

# Roundabout



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

**May 2019**

# Mike's message .....

## **Pentecost changes us!**

This magazine covers the Feast of Pentecost (9th June). Pentecost means “Fifty days”, and is a Jewish Harvest Festival held fifty days after Passover.

In the first century it was a time crowds gathered in Jerusalem, speaking many languages, from around the Mediterranean and Middle East.

Pentecost is also a Christian festival, marking the end of the Easter season. For the first disciples the seven weeks since Jesus' crucifixion had been full of both wonder and of fear. They had

spent time in the temple praising God (Luke 24 .53), made a return to their “day jobs” (John 21 .1 - 14) and had been terrified out of their wits (Mark 16 .8). They spent time locked away out of fear of arrest (John 20. 19 - 23). The horrors of Jesus' arrest, torture and execution were fresh in their minds, but there was something else just as unsettling in its own way. Jesus had been seen! Alive!

Those who had met the Risen Christ sometimes struggled to recognise him (John 21 .4 and Luke 24 .13 - 32). He behaved in strange ways, appearing through locked doors (John 20 .19) but being flesh and blood enough to eat broiled fish (John 24 .42) and with wounds that could be touched by Thomas (John 20 .24 - 29). He also had a habit of disappearing as quickly as he appeared (Luke 24 .31).

No surprise then that the disciples were a confused and frightened bunch as they gathered in Jerusalem. Things were about to get even more unsettling. In his second book, Acts of the Apostles, Luke tells us:

*“the disciples were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages”.* (Acts 2 .1 - 4)

It certainly turned heads! A crowd gathered to see what was going on and were astonished that they heard these uneducated Galileans speaking in a multitude of languages. Such was a babble that many assumed the disciples were drunk.

Pentecost transformed the lives of those first disciples. From timid, frightened individuals they became the nucleus of a movement that would change the world. Within a generation the message of Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, had spread from north Africa to south India, from Spain to Iraq and all around the Mediterranean.

Pentecost can transform us too. The Holy Spirit can equip us to do new tasks in God's service here at The Cotteridge Church. To what is God calling you? God will equip you to do it, so give it a go!



## Friends and Family

Congratulations are in order in this edition

Keith Kaye celebrated his 90th birthday and Clive Babb his 98th

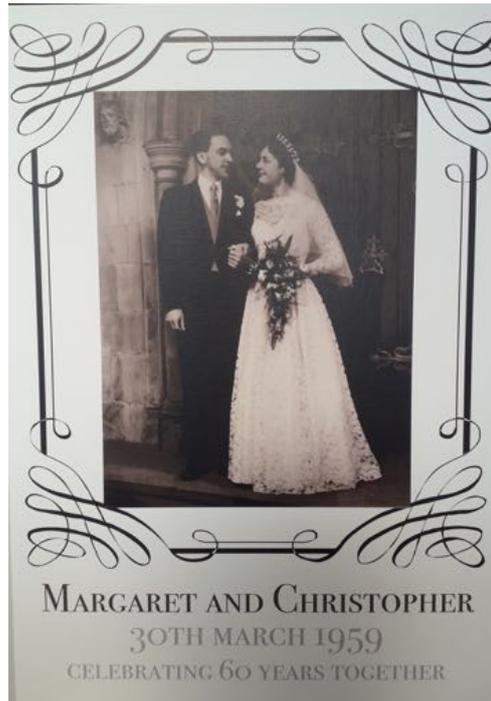
Pat & David Walker celebrated their diamond wedding on 22nd March

On a much more youthful note, Congratulations to Euan Clayton on being awarded the Queen's Badge for the Boys' Brigade.

Thanks to Steph who stepped in to help when the coffee was short staffed.



b a r



Laurie and Lin felt honoured to be at the party where Margaret and Christopher Bond celebrated 60 years of marriage on Saturday 30th March. How typical of a young accountant Margaret taking advantage of the tax benefits of the time and married on the last Saturday of the tax year. A whole year's tax refunded!

We are sad to learn that Betsy Hughes, sister of Sue Hazzard died on 9th April. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family and friends.

Sylvia Newman, a regular visitor to the Pennine Way is celebrating the success of her 11 year old grandson Troy. First he did a sponsored assault course to raise money for children. Then he won a football medal which was presented at Villa Park.

Well done,

Troy!

Thanks to everyone who contributed to this edition of Roundabout. You have helped strengthen our community.

## Forthcoming events.

The Midlands Opera has booked the Malvern Room on the evening of Friday 31st May to perform **French Connections** - a selection of French music, including items from Les Misérables, Carmen and La Traviata.

The performance begins at 7.30 pm.; tickets cost £10

All are welcome.

