

Roundabout



from the Millennium Tapestry

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

March 2020

Mike's message ...

A Meditation for Lent and Easter

Some years go I wrote the following meditation. The character of Simon of Cyrene is fascinating. I offer it to you as part of your Lent and Easter devotions.

Simon of Cyrene - A face in the crowd

A crowd in a market place.

Why are they here? That sea of faces; looking, listening, wondering.

Some are there on purpose - they knew it was happening. Some are passing by - they're wondering what is going on.

What can they see?

A man, bloodied and bruised by a night of torture, weighed down by a cross of wood. Barely able to see through eyes near blinded by blood and tears. But he can see. Just! And what can he see, in that crowd?

He sees a face. One face amidst a sea of faces. His eyes meet those of another. It's just a glance. But it's noticed.

Simon was his name. A migrant from Libya, the city of Cyrene. A long way from home. An outsider amidst the crowd. Feared by some. But in that glance there was love, amazing love.

Jesus fell. Weakened, by exhaustion he might not make it to the place of execution. They wanted a spectacle to entertain the crowd. Someone else must carry that Cross, for a while. He'd do!

The soldiers dragged Simon from the crowd. He'd carry the Cross.

"Take up the cross and follow him" someone jeered. Many laughed.

Simon carried Jesus' burden but a short distance. But Jesus carried Simon's burden further - even to death itself.

He carries my burden too, and yours. Our guilt, our lies, our betrayal, our hatreds. These are the burdens that Jesus carries to the cross.

For Simon of Cyrene, for me and for you.

Our burdens are transformed on the Cross where love is stronger even than death itself.

For Christ is Risen from the dead! Alleluia!



By Mike Claridge

Friends & Family

Linda Mann heard from Sonia and Simon Roper just before Christmas. They have now moved into their new home and after a few teething problems they are now settling in. Isabella and Olivia are both doing well at school and are happy in their new home. Sonia is busy tackling the garden and looking forward to her bulbs coming up in the Spring whilst Simon is completing all the outstanding DIY jobs in the house. They all send their best wishes to everyone at The Cotteridge Church.

Many congratulations to Ivor Ravenhill on his 90th birthday.

We are sad to record the deaths of Mary Galloway, Marie Marston “the French Lady”, Margaret Yardley, and Len Burt. We send our love and prayers to their families and friends.

Vicki Love, a new volunteer in our café, was baptised on January 11th, in preparation for her confirmation on March 1st. Welcome Vicki.

Our good friend Len Burt



Len Burt, a very well loved and popular visitor to The Cotteridge Church Café died suddenly on February 11th. This was a great shock to everyone. Len came in each day for lunch and made many friends. All the volunteers knew how he liked his tea, and he really enjoyed the sandwiches that Doris and Shirley and Tina made for him. Len often told stories about his life - how, as a boy, he fell into the canal; how he got lost after a Boys' Brigade parade in the city centre by following the wrong band home; and how he was the star triangle player in school music lessons. He loved having a moan too - about buses, bus drivers, weather, traffic, roadworks, his beloved Villa losing, stupid story lines in the soaps, and why Katharine Jenkins married an American. How could she, when Len was there waiting for her! He read the “Rush Hour Crush” column in the Metro newspaper to us every day, looking for one that starred “silver-haired fox on the 45 bus” It was never there. One day he found a Delia Smith cook book in the book room, and took it to Shirley. She chased him all the way along the Pennine Way! Len was so proud of his family, telling us about them, and showing us photos. Len was a gentleman - kind and helpful, and we shall miss him very much. He touched our lives. Goodbye old mate. I'm sure there's a red chair just for you in heaven

Rita.



Marie-Therèse Marston died recently at the age of 93. She was known as “The French Lady” and was a member of The Cotteridge Church. She was born in Nice of Italian parents. Coming to England just to learn English to take up a job in Madagascar, she met her future husband on a train, and never left!



The Life of Pat Walker.

The passing away of Pat has left quite a hole in our lives, but the messages we have received since, about the impact she had on others has been overwhelming and also comforting to all the family. Pat was born in Kings Heath in 1934 and along with her siblings was evacuated to Tatenhill near Burton after the start of the war and by the time they returned home they had a new sister, Jen. When Pat was 16, and Jen only 5, their Mum passed away after having suffered with breast cancer. These early lifetime events all had an impact on Pat, and family was always important to her.



Her long association with the Methodist Church started when she attended Hazelwell Methodist Church's youth club and became a Church member. Pat and David got married there and Alison was christened there. When Alison was young Pat met Winnie Everall who encouraged Mum to take Alison to Sunday School at Cotteridge and so Pat's long association with Cotteridge Church began.

The list of Pat's various roles and responsibilities at Cotteridge Church is long. She was a Sunday School teacher at the satellite church at Hawkesley and then after Alison and Helen started Girls Brigade, she was asked by the then captain Dorothy Pascal to help out. This led to her becoming an officer, then Captain and then Adjutant of the district. We have heard many fond tales about Pat from "old girls" who Pat worked with and took to camp.



Then of course there is the Coffee bar. This is something else where she started as a volunteer and ended up being the coordinator. The times she had a phone call saying a volunteer was ill and so she would stand in for them, but she loved it. She loved people, being able to chat with them and helping them. There were so many other ways she worked with and helped people – running West Heath Play Group and ultimately becoming President of West Heath Community Association, as a guide on the bus for special needs pupils at Selly Oak School and so the list goes on.

