

Roundabout



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

May 2020

Mike's message

Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts. (Acts 2 .46)

I was reflecting over Easter about empty church buildings and the empty tomb. It then occurred to me that the Risen Christ didn't appear in the Jerusalem temple, it would have put the wind up a few Sadducees if he had, or a synagogue. Instead he appeared in a garden, in the open countryside, on a beach and in a room where people were shut in.

Who did he appear to? Mary Magdalene, in the isolation of bereavement. Frightened individuals who'd locked themselves away because of the threat of harm and death that they believed stalked outside. A couple walking in the countryside who later recognise him in the context of an ordinary meal. A group at a beach barbecue (not recommended in the current situation as I write) where the participants were confused, frightened, and full of unresolved guilt and failure.

As the followers of Jesus emerged as a distinctive group, the things that were central to their emerging traditions were carried out in ordinary homes; breaking bread, prayers, fellowship, and providing for the needy. A 'holy place' was still important - as the verse from Acts (above) confirms - but it wasn't central to their living of Christ's teaching. Later on some of those ordinary homes become designated worship venues, the first churches. The Christian Church was evolving fast.

We encounter the Risen Christ in a specific way when we're gathered together as *The Church* - usually in our *church building* (the two terms are distinct). But the Risen Christ is also fully present in the pastoral phone call, the food parcel, and even the online meeting! He's in scripture, and also in online teaching and nurture. He's in the daily work of the NHS, of care homes, day centres and places of fellowship.

Christ's presence in Holy Communion has been a challenge for many in the context of lock-down. Some denominations encourage participants to have bread and wine present in front of their computer screens or phones, and view that as an act of Holy Communion. Other denominations have expressly stated that ministers should not do this. We have the full range of opinions across our three denominations, which poses quite a dilemma in ecumenical contexts.

But Jesus shared many, many more meals with his followers than that one Passover that Christians regard as the institution of Holy Communion. The Risen Christ can be present in meals shared in contexts such as the Methodist tradition of The Love Feast, as some of us shared online in the Birmingham District's worship on Easter Day. In the breaking of bread (or cake) and sharing of wine (or water) Christ is can indeed be truly present. Alleluia! Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed! Alleluia.



Friends & Family

Alan Cheney died on Good Friday. Both he and Joyce were strong and very generous supporters of The Cotteridge Church. After a short absence since moving to his new apartment it was good to see him in church on 1st March with two of his daughters. He had been determined to come on that day to see and hear Bishop David. We send our prayers and best wishes to his family.

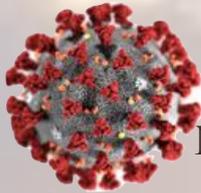
Sadly, David Rogers has also died. He and Chris, originally from the Methodists, served our church faithfully for many years. Our love & prayers are with Chris & his family.

Both families hope to have a thanksgiving service with us later.

We are sad to record the death of Fred Bromley, and our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends.

The funeral of Margaret Yardley took place on Tuesday 21st April. We remember her son John in our prayers.

Ros Murphy sends Easter Greetings to everyone. She sent me this piece about Corona, reproduced here with her permission



Corona Virus

In these desperate, lonely days
we can find strength in our faith.

Maybe the name for this troublesome virus
was chosen for its crown like appearance
or its similarity to the “corona” of light
surrounding the sun during an eclipse.

Corona suggests undefeatable power.
awesomeness.

Beware!

But, how different from that other crown
- of thorns,
never to be forgotten
as we revisit the Good Friday stories.



Thankfully, Good Friday is followed by Easter Day.

We can celebrate the deep truth
Jesus revealed to powerful Pilate.

“My kingdom is not of this world”

or as St Paul wrote,

“God’s apparent weakness is stronger than
human strength”.

Despite this troublesome virus, despite our
isolation

we can and will still celebrate Easter,
assured that there is nothing which can
exterminate God

who will give us the strength to cope,
come what may both in this earthly life
and in that mystery

which we trust lies beyond bodily death.

Halleluiah indeed!

Ros Murphy 2020

Jean Morgan received a prayer letter from her friend Penny, who says she can share it. Penny went to Peru some 30 years ago to train Sunday School teachers, and married a Peruvian engineer who is now an Anglican vicar in Lima. They have 3 grown up children. She says:

"Lockdown for Thursday and Friday (and Sunday) is total here. NO ONE except people working in health and police/army can be out (plus I guess a few authorised transport things). Queues outside supermarkets or any sort of food shop had to be seen to be believed; maybe today was worse than tomorrow because Tuesday is a day for women to go out whereas Wednesday is only men."

God bless.

In the midst of all the uncertainties that we are all facing, the enforced isolation we have here in Peru means I got round to writing a prayer letter...

[We have included this letter at the end of this edition of Roundabout. (Ed)]

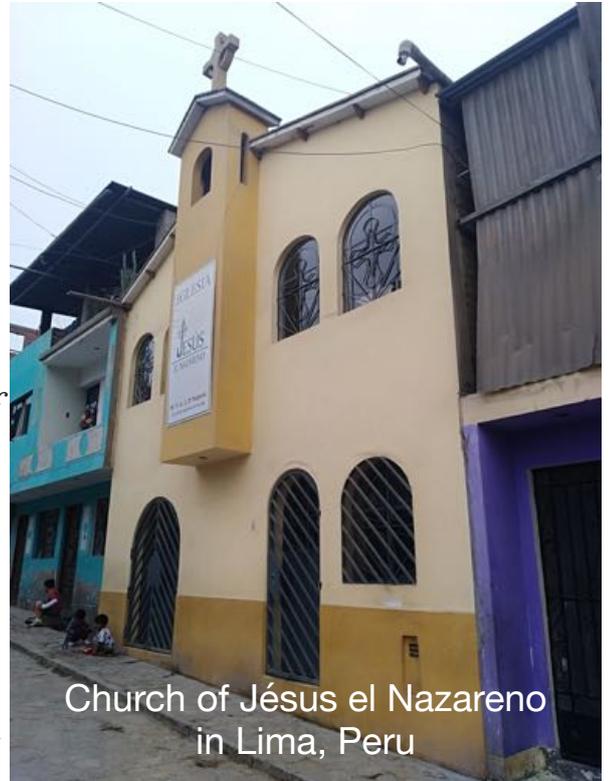
Thank you for your prayers!

Please keep in touch

God bless

Juan Carlos and Penny"

You can find out more about the Anglican church in Peru from <https://www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/mission-and-ministry/worldwide-partnerships/peru/>



Church of Jesús el Nazareno
in Lima, Peru

Covid Communication Complications

The recent Corona virus pandemic caused unprecedented changes to our social fabric. Shops, businesses, transport etc all closed, and for the first time ever in my lifetime, churches closed their doors. That stopped all the usual conversations in the Pennine Way. Announcements at the Sunday service ceased and the Sunday notice sheet could only be found on-line.

One way of communicating while at the same time keeping our required safe distance is to use a group e-mail. I created a group e mail in the first week of the shut down and any church member who has given me their e mail address has received a weekly newsletter. The group e-mail is able to contact around 80 members, about half the total membership.

It opens the question of how we ought to communicate between ourselves in general, how we communicate until the lock down is lifted, and whether a group e mail is the best way of doing it.

