

Roundabout



Celebrating 30 Years!

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

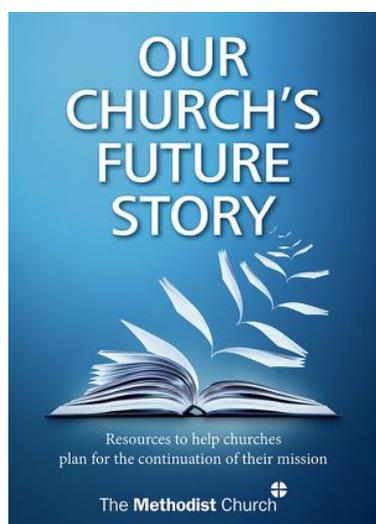
September 2019

Mike's message

Our Church's Future Story

All of you will know that this year is the 30th Anniversary of the congregation moving back into this building after extension and alterations. In a very real sense it's the 30th Anniversary of The Cotteridge Church itself. Earlier this year we had a weekend focussing on the past. There were displays of old photographs, records and registers.

But an anniversary is about much more than the past. It's about the future too.



An excellent resource has recently come to my attention. Called 'Our Church's Future Story'. It's a set of cards produced by The Methodist Church. The pack does exactly as it says by providing a toolkit for congregations to review where they are, where they want to be, and how to get there. It focusses on the natural life cycle of churches which, like any other living entity, show times of growth, times of thriving, times when the church wanes and the need for change and new life and new beginnings. There are a variety of activities and exercises and some probing questions. There are best and worst case scenarios to explore. There are steps to consider in building a new story for the church. Have a think about these:

Why do we exist? (*Mission: eg a sign of God's love in the community*)

How do we live and behave? (*Bold, welcoming, relevant?*)

What makes us distinctive? (*Vision, ecumenical, inclusivity?*)

How will we engage with the future journey? (*worship, discipleship, giving*)

What will we do to move forward? (*strategy, new worship, community links*)

Who will do what? And how?

What's the most important now? (*in next 3 months, 6, 12?*)

Over the last weekend in September (28th and 29th) we'll be starting to consider a few of these things. Make a date in your diaries now and come along and be part of the start of the vision process.

The future isn't going to be the same as the past. In many ways it's futile and vanity to want us to return to being "like we used to be". Do we do that with our own lives? However the future life and discipleship of The Cotteridge Church can, with a little planning, be much better than ever if we all pray, think and contribute to that vision and are prepared to contribute to it.

FRIENDS & FAMILY

We are sad to record the death of Don Wiggins, brother of Dorothy Audley. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends.

It is a time of farewells.

We thank Sarah Knebel and Keira and Clara for their contributions to our life at Cotteridge over the last 2 years. Sarah's welcome service is at Walkden Methodist Church, Manchester Rd, Walkden M38 9AN on 1st Sept 2pm.



We also say farewell to John Tesh as our organist, and we give him our very grateful thanks for his many years of service with us, and bid farewell with our love and best wishes. We do hope to see him occasionally as a "stand in" organist.

We welcome Khadeem Duncan-Bannerjee who will play the organ for us on the second Sunday of the month.

Jane and Graham Jones have given loyal service in abundance to our church for many years, and we wish them joy and happiness in their new life in Devon.

Following their A'Level successes, Kathryn Clayton is going to study Chemistry at the University of Leeds, Euan Clayton will study Mechanical Engineering at the University of Nottingham, and Bethany Jones is going to the Manchester Met to study Fine Art. We are also delighted to report that Alex Clayton has a BA in History from the University of Plymouth, Chloe Sprackling has a BA Hons in French from the University of Leeds, and Christine Turner has an M Phys from the University of Bath, and Chris Butt has a B.Sc. in Computer Science from the University of Coventry. Many congratulations to all of them. Congratulations to Lin Woodhouse on her birthday. Many thanks to Rob Sewell for doing such a fantastic job on the spiral steps at the front of the church.



Dr Peter Rookes took part in a BBC WM broadcast on People of Faith & Parenthood on Sunday 11th August.

I apologise for an error in the July Fundraising bulletin. The £600 raised by the BB quiz will be shared equally between the Church and St Mary's Hospice.

Communicate to You.



On the notice board you will see a lovely Thank You card from C2U. We also thank them for their willing and cheerful help, and their friendship. We look forward to meeting their new team .



