

# Roundabout



**Witnessing at the Heart of the Community**

**November 2020**

# Mike's message ...

## Light and Hope

This is the season of Light ... and Hope.

From long before the dawn of Christianity in these islands people have marked this time of year with festivals or rituals that involve fire or light. Many of these have been subsumed into Christian symbolism over the centuries. Some even into secular symbolism too.

At the beginning of November the Christian Church celebrates All Saints Day (1st November) and All Souls Day (2nd November). The old name for the former was "All Hallows" and the day before was "All Hallows Eve", from which the word Halloween is derived. Many people see a link here to the Gaelic or Celtic festival of Samhain. That marked the end of harvest and the beginning of winter or "the dark half of the year". Bonfires and feasting were, and indeed still are in some places, part of the celebration. The light and warmth of fire gives a sense of hope amidst the gathering gloom.

Even the tradition of bonfires on 5th November seems to pre-date Guy Fawkes. Great fires may have had similar roots to Samhain - an attempt to banish the approaching darkness of winter, with all the dangers that its darkness and coldness held.

Around the beginning of December (29th November this year) we enter Advent. Advent is a Christian festival that has hope and expectation at its heart. We often mark it with lighting a candle each week. A herald to the birth of Christ, the Light of the World. Often these days Advent gets lost in the run up to Christmas, but it's a season of its own. We are called not just to prepare for Christmas and its celebration of the birth of Jesus at Bethlehem over 2000 years ago, but to prepare our lives to meet him again. As such Advent marks the start of the Church's year - an opportunity for a new start for each of us.

Then comes Christmas which, despite the commercial world's attempts to convince us otherwise, begins on the evening of Christmas Eve - and no earlier - but then lasts until 6th January (Epiphany). Christmas is replete with images of light - the Star of Bethlehem, the light brought by angels to shepherds, and of course the birth of Jesus:

*"The true light that enlightens everyone coming into the world" (John 1 .9)*

Someone said recently:

*"We can always take heart when we see a glimmer of light at the end of the tunnel...  
... unless of course it's a train coming in the other direction!"*

We need not fear though, even in these distressing times. We are preparing for the arrival of Jesus Christ:

*"What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.  
The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it".(John 1 .3b-5)*

## Friends & Family

We are sad to hear that Linda Liddle died on 21st August. We give thanks for her life and we pray for her family. The funeral took place on 7th September.



Clare Blackshaw also died in mid September.

Chris Pascal fell and broke her hip. We wish her a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing her back with us again.

Lin and Laurie Brown are settling in happily in their new home in Yorkshire, and send their thanks to all those who sent their good wishes.

Their son Chris is now a married man... at last. Wedding plans for 4th April cancelled, plans for 10th October brought forward to 12th September, a good decision. They had the most marvellous reception at Laskill Country House where the 17 who attended the wedding stayed for the weekend. The ceremony at All Saints Church Helmsley conducted by the Vicar Revd. Tim Robinson was lacking in congregational hymns but we enjoyed "I Vow to Thee my Country" and "Lord of all Hopefulness" sung by Father of the Bride, John Oliver and Vicar Tim. Both Chris and Caroline's joy shone throughout the service. Chris has now transferred to Humberside Police continuing his role in RPU. The dog in the photo is Max, their 10 year old ex-Army black lab...retired bomb sniffer dog having done several tours of Afghanistan, Jordan and Syria.



Also some more happy news: Sam Adams got married this month in Amsterdam where he lives. It was a postponed and very reduced wedding, but Jo and Alan were able to be there (even if they had to quarantine for 2 weeks on return!)

Jean Morgan has sent us the latest newsletter from her friend in Peru. The full content can be accessed from our website.

<https://www.thecotteridgechurch.org.uk/news/roundabout/roundabout.php>

where, at the end of the current magazine there is a link to the Roundabout archive, where you will find their complete newsletter.

**From Penny & Juan Carlos in Lima Peru:**

As from a month ago Juan Carlos, in addition to his responsibilities in Jesús el Nazareno, is also Dean of the Cathedral. So, the challenges do not decrease! Please continue to pray - many thanks!

Thank you too, on behalf of the hundreds who have received material help, to all those who have given towards the food support during the crisis. We are still supporting the 2 soup kitchens in the area, since the need continues, albeit much reduced.

**Power of covid:** We live in the capital of the country which now "enjoys" no. 1 position on the "deaths per million" table, even considering only official covid deaths, (which account for less than half excess deaths here since April). Why, given that strict lockdown measures began before anyone had even died here, has Peru been so badly affected? Contributory factors include: lack of investment in health services despite the increasing prosperity of Peru over recent years (thus the lack of ICU beds, oxygen and medicines); the fragmentation of health services into different autonomous bodies; and the inability of many to follow the guidelines, partly due to disobedience and partly due to necessity (you HAVE to work to buy food). So, covid may appear still to have the upper hand, but God is greater.

### Almost Heaven

I was thinking about the lyrics of the John Denver song "Country Roads" recently, with, its opening line of "Almost Heaven, West Virginia, Blue Ridge Mountains, Shenandoah River...". West Virginia was originally part of Virginia but split at the start of the American Civil War as they wish to remain in the Union and wanted to oppose slavery, so an honourable and far sighted place, but when I have been there I can't say it seemed like heaven. That caused me to segway into thinking about what I thought heaven was actually like and realised that I have not expectation of it at all.

