

Roundabout



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

July 2017

Mike's message

Christianity 2.1

Most of the time we take computers for granted - I suppose. That is until things go wrong!

There have been two examples of that on the national news recently. Firstly some parts of the NHS came to a halt because of a "hack". Someone with criminal intent had taken advantage of the out of date systems. In the second British Airways was grounded because of an error that occurred when someone had turned the system off and then, a little too quickly, back on again. The out of date components couldn't stand the shock of the power surge. Outdated hardware (the parts of the 'machine' itself) and software (programmes that computers use (word processing for example) are common reasons for failure.



A letter in 'The Methodist Recorder' newspaper recently suggested that some of the problems the churches, and Christians as individuals, face is because we haven't updated our own 'software'. He wasn't talking about computers. He was referring to the formal belief structures that we often expect people to believe. Beliefs that are often stranded in the language and ideas of 2000 years ago. He suggested we need to update our theological 'software' (thinking) for the present age. God's revelation, through the work of the Holy Spirit, didn't stop when the New Testament was compiled. If we think of the Word of God being The Bible, it becomes closed and dated, but The Word of God is alive, engaging with us, ever present from before time, through time and beyond time (John's Gospel Chapter 1).

Café Church has been looking at some of the ideas of American Bishop, Jack Spong who, in the 1980s, started offering new, radical theological ideas. Many, such as former Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams, think that Spong's ideas themselves are now tired and outdated and themselves need updating. We need to keep ourselves attentive to what God is saying to the churches. We've already seen that happening over the years in the role of women in the churches, in ordained ministry for example. The issue of same-sex marriage is a current area of discussion too. These are examples of how our churches are updating theological 'software'.

If theology is our software what's the parallel as our hardware? That's surely our buildings and the way we use them. The Cotteridge Church building was updated in the 1980s and now needs us to look at it again so that it will be ready to provide a base for vibrant and updated Christian mission and service here in Cotteridge.

From the Editor's Desk

Welcome to the July 2017 bumper edition of Roundabout. I hope you enjoy it, and I thank all our contributors for their hard work.

In the mid 1980s the three churches which make up the Cotteridge Church underwent phenomenal changes. Anglicans and URC members gave up their cherished buildings. Methodists agreed to share theirs, and accept major alterations and renovations. Why? We all agreed that we could better represent God, and serve our local community if we pooled our resources, and proclaimed our unity by coming together in a single church. And what a success it has been! Such success never comes without vision, hard work and sacrifice, and most especially guidance from God. Many of us who were so active then are now rather more sedate, and 35 years on there are more possible changes afoot. The Cotteridge has changed a lot during our first 35 years, and now it is time to consider again how best we can serve our current and future community and our God from this church. You will find details of the proposals in this edition of Roundabout, and the planning team is asking you to consider and evaluate them. They are far more gentle than those of 35 years ago, but we need your help to get it right, just as we called on the help of everyone when we came together.

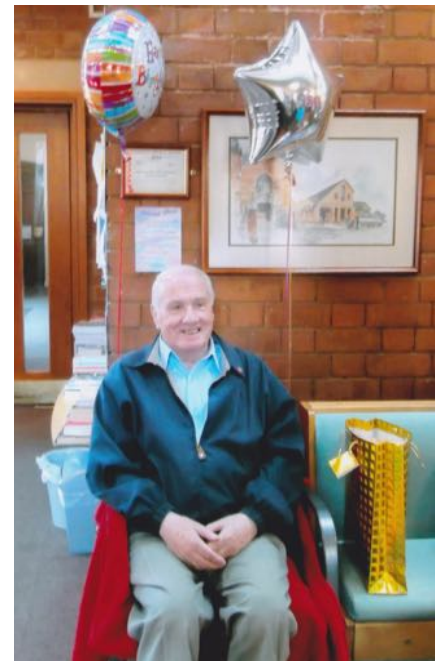
Friends and Family

1937 was a very good year!! Congratulations to our new octogenarians Jennifer M., Chris P., and Doris C. and to Len Burt, well known and much loved in the Pennine Way. It was no surprise that he had lots of presents, cards, and of course - a birthday cake.

Congratulations also to Jean Dewey She is now Great Grandmother to Ella Margaret, who weighed in at 7lb 6oz on 9th June. Congratulations go too to John Cliff, who is also a Great Grandfather, and his daughter Dawn a Granny, as baby Logan Wayne Anthony also arrived on 9th June, weighing 9lb 13oz, for grand daughter Bethany & Bradley.

We are also delighted to send congratulations to John and Hilary on the birth of Fergus. Arthur is enjoying being a big brother!

Jackie Wright, now a deacon at the Methodist Church, Seahouses, sends her best wishes to everyone. [Chris P. met with her recently whilst on holiday in Northumberland.] Last, but by no means least, our prayers and best wishes go to Linda M and Hazel N for their forthcoming surgery.



Kings Norton & District U3A

Having survived the birth pangs, we are now making good progress with this exciting project. We have a keen and dynamic committee with Chairman Peter Miller, a Vice-Chair and all the usual officers, so we are in safe hands.