The B30 Foodbank: when growth isn't always a good thing

If a small business had trebled its customer base over the last 5 years, the owners would be celebrating. If the strawberries and raspberries on my allotment had doubled in size this year compared with 5 years ago, I'd be delighted. If our congregation had grown every year for the last 5 years, we would be shouting from the rooftops that we must be doing something right.



However, when the B30 Foodbank fed 538 people in July 2019, compared with 239 in July 2014, we wonder where, as a society, we are going so wrong.

On the positive side, over 50% of our clients only come once. They really see the Foodbank as a place of last resort, during a short term crisis. On the worrying side, we are seeing more clients (albeit still very few) who we are feeding maybe 5 or 6 times in a period of 6 months and who are finding it almost impossible to get themselves out of desperate situations.

Oxfam tweeted recently, *“Each day last year, the world’s billionaires got \$2.5 billion richer, while the poorest half of humanity got \$500 million poorer. The growing gap between rich and poor is preventing millions from escaping poverty.”* It is not that there isn't enough money in the world to help the poor, it's that it is very, very unevenly distributed and trapping our poorest in a cycle of destitution.

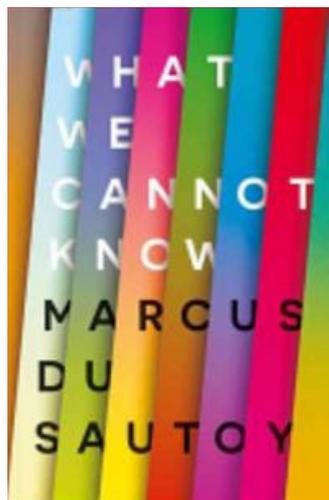
While we wish we weren't growing (and planning to take on a new, larger warehouse), we have to face the fact that we are. Each Foodbank parcel given out to a single person is valued at about £36. Last week we fed 133 adults and children. You work out the cost! And that was a quiet week.

Helen Gale / Roger Collins

Is God a Mathematician?

There has been a long running argument about mathematics being invented or discovered. Was it invented by humans to enable them to have a language to describe the physical universe or is the physical universe built on mathematical principles and we humans have discovered that underlying structure?

In June I went to Machynlleth to visit the Wales Museum of Modern Art. I also visited my favourite independent bookshop which is a little further down Heol Penrallt. As I walked from the museum towards the bookshop I kept saying to myself 'only one book, only buy one book', half an hour later I staggered out of the shop under the weight of five books.



One of these books was 'What we cannot know' by Marcus De Sautoy Professor of Mathematics at the University of Oxford and well known television personality. If you need a mathematician to speak on BBC 4 you

ask either De Sautoy or Dr Hannah Fry. In this book the professor looks at what the boundaries to human knowledge are, not what we don't know currently but what we can never know. Which obviously brings the question of an ineffable God. De Sautoy is in the unenviable position of also being Simonyi Chair for Public Understanding of Science and one of his predecessors in that role was Richard Dawkins, whose belief, or lack of belief, in a divine

power is well known. So, De Sautoy does discuss the current views on the existence of God held by science but remains admirably neutral on the topic. What he does however is to come down heavily in favour of the discovery of mathematics as the underlying structure of the universe.

After identifying of the fundamental particles that make up the nucleus of the atom, Quarks, it was noticed that they followed a mathematical pattern of symmetry called $S(3)$, based on this, physicists were able to predict the number of quarks there should be. Knowing this they were able to devise experiments to look for them and unsurprisingly they found them. This appears to show that underpinning everything in physics is an existing mathematical structure.

Even stronger evidence that mathematics forms the basic building blocks of the universe is quantum physics which suggests that reality is not just based on mathematics but is mathematics. Heisenberg's uncertainty principle shows that you can never know the position and the momentum of a sub-atomic particle at the same time, so that when you measure one of these the other becomes unknowable. Until the point of measurement, the particle fully deterministic due to its mathematical 'wave function', when the measurement is taken that 'wave function' collapses. This suggests that reality is made up of mathematical wave functions. As we are all made up of atoms, which are themselves made up of fundamental particles, in effect both you and I are made up of mathematics.

Given that reality appears to be made up of mathematics we have to ask is God a Mathematician, De Sautoy makes no comment.