I suspect it will not be like anything I have experienced in this temporal existence, although I may be wrong, but I look to those passages in Luke where the Sadducees are trying to disprove the existence of eternal life by asking Jesus "Master, Moses wrote unto us, If any man's brother die, having a wife, and he die without children, that his brother should take his wife, and raise up seed unto his brother. There were therefore seven brethren: and the first took a wife and died without children and the second took her to wife, and he died childless and the third took her and in like manner the seven also: and they left no children, and died. Last of all the woman died also. Therefore, in the resurrection whose wife of them is she? for seven had her to wife and Jesus answering said unto them: The children of this world marry, and are given in marriage but they which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry, nor are given in marriage. Neither can they die any more: for they are equal unto the angels and are the children of God, being the children of the resurrection." [Luke Chapter 20 Verses 28 to 36 KJV] Which suggests to me the way we live on earth is not the way we will live in heaven, although I do feel rather sorry for the unfortunate widow.

It seems rather exciting to find out though, for as Paul says in 1 Corinthians "For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known." [1 Corinthians Chapter 13 Verse 12 KJV]. To know all and get closer to understanding the mind of God seems a great prize to strive for.

When the pandemic is over and we settle down to the "New Normal", which is another thing of which I have no expectations, perhaps Life and Soul, if it's still running, can run a service on "Heaven West Virginia, Elysium or ...?"

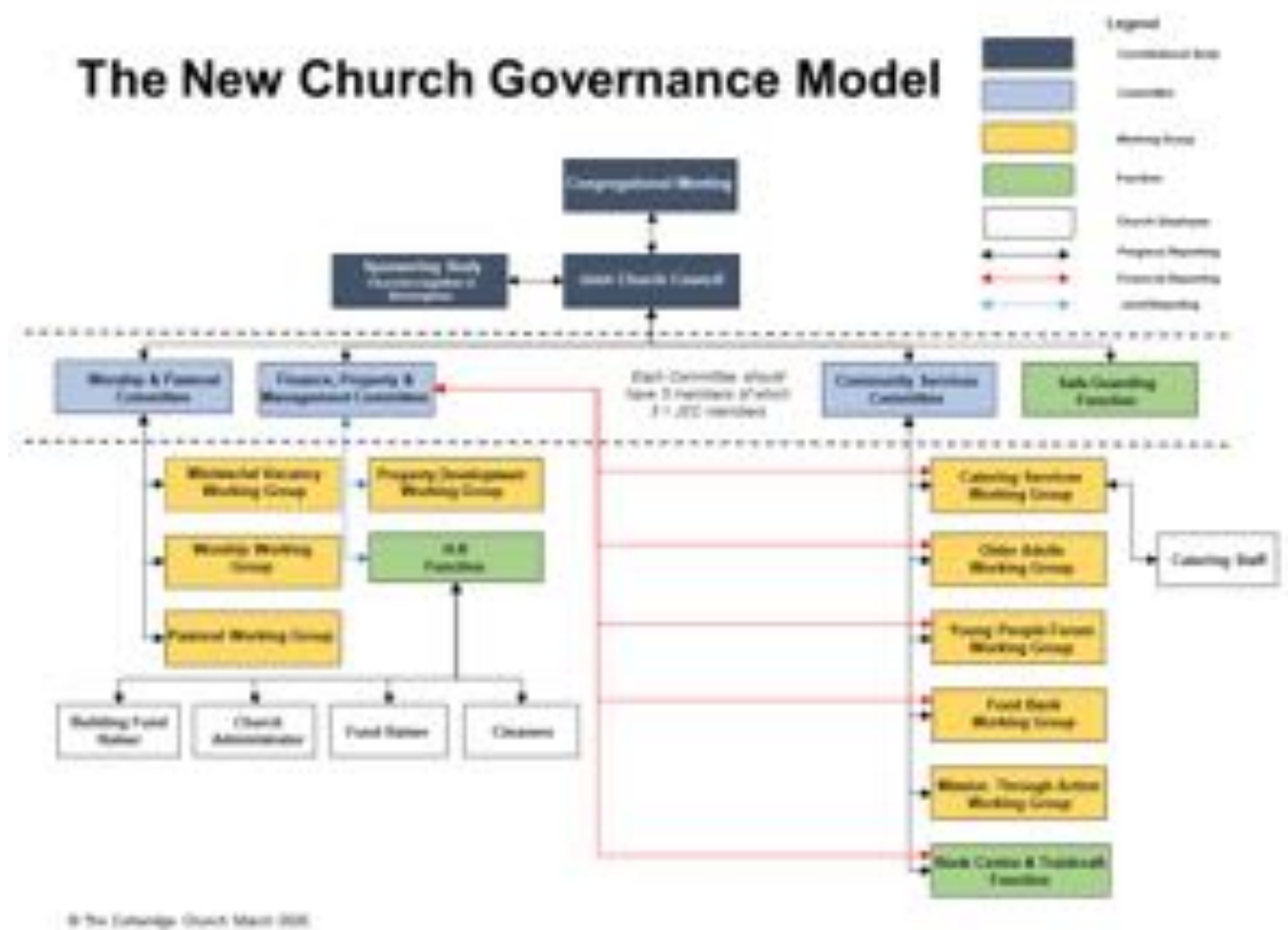
Neil Walters



Simplified committee structure with new members needed!