Contact details will be available on becoming a Full Member, cost of which is £24

p.a. with a reduction to £18 if you are a U3A member elsewhere. Payment is by cash or cheque at this stage.

To date we have over 170 members and also a wide variety of Interest Groups: well over 20, with sub-groups within the main headings. Art, for example, has seven sub-groups, including painting, drawing, art history and art appreciation and antiques. Likewise, in the crafts category there 12 sub-groups, with, in many cases, people who are prepared to lead a particular specialism. This enthusiasm is very rewarding, with an abundance of interests, ideas, suggestions and commitments, which augurs well for the future of Kings Norton & District U3A.

At our meeting on April 11th, some specialist groups were beginning to form with help and guidance from Sandy Miller and her team of Interest Group co-ordinators, who set out the general plan and goals, so that the groups can become independent quite quickly. Venues were agreed, meeting days and times established in some cases, and, of course any financial costs assessed. For these groups, there are few if any extra costs, as it is usual to meet in each others` houses.

Our first General Meeting on 2nd May was well attended and our next General Meeting was on Tuesday, 6th June 2.30 p.m. at St Joseph & St Helens Church Hall, Station Rd., Cotteridge, where we had a talk on The Origins of Place Names, given by Mr. Anthony Polton-Smith. The General Meeting for the following month will be on 4th July. There will be no meeting in August.

All are welcome to the meetings and the Membership Secretary will be pleased to sign up new members on the spot.

We have an email address for any further information:

knu3a.membership@gmail.com

We look forward to welcoming you there.

Cotteridge Church supporting Church Urban Fund

‘Changing lives and communities together’

The Church Urban Fund is a charity that supports church-based social action projects which are helping to transform lives all over the country, including here in Birmingham. These include homelessness projects, food banks, holiday clubs for children, providing places of welcome in local communities, working with those in financial distress and bringing ethnically diverse communities together.



Several members of the Cotteridge Church have been collecting their small change, which has then been donated to CUF. Small change adds up! Our total collected since last September is £130.15. For those who already have a CUF small change box please hand it to me when it's full and I can provide you with a new box. If anyone would like to start collecting their small change, please ask me for a box.

On behalf of the Church Urban Fund:
‘Thank you for changing lives’

Alison Sprackling

Notes from Joint Church Council meeting on 18th May 2017

Matters arising from the minutes:

It was confirmed that gluten-free wafers are available if required and should be requested from clergy or stewards.

Volunteering Promotion and Recruitment Co-ordinator: Pam Waddell has received a positive response to her proposals from co-ordinators of various areas of activity. A further paper on the role was circulated and it was unanimously accepted in principle, to be reviewed in 6-12 months. It was suggested that a celebration acknowledging the work of all volunteers should be held.

Safeguarding: Laurie, Jane and Sue had attended several training courses. One of the church safeguarding officers must have a seat on JCC. On line DBS checks will need to be carried out for all JCC members.

Reports from Groups:

Finance and property: CCTV cameras: Two quotes had been received and it was agreed unanimously to go ahead with the purchase of 3 internal and one external camera.

Catering services: Alan Adams has resigned as treasurer as from mid- July. Discussion followed on whether we should consider employing someone to cover both Treasurer positions and to work in liaison with the Day Centre. It was agreed to refer the matter to the Finance and Property committee for further consideration and a cost benefit analysis to be carried out.

Discussion is taking place with Food Bank and Saplings about setting up a holiday play scheme with meals provided. The aim is to support families who in term time would receive free school meals. A grant is being applied for from the Trussell Trust.

Governance: Co-opted JCC membership: It was agreed that the recommendations for this year should be accepted, and that the group be requested to look at the Church constitution so that changes can be resolved in time for the 2018 AGM and elections.

Older Adults Forum: Mike Claridge has taken over as chairman. JCC agreed to send Donald Sampson our thanks and appreciation for his service as chair during the interregnum.

Fund Raising team: The team requested permission to raise funds for specific purposes and to allocate funds before events, to make special appeals more attractive to donors. This was agreed. The Fund Raising team will in future report directly to Finance and Property.

Young People: Sue Clayton's Youth Report had been circulated. Young Church Leaders had met with Tina Brooker (Methodist Circuit Children and Youth Team Leader) and had a wide-ranging discussion about this year's initiatives and concerns. Jane and Sue will also attend "Messy Church" training with Janet Knox to learn more about this.

The Boys' Brigade Captain had been invited to join the Young People's Forum, and Bob had extended the invitation to all officers.

JCC was asked to discuss arrangements during the Young Church summer break. Could a 'Holiday Team' be created or could all three Sundays be All Age Worship? Mike thought the latter should be feasible and would liaise with the planned leaders of worship.

Day Centre: JCC approved the appointment of Mike Claridge as Chair and thanks will be given to Donald Sampson for his work in this role. The Day Centre Committee has been asked to look at its membership details.

Denominational items: *Methodist.* Mike outlined the Methodist ‘Church without Walls’ programme of events looking at aspects of mission. The meeting thought this might contribute to a number of our thoughts and plans. Mike will inform the Methodist Connection of our willingness to participate.