Neil Walters





The Cotteridge Church
Joint Church Council
Summary of Proceedings 20th June 2019

Date for Your Diary

The Mid-Term Congregational Meeting this year will be held at 10:30 on 12th October 2019

Key Decisions

1. The Joint Church Council agreed that volunteers could provide references from officers of the Church if they were not from the direct supervisor for whom the checks were being made.
2. A new Wi-Fi splash screen was approved for use on the Church's public Wi-Fi
3. The meeting approved the extension of Sue Clayton in the role of Children and Family Work Lead
4. The revised Safeguarding policies were approved by the meeting
5. A Volunteer Opportunities Leaflet was approved for distribution

Summary Proceedings

1. The Young People's Forum reported that they were speaking to the Nicodemus Charity about possible funding for a youth leader
2. Evelyn Bahjan had been tasked by the JCC to write a paper on how the Cotteridge Church could change its forms of worship to attract Young Adults - JCC to follow-up on some of the ideas
3. The JCC thanked Evelyn for her hard work
4. It was noted that Davidsons' solicitors now have a desk in the Pennine Way the first Thursday of every month.
5. It was reported with sorrow that Angela Garrett, a long-time member of the Church, had passed away
6. The JCC thought that there were enough communication channels open to the Building Steering Group: Roundabout, News Letter and Face Book. As well as face to face at Congregational Meetings that this was sufficient without bringing in any other mechanism.
7. The JCC decided the requirement from the Building Steering Group for a long term plan would be revisited after a proposed visit to Cambridge Road Methodist Church to see their refurbishment.
8. Thanks were extended to Tim Clayton for taking on the application to Veolia for funding of the Garden Project.
9. The Young Peoples Forum reported that the Guides had requested a fire bowl for the Garden, F&P were happy to report that this was already in hand

The next meeting of the Joint Church Council will be on Tuesday 16th July 2019 at 19:30.

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



The Cotteridge Church
Joint Church Council
Summary of Proceedings 16th July 2019

Date for Your Diary

The Mid-Term Congregational Meeting this year will be held at 10:30 on 12th October 2019

Key Decisions

1. It was agreed to proceed with an induction loop for the chapel at a cost of £300
2. A proposal from the Governance Group to restrict the number of groups reporting directly to JCC to three was approved
3. A revised environmental policy was approved with minor changes
4. It was agreed to purchase new lightweight stackable chairs like those used at Cambridge Road
5. It was agreed to approach two different Architects for their views on the Church improvements before discussing the project again with our current Architects, APEC
6. It was agreed to not move further on a proposal from Nicodemus on their Safe Spaces initiative before the Methodist Circuit discussion on Youth Worker provision had completed
7. It was agreed to change the order of the groups reporting to the JCC every two months to balance out the length of JCC meetings
8. It was agreed to move the date of the September JCC so it didn't clash with a Circuit Meeting and the Administrator's holiday

Summary Proceedings

1. The Treasurer clarified that the short fall in congregational giving against budget was between £3,000 and £4,000.
2. Mike Claridge said that the church was seeing a number of new room bookings coming through 1 to 2 sessions a week for agents from CGL and a session a week from Aquarius
3. Discussion took place on providing a portable loop system for the Church meeting rooms, this will be referred to F&P
4. A replacement PSU for the existing Projector had been located at £119 and the Church has initiated enquiries for quotes on a new Projector and Sound system
5. A potential Health and Safety issue due to maintenance work was addressed successfully
6. A letter was received from the fundraising group saying they were no longer in a position to organise such events as the Garden Party and the Christmas Fair due to ill health. A notice will be placed in the notice sheet asking for volunteers. A full set of work instructions on how to organise the events was gratefully received
7. The JCC thanked the fundraising group for all the work they had done over the years
8. It was noted that the Anglican Diocese were not able to offer face to face C0 and C1 training to catering services for the foreseeable future
9. Neil Walters said he would distribute a template for creating the Mid-Term Report for the Congregation meeting on the 12th October 2019 to the chairs of the different groups

The next meeting of the Joint Church Council will be on Tuesday 25th September 2019 at 19:30.