If you have an e-mail address and you are not receiving the weekly church membership group e mail & would like to, please send it to peterchilds.pc@gmail.com

Note that your details will be entered into a gmail group for church communication purposes. They will not be circulated to any third party and will only be used for church communication. If you don't have an e-mail address can I suggest you get one, or ask a family member or a friend if they will allow their e mail to be used and forward that one. Please make it clear which church member it is being used for.

For any other church members still left out of distance communication, perhaps you would like to have a think about other future possibilities and pass on any suggestions. Many thanks. Peter Childs mob # 07933 138 212

The Cotteridge Church Quarter 1 Finances

At the last JCC, Covid 19 became the major agenda item, particularly regarding how it would affect The Church finances and staff. It was already known that there could be no further services held and all room bookings were cancelled but it was hoped that we may maintain some form of catering availability for the local community. This was quickly ruled out by later government guidelines.

The JCC unanimously agreed that our priorities lay with protecting our loyal employees from hardship and agreed that the staff would receive 100% of their salaries. Church would contribute 50% of the costs with Catering and the Day Centre meeting the remainder from their reserves. In the following days the government announced its furlough scheme agreeing to pay 80% of wages. This leaves the Church together with Catering and the Day Centre to fund the remaining 20% of costs until such a time as we reopen for business, a very much better position than we had feared.

Although we are closed for usual services and business, we do still have most of our usual commitments to meet.

The largest and most important expense are the three payments we make to each denomination which remain in place. For quarter 1 this amounted to £18243. In the past we have aimed to make this payment funded from the contributions made by the congregation. In quarter 1 this income only amounted to £14168 leaving a considerable shortfall. Our income source from room hire is obviously nil moving forward until we reopen our doors. I am grateful to those of you who pay monthly by standing order helping our reduced cashflow. For anyone who presently gives by cash on the collection plate, you may wish to consider starting a standing order from your bank account. For your information the details your bank will require is the Church sort code 30-96-12 and account number 02180482.

Moving forward, most of you will be aware that Lin and I will shortly move north to Yorkshire which has left a problem with control of the finances. I am happy to announce that Jane Stephens and Debbie Jones have offered to help with the bookkeeping and payment of bills. I know we will be leaving the finances in good hands.

Laurie Brown

Service of Membership and Confirmation



It was a great joy to hold a Service of Confirmation and Membership at The Cotteridge Church on Sunday 1st March. We had five candidates, from various backgrounds.

Confirmation is an opportunity to make again the baptism promises, that were often made on an individuals behalf by parents and godparents. Church Membership is also a deepening of our commitment to Christ and his Church. Our three churches have some different traditions with Confirmation and Membership but, here at The Cotteridge Church, it can all be done in the same service.



We used the three traditions of our churches. The Rt Revd David Urquhart, Bishop of Birmingham, was here to confirm following the tradition of the Church of England. Mike, although Anglican officially, represented the Methodist and URC churches in the act of confirmation. Finally, to follow URC tradition, Dorothy Audley took part as a URC Elder.

Vicky is well known to those who use The Cotteridge Church Café where she has been a volunteer for a while now. She's begun to get more involved in the life of the church and decided to be confirmed.

Bob was confirmed many years ago at St Agnes but has never been a member of the Cotteridge Church, but has now made that commitment.

Ollie, Kristina and Luka are from the Serbian Orthodox Church and have been confirmed in that tradition. They are now members of The Cotteridge Church in addition to the Serbian Orthodox tradition.

All of our candidates are, of course, now members of The Methodist Church, The Church of England, and the United Reformed Church.

It was a wonderful morning of celebration that seems so far, far away now. Prayers are with our new members and we look forward to all worshipping together soon.

Mike Claridge

And from Bob Burton:

Many thanks to Mike, and the other participants for a memorable and warm hearted occasion, which I felt privileged to attend.

One "slight grudge", however... Margaret had guided me through an uneventful breakfast by making me wear a "bib" to keep my new suit clean! When Mike gave me a lighted candle, I got wax on the suit!

I wasn't popular at home! Any ideas from anyone on how to remove wax from suits?

Bob Burton.

I am Grateful...



Being confined to my home makes me think about what I depend on for wellbeing, comfort and inspiration.

The list of people to whom I am most grateful must include

Tim Berners Lee

John Logie Baird

Alexander Graham Bell

Rudolf Diesel

Michael Faraday

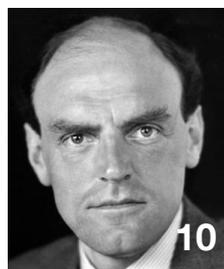
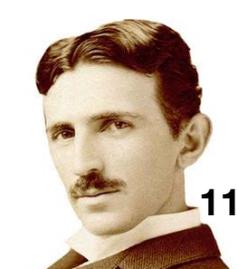
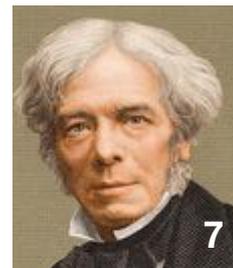
Nikola Tesla

Aneurin Bevan

John Reith

Humphrey Davy.

William Cullen 1756 & James Harrison 1856 (together)



There must be hundreds more.

Do you know who did what, and can you match the names to the pictures?

Answers later



Pollyanna.

When I was little I borrowed books from the local library every week. One which has been kept in memory ever since was Pollyanna, written by Eleanor Porter in around 1913

It is a story of an 11 year old orphan girl in America whose unfeeling aunt was reluctantly made to adopt her. Pollyanna, to escape her unhappiness, invented the Glad Game, where you had to find something really good in your life to enjoy and celebrate, no matter how bad you felt.

Our lockdown evokes more memories of this. I do NOT like being ordered around, and confined to my home, BUT I am so lucky to have a lovely home, with a garden, lots of friends, and plenty to eat - and, of course, a very affectionate cat.

And then again - why am I being forced to do this? To save my life! That should be motivation enough.

Can you share some Glad Game thoughts with us?

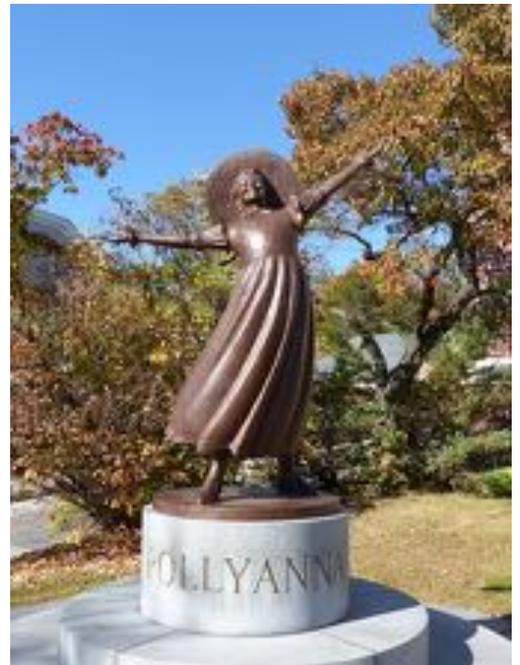
Celia Lester

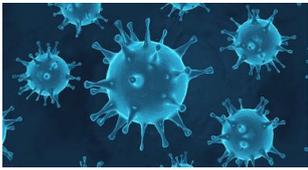
I am amazed at the wonderful community spirit which is around us now. There are lots of “funnies” and also messages of care, and offers of help. So many are going the extra mile.