United Reformed: We have finally received confirmation from the Synod that the URC would be willing to sell the manse. JCC unanimously agreed to send a resolution confirming that we are happy for the manse to be sold.

Administrator’s Report: Following the resignations of Delene and Julie, it is hoped to create a more attractive job by combining the two vacancies.

Treasurer’s report: Doug Hincks has provided a Treasurer’s report and statement of accounts to the end of April. Thanks were recorded to Doug for his continued work on our behalf.

Election of JCC representatives 2017-8: Arrangements re co-opted posts were reviewed prior to the AGM on June 10th. Jane asked if there were any volunteers to chair meetings for the coming year. None was forthcoming. Laurie had indicated that he was willing to continue for a further year. Mike was happy for a lay person to chair future meetings.

Items to be referred: The appointment of a replacement Older Adult worker was referred to the Older Adult Forum. A job specification needs to be drawn up to enable the Fundraiser to apply for appropriate funding.

AOB: *Church Website.* JCC were happy to authorise Clare Naughton to obtain two quotes for updating the Church website.

Communicate 2U Charity. They are happy with their current facilities and wish to extend their hours for next year. They are applying for funding, and asked for a full price room hire quotation which they can use in their bid [they are currently paying a peppercorn rent]. If their fundraising is unsuccessful we will re-look at our room hire charges as we wish to continue to support them.

The Cotteridge Church

Feasibility Study

The JCC started to work with APEC architects last June. A feasibility study was started, to carry out a wide-reaching consultation process, to help develop vision and plans for the future. Last year various changes in room use occurred as a ‘best fit temporary solution’ so that church activities could continue and flourish. But we need long term solutions and plans that are inclusive. Our church building is now being used in ways that were not planned for 30 years ago. The 3Cs Café was designed as a serving counter for coffee after the services and we now have a foodbank, who would have foreseen that 30 years ago!

What has happened so far?

2016 May JCC decided to reconsider how the building is used / laid out.

16th June JCC selected APEC Architects to work with.

12th July APEC advised on application for National Lottery Grant, Awards for All and asked JCC to form a steering Group for the building.

Aug/Sept Awards for All grant applied for by Brian Pearson and received.

- October** Advertising for consultation in news sheet, flyers in Pennine Way, on Facebook page & website.
- 30th Oct** Consultation with the congregation at 10.30am service. Invitation to contribute through discussion, questionnaire or by email.
- 15th Nov** Further notice in news sheet about the consultation process for building users and employees. Opportunity to email or speak with a member of Building Steering Group.
- 29th Nov** Consultation with building users and employees.
- 3rd Dec** Questionnaires given out at Christmas Fair and available within the church
- 2017 9th April** Update from the Building Steering Group in the news sheet.
- May** Building Steering Group article in Roundabout magazine.
- 10th June** Presentation of preferred design option to church AGM.
- 20th June** Follow up surgery held in the church.

The BSG met on the following dates to represent the church and guide APEC on the development of the Design Brief and plans. Notes from meetings were submitted to JCC and a summary written in each edition of Roundabout magazine: **17th January 2017, 1st February 2017, 23rd March 2017, 3rd April 2017, 24th May 2017**

Consultation with the Congregation

These findings are from questionnaires returned, result from discussions held and comments received.

- 86% aged 45 and over. Almost no one in the 30-44 age bracket - the main age group living in the parish.
- 83% have been coming to the church for over 5 years.
- 67% have been coming to the church for over 20 years.
- 57% involved with running events / activities at the church

Comments made by the congregation

“No idea what’s inside - can’t see in”
 “Welcoming”
“No disabled access to upstairs”
 “Bad acoustics”
“Friendly”
 “Old, tired and run down”
 “Need for informal space - comfy sofas” “Modernise the toilets”
“Need an open and more welcoming frontage”
 “Good location”
 “Poor car parking”
 “We should evidence a place for God and Worship”
 “We need an open green space”
 “Poor accessibility”
“Want something better for the community”
 “Better advertising required”
 “Coffee Bar is dated and needs modernising”
“Church is the focal point of Cotteridge” - “Place for Christians to grow”
 Security issues”

We have an active congregation with 57% involved in activities. But we are an ageing congregation with few new members and we do not reflect the demographics of the area. These findings were echoed by the KYCKYN process that we took part in, the report of which was circulated and presented at the 2016 AGM. There is a strong desire for the congregation to grow by growing younger for the future sustainability of the church. This is something we started to address by taking part in the Growing Younger initiative with the C of E.

Consultation with Church Users

This group of people included regular attenders of groups, those that dropped into the café and people who attended the Christmas fair.

- 80% aged 45 and over.
- 71% are female.
- Only 6% in the 30-44 age bracket - the main age group living in the parish.
- 87% of users live within 2 miles of the church, with 42% less than a mile away.
- 81% either walk or get a bus to the church centre.
- 65% visit the building at least weekly.
- 20% of existing users had been put off using the facilities due to issues with the building
- The main activities people associated with the building were the day centre, café, foodbank and uniformed organisations.

