

Roundabout



The Cotteridge Church

Witnessing at the Heart of the Community

July 2020

Mike's message...

Lock Down has been hard!

It's still hard for many. Last time I wrote for Roundabout it was in the early days of lock down. Three months on it seems like another world.

Lengthy periods of separation from those we love has been difficult. People have had times of illness - non-Covid related - and had to attend hospital and out-patients unaccompanied. For some heartbreak has been harder as loved ones, including church members, have died alone.

Lock down is being eased. Shops are opening. Churches can, if they wish, open for private prayer. There will be a time to return for worship although some churches have decided with good reason not to reopen until September.

Everyone is walking on a journey that is unknown. We all make decisions of what to do, how to try and contribute to wellbeing of others. Sometimes we'll get that right, sometimes we'll get that wrong. There will always be some who think that we're doing the wrong things, or not doing the things we should. We need to cut some slack and accept that people are trying as hard as they can - even when we disagree.

This is very important as we move into the next stage. When worship and other aspects of church life return they will be very different. Worship will be a different style. Holy Communion may have to wait for a while. Singing may not be part of worship at first. Services may be at different times and shorter. There will be a need to give and take. On arrival for worship people will be told where to sit, go immediately to those seats and leave immediately after worship. It sounds cold and clinical. But there will be a welcome and the presence of each and every person will be treasured and valued by others and by God.

During lock down we've maintained one of the largest on-line resource sites I've seen. We haven't used much 'live' content - other churches have - but we've run five courses and, every week, posted bible study notes, readings, worship sheets, and links to worship (recorded and live). I've prepared, recorded and broadcast a weekly video reflection. We've emailed out (thank you Peter Childs) a weekly bulletin and the notice sheet to everyone whose emails we know. On the website and bulletin we've given details of phone lines and tv worship schedules to pass on to those not online.

During lock down we've valued our pastoral links system and I've phoned members when a call has been needed. I've phoned people on the membership list 'at random' too. We've maintained support for B30 Foodbank and we've run Saplings Story Time and Messy Church at Home live on Facebook. The BB have used their own online resources, and the Day Centre has maintained contact with its members.

Thank you to everyone for all that you have done, and continue to do.



Friends & Family

Congratulations: to Hai and Qi Zhang who have welcomed a baby daughter into the world. They have named her Esther, and we look forward to seeing them all when we're able to meet together again.

to Dorothy & Steve Audley on becoming grandparents. Agnes Jean Audley Clark was born on 12th May to their daughter Heather. They are really looking forward to meeting her in person.



to Revd Ros Murphy who was 80
and to June Milner who reached 90 in May



Farewell:

Lin and Laurie Brown will probably be moving in July having sold Foxes Meadow and bought a new home in Thorpe Willoughby, North Yorkshire. We wish them well, and thank them for many years of faithful service to our church.

We are sad to record the deaths of five friends

Barbara Burden at the beginning of May,

Diana Stephens Wednesday 13 May,

Revd James Garrow, who died in his sleep on 23rd May 2020. Jim trained at Westhill & Overdale and was ordained in 1957. He served at Bulwell, Burslem, Sparkhill, Newcastle-under-Lyme, as Warden of Overdale, Bournville, briefly as administrative Officer of the Churches of Christ, and Reginald Road South. He retired in 1989. During his final ministry he served as Administrative Officer for East

Midlands Province. Our thoughts & prayers with Shirley & David, Katie & family & everyone at Bournville URC Beaumont Road

Sylvia Girling, Sylvia was the Baha'i member of our Birmingham Council of Faiths Management Committee for a number of years, and served her term as Chair. She was also a baseholder at Faiths for Fun. She and Jeanie Rookes were good friends.

Revd Janet Knox died on 8th June, peacefully at home with her family. We remember with gratitude her service to our Youth programme.

News of Jean Morgan's friend Penny in Lima, Peru. Their lockdown has been extended until at least 30 June, as their curve has not yet begun to dip, and they are still getting around 200 deaths per day [from a population less than half of ours]. Like us they are using "Zoom" to remain in contact via the internet. All in all not very encouraging but she says "Just as well to know that God has not abandoned us and is with us every step of the way". We send them our very best wishes.



John David Charter Rogers

David was born in January 1933 at Kirkby, Nottinghamshire where his father was a Methodist Minister. The second son of the Revd John Harold Charter Rogers and Muriel, he attended Priestsic Road Primary School and later the Wirral Grammar School when the family moved to Lower Bebington.



In 1951, after leaving school, David had a place to study Law at the London School of Economics, but decided to defer and embarked on his National Service (which he was not looking forward to - but wanted to get it over with!). At the same time the family moved to Birmingham when his father was appointed Superintendent Minister of the Birmingham and South West Circuit, and Minister of the King's Norton Methodist Church. After he completed his National Service, David moved to Birmingham and took up a part-time job at Cadbury Brothers working nights in the factory and eventually moved to a full time post in the Transport Department.

When his parents moved to Newcastle under Lyme in 1956 David, and his brother Paul, moved to a flat at the Cotteridge end of Middleton Hall Road. It was during his visits to his parents' home at weekends that he met Chris who had just completed her Teacher Training Course in London and moved to Birmingham to take up a teaching post at Colmers Farm Primary School. Chris was also travelling home to visit her parents who attended the church where David's father was the minister.

Chris and David were married in 1961 in Newcastle, and shortly after David began to study for a Law Degree at evening classes in Wednesbury. As was the case in those days you had to pass all stages of the course together and although David had passed all stages of the course he didn't manage to pass all at the same time. With a growing family David decided not to continue his studies in order to spend more time at home with the children in the evenings.

After many years at Cadbury's, David moved to the Central Electricity Generating Board in Moseley, followed by the Upper Tame Drainage Authority before moving to Seven Trent Water Authority, working in the Solicitors Department, until his retirement in 1997.

David was an active member of King's Norton Methodist Church. He started a group of the Christian Endeavour Society and organised Christian Endeavour holidays for the young people many times. He was a Church Steward twice, served on Church Council on several occasions and he also served on numerous Church committees. He completed many theology courses in conjunction with the University of Birmingham and was a Methodist Local Preacher for over sixty years.

David's main interests outside Church Life were his home, family and garden: he enjoyed the company of his family and took great interest in the lives of his six grandchildren. He followed sport (latterly, from his armchair!!) and was an avid supporter of West Bromwich Albion along with his two eldest sons whom he took to their first game in 1973. Chris and David were members of the National Trust and visited many of the Trust properties, both locally and whilst on holiday,

especially if there was a tea/coffee shop! He enjoyed family holidays in England and Wales, and spent many happy times in Derbyshire, Yorkshire, Devon and South and North Wales, where they had family.