She loved nothing more than helping out with her family: daughters Alison and Helen; sons in law Steve and Joe; grandchildren Laura, Lucy, Emily, Sophie, Sean and Sam; grandson in law David; great grandchildren Oscar and Daisy. There were the family holidays where she loved to cook and make sandwiches for the picnic. There was so much more to Pat as well: her love of crosswords, knitting and ballroom dancing, but we could go on for ever!

Unfortunately, she was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease the day she became a Great Grandmother. In retrospect she hadn't been the same person for a while and that need to help others gradually diminished and she just couldn't do

what she used to. I'm sure those who knew Pat around the time of her diagnosis also noticed that she was not the same Pat as she had been. It was now the family's turn to care for her and after a number of falls at home and the increasing need for full time care we realised that Pat needed more permanent care and she became a resident firstly at Stennards and then at Austin Rose Care Home. As difficult as this was for the family, we knew she was being well cared for and as much as we had lost the old Pat, there were still glimmers of her there and she knew us all to the end.

Her last week in the QE hospital was typical of Pat where she showed her strong spirit and fought to the end, but she wasn't strong enough to fight off pneumonia. She died surrounded by her family and we take comfort in the fact that that is how she would have wanted it. She is much missed by us all.

RIP Pat 24/04/34 – 06/12/19

David Walker, Alison Miller, Helen Bentley

If Christ

If Christ were born today he would still be homeless and rejected

He would continue to know men's hearts and yet love them, see the lost and be moved with compassion, heal the sick, raise the dead, preach the Gospel, weep over evil, restore the penitent and pray through the night, defend the weak, carry the burdens of others, pray for His friends, repay wrong with right and put giving above receiving.

He'd be the popular friend of sinners, mix with outcasts and enjoy parties. Be provocative, radical and controversial, yet remain silent when falsely accused. He would resist manipulation, subtle innuendo, the winking of an eye and the hidden nudge, upset politicians, stir up the complacent, divide families, and refuse fame and riches.

He would challenge the wealthy, oppose the powerful, incur the wrath of the religious and yet make rich the poor in spirit. Give comfort and hope to those who mourn, contentment to the meek, satisfy the hungry, bless the merciful, reveal God to the pure in heart, stand with the peacemakers, give the Kingdom to the persecuted and the Holy Spirit to those who asked.

He'd turn the other cheek, forgive without measure, spend His anger on the hypocrites, question our values, get to the point, and change our priorities. Be in the world, but not of it, have nowhere to lay his head, only one coat, carry no cash, and accumulate no savings. Be surrounded by children and sustained by angels.

He would be the salt of the earth, a city on a hill, and the light of the world. He would know loneliness and isolation, persecution and suffering, the hearts of men and the beginning from the end.

And knowing all of this He would still choose to serve God, to do His father's will, be despised and rejected, yield up His life and be crucified, taste of death and hell, defeat Satan and promise to return.

Paul Herring ©2014

Changes in The Cotteridge Church Café

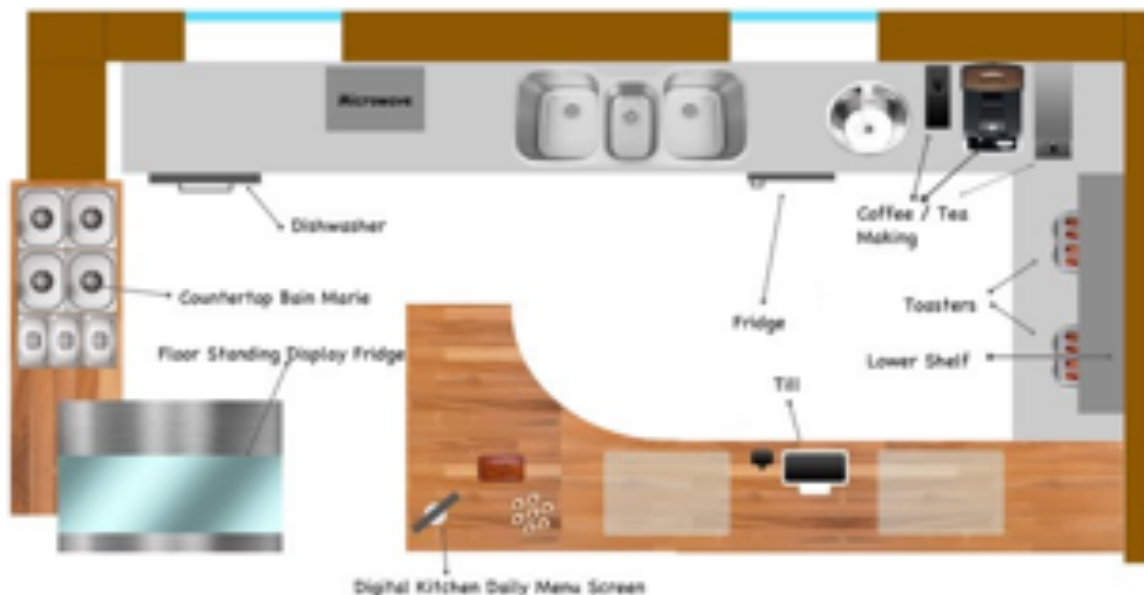
As you are all aware there have been some significant changes to the Coffee Bar in the Pennine Way . All of the changes follow the Catering Services Strategy, agreed by Joint Church Council last March after lengthy consultation with customers, volunteers, staff and others. The overall aim is to increase the use of the café by the local community, which will both increase sales and extend the Church's outreach.



