church congregation, we can say certain things together. It's the collective belief of the Church, and individual members may have certain differences in the detail of that belief. It's a little like politics. Yes really! In politics a particular group, such as the Cabinet, may have individual opinions but they need to act together. It doesn't mean that those individual opinions are invalid or less important. If they are sincerely held, they are sincerely held. The same goes with what we believe, or don't believe.

Belief also changes throughout our lives. Every experience that we have can adapt, change, mould or in other ways influence our belief. Part of our belief system is faith. I suppose if I had to explain the differences between belief and faith I would say that belief is the way we put things into words, faith is the feeling we get when we think about it.

Another question. What is the opposite of faith or belief?

The usual answer that you get when you ask that question is that the opposite of faith is doubt. I disagree with that. In fact I'd go so far as to say that the opposite of faith is certainty! I believe faith (and belief) is a journey of exploration. If we are certain of something we stop looking. In regards to our faith it is only right, and very necessary, that we think, explore, develop, test and experiment with what we believe. In that religion and science share common ground. There is always something new to explore.

We'll be running some sessions during the winter to discuss what we believe; about Jesus, God, the Church, Creation, Suffering ... You name it and we'll discuss it! Look out for details and come and explore with us. For those that want it to, this



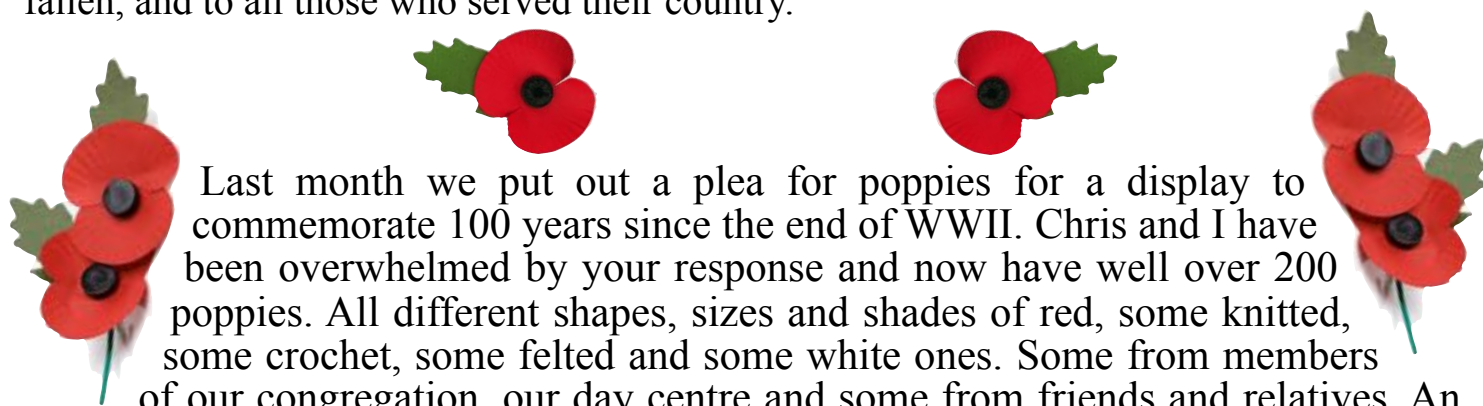
will form the preparation for our Membership and Confirmation Service on Sunday 3rd February 2019.

Friends & Family

Our latest member to join our busy Day Centre group is a 106 year old gentleman!!! He started last August 17th---his wife of 86 years said she'd like him to attend, so she can get on with moving furniture & cleaning the house. They both still live in their own home. What an inspiration.

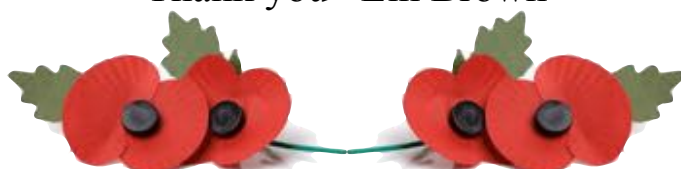
With sadness and prayers for their families and friends we record that Hazel Jones died in late Aug and Margaret Stephens in October.

Many thanks to all contributors to this edition of Roundabout. I hope you will enjoy it, and the memories of the world wars will inspire the thanks and homage we pay to the fallen, and to all those who served their country.