David had a quirky sense of humour, evidenced by his love of Spike Milligan, The Goon Show and Monty Python. He also loved the old Laurel and Hardy films and cries of “Dad, Dad, it’s Tom and Jerry!” were guaranteed to bring him running into the lounge to enjoy the cartoons with his young family.

Chris and David moved to Droitwich in January 2019 in order to be nearer to their youngest son and his family. Having suffered several falls at home, David passed away peacefully on 23rd April, following a short stay in the Worcester Royal Hospital, where he ultimately suffered a stroke and contracted pneumonia.

We give thanks for his long and happy life.

Diana Stephens - A Eulogy by her daughter Jane



Mum was born in Hammersmith, London in 1932, her father was a painter and decorator and her mother had been in service before she married. It was a multi-generational household with Mum’s grandparents, aunt, uncle, brother John, sister Pat and dog Jip living in different parts of the house. The family kept hens in the back garden & mum used to try to push them round in her dolls pram, they weren’t too keen, but Jip was quite happy to oblige and even wore a bonnet!

When Mum was 18 months old her mother died and her grandmother took over her care for over 4 years until she had a stroke. That was the end of Mum’s happy childhood as she went first to stay with an aunt in Surrey and then, with Pat and her father, to

live in a village in Northamptonshire with her stepmother. It was only the prospect of returning to live in London that kept Mum going through the misery of the war years.

In 1948 Mum returned to London to train as a Nursery Nurse, working in a variety of nurseries in the Shepherds Bush area, while living with her aunt, Troonie, and her husband, Sam. Mum started going to the youth club at Rivercourt Methodist Church in Hammersmith where in 1951 she met Dad who was working in London before going to Edinburgh University.

Mum and Dad married in 1954 and moved to Edinburgh while Dad completed his Teacher Training & Mum worked in a day nursery. They both loved Edinburgh and were very happy there. A year later they moved to Armadale where Mum taught in an infant school and Dad in a junior school. After 2 years they moved to Manchester for Dad to train for the ministry and Mum worked and kept him!



St Athan in rural Wales was quite difficult for Mum as she neither cycled nor drove, but towards the end of this time I was born. 6 months later we moved to Treherbert in the Rhondda Valley which meant streets of houses and people and shops down the hill, which was much better, and the following year Catherine was born.

In 1964 we moved to Darlington in County Durham where Mum was very happy. As we got a bit older she set up and ran a playgroup in the Methodist Church hall in the centre of the town, as well as playing an active part in the life of the new Northland Methodist Church.

Mum left Darlington with great sadness and suffered a significant period of depression when we came to Birmingham. Living in Moseley opened up new possibilities and friendships including a period working for Moseley & District Churches Housing Association. I also recall as a family collecting for Christian Aid Week on Church Road, Moseley, which we later discovered was in the red light district.

Cotteridge provided fresh challenges as Catherine and I finished our schooling and left home. Mum learned her way round many of the roads in the area as she and I walked in the evenings as relaxation when I was revising for exams.

Mum and Dad retired at first to a house in Rowheath Road and then to Westholme Croft in Bournville. Dad's mother came to live opposite them and they cared for her until she decided to move into Sellywood House. Also at this time Catherine had Simon and Victoria who brought an enormous amount of pleasure and love into both Mum and Dad's lives.

Because of Dad's failing sight they decided to move closer to Cotteridge into a flat on Northfield Road and then 4 years later, as Mum's memory began to deteriorate, into Beaumont Park where Mum still had a small patch of garden.

Mum adjusted to life in Beaumont Park by ignoring all the activities and using the patio door as her front door. She coped remarkably well to Dad moving into Neville Williams House and only seeing him once or twice a week; she missed him more when he died in 2015.

Daily visits for coffee to the Cotteridge Church Café and to the Co-op for a Guardian newspaper kept Mum going for some years, but the time came when she needed more support, some fantastic carers who we told Mum were friends of mine who popped in to see her. We gradually increased the support but in January Mum had to have a spell in hospital and it was clear that she needed residential care. Mum spent 4 months in Bourn View being very well cared for before she died peacefully on 18th May.

Throughout her adult life fairness for vulnerable people and those who find themselves in difficult situations was Mum's overwhelming concern. It was what motivated her to work with young children; then to campaign with Dad for legalisation of abortion (her mother had died as a result of a backstreet abortion) and legalisation of homosexuality. In Birmingham Mum worked as an abortion counsellor for several years.

In Cotteridge Mum was instrumental in setting up an Unemployment Club which evolved into a Manpower Services Commission scheme, and then with a team of other people to bring into existence and run the Cotteridge Church Day Centre.

Mum's early life experiences combined with the politics of her grandparents (who were involved in setting up the Labour Party) created a compassion and need to try to restore justice in whatever ways she could.

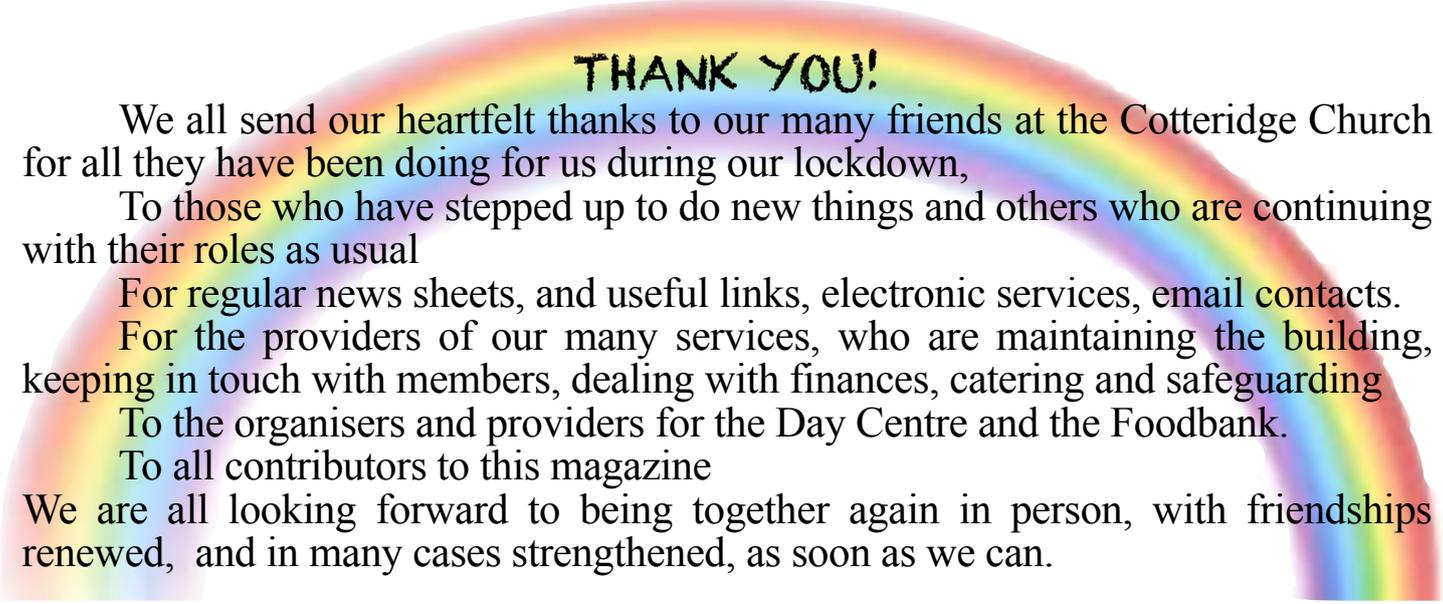
Birmingham was Mum's home for 50 years but she still complained that there was no river! As a young woman she had badgered her uncle, who owned a small boat, to take her on the river for the boat race. She admitted afterwards that it was very boring because the racing boats went past very quickly but they were stuck in the boat unable to go anywhere for several hours. Mum still liked to watch the boat race.