Let's not forget Rapunzel was quarantined, and found her perfect husband!

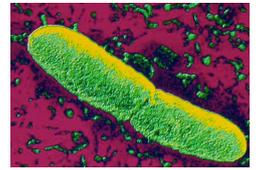
Neil Walters found this one on a pavement in West Heath

Followers of Yes Minister will enjoy this one
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qNjFIwRYEIo>





Covid 19/ Plague

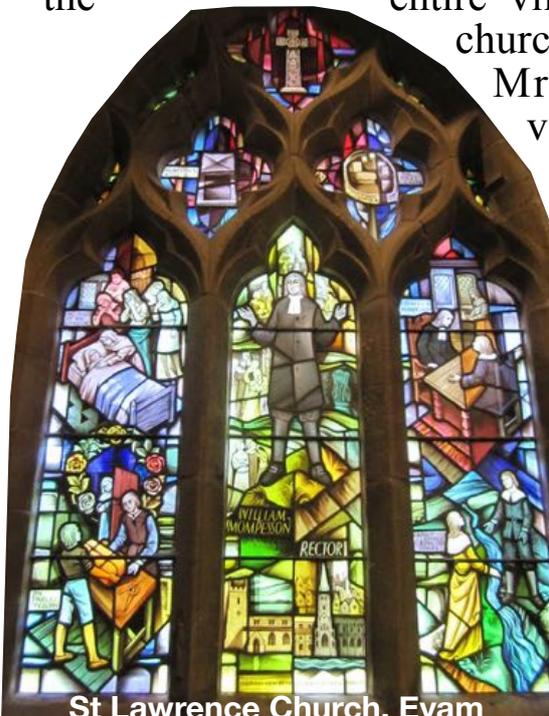


The plague is an infectious disease caused by a bacterium *Yersinia pestis*, and it still infects about 600 people annually, and if untreated usually causes death within one to six days. If treated quickly antibiotics can reduce the death rate to between 4% and 15%. The Black Death in the 14th & 17th centuries killed about 50 million people worldwide, when no effective treatment was known. During World War II the Japanese used it as a weapon against the Chinese. Both the USSR and the USA investigated using it as a weapon after WWII.

Covid 19 is a virus, and so does not respond to our antibiotics. It is related to the flu virus, which as we know mutates frequently to give us new varieties of flu each year. Viral infections can be considerably reduced by vaccination [Thank you Mr Jenner!], but it takes some time to produce these, and to generate them in quantity to arrest a new pathogen. So until we can be immunised, we are at risk from a new virus to the human race, and its effect and mutation patterns are not fully known, so we must be very careful not to spread it. It could simply mutate to a much less harmful form, as did the SARS virus some years ago, but we do not know how, if at all, it will mutate. It is to say the least very inconvenient to have our life styles in disarray and our economies in melt down, but it is very important that we follow the guidelines from the health experts.

However we must put this in context. I remember, many years ago now, taking a group of year 9 pupils to Eyam in Derbyshire - often known as the plague village - and we were all moved by the story. In 1665 a flea infested bundle of cloth arrived from London for the local tailor. Within a week, his assistant was dead, and others soon followed. As the disease spread, the villagers turned for leadership to their rector, the Reverend William Mompesson, and the Puritan minister Thomas Stanley. They introduced precautions to slow the spread of the illness from May 1666. The measures included the arrangement that families were to bury their own dead on their own land, and relocation of church services to the natural amphitheatre of Cucklett Delph, allowing villagers to separate themselves and so reducing the risk of infection. Perhaps the best-known decision was to quarantine the entire village to prevent further spread of the disease. The church in Eyam has a record of 273 individuals, including Mrs Mompesson, who were victims of the plague, from a population of perhaps 500.

They used the boundary stones all around the village to exchange food and money, the holes were filled with vinegar and the money was placed in these as they believed this would prevent the spread of the disease, and they could pay for the food brought in from other villages.



St Lawrence Church, Eyam



The Covid 19 outbreak has made me realise even more how great the sacrifice of those people in Eyam was, and how strong their faith must have been. They did succeed in containing the outbreak, and other surrounding villages were not affected.

Celia Lester.

Pentecost

The term **Pentecost** comes from the Greek Πεντηκοστή (Pentēkostē) meaning "fiftieth". It refers to the festival celebrated on the fiftieth day after Passover, also known as the "Feast of Weeks" and the "Feast of 50 days" in rabbinic tradition.

Pentecost. In the New Testament, it is the day that the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples of Jesus. The Holy Spirit is symbolised by flames, wind and a dove.

Today, in many Christian churches, Pentecost Sunday [31st May]. is celebrated to recognise the gift of the Holy Spirit, realising that God's very life, breath and energy live in believers. Pentecost marks the day that the Holy Spirit was given to the Christian Church shortly after the ascension of Christ into heaven.

Pentecost, which celebrates the moment that Jesus' apostles received the Holy Spirit.

The apostles were celebrating the Jewish harvest festival of Shavuot when the Holy Spirit descended on them. It sounded like a very strong wind, and it looked like tongues of fire. The apostles then found themselves speaking in foreign languages, inspired by the Holy Spirit. People passing by at first thought that they must be drunk, but the apostle Peter told the crowd that the apostles were full of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the third part of the Trinity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit that is the way Christians understand God.

It is also called Whitsun, but does not necessarily coincide with the Whitsun Bank Holiday in the UK.

Pentecost is regarded as the birthday of the Christian church, and the start of the church's mission to the world.

Celebrating Pentecost

Pentecost is a happy festival. Ministers in church often wear robes with red in the design as a symbol of the flames in which the Holy Spirit came to earth.

Hymns sung at Pentecost take the Holy Spirit as their theme, and include:

- *Come down O Love Divine*
- *Breathe on me breath of God*
- *There's a spirit in the air*
- *Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me*



St Maria Kirche
Kleve



The Cotteridge Church
Joint Church Council
Summary of Proceedings 18th February 2020

Key Decisions

1. The JCC approved a “Delegation of Authority’ for the Diocese to report Serious Safeguarding Incidents to the Charities Commission
2. The option to create two cupboards for Saplings Storage in the North-West and South-West corners of the Malvern Room was adopted
3. It was agreed that Food Ministry would manage Messy Church funds
4. The JCC agreed that the Church would fund a Kitchen Apprentice for a Year
5. The new Church Constitution was approved and sent forward to be approved by the Congregation at the AGM in April
6. A revised Disciplinary Procedure was approved by the meeting
7. A revised Age and Retirement Policy was approved by the JCC
8. The meeting approved a revised Whistleblowing Policy

Summary Proceedings

1. The JCC welcomed Marjorie Roper (Methodist Circuit Steward) to her first meeting
2. The Safeguarding Coordinator reported that there no relaxation of Safeguarding rules by the diocese and everyone is expected to retake their Safeguarding courses every three years
3. The Safeguarding Coordinator reported that all Serious Safeguarding Incidents now had to be reported to the Charities Commission via the diocese
4. The process for electing new JCC members at the April AGM was put into train, nominations to open 1st March and close 29th March
5. A discussion on how to boost the heat produced by the remaining radiators in the Malvern Room after four are removed to make way for the new Saplings Storage Cupboards was discussed and a test will be carried out by fitting fans to one radiator
6. It was noted that the Church had received a bequest from the late June Burton
7. The meeting re-enforced the agreement made with the Foodbank in September ’19 that the Foodbank Van, but only the Food Bank Van, could park on the front of the Church
8. It was noted that the new Hearing Loop was up and working in the Chapel