A poster for the opera "French Connections" presented by Midlands Opera. The background features a stylized image of the Eiffel Tower. The text on the poster includes:

MIDLAND OPERA PRESENTS  
**FRENCH CONNECTIONS**  
Featuring music from  
Les Misérables, Carmen, La Traviata  
and more

**SATURDAY  
27TH APRIL 2019  
@ 7.30PM**  
STREETLY METHODIST CHURCH  
THORNHILL RD  
SUTTON COLDFIELD  
B74 3EH

**SATURDAY  
25TH MAY 2019  
@ 7.30PM**  
SIX WAYS ERDINGTON  
BAPTIST CHURCH  
WOOD END RD  
B24 8AD

**FRIDAY  
31ST MAY 2019  
@ 7.30PM**  
THE COTTERIDGE CHURCH  
PERSHORE RD SOUTH  
B30 3EJ

For more information  
Tel: 07985 079227  
Email: info@midlandopera.com  
www.midlandopera.com

E10 ENTRY  
midland  
opera

## **My Muslim Friends**

Jeanie and I thought it very strange, after leaving our well paid jobs, to spend two terms at a Christian mission college to work in a Christian organisation in a developing country, that we should end up working in a totally Muslim country with VSO (Voluntary Service Overseas). It came about because our 3 potential postings to Bannu, near Peshawar close to the Khyber Pass in Pakistan, Bonda in the Eastern Highlands of Zimbabwe, and Karachi in Pakistan all fell through for a variety of reasons, including security, political coup, and bureaucracy. Imagine our incredulity when we found ourselves in the Maldives, with the strong injunction not to take any Christian texts or artefacts, and not to proselytise. But I had learnt many years ago, that God had a purpose. Although we were officially there for Jeanie to write an English Curriculum and teach English in what is now the University of Maldives. My role was to introduce a Nursing Curriculum, develop the Community Health Worker Curriculum and run workshops to enable the indigenous health care staff (Muslim) to integrate with their Indian colleagues (Christian and Hindu), who were there to help staff the newly built Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital.

We knew that God had brought us here for a purpose, and it wasn't to soak up the sun, sea and snorkelling on the tourist islands, nor was it to show that Christian beliefs were in some way superior to Islam. No, we realised that it was to learn. Except for the tourist islands, Maldives is 100% Muslim, so apart from the occasions when we shared meals with our expatriate colleagues, this was total immersion in a Sunni Muslim culture. We lived around one side of a courtyard where our neighbours were Maldivian. So we had to queue at the mosque for desalinated drinking water, stop teaching, or whatever else we were doing, and pray at the 5 prayer times each day. We felt uncomfortable eating when our friends and colleagues were fasting during Ramadan, so we did the same, and we became involved in seeing them off to Mecca for the Hajj pilgrimage. There is so much more I could say about life in the Maldives, but that is a story for another day. Just to say that many of my students correspond with me today through Facebook and LinkedIn.

Our previous exposure to Islam dates back to Jean teaching in a multicultural school and my work as Chief Nursing Officer in Central Birmingham which included responsibility for the hospital chaplaincy. Working with James Woodward, the Chaplain Coordinator, we realised that we should extend the Chaplaincy beyond its Christian roots to meet the spiritual and pastoral needs of non-Christian patients and their families

When Jeanie and I returned to Birmingham after 12 years working overseas (mainly Maldives, Papua New Guinea, Malawi, India, Kenya and Uganda), it was natural that we should be involved in charity work, most of which is health and/or faith based. Most of this Jeanie and I did together and I have continued since Jeanie died, which is what she earnestly wanted me to do and I believe is what God has left me on this earth to do. So this includes Secretary of Birmingham Council of Faiths; Coordinator of BCF:Faiths Promoting Health and Wellbeing; County Faiths and International Advisor to the Scouts; Training Advisor to the Moseley 304 Muslim Scout Group; Faiths Advisor to West Midlands Police; Member of the Crown Prosecution Service Hate Crime Scrutiny Panel, U3A National Advisor for

Exploring World Faiths, for which I also coordinate the Kings Norton U3A group, and, of course, my various roles at Cotteridge Church.

Incidents, such as the recent attacks on 2 mosques during Friday prayer time in Christchurch, New Zealand, which left 50 people dead and many more injured is a timely reminder of the extent of Islamophobia. New Zealand is a very tolerant country. It is a country I know well and 2 of my grandchildren, Wesley and Vanessa, went to school in Christchurch, where they learnt Maori. Jacinda Ardern, the Prime Minister, received international acclaim for the measured, positive and determined way she responded after the attack.

Of course the attacks aren't always against Muslims, they are sometimes by people purporting to be Muslim, which offends ordinary law abiding Muslims, who are the overwhelming majority. This in turn motivates hostility towards our Muslim communities. But the slogan 'Not in My Name' expresses how Muslims regard the actions of these extremists.