We now have some new red chairs to replace the black plastic chairs. These are easily stackable when we need to make room for other events that happen during the normal activities of the church through the week. We have had some very positive comments regarding this change.

There have been some major changes to the Coffee Bar serving area over the last couple of months too, which include a new, bigger display chiller for drinks and chilled food as well as a dishwasher and a new Bain Marie

for serving the hot meals Monday to Friday between 12 and 1pm. Another change which you may have noticed is that the old chiller that used to display the sandwiches has now been replaced by a display the cakes, chocolate bars, crisps and biscuits, and there is more space to serve customers food and drinks. All these changes should allow a wider food offer and a more efficient and hygienic café.



These changes have required the movement of existing vital bits of equipment around the coffee bar. The plans have all been discussed and agreed by the Catering Services Committee and the Joint Church Council, and are in line with the strategy. We know that the changes might take a little bit of getting used to and also trial and error to get it all right, within the space and budget constraints.

We are also soon to be getting a new coffee machine that will be able to produce a lot of different coffees which include Americanos, Cappuccinos, Lattes and Expressos. But this does **not** mean the filter coffee so many of you love will be disappearing, these offerings will be in addition. The new machine should be implemented within the next 12 months. Once the coffee machine has been installed full training will be provided for all of the volunteers.

The additions of the coffee machine and the dishwasher have been funded through appeals to charitable trusts by Brian Pearson, the church fundraiser. The new display chiller has been partially funded by the sales of the old chiller and other unneeded items. The new Bain Marie is now much more energy efficient and has been funded by the sale of old Bain Marie.

We are also expanding our menu and trying our best to make sure that we serve everyone's needs and preferences, such as making sure that there are food options for vegetarians, vegans and other dietary requirements. If you don't see anything that suits your needs please ask at the counter and we will do our very best to cater for you.

With all of the proposed changes that are due to take place, things may take a few months to be complete, so please bear with us. We hope to make The Cotteridge Church Café a place for the community of Cotteridge to be able to enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and a snack or meal in a very pleasant environment which is filled with excitement and good company.

To help to raise wider awareness, The Cotteridge Church Café has now gone on-line and we now have Facebook Page. The page will be used to let customers know what is on offer on the daily menu for the weekday hot meals that are served between 12 noon and 1.00 pm, as well as promoting all of the delicious cakes and savoury items that we can offer and will be displayed in the new chiller. Through Facebook we will also be promoting events such as monthly bake, bric-a-brac and book sales that take place.

Why not search for 'The Cotteridge Church Café' on Facebook and press the 'Follow' button - you will then qualify for a FREE HOT DRINK and you will be able to see all of the updates that we post on a regular basis.

It is a lot of work to run such a substantial café, and most of this is done by volunteers, both serving customers and behind the scenes planning and managing. We are always looking for new volunteers from within the church or wider community. Working on the Coffee Bar is a good place to start to be able to support and engage with the community of Cotteridge. Phil Adams is now the new Coffee Bar Volunteer Co-Ordinator, having taken over from Linda Mann, managing the Monday to Friday rotas. Pam Waddell is managing the Saturday and Sunday rotas, so please speak to either of them if you are interested in volunteering in The Cotteridge Church Café.

The Catering Services Committee is always happy to receive compliments, constructive feedback and queries regarding the day to day running of the Coffee Bar and the changes being made. We do endeavour to make sure we cover all of the customer needs to improve our customer service to Cotteridge.

The Catering Services Committee

Boys' Brigade

Dennis and Liam have now qualified for their President's badge.



On Sunday 5th April at the parade service they will be presented with their awards from our company president Mike Meadows. Congratulations to them from all the leaders and boys.

On Friday 17th April the BB General Knowledge Quiz takes place from 7-45pm. All the proceeds will be shared by St Mary's Hospice and The Cotteridge Church. The cost is £3 per person with no more than 6 to a team. It's now well over 20 years since we started the quiz and we hope everybody will come along have a good time and support the Boys' Brigade.

For the first time in a few years the Battalion is organising a cross country running race. This will be held on Saturday 7th March at Sutton Park. We hope to have two teams taking part.

Bob Hotchkiss

Flower arranging.



Have you ever thought of arranging the pedestal flowers for the Sunday service?

Before you say no, "Oh, I couldn't do that", look at me.

I didn't think I could do it, but with encouragement from Eira Hoadley and Doris Collins, I'm getting more confident. I now do the flowers several times a year. I love sitting in the service and seeing "my flowers" in memory of a special person. It's a really good feeling. So why not have a go? Just one step at a time and you have a lovely arrangement.

Rita Sutton.



Saint David – Dewi Sant

St David's Day is celebrated on 1st March, accepted to be the day on which he died in 589.

David was born around the year 520. It was a time when Welsh kings ruled small kingdoms and their people made their living by farming. Most people in Wales were Christians, and monasteries were important centres of prayer and learning.

