

# Roundabout



**The Cotteridge Church**

**Witnessing at the Heart of the Community**

**September 2020**

# Mike's message .....

## Harvest!

September is upon us and with it comes the season for Harvest Festivals. At Cotteridge we have 4th October pencilled in, so we'll see what happens.

There's no set date for Harvest Festival. That's logical, as Harvest time as an agricultural event varies depending on where you are in the country. Originally Harvest Festival would have been spontaneous, as soon as the final crops were gathered in, and that would depend on the weather.

I say 'originally' but Harvest Festival is a surprisingly modern invention. It was only in the mid-19th Century that the celebration started being held in church buildings. Prior to that each farm or family would have had a Harvest Home celebration. Some in rural communities still do. But doesn't mean that there wasn't a thanksgiving in the church's life for the fruits of creation. There was a much older festival known as Lammas Day, at the beginning of August, when a loaf made from the first wheat of the harvest was used as the Communion bread. The origins of Lammas Day seem to stretch back to the reign of King Alfred the Great (849 - 899), who, although he founded many churches and monastic foundations, is chiefly remembered for overcooking some of the harvest produce!

Elsewhere in the world Harvest Festivals are celebrated according to local traditions. In Judaism Pentecost (which later gave its name to a Christian festival too) is a Harvest Festival. In Jesus' day the first fruits of corn were presented in the Temple (Deuteronomy 16 .9). It was held fifty days after Passover, hence its name.

Other faiths have their Harvest Festivals too. Within Christianity there is a wide spread of tradition. Perhaps it is the USA that harvest has its biggest celebration. 'Thanksgiving Day', on the fourth Thursday in November, has its origins in the harvest celebrations, and of God's wider provision.

At Harvest Festival we are reminded of how we are dependant on the good things that the earth produces and our duty to share them responsibly with those in need. Let us give thanks for the Harvest as we proclaim:

*All good gifts around us, are sent from heaven above;  
then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord, for all his love.*

(from a hymn translated by Jane Campbell from the original German of Matthias Claudius)



## Friends & Family

During these unfamiliar times, we are especially grateful for our friends and families, even if meetings have to be held via the internet, or at a “social distance”. My granddaughters give me a virtual hug whenever we see each other! Thank you to all our faithful church members who have continued and expanded their rôles to look after our church - members and buildings - and continue to maintain contact with our outreach groups. I am sure we all appreciate their service.

We are sad to record the deaths of two more of our members, and send our sympathy and best wishes to their families and friends

Gloria Foulkes died at home, surrounded by her family, on Thursday 2nd July. Together with her family she spent her last evening reading the bible, singing hymns and playing favourite music. The family says she was at peace, although in a lot of pain, and has now gone to be with the Lord. As we give thanks for Gloria's life we pray for her husband Hugh and the family.

June Morris died in St Mary's Hospice on Wednesday 15th July. Her funeral, for family members only, was held on 30th July.

Two of our long serving members have now left us for a life in Yorkshire. Lin & Laurie Brown have completed their move after numerous delays. We hope all went successfully and without too much stress, and send them our very best wishes [electronically!] as they begin their new life. We also thank them for their friendship and their many years of service to our church., and hope that we shall, perhaps, see them here again occasionally.

Laurie attended St Agnes Cotteridge as a teenager when his Uncle, Roy Bookstein was vicar before it became part of The Cotteridge Church. He served as Church Warden twice, treasurer twice, on JCC numerous times and since retiring from full time work served as Safeguarding Officer, Treasurer again and Church Warden again. Always an avid supporter of Christian Aid, Laurie collected in many roads, with help from Chris as a small boy, and then later together with Lin's help organised the annual House to House Collection incorporating the collections from St Helen's and St Joseph's and the Cotteridge Quakers. One of his more enjoyable roles was with a small and happy band of handy men and woman upkeeping, repairing, refurbishing and fixing the church premises. Lin joined The Cotteridge Church in 1986 and remembers when asked by Win Harris, refusing to join the PCC! Whilst on maternity leave she became Treasurer to the Day Centre and led a ladies Bible Study Group. Later she took over the flower rota, became Church Warden, made all the church bank payments for Doug Hincks when he became Church Treasurer and took over collating and claiming the Gift Aid. Serving twice on JCC, she eventually did the church bookkeeping for Laurie when he became Treasurer again. Both being occupied on the Coffee Bar at different times worked in favour of marital harmony. Supporting the work organised at the Christmas Fairs was always an important role, Laurie counting and banking the cash and Lin leaving behind games such as Splat!, Mugs Game, Lollies and Snowballs at Santa. Her needlecraft skills legacy being the Remembrance banner along with the church floral decorations for Easter, Harvest Christmas and the occasional wedding.