The new structure, shown below, is backed up by a new, clear and consistent set of articles of commission/ terms of reference that lay out clearly the roles, reporting and working practices of each group to enable efficient working and easy induction of new members.

Once things are running more normally again, each group will usually only meet every 2 months so at a time agreed by members, so should not be excessively demanding.



**Seven.** On reading my article about Rainbows in the September edition, Peter Childs remarked that he was sure I realised that there were far more colours in a rainbow than the seven mentioned [first defined by Isaac Newton]. Yes, of course, I realise that the colours change almost imperceptibly as the wavelength of the light changes across the spectrum. It got me thinking about

## SEVEN.

There are lots of things defined by seven.

There are seven days in a week, and we have the creation story [Genesis 1 & 2] to thank for that. God made the world in six days, and on the seventh day he rested.

*Genesis 2:*

*2 And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made.*

*3 And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made.*

I remember when I was little, the calendars we had started with Sunday as the first day of the week, which would make Saturday the seventh day, as celebrated in the Jewish faith, and by the early Christians. However, modern Christians changed that to Sunday because it was the day Jesus rose from the dead, and now the calendars here put Sunday as the seventh day.



We also have seven deadly sins: pride, greed, wrath, envy, lust, gluttony and sloth, which are contrary to the seven heavenly virtues. Illustrated in the 1400s by Hieronymus Bosch, and in the 2000 by Bearman Cartoons



The number seven is used more than 700 times in

the Bible, including 54 times in the Book of Revelation : churches, angels, seals, trumpets, stars... The Israelites captured the city of Jericho after marching round it seven times; Solomon took seven years to build his temple, and the story of Joseph records seven years of famine and of plenty. In Christianity, Judaism and Islam, God resides above the seventh heaven.

It crops up in other things too: The Magnificent Seven - in the 1960s film with Yul Brynner, and Seven Brides for Seven Brothers in the 1954 film with Howard Keel.

David and Victoria Beckham named their daughter Harper Seven after Harper Lee, author of Victoria's favourite book To Kill A Mockingbird and the number shirt David wore in his footballing heyday playing for Manchester United and England. He also says that they chose seven as Harper's middle name "because it symbolises spiritual perfection and is regarded as a lucky number in many cultures around the world".

The ancient world had seven wonders: the Great Pyramid of Giza, the Hanging Gardens of Babylon, the Temple of Artemis at Ephesus (now in Turkey) the Statue of Zeus at Olympia, the Mausoleum at Halicarnassus, the Colossus of Rhodes and finally the Lighthouse of Alexandria. The Seven Wonders of the Modern World are: the Great Wall of China, the Taj Mahal in India, the rock city of Petra in Jordan, the statue of



Christ the Redeemer in Rio de Janeiro, Machu Picchu in Peru, the Chichen Itza pyramid in Mexico and the Colosseum in Rome. The list was chosen by global ballot and the results were announced on the seventh day of the seventh month (July 7) in 2007.

And of course we should not forget the famous 007!

Celia Lester.

## Harvest Service 4th September

Those of you who attended this service will have enjoyed the Harvest Display on the altar.

I asked Rosa & John if they could provide something from the church garden. I also asked Mandy Parkes if C2U would like to create the display. They said yes.

Rosa said the church garden currently has few flowers, mostly foliage. I went round my garden on Friday snipping a few bits here and there, and added some veg. I took a bag full up to church. Friday was wet. Rosa & John decided not to come. Tony Dyer collected them in his car and brought them on site. They snipped



some foliage. Mandy added an autumn cloth base then arranged what you see. I thought it looked wonderful.

Peter Childs

## Provisional Services for November and December

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

	1st November	8th November	15th November	22nd November	29th November
10:30 am	Rev'd M. Claridge	Rev'd M. Claridge HC	Rev'd M. Claridge	Rev'd R. Collins HC	Rev'd R. Collins
	6th December	13th December	20th December	27th December	
10:30 am	Rev'd M. Claridge	Rev'd M. Claridge HC	Rev'd M. Claridge	Rev'd R. Collins HC	

There is also a service each Wednesday at 7.30 pm via Zoom.

Meeting ID: 673 551 7282 or contact Mike for phone in details.

**Christmas Services** Christmas Eve 11.30pm Midnight Communion (provisional)

Christmas Day 10.00am Christmas Service (not communion)

(Please look out for announcements regarding these two services)

Mike Claridge produces a regular notice sheet, <http://www.mjclaridge.co.uk> which can also 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

## Exciting news from the Coffee Bar!

We are delighted to announce that as of 2<sup>nd</sup> November the Coffee Bar will operate Monday to Friday between 8:30 and 13:30. (subject to government regulations).

There will be a new menu. Hot meals over the lunch period and all-day breakfasts available too. These are in addition to light snacks, a selection of hot and cold drinks and cake!

Do come and visit, you're assured of a warm and friendly welcome.

### **All socially distanced and Covid secure.**

Remember to bring a face covering, our staff will greet you upon arrival and guide you to your table. Please note that we now operate a table service only as this ensures that no-one has a need to queue to be served. To avoid excessive handling of money, our pricing structure has been simplified. We will accept contactless card payments or exact money only.

