

Roundabout



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

May 2021

Mike's message ...

Ascension and the Empty Tomb

It seems an age since Easter Day! By the time you read this online or in printed form it'll be the best part of a month since you cracked open your Easter eggs or cut your first slice of Simnel cake.

A month passing by means that Ascension Day is approaching (13th May this year). Most of what we know about The Ascension is from Luke. He gives us two, differing, accounts in his Gospel (24.50-53) and his Acts of the Apostles (1.6-11). Matthew doesn't mention 'ascension' at all, merely a departure (28.16-20). In the earliest manuscripts of Mark's Gospel there's no mention of it either, indeed there aren't any resurrection accounts at all! He tells us only of frightened disciples gathered around an empty tomb (16.8) - more of that later. Some later manuscripts have the ascension added (16.19-20).

What about John's Gospel? John has no account of the ascension as such but we have this from the account of the first Easter Day. After Mary Magdalene has encountered Jesus, risen from the dead, in the garden he says this:

(John, Chapter 20)

17: Jesus said to Mary, 'Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God."'. 18: Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord'; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

Jesus said, "Do not hold onto me". What are we to make of that? He is saying don't cling to the past, what has been and gone. It's time to move on to new things. Go and tell the others to get ready.

Mark finished his Gospel depicting the women disciples full of fear as they gathered around the empty tomb. But those who heard Mark's Gospel proclaimed to them would have known it was not the end of the story. Frightened disciples would soon be transformed - the Holy Spirit would see to that. But Mark was writing for a community experiencing turmoil. The women's fear would strike a chord with them, maybe it does with us too.

As things change and, for the time being, we come out of lockdown, we need to encourage one another not to cling onto what has been. Not to try and return to everything that we did in the past or at least not in the same ways. We are not people of the empty tomb, rummaging around trying to find what has been and gone. We are people of the resurrection. The physical Jesus has ascended - we are now his body on earth, his community of faith, the church. We don't know what lies ahead but we do know that it'll be different but wherever it takes us - God is with us!



Friends and Family



We congratulated Eira Hoadly on her 90th birthday in February and here she is celebrating amongst some the many cards she gratefully received from Church friends. However we print an apology for spelling her name incorrectly in the last edition [The proof readers didn't spot it either!] Editor

Congratulations and best wishes to C2U as they celebrate their 10th anniversary



As we give thanks for the remarkable life of HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, we remember his widow, Queen Elizabeth II in our prayers, and congratulate her on her 95th birthday, and her reign of 68 years.



Prince Philip
1921-2021

We are nearly there!