In retirement Mum took great delight in her garden, she had been a keen gardener for many years, and the pleasure she got from seeing the birds in her garden and feeding them lasted until the end.

Mum and Dad both loved nature so days out and holidays in the country gave them both much pleasure.

Dad gave Mum the love, care and support she needed to make the most of her life and he supported her through the periods of depression she suffered. Mum gave Dad the love, care and support to change from teaching to ministry and to giving to so many people. They both gave love, care and support to their wider families and especially to Catherine and me and to Simon and Victoria.

Jane Stephens



THANK YOU!

We all send our heartfelt thanks to our many friends at the Cotteridge Church for all they have been doing for us during our lockdown,

To those who have stepped up to do new things and others who are continuing with their roles as usual

For regular news sheets, and useful links, electronic services, email contacts.

For the providers of our many services, who are maintaining the building, keeping in touch with members, dealing with finances, catering and safeguarding

To the organisers and providers for the Day Centre and the Foodbank.

To all contributors to this magazine

We are all looking forward to being together again in person, with friendships renewed, and in many cases strengthened, as soon as we can.

US Astronauts self isolating after space trips.

In 2016, my daughter and her family fulfilled my late husband's promise to me to take me to Texas to see the bluebonnets [a wild lupin, and the national flower of Texas]. It was a wonderful experience, and ended with a visit to the space station in Houston, where we enjoyed a conducted tour and got to touch actual moon rock.

Whilst looking at space rockets and all the equipment and training needed, the guide told us that there were fears that the astronauts might become infected with an alien pathogen, which could, on their return spread, and kill humanity. To avoid this, there is a huge area deep beneath the space station, in which the returning astronauts had to agree to spend the *rest of their lives* incarcerated away from friends, family and sunlight should such an agent be found. Amazingly they still agreed to go to the moon. For me, that does alter the intensity of the self isolation concept.

Celia Lester

Bread and Roses

One weekly essential trip made beyond my front door is to the local bakery to pick up my order of some darn fine sourdough loaves. These two large loaves feed my family; they make crunchy breakfast toast, tasty holders of sandwich fillings, and form the base for pungent garlic bread. This food, and the care with which it is prepared, feeds our bodies. But no matter how tasty the food, we are more than just physical creatures and we need more than bread. We also need beauty to feed us.

I am reminded of the slogan “We want Bread, and Roses too!” This call was reportedly used by both American suffragettes and in 1912 by striking immigrant female textile workers in Lawrence, Massachusetts, USA. Its plea for ingredients to nourish both the body and spirit captured the popular imagination. The poet James Oppenheim wrote a poem entitled “Bread and Roses” which states “Hearts starve as well as bodies: Give us Bread, but give us Roses” and ended with a request that all share in life's glories, of both Bread and Roses.

“Bread and Roses” is a beautiful request, but also a strange one. We know that food is needed for life, but roses seem so much more optional. Roses, fragrant flowers with thorny stems, are beautiful but they aren't necessary for life. If we think in a broader metaphorical manner then roses can symbolise those things which feed our hearts, which bring a smile to our faces and make us wonder in awe about the beauty around us. Roses represent things of beauty, true transcendent beauty. A beauty that is not just shiny baubles or glittery jewels, rather a deep beauty which feeds our hearts and make us grateful. Beauty which takes us beyond ourselves.

At the turn of the last century, the activists who called for Bread and Roses wanted food on their table but also for the scented blossoms of dignity and respect to perfume the air. This leaves us with the question of where, in these strange days of safer-at-home social distancing, are we cheered by the fragrance of beauty? What makes you draw in breath? What inspires you? What are you grateful for? These are just a few of the questions you might ask to reflect on where there is beauty in your life.

The new pattern of my days means that so much of what was my ordinary life is not accessible to me right now. However, there is still beauty in this new life; I just have to more carefully and intentionally search it out. I appreciate the beauty of flowers in my garden, but as a Christian I also look for beauty in holy ways inspired by God's Spirit. An early leader of the Christian Church, Paul, in a letter to the Church in Galatia declared, “the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience,



"Bread & Roses," a painting by Mike Alewitz in memory of the 1912 Lawrence Textile Strike

kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.” Paul’s words help me appreciate the beauty of neighbours helping neighbours who have to self-quarantine. As Ralph Waldo Emerson said, “Never lose an opportunity of seeing anything beautiful, for beauty is God’s handwriting.”

In times like this when our usual outlets for beauty may not be available, we may have to look harder. Our ability to get through this unprecedented situation in one piece is not just about making sure there is bread on our table, but also about beauty feeding our hearts. Methodist ministers are here to support you in feeding body and soul, whether you are religious or not. If you would like to explore these questions please be in contact; you may need to leave a message and we will get back to you. Together we can seek out beauty, to insure that our lives are nourished by both bread and roses.

Blessings, Mindy [Revd Mindy Bell]

Provisional Services for July and August

Please note that these services will take place **ONLY** if Government restrictions have been lifted sufficiently.

	5th July	12th July	19th July	26th	
9.00 am HC	Revd R. Collins	Revd M. Claridge	Revd M. Claridge	Revd R. Collins	
10:30 am	Revd R. Collins P	Revd M. Claridge HC	Revd M. Claridge	Revd L. Dixon HC	
6:30 pm	Revd M. Claridge HC	Revd M. Claridge	Revd R. Collins HC.	Revd M. Claridge	
	2nd August	9th August	16th August	23rd August	30th August
9.00 am HC	Revd M. Claridge	Revd R. Collins	Revd M. Claridge	Revd M. Claridge	Revd R. Collins
10:30 am	Miss Sue. Spencer P	Revd R. Collins HC	Revd M. Claridge	Revd L. Jagessar HC	Life & Soul
6:30 pm	Revd M. Claridge Choir	Miss Hazel Nash	Revd M. Claridge HC	Deacon E. Bhajan	Revd R. Collins

Service types: HC - Holy Communion P - Parade PNP Political Night Prayer

 denotes Young Church

Communion Services are held each week at 10.00 am on Tuesdays

Mike Claridge produces a regular notice sheet, which can be accessed via the church web site. This will give details of online services, and zoom interactions etc. and of course, when normal services will be resumed.

