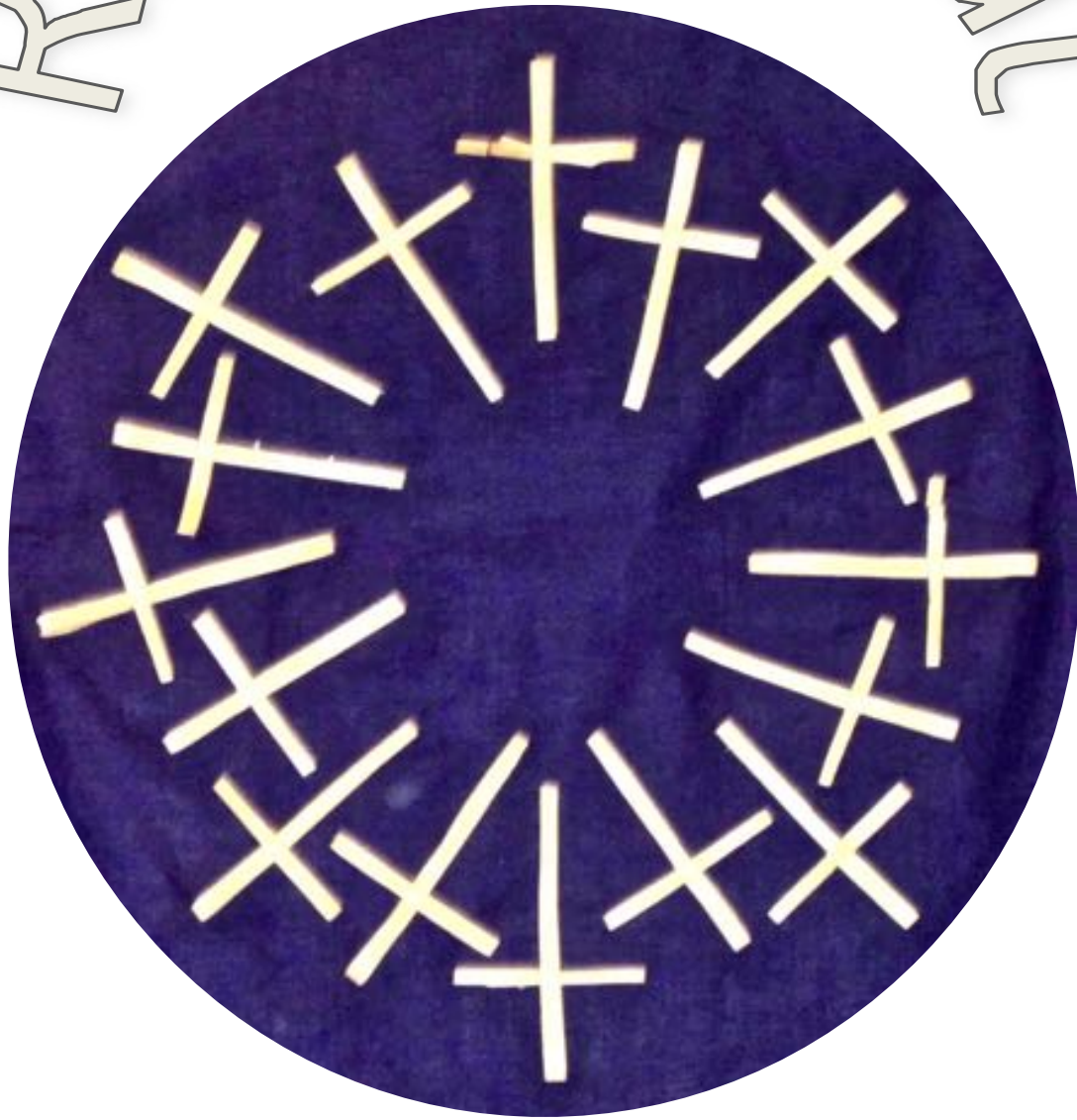


Roundabout



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

March 2021

Mike's message ...

Lockdown thoughts

Well here we are. One year on and we're still in this strange world of lock-down. Of course we've been in and out of restrictions, or rather the nature of restrictions has changed, several times since we entered the first lockdown on 23rd March last year.



I wish that I could offer you a date that we might be able to worship again in the church building - but I can't. Any prediction would be sheer guesswork. For now I'm working on the basis that worship will remain online for all of March and April. That's why I haven't prepared a "Preaching Plan" and neither has the Circuit. Maybe as we approach May there will be light at the end of the tunnel. In the meantime we need to ensure that whatever light we do glimpse in the tunnel we proceed cautiously in case it's a train coming the other way! That's what happened in December when the Government was trying to lead us all in singing and dancing, taking credit for the arrival of the vaccine, and that they'd solved everything. Then they loosened restrictions at Christmas and the light in the tunnel turned out to be a whole range of new Covid19 variants coming straight at us.

I know that lockdown is particularly difficult for those who aren't online. I thank the hard working volunteers who are distributing printed material weekly so that everyone remains in contact.

None of us likes lockdown but we owe it to those of our church members who work in the NHS, especially the hospitals, to do everything we can to make sure that this time the virus is under control before we 'open up'. Some of those members are absolutely broken by workload and what they've witnessed on the wards.

We owe them and each other something else too. When your turn comes round please, please have the vaccine. A lot of negative rumours have been spread about vaccines - those rumours are downright untrue. If there are people, even family, who are trying to persuade you not to have the vaccine, ignore them. If false preachers say "God will protect so you don't need the vaccine", remind them that we were warned about false teachers (eg 2 Peter 2 .1). If they quote Psalm 91 at you, as some have been doing, tell them that it simply isn't true.