These statistics, like those for the congregation do not match up with the demographics of the area. Through discussion and research, it was found that The Cotteridge Church was only really on the consciousness of those who were around when it was originally redeveloped. A statistic to note, 20% of existing clients are being put off using the building. It is important not just to bring new people in but to ensure that they come back and that existing users don't leave. The analysis of room booking timetables showed that some rooms are heavily used whilst others are hardly used at all due to access difficulties or the facilities on offer.

Observations from Organisations using the Church

A large number of regular organisations using the building took part in discussions.

Their needs are specific to their activities but there were some common themes. The future viability of the building relies upon such groups renting space, as well as attracting new ones.

Most organisations were positive about using the church for their activities but could do even more with better facilities

People see it as a good meeting place due to its central location



- The most popular rooms are often not available to book and other rooms are unsuitable
- Very limited storage space
- Access is poor, and internal orientation is difficult
- Pennine Way café kitchen is not well designed and is too small
- Remote rooms at the back of the building are difficult to use from a security and arrival point of view, particularly in the evenings
- Some groups dominate the building when operating, at the detriment to other activities
- Locals don't really know what the building has to offer, particularly the rooms at



- the back of the site
- Security is difficult as there is little natural surveillance and entrance door has no control
- Space for young children is desirable with storage for toys
- Pennine Way is more of a corridor than a useful space as it currently stands
- Rooms aren't flexible and furniture makes rearranging spaces for certain activities difficult

Consultation with the Local Community



- 71% aged 25-44.
 - 68% live less than a mile from the church.
 - 38% go into Cotteridge Centre at least weekly
 - 62% have never been to The Cotteridge Church
 - 28% of people are not aware of any of the activities that take place in the building. Of those that were they were aware of mainly the café, playgroup and foodbank.
- To summarise, we have a relatively young community living around the church within a mile, who visit Cotteridge Centre weekly but who have never been into the church building.

Views of local people when asked - What is desirable?

- 'A bigger, more obvious and more welcoming café' – 75%
- 'Child friendly facilities' – 80%

- ‘More fitness activities’ – 40%
- ‘Adult education classes’ – 55%
- ‘Sandwiches / lunch take away’ – 40%
- ‘A low-cost crèche with access to IT / enterprise space’ – 75%

Comments made by local people

“there isn’t anywhere for groups to congregate on an adhoc basis”

“Looks dull from the outside”

“I would be attracted to a nice café that had a play area for toddlers”

“As a parent, child friendly spaces are always in demand”

“There isn’t a space for craft groups etc.”

“There aren’t enough spaces for young people locally”

“With regards to activities for young children I regularly attend Rowheath... It would be great if that could be accommodated more locally”

“Cotteridge centre is definitely lacking a little flora and fauna!”

The Design Brief

The findings of the consultation were presented to the Building Steering Group and a written brief was developed as a result of discussion. The findings made it clear that we should aim for a younger demographic but it was also made clear that this should not be at the expense of current users. The emphasis is on **inclusivity**. The design brief is a working document to be updated and changed when required. The proposed plans have been developed using this brief.

Key Challenges & Opportunities with the building



Challenges

- Visual presence of the church from Cotteridge
- Café kitchen too small and poorly positioned
- Narrow entrance with poor security
- Poor access through to rear rooms
- Very few car parking spaces
- Poor accessibility for disabled people
- Little space for expansion beyond the existing footprint

Opportunities

- Large under-used forecourt
- Potential to update tired facilities
- Improve visibility and access to garden and outdoor space
- Expansion and flexible space is possible to achieve
- Underused space in prominent locations
- Potential to create better visual connections to the church



Opportunity

We are now at a point of great opportunity to adapt and modernise our facilities, along with considering what and how we do things.

The feasibility study has highlighted both opportunities and issues, some new to us and others confirming findings from other projects that we have been involved in. What are we going to do address these? How are we going to engage better with our local community? Can we provide the facilities and services that local people desire? How are we going to grow younger? Can we ensure the building is viable and fit for the future?

Changing our building isn't the only action we need to take but it does provide us with a great opportunity to ensure our facilities are fit for purpose both for the now and future generations.

Further information

Please speak to any member of the Building Steering Group all of whom will be happy to answer any questions or walk you around the building to discuss the proposed plans.