The next meeting of the Joint Church Council will be on Wednesday 18th March 2020 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 18th March 2020

Key Decisions

1. The JCC agreed to postpone the Church AGM
2. The JCC agreed to fund 50% of the wage costs of the CCDC, to be reviewed after two months
3. It was agreed that the coffee bar open whilst the government allowed, with half the volunteers
4. The JCC agreed to fund 50% of the wages of the Catering Services staff, to be reviewed in two months
5. It was agreed that Celia Lester should continue to produce the Roundabout during the Covid-19 Crisis
6. The meeting had to deny the Air Ambulance request for space to place a clothing donation bin at the front of the Church due to lack of space

Summary Proceedings

1. The Safeguarding Co-ordinator said that the face to face training at Lickey End had been postponed due to Covid-19
2. It was noted that both Saplings and Messy Church had been cancelled due to Covid 19
3. It was also noted that CCDC closed the day of the JCC due to Covid-19
4. Alex Woodhouse gave the meeting the financial position of the CCDC with a clearly thought out set of options on how it could be moth-balled until the end of the pandemic
5. The meeting discussed the future of the CCDC at length and decided on a holding position for two months
6. The meeting then discussed the position of Catering Services with regards to the pandemic, including using the kitchen to produce 50 to 60 meals a day in support of a Council initiative to feed local, vulnerable, people during the crisis
7. It was reported that the Foodbank was running an 'Argos' style system to ensure social distancing between volunteers and users, using pre-parcelled food
8. The Treasurer noted that Debbie Jones and Jane Stephens had volunteered to pay the Church's bills and keep the books up to date after he left the Church
9. Jane Stephens gave the meeting some ideas on how Holy Week and Easter could be celebrated during the pandemic
10. A frank discussion took place about the Foodbank and car park usage
11. The meeting discussed the Air Ambulance's request to place a bin at the front of the Church to receive donated clothing

The next meeting of the Joint Church Council will be on Thursday 25th April 2020 at 19:30.

This Summary is authorised by: Mike Claridge (Minister of the Cotteridge Joint Church Council)

JESUS DEFEATED

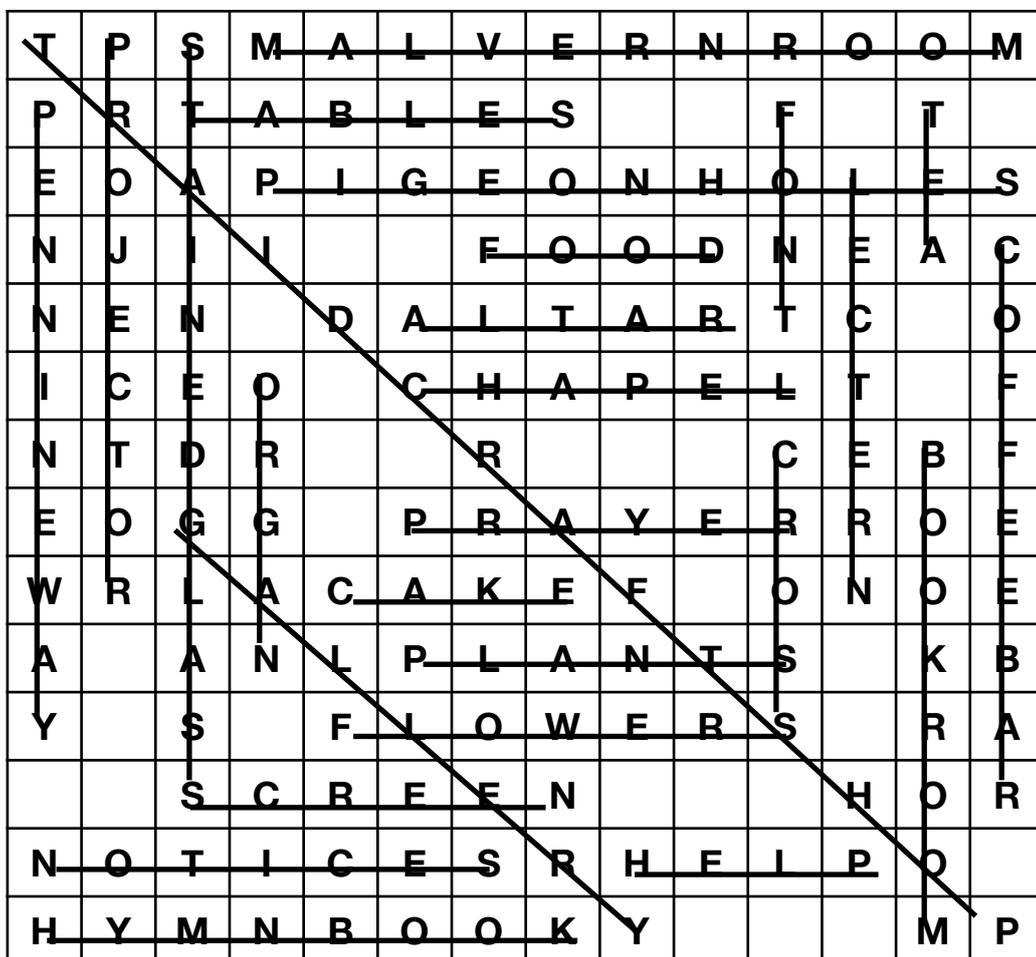
205 years ago on June 18th 1815 in Waterloo in Belgium, a French army controlled by Napoleon Bonaparte was defeated by the armies of the British led seventh coalition, under the command of the Duke of Wellington, and the Prussians led by Field Marshall Blücher, thus marking the end of the Napoleonic wars.

It is said that on that day, a man stood in the tower of Winchester Cathedral, gazing out to sea. Eventually he found what he was looking for - a ship sending signals using flashing lights. He strained to see its message. England was awaiting the news.

The signal came as a heavy fog rolled in, and he read "Wellington defeated", a message which brought great gloom and sadness. But then the fog lifted, and the message came again - this time in full "Wellington defeated Napoleon". The gloom was replaced by joy and thanksgiving.

On Good Friday our message seemed to be "Jesus defeated"
But by Easter Sunday, it became "JESUS DEFEATED DEATH!"
Always read the whole message!

Wordsearch Answers to the puzzle in the March edition.