His life as a monk

About the year 550, David is believed to have founded a monastery close to the place where he was born. Here, he and his fellow monks lived a simple life, drinking only water and eating only bread and herbs. Meat and beer were forbidden and David became known as Dewi Dyfrwr (David the water drinker).

The monks farmed the land, but David insisted that they pull the plough and carry their tools without the help of animals. They spent the evenings in prayer, reading and writing, and weren't allowed any personal possessions.

The stories of St David's miracles

Stories of St David's miracles include bringing a dead boy back to life by splashing his face with tears and also restoring a blind man's sight. David's best-known miracle allegedly took place in the village of Llanddewi Brefi. He was preaching to a large crowd, but some people had difficulty hearing him. Suddenly a white dove landed on David's shoulder, and as it did, the ground on which he stood rose up to form a hill, making it possible for everyone to see and hear him.

Today, a church stands on the top of this hill. The dove became St David's emblem, and often appears on his portraits and stained glass windows. Churches and chapels dedicated to David are found not just in Wales but also in south-west England and Brittany. David's influence also spread to Ireland, where the Irish embraced his beliefs about caring for the natural world.

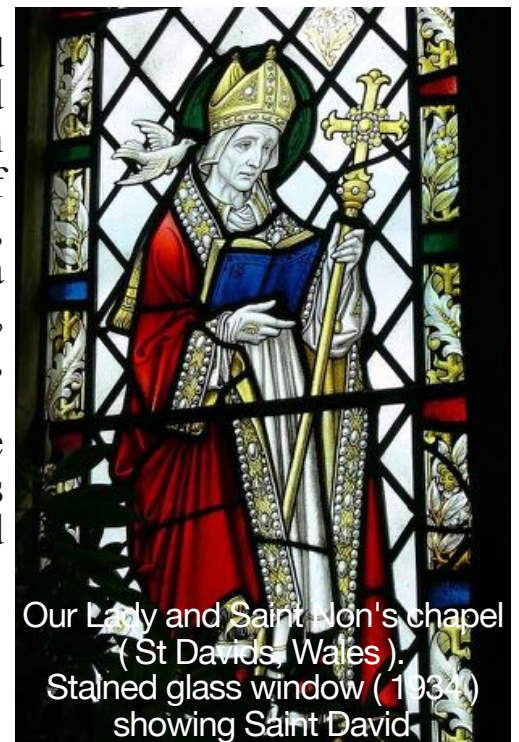
By the 12th century, more than 60 churches in Wales had been dedicated to him and pilgrims visited his monastery at St Davids.

St David's Day facts



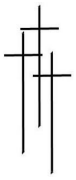
The nickname 'Taffy' for a Welshman links back to St David as the original and ultimate Welshman – the term dates back to the 17th century and derives from 'Dafydd', the Welsh for David. [Dewi is an affectionate diminutive]

The shrine of St David at his cathedral – located in Britain's smallest city, St Davids in Pembrokeshire – was thought of so highly by Pope Callistus II that he states that two pilgrimages to the shrine was worth one to the Vatican in Rome, and three to one to Jerusalem.



Our Lady and Saint Non's chapel
(St Davids, Wales).
Stained glass window (1934)
showing Saint David

Dydd Gŵyl Dewi Sant Hapus [Happy St David's Day]



The Cotteridge Church
Joint Church Council
Summary of Proceedings 11th December 2019

Key Decisions

1. The JCC approved moving the collection of Gift Aid from the current Treasury Team to the Diocesan Parish Giving Scheme
2. The JCC agreed to the installation of a display monitor in the Pennine Way on the wall of the Office 2
3. The JCC agreed to hold fire drills in the Church building after Easter when the weather was better
4. The role descriptions for the Catering Manager and Catering Treasurer were approved and Alex Woodhouse was warmly welcomed in both roles
5. The JCC approved the joint appointment of Dorothy Audley and Pam Waddell to handle safeguarding recruitment for Catering Services
6. It was agreed that the only Christmas decoration that could be installed before the first Sunday in Advent would be a Christmas Tree in the Pennine Way which could be set-up one week before the Christmas Fayre

Summary Proceedings

1. Storage space for Saplings equipment in the Malvern Room was discussed, with a large cupboard against the east wall being the favoured option along side a wheeled storage system possibly against the west wall
2. It was reported that most of the new chairs had now arrived, and we were looking to sell the old ones. Currently 100 chairs were stored in the old boiler room
3. The Treasurer reported that this year, not counting capital items bought from a generous legacy, the expenditure over income was around 11,000GBP. The budgeted deficit next year is estimated at 14,000GBP
4. It was noted with sadness that long-term member Pat Walker had died and will be very much missed
5. The clutter in the minister's vestry preventing the preparation of communion was discussed and the meeting thought the room should be decluttered

The next meeting of the Joint Church Council will be on Thursday 16th January 2020 at 19:30.