Copies of the plans are available in church or you can email Jane to receive a PDF version;

jane.jones@thecotteridgechurch.org.uk

You can email your comments and suggestions by Tuesday 11th July 2017
to James and Naomi at;

cotteridge@apecarchitects.com

Moving People, Moving Stories

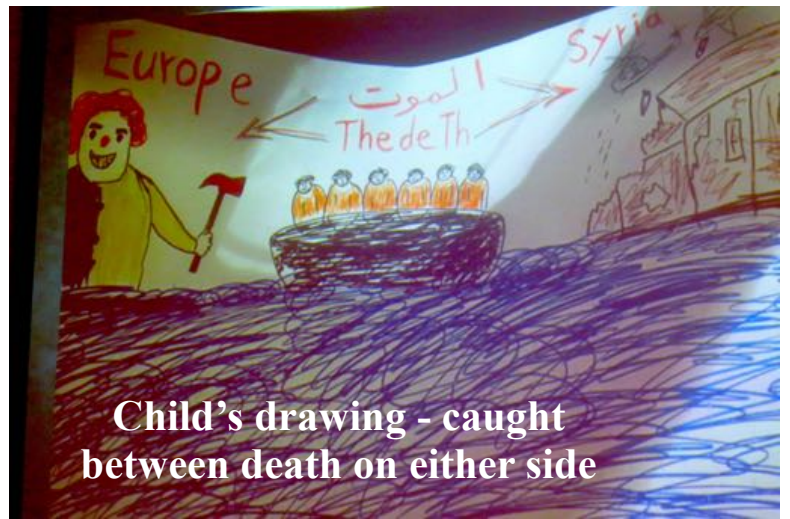
The theme of this year's MWM (Methodists for World Mission) conference at Swanwick was 'Moving People, Moving Stories', which explored the situation of global migration – a topic which has dominated the news for the last couple of years.

Revd Jorge Domingues, a Brazilian Methodist Minister serving as a volunteer with the charity Mediterranean Hope gave some interesting information on the size of the issue: of the 65.3 million people worldwide (equivalent to the population of the UK), who have been forcibly displaced from their homes, 10 million have become stateless.

54% of all migrants are from just the 3 conflict-ridden countries of Somalia, Afghanistan and Syria. Interestingly, only 6% came to Europe and 12% to the Americas. By far, the highest numbers fled to the Middle East & North Africa (39%) and Africa (29%). A further 14% migrated to countries in Asia and the Pacific. The top hosting countries were Jordan, Ethiopia, Iran, Lebanon, Pakistan and Turkey



Unsurprisingly, the greatest number of European arrivals in 2016 were to 3 countries with Mediterranean borders: Italy (173, 571); Greece (171,875); Spain (5,445); and just 189 to Cyprus. The perilous sea crossing resulted in 4,715 deaths, of which 4,223 occurred on the central Mediterranean route to Italy. It is a fairly obvious observation that the situation in the countries from where people are fleeing are extremely desperate for them to risk such a dangerous journey.



Child's drawing - caught between death on either side

Katy Brookes-Duncan, who served with People not Borders in camps on Lesbos and Northern Greece recounted some of the stories from migrants, which include the following soundbites:-



Drowning mother and baby

“I didn't want to join the army, as I didn't want to kill” (fleeing from enforced conscription)

“We had to sell everything to save our daughters from being raped” (need to pay a ransom)

“The owner of the dinghy, which was overloaded, showed one man how to steer the dinghy, and set us off. We ran out of fuel.” (the dinghy owner didn't travel with the migrants)

“I gave birth on the boat”

“My family and I shared 1 toothbrush”

“This was the first camp where I heard children

playing” (the facilities on the transit camps vary greatly and some become ‘homes’ for indefinite periods)

Religious organisations (churches, mosques, etc) are seen as a positive factor in assimilation of migrants, and respond by providing shelter; food; clothing; welcome; advocacy; and other services such as language training.

Inderjit Bhogal, the founder of the City of Sanctuary movement in Sheffield in 2005 stated that there are now over 100 such Cities and Towns in Britain and Ireland. Birmingham is one of these. Finally Shari Brown, who is Project Coordinator for Restore supporting refugees and asylum seekers in Birmingham gave a resume of the conference themes:-

- a) The Biblical context of migration and the Christian mandate of welcoming the stranger. So there is a challenge for churches as the number of migrants is not likely to reduce significantly.
- b) Can churches handle this complex situation in a humane and welcoming way?
- c) Can churches Influence the anti-immigrant political environment?

(Dr) Peter Rookes

The Cotteridge Church

G A R D E N

P A R T Y

Saturday 5th August

2.00 p.m. - 4.30 p.m.

**Come and enjoy our lovely garden,
have tea and cakes,**

listen to music,

and browse our stalls,

Join in competitions and activities!

Entrance FREE!

Proceeds will be given to our Garden



Cotteridge Country Walkers

If I'm forced to choose, I think May is my favourite month. The days are getting longer and sometimes warmer, I start planning summer cycle rides, birds are busy building their nests, and hedgerows always take my breath away when hawthorn covers itself in white blossom.

Each month throughout the year the Cotteridge Country Walkers (CCW) leads a monthly ramble. The walk this month took us south from Alcester. The town of course was founded by the Romans at the confluence of the rivers Arrow and Alne and we parked up just where the two rivers meet. Crossing an ancient causeway into Oversley Green we skirted Oversley Farm and Oversley Wood (can you see a pattern developing here?) to find Oversley Castle, before heading south to Little Britain and Ardens Grafton. The castle was apparently built after complaints from Ragley Hall that their breakfast view would be improved if someone built a feature on their local hill. The castle was duly built. Who said the rich were idle?