Wet days at Junior School

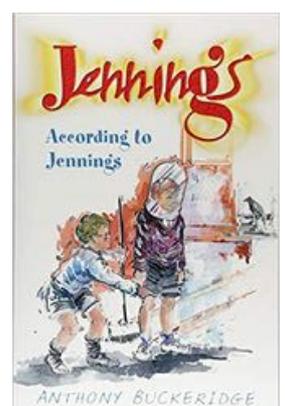
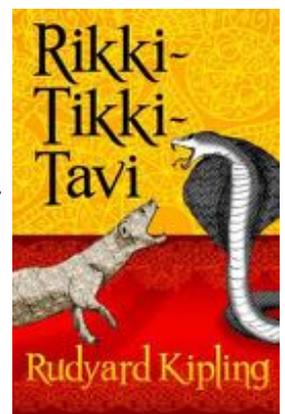
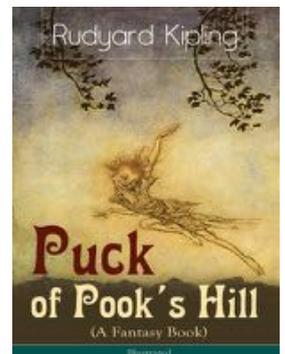
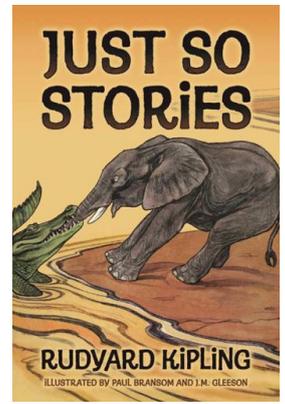
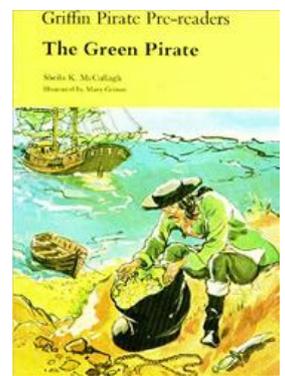
I was a late reader, my mother (an avid reader herself) was getting quite frantic about my inability to read and was only slightly ameliorated by my class teacher, Mrs Murphy, who said I would, once I found something I was interested in. I did; I don't remember what textbooks we were using up to then, but we advanced to four books, colour coded, about pirates. The Green Pirate book was my favourite. That set me off reading, although I wasn't then and am not now a fast reader, my dyslexia forces me to have to read every paragraph two to three times to ensure I understand it. I was very keen on Rudyard Kipling, the 'Just So stories', 'Puck of Pook's Hill' and the splendid 'Rikki-Tikki-Tavi'. I even formed a Rikki-Tikki-Tavi club amongst my school friends, they didn't dare say no, I was always in charge.

On wet days when we couldn't go outside at playtimes, we were allowed to select something to read from a vast array of literature at the back of the classroom. I say literature, but some of the things available to us were American super-hero comics. I vividly remember some volumes of the X-Men comic, which had a certain fascination to me, as my mother only allowed me to read the 'Treasure' at home, an educational publication full of interesting knowledge. I remember being very envious of my friends who were allowed to buy 'The Beano', that was until someone lent me a copy and after reading it from cover to cover, I was glad I had my 'Treasure' every week. I came to the same conclusion on American Superheroes, which is why I am saddened by the output of Hollywood these days.

Then one wet day I selected a book from the back of the class and after a few minutes I was gripped and avidly reading it, I found it so funny that I was told off for laughing out loud. That book was 'According to Jennings' by Anthony Buckeridge, I was hooked, I spent all my pocket money on 'Jennings' books. Every one was a gem; I remember in our craft lessons I tried to build a model of Linbury Court Preparatory School, much to my friends' dismay as they were roped into help.

Anthony Buckeridge is unfortunately no longer with us, but he was writing new Jennings novels until the mid-nineties. One of his biggest fans was J.K. Rowling, who has acknowledged his influence over her Harry Potter novels. Buckeridge has been likened to P.G. Wodehouse for his comic genius. I can only suggest you track down some of the books and spend an entertaining and uproarious few hours in the company of J.C.T. Jennings and C.E.J. Darbishire. If you can't find the books, "Audible" provide several of them as unabridged Audio Novels.

Oh, and as a postscript, while researching this piece I found out that the child actor playing Jennings in the late fifties' TV series, John Mitchel, later became Mitch Mitchel, the drummer with the Jimi Hendrix Experience.



Neil Walters

Life without B.B.

On Monday 16th March this year, The Boys' Brigade decided to stop meeting until further notice due to Covid-19. The idea of not going to something that has been part of my life for over 25 years was not only a hard hit to take, but has shown me the severity of the damage Covid-19 could do. Since then, we have gone into a lockdown state, where our loved ones are now seen through a video and technology has given us many different ways to communicate. It is great that as leaders, we are able to communicate this way and of course with social media, we are able to also reach out to our community.



It has been hard to look to seek positives during this time. Our annual weekend away to Peckwood and Quiz cancelled, boys not achieving awards and the difficult task of returning to a form of normality when this has passed. Yet, these things can be done at a later date, and can always happen another time. The thing that is still getting me is the regularity of a Friday night helping young people.



I could express the realisation that as a teacher, we aren't just there to educate. When I was younger, B.B. wasn't just an education, it was a way of life. I never saw it as my education but not only as a safe place to go, but an escape to do something different. I can only assume that our young people are like us, feeling the frustration of not being able to come along.

I guess the real take home message from this is that as leaders we are missing B.B, and our young people. We want all associated with our company, whether this be the church, parents, young people and other companies that we are thinking of you all during this time. We are here for all and welcome messages to let us know what everyone is doing during this time. And as a positive, to look forward to times to come and to reunite soon in celebration of our return.

I leave you with something Bob says in his prayer every Friday night. While we all listen to it, it is only recently I have valued it more.

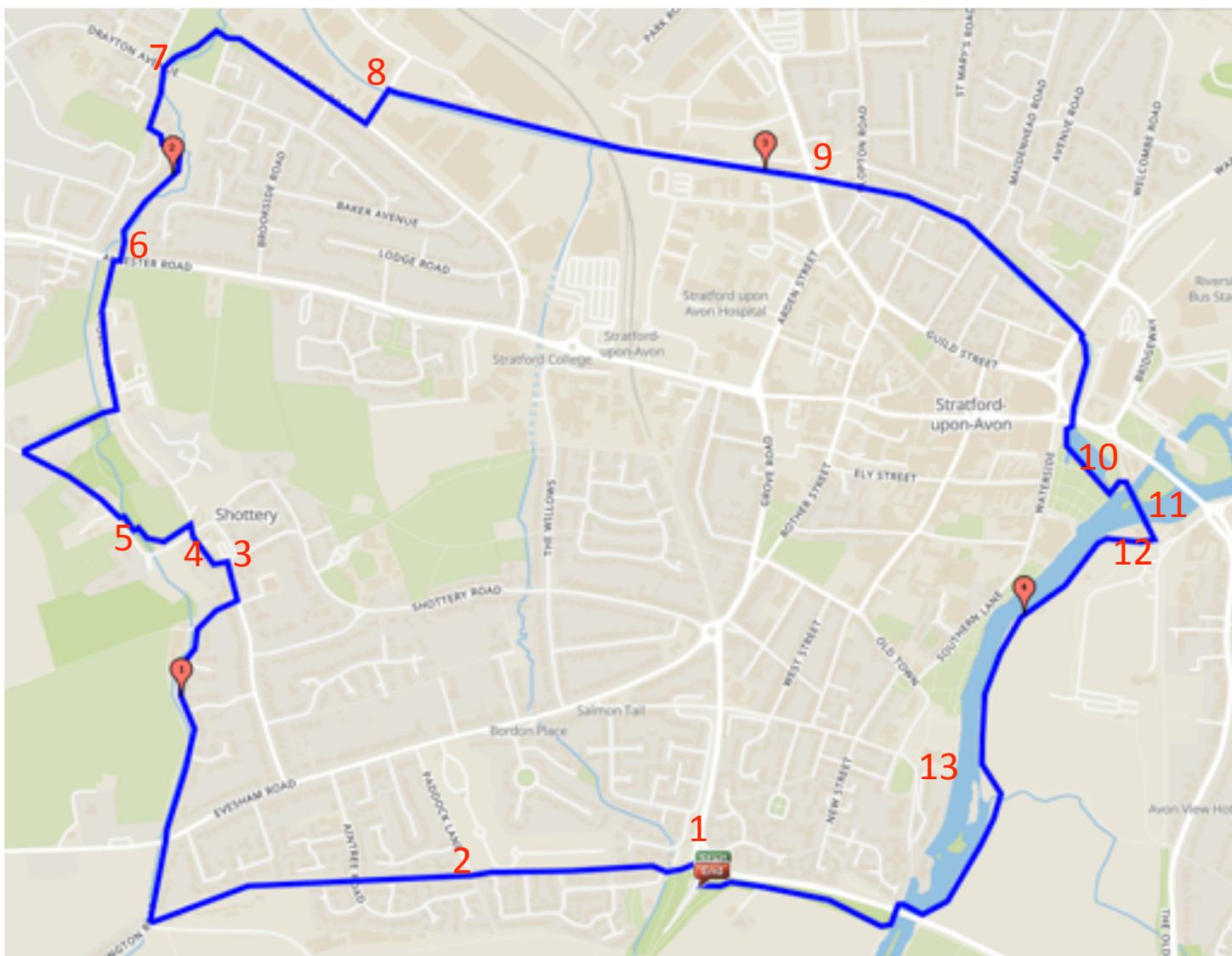
“...and in the weeks ahead, keeps us Sure and Steadfast in all we do!