There are many more points I could make about Islam, but I will finish for now by sharing the 5 Pillars of Islam, by which committed Muslims live:-

- 1) Shahada: Testifying to one God – similar to the first Commandment of the Christian faith
- 2) Salat – praying to God 5 times a day. These are at set times starting with sunrise. This is a good discipline, to ensure that we keep God in the forefront of our minds throughout the day.
- 3) Zakat – is an obligatory donation from our income to charity to help people less well off than ourselves. It recognises that all we have comes from God.
- 4) Sawm - fasting between the hours of sunrise and sunset, particularly during the month of Ramadan. As it is based on the Lunar rather than the Gregorian Calendar it moves back approximately 11 days each year, and will start on the 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> May in 2019.
- 5) Hajj: Pilgrimage – the date is also based on the Lunar Calendar and all Muslims try to do at least one pilgrimage to Mecca in their lifetime.

Please come to Café Church at 6.30 pm on Sun 10<sup>th</sup> Nov and Sun 8<sup>th</sup> Dec, when I will do a joint session with my good friend, Mahmooda Qureshi on Islam. Mahmooda does a lot of interfaith work in Birmingham and is local coordinator for Hope Not Hate.



Blessings

*(Dr) Peter Rookes*

## CoMAG (Cotteridge Mission through Action Group)

Mission Statement - *The calling of The Cotteridge Church is to respond to the Gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission.*

Mission Service - The morning service on Sun 19<sup>th</sup> May will be devoted to sharing the very extensive mission activities already carried out by our congregation, both collectively and individually. It will also be an opportunity for us to share our thoughts on what else we could be doing.

### World Mission Conferences

I will be attending the following world mission conferences. If anyone would like to accompany me, please let me know:-

MWM (Methodists for World Mission) 31st May to 2nd June 2019 at The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire.

The main topic will be the growth of Christianity in China.

USPG (United Society, Partners in the Gospel – Anglican), 24-26 June 2019,

High Leigh Conference Centre, Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire EN11 8SG.

The main topic is the 'Prophetic Voice of the Church' with speakers from India, Southern and West Africa, Philippines and West Indies.

The gathering of Methodist churches and LEPs in our 'Orange' area led by Rev Nick Jones was a good opportunity for us to talk about our mission activities at Cotteridge and hear about what other churches are doing.

Thank you to everyone who voted for me in the recent election for Public Governors to the Birmingham NHS Community Healthcare Foundation Trust, in which I was 1 of 4 Governors elected to represent South Birmingham.

Having completed the training, I am pleased also to be appointed to the Birmingham LEA Schools' Appeals Panel.

(Dr) Peter Rookes, pjrookes@gmail.com, 077033 36088



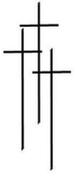
Methodists for  
World Mission

### Traidcraft launches new product Cereal Bars



We were over the moon when three of the latest flavours of Tropical Wholefoods' fruit bars landed on our desk for us to review. Coming highly rated, with no artificial additives, colourings or preservatives and promising to be 'bursting with flavour'. We've got three different flavours to choose from; apricot and raisin, date and walnut and pineapple and cashew. All 100% organic, low saturated fat bars, suitable for vegans

and a great source of fibre – they're ticking all the boxes so far. The great thing about Tropical Wholefoods is that they pay fair prices in advance, develop and market the farmers' products and share useful technology and experience with overseas partners. Starting its life in Uganda in the early 1990s, Tropical Wholefoods began helping Ugandan farmers sell their fruits at good prices in European markets. They realised that the best way to do this sustainably was to solar dry the fruit, as this adds value, extends shelf life, makes fruit more transportable, retains waste at the source and uses only renewable energy. It also means that for the consumer, fruits are even more tasty, as they are dried when fresh and ripe so true flavours are captured – which bodes well for our review. With this in mind, let's get down to the tasting.



The Cotteridge Church  
**Joint Church Council**  
**Summary of Proceedings 20th February 2019**

**Key Decisions**

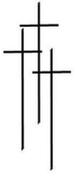
1. Various Outlines for Young Church, Saplings and Flower Arranger roles were approved
2. Safeguarding policies on Recruitment of Ex-Offenders and Complaints were approved with minor modifications
3. It was agreed that two people would be allocated to review each JCC owned policy to perform a review
4. The eMail agreement to purchase a better-quality Potato Peeler was formally ratified by the council
5. A request by the BSG to cover monies required to apply for funding was approved
6. A 'Mission Action Plan' created by Mike Claridge was agreed by the meeting