Traidcraft



Traidcraft Mexican Organic Blossom Clear Honey
A wonderfully fragrant and delicious clear honey.
300g (10oz) £3.75 | 500g (17.5oz) £5.20

Traidcraft Children Number Set Honey (Citrus, Strawberry, Orange)
300g (10oz) £3.00 | 300g (10oz) £3.75

Traidcraft Mexican Organic Blossom Set Honey
A wonderfully fragrant and delicious set honey.
310g (10.9oz) £3.75 | 300g (10.5oz) £3.20



Unfortunately, our delicious strawberry jam is currently out of stock. We are awaiting the next harvest of fresh, Organic strawberries before we can have more jam made. Due to this, we expect our jam to be in short supply. Some things in life are worth waiting for, and we are sure you that this is no exception.

- Traidcraft Organic Strawberry Jam**
Packaged with 50% pure organic strawberries. Perfect for scones.
400g (14oz) £3.45
400g (14oz) £4.15
- Traidcraft Organic Orange Marmalade**
Rich, Tasty and full of fibre our organic Seville orange marmalade.
400g (14oz) £3.45
400g (14oz) £4.15
- Calypso Apple Juice**
100% pure juice.
500ml (17.5oz) £1.50
- Calypso Orange Juice**
100% pure juice.
500ml (17.5oz) £1.50
- Liberation Country Peanut Butter**
Made with peanuts from Mozambique and Nicaragua.
300g (10.5oz) £2.75
300g (10.5oz) £2.45
- Traidcraft Fruity Golden Granola**
Peanuts, dates and almonds blended with coconut rice and honey oats.
250g (8.8oz) £3.00
400g (14oz) £3.20
- Traidcraft Fruit & Nut Muesli**
Citrus and South African raisins, Sweet nuts and Pakistan almonds.
400g (14oz) £3.45
400g (14oz) £3.20
- Traidcraft Basic Fruit Muesli**
Citrus and South African raisins, Tasty nuts and organic berries.
400g (14oz) £3.45
400g (14oz) £3.20



- 1. Recycled and Handmade Soft Bags**
Bags have been part of Indian culture for thousands of years. To help you invest in a part of Indian heritage with a plastic-free, recycled bag! Handmade, individually coloured and designs vary within a batch. (including handles) L:50cm. **£47.00 £8.50**
- 2. Large Zip Bag Weave Bagasse Basket**
Perfect for storage or as an interesting way to display your indoor plants in an eco-friendly home. 40x30cm. 30 Litres. **£39.00 £25.50**
- 3. Recycled and Handmade Soft Bags**
Bags have been part of Indian culture for thousands of years. To help you invest in a part of Indian heritage with a plastic-free, recycled bag! Handmade, individually coloured and designs vary within a batch. (including handles) L:50cm. **£47.00 £8.50**
- 4. Zip Pouch with Embroidered Animal Design**
Cute, hand-embroidered animal pouch with handy zip-top. 15x12cm. Cotton. Attached design. Purchased individually, returns and design vary. **£3.00 £1.50**



Tropical Wholefood Fair Trade Organic Bars
This caramel-like, multi-seed smoothie bar is low in saturated fat and has no artificial additives, colourings or preservatives. Microwave ready to eat.
400g (14oz) £3.15
400g (14oz) £3.80

Tropical Wholefood Fair Trade Organic Fruit Salads
This salad is perfect for a healthy lunch box, with 100% Organic ingredients only. Plus, the Fruit Salad bar allows us one of your free a day Minimum order four bars.
175g (6.2oz) £3.15
175g (6.2oz) £3.75

Tropical Wholefood Fair Trade Organic Mango & Raisin Bar
Luscious made using a stone mellow of 100% Organic ingredients, make yourself for a delicious, healthy snack. Give you an energy boost, too. Microwave ready to eat.
400g (14oz) £3.15
400g (14oz) £3.75

Tropical Wholefood Fair Trade Organic Pineapple & Cashew Bar
This bar is full of tangy blend of better and sweet, in bursting with natural and comes with no artificial preservatives, additives or preservatives.
400g (14oz) £3.15
400g (14oz) £3.75

Tropical Wholefood Fair Trade Organic Apricot & Raisin Bar
Made with our healthy blend of 100% organic ingredients including apricots, raisins, barley flakes, apricot natural juice and sunflower oil. Give yourself for a flavour explosion! Microwave ready to eat.
400g (14oz) £3.15
400g (14oz) £3.75

Roger invites you to browse the new traidcraft catalogue - available online now

<https://www.traidcraftshop.co.uk/traidcraft-catalogue>



Organic and Fairtrade Hampers

Each Hamper Includes a Fair Trade Basket

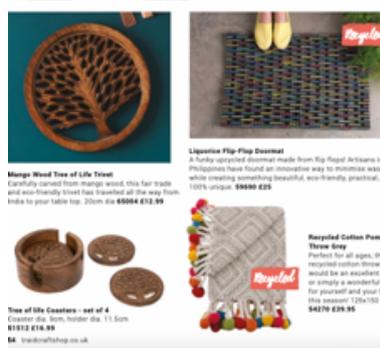
Organic Hamper
We've created this hamper, full of delicious, organic, fairtrade products which not only support the local economy but also support the local environment.
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Organic Hamper
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 - B. Hand-painted Rainbow Egg Cup** £2.99 £1.95
 - C. Hand-painted Rainbow Cup & Saucer** £1.50 £1.05
 - D. Rainbow Mug** 10cm. £3.95 £1.95
 - E. Rainbow Teapot** 10cm. £20.00 £14.95
 - F. Hand-painted Rainbow Salt & Pepper Set** £27.00 £8.00
 - G. Hand-painted Rainbow Side Plate** £2.50 £1.55
 - H. Hand-painted Rainbow Plate** 10cm. £3.95 £1.95
 - I. Hand-painted Rainbow Bowl** 10cm. £3.95 £1.95
 - J. Hand-painted Rainbow Milk Jug** £1.95 £1.05
 - K. Hand-painted Rainbow Sugar Bowl** with lid. £1.50 £1.05