Ian Sherwin

STRATFORD PERIMETER WALK:

Planned for March, this walk must, for the time being, be a virtual walk, but remember it for a real experience later. The last page will help make virtuality real!

Like a number of towns we can get used to visiting the centres and iconic tourist spots, and that's all well and good, but sometimes you get a lot more out of your visit and understand the layout of the town better if you follow a circular trail a bit further out. Usually the path is firm underfoot, you're never far from a bus route, and I find it links up interesting places that you otherwise might never visit. I like this loop around Stratford. It uses a bit of canal, a former horse-drawn tramway, calls by the racecourse and the Greenway, and links it all up with the town centre.



Start by parking at the entrance of the **Greenway** [1]. I think parking is free but I need to check. If anyone knows better please tell me. We are not going along the Greenway this time but if you want to explore and give yourself more time then you find a level, linear, former railway route with a cafe reusing former railway carriages at both ends.

For this walk head go back to the parking entrance and face the traffic island. Go left to a pedestrian crossing with traffic lights. Cross the road and go west along the straight and level route of the former tramway. This is now a car-free cycle / walkway, bordered on your rhs with a high wall. The other side of the wall is a cemetery. Follow the tramway along level tarmac, cross **Paddock Lane** [2] and continue straight, eventually to reach the entrance of the racecourse.

They still organise race days here but they also put on shows such as food festivals or antique markets, mostly in the summer.

Bear right around the corner and follow **Luddington Rd** away from the racecourse entrance and walk a hundred meters or so to reach the **Evesham Rd**. This can carry fast traffic and there is no pedestrian crossing nearby so cross with care. Directly opposite there is a footpath along a gully bordered by a little stream, Shottery Brook. Follow the stream for a while along the gully to Hogarth Rd, a small (new) housing estate. Keep by the brook to reach a garden nursery where you have to turn right up a lane. Go past a nursery school (no pun intended) to **Hathaway Lane** then go left along the pavement past the front of the school built in Victorian council style to **reach Shottery Green**. The Bell Inn [3] is on the junction if you want to make a stop. Go to the left of the pub and continue straight to reach the junction of Cottage Lane and Bell Lane. Cross straight over then turn immediately left to follow a new pedestrian footpath to reach Ann Hathaway's cottage [4] & a cafe. Continue straight on with the cottage on your lhs. You soon find a narrow pedestrian walkway [5] on your right leading back over Shottery Brook and up to **Church Lane**. Turn left to reach the **Alcester Rd**.

A second gully [6] can be seen opposite between the houses. If it is dry use the gully and it leads you to a green walkway again following the brook, but it can be muddy when wet. If you want to stay dry underfoot you can skirt round using Sidelands Rd ahead on the left, then take the first right [Heather Close]. If you used the brook walkway you can go to the end then exit left through a passageway between some houses onto an estate road. The gully continues ahead and to your right. Cross **Drayton Ave** [7] with the brook on your rhs and follow the green corridor ahead to a children's play area. Go right crossing the brook over a pedestrian bridge. Walk straight ahead along **Masons Rd** lined with business factory premises, including Pashley Cycles. Turn left into Timothy Bridge road [8] then go immediately right and take a little footpath down to the canal towpath. This is the **B'ham-Stratford canal**. Turn left and follow it for about half a mile with the canal on your rhs to reach the A34 B'ham Road [9]. The town centre is to your right, and if you want to walk the town please do, but if you want to further explore continue following the canal for another mile all the way to the end. You will note all the locks go down. They have been going down all the way from the start of the canal in Kings Norton where it joins the Worcs-B'ham canal.

At **Bancroft basin** [10] the canal has one last lock that allow boats to access the R Avon and on to the R Severn. At the final lock take the bridge left to cross the canal, go past the fire service memorial set in stone under your feet, go right along the pedestrian tramway bridge [11] to cross the river, then turn right to follow the river downstream [12]. Walk past the bandstand and past the little ferry. The church of Holy Trinity [13] is on the far bank where Shakespeare is buried by the high altar. Keep by the river and go past and a weir to reach a pedestrian bridge parallel with the by-pass. Use the bridge to re-cross the R Avon, and when you reach a pedestrian walkway turn left under the by-pass to follow a pleasant walkway for a few minutes back to the **Greenway** car park.

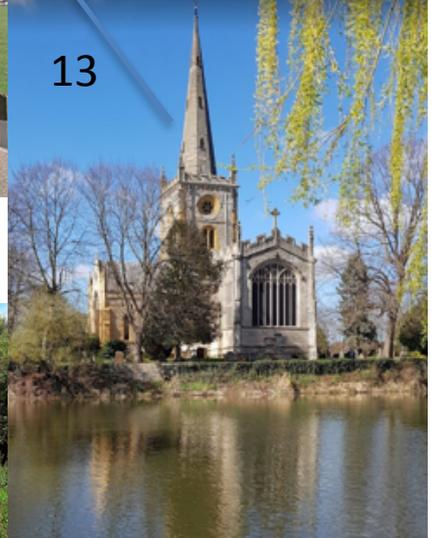
4.7 miles, two-three hours.

Gmaps pedometer URL <http://www.gmap-pedometer.com/?r=7453588>

Clicking on this gives the map shown at the start.

Peter Childs

March 2020



Call for ‘Chaplaincy’ Volunteers

During the current pandemic, people are in need of spiritual and/or pastoral support and are not associated with a place of worship, they may approach Birmingham Council of Faiths for signposting to a place of worship. Under the current extreme circumstances, it may sometimes be difficult to put a person in touch with an appropriate place of worship, so we are planning to have a number of ‘chaplaincy’ volunteers of different faiths to assist in these situations. We may also need chaplaincy volunteers for the new Nightingale Hospital. This will be assessed once the hospital becomes operational. Please contact me if you would like to volunteer for these roles at pjrookes@gmail.com or text 077033 36088.