**Summary Proceedings**

1. Jane Jones has placed copies of an information pack for prospective Trustees in the vestry
2. After much deliberation Laurie Brown agreed to act as interim Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator, for six months, whilst alternate arrangements are found. After the meeting both Dorothy Audley and Jane Stephens volunteered to be part of the interim team
3. The meeting discussed a health and safety concern raised by a member of the congregation. Children had been observed running along the Pennie Way after the Sunday Morning Service whilst people were carrying Hot Beverages. It was suggested that a gentle intervention was suggested where everyone should be ready to speak to the child and direct them to transfer their vigorous exercise to the Malvern Room
4. Laurie Brown reported back that cost of buying 200 new chairs for the Church (for use in the Malvern Room amongst others) would be around £100 to £120 each
5. Roger Collins reported he had submitted an entry for the Railway Anniversary Prize
6. The ongoing saga regarding the Potato Peeler was discussed at length
7. Roger Collins updated the meeting on the increase in food given out by the Food bank and underlying reason concerning Universal Credit
8. It was noted that the evening Coffee Bar would not be running its annual Pancake eve on Shrove Tuesday due to a Guiding Meeting taking place on that day, but the event would take place the following Tuesday
9. It was noted that the principles of Tear Fund, who sponsor Toilet Twinning, were in conflict with Cotteridge being an inclusive church

The next meeting of the Joint Church Council will be on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2019 at 19:30.  
This Summary is authorised by:

Neil Walters (Chair of the Cotteridge Church Joint Church Council)



The Cotteridge Church  
**Joint Church Council**  
**Summary of Proceedings 21st March 2019**

### **Key Decisions**

1. The Domestic Abuse Policy was approved with changes to make the language ecumenical
2. A questionnaire to be sent to people leaving the Church was approved and will be sent retrospectively to those who have lately left
3. The decision to fund 10% of the £10,000 cost of the Garden Project previously approved via an eMail poll was ratified by the JCC in conference
4. It was agreed to give a donation to St Lawrence's for the use of their PAT equipment
5. The principles for moving forward on the Catering Services Strategy were approved
6. The Catering Services Strategy action plan was approved
7. JCC support for the Catering Services Strategy recommendations for the next 6 months were agreed

### **Summary Proceedings**

1. The matter of moveable partitions in Malvern Room will be passed to the Finance and Property Group
2. The matter of a replacement Audio Visual console will be placed on hold to the changes on building developments are understood
3. Currently the Church is around £10,000 in deficit against budget for the 2019 financial year, but the Church is cash rich so can currently fund this from savings
4. It was noted that Building Maintenance Costs were high due to the repairs to the Tower, but most of this will be recovered from a grant
5. A Load Monitor has been used to review our electrical supply usage and, happily, shows all phases are well below the required levels and it is expected that the current 200amp fuse can be replaced by a, correct, 100amp variant
6. PAT has now been completed
7. The story of the Potato Peeler continues as the cable glands supplied with the new equipment do not secure the cables, which is being discussed with the manufacturer
8. Pam Waddell expands the plan for Catering developed by the Catering Services Strategy Group and the requirements for support from the JCC
9. Thanks were expressed to Pam Waddell, Graham Jones and Clare Naughton for their work on the Catering Services Strategy
10. Pam Waddell suggested that her current role as Volunteer Promotion Co-Ordinator be amalgamated with the Parish Safeguarding Co-Ordinator (PSC) as they are responsible for recruitment

The next meeting of the Joint Church Council will be on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2019 at 19:30.

This Summary is authorised by:

Neil Walters Chair of the Cotteridge Church Joint Church Council

## Going to the DOGS!



Going to the dogs is not normally a good situation to be in. However, for all the people who went on Rita Sutton's trip to see the Guide Dog puppies, it was a wonderful experience.

The Journey began with Norman, the coach driver, taking us on a scenic Spring tour through the beautiful Warwickshire countryside. After this we arrived at the well designed Guide Dog Breeding Centre, where we were given a very interesting tour by the dedicated staff there. They told us all about the very useful role that Guide dogs play in helping blind people to live normal lives. We were then allowed to view the gorgeous puppies being cared for in their own special quarters.

Finally to round off a very pleasant day we were served tea or coffee and delicious homemade cakes.

A big thank you to Rita, Norman, all the staff and the puppies.

Elaine Kilminster



## Pancake Pranks

On March 5th we made pancakes at £1 each for the Pennine Way customers and as it took place outside the front of the church, we attracted some passers-by. They thoroughly enjoyed them and came back for more. £30 was made for Food Ministry, and with the extra batter we gave pancakes to some very appreciative adults and children at the food bank. Thanks to Shirley for making the batter.

It was very windy out there and we had fun chasing after paper plates and serviettes!

We were asked if we would be doing the same thing next year. Some very novel ideas came up in conversation for a future event to attract more customers and make our presence felt more by the public. It was a good advertising event.