*They have sent us the following piece for our magazine.*

## From Cotteridge to Thorpe Willoughby

It has for everyone been a very strange eight months but for us putting our house up for sale was an unexpected decision we had not planned on as the New Year 2020 began. It was always part of the plan that we would in due course follow Chris and Caroline wherever they pitched up and researching areas in which they were showing an interest whetted our appetite. Within days we had found three houses that fitted our wish list and as Storm Dennis arrived, we were braving the weather on the M1 to check out the area. The new development



being built in Thorpe Willoughby North Yorkshire caught our eye and the house “Buttermere” ticked almost every box on our wish list. After some further research on the area we made the momentous decision to go for it! On our return from Yorkshire our house went on the market and sold within 36 hours, sadly the people who put in the first offer didn’t sell their own property quickly enough but with three serious offers on the table

we accepted an offer from another couple...then Covid-19 kicked in. Everything came to a grinding halt and house moves were along with everything else suspended. When the restrictions were eventually lifted and we were about to exchange contracts our buyers notified us that they had become seriously ill and pulled out of the purchase. Being back on the market and showing folk around our home was a strange experience as we like everyone else had had no visitors in their home for months. Lucky for us our very first purchasers sold their property and the move was back on. We were also by now allowed to visit our prospective home in Yorkshire again and found it to still be “the one”.

They do say that moving house is one of the most stressful of life events, but all this happened with the added trauma of Covid which has impacted hugely on everyone but for us meant Lin’s retirement from St Peter’s Saltley Trust where she’d been

Bursar for 13 years, Chris and Caroline’s wedding planned for April; the pilgrimage to the Passion Play at Oberammergau a trip we’d been planning for ten years, were all postponed.

Following the normal arduous legal procedures, we completed on 11<sup>th</sup> August and moved into our dream home overlooking fields in the rural area of Thorpe Willoughby. Leaving Cotteridge, our family, friends and neighbours has been an emotional



experience. Leaving the church family, a huge wrench too. The Cotteridge Church has been a huge part of our lives and we shall be lucky to find a church where the fellowship and lasting friendships made will be repeated.

We are both extremely grateful to those who have stepped up and taken on the roles we have relinquished although Lin will continue to collate and claim the Gift Aid data until the Parish Giving Scheme run by Gloucester Diocese takes over or the end of 2020 whichever comes first.

Currently settling into the new house, Laurie has become the Cupboard King and Lin is busy unpacking the 90 odd boxes and filling those new cupboards. The view from the back of the house over looks Brayton Barff a nature reserve and whilst setting up Lin's sewing/art/playroom (no longer called the office) a farmer was seen harvesting his crop. One morning a young rider was being put through her paces in the ménage at the bottom of the back garden which is why supposedly the house is in Farrier Close (Joan Clayton would approve). Not views to be had every day in Cotteridge!

We are looking forward to a retirement exploring the Yorkshire Wolds, Dales and Moors the east coast, Whitby, Flamborough Head and Robin Hoods Bay especially. With Chris and Caroline nearby as Chris takes up his new post with Humberside Police in September there will be plenty to keep us occupied.

This is not "Goodbye" but Au Revoir as we shall be back visiting. The pull of friends and family being too great for you to never see us again and if you are in the area of Thorpe Willoughby, please do get in touch.

It goes without saying, but we will miss you ...

Lin and Laurie

### Provisional Services for September and October

Please note that these services will take place ONLY when Government restrictions have been lifted sufficiently.

	<b>6th September</b>	<b>13th September</b>	<b>20th September</b>	<b>27th September</b>
<b>9.00 am HC</b>	No service	No service	No service	No service
<b>10:30 am</b>	Revd M. Claridge	Revd M. Claridge	Revd R. Collins	Revd M. Claridge HC
<b>6:30 pm</b>	No service	No service	No service	No service
	<b>4th October</b>	<b>11th October</b>	<b>18th October</b>	<b>25th October</b>
<b>9.00 am HC</b>	No service	No service	No service	No service
<b>10:30 am</b>	Revd M. Claridge	Revd M. Claridge HC	Revd M. Claridge	Revd R. Collins HC
<b>6:30 pm</b>	No service	No service	No service	No service

Service types: HC - Holy Communion      denotes Young Church [Please check beforehand that this will take place] Communion Services are normally held each week at 10.00 am on Tuesdays.