This Summary is authorised by:

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



The Cotteridge Church
Joint Church Council

Summary of Proceedings 16th January 2020

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

Key Decisions

1. Jane Stephens was appointed chair of the Worship and Pastoral Committee
2. The Treasurer proposed a budget for 2020 and this was accepted by the meeting
3. The attendance of the Methodist Circuit Steward at JCC was approved
4. A revised version of the Church's Disciplinary Procedures was approved

Summary Proceedings

1. It was reported that all the new chairs had now arrived and 200 of the old plastic chairs had been sold raising £608
2. It was noted that a Chair and members of the new Community Services Committee needs to be appointed
3. The Administrator reported that the armchairs in the Clent Room had been put up for sale on eBay
4. The Treasurer said that since the last JCC room hire had improved and he was now expecting a much smaller deficit for FY2019 and he was budgeting for a much smaller deficit for FY2020
5. The Administrator Reported that the various boilers around the Church had been serviced, but that the gas water heater in the Day Care Centre needs replacing and he was seeking quotes
6. It was with sadness that we recorded the death of Marie Marsden
7. Mike Claridge noted that he now had three candidates for confirmation and membership
8. It was noted that Anne Cole had taken on Helen Gale's role on the B30 Foodbank
9. Mike Claridge said there had been concern within the Methodist circuit that the God in Love report had not yet been discussed
10. It was agreed that Laurie Brown and Neil Walters would review and revise the Church's Dismissal Policy

The next meeting of the Joint Church Council will be on Tuesday 18th February 2020 at 19:30.

This Summary is authorised by:

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

BRATCH LOCKS:

A January walk with the Cotteridge Country Walkers

If you go west from Dudley past Himley Hall and cross the A 449 to Wombourne, you reach Bratch locks, a popular feature on the nearby Staffordshire & Worcestershire canal. The



route of the former South Staffs railway runs north-south parallel to the canal, making a level walkway/cycleway for many traffic free miles. You can make a circular walk if you link water and rail. Twenty members of the CCW parked up at 10 30 am behind the former Wombourne railway

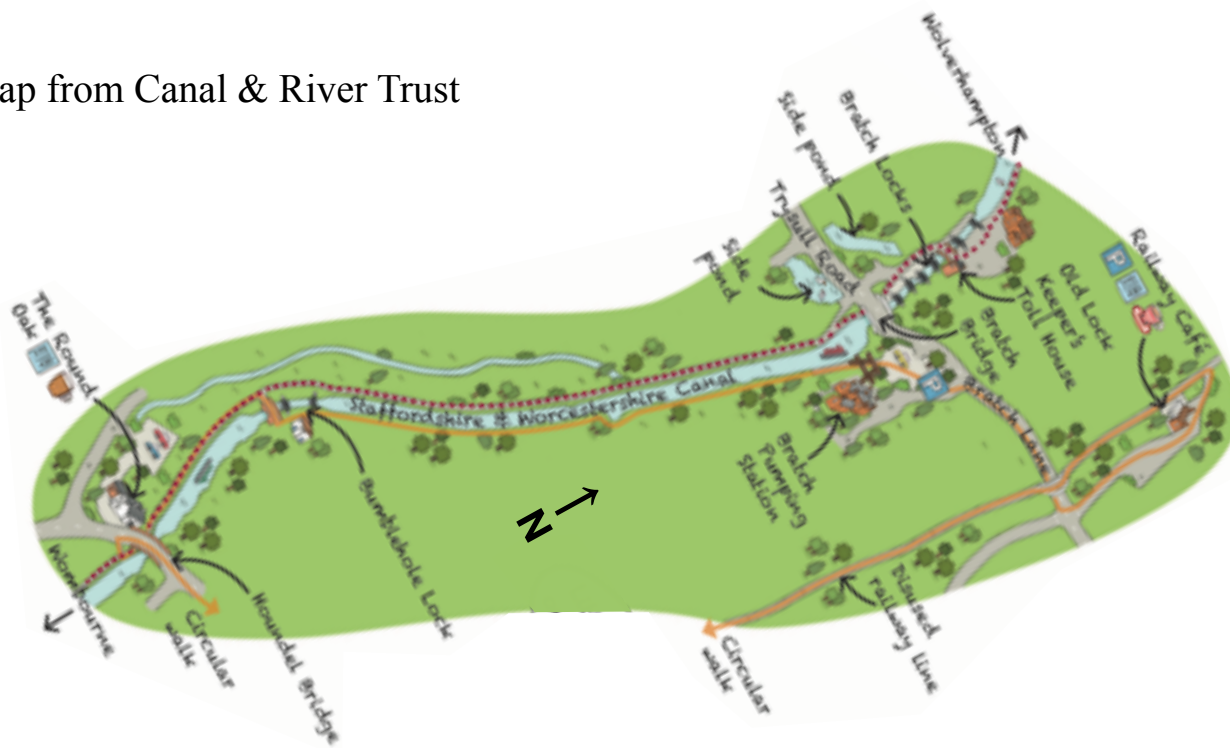
station (now a cafe), and followed the line of the old railway north for a couple of miles. Views to the left and right showed open farm countryside on a bright and sunny Saturday. At a picnic spot served by tables and benches we paused for a few minutes to drink our coffee, then made a short link across open fields to Mops Farm where we crossed over the canal and turned south

At around 12.30 we stopped for lunch at a convenient lock that afforded seating around the brick bridge workings. After about three miles we reached Bratch locks and that only left a short road link to get back to the cars. The walk leaders had chosen this walk to keep our feet dry after too much winter rain, and the level route meant we covered our five miles in about four hours. The café closes at dusk so there was time for a bacon sarnie and a cup of tea before the drive home. Many thanks to Peter & Jane Done for a lovely winter outing.

If you want to join us on our next monthly ramble please contact me via the church pigeon holes. Peter Childs.

Peter Childs.