## Digging for Chips!

The church recently purchased a new potato peeler for use in the kitchen. It was a bigger and more expensive upgrade compared to the previous one, and it required an upgrade to the kitchen drains. The garden drains are standard clay pipes that take both toilet sewage and fell water. The potato 'peeler' is really an abradar. Instead of peeling the skin by making a shallow cut with a knife, the machine rubs the surface with a belt action. The waste is washed away with mains water. The output from the machine has to connect directly to a mains drain and have a junction box fitted to prevent cross contamination. We had to find the clay pipes outside the kitchen underneath the garden patio before the plumber can fit the junction box. After that we have to fill the hole in again. Steve & Dorothy, Peter & Laurie, working under David's supervision, were tasked to find the main drain outside the kitchen before a plumber could connect a dedicated waste pipe. After several hours working over three Mondays we found the right pipe. Hopefully Shirley can now use the new peeler.



Many thanks to Steve & Dorothy, Peter & Laurie, and David.

## Boys' Brigade

At the April Parade Service Euan Clayton was presented with the Queen's Award by our President Mike Meadows and chaplain Mike Claridge. This is the highest badge to be awarded in Boys' Brigade and the result of many year's hard work by Euan. To gain the award, different sections need to be completed including 30 hours service, skills and physical, working in BB with the Juniors and a 3 day completion course at Felden Lodge. After being in Boys' Brigade since the age of 5 he fully deserves the award. There will be an official presentation at a later date

Our annual BB General Knowledge Quiz took place in April and raised £600 which will be shared between The Cotteridge Church and St.Mary's Hospice. Many thanks to our Quiz master Mike Meadows, to everybody who donated raffle prizes and of course to the people who turned up on the night and supported the Boys' Brigade.



Bob Hotchkiss



# Welcome Summer Sale



## at The Cotteridge Church

### Saturday 18th May



10.00am - 12.30pm



## Services for May and June

	5th May	12th May	19th May	25th May	
9.00 am HC	Revd M. Claridge	Revd M. Claridge	Revd M. Claridge	Revd R. Collins	
10:30 am	Revd M. Claridge P	Revd M. Claridge HC	Mrs S Knebel	Revd R. Collins HC	
6:30 pm	Revd R. Collins HC.	Café Church	Revd R. Collins HC.	Ms S. Spencer	
	2nd June	9th June	16 June	23rd June	30th June
9.00 am HC	Revd M. Claridge	Revd M. Claridge	Revd M. Claridge	Revd R. Collins	Revd M. Claridge
10:30 am	Revd M. Claridge P	Revd M. Claridge HC	Revd Alison Richards.	Revd R. Collins HC	Life and Soul
6:30 pm	Revd M. Claridge HC	Café Church	Revd R. Collins HC	Political Night Prayer[7.30]	Revd M. Claridge HC

Service types: HC - Holy Communion

P - Parade

**Communion Services** are held each week at 10.00 am on Tuesdays

## Life and Soul 31st March

The morning service on Sunday 31st of March was Mothers, - obviously, because it was mothering Sunday. We focussed on the acts of mothering for Moses, which enabled him to be born safely, to be loved, nourished, and educated to become the much needed leader to take the Israelites away from their Egyptian enslavers. We have all had a mother, and we have all been helped on life's way by numerous other people, and we give thanks to all of them. Also we give our thanks to the innovative team which devised the service.

The next Life and Soul service will be on 30th June. If you would like to be involved, please see Pam Waddell.



Following this service a poem was submitted anonymously to Roundabout

### **Thought after Mothering Sunday Full Circle**

You were always there for me  
Now I'll be there for you  
You did everything for me  
So that's what I'll do too

You pushed me in my buggy  
I'll push you in your chair  
You washed my clothes on wintry days  
I'll find your things to wear

You gave me lovely things to eat  
I'll cook your dinner now  
You'll say "you mustn't bother"  
I'll do it anyhow

The time to be the carer  
will change as years go by  
Please let me take my turn now  
You know the reason why.

G		E		G		D
GOD	AND	DEVIL		GOOD	AND	EVIL
O		I		D		I
D		L				L

Do you ever awaken in the wee small hours, and try as you might, you cannot get back to sleep again? Something goes around and around in your head, you cannot quite make sense of it, and bring it to a conclusion, and therefore sleeping becomes almost impossible.

One such night I found myself pondering about good and evil. I believe in an all powerful loving Creator God. And yet there are many powerful evil forces around - which are causing manifold havoc and devastation. If God created the Universe and all that is in it, did He create evil [the devil] also? Why does He tolerate such evil things that we so frequently see? I have heard about Lucifer, the angel, convincing about a third of the other angels to follow him in a rebellion against God [Isaiah 14 12-15; Ezekiel 28:13-16; Revelation 12:7-9] and because of this their status was revoked and their names were changed to Satan, and demons.

But why did God still permit their existence in this role?

What is it all for?

As Christians we know that we often do the wrong thing, but we also believe that if we are truly repentant, and try to live as we should, we can be forgiven and given another chance.