Mike Claridge produces a regular notice sheet, which can be accessed via the church web site. This will give details of online services, and zoom interactions etc. and of course, when normal services will be resumed.

The Cotteridge Church  
**Joint Church Council**

**Summary of Proceedings 17th June 2020**



**Introduction** The JCC Meeting was held via a Zoom meeting

**Key Decisions**

1. The JCC agreed that if it was acceptable to David Pycock the Church would un-furlough him part time from the start of July
2. The JCC agreed that David Pycock should be approached to see if he were willing to become our Covid Officer
3. The JCC approved the Terms of Reference for the Worship Planning Working Group and the Pastoral Working Group as well as the Articles of Commission for the Worship and Pastoral Committee and the Community Services Committee

**Summary Proceedings**

1. The meeting discussed the staff the Church currently has on furlough. It was stated that Alex Woodhouse is obtaining the furloughing funds for the Church.
2. Mike Claridge Reported that David Pycock had ordered a number of Hand Sanitisers Units and Sanitiser in preparation for re-opening
3. Laurie Brown reported that legionella Testing was currently in progress
4. A logbook is indicating only a few people entering the building currently.
5. Due to the relatively small number of people entering the building a deep clean was not seen as necessary at this time
6. The re-opening of the building was discussed in depth, including the first draft of a Risk assessment. It was noted that we would need to establish a one-way system around the Church
7. The use of the disabled toilet as the single toilet in use during reopening was discussed, but it was pointed out that it had no lid and could be a source of aerial contamination. It was noted that any toilets used would need to be regularly cleaned and only used in case of emergency. Casual drop-in visitors should be discouraged from using the facilities
8. The Church was following the Methodist procedure for re-opening (as they owned the building) and we would have to submit our risk assessment and action plan to the circuit for permission to re-open. This process would require the appointment of a Covid Officer
9. It was noted that CGL may wish to use the offices on the first floor and could use the toilets on the first floor
10. It was noted that C2U had enquired on when they could return and it was suggested they could use the Clent Room and the Gents' toilets on the ground floor, entering and leaving by the old main entrance at the rear of the premises
11. The meeting discussed a detailed plan for the re-opening of catering operations submitted by catering services, customers would enter via the Pennine way entrance, order their drinks and snack and then be served them at socially distanced tables in the Malvern Room, leaving via the main doors at the front of the Church
12. Jane Stephens said that what had been discussed nicely split the building into three workable zones

The next meeting of the Joint Church Council will be on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2020 at 19:30.  
This Summary is authorised by:

Neil Walters      Chair of the Cotteridge Church Joint Church Council



The Cotteridge Church  
**Extraordinary Joint Church Council**  
**Summary of Proceedings 25th June 2020**

### **Introduction**

An extraordinary JCC Meeting was called on the request of Dorothy Audley to discuss building re-opening in the light of the latest pronouncements by the Government and was held via a Zoom meeting.

### **Summary Proceedings**

1. The Treasurer reported that the Finance and Property meeting on the previous night had agreed to switch the Church's Broadband and Telephony provision from Virgin Media to Midshires.
2. Mike Claridge Reported that David Pycock had agreed to be the Church's Covid officer.
3. It was agreed that a Covid Management Team be set-up under David's control consisting of David (Covid Officer), Peter Childs (Property Steward), Mike Claridge (Minister), Stephen Audley (Catering Services Representative) and Trevor Jones (Senior Steward).
4. The first steps for the team would be to complete a Risk Assessment and Re-Opening Action Plan in the standard Methodist Format, using the Checklist provided, for submission to the Circuit in order to obtain permission to re-open for Worship.
5. It was noted that other organisations wishing to re-commence using the building would need to submit separate Risk Assessments and Action Plans to the Circuit for permission to re-start.
6. Everybody stressed that communication was vital during this period of uncertainty during re-opening.
7. It was noted that this could not be achieved by using the current online mechanisms alone as some members had not got access to the internet.
8. A notice on reopening was composed by Mike Claridge during the meeting and it was agreed to distribute this to members by hand.
9. Neil Walters noted that the Church would need to take contact details of everyone entering the Church premises for Track and Trace purposes and Dorothy Audley suggested a welcome steward should take peoples details on a Laptop or i-Pad to prevent contamination through the reuse of pens.
10. A note of humour was injected into the proceedings when Mike Claridge reported that it had been suggested the Minister should stand 20 meters (66 feet in real distance) from the congregation, which would see Mike standing by the lectern and the congregation gathering outside at the front of the Church with the doors open!