What is true though is that even today God is still revealed in miracles. But instead of being carried out by wandering prophets, miracles today are worked by scientists and medics. What has been achieved in the last year; in vaccines to prevent infection, medication and treatment for those already infected, and knowledge about Covid19, are miracles of the present age. The NHS and scientists are the miracle workers of today.

Friends & Family

We are sad to hear that Ken Moore died in hospital on New Year's Day. Our thoughts and prayers are with Jennifer & family. Ken's funeral was held on 29 January at Lodge Hill

Les Williams also died in January. Again, our thought and prayers are with his family. We are sad to tell you that Edna Badland died in early February, and send our thoughts prayers to all who knew her.

We are glad to report that Revd Roger Collins is recovering from spinal surgery, and reports that walking is now much easier. He sends thanks to all who sent good wishes.



You may remember that ten years ago Eira Hoadley and Lin Brown hosted a party at church to celebrate their respective BIG birthdays. So now, we send them our best wishes as they celebrate ten years on! Other birthdays to celebrate now include Ivor Ravenhill and Laurie's & Lin's son Chris. Here is Lin with her birthday present!

THE FUTILITY OF WORDS? (or a few of their uses.)

Carl Gustav Jung, eminent Swiss Psychiatrist, founder teacher and practising exponent of Analytical Psychiatry (1875 - 1961) is attributed with these words:- "Solitude is for me a fount of healing which makes my life worth healing. Talking is often a torment for me, and I need many days of silence to recover from THE FUTILITY OF WORDS."

Contrast this with the lyrics of a Bonnie Tyler song:- "Words, are all that we can say. They change your life for just a day. It all depends upon the way we say them... Words, dancing in your head, words you wished you'd said... words you meant to say, somehow slip away."

Everyone thinks differently, sometimes in words, or in pictures, sometimes in dreams or reverie. And there is guided thought, free thought and wholly original thought. But beware of guided thought for as Computer Programmers know - "Rubbish in, Rubbish out."

In a sermon by Jesus that occupies very nearly all of Bible New King James Version Book of Matthew Chapter 5, verse 37 says;- "But let your 'yes' be 'yes' and your 'no' be 'no' for whatever is more than these is from the Evil One."

The 'Message' Bible interpretation of verse 37 reads thus;- "Just say 'yes' or 'no'. When you manipulate words to get your own way you go wrong."

A further quote from Acts Chapter 4 verse 29 (NKJV) does not suggest taciturnity but says this;- "Now Lord look on these threats and grant to your servants that with all boldness they may speak your word."

Finally if you wish to ponder the power of words consider how you react to the following statement, with awe, wonder, love, outrage, anger or with what conditioned reflex emotion. Your reaction says a lot about how you think.

"Whenever a woman is silent, listen to her intently." [Anon]

Gordon Parsons.

Parish Giving Scheme

It is almost a year since Laurie and I decided to relocate to Yorkshire and when we eventually did move in August 2020 we gave up the various roles we held at The Cotteridge Church. However, I remained as part of the Treasury Team so I could continue to collate the information of all the giving by standing orders to make the claim for Gift Aid, planning to make my last claim for The Cotteridge Church in January 2021. In previous years, this claim has provided a huge contribution to church funds, the amount received in 2020 was in excess of £16,000.

Before even thinking of moving away Laurie and I had met with Jennie Tomlinson the Archdeacon of Birmingham and she introduced us to the merits of The Parish Giving Scheme of which you now will have heard. This scheme was due to be introduced to the congregation of The Cotteridge Church last April with the help of Amanda Homer the Birmingham Diocesan Finance Manager, but for obvious reasons the roll out was delayed.

When checking the bank statements in December 2020 and January 2021 I saw that some of you have already changed your giving to the new scheme but many have not. This may be for any number of reasons, one being the inability to visit bank branches to cancel existing standing orders in readiness for the change to direct debit. [you

can cancel your standing order easily if you bank online or have telephone banking.] Another reason may be the inability to trust the direct debit scheme. I urge you to consider the benefits for the church as the Gift Aid is claimed directly through the scheme and paid monthly into the church bank account. When direct debits were first introduced in 1964 there was some negative press regarding their reliability but now you are totally covered by the Direct Debit Indemnity to which all banks are required to adhere. There is no such indemnity scheme for standing orders. The Parish Giving Scheme is run by the Diocese of Gloucester, a most trustworthy organisation and supported by the Diocese of Birmingham.

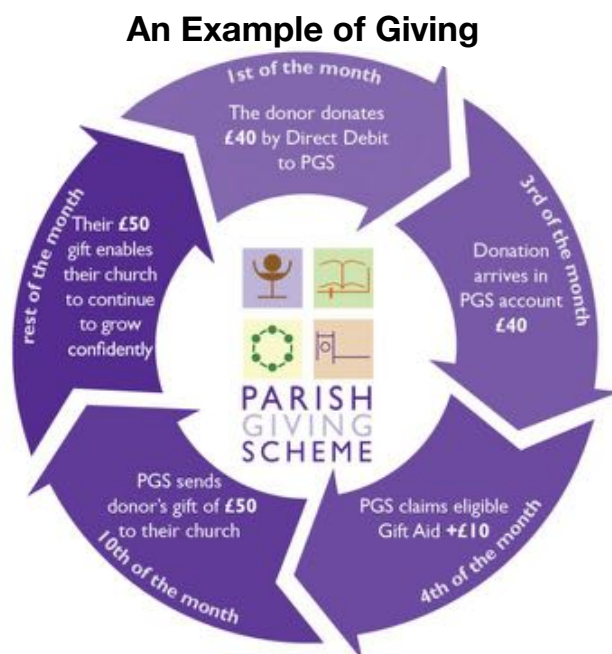
You can find out more from the web links below

<https://cofebirmingham.com/info-for-parishes/generosity/stewardship-giving/parish-giving-scheme/> or [Diocese of Birmingham | Parish Giving Scheme \(cofebirmingham.com\)](https://cofebirmingham.com/info-for-parishes/generosity/stewardship-giving/parish-giving-scheme/)

If you are a UK tax- payer and have signed a Gift Aid Declaration, for every £1.00 you donate to The Cotteridge Church we are allowed to claim 25pence from the government.