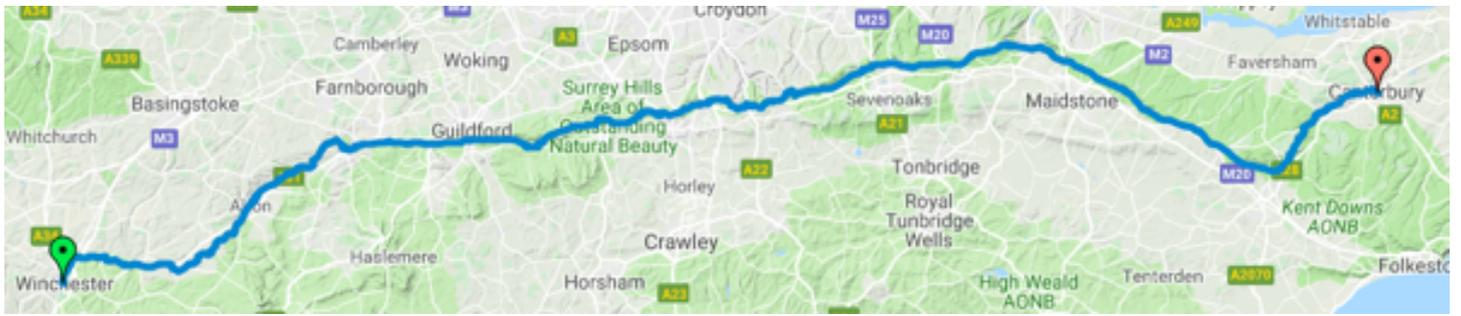
If there were no temptations along the way, we would all be completely obedient and subservient. There would be no challenges, and nothing to strive for. What kind of life would that be? There would be no purpose to it, and no point in it. What is the value of love if it is not given by choice? In fact if there were no choice between good and evil, we would have no discerning power, no goals to strive for, no point in achieving anything.

It makes me think of the many dictatorships we have on earth, such as in North Korea, where you honour your leader because of brainwashing and fear of reprisal. We have also seen how this can go horribly wrong when revolution takes hold.

So, should I conclude that evil is a necessary adversary? If so would that mean that all the folk on the receiving end of evil action are simply pawns in the deity's chess game?

We hear that God's Kingdom on Earth can begin when we have defeated evil. Hearing the daily news from many sources still suggests that is a very long way off. We must continue the fight! We are on the Lord's side!

Celia Lester



## PILGRIMS WAY:

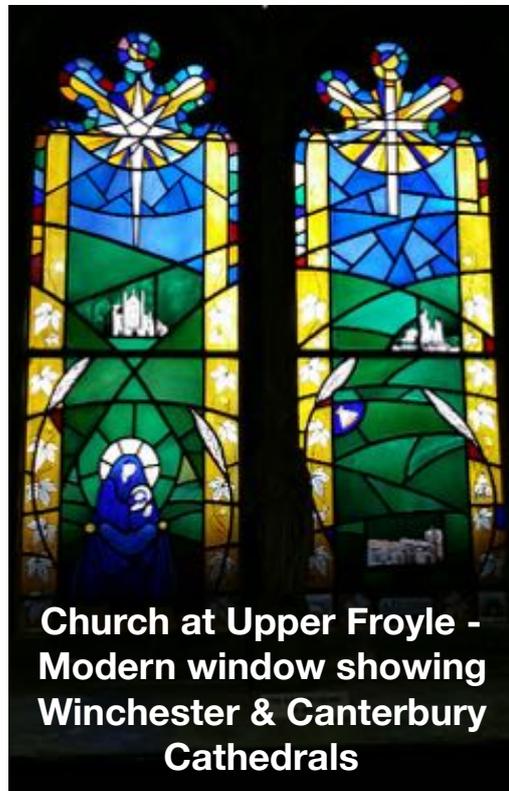
### Winchester towards Canterbury

Arriving the day the clocks changed at the end of March on Mothering Sunday, my sister Rebecca & I went to the afternoon service in Winchester cathedral. Along with a few other walkers we had arrived to start walking along the Pilgrims Way Winchester to Canterbury. St Swithun was an Anglo-Saxon bishop of Winchester, and when he died in 862 AD he requested burial in the cathedral grounds where ‘the water from the roof might water my grave and where the feet of pilgrims might walk above me’. When the cathedral was enlarged in 971 they moved his remains inside, and that supposedly

set off 40 days and nights of rain.