- Tree of Life Tissue**
Carefully sourced from recycled wood, this fast made and eco-friendly tissue has inspired all the way from India to your table top. 30cm dia. **£6.00 £3.50**
- Lipasec Flip-Flop Doormat**
A funky upcycled doormat made from flip-flop insoles in the Philippines have found an innovative way to minimise waste while creating something beautiful, eco-friendly, practical, and 100% unique. **£9.95 £3.50**
- Recycled Cotton Pun-Pun Tissue**
Perfect for all ages, this recycled cotton tissue would be an excellent gift, or simply a wonderful treat for yourself and your home. This eco-friendly tissue is made in Thailand. 170x170cm. **£4.70 £3.95**
- Tree of Life Coasters - set of 4**
Coaster dia. 9cm, holder dia. 11.5cm. **£12.00 £7.50**



- Children's Owl Toy**
Made in China. Handmade. These colorful, recycled, fabric owls will delight any little adventurer and make a lovely gift to give for Christmas or birthday under 18 months. Colors and designs vary. **£12.00 £3.00**
- Children's Elephant Toy**
Made in China. Handmade. This colorful, recycled, fabric elephant will delight any little adventurer and make a lovely gift to give for Christmas or birthday under 18 months. Colors and designs vary. **£12.00 £3.00**



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Isolation is a religious necessity

Many years ago, scarily many, I was a member of the Birmingham University Archaeology Society. We used to meet monthly for interesting talks and occasional visits to ongoing digs. I remember everyone getting very excited one month as Margaret Rule was coming to talk to us on the latest discoveries on the Mary Rose. This was a long time before it was raised from the seabed and as I write I am getting to feel very old. We all piled into the lecture theatre, notebooks at the ready, only to be told that Margaret couldn't make it. I don't remember what we did instead, but I do remember looking at the title of next month's talk and thinking it was going to be a let-down, I don't remember who was going to give the talk, but I vividly remember the title 'Stack top monasteries of the north Atlantic Isles'.

Well, who ever gave the talk was a great speaker interesting, knowledgeable and humorous. The subject matter was fascinating. I never knew that Irish Christianity was so heavily influenced by Egyptian Monasticism, with many Egyptian Monks visiting Ireland during the early middle ages. The idea that a Christian should dedicate his life to developing a deeper communion with God to the exclusion of everything else lead to monks searching for the most remote places they could find, endeavouring to isolate themselves from the rest of humanity, even from fellow Christians, found them building rough stones cells on the tops of most inhospitable craggy stacks in the North Atlantic.

They lived off seabirds and seabird eggs, supplemented by scrawny vegetables grown in the rough ground atop the stack and spent their days in communion with



Keeill in Maughold churchyard

and contemplation of God. Even were a monastery of several monks was established, they were still in isolated places and the monks lived in individual cells distanced from each other. Think of Iona or Maughold. As Irish Christianity reached the Kingdoms of England a similar pattern was established. The great saint, Cuthbert, found Holy Island to crowded and full of earthly distractions and left to live on Inner Farne off the coast of Berwick. If you walk around the Isle of Man you will quite often come across

the stone foundations of building some six feet by three feet in the most remote places. Called Keeills, Manx Gaelic for Chapel, they were used by individual priests to celebrate mass in isolation.

Strangely, my life hasn't changed that much during lockdown as I normally work from home and continue to do so. I sometimes find myself watching one of my neighbours with envy as he is on furlough and building a crazy Golf course in his back garden. If I had the additional spare time a furlough would grant me, I could concentrate on developing an even deeper relationship with the Lord isolated from the distractions of the world.

As I think of those early Irish Christians I have come to the conclusion that isolation is a religious necessity to allow us to develop the deep spiritual relationship with God that the Lord requires of us.

Neil Walters



The Cotteridge Church
Joint Church Council
Summary of Proceedings 30th April 2020

Introduction

Before anyone asks how we were able to hold a JCC meeting in the middle of lockdown let me assure everyone, we met using ZOOM! Which turned out to be a surprisingly good way of conducting a meeting. We even had a break at 8pm so we could all go to our front doorsteps to join the clap.

Key Decisions

1. The JCC approved the use of Swift Clean to perform the Legionella preparation work before the buildings can be opened again.
2. The JCC agreed to place a logbook at the front of the Pennine Way for people entering the premises during lockdown to sign in and out.
3. The JCC approved a new Governance structure diagram.
4. The JCC approved the Articles of Commission of the Finance, Property and Management Committee.

Summary Proceedings

1. The main business of the meeting was Covid-19 and initial planning for the re-opening of the premises.
2. A potential deep clean was discussed but it was pointed out that as long as nobody entered the buildings for 72 hours before the official opening then that would not be required.
3. We will have to do a certain amount of work on our hot and cold water systems to ensure we are not affected by Legionella and as we only want to do this once we need to get the timing right.
4. Stephen Audley suggested we may want to open different parts of the buildings at different times.
5. Concern was expressed that people had been entering the buildings during lockdown and leaving the premises in an insecure state.
6. May decisions were put on hold until we learn from the Government on what we can do.
7. The Treasurer noted that our income had dropped in the first quarter of the year due to a reductions in Room Hiring and Congregational Giving due to the lockdown and we may have to use our Church reserves to pay the first call on our finances, the denominational assessments.
8. It was with sadness the meted noted the passing of two of the Church's longest attending members, Alan Cheney and David Rogers
9. The meeting discussed papers submitted by the Governance Group which the group hope to have in place before the AGM so that the first JCC after the AGM can enact the new Governance regime.

The next meeting of the Joint Church Council will be on Wednesday 13th May 2020 at 19:30.

This Summary is authorised by:

Neil Walters, Chair of the Cotteridge Church Joint Church Council.



The Cotteridge Church
Joint Church Council
Summary of Proceedings 13th May 2020

Introduction

The JCC Meeting was held via a Zoom meeting.

Key Decisions

1. The JCC approved the Terms of Reference for the Catering Services Working Group.
2. The JCC approved the Terms of Reference for the Cotteridge Mission through Action Working Group.
3. The JCC approved the Terms of Reference for the Property Development Working Group.
4. The JCC approved the Terms of Reference for the Older Adults Working Group.
5. The JCC approved the Terms of Reference for the Young Peoples Working Group.
6. The JCC approved the Terms of Reference for the B30 Foodbank Working Group.