We look forward to seeing you.

*Catering Working Group*

### **Calling all members and friends with imaginative and creative ideas!!!**

Following a suggestion from a JCC member, and concern as to the need to generate income for the continuing work of The Cotteridge Church, a group has been set up headed by Stephen Audley.

The purpose is to seek out ideas, enthuse members and friends, and bring into the church much needed funds to assist in keeping The Cotteridge Church active within the community.

Please discuss any ideas you have with Stephen and/or consider becoming part of the team entrusted with bringing the group to life.

- Your ideas are needed
- You are needed
- Do you have skills and expertise you'd be willing to tell others about?
- Are you skilled in a craft? Knitting, sewing, painting, photography etc. and would consider producing items that may be sold to raise funds?

The church has costs that have to be met, whether the church building is open or not. Maintenance, lighting, water, heating, gas, telephone, staff costs etc. While much work is undertaken by volunteers, there are ongoing costs, and let's just say that finances aren't looking too rosy right now!

We need to find ways to bring in finance and this is where you, your skills, your creativeness are needed.

Come forward and share those ideas, or better still, share your time and skills by joining the fundraising group.

We know what you're thinking... "We've done our bit!". "We're too old!" "What can I do?" Yes, we appreciate that you no doubt have done your bit, you may well be 'old' (so is Stephen), BUT, it's a very big but, we need you to step up. We can all do something!

Please, consider all those skills you have accumulated, could you put them to good use in the coming months and ensure that the work of The Cotteridge Church continues for a good while longer???

Dorothy Audley



## Isaac Watts

Celebrated 25th November

17:07:1674 - 25:11:1748

Isaac Watts was an English Christian minister (Congregational), hymn writer, theologian, and logician. He was a prolific and popular hymn writer and is credited with some 750 hymns. He is recognised as the "Godfather of English Hymnody"; many of his hymns remain in use today and have been translated into numerous languages.



Watts was born in Southampton, England in 1674 and was brought up in the home of a committed religious nonconformist; his father, also Isaac Watts, had been incarcerated twice for his views. Watts had a classical education at King Edward VI School, Southampton, learning Latin, Greek, and Hebrew.

Watts displayed a propensity for rhyme from an early age. He was once asked why he had his eyes open during prayers, to which he responded:

“A little mouse for want of stairs  
ran up a rope to say its prayers.”

He received corporal punishment for this, to which he cried:

“O father, father, pity take  
And I will no more verses make.”

Watts could not attend Oxford or Cambridge because he was a nonconformist and these universities were restricted to Anglicans - as were government positions at the time. He went to the Dissenting Academy at Stoke Newington in 1690. Much of the remainder of his life centred on that village, which is now part of Inner London.

Following his education, Watts was called as pastor of a large independent chapel in London, Mark Lane Congregational Chapel, where he helped train preachers, despite his poor health. He held religious opinions that were more nondenominational or ecumenical than was common for a nonconformist Congregationalist. He had a greater interest in promoting education and scholarship than preaching for any particular sect.

Watts took work as a private tutor and lived with the nonconformist Hartopp family at Fleetwood House on Church Street in Stoke Newington. Through them, he became acquainted with their immediate neighbours Sir Thomas Abney and Lady Mary. He lived for 36 years - the rest of his life in the Abney household, most of the time at Abney House, their second residence. On the death of Sir Thomas Abney in 1722, his widow Lady Mary and her unmarried daughter Elizabeth moved all her household to Abney House from Hertfordshire, and she invited Watts to live there with them. He particularly enjoyed the grounds at Abney Park, which Lady Mary planted with two elm walks leading down to an island heronry in the Hackney Brook, and he often sought inspiration there for the many books and hymns that he wrote.

Watts contributed to English hymnody and the previous tradition of the Church, and led the change in practice by including new poetry for "original songs of Christian experience" to be used in worship,

The teachings of 16th-century Reformation leaders such as John Calvin, who translated the Psalms in the vernacular for congregational singing, followed this historic worship practice. Watts was not the first Protestant to promote the singing of hymns; but his prolific hymn writing helped foster a new era of English worship as many other poets followed in his path.

Watts wrote a textbook on logic which was particularly popular. It was first published in 1724, and it was printed in twenty editions. Watts followed the *Logic* in 1741 by a supplement, *The Improvement of the Mind*. This also went through numerous editions and later inspired Michael Faraday.

His well known hymns include

- *Joy to the World* (based on Psalm 98, tune by an unknown composer using fragments from Handel, first published in England in 1833)
- *Come Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove*
- *Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun* (based on Psalm 72)
- *Our God, Our Help in Ages Past* (based on Psalm 90)
- *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*
- *This Is the Day the Lord Hath Made*

One of Watts' best-known poems was an exhortation "Against Idleness and Mischief" in *Divine Songs for Children*. This was parodied by Lewis Carroll in the poem "How Doth the Little Crocodile", included in his book *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. His parody is better known than Watts' original poem.

In his novel *David Copperfield* (1850), Charles Dickens has school master Dr. Strong quote from Watts' "Against Idleness and Mischief".

Some of his best known quotations include

Acquaint yourself with your own ignorance.