To lose the revenue gained by Gift Aid would have a severe impact on our church finances as I cannot continue to be part of the Treasury Team from Yorkshire and I will retire from this post in April. Therefore, please look again at the PGS pack you were sent and seriously consider changing.

I should be more than happy to discuss or address any of your concerns if you would like to telephone me.



Lin Brown 07931419541

You can also contact Jane Stephens on 0121 458 7552

Lichfield Cathedral became a vaccination hub



In the Middle Ages, sick people would go on a pilgrimage to Lichfield Cathedral in Staffordshire, in the hope of being healed.

Now centuries later - hundreds of people are passing through its doors again - this time in search of the vaccine to protect them against coronavirus.

It was the first cathedral in England to be transformed into a vaccination hub, which happened on 15th January 2021. Field hospital style facilities along with waiting areas have been set up inside the cathedral, including along its central aisle.

The Dean of Lichfield said people working there had been "buzzing" to help.

The queue of mostly over-80s snaked through the cathedral and its grounds as they waited to get their vaccination on that Friday.

Subsequently Lichfield Cathedral was followed by Salisbury Cathedral, where the organist played to entertain the staff and patients.

C.L.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-stoke-staffordshire-55683025>



We have heard of numerous and foundless rumours to discourage vaccination against Covid, so we are delighted and relieved to post the next article.

Al Abbas Mosque in Balsall Heath.

A Birmingham mosque has been converted into a covid vaccination hub as the city begins to offer jabs 24 hours a day. The Mosque is Al Abbas Mosque in Balsall Heath. Imran Nuru Mohammed said they stepped in with the intention of helping people who are not well informed about the vaccination, amid concerns that false rumours were targeting religious communities.



It should send a very positive message to the wider Muslim community. Mosque trustee Haider Hudda said the venue's leadership committee, guided by medical experts, were keen to play their part in supporting the rollout to the local community.

Leading the way to encourage others to take up the vaccine is Imam Sheikh Nuru Mohammed, who posted a photo receiving a jab with the twitter message: "Alhamdu Lillah! Received my first dose!"



Services

Lent Study Group:-Thursdays 7.30-8.30 on Zoom

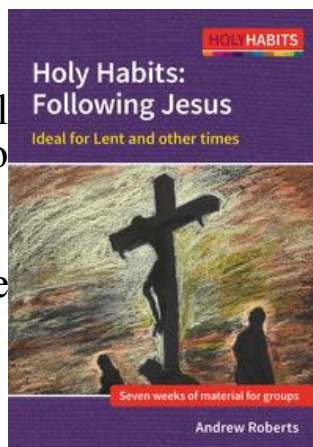
We'll be holding a Lent Course this year. The group sessions will be on Zoom but the booklets are 'self contained' and it's possible to participate by yourself if you wish.

Lent Coursebook *Holy Habits following Jesus* - Price £6.99

Copies of the book are available at the bookcentre. Delivery can be arranged. If you would like a copy, please let Roger or Jane know.

revroger.collins@thecotteridgechurch.org.uk or 07721 526854

jane.stephens@thecotteridgechurch.org.uk or 07800815074



The Zoom sessions in March are:

4th (LENT 2) Jesus serving with gladness	11th (LENT 3) Jesus sharing bread
18th (LENT 4) Jesus praying	25th (LENT 5) Jesus making disciples

Praying through Change - is meeting by phone and email. March 9th, 23rd and 30th. All at 10.30am. Details from Linda Mann: normanmann@blueyonder.co.uk or 0121 608 2088 or Hazel Nash: nash_hazel@hotmail.com or 0121 459 6823

Women's World Day of Prayer : 5th March. Title: Build on a Firm Foundation, based on the islands of Vanuatu, & held virtually from St Nicholas' Church, Hawkesley, & Immanuel Church Kings Norton

For the foreseeable future worship will remain online. There are links to a whole range of material on Mike's resource site www.mjclaridge.co.uk.

In particular we encourage you to follow: Mike's weekly video reflections - these now number more than 50. All the past ones are available on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/mjclaridge> and a new one is added each week at 10.00am on Sunday. **Wednesday Worship on Zoom.** This is live worship, with hymns, attended by members of The Cotteridge Church. For a link see Mike's weekly letter, his website, or email him at mike.claridge@thecotteridgechurch.org.uk

Holocaust Memorial Day 27 January 2021

This was first held in 2001, dedicated to the remembrance of the six million Jews and others who suffered in the Holocaust under Nazi persecution. In 2005 the United Nations voted, by 149 votes out of 191, formally to commemorate the Holocaust as well as other genocides around the world. The date chosen is the anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz concentration camp by the Russians in 1945.

It is unforgivable that people who had done no wrong, other than be born Jewish should be treated like that.