Prof Justin Varney, Director of Public Health and Brian Carr, CEO of Birmingham Voluntary Services Council, discussed our response to Covid 19 on our Connecting Communities programme on Unity FM Radio 93.5, co-hosted by Mahmooda Qureshi and Dr Peter Rookes. If you weren't able to listen to the programme, you can access part 1 and 2 on these links:-

www.mixcloud.com/UnityFM/connecting-communities-talking-coronavirus/
www.mixcloud.com/UnityFM/connecting-communities-talking-coronavirus-part-2/

The next programme was broadcast on at 4.00pm on Mon 13th April, when we be discussed Rough Sleepers with Councillor John Cotton (Cabinet Member), Harpal Bath (Birmingham Voluntary Services Council), and Steve Philpott (Birmingham City Council).

SFI (Strengthening Faith Institutions) - Helpline for Faith Institutions during Covid-19
The helpline will be staffed with expert consultants from 1-7pm every day of the week. The helpline will provide up-to- date advice for faith centres on financial concerns, health and safety issues, gift-aid, online safeguarding, tech support for online engagement, legal advice, and other issues of concern during this crisis.

Any faith centre manager, trustee, volunteer, or clergy from every faith is welcome to call the helpline at 0333 772 1989.

Funeral Arrangements for different faiths (provided by Faith Action)

The coronavirus pandemic is something which has affected all areas of society and individual life. FaithAction have a page dedicated to providing you with the most up to date advice about the pandemic, alongside specific advice for your faith group. You can visit this page by clicking [here](#).

Sadly, one area of focus at the moment has to be how it has changed the way that funerals and burials are carried out in the UK. Here is a brief summary of the current recommendations for major faith groups:

Sikhism: Taken from [City Sikhs](#)

- Some Gurdwaras have now decided not to allow the casket to come to the Gurdwara before going to the crematorium due to the risk of spreading.
- Only immediate family should attend a funeral at the crematorium, limited to no more than 2 people who have not been in physical contact with the deceased for at least 14 days.

- People over the age of 70, other vulnerable people and pregnant women should think carefully before going to a funeral.

Hinduism: Taken from [Hindu Forum of Britain](#)

- Only small groups of family friends and between ages 20 and 50 can attend.
- Bodies of the deceased cannot be brought home. Perform last rites at crematorium and there should be no embalming or dressing of the deceased (if dressing does happen then care and protective gear to be worn).
- Distribution of prayer/hymn sheets has been stopped, instead issue prayers and mantra can be recited over social media prior to a funeral.
- All Vedic rituals after the death must be done with care and following government guidelines

Islam: Taken from [BBSI](#) and [BIMA](#)

- Ghusl may be carried out if the adequate PPE is used: full sleeve plastic gown, gloves, fluid resistant surgical mask and visor. Proper training is required, as without proper training in putting on and removing PPE, the performer of ghusl puts themselves at risk of infection.
- The body bag may be considered to fulfil the role of the burial shroud.
- Funeral prayers should be performed by a minimum of people; alternatives include the absentee funeral prayer. Attendance at funerals should be within recommended guidance from government.
- Cremation must be avoided at all costs.

Judaism: Taken from [United Synagogue](#)

- Funerals are limited to immediate family only. A minyan is not required, funerals can be live streamed. All funerals to be held outside and mourners to stand apart.
- Mourners must sit shiva in their own homes – no shiva visits can take place.
- All stone setting ceremonies are postponed.
- Where possible, with the facilitation of a family member or friend, end-of-life prayers should be said over the phone with the Rabbi.

Church of England: Taken from [Church of England](#)

- Funerals now consist of a short service at the crematorium, with or without a very small congregation, which may only include spouse/partner, parents, and children of the deceased, or a short service at the graveside, under the same conditions.
- Social distancing measures should be observed for those attending the funeral in person.
- No wake or gathering should be held.

Roman Catholicism: Taken from [Diocese of Leeds](#)

- The funeral service should take place at the graveside or at a crematorium, subject to the conditions laid down by the cemetery or crematorium authorities.
- Funeral services at the cemetery or crematorium should not be conducted by priests or deacons over 70 years of age or whose underlying health conditions make them more vulnerable to the risks of contracting Covid-19
- Arrangements should be made for a Mass to be celebrated in memoriam at a time in due course when congregations are allowed to gather.

Information from Dr Peter Rookes

Dr Peter Rookes is involved with interfaith, medical and many other social organisations, and has asked that the very important and useful information offered by these organisations listed below be made available to anyone who might need it. He is also willing for you to contact him [pjrookes@gmail.com] if you have problems accessing the information given



the centre for **voluntary action**



1. The Birmingham Voluntary Service Council, a non-profit organisation run from Digbeth is extremely busy these days, despite closing their premises temporarily, and has much useful information to help volunteers in all areas especially concerning health and safety during the Covid-19 crisis.
2. Their website is <https://www.bvsc.org>
3. Volunteer guidelines were updated on 25 March 2020, to include amendments for the Covid-19 outbreak. click on the link below to download as pdf.

BVSC Volunteer guidelines

Together we'll get through this!

This organisation, part of BVSC, enables support for people with many different needs:



<https://updatebrum.co.uk/c19supportbrum/brums-voluntary-sector-virus-response-off-to-a-flying-start/>

It gives details of many different social, care and health organisations operating within the city

Download a pdf by clicking the link

#C19SupportBrum Thematic Leads

1. This organisation is part of a national Healthwatch which champions health and social care.
2. Covid-19 updates have been made, which could affect anyone with a medical condition which is regularly assessed, or is being treated in medical practices and hospitals or is in receipt of social care.
3. Their web address is <https://healthwatchbirmingham.co.uk>
4. You can download their Covid-19 updates as a pdf by clicking the link
Covid-19 update - 2 April 2020



NHS Birmingham & Solihull has produced guidelines on help with issues of death, dying and bereavement during the Covid-19 outbreak.

Obviously we hope that they will not be needed, but they could be very helpful if such an event should occur.

You can download this as a pdf document by clicking the link

B Sol Public Covid Death, Dying & Bereavement Resource

Services for May and June - Covid permitting!

| | 3rd May | 10th May | 17th May | 24nd May | 31st May |
|------------|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 9.00 am HC | Revd M. Claridge | Revd R. Claridge | Revd M. Claridge | Revd R. Collins | Revd R. Collins |
| 10:30 am | Miss Sue Spencer | Revd M. Claridge HC | Mr John Cooper Christian Aid | Revd R. Collins HC | Life & Soul |
| 6:30 pm | Revd M. Claridge HC | Café Church | Revd R. Collins HC. | Miss Hazel Nash | Revd M. Claridge HC |
| | 7th June | 14th June | 21st June | 28th June | |
| 9.00 am HC | Revd M. Claridge | Revd R. Collins | Revd R. Collins | Revd M. Claridge | |
| 10:30 am | Revd M. Claridge P | Revd R. Collins HC | Revd L. Dixon | Revd M. Claridge HC | |
| 6:30 pm | Revd M. Claridge Choir | Revd M. Claridge HC | Revd R. Collins HC | PNP at 7.30 pm | |

Service types: HC - Holy Communion P - Parade PNP Political Night Prayer
 denotes Young Church CM Confirmation & Membership

Communion Services are held each week at 10.00 am on Tuesdays

I am Grateful...