Roses grow on thorns and honey wears a sting.

Custom and authority are no sure evidence of truth.

Nothing tends so much to enlarge the mind as travelling.

And he that does one fault at first,

And lies to hide it, makes it two.



18. *Against Idleness and Mischief*

How doth the little busy bee  
Improve each shining  
hour

And gather honey all the day  
From ev'ry op'ning flower  
How skilfully she builds her  
cell

How neat she spreads the  
wax

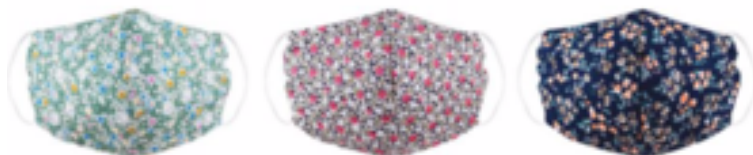
And labours hard to store it  
well

With the sweet food she  
makes.

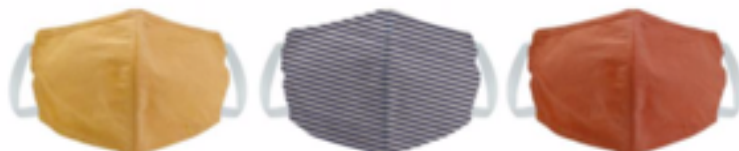
Celia Lester

## Fair trade face masks

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Designs vary (H13 x W20cm) **£4**



**Navy Blue Face Covering**  
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Designs vary (H13 x W20cm) **£4**



**Fair Trade Face Covering Assorted Pattern & Colours**  
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Colours and designs vary **£4**



The Cotteridge Church  
**Joint Church Council**  
**Summary of Proceedings 16th July 2020**

## **Introduction**

The JCC Meeting was held via a Zoom meeting

## **Key Decisions**

1. It was agreed that a lid should be purchased for the accessible toilet as part of the Church's Covid-19 Safety measures.
2. The JCC agreed a change suggested by Alex Woodhouse to prevent the double counting of food for the Day Centre and the Church.
3. The JCC agreed not to meet in August.

## **Summary Proceedings**

1. The meeting discussed the status of Furloughing and noted that David Pycok had been brought back part time while Alex Woodhouse was continuing to claim back the monies.
2. The meeting debated if the time of entry and exit should be recorded on the Church visitors log and it was agreed they should.
3. The meeting discussed the transfer the Church's bookkeeping to the Diocese as Jane Stephens and Debbie Jones replace Lin and Laurie Brown as our Treasury Team.
4. It was noted, with Sadness, that Gloria Foulkes had passed away. Dorothy Audley reported that Church Membership now stands at 149.
5. Neil Walters reported that the Finance and Property Committee has resumed meeting.
6. The use of Cash when the Coffee Bar re-opens and it was suggested that card payments should be the majority with cash payment only as an exception.
7. The meeting thanked Peter Childs for his work on the Saturday e-bulletin.
8. The JCC thanked Lin and Laurie Brown for all their work for the Church over the years.

The next meeting of the Joint Church Council will be on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2020 at 19:30.

This Summary is authorised by:

Neil Walters  
Chair of the Cotteridge Church Joint Church Council





The Cotteridge Church  
**Extraordinary Joint Church Council**  
**Summary of Proceedings 10th September 2020**

### **Introduction**

This Extraordinary Joint Church Council was called by Mike Claridge and the Covid-19 Management Team to discuss the re-opening of the Church. It should be noted that the discussions and decisions described below were made on the facts as understood on the evening of the 10<sup>th</sup> September. Where Covid-19 is concerned things change very swiftly and on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September the situation changed drastically with the announcement of special local restrictions being brought in for Birmingham and the announcement that the “R” rate for England had now exceeded 1. Luckily for The Cotteridge Church the formal September JCC was held on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September where the decisions from this meeting were reviewed. The Meeting was held via a Zoom.

### **Key Decisions**

1. The JCC agreed that David Pycock should be brought off Furlough full-time and the Catering Staff should return for 25% of the time to perform cleaning duties in support of making The Cotteridge Church Covid Secure.
2. The JCC agreed that, if there was a clear result from the legionella tests, the Church buildings would open for its first act of Communion since lockdown on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2020 with a 30-minute service of the word at 10:30 for a congregation no larger than 38 people
3. It was agreed that the re-opening should be communicated electronically through both the Church Newsletter and the Weekly e-Bulletin. Members without internet access would be sent a written letter announcing what was going to happen
4. It was agreed that we should ask anyone attending worship to wear a face covering unless they have an exemption and have a supply of them at the entrance to give to people who have forgotten there, but we wouldn't bar anyone for not wearing one. Hirers would be required to abide by Church Policy and wear a face covering whilst in the buildings
5. The JCC agreed that the Coffee Bar could recommence weekday operations between 10:00 and 12:00 from Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2020
6. It was agreed that whilst Risk Assessments from Church organisations would need to be submitted to the Circuit for review before the JCC could approve their re-commencing, those from hirers would be reviewed and approved by the JCC themselves
7. The C2U Risk Assessment was approved for re-opening with the caveat they could only use the room in the Blue Covid safe zone

### **Summary Proceedings**

1. The meeting discussed how best to collect and store the Track and Trace information being collected from worshipers and customers, daily plastic wallets were the chosen solution
2. The seating capacity of the Malvern Room under social distancing was revised down to 30
3. Communication on the re-opening was discussed
4. The wearing of face coverings was discussed both for worshipers and hirers
5. The Risk Assessment from C2U was reviewed in depth

The next meeting of the Joint Church Council will be on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2020 at 19:30.