The walk looped along the edge of the Avon valley using country lanes and bridle paths, sometimes through meadows strewn with buttercups. We passed two country churches, both with neatly kept churchyards. One had swallows nesting in the porch and we were asked to time our door openings to try to stop them getting trapped inside. The other one had

an unusual feature: a horse house. Why it's not called a stable I have no idea, but in the churchyard is a 17th C wooden 'house' big enough to keep a horse inside for a few hours, built for the use of the visiting preacher in days before car transport.

As we came back into Oversley Green there was an impressive bit of recycling. The former red telephone box was now a free lending library. Take a book for free and bring it back, or add other books to the collection. Everyone has a mobile phone these days so instead of a public telephone someone had put in little shelves that were now overflowing with books.



The walk finished with a tour of the annual food fair set up along Alcester High Street. Thanks to Elaine and Barrie Jones for leading this walk. If anyone wants to join us I can add your e mail address to our monthly newsletter. Contact me at peterchilds.pc@gmail.com.

Diary dates: The CCW rambles are monthly, usually on the 3rd Saturday. The dates set for 2017 are: June 17th, July 15th, Aug 19th, September 23rd, and November 18th. (October is our weekend away, December is a mini walk before our Christmas meal).

Peter Childs

Christian Aid Week

A very worthwhile effort this year for all our collectors and distributors. Most collected roads were up on last years' figures and The Cotteridge Church house to house collection totalled £1564.59. Along with a huge one off donation plus other Cotteridge Church donations I am pleased to tell you the total this year, including our partners at The Cotteridge Quakers and St Joseph's and St Helen collections plus Gift Aid the amount we sent to Christian Aid is an amazing

£8603.04!

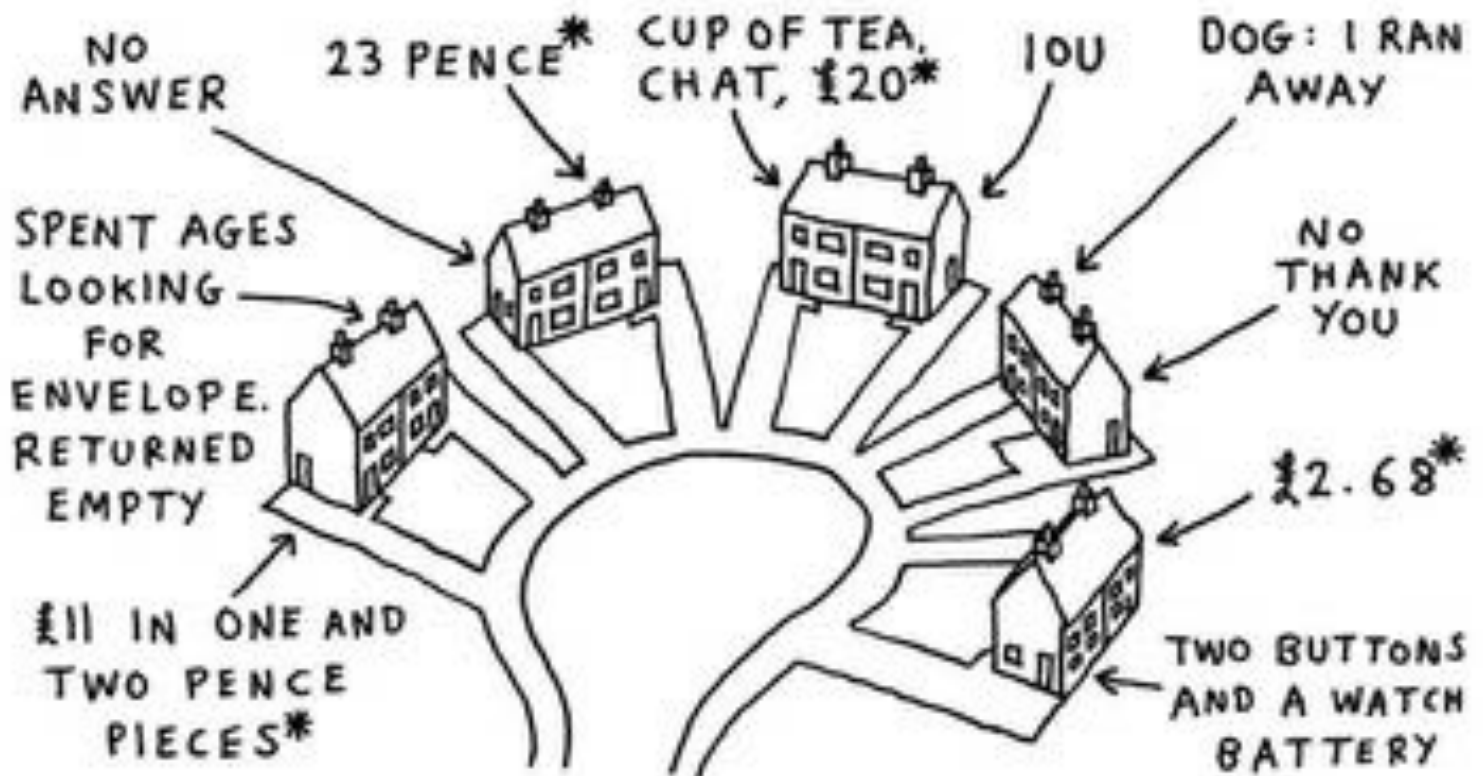
So, to everyone who helped make 2017 a brilliant year, those who distributed envelopes, all those who collected envelopes and to those who helped us count.