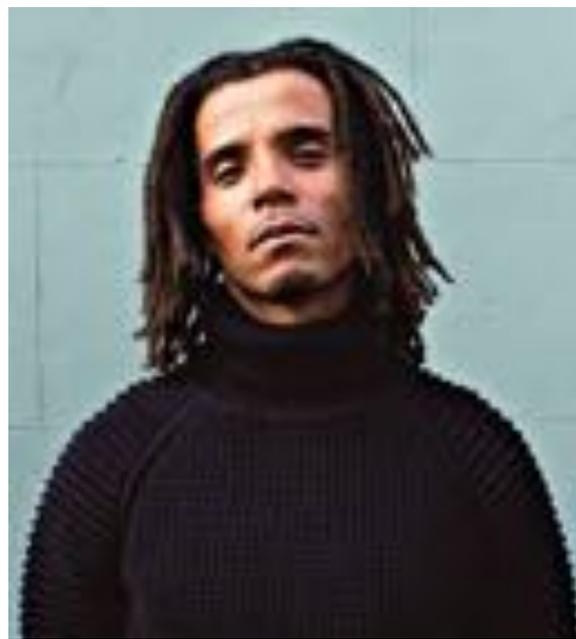
This Summary is authorised by: Neil Walters (Chair of the Cotteridge Joint Church Council)

A Book Review

When Roger persuaded me to buy 'Natives – Race & Class in the Ruins of Empire' by the hip-hop artist Akala, after he passed me the book and took my money, he added that it would be nice if I could provide Celia with a review for Roundabout - so here it is!

Natives is a very interesting book and worth reading, but I cannot say it is an enjoyable read, especially for someone with my ancestry. Akala's main argument is that all the disadvantages being suffered by the black citizens of Britain, and there are many, are due to a supremacist attitude held by all their fellow citizens with white skins.

His basic premise is that a history of colonial suppression



of the nations within the British Empire has left the white peoples in this

country with a view of black, and to a lesser extent Asians, as lesser people who need to be taught how to be 'civilised'. As I began to read the book I railed against this general criticism of the white skinned people in Britain. I thought back over my life and could not identify any incident where I had thought a person inferior to me due to their ethnicity or skin colour. But as I worked my way through the book I began to realise that Akala had a valid point. I still think of Tanzania as Tanganyika, because that's what my Junior School Atlas said it was; although that may be an indictment of British education

funding in the mid-sixties.

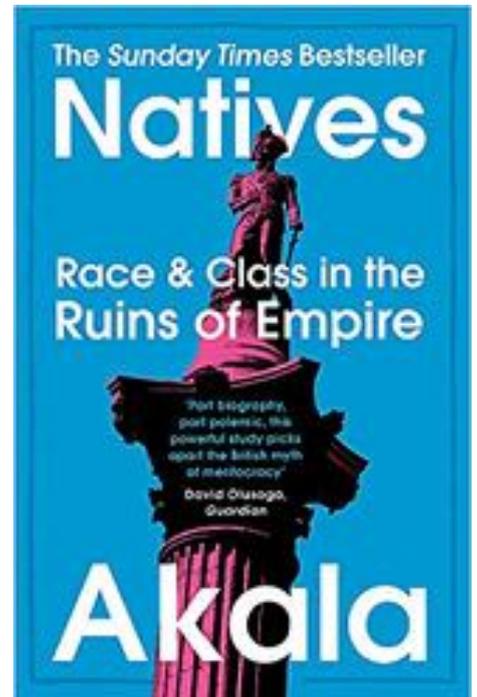
However, as I approached the end of the book I was reminded of the final verse of Nanci Griffith's 'It's a hard life':

"I was a child in the sixties
Dreams could be held through TV
With Disney, and Cronkite, and Martin Luther
Oh, I believed, I believed, I believed
Now, I am the backseat driver from America
I am not at the wheel of control
I am guilty, I am war, I am the root of all evil
Lord, and I can't drive on the left side of the road"

As I finished the book I had to agree with Akala and put my hand up to say I am oppressing my black brothers and sisters due to my background and culture and I need to change to actively fight white supremacy rather than passively ignore it.

So, whatever the colour of your skin, I would recommend this book, but do not expect an easy read, prepare for your complacency to be challenged.

Neil Walters



Gideon Bibles

Many of us will have visited a hotel somewhere in the world, and found a bible in the drawer of the bedside table. Most of us will thus have heard of the Gideons.