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



The Cotteridge Church  
**Joint Church Council**  
**Summary of Proceedings 15th September 2020**

### **Introduction**

This meeting was held just after Birmingham, Sandwell and Solihull implemented additional Covid19 Safety restrictions. The Meeting was held via a Zoom.

### **Key Decisions**

1. The JCC re-enforced the previous decision that, if there was a clear result from the legionella tests, the Church buildings would open for its first act of worship since lockdown on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2020 with a 30-minute service of the word at 10:30 for a congregation no larger than 38 people
2. It was agreed that the re-opening should be communicated electronically through both the Church Newsletter and the Weekly e-Bulletin. Members without internet access would be sent a written letter announcing what was going to happen
3. The JCC re-enforced the previous decision that the Coffee Bar could recommence weekday operations between 10:00 and 12:00 from Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2020
4. It was agreed to hold the 2010 Annual General Meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2020

### **Summary Proceedings**

1. The meeting discussed if the new Covid 19 Restrictions introduced in Birmingham should make the meeting reconsider the decisions taken at the extraordinary JCC held on the Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September on re-opening the Church for Worship and the Coffee Bar for limited services. Jane Stephens said we had precautions in place to make the building a Covid Safe area and that the infection rate in Bournville Ward was 3-9 cases. She also reported a number of people had expressed their desire to return to Church.
2. There was concern that we should carefully consider the Methodist Church Guidance.
3. Mike Claridge said we could seat 30 people in the Malvern Room with an addition of 8 in the Pennine Way and a further 4 in the Gallery, but if more people came to the service at 10:30 we may have to send them away asking them to return for a second service at 11:30. It was hoped that we wouldn't need to introduce a booking system, should have a plan B if this were eventually required.
4. David Pycock said he was confident that we would get a clear Legionella Test result as all previous tests had been negative.
5. It was reported that training of coffee bar volunteers for the new Covid-19 procedures would take place during the current week.
6. It was noted that Dorothy Audley, Susan Claridge and Neil Walters had volunteered to act as Stewards at the first act of Worship.
7. The holding of the 2020 AGM in the near future was discussed.

The next meeting of the Joint Church Council will be on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2020 at 19:30.

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



The Cotteridge Church  
**Joint Church Council**  
**Summary of Proceedings 12th October 2020**

## **Introduction**

This Extraordinary Joint Church Council was called by Stephen Audley to discuss the limited reopening of the Church Kitchen to provide a hot meal service to the newly reopening Cotteridge Church Day Centre. The Meeting was held via a Zoom.

## **Key Decisions**

1. The JCC agreed that the Kitchen could be reopened Monday through Friday to supply meals to the CCDC.
2. The JCC agreed that Shirley and Tina should be brought back from furlough for two hours each day Monday through Friday to produce meals for the CCDC.
3. It was agreed that the entrance to the Covid Blue Zone (Clent and Bredon Rooms) on the south side of the building should be closed and Blue Zone should be entered by the green zone one way system via the Pennine Way, Malvern Room and Cotswold Room.
4. It was agreed that both the Ladies' and the Gentlemen's toilets should be made available to both the Green and Blue Zone users and that the second stall in the Gents should be opened to prevent queueing.

## **Summary Proceedings**

1. The original plan was to allow the CCDC staff to prepare meals for their customers in the Day Centre Kitchen, but this had since been drawn to the attention of the JCC that due to facilities and hygiene reasons this was not a sensible approach. So, it was being suggested that the Church Kitchens should be re-opened for a limited time each day and both Shirley and Tina be brought back from Furlough to provide meals for the CCDC. This was fully discussed in the light of Birmingham being placed in Covid Tier2 Restrictions.
2. Changes to the Covid Safe Zone system in place at the Church to enable the re-opening of the Kitchen was also discussed.
3. The previous Sunday's communion service was also reviewed and was universally thought to have been a success.

The next meeting of the Joint Church Council will be on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2020 at 19:30.

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





## THE PILGRIMS' WAY

In 2019 I started walking the Pilgrims' Way after finding a little guide book in Waterstone's. The full route runs from Winchester-Canterbury (136 miles), although the book does add a second option London (Southwark) – Canterbury, the route taken by Chaucer's fictional Canterbury tales. Short sections are laid out as a daily walk with a map and a description of the route, plus a bit of local history.

Last year we walked from Winchester for five days, always heading east, and reached Dorking. This year we returned to Dorking and walked to Halling on the R Medway.



If you ask at Winchester they give you a little 'pilgrim passport' a three-fold piece of paper with sections to take an ink stamp. Many churches on the route have a unique stamp they keep somewhere near their door. Originally, of course, in the 12th C. pilgrims would do the whole route in one season. I'm sure some people still walk it all in one go but in our case we aim for five days, and do a ten mile daily stage backed up with either car or public transport.