Last month we put out a plea for poppies for a display to commemorate 100 years since the end of WWII. Chris and I have been overwhelmed by your response and now have well over 200 poppies. All different shapes, sizes and shades of red, some knitted, some crochet, some felted and some white ones. Some from members of our congregation, our day centre and some from friends and relatives. An amazing response, to which I hope we will do justice when we put together the banner for 11th November. It feels mean to say, no more please, as we do have sufficient. However, if you still have some to hand in then give them to me or Chris Pascal or into the church office as soon as possible, but you can now stop knitting!

Thank you Lin Brown



Akira, aged six lives in Sri Lanka. Recently two skin patches were seen on her arm and shoulder. She was treated by the Leprosy Mission and is now cured, and looking forward to a happy future.

Manlike shelters with others under a busy flyover in Mumbai, India, which they call home

Please save used postage stamps to enable Leprosy Mission to continue its work. There is a box for them in the Pennine Way by the pigeon holes.



Myra Dean

WHY POPPIES?

I have recently visited my sister and her husband who live in the small town of Guelph, Southern Ontario, Canada. Guelph deserves to be world famous for 2 things: its university, and the birthplace of John McCrae.

John McCrae served as a medical officer in Belgium in the First World War. All his life he had written stories and poems in his spare time, many of which were published but most are not known today. When one of his comrades was killed in action, he wrote the poem which begins “In Flanders fields the poppies blow”. Maybe his thoughts were of poppies being associated with sleep, but he must have been struck by their blood red colour, unlike the wild orange North American (“California”) poppies or purple and white opium poppies.

The poem notes how the cycle of nature (the red poppies which grow in Europe wherever the ground is disturbed, by war or ploughing, the birds singing, the dawn and sunset) continues regardless of the human war raging around and below.

The poem quickly became very popular, as a call for others to continue the fight, and when John McCrae himself died of pneumonia shortly before the war ended, poppies were among the flowers put on his grave.

Later an American woman, Moina Michael, had the idea of wearing a red silk poppy in memory of those who had died in the war. Then a French woman, Mme Guerin, stated selling artificial poppies to raise funds for orphans and veterans of World War One. The idea caught on, encouraged by Earl Haig and the British Legion.



Thanks to John McCrae, poppies will always be associated with the commemoration of those killed in war.

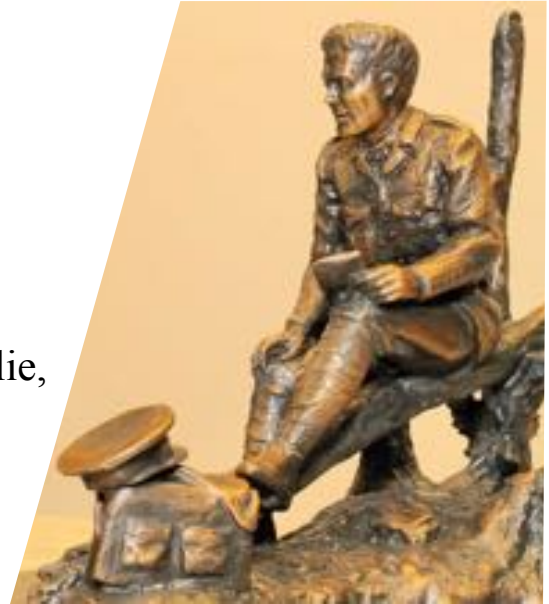
“They will beat their swords into ploughshares... neither shall they learn war any more. Come ... , let us walk in the light of the Lord.” (Isaiah 2: 4,5).

In Flanders Fields

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie,
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.



Lt-Col Dr John McCrae

[More information about him at <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/john-mccrae>]

Jean Morgan

My father worked for Wolseley Motors at Drews Lane, Castle Bromwich, and when the second world war began, he was employed making tanks and other wartime machinery, so did not go to the front. At night the factory worked in blackout - the windows were closed and covered. The machinery used gave out a lot of heat and fumes, and he said that the condensation from the walls would run out 6 feet on to the floor.

He was on a rota for fire watching at night. One night he was called out unexpectedly. He said there was a complete ring of fire around Birmingham, and that night they bombed his factory, killing several of his workmates. Had he been there, I would not be here today.

Celia Lester

When I was Evacuated

War broke out on a Sunday when I was 9 years old. As Dad was a reservist, he was called up on September 1st 1939. Mother had 5 children and had another daughter in 1940, and then another brother in 1942. During the early years of the war, when the sirens went, we had to share Air Raid shelters with our neighbours as we did not have one of our own.