Our world continues to be threaten by egocentric and uncaring dictators, and I believe it is very important that we remember the dreadful sins of the past, and work continuously to prevent any such happenings in the future, especially currently in the Middle East, Afghanistan, and Myanmar.

In Birmingham, the Lord Mayor Cllr Mohammed Azim, led the virtual event on Wednesday (27 January). Be the light in the darkness - the theme for this year's event - encouraged everyone to reflect on the depths humanity can sink to, but also how individuals and communities resisted that darkness to 'be the light' before, during and after genocide.

This year's programme featured a virtual candle-lighting ceremony as well as testimony from Mindu Hornick MBE, who spoke about her experiences as a Holocaust survivor, plus performances from violinist Simone Schehtman and Birmingham's Young Poet Laureate Fatma Mohiuddin. The Lord Mayor said: "Holocaust Memorial Day is an opportunity for everyone to pause, reflect and learn lessons from the past and apply them to the present day, to create a safer, better future. You can view the City's programme on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0PuAJOfFxdk>

I remember twenty years ago I visited Auschwitz, and walked under the sign - here so untrue - Arbeit Macht Frei - a chilling experience. Once inside the building we walked past rooms - each full of spectacles, or clothing, walking sticks ... taken from the prisoners as they arrived. Photographs of them - so thin, and with such a look of unbelieving desperation. It could never have been a pleasurable experience, but such a worthwhile one to see where and how such horrific deeds were done. I am glad I went: I found it intensely moving and distressing. It has strengthened my resolve to reject unfair treatment according to religion, ethnicity or gender.

The lesson to be learned? We must learn to



Celia Lester

A year on ... will it ever end!

Over the last year, Friday night has been for everyone a night in. In my house, it is usually pizza night so I can't complain. Yet every Friday I have waited in the hope that BB will return, even if it meant wearing a mask for 4 hours straight and hand sanitiser becoming part of my DNA!



When the first lockdown began, I honestly thought that this horrible mess would have passed us by, and we would remember the short time when the world was shocked by a virus. Now it has turned into something that spreads like a fire in heat with the NHS holding their hoses battling away to control and defeat it. This constant mental fight that we have all had to face in not seeing loved ones and not being able to do the things we love to do. When I had to dig deep, I knew that BB would support me in the struggles I faced in life.

BB was something I loved to do. It has and always will be a significant part of my life



7th Queen's Badge holders, Sam Adams, Tom Longvill, Philip Adams, Luke Bates, Charlie Wigzell, Ian Sherwin and Neil Smith

and something I would always talk about when at work or with friends. You could see the impact that you had in helping young people and the reassurance they gained from being there when they needed it. Our young people, now need us more than ever to show them we are here to support them through what is a tougher time. While I miss attending BB on a Friday night, BB will always be there for all who have experienced it and even those that haven't.

I said it was hard to see the positives in my first article, but the challenge to find them has become tougher when writing this. I am even forgetting Bob's jokes...but this may be seen as a good thing! However, I do believe there is light at the end of the tunnel. In March, I look forward to my cousin Tom (an ex-7th member) becoming a dad for the first time. One of our boys will also be looking forward to this, adding another cousin to the 5 he already has! BB has gone online, with Juniors meeting through Zoom on a Friday night. I am sure I can share the great feeling of seeing our young people in such positive mindsets and sharing what they have been up to during this difficult time.

To wrap up, I thought that the chorus of "Will your anchor hold" is something I think we can all do with to remind ourselves that we are stronger than we feel and to be strong for others who need it.

*We have an anchor that keeps the soul
Steadfast and sure while the billows roll
Fastened to the Rock which cannot move
Grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love*

Ian Sherwin

Covid 2020-21: What are our experiences?



Our last year has been nothing like any of us has ever experienced before - or ever hopes to again. It has challenged us all in so many different ways. The articles below recount some of those experiences. If you have more, please send them to me for inclusion in our May edition via the email address on the back page. Thank you! C.L.

From our Book Group, which met with social distance in the garden.
Christine Adams sent these photos



From Peter Childs

Covid restrictions are now getting close to their first anniversary. Twelve months ago our old routines stopped and we entered this 'Groundhog Day' where every day seems like a repeat of the one before. Those on the medical front line and those providing essential services are still working but a lot of others have found themselves at home on enforced gardening leave. We've had to learn new skills, connect with technology by using Zoom, learn to keep our distance and wear a face mask in shops. Learn to be kind.

With great weather last summer those of us with a bit of garden space ended up with a better garden display than usual. Instead of shooting off to far flung places we all had to stay local and talk to our neighbours, find surprising new things on our own doorstep. We all had to slow down. With activities and exercise disrupted some of us put on weight and had to take it all off again.

We had to learn a new vocabulary and start using words like 'furlough' and 'lockdown'. How about 'Eat out to Help Out'? If we see that phrase in five years time we will have to explain it to the next generation. One thing that has struck me is how it has been the same all over the world. The internet and e mail keeps us connected. Time and again I've been struck how my friends in America, Japan, and Europe have all reported the same thing as we have had. Finally of course vaccination is helping us turn a corner. Over the next few months we can hopefully return to some version of normality and ease up on 'hands, face, space'.

A View of COVID from the Wild West Claudia Moberly, Middleton, Idaho



Claudia sings in a Methodist church choir. With links through Steve Wright. Claudia's choir decided to tour the UK. and came to Cotteridge. The congregation was asked to provide B & B. Claudia came to stay with Peter Childs for one night before the choir moved on. They have remained friends since.

Here is what she has to say about the effects in Idaho. Thank you Claudia.