St Peter & St Paul's, Chaldon 12th C doom mural

In early September we took the train to Dorking station and returned to Westhumble to get us back onto our route from last year. A Stepping stones allowed us to cross the R Mole before we climbed Box Hill up onto the North

Downs Way (NDW). The stepping stones were taken up during the war as a precaution against a German invasion.



I have to say if the Germans had managed to cross the channel they would have been able to cross the R Mole. The book tries to keep to the historical PW but industrialisation has randomly laid canals, railways, and urban expansion across the original route. Sometimes the NDW is the closest walking alternative. It makes a pleasant car-free route that skirts south of London, sometimes quite close and parallel to the M25 while still leading pilgrims through villages and hamlets that have existed for over 1 000 years.

Our first stage ended at Merstham with its famous Quality Street later used as the brand name of sweets.

The route Merstham to Oxted crossed and recrossed the M25 within sight of central London. You could see the Shard building on the skyline while walking along leafy bridleways. We passed the pretty village of Chaldon where the interior east wall shows a mediaeval 'ladder of redemption'. Hell and sinners are at the bottom, heaven and the righteous are at the top. A would-be pilgrim is depicted at the bottom holding a very large (but empty) bottle of wine.



The Pilgrims' Way passes Titsey Park once owned by a Lord Mayor of London, then Chevening House, bought by a Chancellor of the Exchequer in 1717. The latter is still a government house and they don't want walkers getting too close. Pilgrims have to walk three sides of the boundary. For the next two stages the PW follows a quiet road heading due east. It made for fast walking as we crossed from Surrey into Kent.

From Wrotham we descended down the Medway valley to the north bank of the R Medway at Halling, close to St John the Baptist Parish Church. Rochester and the Isle of Sheppey (sheep) were downstream to our left. Mediaeval pilgrims had crossed the river using a small ferry near the Bishop's palace, but we ended our walk for this year at this point, leaving 40 miles to Canterbury.

Peter Childs





## 2020 National Interfaith Week

### Birmingham Programme

Fri 6<sup>th</sup> - Tues 17<sup>th</sup> November



**Fri 6<sup>th</sup>, 2.30 - 4.00pm** - Opening Ceremony on Zoom, with Lord Mayor; Equality Cabinet Member; Kim Leadbeater (Jo Cox Sister), Ambassador Jo Cox Foundation. Event to include BMAG Video; Launch of Scouts & Guides More in Common Badge; Faith and Belief Forum.

**Sat 7<sup>th</sup>, 10.30 - 11.30am** - Scout Remembrance Service, on Zoom

**Sun 8<sup>th</sup>, 10.30-11.30 am** - Sunday Devotional and elevating Discussion - Elevate - Wellness Baha'is of Birmingham. Join Zoom:-

<https://bham-ac-uk.zoom.us/j/88642696735?pwd=VG0rdnpLcVhSR0ZoMEE1a3RVc29Xdz09>

Meeting ID: 886 4269 6735, Passcode: 727392

**Sun 8<sup>th</sup>, 5.30-7.00pm** - Towards a Better Understanding of Judaism and Quakerism in Birmingham  
Jews and Quakers-faith in action on Zoom

**Sun 8<sup>th</sup>, 6.30** Amida Shu (Buddhist) - Faith and Mental Health. Zoom

**Mon 9<sup>th</sup>, 4.00 - 5.00pm** - **Faith, Diversity and Health**, Unity FM 93.5 guests: Alex Evans, Birmingham Community Healthcare Trust; Alis Rasul, Health Visiting & Early Years; Rehanah Sadiq, Hospital Chaplain, UHB. Hosts, Mahmooda Qureshi and Dr Peter Rookes.

**Mon 9<sup>th</sup> 6.30 - 8.00pm** - 'Faith Action for Climate Justice worldwide' Messages to COP26 climate change conference in Glasgow 2021 Zoom. Register [www.footstepsbcf.org.uk](http://www.footstepsbcf.org.uk)

**Tues 10<sup>th</sup> - Morning & Afternoon sessions** - in person meditation (Near Neighbours) - personal invite

**Tues 10<sup>th</sup> 7.00-8.00pm** - Celebrating the twin birthdays of Bab and Baha'u'llah  
Baha'is of Birmingham. Zoom:-

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81573106139?pwd=by9ydE4rbkxHc2lvNEtEWINTNXpKUT09>

Meeting ID: 815 7310 6139, Passcode: 070993

**Tues 10<sup>th</sup> 7:30-8:30pm** - The Sikh Christian Forum presents an on-line interfaith conversation  
Register at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/servant-leadership-tickets-124760661497>

**Wed 11<sup>th</sup>, 12.00 midday-1.00pm** - Bahu Trust Interfaith Zoom Celebration of our Emergency Services

**Wed 11<sup>th</sup>, 7.00pm** with Restore, Oasis Church, St Chads Sanctuary, Clifton Road Mosque, Progressive Synagogue, and 6 Ways Baptist Church.

**Thurs 12<sup>th</sup>, 7.30-8.45pm** (continues 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>) from 7.30 pm to 8.30pm) -

The **Dare To Hope** explore how faith communities have been impacted by the current crisis. Register [interreligdialogue@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:interreligdialogue@rcaob.org.uk).