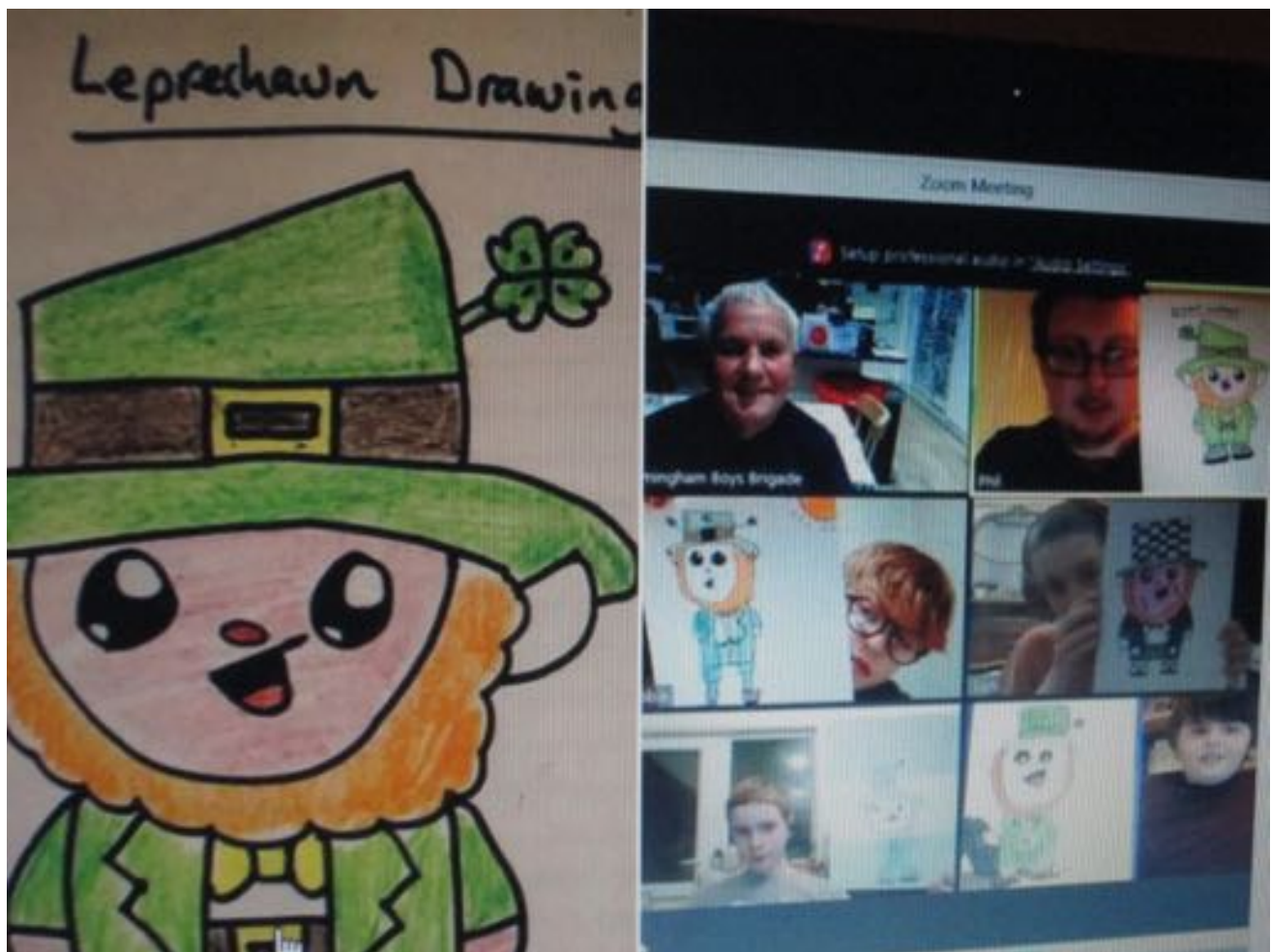
I am sure everyone is enjoying the ease of restrictions and finally seeing some loved ones, even if it is outside. I have even managed to pick up my beloved Squash racket and hit a ball on court. For now, it has been great to see the boys through virtual meets. From the leaders' perspective, I know that we have enjoyed seeing the boys and hearing what they have been up to. We have even managed to do crafts and activities with them, which you can check out on our Facebook page. However, there is still the question of when BB will return.



While BBHQ has confirmed that companies can meet face to face both indoors and outdoors, this can only happen when the Church re-opens. Now this may seem a frustration to our leaders and boys, but if this pandemic has taught me anything, it is to have patience. While things have moved forward, Covid-19 seems to loom over things and affect many people. I am sure many people reading will have had an experience of this horrible virus whether it's them having it or someone close to them. I have no shame in hiding the feeling of frustration and upset towards hearing of another death adding to the ever growing number seen on the news, especially when I hear it affects people I know.

So once again I look for positives. Well on behalf of the 7th, I congratulate my cousin on becoming a dad to Leo, who arrived in March. The boys have continued to enjoy virtual meets and we continually receive support from parents through our





social media, who have been a great support to the decisions and activities we have done. If I was to give a message on behalf of BB, it would be that there is hope towards our future return and some form of normality. As BB is a part of me, I find it gives me the hope and strength to be patient on regular life returning. I leave you with a quote from the bible, in which is the foundation of not only the BB, but our faith in God and moreover, overcoming this storm in life.

“We have this hope as an **anchor** for the soul, both **sure and steadfast**, and which entereth into that within the veil,” *Hebrews 6:19*

Ian Sherwin

Covid 19

C - care:- for friends, neighbours & family.

(even if via a wave, text, phone & prayers).

O - organise:- Clothes, cupboards, drawers, paper-work, books...!

V - value what we have:- health, warmth, friends, homes, (even if very limited)

I - invent:- meals, craft activities, projects within home & garden.