I was a pupil at Kings Norton Primary and Junior School until it was turned into a First Aid Post. We then had to share School with Cotteridge Infant and Junior School. One School would have lessons in the morning from half past eight until half past twelve, with the other school having lessons from, one in the afternoon until 5 pm. The next week we would change over. This happened until 1941 when things were happening closer to home. One day we were machine gunned by a plane and had to spend the afternoon in the school air raid shelter.

At the end of January/early February, my younger brothers and I were evacuated to Newbridge in South Wales. My eldest brother stayed at home with Mum. We thought it was a real adventure as we had never been on a long train journey before. All the Mothers were crying as they handed us over to the teachers who were going with us, as we carried our gas masks and a packet of sandwiches on to the train.



I was very fortunate where I was billeted but my brothers were not so lucky! The lady they were with gave them cornflakes on the first morning. When they asked for milk and sugar for them they were told to pour their tea on them as that was where the sugar and the milk were! They were not happy and did not stop long. Mother let them go back home early - she and dad having visited us and seen the state of them

My life was good as I was with another girl from Birmingham, and the three daughters of the house who were older than us. We were well looked after.

School life was good. We had a couple of teachers from Kings Norton School, but of course, we also had Welsh teachers, who treated us well on the whole. There was one Welsh teacher in particular who delighted in belittling us. I think our accent upset her!!!

I came home for Christmas in December 1943, and did not want to go back as I was leaving school in May at the age of 14 to start work - as was usual in those days.

In December 1944, I returned to Newbridge to be bridesmaid at the wedding of the eldest girl. We kept in contact with the family until 1965, when my son was born, but after that, I heard no more and we lost touch.

My youngest brother, David, drove through Newbridge when he was working and said that we would not know it now as it was all changed, as is everywhere.

June Milner



The Cotteridge Church
Joint Church Council
Summary of Proceedings 20th September 2018

Key Decisions

1. It was agreed that PAT testing would be performed in house using equipment and labels loaned from St Laurence Northfield.
2. Approval was given to replace the towel dispensers in the ground floor toilets with blade air dryers.
3. With one minor change, the new Church Constitution was approved and a recommendation that it should go forward for approval by the congregation on the 13th October 2018.
4. It was agreed that the Governance Group should hold a list of Church Policies and instruct the appropriate sub-group to look at them when they were up for review.
5. The Role Outline for the Volunteering Promotion Co-Ordinator was approved.
6. It was agreed that Messy Church would begin on Saturday 17th November 2018 from 16:00 to 18:00.
7. A donation of £50 to Hayward Osborne's retirement fund in recognition of his support during the interregnum was approved.
8. It was agreed that the proceeding of the Christmas Fair would be split between Toilet Twinning and Church Funds.

Summary Proceedings

1. Neil Walters said he would ask his work colleagues about secure Cloud Storage to back-up the Church Administrator's PC.
2. Thanks were expressed to Clare Naughton for affixing the Cigarette Bin to the wall outside the Church.
3. It was regretted that Traidcraft would cease trading in December, announced by Jane Stephens.
4. It was confirmed that the next Congregational Meeting would be held on the 13th October 2018 from 10:30 until 12:00.
5. It was confirmed that the donation from Rosemary Allinson's family had been used to refurbish the Beacon room and make it an extension to the Coffee Bar area.
6. It was noted that the door to the old Boiler room was still locked and screwed shut thus fulfilling the Asbestos Monitoring.
7. Thanks were expressed to Mike Claridge for ordering and affixing the new poster to the Church Tower.
8. It was noted that Ann Hollingworth would be attending the Church on the anniversary of the new building being opened on 3rd February 2019.
9. The meeting discussed Events and Room hire and agreed to revisit this subject at the next JCC.
10. Concerns were raised about Church Security and key holder-ship, this topic was referred to the Finance and Property Group.

The next meeting of the Joint Church Council will be on Thursday 18th October 2018 at 19:30.