Summary Proceedings

1. A moment of silence was held in memory of Diana Stephens.
2. It was reported that the post was now being delivered, but no letter had been received containing the furlough codes.
3. The treasurer said that Furlough codes had eventually been received via Diocese and a claim entered for the Catering Staff.
4. Concern was raised that post was building up in the Administrator's pigeonhole and Jane Stephens volunteered to look through it the next time she was in the building.
5. It was noted that there was an 'out of office' response on the Church's email addresses.
6. It was also noted that if and when the Church is able to reopen for services, with the requirement of social distance the Malvern Room would not be capable of accommodating even half the normal Sunday Morning congregation and the Chapel could not be used at all.
7. Mike Claridge said there were ongoing discussions within the denominations on Communion.
8. Laurie Brown stated two weeks of reopening would be needed to complete Legionella testing.
9. It was with sadness the meeting noted the passing of Barbara Burden and Diana Stephens.
10. The meeting discussed papers submitted by the Governance Group in preparation for implementing the new church governance regime after the AGM.
11. Mike Claridge requested everyone to spread the word on what was currently going on to members, especially those who without internet access.

The next meeting of the Joint Church Council will be on Wednesday 17th June 2020 at 19:30.

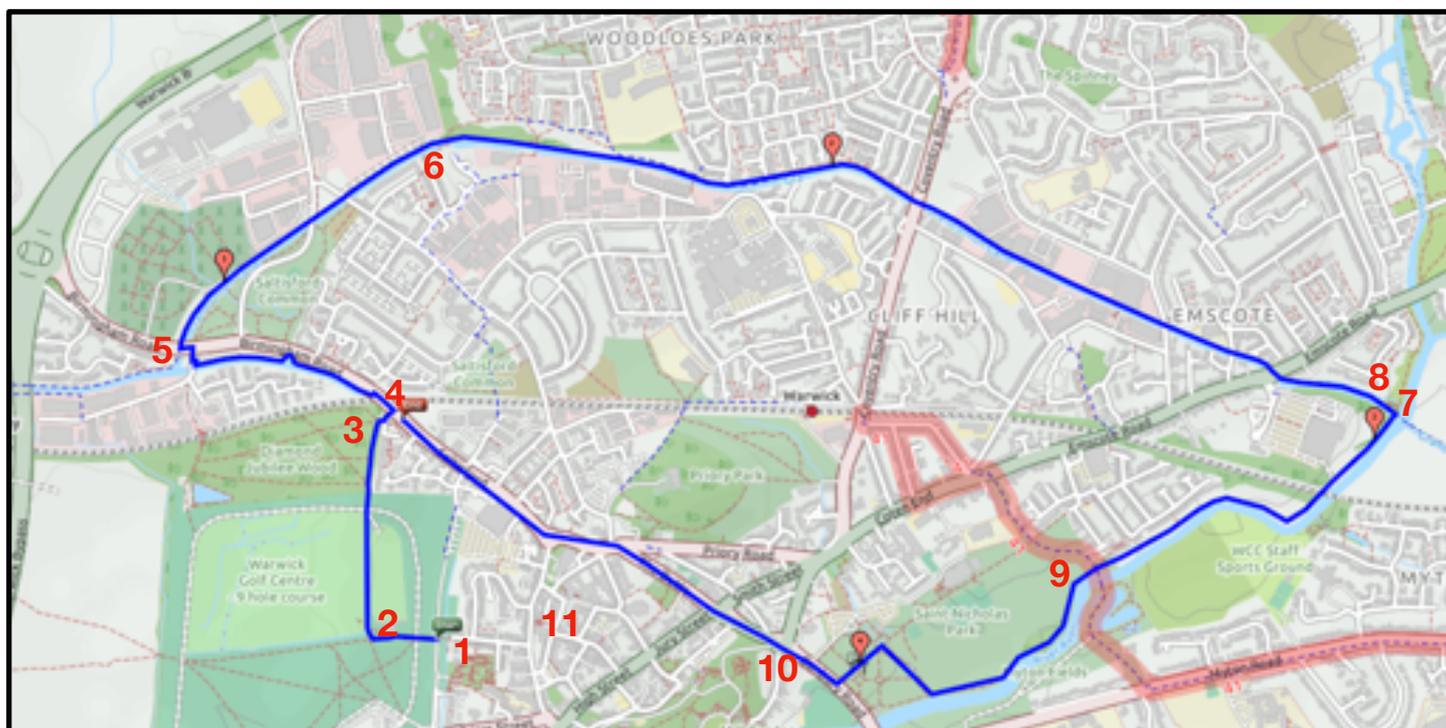
This Summary is authorised by:

Neil Walters Chair of the Cotteridge Church Joint Church Council

CCW WARWICK WALK

This walk was taken from a book published by the AA called 50 Walks in Warwickshire & West Midlands. ISBN 978 0 7495 6295 3. Walk #33 is called Warwick & the King Maker. Distance ~5 miles Start SP 277647 (I presume that is an Ordnance Survey reference), level of difficulty is 1*. The route is shown on the map at the end.

Warwick lies to the east of Birmingham, an historically important town whose leaders sometimes decided who would gain the throne of England. It is more famous these days for being the county town, and having a huge medieval castle off the High Street, one of England's more successful tourist attractions run by the Tussauds group. The River Avon runs by the foot of the castle on the east side, and the Grand Union canal skirts the town to the north.



You start by finding the racecourse on the west of the town. Follow brown signs and park up in **Area 3** at the north end of the racecourse. One entrance to Hill Close Gardens Trust* is off the car park. You can pay to visit and walk around & there is a restaurant. At the time of writing car park charges gave me the first two hours free, so depending on your walking speed or other considerations you might like to pay for a further two hours. Head towards the top of the car park (away from the direction you drove in) then go left to cross the race course through a permitted fence gap. You quickly reach a golf club pavilion. It doesn't look much and I don't recall it having a name. Walk past the side of the pavilion THEN TURN IMMEDIATELY RIGHT. You should be on a fairly wide, sometimes muddy track inside the race course circuit. Walk forward with a hedge on your left hand side. After 300 m you reach the race course railings for a second time, re-cross the track and exit into **Romani Close** with a little wooded copse on your left hand side. Walk straight ahead to reach the A425. Turn left along the pavement and under a railway

bridge then turn left into a little children's play area where you find a bit of the Saltisford canal with a lot of boats permanently moored up. Follow the little paths keeping the canal on your left hand side past the boats, then a little row of cottages on your right hand side. Just before a bridge take some steps up onto the pavement of Budbrooke Road. Go RIGHT to regain the A425 at a junction. Cross over with care and go left to use a bridge over the **Grand Union canal**, then go immediately right down to the towpath. You should now be standing by the side of the canal. Put the water on your right hand side and walk straight ahead. It is best keep in single file as the towpath is narrow and is popular with runners and cyclists.

After a few minutes you reach a lock with the **Cape of Good Hope** pub on the other side with access over the lock gate walkway. By all means stop for a drink or food or use their loos. Cross back to continue in the same direction heading east with the water on your right hand side. It goes on for quite a way, possibly slightly boring for a more meaningful ramble but ideal for dog walkers, bringing the g'children, or cycling. You pass by a new Tesco & eventually go under bridge #46. Walk about 100 metres more to reach a wide aqueduct built over the R Avon. These clever canal engineers put a water road in a water tight trough about 50 metres above the R Avon and kept their narrow boats straight and level. Take the metal steps on the approach side down to reach the river bank below and turn right to go under the aqueduct with the river on your left hand side. The footpath takes you all the way into Warwick but it can be a bit muddy in places if the river has recently flooded.