D - design:- new ways of overcoming bouts of irritation, boredom, isolation , depression

AND 19 ? - months until we have won the battle of COVID?

Chris Pascal



The Cotteridge Church
Joint Church Council
Summary of Proceedings 9th March 2021

Introduction

The Meeting was held via Zoom to decide when the Church should open for Worship against the newly announced government roadmap.

Key Decisions

1. The JCC decided that the Church should open for Worship on the first Sunday after the Government lifted the Stay at Home instruction.

Summary Proceedings

1. It was noted that the Methodist Church were saying the stay at home instruction should be respected
2. It was also noted that the URC were recommending that Churches should stay shut until Accession
3. It was further noted that the C of E was saying Churches could open with care
4. The earliest the Stay at Home instruction may be lifted is the 29th March 2021
5. With major changes being implemented no earlier than 12th April 2021
6. Jane Stephens said she would organise a Stewarding Rota

The next meeting of the Joint Church Council will be on Tuesday 13th April 2021 at 19:30.

This Summary is authorised by:

Mike Claridge

Chair of the Cotteridge Church Joint Church Council



CC Day Care

The Day Centre is planning to reopen very soon, and Michelle and Simon have been busy preparing for this. We have been in touch with a number of our members who are very keen to return, and we have also received enquiries from potential new members so things are looking positive.

The Government Gateway site online has allowed us to order covid tests for the staff, which we will do every week. All staff have also had their vaccinations, and we anticipate that most if not all of our members will also have had theirs.

We are all very much looking to return and to see everyone again.

Michelle Madden

Justice

Over the last few months one word has come to prominence, justice, from the Methodist Church's focus on social justice to the call of justice for women after the terrible murder of Sarah Everard and its aftermath. I read the newspapers, read the BBC website and listen to the radio and hear just one word, justice, justice, justice.

I have slowly come to the realisation that I don't understand what justice means. Please note the present participant, don't, as, although I have attempted to read up on the word, I still don't think I have a full grasp on its meaning. I am comfortable that I know what it doesn't mean, it has no part in vengeance, retribution, or punishment.

I have read the Oxford English Dictionary definition over and over again and find I don't understand what it is telling me:

Justice ► **noun** 1 [mass noun] just behaviour or treatment: *a concern for justice, peace, and genuine respect for people.*

It feels like a "Maysian"* statement "Justice means Justice". I eventually found a statement in the definition of Justice on the online Cambridge Dictionary which has begun to lead me to a coherent understanding of justice. The Cambridge Dictionary stated that Fairness was a simile of Justice and I find that if I substitute the word Fairness for Justice, sentences become understandable.

Interestingly, further reading has expanded my questioning. There are various types of fundamental justice, two of which are Distributive Justice and Corrective Justice, again substituting Fairness for Justice brings these statements into sharp relief.

Distributive Justice is fairness in the distribution of goods be they food, housing, employment, and Corrective Justice is fairness in the correction of wrongdoing. An example I found of corrective justice ran along these lines: If person A takes person B's laptop corrective justice would require person A to return the laptop to person B. If during the intervening period, person A has damaged the laptop they would need to replace it with a similar device and then give the replacement back to person B. This works well for laptops, but how would this work in the case of poor Sarah Everard, her murderer cannot replace Sarah, if only he could. All I can suggested is that in Christianity there is a guiding principle that needs to be brought into play in such circumstances. Forgiveness, I quote 'as we forgive our debtors.' Matthew Ch6 V12.

Remember if you see or hear someone using the word justice, substitute the word fairness. If their statement no longer makes sense, ignore it.

Neil Walters

* *invented to refer to Theresa May's quote "Brexit means Brexit" [Ed]*

Don't be misled!

Ever since Trump became president, I have become increasingly aware of how much misleading information there is out there to encourage us to do this or that. Much of it is relatively harmless, like the adverts that offer UP TO 100% reduction in dandruff, or grey hair disguising etc. Well a little blow in the wind will remove UP TO 100%, as would a comb or even a shake of the head. UP TO means any amount from zero to all, but quoting the 100 figure leads us to believe we will get the 100%. Another one that bugs me is the x% of women said that such a product gave great satisfaction. Now, the law says they have to quote the sample responding, and so often the number sampled is pitifully small, [and in a pitifully small sized font!] and there is no mention of the cross section from which it was taken. It is very likely that a high percentage of women would be satisfied with the grey removal by a hair dye if they were all in their 20s and fair haired, but what about folk like me, who have virtually no brown hair left? [& 81% of 38 women leaves me in pity for the poor fractional woman!] Similarly the only research results supporting the reduction of hair loss with the use of caffeine was done with elderly castrated male mice!