The interior of Room 19, Central House Hotel, Boscobel, Wisconsin, kept in the style it was in 1898 when the founders of the Gideons met there

The organisation began in the autumn 1898, when two travelling salesmen, John H. Nicholson of Janesville, Wisconsin, and Samuel E. Hill of Beloit, Wisconsin, met at the Central House Hotel in Boscobel, Wisconsin. They both arrived at the check in desk at the same time. Unfortunately, [but actually fortunately] there was only one room left. After discussion they decided to share it, where they discussed the formation of an association. In May 1899, the two met again in Beaver Dam, Wisconsin, where they decided the goal of their association would be to unite travelling salesmen for evangelism. In July, 1899, Nicholson, Hill, and Will J. Knights met at the YMCA in Janesville. They decided to call themselves the Gideons, describing their link to the story of Gideon.

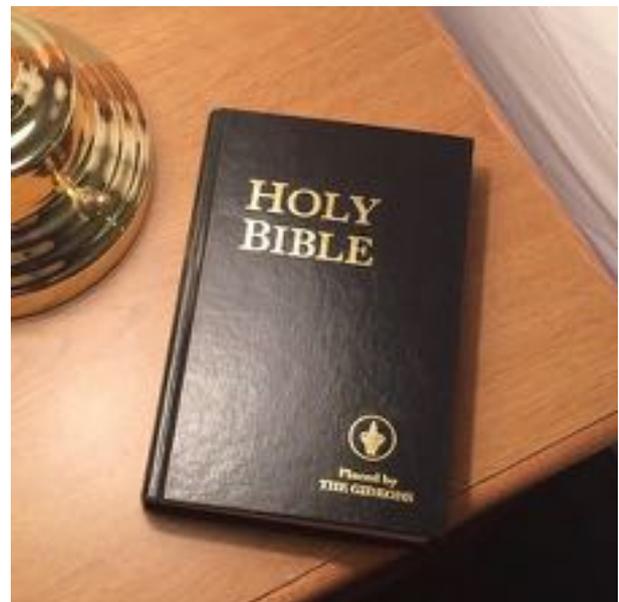
Gideon was a man who was willing to do exactly what God wanted him to do, regardless of his own judgment as to the plans or results. Humility, faith, and obedience were his great elements of character.

This is the standard that The Gideons International is trying to establish in all its members, each man to be ready to do God's will at any time, at any place, and in any way that the Holy Spirit leads.

Gideons began distributing free Bibles, the work they are chiefly known for, in 1908, when the first Bibles were placed in the rooms of the Superior Hotel in Superior, Montana.

Now there are more than 270,000 members of the Gideon Society, and they have distributed more than 2 billion bibles internationally.

[You can find out more at www.gideons.org]



Services for September and October

	1st September	8th September	15th September	22nd September	29th September
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 CYHC	Revd M. Claridge	Revd R. Collins HC	Life & Soul CA
6:30 pm	Revd R. Collins HC	Café Church	Revd M. Claridge HC.	Miss Hazel Nash	PNP [7.30 pm]
	6th October	13th October	20 October	27th October	
9.00 am HC	Revd M. Claridge	Revd R. Collins	Revd M. Claridge	Revd M. Claridge	
10:30 am	Revd M. Claridge HF P	Revd R. Collins HC	Revd Mark Berry	Revd M. Claridge HC	
6:30 pm	Revd R. Collins FD	Café Church	Revd M. Claridge HC	Miss Hazel Nash	

Service types: HC - Holy Communion P - Parade
 CA - Church Anniversary PNP - Political Night Prayer
 HF - Harvest Festival FD - Foodbank Dedication

Communion Services are held each week at 10.00 am on Tuesdays



The Life & Soul Service on 29th September will focus on our 30th Anniversary Celebrations - See the article by Helen Gale

Youth

As you can see from our Services details, because of the shortage of volunteers, we will be running Young Church activities (for Pre-School to Year 9 children) at 10.30am SEPARATELY from the main act of worship on ONE Sunday a month, - indicated in yellow on the plan.

Teenagers older than Year 9 will be included in the main worship.

Thank you to our Young Church team who have enabled us to continue this valuable work. We are still looking for more volunteers so that we can increase the number of Sundays per month that this provision runs.

Children will be in the main act of worship on all other Sundays (the first Sunday of the month being Parade/All Age anyway).