Map from Canal & River Trust



My name is Neil and I'm a Boomer

I don't believe in original sin, what I do believe in is acquired guilt. Throughout my life I have gathered guilt, it has accreted to my soul in quantities both great and small, but the largest guilt that clings to me is climate change. "Sharon" shouts at me, no, us from the television daily that my generation, the 'baby boomers', has stolen the future of her and the generations that follow, if there will be any generations to follow.

I am drawing to the end of my earthly existence, I have no children or grandchildren so neither I or any close family will suffer the terrible consequence of my mindless abuse of the earth, but for those of you who have children or grandchildren, their lives will be destroyed by my acts over the last sixty years. Whether your grandchildren will have children or whether the human race will cease to be is yet to be determined by our actions now, but one thing that is certain they will suffer terribly for what I, we, have done.

I drive a petrol guzzling car, I eat red meat, I fly both for business and for pleasure and I buy more than I need, all things that are condemning future generations, if there are any, to lives of depredation and fear.

It has become apparent over the last few years that global capitalism, fuelled by progressive consumerism, has driven the world to eve of destruction. The European nations, including our own, have been priding ourselves that we are reducing our carbon emissions, whilst pointing the figure at other countries for polluting so much, not acknowledging that they are producing so much climate changing gases by manufacturing the excessive amount of goods I, we, purchase. We need to stop buying so much!

So, we need to find another economic structure to replace this 'end of the world' inducing system we now live under. Capitalism produces the good we desire, but in so doing supplies the job by which the world's population earn a living, what will replace it? I remember a book I read as an early teenager, which was popular at the time, which described a different system which would allow people to live without aggressive consumerism.

I have been re-reading E.F.Schumacher's 'Small is Beautiful' to see if it still makes sense, and it does. However, it has also increased my levels of guilt, because, although he predicted the depletion of oil reserves which no longer seems a possibility, he also predicts the damage we are doing to our planet. Which means I have known from the early Seventies that I was destroying my world!

Another book popular at the time was James Lovelock's 'Gaia Hypothesis' which described earth's eco-system as living entity which was able to self-right any problems afflicting it. So maybe the death of the human race is just Gaia restoring the balance by eliminating what is responsible for the damage being perpetrated on the planet's climate.

Can I give up my car, red meat, flying and buying everything I desire? I don't know, it will be hard, but until I do, I will continue to feel guilty.

My name is Neil and I'm a Boomer and I am guilty of climate change.

Neil Walters

Services for March and April

	1st March	8th March	15th March	22nd March	29th March
9.00 am HC	Revd M. Claridge	Revd R. Collins	Revd M. Claridge	Revd M. Claridge	Revd R. Collins
10:30 am	Rt Revd D Urquhart/ Revd M. Claridge CM	Revd R. Collins HC	Revd M. Claridge	Revd M. Claridge HC	Life & Soul
6:30 pm	Revd R. Collins HC	Café Church	Revd R. Collins HC.	Miss Hazel Nash	Revd M. Claridge HC
	5th April	12th April	19th April	26th April	
9.00 am HC	Revd M. Claridge	Revd R. Collins	Revd R. Collins	Revd M. Claridge	
10:30 am	Revd M. Claridge P	Revd R. Collins HC	Revd L. Dixon	Revd M. Claridge HC	
6:30 pm	Revd M. Claridge Choir	Revd M. Claridge HC	Revd R. Collins HC	PNP at 7.30 pm	

Service types: HC - Holy Communion P - Parade PNP Political Night Prayer
 denotes Young Church CM Confirmation & Membership

Communion Services are held each week at 10.00 am on Tuesdays

Easter Services:

Maundy Thursday 9th April 7.30 pm Maundy Thursday Service HC Revd R. Collins
 Good Friday 10th April 10.30 am Good Friday Service Revd M. Claridge
 7.30 pm Good Friday Service Revd M. Claridge
 Easter Eve 11th April 8.00 pm Easter Vigil Revd R. Collins

The Cotteridge Church NEW CHAIRS

Primrose Taylor, a lifelong member of The Cotteridge Church, left a generous legacy when she passed away. We decided to remember her by upgrading our chairs. The grey plastic ones had served us well, thirty years of being sat on, stacked up, laid out for services week in and out. So we bought some new ones, lightweight frames in colourful red, some with arms to help you get up if assistance is needed, some in wipe-clean vinyl if drinks get spilled on them. And they are easier to stack and store, easier to put out. And Alex even managed to sell the grey ones on E-Bay.

There is a series of marker screws set into the floor of the Malvern room. People setting out the chairs line up the start of each row using the screws. But the new seats are a tad longer than the old ones. Better for sitting on but it meant the gap between the rows had become tight. F & P volunteers (mostly Laurie) recently re-set the marker screws, although measuring enough rows to better fit the available space wasn't easy. Ken





Dodd used to say that five out of four people can't do fractions, but we managed, and we've gone metric. The new rows are 1 metre apart, 15 cm wider, giving you 17% more legroom than before.

So let's give a big hand to Bob and his team who set the Malvern room out each Sunday for the services then tirelessly stack them away again at the end ready for weekday activities, and when we sit on the new chairs and stretch out our legs in the bigger space, let us remember Primrose, and say "Thank You."

Peter Childs

A big **CHEER!** for our hardworking ladies who produce amazing food for our Day Centre, 3Cs Coffee Bar and more.