This Summary is authorised by: Neil Walters (Chair of Joint Church Council)



The Cotteridge Church
Joint Church Council
Summary of Proceedings 18th October 2018

Key Decisions

1. The date for the next Sunday Forum was agreed as 18th November 2018
2. The Messy Church Volunteer Role Outline was approved by the JCC
3. The requested monies to set-up Bumps and Babies and Messy Church, along with Messy Church running costs were approved
4. It was agreed that the Malvern Room should not be let for Saturday Children's Parties due to the logistics of cleaning and setting up the room for Sunday services
5. The Role Outline for the Volunteering Promotion Co-Ordinator was approved

Summary Proceedings

1. David Pycock reported that our selected stonemason to perform the required repairs on the tower had pushed it back to March and didn't seem to want the work. David was asked to get a quote from another stonemason and if it is not cheaper than our second choice he should engage Ecclesiastical Steeplejacks.
2. Thanks were given to the Web Design Group for their excellent report.
3. The meeting asked David Pycock to obtain quotes for extending Wi-Fi to the whole building excluding the Malvern Room
4. Feedback from the Congregational Meeting held on 13th October 2018 was given and the concerns of the proposed door and possible draughts were discussed. The JCC confirmed that the garden access door from the Malvern Room would not be open on Sundays during services
5. The meeting was pleased to hear that Hazel Nash had completed her pastoral Visitor Training. Well done Hazel.
6. Neil Walters read out a letter from the URC Church detailing changes to the oath taken by new URC Elders
7. Mike Claridge inform the meeting that Bishop Anne's visit in February will also be a joint Membership and Confirmation service
8. It was with regret that the meeting was informed that Clare Naughton had stood down as the Chair of Catering Services. Pam Waddell was asked to seek volunteers for the post. The meeting thanked Clare for all the hard work and effort she had put in as Chair

The next meeting of the Joint Church Council will be on Thursday 22nd November 2018 at 19:30.

This Summary is authorised by: Neil Walters (Chair of Joint Church Council)

B30 Foodbank News

Last month, we shared some of the graphs from the annual report: giving a snap-shot of huge growth there has been over the 5 years of operation that B30 Foodbank has seen.



At the recent Annual Dedication Service at Cotteridge Church (07-10-18 at 6.30 pm), one section of the service was a video clip from the Trussell Trust Annual Conference. The speaker had a wonderful phrase which we used as our service title: “Destitution by Design”. The very system of which we should still be so proud, our welfare system, is simply not working for large swathes of our population.

If you need benefits to cope with your regular outgoings, and are suddenly switched to a new benefit, all would be well if the transition were seamless: but it isn't. This gap can plunge a family/single person into serious arrears and debts, which only mount as the period extends. It is easy to see that this can very easily become a one-way slide into destitution. Arrears can mean the

- cutting off of vital services (gas/electric);
- the loss of communications (making job/benefit applications almost impossible);
- no money for transport, thus affecting current or potential employment, education, access to healthcare, etc., etc.
- loss of accommodation, especially if it is privately rented.

It is very easy to see how a relatively stable family/single, can transition from “just about managing” (JAM) to destitute.

Just after the service, I watched a documentary called “Debt Saviours” which show-cased the work of CAP (Christians Against Poverty). What was very clear in the case studies shared, and also from our own statistics (46% of our clients are single), was that those who do not have a support network are far more likely to fall into serious poverty. Work moves, bereavements, relationship breakdowns, etc. mean there is no close group of family/friends/colleagues to call upon for support.

Sylvia Fox [B30 Foodbank]

Christmas Services:

Wednesday 19th December

7.30 pm Community Carols: Revd M.. Claridge

Sunday 23rd December

9.00 am Holy Communion Revd M. Claridge

10.30 am Christmas Carol Service Revd M. Claridge

6.30 pm Evening Worship Mr . Cooper

Christmas Eve 24th December

4.00 pm Crib Service: Revd M. Claridge

11.30 pm Midnight Communion: Revd R. Collins

Christmas Day 25th December

10.30 am Christmas Communion: Revd M. Claridge



Services for November and December

	4th November	11th November	18th November	25th November	
9.00 am HC	Revd R. Collins	Revd M. Claridge	Revd M. Claridge	Revd M. Claridge	
10:30 am	Mrs S Knebel P	Revd M. Claridge HC	Mr J. Cooper	Revd M. Claridge HC	
6:30 pm	Revd M. Claridge HC	Café Church	Revd R. Collins HC	Miss Hazel Nash	
	2nd December	9th December	16th December	23rd December	30th December
9.00 am HC	Revd M. Claridge	Revd R. Collins	Revd M. Claridge	Revd M. Claridge	Revd R. Collins
10:30 am	Revd M. Claridge P	Revd R. Collins HC	Mrs S. Knebel YCC	Revd M. Claridge CCS	Life & Soul
6:30 pm	Revd R. Collins ACS	Café Church	Revd M. Claridge HC	Mr J. Cooper	Miss Hazel Nash

Service types:

HC - Holy Communion P - Parade ACS - Advent Carol Service

CCS - Christmas Carol Service YCC - Young Church Christmas

Communion Services are held each week at 10.00 am on Tuesdays

Bournville Carillonneur Trevor Workman MBE

Trevor first applied to become Bournville's carillonneur when he was only 15, and had to wait until 1965 to become the carillonneur - a post which he has now held faithfully for 53 years, and is the longest serving carillonneur in British history. He has been president of the British Carillon Society, and has represented his country in Germany, Belgium, The Netherlands, USA and Canada.