We will be having a Celebrate Youth theme on 8th September. I am asking on the notice sheet for people to let me know which children are starting/moving to a new school, and which of our young people will be going to University or into work.

Mike Claridge

Annunciation stained glass revisited



The stained glass window in the chapel at The Cotteridge Church came originally from St Agnes Church, which stood where The Co-op food is now. When the three churches of Cotteridge [Anglican, Methodist, and U.R.C.] decided to come together in the 1980s, it was agreed that the window should be kept and found a home in the new building. The chapel was the ideal place. The design for the window, and its execution was by the Camm family of Smethwick, who were, along with the firm of Chances, very well known glass manufacturers of the Black Country. The Camms won many awards for stained glass design at international exhibitions.

Annunciation windows were very popular and in 1914 a fund called the “Mothers’ Window Fund” had reached a total of £1 8s 1d. It took a lot of hard work and several more years before the £75 needed had been raised. The Camms first installed the window in the Lady chapel at St. Agnes Church in the 1920s with the following advice “as the grime of the Birmingham air settles round the leads outside, you will find that the appearance of these windows will improve, and allowance is made for this in the execution of the work.” The style of the window copies the mediaeval idea of the Annunciation - Gabriel is kneeling before Mary because she is seen as the Queen of Heaven. In some Victorian representations Mary is seen as a simple country girl with Gabriel in all magnificence hovering above her.

The window has lots of symbolism in it. The rainbow is the firmament of heaven, the whole garden represents the Earth. The edge of Mary’s blue robe has sun, moon, and star emblems as further proof that she is the Queen of Heaven. Gabriel holds in his right hand the flame of life. The dove at the top of the picture symbolises the Holy Spirit descending on Mary. The flowers in the garden are also interesting. The hedge is madonna lilies - white for purity, with golden anthers showing the radiant light of Mary’s soul. Daisies are for simplicity; marigolds for domesticity; lily of the valley represents Mary’s tears, growing where she wept; rosemary is said to take its colour from Mary’s veil when she spread it on the bush. Behind Mary, there is an apple tree in blossom - a symbol of the promise of fruit and also an apple tree fruiting, representing the birth of baby Jesus.

Below the whole scene is the phrase- “To the Glory of God, and in honour of Motherhood”

I think the ladies who started the Mothers’ Window Fund would be pleased to know that the beautiful window is still cherished and loved.

Rita Sutton

The Cotteridge Church - '30 Years Young and Looking Forward' 28th & 29th September 2019

This year is the 30th anniversary of The Cotteridge Church (and yes, some of us are wondering where it all went!) Earlier in the year, we celebrated where we had come from with an exhibition of past documents and photographs.



On **Saturday 28th September** we are planning to have an exhibition in the Malvern Room of the organisations who are part of the Church and their and our plans for the future. We know from experience that many of those who live near to the Church have no idea of the great things that go on here! This exhibition will be open to our community from 10a.m. to 5p.m. and remain up during the Sunday services on the next day.

On **Sunday 29th September** for our 10.30a.m. service we plan to have a 'Life and Soul' service based on the theme of 'Vision', followed by a Cotteridge Church lunch for friends and family from 12.00 noon onwards.

The lunch is intended to be a friendly and informal buffet event, during which we hope to have some short inputs from some of our previous clergy. As it is a Sunday, we know that those ministers who are still working are unlikely to be available in person, so we have asked that they join us via the wonders of technology by sending us a short video clip, which we will show during lunch.

However, we do hope to have the Revd Ros Murphy and the Revd Anne Gibson with us in person on Sunday to share both the service and the meal with us.

Nearer the day, we will be asking you to sign up, so that we can have some ideas of numbers for catering, but in the meantime, **please share this information about The Cotteridge Church with all your friends and family and encourage them to join us** at the exhibition on Saturday 28th September, at morning service on 29th September or for the lunch after service. All friends and family are welcome to any or all of these events!

If you have any queries or offers of help, please talk to Helen Gale, email helen.gale@thecotteridgechurch.org.uk or leave a note in the pigeonholes.

WHO SAID IT FIRST ?

I cannot tell a lie, it wasn't me!
GORDON PARSONS

An atheist has no invisible means of support
BISHOP FULTON J SHEEN

We must live together as brothers, or perish as fools.
MARTIN LUTHER KING Jnr

Character is much easier kept than recovered.
THOMAS PAINE.