Thank you!

If you would like to help next year in any way please speak to either me or Laurie.

Lin Brown

COLLECTING CHRISTIAN AID ENVELOPES



* ADDED TO EVERYONE ELSE'S: 12.5 MILLION POUNDS FOR CHRISTIAN AID

The Cotteridge Church Fund Raising Team - Bulletin-1

Introduction

Welcome to the first bulletin of the newly-formed fund raising team whose purpose is to initiate, implement, record and communicate all fund raising activities relating to the Cotteridge Church. The team meets monthly and aims to support all aspects of the church's work within and for the community. If you have any suggestions or want to get involved with fund raising, please contact Celia Lester or Mike Claridge.

Who are the team ?

Team Facilitator: Celia Lester
 Catering: Clare Naughton
 Church Ministry: Revd Mike Claridge
 Day Care Centre: Alex Woodhouse, Simon Paskin
 Young People: Sue Clayton
 Boy's Brigade: Bob Hotchkiss
 Older Adults: Chris Pascal, Linda Woodhouse
 Food Bank: Helen Gale (provisional)
 Property and Finance: Jane Jones,

Activities and Results: April - June 2017

Book Sales Organised by Linda Woodhouse. Book sales from January to June have amounted to £531. The beneficiaries of these funds are the church, young people, and day centre.





Boy's Brigade Quiz Night (21st April). Organiser Bob Hotchkiss, reported a great success and was attended by approx. 90 people. The total raised was £307 divided equally between Cotteridge Church and St Mary's Hospice.

Easter Canisters Organised by Sue Clayton. The total amount raised for Easter 2016 was £213 which has been donated to the Teenage Cancer Trust. The 2017 total for St Basil's will be announced in September.

Photographic Competitions (Winter Joy & Stained Glass themes) Organised by Linda Woodhouse. The total amount raised was £80 for our Day Centre

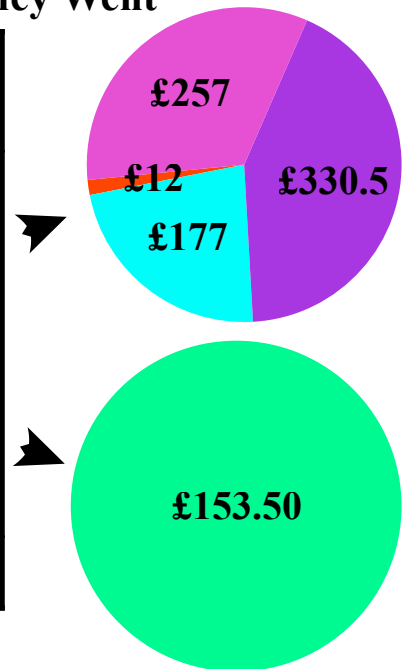
Fund Raising Activity Report

Income





	Year to Date
Book Sales 	£531
BB Quiz Night 	£307
Garden Party 	£12
Photo Competitions 	£80
TOTAL	£930

Where the Money Went

	Year to Date
Internal	£776.5
External	£153.5
TOTAL	£930



Internal

-  Church Day Centre
-  Church
-  Church Young People
-  Garden



External

St Mary's Hospice

Forthcoming Activities

These include a Garden Party on Saturday 5th August; Macmillan Cake Festival 28th September; Christmas Fair 2nd December.

Boy's Brigade 18th June 2017

All the sections have now started their summer session, with the Anchors going to the the Rush trampoline centre and having a great time. The Juniors and Anchors had a treasure hunt in Kings Norton park [thanks everybody for the egg boxes].The juniors have also been making kites.

At the Battalion athletics all of our team came away with medals



and the senior team came 1st in their section and won yet another shield. Overall we finished runners up. On a really warm and sunny day at Sutton Coldfield everyone enjoyed themselves.

Our weekend at Peckwood was a success with 16 boys and 6 staff enjoying the woodland. We have now been going there for over 30 years and everyone still looks forward to the weekend.

Our day trip to Weston Super Mare has been arranged for Saturday 8th July.

The summer session finishes on Friday 21st July but the older lads still have our summer camp in Devon to look forward to.