February 7th was especially good - over £200 received from the many people who leave our building nourished and content.

Many many thanks to Shirley and Tina and to Phil and Alex who help. *Chris Pascal*

Lent Lily

Narcissus pseudonarcissus, the wild daffodil, is the national flower of Wales, and also the county flower of Gloucestershire. Smaller and paler than many garden varieties, our native daffodil is often called the "Lent Lily" as it blooms and dies away between Ash Wednesday and Easter. It used to be a relatively common wild flower until it mysteriously declined in Victorian times (a fall in cash crops, advancements in agriculture and poor management of habitats have all been blamed) but you can still find it scattered in places, particularly in the west. One of the most famous areas is the 'golden triangle' around the Gloucestershire villages of Newent and Dymock and you can even take a walk along The Daffodil Way.

<http://www.gps-routes.co.uk/routes/home.nsf/RoutesLinksWalks/daffodil-way-walking-route>

I can also remember a few small patches locally - along the Wythall by-pass - the last field on the left before you get to Beckett's roundabout, and some near Rowney Green. Most will be familiar with Wordsworth's poem about a host of daffodils beside the lake and beneath the trees, but this poem by A. E. Housman captures its symbolism so well:

*'Tis spring; come out to ramble
The hilly brakes around,
For under thorn and bramble
About the hollow ground
The primroses are found.*

*And there's the windflower chilly
With all the winds at play,
And there's the Lenten lily
That has not long to stay
And dies on Easter day.*

*And since till girls go maying
You find the primrose still,
And find the windflower playing
With every wind at will,
But not the daffodil,*

*Bring baskets now, and sally
Upon the spring's array,
And bear from hill and valley
The daffodil away
That dies on Easter day.*



FAITHS FOR FUN EVENT 2020
Sun 29th March 2020, 1.30 - 5.30 p.m
12th glorious year

Hamstead Hall Academy, Craythorne Ave, Handsworth, B20 1HL

Organised by Birmingham Scout Association in conjunction with Birmingham Council of Faiths For all youngsters **aged 7 to 12 years** of different faiths, and none, to have FUN, get to know each other and learn something together about each others' faiths

Youngsters can be dropped off at 1.30 & collected at 5.30. They will be supervised by trained adult leaders throughout the afternoon. On arrival, they will be registered & allocated to a multifaith team, supervised by a trained leader. The fun starts with joining in the parachute game & then they will be guided around 7 faith bases to carry out a fun activity and learn something about each faith.

Bases – Baha'i, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, Jewish,

Footsteps: Faiths for a low carbon future

Refreshments at half time – special diets (Vegetarian, Kosher & Halal) catered for

Enjoy the campfire (simulated) at the end.

Certificate awarded to all participants (for Cub Scouts verifies 3 parts of World Faiths Badge)

Cost £2 per participant.

Places allocated on first come first served basis. Return registration forms as soon as possible to:-

Dr Peter Rookes, 61 Bunbury Road, Bournville, Birmingham, B31 2DS,
e-mail pjrookes@gmail.com or text 077033 36088

Birmingham Scout Association in conjunction with Birmingham Council of Faiths

Faiths for Fun Event for youngsters aged 7 to 12 years

Hamstead Hall Academy, Craythorne Avenue, Handsworth, B20 1HL

Sun 29th March 2020, 1.30- 5.30 p.m.

Individual Registration Form

Child's Name(print).....Age...Gender M/F..... Religion.....

Address.....

I give permission for (name of child) to attend the above event, which will include learning about other faiths

Details of any health condition, disability, allergy & medication

.....

I give permission for my child to be included in any photographs or videos of the event.

Emergency phone numbermobile no.....e-mail.....

Signed (Parent) Print Name.....

Notes

1. Uniform groups e.g. (scouts, guides) should wear uniform, other youngsters should wear suitable clothing for physical activities (e.g. tracksuits or sweat-shirt and trousers). All should wear trainers or sports shoes.

2. Participants should bring a drink and £2 entrance fee.



BCF Updates and Events

BIRMINGHAM COUNCIL OF FAITHS

Welcome to the first BCF Updates and Events of 2020
BCF promotes and maintains harmonious relations
between members of many different faiths in Birmingham

Peter Rookes is the very active secretary of this organisation, as you will know from a number of articles he has written for Roundabout.

The data which follows is but a brief summary of what is going on. For further details please visit the website <https://bhamfaiths.org.uk/calendar/> or talk with Peter

This is his summary

He has recently been involved in discussions on the radio:

BBC Radio FM

Thank you to Violet Owen (Bahá'i), Sybil Prais (Jewish), Shelina Walji (Muslim) and Balvir Dhillon (Sikh) who participated with me on 2 programmes on the Llewella Bailey show on BBC Radio WM. The first was on parenting and the second on Marriage. The second one of these can still be heard online on BBC Sounds. There are 2 conversations the first is approximately 17 minutes into the programme, and the second 1 hour 21 minutes in.