The next meeting of the Joint Church Council will be on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2020 at 19:30.

This Summary is authorised by:

Neil Walters      Chair of the Cotteridge Church Joint Church Council

## Hermits

Having been forced into lockdown [Age & health!] my life has been far more solitary than I would choose, and it got me thinking about hermits. So with more than a little help from <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hermit> here are a few thoughts. The term Hermit derives from greek ἐρημίτης (*erēmitēs*), "of the desert", which in turn comes from ἔρημος (*erēmos*), signifying "desert", "uninhabited", hence "desert-dweller". Originally It was thought that the 40 years of solitary existence in the desert following the exit from Egypt was meant to bring about a change of heart. Hermits are recognised in several different forms of Christianity, but they also exist in other religions such as Buddhism, Islam, Hinduism and Taoism, which also have hermits living an ascetic form of life.

In Christianity, the term Hermit is applied to one who chooses to dedicate its life to prayer and communion with God. Of course, the monastic life does this also, but less exclusively, believing that some social interaction is both necessary and valuable if they are to understand and enact the will of God.

Paul of Thebes is the first recorded hermit, and he lived in Egypt in the 4th century. It is claimed he lived alone in the desert near a clear spring and a palm tree from the age of 16 until 113! Until he was 43 years he lived on the fruit of the tree, and clothed himself with its leaves, until a raven started to bring him half a loaf of bread daily! In about 342 Anthony the great, another hermit was told in a dream about his existence, and went to find him. The next time he visited, Paul was dead.



There are many other hermits of note, right up to 20th century. Probably the best known to us is Sister Wendy Beckett, who did the BBC series on the history of art in the 1990s. She dedicated her life to solitude and prayer, but allocated two hours per day to earn her living.

I have to say she is a long way from my traditional image of a hermit living in a cave and doing nothing except meditation and prayer, and to me her interpretation of her life is far more meaningful than that.

I do have a belief that I am not here merely to nourish my own beliefs and traditions, but that I should be helpful and friendly towards other members of humanity, and to all life on our planet, and I could not fulfil that if I were to live in isolation. During lockdown, it has sometimes felt a bit like being a hermit, removed from close contact with everyone, but, thanks to the internet and the telephone, and numerous other inventions to which we now have access, isolation is far less complete than it was, and we can always be in contact with others - as has been shown at our own church, via the video links, poems and news bulletins. I am sure we are all very grateful to the organisers of these.

Let us hope that soon all we "enforced hermits" may once again have the pleasure of meeting in person again, and sharing our experiences, hopes and dreams. Celia Lester

## Whatever next?

I sent Mike Claridge an email after one of his excellent Sunday Refections to say I had been speaking to a work colleague early in lockdown and expressed an opinion that I wasn't scared of dying of Covid-19, I was more scared of surviving it. I have a powerful belief in the promises the Lord gave us and am not afraid to die, as death just brings a translation to eternity and a more intense relationship with God, '...shall I know even as also I am known'.

However, surviving the Covid Plague brings with it so many fears, nothing will ever be the same. Global Capitalism is over, and no one can tell what will replace it. I am sure some fools will try to rebuild it not realising that nobody will trust global supply chains and just in time manufacturing again.

I had my sixty-first birthday during lockdown and don't feel I have the energy and drive to help with the building of a new world order, but that I will need to, as we all will. We have seen during this crisis a different side of human nature one that claps for the NHS, fetches groceries for neighbours, keep its distance to protect other and refuses to give in. Let's hope we can capture that spirit and build it into our future.

Do I have an idea of what we should do to replace the failed economics we have depended on since the end of the second world war? I think I have read about a possible solution in a book called 'Utopia for Realists – and how we get there'. Its author Rutger Bregman puts forward three positive changes nation states can make to bring about his Utopia and gives examples of where these changes have been tried and succeeded.

The first change Bregman would have us make is to bring in a Universal Basic Income for everyone in the country, rich or poor. So, no-one would ever be unable to feed and house themselves. The argument against this idea is that it would make people lazy and nobody would want to go to work. His examples of where this has been tried show that it provides an incentive to work harder. It was such a popular idea during the early seventies that Richard Nixon, no less, was ready to implement it in the United States. The legislation was written and already to be enacted when Americas systemic misogyny stopped it:- it was suggested to the President that women may not want to marry if they no longer needed a man to support them.