As part of the Queen's Birthday Honours in June 2018, he was awarded the British Empire Medal, for service to the British Carillon Society and to the community in Bournville.

Many congratulations and thanks to Trevor.

National Interfaith Week – Birmingham Programme



The 10th National Interfaith Week, this year occurs between Sun 11th and Sun 18th November, for which the Birmingham Council of Faiths will again coordinate the Birmingham programme. The aims of Interfaith Week are to strengthen interfaith relations at all levels; increase awareness of the different and distinct faith communities in the UK, in particular celebrating and building on the contribution which their members make to their neighbourhoods and to wider society; and to increase understanding between people of religious and non-religious beliefs.

Some of the activities which have been successful in the past include interfaith discussions on topics of interest; exchange visits between different places of worship; open days in places of worship; interfaith walks visiting different faith buildings en route; events focusing around food; faith school open days; seminars focusing on health issues; and many more.

We plan to start the event with the Opening Ceremony at the Council House on the afternoon of Friday 9th November, at which the Lord Mayor will officially launch the week. The week includes Remembrance Sunday on 11th November, which this year is the Centenary Armistice Day, with an opportunity to remember the service of soldiers and civilians of different faiths and beliefs. Sunday 18th November will be Mitzvah Day, which is a Jewish led day of social action involving people of all faiths and none working together in their local communities.

Events notified to us so far include:-

Saturday 3rd Nov, 1.30 for 2.00 - Event at Christ Church, Pershore Road, Selly Park, organised by David and Patricia Earle.

Friday 9th Nov, 2.45pm, Launch Event, Birmingham Council House.

Saturday 10th Nov, 10.30 am Scout & Guide Remembrance Commemoration, Scout War Memorial, Cannon Hill Park, next to Nature Centre, Pershore Road, B5 7RL.

Saturday 10th Nov, 11.00 - 12.30 Bahai, Birth of Bahullah Event at Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery.

Monday 12th Nov, 11.45 for 12.00 Bahai, Birth of Bahullah, QE Chaplaincy.

Wednesday 14th Nov, 10.3 - 12.00 at Queen Elizabeth Hospital. facilitated 'Faith & Belief Panel' with chaplaincy representatives from different faith / belief communities.

Thursday 15th Nov, 9.30 am (Reg 9.00 am) Faiths, Health & Wellbeing Seminar on complementary therapies, Queen Elizabeth Hospital Education Centre, upstairs opposite Main Entrance, B15 2TH.

Thursday 15th Nov 2018. Evening, Interfaith Concert, Solihull Methodist Church.

Thursday 15th Nov, 19.00 or 19.30 An intellectually rigorous moderated discussion between three religions (Christianity, Islam, Sikhism) University of Birmingham, B15 2TT.

Sunday 18th Nov 2017, 2-5pm, Tread Lightly on this Earth, Exploring Food, Faith & Living Sustainably, Guru Nanak Gurdwara (Smethwick), 128-130 High St, Smethwick, B66 3AP.

Full details of all events will be published by e-mail, the first week of November, and will be published on our website www.bhamfaiths.org.uk

(Dr) Peter Rookes Secretary & Third Sector Liaison Officer Birmingham Council of Faiths pjrookes@gmail.com or phone 0121 477 2282 or 077033 36088

THE USES OF SORROW, A PERSONAL GLIMPSE.

Saturday 15th September had been a long time coming, my periodic visit to Spratton, Northants to spend a while in the company of my kid brother, my sister and 93 years loving mum, or "mumbly" as I sometimes nickname her. That day I departed Alvechurch at 7.00 am, and by 08.15 same morning my trusty steed had covered the 57 miles from home to the sheltered bungalow of dear mum. As it always does, time raced by and arrived at 2.30 pm when I bid all adieu as I had a further journey to embark upon. but this time would be relying on sat-nav for directions.