**Thurs 12<sup>th</sup> 7.00pm** - "Finding Peace during the Pandemic" - reflections from people of different faiths (and one of no faith) on how they have found peace during the pandemic. **Marie Curie Hospice and Solihull Faiths Forum**

**Fri 13<sup>th</sup> - 7.30-8.45** Finding Strength from Faith in Challenging Times,  
Clifton Room Mosque Zoom

**Sun 15<sup>th</sup>, 10.30-11.30**, Sunday Devotional, 'Elevate - Strength', Baha'is of Birmingham.

Zoom:-<https://bham-ac-uk.zoom.us/j/86435370054?pwd=SkpwQ0NsVkJLeXZlZ0dFNXZLVFEF4Zz09>

Meeting ID: 864 3537 0054, Passcode: 030994

**Sun 15<sup>th</sup>, 2.00 - 3.15 pm** 'Tread Lightly' - 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle', food waste issues. Zoom. Register through [www.footstepsbcf.org.uk](http://www.footstepsbcf.org.uk)

**Mon 16<sup>th</sup>, 8.00-9.00pm** - Hindu led Faith and Reflection

**Tues 17<sup>th</sup> - 7.00 - 8.30pm**, The Role of People of Faith in Healing the Divisions of the World

**Women only event.** Contact Patricia Earle, **07540-998-724**, [patricia.earle@virginmedia.com](mailto:patricia.earle@virginmedia.com)

Where no Zoom Link or Registration details contact [pjrookes@gmail.com](mailto:pjrookes@gmail.com) 077 033 360 88





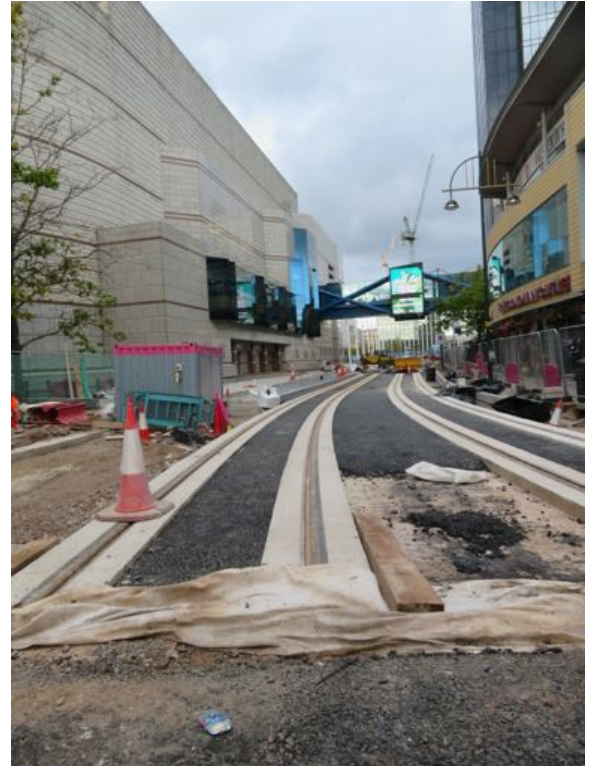
At the beginning of September I was suffering from Cabin Fever, so as it was a fine day I decided to take my mobility scooter out for a ride, and thought I would go and have a look at Broad Street, to see what they were doing to it. To say it was almost unrecognisable is NOT an understatement! Some bits were done, but most was rather



chaotic and pedestrians were fenced in along the pavement for most of the way.

However, I took an alternative route home to Edgbaston, and I passed this. I expect most of you will know where I was [Bath Row]. I have driven past it many many times, but I had never been close and still to look at it. We have now commemorated the 75th anniversary of VE day, and I felt it fitting to share with you as we approach Remembrance Sunday.

C.L.



**IN MEMORY OF THOSE CITIZENS OF BIRMINGHAM WHO DIED  
OR WERE INJURED AS A RESULT OF EXTENSIVE AIR RAIDS  
ON THIS CITY BETWEEN AUGUST 1940 AND APRIL 1943  
THIS MEMORIAL WAS UNVEILED  
IN THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR OF V.E. DAY**



## WOW! What a Whopper!

When the lockdown occurred, to improve morale, I gave my neighbours (including children) "giant sunflower" seeds. I started a competition to grow the tallest sunflower. When people were feeling low, sunflowers started appearing in their front gardens. Some of them grew up to ten feet tall making quite a spectacle which has been a talking point in the neighbourhood.

I also lit a candle every night, and still do so, to make a positive statement of light over darkness.

Kind regards  
Bob Burton



**H**i everyone! This is just a little insight into my life as a BB member. It all started when my father took me to Boys' Brigade at Watford Road Church around the beginning of the 80's. It was a little bit scary being left and being surrounded by older boys, but I was soon made to feel welcome. Badge classes, faith and a lot of sport was all part of my life as a young boy. When I was older we went to many camps:- destinations ranged from Wales, Isle of Wight and East and West coast.



Now I am an officer and a lot of things are still in place, classes, faith and sport (all at a social distance).



My daughter Orla now at 8 years of age comes with me to such places as Peckwood camp and other things we do with Quinton Methodist Church.

These last few months have been rather testing for all and all officers are definitely looking forward to getting the boys back and moving forward again.

Best wishes  
Robert Seward.



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 18th December 2020.

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