"A full year of dealing with COVID has now come around: a year of limited travel, limited social interaction, limited holiday celebrations, and unlimited frustrations. From the national level through state and local governments, down to individual homes, no area has been spared the effects of this ravaging disease.

As a member of the "leisure class" (otherwise known as "retirement") the impact on my life has been spared many of the frustrations others have faced. I haven't lost my job, I am not trying to work from home, and I am not managing on-line education for my children. Even so, the impacts of COVID on my day-to-day activities were not without significance. The hardest part has been the limited time with our grown children and four grandsons. Our youngest was born at the very beginning of the shut-down, and we feel we have missed his first year - a year we will never get back. We have our mothers living nearby, so daily trips for mail

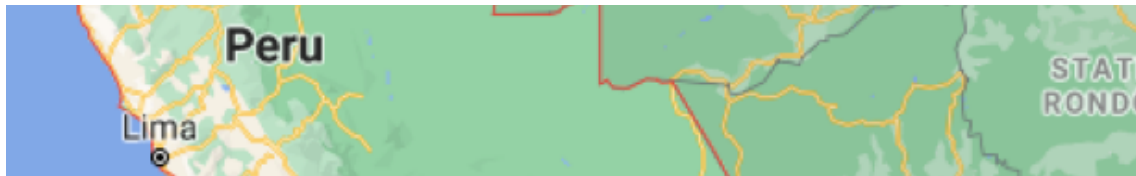
delivery, grocery provisions, doctor visits (whether in person or through “tele-health”), and other errands so they can stay home and safe, have added to our daily schedule. Volunteer work with various organizations has become more complicated as it all must be accomplished remotely and through emails. Boredom has not been a problem. One forward-looking activity I added to my days brushing up rusty French speaking skills with an eye to one day being able to travel safely again.

A major advantage we enjoy comes from living in a rural area. Walks in the open air while watching the changing of the seasons has been a boon. From burgeoning spring, through hot summer days, then the crisp nip of autumn mornings, and now the bareness of winter, we have not been trapped indoors. The ability to enjoy changing weather, seasons of crops, and birds in flight helps us look beyond these confining and fearful days.

Church life fills much of our time, and that has certainly undergone a transformation. Our mid-sized church was already broadcasting Sunday services live on Facebook, but this past year has been an exciting adventure into new technology. Volunteers have grown from camera-operators into sound technicians, videographers, editors, producers, and directors. Sunday services are now created from dozens of individually-filmed segments. Vocal “soloists” are filmed, then combined into choirs; instrumentalists become ensembles; people holding signs in their front yards become the subtitles for choir anthems. The opportunity to see smiling Church friends this way has become a particular favorite. If you would like to see an example, you can find these on our church website, meridianumc.com. An added bonus is the ability to return to favorite songs or sermons, since everything is now archived. Services are available on a variety of platforms and are unbounded by traditional church service times. People can “attend” church whenever they like, as many times as they like, and from wherever they like. Distance or schedule is no longer a deterrent to church attendance, and that is a benefit we plan to keep even when we are able to meet again together. With so many churches figuring out how technology can enhance their outreach, we can now worship with our own congregation, the church where we grew up, and those of friends and family around the globe.

Church meetings, Bible studies, and classes are done through Zoom. A year ago few of us had heard the word “Zoom” as a tool for connecting, and now we are Zoom-ing through our weeks with friends and family, wherever they may be, from the comfort of our own living room couches. Church coffee hours, Lenten studies, and book groups all meet on Zoom. Unless you are a happy introvert, it’s not as good as being together, but it is so much better than being cut off from all fellowship.

The United States has now lost more people to COVID than deaths in World War II. This tragic toll has affected so many Americans and pointed out political and societal failings. Our response as a nation and our willingness to comply with shut-downs and masks has varied across the course of the disease, by region and state, and by individual. Our church encourages us all to pray daily for those suffering from the disease and for leaders tasked with guiding us through this challenging time. As the vaccine is making its way into the arms of Americans, there is a sense of hope and optimism which, coupled with a new administration at the national level, seems to signal a light at the end of this long, dark tunnel. Our entire world has faced, suffered from, and worked to overcome this virus. Mother Teresa once said, “We have forgotten we belong to each other.” Perhaps this difficult time will help to remind us.”



Jean Morgan's friend Penny Marcés, wife of Juan, an Anglican Dean in Lima, Peru writes. Dear Friends

Where to start ? Here are a few samples of the rich mosaic in the Marcés household... First, some background. 2021 is bicentenary year for Peru. 2020 began with plans already under way. However, Jan 2021 is not the same as Jan 2020, and celebration plans are on hold. News broadcasts feature sanitary, economic and political earthquakes here (which were at least not compounded by a physical one!). News bulletins are filled with the "second wave" (or maybe it's the third); public adherence (or lack of!) to the guidelines (eg curfew - now 9pm - 4am again in Lima); political decisions (thankfully Congress is no longer so antagonistic towards the government); and the forthcoming elections for President and Congress in April.

As for covid, Peru's figures are depressing. Official deaths are 38,000, but the health minister admits it is at least 60,000; excess deaths in 2020 were >90,000. Not bad enough news? It recently came to light that somehow, despite "negotiations", the actual signing of contracts to buy vaccines didn't take place. Now resolved, at least partially, one million doses will arrive soon (from China); AstraZeneca (18 million) will arrive after Sept.

Working from home is of course the norm. Though grateful for the technology available, Peru's internet in general is not always reliable, leading to all-too-frequent frustration. Penny has become quite proficient in some things needed for children's materials, now filling quite a big proportion of computer space!

The Cathedral group prefers to meet online, so even though some in-person meetings COULD theoretically take place in the Cathedral, there would be few takers. Zoom continues to be a lifesaver here.