Unity FM Radio

You may have heard Mahmooda Qureshi presenting the Connecting Communities programme on Unity FM channel 93.5. I have recently joined her as co-presenter. We have a great line up of guests, including Patricia Earle discussing the Women's Peace Movement, Rabiya Latief on talking about the Near Neighbours programme, and Parveen Hassan discussing the Crown Prosecution Service work on Hate Crime, so tune on alternate Mondays at 4.0pm (2nd, 16th March, and so on)

Sacred Space

The Sacred Space Project hopes to provide a meeting place for people of many faiths: A place to enjoy good food and drink, listen to an interesting speaker, ask questions, make new friends, share experiences and concerns, and find ways of working together to build a more informed and inclusive society.

You are warmly invited to join us on **Monday 16th March**, 7.00pm for 7.30pm

GUEST SPEAKER FROM: SAWIYAN (Arabic for 'together')

Michelle Savage, Project Coordinator, will share about how this work helps people from diverse ethnic, faith and cultural backgrounds connect and understand each other better.

Sawiyah, a charity based in Sparkbrook, creates meeting spaces where people can come together, learn from each other and grow to appreciate each other's cultures, skills and strengths.

This will be held at The Alborz Restaurant, 1076 Stratford Road B28 8AD.

Cost is £8 and booking is essential. Please contact: Jane Bailey Tel: 0121 707 1008/
Mobile: 07949215273 .gallagher@lineone.net

International Women's Day

Events are being held from Tuesday 3rd to Wednesday 11th March. For full details please see the poster on the church notice board.

Meetings are:

Tuesday 3rd March	11.00 am - 2.00 pm:	Celebrate IWD with Goal Alliance
Friday 6th March	11.00 am - 2.00 pm:	Scarves & Selfies Celebration
Saturday 7th March	2.00pm - 4.00pm:	Erdington Labour Women's Forum event
	1.00pm - 5.00 pm:	Slavic Women's Day
Sunday 8th March	3.00pm - 6.00pm:	Near Neighbours Women in Leadership
	6.00pm - 9.00pm:	St Margaret's Unity Hub
Monday 9th March	12.00 - 2.00pm:	Windrush Women
Wednesday 11th March	10.30am - 2.00pm:	Words of Inspiration

United Kingdom Women of Faith Network

Religions for Peace UK Women of Faith Network would like to invite you to a seminar 'Protecting Mother Earth' to celebrate International Women's Day. The seminar will take place on

Sunday 8th March 2020, 2.00pm-4.30pm

at The Nishkam Centre, 6 Soho Rd, Handsworth, Birmingham B21 9BH

You will have an opportunity,

- to learn what the different Religious Scriptures say about the environment,
- to discuss and collaborate as to what we can do practically to help our planet.
- to mobilise for the UN Climate Change Conference COP26

There will also be a launch of "Let Earth Breathe, Plant Trees project

[Register for this event at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/protecting-mother-earth-seminar-tickets-95096244427>]

National Interfaith Week [advertised in the November issue of Roundabout] in 2019 took place between Saturday 9th and Sunday 17th November, for which the Birmingham Council of Faiths again coordinated 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.

The 24 event agenda for the launch included an outline of Interfaith Week's significance and outline of the Birmingham programme by Dr Peter Rookes, Secretary and 3rd Sector Liaison Officer, Birmingham Council of Faiths. Qurratul Ain Ahmad (Annie) spoke about Faith Focused Environmental Programmes. Councillor John Cotton, Cabinet Member for Diversity, Safety and Equality spoke about Birmingham's rich faith heritage, and Mahmooda Qureshi spoke about Hope not Hate. Finally, Geraldine Parker gave a presentation on donation and transplantation, particularly amongst minority ethnic communities. Abbas Laljix concluded the event with a Nasheed Recitation.

Wordsearch

You can find all of these things in our Church. Can you find them in the grid below?
[left -right →; top - bottom ↓ or diagonally ↘]

Answers next time.

T	P	S	M	A	L	V	E	R	N	R	O	O	M
P	R	T	A	B	L	E	S	Q	T	F	C	T	I
E	O	A	P	I	G	E	O	N	H	O	L	E	S
N	J	I	I	B	M	F	O	O	D	N	E	A	C
N	E	N	L	D	A	L	T	A	R	T	C	X	O
I	C	E	O	O	C	H	A	P	E	L	T	S	F
N	T	D	R	F	Y	R	H	P	T	C	E	B	F
E	O	G	G	E	P	R	A	Y	E	R	R	O	E
W	R	L	A	C	A	K	E	F	G	O	N	O	E
A	S	A	N	L	P	L	A	N	T	S	T	K	B
Y	Z	S	K	F	L	O	W	E	R	S	E	R	A
N	L	S	C	R	E	E	N	V	J	G	H	O	R
N	O	T	I	C	E	S	R	H	E	L	P	O	A
H	Y	M	N	B	O	O	K	Y	N	U	S	M	P

ALTAR	BOOK ROOM	CAKE	CHAPEL
COFFEE BAR	CROSS	FLOWERS	FONT
FOOD	GALLERY	HELP	HYMN BOOK
LECTERN	MALVERN ROOM	NOTICES	ORGAN
PENNINE WAY	PIGEON HOLES	PLANTS	PRAYER
PROJECTOR	SCREEN	STAINED GLASS	TABLES
TEA	TRAIDCRAFT SHOP		

And finally, and with thanks for the internet!

Easter says you can put truth in a grave, but it won't stay there. Clarence W. Hall.
Easter is not a passport to another world; it is a quality of perception for this one.

W.P. Lemon

We live and die; Christ died and lived!

John Stott



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