We have seen it too, sadly with the uptake of the Covid vaccine. People believe that they would be better off catching the virus than risking the threat of some unknown effect proposed by those who have no knowledge of the virus or vaccine field at all, but who are eloquent and persistent. The NHS and others have tried so hard to dispel the misinformation.

Then, very dangerously, there are the politicians, and people in power who propagate falsehood or partial truth - like the Zimbabwean president who claims to have conquered the virus, though the coffin makers in Zimbabwe cannot meet the demand, and his people fear to take the necessary precautions to protect themselves, because of fear of reprisal.

So how do we know what to believe and what to discount?

It can be very difficult. We must think hard, and seek the opinions of a number of unconnected, highly qualified and trustworthy experts, who do not seek financial or any other reward for stating their views, and then evaluate carefully what they say.

So, where does our own religious faith come into this?

Has anyone actually touched or seen Jesus or God within the last 2000 years? I expect not, yet we still believe, we still have faith. Yes, many of us have been brought up to have that faith, but many others have come to it from their own observations and experiences.

For me, life has to have a purpose, and the understanding of that purpose is nourished by my belief in God. Also, importantly, I believe that God is not overseeing us to gain personal victory or credit, and that our praise of Him serves to help us focus to do what he wants, and live a good and meaningful life. Analogies here, to the good parent are very relevant. And faith in a good parent, and in a God can be a calming, inspiring and fruitful experience.

Again, in order to appreciate our God, we need to know as much as possible about our religion. We need the guidance of those who have studied before us, we need to be shown how our faith can lead us to do the best we can in any circumstances, and to treat all people with care and kindness, and respect.

Another strong factor, or course, is the fact that our faith has endured for 2000 years. To nurture it we need to come together and share our thoughts, experiences, and common purpose. Sadly we have been unable to do that with our customary freedom for many months now, but let us hope that very soon, we will again be able to come together, to sing, and to share our faith with renewed vigour, purpose, and appreciation, and enjoy the constructive friendship of others of like mind.

Celia Lester

Church Services

We are continuing to hold a weekly service at 10.30 am each Sunday, to welcome up to 30 participants. Please wear a mask, sanitise your hands on arrival, and maintain social distancing at all times. Sadly, we still cannot sing hymns together, nor socialise before, after or during the service, so at the end of the service, we ask you to leave on the direction of the stewards. Friendly greetings via smiles and waves are much appreciated!

	2nd May	9th May	16th May	23rd May	30th May
10:30 am	Revd M. Claridge	Revd M. Claridge	Revd R. Collins	Revd M. Claridge HC	Revd B. Calvert

Service detail for June is not yet available.

Annual Church Meeting

With the hope that all **legal** restrictions will be removed on 21st June we have decided to schedule the Annual Church Meeting on Saturday 26th June at 10.30am.

Praying through Change

is meeting by phone and email.

The next meetings are May: 4th and 18th

June: 1st, 15th, 29th. All at 10.30am.

Details from Linda Mann: normanmann@blueyonder.co.uk or 0121 608 2088

Hazel Nash: nash_hazel@hotmail.com or 0121 459 6823

Roundabout.

Our magazine is published every two months at the beginning of January, March, May, July, September and October. It is available on the church website via News & Events.

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

You can download and print a pdf copy of the current edition, and, by accessing the “archive” link at the end of the magazine, you can download and print all editions from 2012 onwards. [to get the copy double sided you must select “duplex printing”, and “long side stapling” on your printer window to get an A4 version.]

Prior to lockdown we have always printed a large number of paper copies, which are available free of charge to anyone within the church. Obviously this costs the church money, and so we are seeking to reduce the number of paper copies. If you have any views on this please contact me [roundabout@thecotteridgechurch.org] so that we can amend the print run suitably. Thank you.