Bregman's second change would have us cut the working week drastically and increase leisure time. The argument against this is that productivity would drop. Bergman counters this by showing where it has happened, and productivity remained the same. One of his examples is Britain in the nineteen seventies where productivity remain the same even after the government had to bring in a three-day working week due to power shortages.

I think these first two changes would be very popular with the British population, his third change less so because Britain, to put no finer point on it, is racist to its very core. His final change is to adopt Open Borders so that people could emigrate to any country that was prosperous and join its population in enjoying that prosperity. Why should anybody, he points out, be denied a good life just because of an accident of birth.

So, as the pandemic slowly comes to an end, and that will not be 'til sometime next year, let us all roll up our sleeves and help build a Britain, no, a world built on good neighbourliness and Utopian economics.

In the words of Steve Earle, 'The revolution starts now'.

Neil Walters

## VENT FOR CHANGE

When Kirsty, one of our buyers, brought samples of VENT's new sustainable stationery into our HQ... we dropped everything and flocked around her. You could hear the 'ooh's and 'ahh's from every corner the building, as we uncovered gorgeous notebooks, stylish sketchpads and the sleekest of pens and pencils. Alongside the company's eco-credentials, the range was a massive thumbs up from us! VENT for Change is a Bristol-based stationery brand that supports children's education projects worldwide, as well as having sustainability at the heart of every product they produce. Proceeds from every single VENT product sold, go towards global education projects getting children back into school.

- **How it all began...**

Back in 2014, environmental entrepreneur, Evan Lewis, purchased a run-down, ageing facility which made pencils from recycled CD cases. After a year and a half of making improvements to this facility, Evan and his team were producing an additional million pencils per year.

A selection of their products is shown below. If you would like to buy some, please contact

[roger@rrcollins.com](mailto:roger@rrcollins.com) 07721526854 or [jane2014s@gmail.com](mailto:jane2014s@gmail.com) 07800815074

PENCILS:- BLUE, PINK or GREEN £3.99      PENS BLUE or GREEN £4.99



DOTTED, LINED RED or CHARCOAL  
A5 NOTEBOOKS 192 pages £12.99

NOTEPADS 75 pages  
£4.50 97 x 210 mm £4.99 A5



PLAIN A5  
SKETCH BOOK  
64 pages £9.99



LINED A5  
NOTEBOOK  
64 pages £9.99



POCKETBOOK  
LINED <A6  
64 pages £4.50



DOTTED A6  
NOTEPAD  
192pages £9.99



So – what has B30 Foodbank been up to during lockdown?  
“Quite a lot” is the short reply.

The “temporary” warehouse (No.21) was still partially filled with food and toiletries when we went into lockdown, but with small teams of volunteers doing some serious sorting, very little food was wasted by going out-of-date. Some

food was shared with other Trussell Foodbanks and some of the dozen or more additional food providers which blossomed locally as the Covid pandemic developed.

We were able to move out of No.21 by mid June, and the inter-connecting “hole”



was created between Nos. 17 & 9 (the original warehouse) just in the nick of time. Food had to be transported by van and the physical loading and unloading of rather a lot of crates. A specific team of 5 dealt with all the moving, to ensure that we had a very clear record of who had worked in close proximity to whom: to abide by the regulations to the best of our ability. The “hole” has been a major help – as we can cover all our functions under one roof, and move food safely between the two units. No 9 has become the home of the pick and pack operation – but very much scaled down to just two people at any one time (to comply with physical distancing regulations), and No17 has returned to being warehouse “proper”. There are racks around most of the walls, allowing for high level storage as

well as ground based storage. A “stacker truck” (walker operated forklift) is the special piece of kit used to lift pallets of crates on/off the racking and there is a recording system which means we know what products we have and where it is stored.

Covid’s biggest restriction for us is the very limited number of people we can accommodate in the warehouse at any one time. This means the team is quite small, and cannot accommodate new volunteers at the moment.

The team which IS steadily increasing, however, is the team of deliverers. All food parcels are now delivered, and as our referral numbers slowly climb back up, we are gathering more deliverers. Most are from our regular volunteers at the moment, but others have joined the happy brigade on the way.

Our referral numbers are rising again, as the large number of additional food providers in South Birmingham) is now decreasing. Several were pop-ups, specifically for Covid-19 difficulties, and many of those running them have now returned to work, or their short-term funding has ceased.