Sourced by Gordon Parsons from Readers Digest Treasury of Great Quotations

We've WON!

Traidcraft Breakfast Blend tea has won 3 stars in the Great Taste Awards.

Judges comments: "There's evident quality here: the wonderful infusion is bright and brisk, solid and alive on the palate"



Get your award winning tea at the book centre £2.80 and drink it in a Traidcraft 40th Anniversary Bamboo E Coffee Cup £12.00



World fair trade organisation prescribes 10 Principles that Fair Trade Organisations must follow in their day-to-day work and carries out monitoring to ensure these

principles are upheld: World Fair Trade Organisation's 10 principles of fair trade give a clear differentiator from a company that sells a few Fair Trade products and a company that has fairness in its DNA



Roger Collins

Do you ever stop to think

"How much it costs to open Church every day?"

Excluding catering costs (staff wages, food etc) we have spent £103,867 over the first 6 months of 2019. That is a staggering figure of £3,995 every week or £17,311 every month.

Utilities alone cost over £1,500 every month, and that includes these summer months when thankfully the heating is not needed.

So, where does our income come from? Many of you generously give weekly, monthly by standing order or on the plate on Sundays but this only totals £33,136 for the first 6 months and all this goes directly towards the 3 denominational assessments totalling £36,025 so far this year. That's before we even start to think about bills and wages.



We have refurbished the Bredon room into a Youth room with the aid of a grant. Please visit and see what we have done if you have not been there for some time.

Admittedly this year we have started to spend some capital from Primrose's very generous legacy which has seen us start to replace old and broken equipment. The kitchen has had a deluxe potato peeler, The wifi has been upgraded, the tower has had an expensive repair (thanks in part

to a 50% grant).

In total so far this year we have received £88,396 in income including room hire totalling nearly £19,000 and a Gift Aid refund of £14,544

Inflation is running at 2% and our Denominational assessment for next year has already been increased by this amount. Bearing this in mind when did you last look at your giving? Have you increased in line with inflation year on year since the last stewardship campaign now over two years ago?

If you feel able to increase your giving please send instructions to your bank to amend the standing order.

You may have noticed a small team led by David, our administrator, (Peter Childs, Dorothy and Stephen Audley and me) carrying out many repair jobs which have so far saved us several thousand pounds (and counting). If anyone else feels able and willing to join us you would be very welcome, speak to any one of us.

Laurie Brown

THANK YOU Rob Seward

What a transformation!

The Garden at the back looks very summery too.

Thanks to Chris Pascal



Boys' Brigade

Our annual summer camp took place this year at Honey Hill which is near Maidstone in Kent.

19 boys and staff had a great week in the sunshine. Amongst the activities were swimming, raft building, archery and axe throwing [under strict trained supervision!].



There were the usual football, camp olympics, general knowledge and 'The One Million Drop' based on the TV

show. Dennis and his squad won the 'Best Tent Competition'. Next year we will be camping in Wales. BB restarts on Friday 6th September when any new lads would be warmly welcomed. Our enrolment service will be held on the 27th September.



Congratulations from everybody at BB to Euan Clayton on his A level results A* and AB. He is now off to Nottingham University. Euan along with Chris Butt have now registered for the Youth Leaders' Training Course on 2 Saturdays in October and November.

Bob Hotchkiss

Fund Raising

With regret Chris Pascal, Linda Woodhouse and I resigned in June from managing the church's fundraising because of ill health and advancing years. As yet there is no one willing to replace us, but I am very pleased to announce that Pam Waddell has agreed to take charge of the annual Christmas Fair, and that Jane Stephens and Alison Sprackling will help her. Chris, Linda and I will continue to help in our respective ways, but can no longer shoulder the burden of being in charge.

We would like to thank Brian Pearson for his wise guidance, and oversight.

Film canisters for St Basil's have raised £240.07

Church Urban Fund has received £38.40.

Celia Lester



Roundabout is the bi-monthly newsletter of The Cotteridge Church.
Large print issue is in the Pennine Way, and available to download from our web site.
Your Editor from January 2017 is Celia Lester
Please send copy for the next edition by 24th October 2019 .
to roundabout@thecotteridgechurch.org.uk

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