Bob Hotchkiss

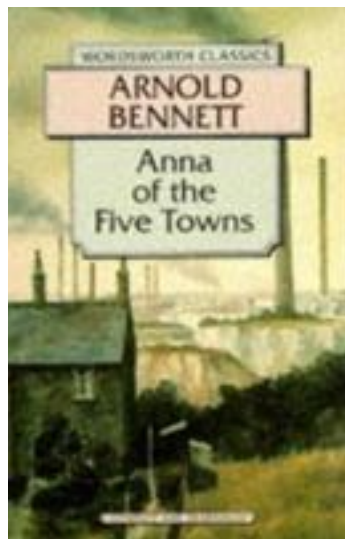
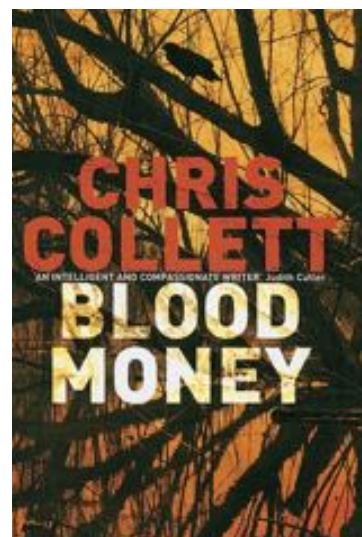
Book Group

Our most recent book that we discussed was A Life Discarded by Alexander Masters, a tale of 148 diaries found in a skip in Cambridge. It was very different from any other book we have read and was a bit like a detective story, trying to uncover details about the writer. It didn't help that the author did not try to read any of the diaries in chronological order or that he didn't ever finish reading all the diaries but he made it his job to uncover what he could about the author.

For anyone who writes a diary regularly this would be a fascinating insight into another life but it quickly became apparent that the author never expected anyone else to read the books and enjoyed writing copious notes about her life and feelings each

day. It would spoil the reading of the book to say more but we did have a very healthy discussion.

This next novel is a detective novel, Blood Money by Chris Collett and we are really pleased that the author has agreed to come to our next meeting on Tuesday 11th July at 13 Melbury Grove, B14 6BN at 7.30pm. Chris is a regular pick and packer at the B30 Food Bank each week and as a prolific writer of detective novels, we are really keen to talk to her. She lives in Birmingham and so it is no surprise that her “hero” DI Tom Mariner works in the area and so many of the places named will be familiar to locals.



For our next book it has been suggested that we read Arnold Bennett’s Anna of the Five Towns over the Summer period. This is apparently a good story and explores the relationship of Anna with her tyrannical father. It is described a fascinating portrait of an urban non conformist church in the late 19th century. As it is set in The Potteries and also relates to the pottery factories it will be of great interest to me as I was Potteries ‘born and bred’.

New members are always welcome and as requested by some people we will try to give details of the next two books so that slower readers or busy people can have time to read the books.

Further information available from Christine Adams – 458 5607

Services for July and August

2017	2nd July	9th July	16th July	23rd July	30th July
9.00 a.m. H.C.	Revd M. Claridge	Revd Lorraine Dixon	Revd M. Claridge	Revd M. Claridge	Revd R. Collins
10.30 a.m.	Revd M. Claridge	Revd Lorraine Dixon	Mr John Cooper	Revd M. Claridge	Revd R. Collins
4.00 p.m.				Life & Soul	
6.30 p.m.	Revd R. Collins	Café Church	Revd R. Collins	Mr John Cooper	Revd M. Claridge
	6th August	13th August	20th August	27th August	
9.00 a.m. H.C.	Revd M. Claridge	Revd Lorraine Dixon	Revd R. Collins	Revd M. Claridge	
10.30 a.m.	Revd M. Claridge	Revd Lorraine Dixon	Revd R. Collins	Revd N. Johnson	
4.00 p.m.				Life & Soul	
6.30 p.m.	Revd R. Collins	Café Church	Revd M. Claridge	Revd M. Claridge	

Past and Present

Recently I was looking at photographs of an event at the Cotteridge Church a year after it opened. Many of the people were the inspired leaders of the churches who through prayer and foresight recognised the need for one worshipping congregation in a redeveloped building if there was to be an active church community in Cotteridge in the 21st Century,



Painful decisions were made followed by a lot of hard work both during the time of change and when the building opened, especially in the coffee bar. It is important that we recognise and appreciate all that was done by those people which enabled us to be here today.

Thirty years later much has happened so the current leaders of the Cotteridge Church find themselves also recognising that major changes need to be made to build on the current work of the church to reach out to meet the needs of today's and tomorrow's community.



Most of the people in the photographs from 1990 haven't lived to see the process begin again, those of us left have much greyer or whiter or less hair and a little more weight, but I hope everyone in the Cotteridge Church will be able to support this new vision for our community in the 2020s and beyond, with the courage that the congregations in the 1980s did.

Jane Stephens

Planter Competition

Please can you "plant a Wellie" with some pretty flowers for our garden? [A shoe or old boot would be just as good!] We shall display them all at the Garden Party. Ask Chris or Babs for details

Answers to Brain Teaser from the May Edition

Hidden words: Answers may not be exclusive. Perhaps you have found alternatives. bible readings; communion; altar; notice sheet or chalice; microphone; heating; chairs; flowers; lighting; prayers.



Roundabout is the bi-monthly newsletter of The Cotteridge Church.
A Large print issue is in the Pennine Way on the notice board by the entrance to the Malvern Room.

Your Editor from January 2017 is Celia Lester

Please send copy for the next edition by August 27th to

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