We still share food with other Trussell Foodbanks when we can, especially Erdington. Their referral numbers have remained high and there are very few, if any, additional food providers in their area. We have made new links with local stores (e.g. the new Morrison’s in Stirchley) and several local roads and individuals/families have been innovative in organising food collections for us. Financial donations also remain high, which gives us an excellent base from which to pay our rent, fit out the warehouse properly, keep the vans running well and stock up with food items that are short.

Roger Collins



## Poem

They couldn't keep Christ in lockdown, the darkness could not dim the light,  
They beat and they nailed, they cursed and they railed,

But they had no power in this fight

They couldn't keep Christ in lockdown, although this is what they had tried,  
They thought they had won, that they'd blocked out the sun,

That the hope of all ages had died.

They couldn't keep Christ in lockdown, no, not on that glorious morn,  
They just hadn't a clue that the world was now new,

For that's why our Saviour was born.

Rita Sutton

# Boys' Brigade

## In Lockdown!

The opening week of August this year may have been another typical week for most. But, for the Boys' Brigade it was meant to be the date of one of the biggest events of the year. Boys' brigade camp has been an ever present part of our schedule; for the first time in modern memory camp had to be cancelled due to the ongoing coronavirus crisis.



Camp is not just one week of the year. As officers we begin the planning process a year in advance, we book the date and campsite 2 years in advance. It is not just the officers that spend their year so absorbed in this planning and preparation, as someone who has grown up going to camp I can confirm that for the young people we take, it is a vastly anticipated event. From wanting to be tent commander to contacting your friends from the other companies in Quinton, this single week of the year remains thoroughly entrenched in their hearts and minds throughout the year.

Although missing camp has been sad, it is not all doom and gloom for our company. Our Facebook page had a wonderful time, over the opening week of August, revisiting old camp memories and quizzing past members. There are also discussions happening within BB headquarters about restarting as soon as safely possible. Although we are sad that camp will have to wait another year we are thankful for our health and for the strong community we have built over the many years of Camp.

Tom Bunn

If you would like further details about anything on this and the following page, please contact Dr Peter Rookes [pjrookes@gmail.com](mailto:pjrookes@gmail.com)



## BCF Updates and Events August 2020

This is an August like no other. Normally there is a definite decline in activity during August, but this year everything has continued as before. It is amazing just how quickly the year is slipping away in these uncertain times, and uncertain they are as the Covid-19 transmission rate is on the increase in Birmingham with the possibility of facing a local lockdown. People seem to either:-

1. Believe that the pandemic is over, and disregard the need to wear face coverings, socially distance and take other precautions; or
2. Be so frightened by the stay safe, stay home messages at the beginning of the Pandemic, that they still don't leave their homes; or
3. Because of the gradual relaxation of the lockdown, are confused about what behaviour is permitted, what is inadvisable, and what is forbidden. .



What is needed now is a very clear statement that the Pandemic is still very real and clear messaging of what people can, and can't do.

It was confirmed by Cllr Ian Ward, Leader of Birmingham City Council, that Birmingham is now on the national Covid-19 Watch List. To keep our city safe and prevent a local lockdown, we must:-

Wash our hands frequently for at least 20 seconds

Avoid touching our faces

Wear a face covering in indoor places like shops, libraries and on public transport

Reduce the number of different people we have direct contact with, and keep a safe distance

The **Birmingham Public Health** team will be running a series of **COVID-19 related webinars** for community leaders, faith leaders, social prescribing link workers and voluntary sector workers, starting on 2nd Sept. Topics include behaviour change; handwashing; testing; self isolation; unhealthy habits; long term conditions; healthy eating and sleep. To book, click [https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/50238/wellbeing\\_during\\_the\\_coronavirus\\_covid-19/2247/bhealthy](https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/50238/wellbeing_during_the_coronavirus_covid-19/2247/bhealthy)



It's **not too early** to be thinking about Interfaith Week, which will take place week commencing 8th Nov. This year promises to be more challenging because of the need for social distancing.