One in-person service did recently take place in the Cathedral. This was the ordination of 4 deacons, the first ordinations for 5 years. Zoom made it possible for those in USA, UK and other places to be present - a bonus. The Cathedral, used by many for weddings, is now in financial crisis. As is the Diocese. New clergy are non-stipendiary; the few who DO receive a stipend now receive much less.

But nothing beats BEING there. Children can't meet in groups but CAN accompany parents to a (very!) mini "Messy Church". We will do the same class 3 (or 4) times to cover MOST children. Great to have non-churchgoing mums there. We also have an adult service on Sunday evenings. Current guidelines allow only 20% capacity in Churches (compare 30% in theatres, gyms and casinos...) so we don't need many to be at "capacity".

Given how badly El Nazareno was affected by covid from April until November, it is "interesting" (I say no more) that now, even with the recent terrible increase in cases, there are few (if any) cases, despite continued lack of respect for guidelines.. Meanwhile, further up the hill where one of the soup kitchens is The Christmas box project DID happen, but rather last minute, so all were given in Lima rather than far-flung villages in other parts of Peru.

One final piece of important news. Since Juan Carlos became Dean of the Cathedral almost 6 months ago, we have both been involved in both Churches. But now, increasingly, Juan Carlos will concentrate on the Cathedral and Penny will be lay minister leading Jesús el Nazareno. We will still be supporting each other; pray we can get the balance right.

Juan Carlos and Penny Marcés

Climate Change Emergency

What we do matters!

“the biggest thing that most of us do that contributes to climate change, is to assume that what we do does not really matter.

We underestimate our own capacity to contribute to a sustainable world”...

Karen O ‘Brien University of Oslo co-founder of change.no

Well we are all aware of the results of climate change and the daunting and challenging times ahead for us all but especially for generations that follow us. It was so refreshing to hear little Mia speaking up for action on the Archers this week...what a topical and great conversation she had with Eddie Grundy...

This is going to be a year when actions will speak louder than words as the November summit in Glasgow meets to plan the way forward for countries around the world.. As John Kerry -the USA Representative - has said: “This is our last chance to take action together”

I was also hearing about actions we can all take when I attended a Zoom Presentation by the Birmingham Anglican Group for Climate Change. Hopefully in the future as restrictions lessen we will be able to take part as a local church in a Climate Sunday when we can plan together actions we can take personally and as a church community. This will culminate in a national Climate Sunday on September 6th.

But there is plenty we can do without having to wait for that occasion so I will be suggesting ways in every issue of Roundabout in which we can all play our part. Here is the first.

LET’S DO THIS TOGETHER

1. Target 1
REDUCE FOOD WASTE.
MARCH 1ST-7TH

Food waste action week

(Global food waste contributes more CO₂ emissions than every country in the world except for China and the USA)

An average family of 4 could save £60 a month by reducing food waste.

Actions

- Make a menu plan and a shopping list
- Use or freeze leftovers
- Try to have at least one meat free day a week

Let’s all try this month to look at how we can reduce our food waste.

What we do matters ! **Thank you.**

Sandra Walton



FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT CROSSWORD: CLIMATE CHANGE EDITION



DOWN

1. This is an example of a fossil fuel. (4)
2. Carbon dioxide, methane, water vapor and other human-made gases allow solar radiation to enter the atmosphere. What do we call these gases? (10,5)
3. By burning fossil fuels, we are adding more of this into the atmosphere. Also known as CO2. (6,7)
5. A process where there is no net release of CO2 is known as being carbon _____. A company or country can achieve this by carbon offsetting, like planting trees. (7)
6. The amount of carbon we emit is known as our carbon _____. (9)
7. A fuel derived from renewable, biological sources, including crops such as maize and sugar cane, and some forms of waste. (7)

ACROSS

4. Rising sea levels, shrinking mountain glaciers, icecaps melting and changes in flower and plant blooming times are all results of what? (7,6)
8. Using naturally replenished resources to create energy, such as sunlight, wind, and water, is known as what sort of energy? (9)

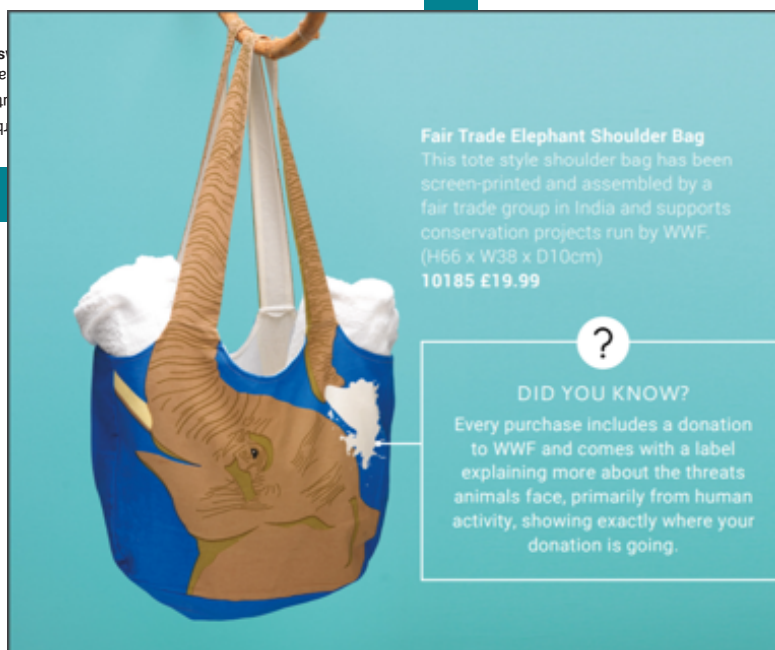
ANSWERS

- DOWN
1. COAL
 2. GREENHOUSE GASES
 3. CARBON DIOXIDE
 4. CLIMATE CHANGE
 5. CARBON NEUTRAL
 6. FOOTPRINT
 7. BIOFUEL
 8. RENEWABLE
- ACROSS
4. CLIMATE CHANGE
 8. RENEWABLE