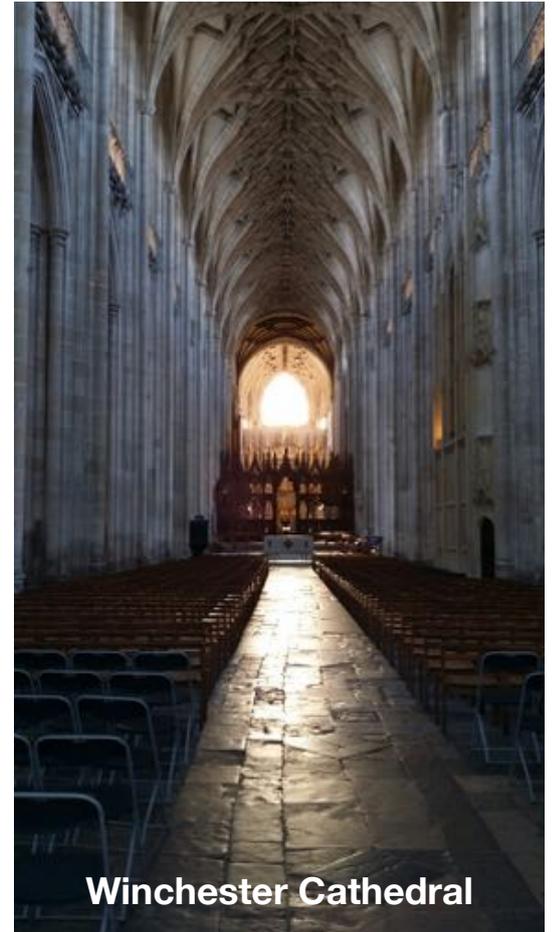
Meanwhile in Canterbury the archbishop Thomas à Becket got into a dispute with Henry II and knights were sent to ‘silence this troublesome priest’ in 1170. Shrines grew up in both cathedrals (always good for mediaeval tourism) and a Pilgrims’ Way began to link them. Historians have tried to recreate the original route, which was

officially opened at the millennium. If you ask the cathedral staff they send you off with a blessing and issue a



**Church at Upper Froyle -  
Modern window showing  
Winchester & Canterbury  
Cathedrals**

‘passport’ a three-fold piece of paper with spaces to get ink stamps from participating churches along the way.



**Winchester Cathedral**





You can buy a guide book setting out the route with sections offering daily distances between 10 – 13 miles. We set off along the River Itchen on 1<sup>st</sup> April heading NE in what turned out to be a beautiful walk through meadows following the little river, and calling at well kept parish churches every five miles or so to get our passports stamped, easily following plenty of signposts pointing us along St Swithun's Way. That day was wall-wall sunshine and we got hot, but subsequent days were overcast and a bit cool and showery. Hailstones occasionally came down but we were prepared for all weather and continued for five days, ending our first week at Dorking. Each section was linear meaning we could drive to the start, walk our daily distance, then catch a train or bus back. On day three we passed through Chawton, famous as the home of Jane Austen. Her father was the local vicar, and her mother and sister are buried in the churchyard. Jane herself is buried in Winchester cathedral. St Swithun's Way ended at Farnham where we picked up signs along the North Downs Way.

The total distance is 136 miles / 14 days. We've done the first 55 miles / 5 days so we are about 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the way along the route. Peter Childs

## **7 WAYS TO STOP SINNING.**

Every week in church some of us confess our sins. We are forgiven. That is wonderful ! Our weekly growth of sin is amputated.

Until it renews its insidious assault. But Jesus told people 'Go and sin no more.'

**WAY 1** - Sin may have set up home with us but that doesn't mean serving it food or providing it yeast, doing all its washing or handing over the remote. The power to be rid of sin belongs to Jesus but we can limit or even expiate its influence.

**WAY 2** - By development of willpower. Willpower is just as much a skill as a muscle. It becomes stronger by exercise, builds resistance to temptation.

**WAY 3** - Understand your sin. It is our sin that tells us about ourselves, what we value, what we cherish, what we worship, what drives us. If we do not examine our sin, we repeat it.

**WAY 4** - Make a start with one sin. No-one can change everything at once about their sinning but to massage hope it's best to go for the easiest win first.

**WAY 5** - Be specific. Give yourself measurable goals.

**WAY 6** - Recognise the triggers, the springboards. 'Inflection points' are when temptation is at its fiercest .

**WAY 7** - Keep on going. No-one ever proceeded to great things but by great mistakes (failures). Be prepared to fail but do not give up. As Paul recommends - run the race to win. Who knows, you may exceed your personal best.

*Condensed and re- thought from the writings of Nick Page, author of 80 books, by Gordon Parsons.*

## Fundraising Bulletin January - April 2019

	Income	Beneficiaries	
Activity	£ raised	Internal	£
Pancake Day	£30.00	Food ministry	£110.00
Easter card sales	£64.50	Church funds	£250.86
Easter Bake Sale	£45.80	Day Centre	£181.57
Photo competitions	£41.00	Church Youth	£140.57
Book Sales	£421.70		
Chutney sales	£80.00		
<b>Total £ raised</b>	<b>£683.00</b>		<b>£ 683.00</b>

Photo competitions, book sales and bake sales are ongoing events. The first two are organised by Linda Woodhouse, and the third by Linda Mann. Thank you Lindas. There will be a Welcome Summer Sale of Books, Bric-a-Brac and Jams etc. on Saturday 21st May. We welcome all customers, and would also be very grateful for some help on the day.