However, we already have 3 activities booked:-

Mon 9th Nov, 7.0pm – Footsteps - Climate Refugees Zoom programme

Thurs 12th Nov -St Marys Hospice & BCF – Zoom Memorial Service

Sun 15th Nov, 2.0pm – Footsteps - Tread Lightly event on Food and Waste

Here are some ideas you may like to consider;-\*Online dialogues, webinars and exhibitions; \*Photo, art and poetry competitions \*Classroom activities; \*Socially distanced inter faith walks and tours\*Crafting special banners and quilts \*Social action projects \*Videos and special messages\*Media contributions

If you would like to book an event in our programme, or discuss an idea, please

contact [pjrookes@gmail.com](mailto:pjrookes@gmail.com). We will again produce a programme of all the events booked with us, which will be available during the launch event

## Free Training for Out of School Settings

Out of School Settings team (OOSS) at Birmingham City Council supports and upskills all settings that work with children or young people outside of a school context. This includes, private tutors, music classes, sports clubs, dance clubs and religious institutions. OOSS has partnered with UNICEF and the University of Birmingham to create free bespoke training specifically for this type of setting. All courses will be conducted online and via Zoom link. Full details and Application Form are attached.

## Faith Charities Week

Contact: [civilsociety.co.uk/faithforum](http://civilsociety.co.uk/faithforum);  
[events@civilsociety.co.uk](mailto:events@civilsociety.co.uk); 07501 005206

Participate in free webinars on important topics for faith organisations including:-

Innovation; After Lockdown; Legal Update; Governance; Safeguarding; Climate Emergency; Change; Uyghur Muslims; Fundraising; Buddhist Meditation.

See attachment for further details and registration.



## BCF AGM

Because of the Social Distancing still being in force it has been agreed with the BCF Trustees, that our 2020 AGM will be cancelled and the current officers will remain in post for a further year. Our Annual Report will be produced and sent to members, and everyone on this mailing list in due course. In the unlikely event that the 'lockdown' restrictions are significantly eased, this decision will be reviewed.

## BCF Faith and Reflection

Following the success of our 2 previous Faith and Reflection sessions led by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, and by Clifton Road Mosque, we are organising a Buddhist led session at 8.0pm on Mon 14<sup>th</sup> Sept. Everyone is welcome to join us. The event will be on Zoom, signing in details are:-

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9534144184>



**Unity FM Radio 93.5** - Our Connecting Communities programme on Unity FM Radio 93.5, co-hosted by Mahmooda Qureshi and Dr Peter Rookes is broadcast at 4.0 pm on alternate Mondays. You can listen to our 3 last programmes on the following links

Mon 20<sup>th</sup> July – Domestic Abuse, Legal Issues:- <https://www.mixcloud.com/UnityFM/domestic-abuse-and-legal-issues-connecting-communities/>

Mon 3<sup>rd</sup> August – Climate Change and Clean Air:- <https://www.mixcloud.com/UnityFM/climate-change-connecting-communities/>

Mon 17<sup>th</sup> Aug – Urban Walking and Cycling:- <https://www.mixcloud.com/UnityFM/urban-walking-and-cycling-connecting-communities/>

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September at 4.00 pm :- Peace - with guests from the Universal Peace Federation, International Peace Charter and Society of Friends.

# Circular Birmingham Walk / Cycle Route 7 miles

## River Cole, Moseley Bog, Stratford Canal

**START:** Sarehole Mill Cole Bank Rd, Birmingham B13 0BD. #11 bus route or car parking on site. Shop and toilets. The route is reasonably level with no styles.

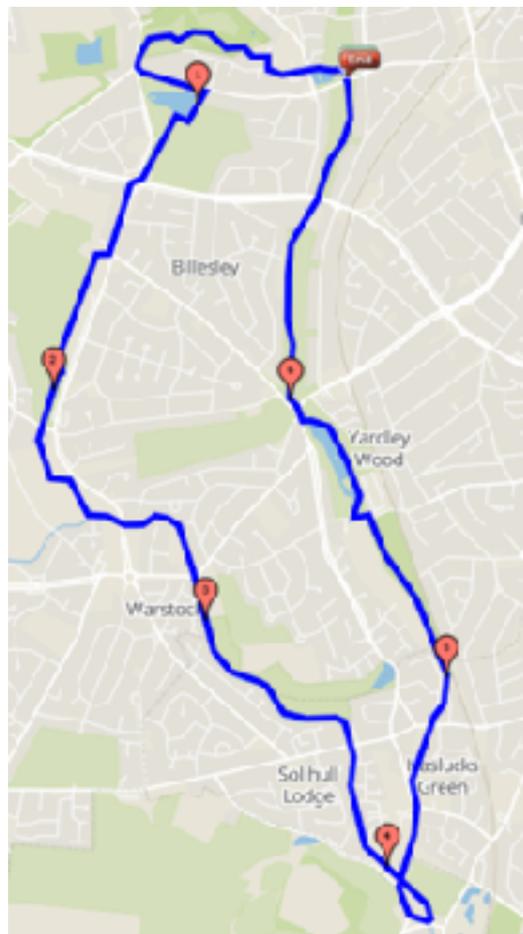
Walk north out of car park to cross a little pedestrian bridge then turn sharp left. Mill pool behind the fence on LHS. Continue straight to exit the green space. Cross Wake Green Rd with care into Thirlmere Drive. Continue straight. Take second right into Pensby Close. Take first left to find entrance to Moseley Bog. Go straight along red grit paths following Coldbath Brook. Exit onto Yardley Wood Rd.