Always, I am very pleased to receive your articles or news, suggestions or comments at any time. Roundabout can only be as good as the articles from you printed in it.

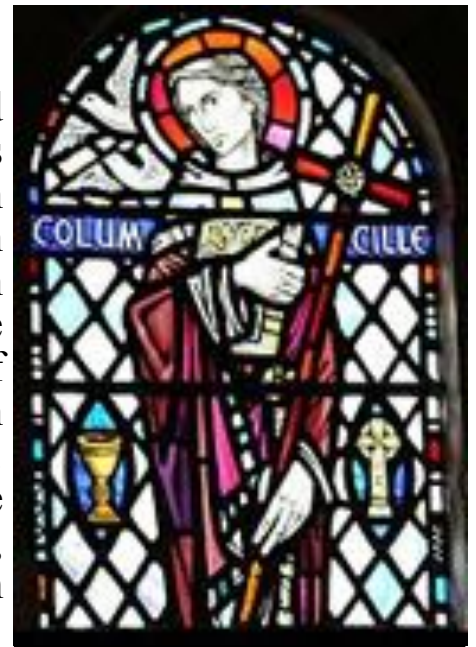
Celia Lester [Editor]

St Columba 7 December 521 – 9 June 597



Remains in Gartan of
St Columba's Church.

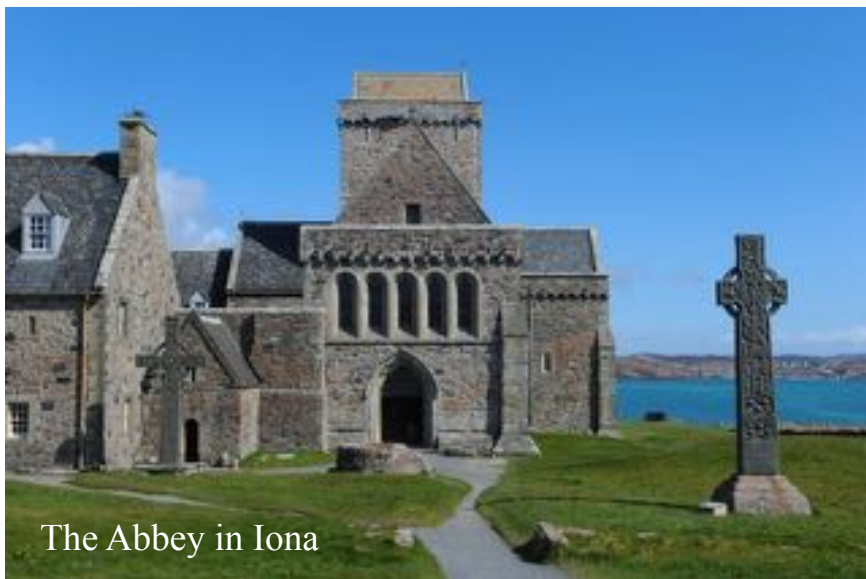
Columba was an Irish abbot, and patron saint of Derry. He was born near Lough Gartan in Donegal. In early Christian Ireland the druidic tradition collapsed due to the spread of the new Christian faith. The study of Latin learning and Christian theology in monasteries flourished. Columba became a pupil at the monastic school at Clonard Abbey, situated on the River Boyne in modern County Meath.



St Columba:
Stained glass window in
Iona Abbey.

In 563, he travelled to Scotland with twelve companions in a wicker currach covered with leather. According to legend he first landed on the Kintyre Peninsula, before settling in Iona, given to him by kinsman Conall mac Comgaill and which was then part of his Ulster kingdom of Dál Riata. The abbey founded in Iona became the base for spreading Celtic Christianity among the pagan northern Pictish kingdoms. There are also many stories of miracles which he performed during his work to convert the Picts, the most famous being his encounter with an unidentified animal that some have equated with the Loch Ness Monster in 565. It is said that he banished a ferocious "water beast" to the depths of the River Ness after it had killed a Pict and then tried to attack Columba's disciple named Lugne. He was very energetic in his work as a missionary, and, in addition to founding several churches in the Hebrides, he worked to turn his monastery at Iona into a school for missionaries.