If you would like a Traidcraft
Easter Egg, please order from
Roger or Jane by the middle of
March

revroger.collins@thecotteridgechurch.org.uk
or 07721 526854
jane.stephens@thecotteridgechurch.org.uk
or 07800815074

Ans
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don



Fair Trade Elephant Shoulder Bag

This tote style shoulder bag has been screen-printed and assembled by a fair trade group in India and supports conservation projects run by WWF. (H66 x W38 x D10cm)
10185 £19.99



DID YOU KNOW?

Every purchase includes a donation to WWF and comes with a label explaining more about the threats animals face, primarily from human activity, showing exactly where your donation is going.



The Cotteridge Church
Joint Church Council
Summary of Proceedings 15th December 2020

Introduction

The Meeting was held via Zoom.

Key Decisions

1. The JCC agreed that the Church should pay £31,442 as our Anglican assessment.
2. The JCC agreed to use Eventbrite as an online booking system for the Christmas Morning Service.
3. The JCC supported the idea of a Job Club at The Cotteridge Church.

Summary Proceedings

1. It was noted that Tea Light and Daffodils had been distributed to members and the meeting thanks all who had helped to distribute them.
2. It was also noted that the Christmas Tree was now in place outside the Church and decorations had been fitted to four lamp posts, the meeting thanked John Cooper for his efforts.
3. A discussion was held over the request from the Anglican Dioceses for us to indicate how much we were willing to pay in assessment in the range £31,442 to £55,256.
4. The Meeting then discussed the Christmas Services and the possible need for a booking system for the Christmas Morning Service, as it was felt it may be very popular.
5. The meeting set the dates for JCC meetings in 2021, reverting to one meeting every two months as the Church had adopted the new three committee governance structure at the November AGM. All three committees will report to each JCC.
6. Mike Claridge stated that all three of our denominations were facing financial challenges due to the Covid Pandemic and the Anglican Church was looking to reduce lay staff and Clergy.
7. Mike Claridge said he had received an inquiry about hosting a job club.

The next meeting of the Joint Church Council will be on Thursday 11th February 2021 at 19:30.

This Summary is authorised by:

Mike Claridge (Chair of the Cotteridge Church Joint Church Council)



The Cotteridge Church
Joint Church Council
Summary of Proceedings 7th January 2021

Introduction

The Meeting was held via Zoom to ratify the JCC decision, made through an eMail vote, to close the Church for worship as Birmingham had moved from Tier 3 to Tier 4 Covid restrictions.

Key Decisions

1. The JCC ratified the decision to close the Church for Worship until Covid-19 circumstances changed.
2. The JCC agreed to move the Church AGM from April to June.

Summary Proceedings

1. It was noted that legally places of worship were allowed to remain open.
2. Other forms of worship were discussed and Radio services, virtual services and Mike Claridge's Zoom services were mentioned.
3. Neil Walters asked if the 'phone numbers for dialling into the Wednesday Service should be re-issued and Dorothy Audley said that had already been done.
4. Moving the AGM from April to June in the hope of having a physical rather than a virtual event was discussed.

The next meeting of the Joint Church Council will be on Thursday 11th February 2021 at 19:30.

This Summary is authorised by:

Mike Claridge
Chair of the Cotteridge Church Joint Church Council

The Greatest Country Music Song

I thought I would lighten the mood this month by asking you all a simple question:

What do you think is the greatest country music song?

The reason I ask it is that I was reading in the December edition of 'Country Music People Magazine' that one of my musical heroes, Steve Earle, had been inducted into the Songwriters Hall of fame. Given that he is 65, I thought it was about time. What then surprised me was the next sentence which said Bobbie Gentry had also been inducted. Bobbie Gentry is 78 and one of her songs, 'Ode to Billy Jo' is certainly a potential candidate for greatest country music song of all time. I was sitting there scratching my head, thinking, why have they taken so long to recognise a song writer of such genius.

If you think about it in its almost 100-year history Country Music has produced some great songs. From its beginnings at the 1927 Bristol Sessions, which discovered two of the earliest legends of the genre: Jimmie Rodgers (The singing brakeman) and The Carter Family, Country has thrown up some of my favourite songs of all time, just think of:

Blue Yodel Number 1 (Jimmie Rodgers)

Bury me under the Willow Tree (A.P Carter)

I saw the light (Hank Williams). [It's difficult to pick a specific Hank Williams song, there are so many!]