You eventually enter the more formal **St Nicholas' Park**, a rather grand open space with views of the castle set higher up on the hill. Is me being fanciful or would this have been the obvious space for medieval jousting tournaments?

These days you can hire a pink flamingo pedalo, play crazy golf, or have a picnic on a sunny day, it's up to you. If you turn right and follow the signposts you find some toilets with a tea room next door.

That's really the end of the main ramble, the rest is a town walk, but well worth exploring. Head towards the castle and once again cross the A425. Turn right to go uphill. **Mill St** is an historic street on the left off the first traffic island. There is a pretty 'charity' Mill Garden at the end. Note that Mill St is a dead end so to visit the town you have to come back to the island and continue left, climbing a bit more before taking another left up Castle Lane or Jury St to find the **High St**. There is a good museum off the market square.

You can follow the brown signs back to the race course but I found that quite a long, slightly boring road walk. If you follow the A425 towards Birmingham you can take **Romani Close** back up to the race course, the golf club pavilion, and the car park.

Peter Childs March 2020

Gmaps pedometer link <http://www.gmap-pedometer.com/?r=7452981>

[Let us hope you will soon be able to do this one -
and enjoy a cup of coffee afterwards!]

CCW WARWICK WALK



Food for Thought!

The following is an actual question given to the chemistry students at a prestigious University.

The answer provided by one student was so 'profound' that the professor shared it with colleagues via the Internet, which is why we now have the pleasure of enjoying it too.

Question : - Is Hell exothermic (gives off heat)
or endothermic (absorbs heat)

Most students wrote proofs of their beliefs using Boyle's Law (gas cools when it expands and heats when compressed) or some variant. One student, however, wrote the following.

First we need to know how the mass of Hell is changing in time. So we need we need to know the rate at which souls are moving into Hell and the rate at which they are leaving. I think it safe to assume that once a soul gets to Hell, it will not leave. Therefore no souls are leaving. As for how many souls are entering Hell, let's take a look at the different religions that exist in the world today.

Most of these religions state that if you are not a member of their religion, you will go to Hell. Since there is more than one of these religions and since people do not belong to more than one religion, we can project that all souls go to Hell. With birth and death rates as they are, we can expect the number of souls in Hell to increase exponentially. Now we look at the rate of change of the volume in Hell because Boyle's Law states that in order for the temperature and pressure in Hell to stay the same, the volume of Hell has to expand proportionately as souls are added.

This gives two possibilities: -

(1) If Hell is expanding at a slower rate than the rate at which souls enter Hell, then the pressure and temperature in Hell will increase until all Hell breaks loose. (this was written in year 2008, well before the outbreak of Coronavirus)

(2) If Hell is expanding at a rate faster than the increase of souls in Hell, the temperature and pressure in Hell will drop until Hell freezes over.

So, which is it ?

If Hell is already frozen over, it follows it follows that it is not accepting any more souls, and is therefore extinct---leaving only Heaven, thereby proving the existence of the Divinity.

Submitted by Gordon Parsons.

Ed. We have to assume that souls have a mass, and also that Hell is not expanding at a rate equal to that at which souls enter!

Just to occupy your mind!

How many English words of 3 letters or more can you find in

COVIDNINETEEN

[abbreviations and proper nouns excluded.

Only one form of a word permitted e.g. either conn or conned, not both].

I know there are over 100! My attempt later

Celia Lester

Covid-19 still very much dominates our news as we contemplate how we relax the lockdown without putting ourselves at risk of a resurgence of the virus. Sharne Maher at BVSC continues to host our fortnightly Thematic Leads meeting and Amrick Singh Ubhi hosts our weekly 'Faiths Friends' meetings, at which we share our activities and plans. The fortnightly WMCA webinar at 3.30 on Wednesdays, hosted by Andy Street continues to provide useful updates and answer questions submitted. Please look at the other attachments with Updates from Healthwatch, Thematic Leads, Birmingham City Council and External Funding Sources.

<https://healthwatchbirmingham.co.uk>

<https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/50233/support> for residents during the coronavirus crisis

If you need help in accessing these, please contact Dr Peter Rookes [see end]

Unity FM Radio

Mahmooda Qureshi and Dr Peter Rookes co-host the Connecting Communities programme on Unity FM Radio 93.5 at 4.00 pm on alternate Mondays. You can still listen to our 3 last programmes on the following links:-



Mon 11th May - Death, Dying and Bereavement with Sharon Hudson, St Marys Hospice; Ruth Nelson, BVSC, End of Life Care Project; Neeraj Mall, Cruse Bereavement Volunteer <https://www.mixcloud.com/UnityFM/death-dying-and-bereavement-connecting-communities/>

Mon 25th May - Hate Crime with Lionel Idan, Deputy Chief Prosecutor, Crown Prosecution Service; and Ranvir Grewal, Hate Crime Project Manager, Victim Support https://www.mixcloud.com/UnityFM/crown-prosecution-service-connecting-communities/?fbclid=IwAR1rTXSEoaLDZfQEnrkSMTgkv_WK-37omyOzuavqzB5VTf6NdfQTiAAZCX4

Mon 8th June – Refugees and Asylum Seekers with David Brown, Chair, City of Sanctuary; Jeremy Thompson, Manzger, Restore; and Bethany Finch, BCC Commissioning Manager, (Refugees & Migrants). <https://www.mixcloud.com/UnityFM/migrants-refugees-and-asylum-seekers-connecting-communities/>

Mon 22nd June – Jo Cox Foundation with Kim Leadbetter, Jo Cox sister; Salma Hamid, Local Organiser; and Suzanne Carter, The Hive Charity.

Our next programme will be broadcast at 4.0pm on:-

Mon 6th July – Domestic Abuse with Maureen Connolly, Chief Executive at Birmingham and Solihull Women's Aid; David Cusak and Sayma Bibi, St. Paul's Community Development Trust

Hope Radio

Peni Whelan is running Hope Radio, a new & temporary radio station, running from Druids Heath for South Birmingham. She'd like reps from different communities to do 5 mins thoughts for the day, and possible bigger items too. If you are interested, she would love to hear from you at: <peni.whelan@gmail.com>

Places of Worship

For full information on this please see

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-places-of-worship-during-the-pandemic/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-places-of-worship-during-the-pandemic#section3>.

The statements below note several of the more important aspects.