In more recent times, many Scots and Irish have emigrated to [especially] Canada U.S.A. and Australia, and there are many institutions named after him or Iona there.



The Abbey in Iona

[e.g. Columba is the patron saint of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Youngstown, Ohio. The Cathedral there is named for him; Iona College in Windsor, Ontario; Iona College Geelong in Charlemont, Victoria; and St. Columba's School, one of the most prominent English-Medium schools in India]

Benjamin Britten composed *A Hymn of St Columba* for choir and organ in 1962, setting a

poem by the saint, on the occasion of the 1,400th anniversary of his voyage to Iona.

Celia Lester

Climate Change Emergency

..What we do matters!

It really does matter...SO I am wondering how you got on with the Food Waste challenge? I have been trying to look at dates of food in my fridge, freezing leftovers if possible and making a meal plan to help my shopping list. It's a beginning Lots more for me to do though in the future.

I was interested too when I received my WI magazine last month to see within an article on Fighting Climate Change a list of 10 ways to reduce food waste:-so with a nod and thanks to members of the WI here it is.

1. Make use of all the food
2. Improve storage techniques
3. Use meal plans and shopping lists
4. Get to know 'best before' and 'use-by' dates
5. Check the temperature of your fridge
6. Research food apps
7. Start portion planning
8. Compost it if you can
9. Create and contribute to a community fridge.
10. Help redistribute food to those in need

I really hope you find this list useful? Every year UK Households throw away 4.5 million tonnes of food that could have been eaten. It makes you think. A good website is www.wrap.org.uk

What we do matters!

LETS DO THIS TOGETHER

Target 2

USE ENERGY WISELY

Some Actions that we could take

- Switch to a green energy provider
- Install LED bulbs
- Dry washing outside..avoid using the tumble dryer
- Shut curtains at dusk and improve insulation and draught proofing
- Turn thermostats down a degree(or two)
- Don't leave appliances on stand-by

Please try some of the above...if we all do something it **will** make a difference.

What we do matters. THANK YOU

“Earth provides enough to satisfy every person's needs, but not everyone's greed.”

Mahatma Gandhi

Sandra Walton



Celebrate Fairtrade Fortnight 2021's theme of climate change,
and indulge in a moment of mindfulness with Traidcraft...

Traidcraft items are available by telephoning
Roger Collins 07721526854
or Jane Stephens 07800815074 to order.
<https://www.traidcraftshop.co.uk>

Church Garden

Chris Pascal is appealing for some help with maintaining the church garden.

If you can help, please contact her for more details. As Editor, I can pass on any messages to her if you prefer. Or if you are passing the building, do pull up a weed, if you see one!

Our garden really helps the church to be a welcoming place, and it is so important to welcome everyone back as soon as we can.



Traidcraft Exchange - Regenerators Appeal

There's still time to get involved – and make double the difference!



Traidcraft PLC's very own Matt, Liam and Jo are walking or running 100km in April to raise vital funds for the Regenerators Appeal.

<https://traidcraftexchange.org/regenerators>

This focusses on climate change, and the regeneration of land damaged by floods, drought, fire etc.

So far, they've raised £375 between them, which will then kindly be doubled by the government!

If you'd love to get involved and make a difference to the lives of the regenerators, you still can! By buying one of Traidcraft Exchange's Gifts for Life, your donation will also be doubled, making double the difference to families and communities.

THANK YOU to so many from so many

During the pandemic and its associated restrictions, so many of our members have shown their care for fellow members in many ways. There are phone calls, daily poems, email contacts, news bulletins zoom meetings, and many more contacts between folk. All of this helps enormously to maintain our friendship and unity, and lets us all know that we are not alone, and that our friends do care about us. Standing up to Covid, and defeating it has been and will be probably the hardest thing many of us have experienced, but with the strong friendships shown over the past year by so many, we will triumph - eventually.

Exciting news from the Coffee Bar!

We are delighted to announce that as of 17th May (subject to Government guidelines) the Coffee Bar will be reopening. Not only that, but we plan to operate Monday to Friday between 8:30 and 13:30.

There will be a new menu including hot meals over the lunch period and all-day breakfasts available throughout, in addition to sandwiches, light snacks, a selection of hot and cold drinks and homemade cake.