Google maps misled me into the belief that I could reach the Somerset village of Waterrow in 2 and 1/2 hours, but I was led a circuitous route that absorbed a full 4 hours. The last 5 miles to Kenley Arts Studios was along a network of winding lanes and with extremely few vehicle passing spaces. This brought despair so much that I feared the artificial intelligence of the sat-nav was mocking my patience. I was sorry ever to have promised to visit the ceramic workshop, museum and shop to begin with. But the valley of despond gave way to a tower of elation under the high that followed owing to the warm welcome received from Fi Holmes, her mum, her dad, Treton, and big sis Penny, aided by the salve of a mug of decaffeinated coffee. The ceramic and other art on display clearly reflected the creativity of the whole family as well as Treton's practised flair at the potter's wheel.

Currently at St Laurence Alvechurch our ministry team is analysing the beatitudes found at Matthew Ch 5, or as Authorised Lay Minister Graham Clark called them on Sunday 16th September THE BE-ATTITUDES. The day before, you may have guessed, the attitudes I was feeling ranged from adventurousness, joy, leisure, pleasure to trepidation, inner trembling then a lasting elation and return to steadfast happiness. It was precisely because I had been sorrowful that time bore me away to the polar opposite, an euphoric state, which for me is a norm.

"Why?" you ask. On account of my personal witness of the Holy Spirit. Blessed am I to not only have been present at a departing but also at the birth of my daughter Sarah, an arrival I gratefully saw and heard take her first ingestion of life air in May 1967. Her wailing cry at the time told me she had become possessed of the Holy Spirit, the "her" that is "she".

But on the evening of March 12th 2008 I sat clutching the hand of my dying wife dear Barbara at her bedside. Came the moment of her final breath, she lay motionless, head on bed pillow, eyes open, remaining open.. Mere instants later there emerged not from mouth or nostrils, but from her eyes, a shimmering slight vapour which I clearly saw with eyes of my own. It was the departure from its fleshly container of the Holy Spirit that was in Barbara.

This is my testimony of blessedness as one who grieved, mourned and is comforted by this mind shattering visional memory.

GORDON PARSONS, in a new walk with GOD.

Boys Brigade

Our enrolment service took place in October when all the boys and staff received their new membership cards from our chaplain Mike Claridge. Our company president Mike Meadows then presented the 'Best Boy' awards and the Ron Clarke memorial shield.



Tom Bunn and Sam Morgan have now started their young leaders training and Euan Clayton has been enrolled as a company helper.

The company BB week has been arranged for November 4th-11th. This is the only week of the year when we ask for donations towards the running of the company. Our capitation fee to BB headquarters this year is expected to be over £700 so any



donations would be appreciated.

The older boys will be having a sleepover on the Saturday night and making some cakes to be



sold on Sunday morning.

Bob Hotchkiss

Books by twilight

At our Book Club's October meeting, we met to discuss "Warlight" by Michael Ondaatje, author of The English Patient. The atmosphere was suitably murky, set in post war London where stories of espionage, secrecy and who actually knew what about whom were still rife. The second part of the book unravels some of the mysteries set up in the first part. We debated the use of atmosphere and the clever narrative so that the reader could gradually piece the story together. Highly recommended by all!

On **Tuesday 13th November** we meet at Liz's house to discuss 'My name is Leon' by Kit de Waal, set in 1981, which follows the world of 9-year old Leon and his little brother Jake who have gone to live with Maureen, but worry if they will ever see their mother again.

On **Wednesday 12th December** at Christine's house we are planning a festive look at Agatha Christie's 'Hercule Poirot's Christmas'.

[If you have seen any previous notes saying that we were going to tackle 'Of Human Bondage' by Somerset Maugham, this has now been deferred until the New Year.]

As always, we welcome new members, whether you have or have not read the book! For further details, please contact Christine Adams 458 5607

Helen Gale

Saint Hilda of Whitby 19th November

Born c. 614AD Died 680AD

The source of information about Hilda is the *Ecclesiastical History of the English People* by Bede in 731. He documented much of the Christian conversion of the Anglo-Saxons. According to Bede, Hilda was born in 614 into the Deiran royal household. She was the second daughter of Hereric, nephew of Edwin, King of Deira. When Hilda was still an infant, her father was poisoned and in 616, Edwin created the Kingdom of Northumbria. Hilda was brought up at King Edwin's court. In 625, the widowed Edwin married the Christian princess Æthelburh of Kent. As queen, Æthelburh continued to practice her Christianity and no doubt influenced her husband's thinking, and in 627 King Edwin was baptised on Easter Day, along with his entire court, which included the 13-year-old Hilda, in a small wooden church hastily constructed for the occasion near the site of the present York Minster.