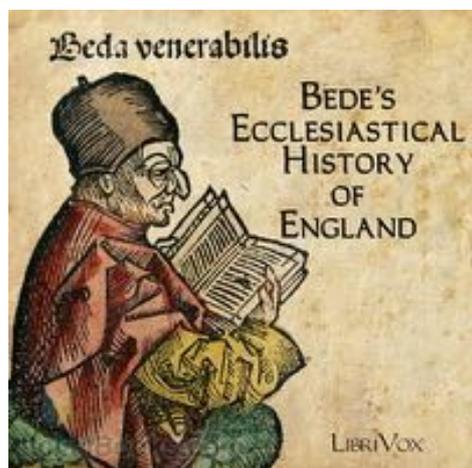
The Easter Canisters were distributed on Easter Sunday. The money received will be donated to St Basil's

We are also planning our annual Garden Party which will take place on Saturday 29th June.

There are just three of us at the helm of the fund raising, - Chris Pascal, Linda Woodhouse and Celia Lester, and we are all feeling the effects of health problems and advancing years, and will not be able to carry on our work for much longer without more volunteers. Please consider if you could help, and contact one of us if you can.

The CoCoMAD Festival will take place in Cotteridge Park on Saturday 6th July.

### The Venerable Bede celebrated on 26th May.



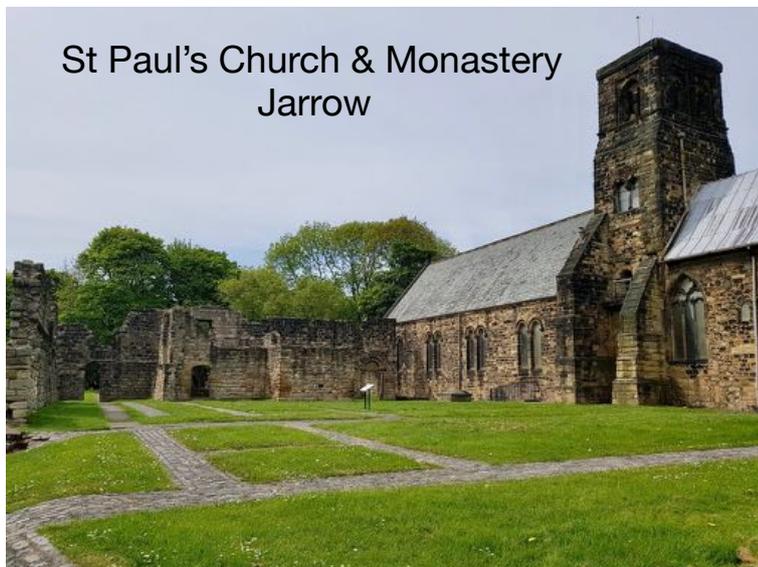
Almost every Christian will have heard of The Venerable Bede, and likely will know that he recorded the history of many of the early saints.

He was born in 672 or 673 and died on 26th May 735.

At the tender age of seven, he was sent to the Benedictine monastery of St Peter & St Paul in Northumbria [later these became known as the Monkwearmouth-Jarrow Abbey] to be in the care of Benedict Biscop, who founded it. [This was a practice not uncommon in Christian communities near monasteries.] In 686, he and the abbot Ceolfriith both survived an outbreak of the plague which killed a

majority of the population there. The two of them were responsible for maintaining

the prayers at the abbey until more could be trained. Although he spent most of his life at the Abbey in Jarrow, he did visit a number of other abbeys and monasteries throughout the British Isles, and became well known for his scholarship, and historical recording. He was also very interested in the academic discipline of *computus* - the science of calculating calendar dates. and he tried very hard to determine the exact date for Easter, and helped establish the practice of dating forward from the birth of Christ [Anno domini - the



year of our Lord]. His most famous work the Ecclesiastical History of the English People, gained him the title “The Father of English History”. This is the first work in which the AD system of dating is used. It records the many stories of how the English went from being pagan to being Christian. Written in Latin, Bede reveals how this dramatic conversion was achieved, starting at the top with the local tribal kings, queens and warriors. On a lighter side, he also records how King Redwald of East Anglia couldn't resist backing both horses by constructing a building with a Christian altar at one end and a pagan one at the other.

Bede was considered to be the most important historian between the death of Pope Gregory I in 604, and the coronation of Charlemagne in 800.. He was a skilled linguist and translator, and made the Latin and Greek writings of the Bible much more accessible to his fellow Anglo Saxons, thus contributing significantly to to English Christianity.



Although the monasteries of Wearmouth and Jarrow were ransacked by the Vikings in the eighth century, human remains thought to be those of Bede were discovered in the eleventh century and removed to Durham Cathedral. His tomb can still be seen in the Galilee Chapel. C.L.



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