Under the current law places of worship are permitted to open solely for the following purposes

- funerals, in line with restrictions on those who can attend as per [Regulation 7\(2\)\(b\)](#)
- to broadcast an act of worship, whether over the internet or as part of a radio or television broadcast
- to provide essential voluntary services or urgent public support services, including the provision of food banks or other support for the homeless or vulnerable people, blood donation sessions, or support in an emergency
- for [early years childcare](#) provided by a person registered on the Early Years Register under Part 3 of the Childcare Act 2006

From 13 June places of worship will be permitted to open for individual worship.

Individual prayer within a place of worship is defined as a person or household entering the venue to pray on their own and not as part of a group, led prayer or communal act. should be socially distanced from other individuals or households. Collective or communal prayer and regular scheduled services are **not** permitted at this time as set out in Regulations. This includes a Minister of Religion or lay person leading devotions or prayer of any sort.

Bereavement Help

On Monday 27th April 2020, Birmingham St Mary's Hospice launched a new bereavement telephone service, providing free one-to-one support to those who are 18+, living in Birmingham and are struggling with the loss of a loved one. Experienced volunteers will provide a safe, confidential place where an individual can talk through their thoughts and feelings without judgement.

Therefore, all who would like to refer to this free-of-charge service, please follow this link: www.birminghamhospice.org.uk/community-bereavement-service. To find out more, please contact Beth Hopkins, Bereavement Counsellor, on **07966 165287** or Vicky Ross, Head of Family and Carer Support Team on **07966 165193**.

Public Health Survey

The Birmingham Public Health Division is inviting Birmingham citizens, organisations and communities to engage with its COVID-19 Impact Questionnaire. For details and to complete the survey please click the link: <https://www.birminghambeheard.org.uk/place/new-survey>:

The public consultation closes on **31/07/20**. If you need any further information, please contact Birmingham Public Health on healthybrum@birmingham.gov.uk

July Update and Events

The July Update and Events will be issued during the second week of July. Please send me any items to include by Friday 3rd July at pjrookes@gmail.com

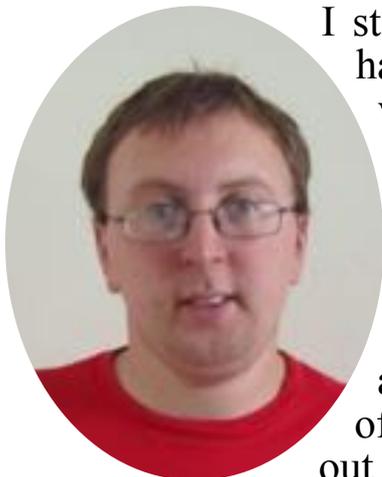
Every Blessing – Keep safe and keep well

Peter Dr. Peter Rookes PhD. MPH. DHSA. FETC. RCNT. RGN. RNMH
Secretary and 3rd Sector Liaison Officer Coordinator, BCF:Faiths Promoting
Health & Wellbeing Birmingham Council of Faiths Boys' Brigade

The Life of a Lad in the BB and then an Officer... by Philip Adams

I started my life in the BB at the age of 11 and have loved every minute of my experiences working my way through the old badge system and then finishing off with the new badges.

I worked my way through all of the badges by attending BB as much as I could and passing the exams/tests that the officers put in place to challenge my knowledge to the best of my ability. I was very pleased to be awarded the badges at the end of each session to show that I had achieved what I was set to go out and do.



This led to completing the badge system and gaining the President's Badge, which then moved onto being awarded the Queen's Badge (the highest award in the BB) by completing a number of different activities and competencies in order to be awarded the most highest badge in the organisation. I was very honoured to receive this award.

Extra activities in the BB included attending trips to the weekend away to Peckwood in Alvechurch and the annual camps to various places around the country including Wales, Isle of Wight, Littlehampton and Honey Hill (to name but a few).

My first experience of camping with the company was in Dyffryn, Wales in the summer of 1995 where there were 120 people on the site. Arriving on the site and setting up



camp in the rain was certainly an experience. Between now and then I have attended camp every year except once when I was travelling in Australia for 12 months. BB/GB Camps with the Quinton Methodist Church were always a great week and thoroughly

enjoyable with lots of varied activities for all to enjoy both as a lad and as an officer and I wouldn't miss every opportunity to do the activities for the world.

Weekend trips to Peckwood a couple of times a year was also very enjoyable with games in the woods and the local park. The facilities there always met our needs for catering and sleeping arrangements.

Life as an Officer when I turned 18 was also an exciting experience as I was able to give back to the lads in the company what I had learnt by leading classes and sessions which meant spending time to prepare an achievement class to teach the lads on a certain topic of conversation. At times this was quite a challenge depending on what was happening in the world in the current situation at the time.

I have now been in the company and a proud member of the 7th Birmingham Boys' Brigade Company for a total of 25 years and have enjoyed every moment of my time in the company.

In the current situation with the Coronavirus pandemic I have certainly missed the routine of BB on a Friday night. The interaction with the current lads and Officers of the company I really do miss both with the Juniors and Company Sections. To end this report I would like to say that I am always 'Sure and Steadfast' in all I do and I plan to be this way for the foreseeable future. I am Boys' Brigade forever!!



The Cotteridge Church Day Centre took the very difficult and unprecedented step of closing the Day Centre on Tuesday 18th March following a conversation with Mike Claridge, and the recent Government advice.

All the staff were furloughed, but the staff still chose to volunteer to call every member of the Day Centre every week, to have chat and be an ear for the loneliness that has crept in with everybody during lockdown. It is a very difficult time for everyone but a little kindness goes a long way. We also sent Rainbow postcards to each member to remind them that they are still in our thoughts.

Michelle & Simon

Special thanks to Alex who has dealt with the Government's furlough scheme for us.



Words from Covidnineteen - at least some of them!

C cod codeine con cot cote code coin/coined conn/conned
 connive contend convene convenient convent cove coven covet cite
 civet cent cede cine 21
 O ode one oven ovine 4
 V vie vine vice vide vied vent/vented vend vein/veined voice/
 voiced void vote 11
 I ice inn into incentive incited indecent indent innocent
 invected invent intend invite invoice 13
 D den decent deceive denoted device devote/devotee dene
 dent dentine diction din dine dint dive divine divot don
 docent done dove 20
 N nod node none novice net nine nicotine nineteen nice 9
 T tee ten tic tie toc toe teen tine tone ton tonic tendon 12
 E eve end endive enticed envied eon even/evened event
 eventide evict/eviction evidence evident 12

total 103.

And finally - with thanks to Lin & Laurie, and to Peter Childs for finding this!





Roundabout is the bi-monthly newsletter of The Cotteridge Church.

Your Editor from January 2017 is Celia Lester

Please send copy for the next edition by 25th August 2020 .
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