In 633 Northumbria was overrun by the neighbouring pagan King of Mercia, and King Edwin fell in battle. His family retreated to the Queen's home in Kent, from whence at the age of 33, Hilda decided instead to answer the call of Bishop Aidan of Lindisfarne and returned to Northumbria to live as a nun.

In 657 Hilda became the founding abbess of Whitby Abbey, and remained there until her death. An important figure in the conversion of the Anglo-Saxons to Christianity.

Bede describes Hilda as a woman of great energy, who was a skilled administrator and teacher. As a landowner she had many in her employ to care for sheep and cattle, farming and woodcutting. She gained such a reputation for wisdom that kings and princes sought her advice. She also had a concern for ordinary folk such as Cædmon, a herder at the monastery, who was inspired in a dream to sing verses in praise of God. Hilda recognised his gift and encouraged him to develop it. Bede writes, "All who knew her called her mother because of her outstanding devotion and grace"

The prestige of Whitby is reflected in the fact that King Oswiu of Northumberland chose Hilda's monastery as the venue for the Synod of Whitby, the first synod of the Church in his kingdom. He invited churchmen from as far away as Wessex to attend the synod. Most of those present, including Hilda, accepted the King's decision to adopt the method of calculating Easter currently used in Rome, establishing Roman practice as the norm in Northumbria.



A local legend says that when sea birds fly over the abbey they dip their wings in honour of Saint Hilda. Another legend tells of a plague of snakes which Hilda turned to stone, supposedly explaining the presence of ammonite fossils on the shore. In fact, the ammonite genus *Hildoceras* takes its scientific name from St. Hilda.

Volunteering at the heart of our mission

There are many good reasons to volunteer; for Christians one reason may be to fulfill our Christian mission.

Sunday 20th October was Mission Sunday, when Sue Spencer talked about the four elements of Christian mission – worship, learning and care, service and evangelism. She explored with us the ways that we are fulfilling these aspects of mission in the Cotteridge Church through the wide range of activities that happen here 7 days a week. Every one of these activities depend on volunteers. Sue went on to suggest we should all regularly ask ourselves how we are fulfilling our Christian mission, suggesting that contributing to the range of activities here was one way to do this. Different people have different skills and different amounts of time to offer, but we have such a range of volunteering opportunities available that there is something to suit everyone.

Whatever your reason for feeling called to volunteer in a new way, please discuss what might work for you with me or with Sue Clayton or Jane Jones, who oversee recruitment of volunteers.

Pam Waddell (Volunteering Promotion Co-ordinator)

pam.waddell@thecotteridgechurch.org.uk

0121 459 2396, 07766 206399 or via 'W' pigeon hole.



Serving
others with
a joyful
heart



Messy Church -

Sat. 17th Nov. 4pm - 6pm

This is our new church service, on the 3rd Saturday of each month.

This is for all ages!

The theme of our first Messy Church will be "The Lost Sheep".

Come along and enjoy creative worship with activities and a talk based on the bible story, followed by a meal.

All welcome.

[You can pick up the leaflet shown here in the church]

Sierra Leone – a journey of discovery



As a teenager I sat glued to the screen watching Bob Geldoph and others urging us to give generously and make a difference, but it wasn't the donating which really hooked me in, it was the clips of those out in Africa who were actually working and making a difference which totally swept me away. I wanted to be them. I wanted to be there and make a real difference. And so, 34 years later I stepped on to a plane headed for Sierra Leone, one of the most war torn and impoverished countries in the world.

Whilst I had attended the training sessions, read the guide books and watched endless you tube clips, I really didn't know what to expect and it was with great trepidation that I stepped on to that plane. Working for Street Child was a huge honour and I didn't want to let them down, but my remit to train other teachers and trainers in such a poverty stricken country was a little overwhelming. My suitcase bulged with resources whilst my brain struggled to comprehend what it would actually be like.



It isn't every day you get to collect your own water from the well, wash with cold buckets of water or drape a mosquito net around your bed and to say the facilities were basic would be an understatement. However for me it was important to live as closely as possible to how they would, in order to create training and ideas which would fit seamlessly into their lives; they have no books, often no paper or pencils and many schools are either falling apart or without a roof! Civil war has ripped this country apart and around every corner there is a part destroyed building or amputee to remind you of this country's heritage. Of course this is before ebola struck and created another devastating blow to a country already on its knees. But these people do not quit, they get back up and try again, something the western world seems to have lost the ability to do with the same sort of tenacity as the Sierra Leone people have.