Do come and visit, you're assured of a warm and friendly welcome, but with all appropriate measures in place to ensure we are all Covid secure.

Remember to bring a face covering, our staff will greet you upon arrival and guide you to your table in the Malvern Room. Please note that for the time being we 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, we will be taking contactless card payments or exact money only, so we have simplified pricing, but remain the best value café in Cotteridge!

We look forward to seeing you very soon.

Catering Working Group



THE FOODBANK

WAYS YOU CAN HELP IN 2021



FIND OUT
WHAT IS
NEEDED



PICK UP EXTRA
ITEMS WHEN
YOU SHOP



THEY DO A
GREAT JOB AT
THE FOODBANK



GOSSIP
POSITIVELY

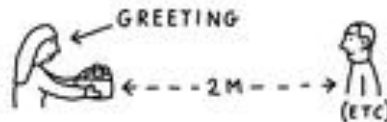


DONATE
MONEY



FUNDRAISE

MIGHT
HAVE
TO BE
ONLINE
NOW

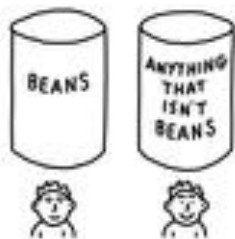


VOLUNTEER
(REALLY IMPORTANT AS
MANY VOLUNTEERS OVER 65
AND NOW SELF-ISOLATING)

WHY IS THE
NEED FOR
FOODBANKS
INCREASING?



ASK AWKWARD
QUESTIONS



[BUT CHECK
LOCALLY]



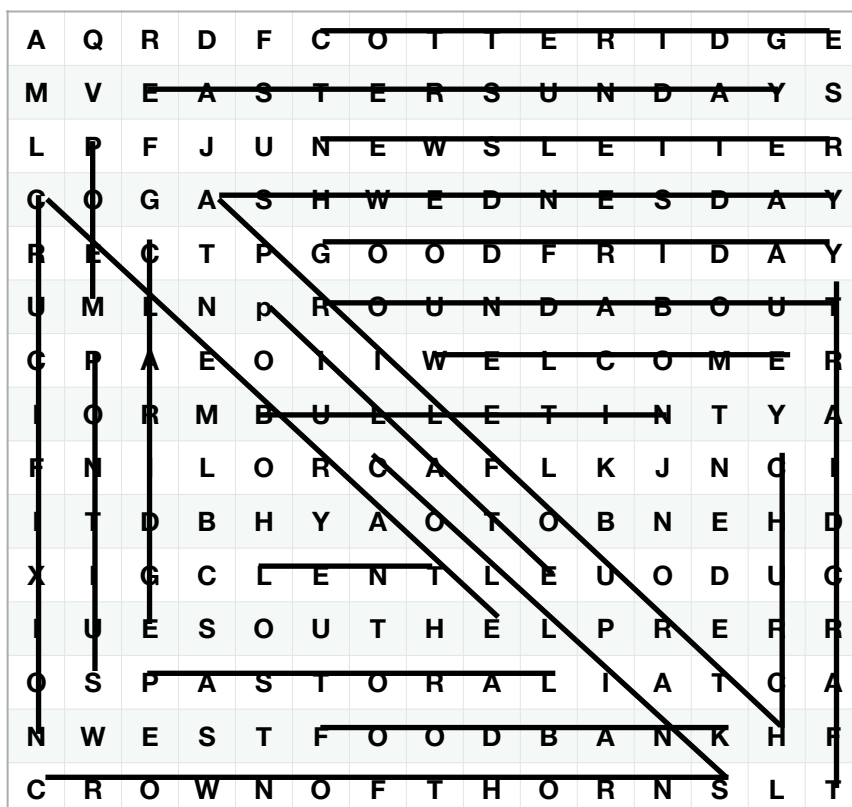
ASK PEOPLE FOR
FOODBANK DONATIONS
RATHER THAN PRESENTS



LIKE THE
SOCIAL MEDIA
PAGE

CartoonChurch.com

Wordsearch answers



Extra words I found

June
Lost
South
West

There may be more!



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Large print issue is available to download from our web site.

Your Editor from January 2017 is Celia Lester

Please send copy for the next edition by 23rd June 2021.

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