Long Black Veil (Lefty Frizzell)

Crazy (Willie Nelson – as vocalised by Patsy Cline)

Folsom Prison Blues (Johnny Cash)

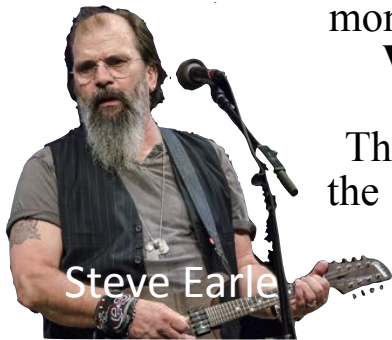
Jolene (Dolly Parton)

LA Freeway (Guy Clark)

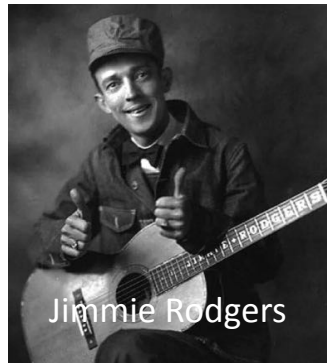
Pancho and Lefty (Townes Van Zandt)

Someday (Steve Earle)

Not ready to make Nice (Natalie Maines) and so many more, although Country has thrown up some real stinkers as well, just think of:



Steve Earle



Jimmie Rodgers



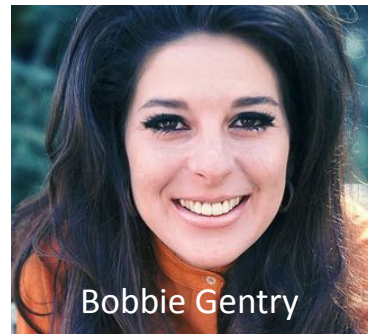
Hank Williams



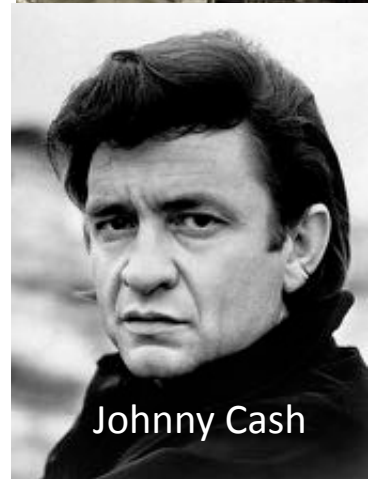
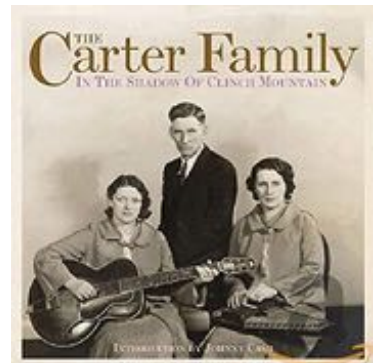
Patsy Cline



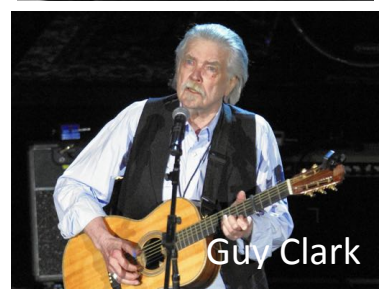
Dolly Parton



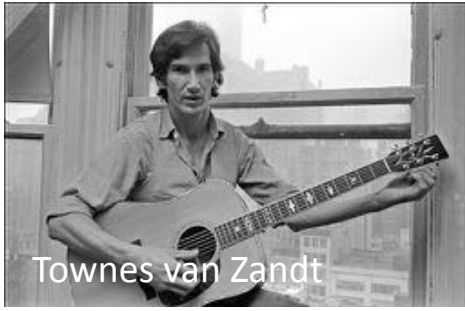
Bobbie Gentry



Johnny Cash



Guy Clark



Townes van Zandt

D.I.V.O.R.C.E (Tammy Wynette)
Red Solo Cup (Luke Combs)
You probably have your favourites and most detested country songs, don't just take my choices as a definitive list. Saying that, I think the choice of greatest country music song comes down to



Steve Earle



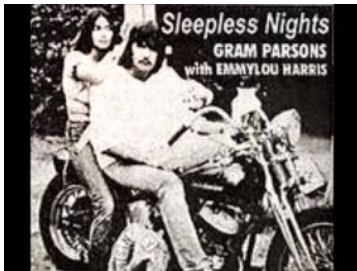
Tammy Wynette

two, the aforementioned 'Ode to Billy Joe' which actually knocked The Beatles 'All you need is love' off the top of the Bill Board 100 and 'Bolder to Birmingham' by Emmylou Harris. You need to understand the back story to the Emmylou song both to understand the lyrics and to understand the heart wrenching meaning to every word. 'Bolder to Birmingham'



Luke Combs

was Emmylou's response to the death by drug overdose of her musical mentor, Gram Parsons, in the Joshua Tree National Park, an incident that also inspired the U2 album 'Joshua Tree'. The old saying about country music, that it's 'Three Cords and the Truth' certainly hold true to the final two lines of her chorus:



'I would walk all the way from Boulder to Birmingham



Natalie Maines

If I thought I could see, I could see your face'

Gram and Emmylou also produced the greatest duet of all time when they sang the Boudleaux Bryant song 'Love Hurts' in close harmony, look it up on Spotify.

So, I give you my choice for

Greatest Country Music Song: 'Bolder to Birmingham' by Emmylou Harris.



Emmylou Harris

Wordsearch

Can you find the 22 words based on Easter and our church, listed below in the grid?
[There are a few other words there by coincidence also! I found 7]

Words are straight:- horizontal, vertical, or diagonal [top left to bottom right only]

Answers next time

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

APRIL FOURTH
ASH WEDNESDAY
BULLETIN
CELEBRATE
CLARIDGE
COLLINS
COTTERIDGE
CHURCH

CROWN OF THORNS
CRUCIFIXION
EASTER SUNDAY
FOODBANK
GOOD FRIDAY
LENT
NEWSLETTER
PASTORAL

POEM
PONTIUS
PILATE
ROUNABOUT
TRAIDCRAFT
WELCOME



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