Moreover teachers are not paid in Sierra Leone....they are volunteers! Only 4% of schools are state schools with state paid teachers and yet over 60 teachers turned up to our training session on literacy, numeracy, safeguarding and phonics.

It is the same in the classrooms, the schools were officially finished as it was the summer holidays and yet they were full with 50 to 60 pupils in a classroom receiving catch up lessons,





sat silently, listening and taking in every drop of education they could. A phenomenal sight. The younger children rushed towards us, swarming with smiles on their faces, reaching out to touch and hug us; so happy and yet so poor, we could learn so much from their simplistic yet community based lifestyle which sat at the heart of everything they did. The arrogance of the western world hits you like a truck when you speak and live with these people and yet we plague their world with our advancements, mobile phones are everywhere bought in by the big companies whilst clean water and sanitary living conditions are still not the norm.



Sierra Leone taught me more than I taught them, our destructive drive for commercialism and materialist things is killing us, we need to foster community and a more simplistic way of life in order to feel true happiness, which the people of Sierra Leone do, despite everything that has happened to them. I hope that what I shared with them makes a difference to their lives as they value education so much that it was a real honour and pleasure to spend time with them, and it has truly humbled me as a person.

Suzanne Bunn

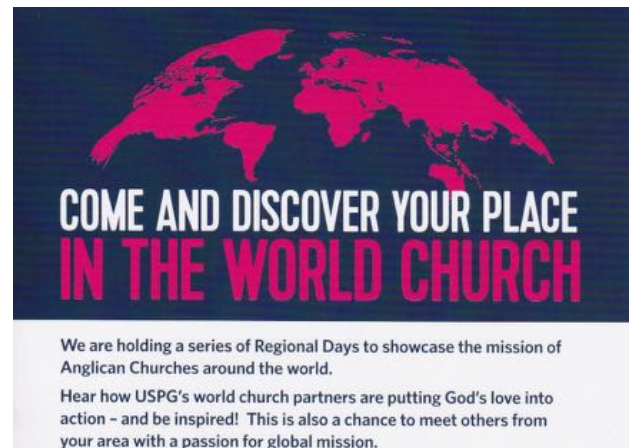


Bumps and Babies is a new initiative to welcome - just that! New members are always welcome, and as time passes we hope the members will join the very popular Saplings

USPG is holding a meeting in St Philip's Cathedral, Birmingham on Friday 23 November from 11.30 -4.00 pm with a free lunch to show the mission of the Anglican Church throughout the world

To book call Rebecca Woolgar
0207 921 2220

or email rebeccaw@uspg.org.uk



Fund Raising Bulletin November 2018

Activities during September & October:

Autumn Sale raised £147.75 for the garden

Book Sales have totalled £920 divided equally between the Church, Day Centre and Cotteridge Youth

The Photo Competitions have raised £172 for the Day Centre.

Event	Year to Date	Event	Year to Date	Event	Year to Date
Book Sales ongoing	£987.1	Photo Competitions	£201.0	Easter Bake Sale	£72.6
Pancake Party	£107.0	Burns Night	£381.5	Easter Cards	£31.9
Christian Aid	£3500.0	Big Brekkie	£100	Garden Party	£294.7
BB Quiz Night	£317.5	Church Urban Fund	£93.7	Food Ministry*	£80.5
Easter Canisters	£240.0	Day Centre Collection	£28	Bake Sales ongoing*	£103.4
BookSale Summer	£184.1	Book Sale Autumn	£147.8	Macmillan Coffee Morning	£182.0
				TOTAL	£7052.6

Recipients Internal	£ Year to date	Recipients External	£ Year to Date
Church Funds	£1101.8	Church Urban Fund	£93.7
Church Youth	£439.7	St Mary's Hospice	£158.8
Day Centre	£668.7	Christian Aid	£3600.0
Church Food Ministry*	£187.5	Macmillan Cancer Care	£182.0
Garden	£294.7	Acorns Hospice	£240.0
Catering*	£85.9		
Total	£2778.2	Total	£4274.4

[* Approximate]

Future events include the Christmas Fair on 1st December. Please help us to make this an enjoyable and worthwhile event.

We are in urgent need of extra helpers to join the fundraising team. Please see Celia, Chris P or Linda W if you would be willing to join us.



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Please send copy for the next edition by 20th December 2018
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