Answers.

| Name | Photo | What he did |
|-----------------------|-------|-------------------------------------|
| Tim Berners Lee | 9 | Invented the world wide web |
| John Logie Baird | 1 | Invented TV |
| Alexander Graham Bell | 2 | Invented telephone |
| Rudolf Diesel | 6 | Invented diesel engine |
| Michael Faraday | 7 | Invented electric motor |
| Nikola Tesla | 11 | Enabled AC electricity distribution |
| Aneurin Bevan | 3 | Founded the NHS |
| John Reith | 10 | Founded the BBC |
| Humphrey Davy | 5 | Invented the electric light |
| William Cullen [1756] | 4 | Made the first ice |
| James Harrison [1856] | 8 | From this developed refrigerators |



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 25th June 2020 .
to roundabout@thecotteridgechurch.org.uk

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Instagram [the_cotteridge_church](https://www.instagram.com/the_cotteridge_church)

The Cotteridge Church: Registered Charity No 1143091

Marcés Mailing

March 2020



"Have I not commanded you?
Be strong and courageous.
Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged,
for the LORD your God will be with you
wherever you go."
(Joshua 1:9)



Please pray for:

Juan Carlos & Penny: leading Jesús el Nazareno
Juan Carlos: Responsibilities in J el Nazareno and Diocese
Penny: Responsibilities in J el N and Children's Ministry
Bishop Jorge Luis: wisdom in leading the Diocese
Jesús El Nazareno: for a desire to grow in the Lord
Country of Peru: economic stability in the current crisis;
temporary Congress (Mar 2020 – July 2021)

Juan Carlos & Penny Marcés Reynaldo Morón 215,
Urb. Vista Alegre, Surco, LIMA 33, PERU
Tel.+51-1- 448 - 8264. Email: psmarcesinlima@gmail.com
Letter sent by: Mrs Alison Everness (Penny's sister-in-law),
23 Glebe Road, Dorking, Surrey RH4 3DS (01306-882817)

Dear friends

This verse from Joshua was the theme verse for our **children's Bible Holiday activity** last month, (although the stories were from Daniel); we pray that at this time the children who learnt to sing it so gustily will remember how wonderful it is to know that God does not desert us. Here



in Peru, where **Coronavirus** still has a low incidence, the policy has been to declare a state of emergency and put us all in “obligatory social isolation” which means that apart from buying food or medicines or going to a Bank we are to “stay at home”. Police and army are authorised to stop and question anyone, and yesterday (the second

day of the 14 day isolation) they arrested several people not obeying the decree. Today measures have become stricter and there will now be a curfew 8pm to 5am. “Staying at home” means in practice that some of us can tackle sorting out accumulated “stuff”, etc, but for those who live on a day-to-day basis it is a real challenge. The government has announced handouts of a small but helpful amount of money to 3 million families identified as the neediest; the government calculates this covers 9 million people,(about 30% of the population); almost all being considered are in urban rather than rural areas. Lists of those to receive the handout will be published in the next 2 days; payments will be made about next Monday. The lists will be online, so it may be a challenge for some people to discover whether or not they are included.

One example of a family greatly affected is that of Jenny, whose house was totally destroyed by fire last year; they have, with a loan, rebuilt (in fact, built a better house than they had - photo) BUT the loan needs to be repaid and S/.380 is designed to cover basic costs not pay off debts....



Returning to the happier moments of the summer holiday club, it was a good time with a significant number of new children. The closing session took the form of **Messy Church**; with over 50 children and over 20 adults the upstairs room where we did the activities and the Church service downstairs afterwards were both full. Favourite activity was painting stones; one mum had no less than 4 stones and when asked “Why?” she explained that she had helped her 2 little boys (fair enough), and done TWO for herself.... She told me a few days later that she loves the stones – she



uses one to grind the garlic for cooking. Maybe I should reinterpret “salt of the world”.... (I imagine she uses the side that is NOT painted!).



Some of the new children began to attend Sunday School, but then the health situation intervened and has affected not only Sunday School but also our intention to start the **mums and babies** group. However, we are ready to start whenever we can, with lots of lovely clean toys.... We

will register 15 people in advance (otherwise we will be overwhelmed) so please pray that the right people are selected. Two of those who will definitely be invited are Santiago and Emilia (photo), born to Idu (and Santiago) and Diana (and Leo) respectively.

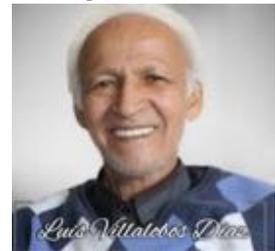


The **Diocesan Children's ministry** has been blessed with a gift to be used specifically for the purchase of Bibles for use with the children in the churches. It will be great to be able to use Bibles with the children rather than simply telling them the stories.



The Diocese of Peru held **training weeks** in Lima and Arequipa a few weeks ago, with the aim of helping in an understanding of what it means to be Anglican, with a definite emphasis on biblical roots. After the week in Arequipa Juan Carlos stayed on in the region in order to oversee

some of the changes taking place there; please pray for people as they adjust. Further discussions may have taken place during the **Synod**, due last weekend – but this has been postponed, probably until September. In Lima we missed the smile of Pastor Luis Villalobos, who died hours before the New Year started, to the sound of fireworks; the Bishop commented that he wanted to make sure his entry to heaven was well celebrated, and his funeral was certainly a testimony to the certainty of his hope in eternal life.



As for the **family**, we were VERY grateful that Jonny's return ticket from Indonesia (where he had been participating in a competition in



International Humanitarian Law; his Uni team got to the semi-final) enabled him to be back 24 hours before flights from Europe to Peru were stopped, and equally grateful that Lizi had moved from Barcelona to Leeds. Unsurprisingly, we are amongst the many now using WhatsApp etc to keep in touch – both with the family and indeed with the Church although not everyone has a phone let alone WhatsApp.



- children's holiday Bible activity
- Messy Church (both December and Feb)
- safe arrival of babies Santiago & Emilia
- Growing relationships with parents of children in the area

Please pray.....



**Weekly activities in
Jesús el Nazareno**

Sun: 4.30pm Sunday School

6.30 pm service

Tues: 7.30pm Bible Study

Thurs: 7.30pm prayer meeting

Specific dates (tbc)

10 April: Messy Church

April: second MOCLAM course

May: extended visit by

General prayer requests

- Coronavirus emergency: health, and economic stability especially for those who work for daily wages and for those whose income will be reduced because others no longer have the means to buy
- Mums' and tots' group; Penny & Sarah (leaders), Diana (helper)
- Sunday School: Palmira & Penny; for more helpers
- Bible Study: Ephesians
- Plans at some point to start something for women (not necessarily from Church)
- Lunches for Senior Citizens(70+) in El Nazareno
- Changes in the Anglican Church in the south of Peru
- Becky (Leeds), Jonny (Lima), Lizi (Leeds)

Thank you for your fellowship with us; you too are part of what happens in Jesús el Nazareno, in the Anglican Church in Peru, and in Peru, . Please keep in contact, by email or WhatsApp at +51-942612987

God bless you, now and always

Juan Carlos & Penny