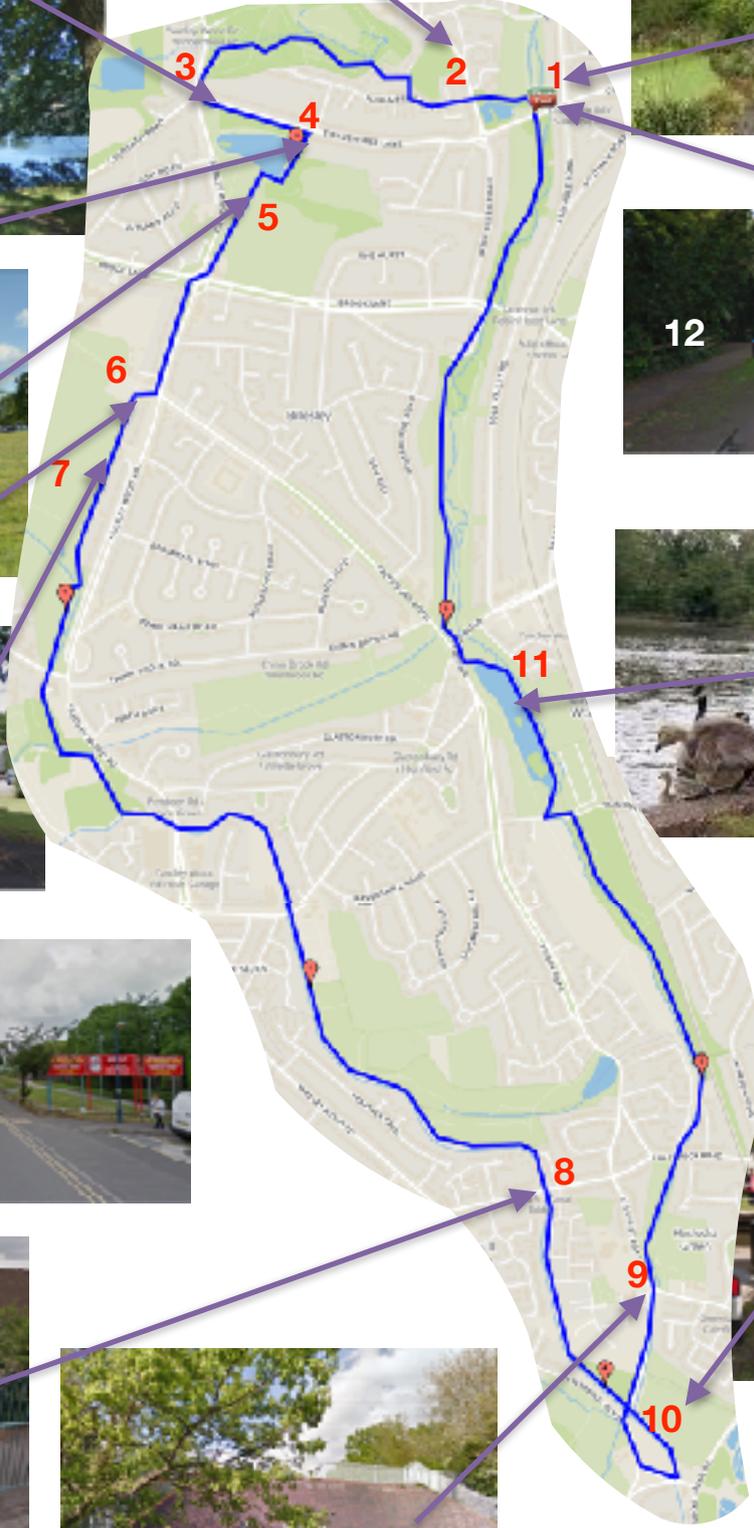
Go left to traffic island. Go left for a few metres along Swanshurst Lane. Cross road with care to Moseley New pool. Walk around half the pool on level paths with water on RHS then leave the paths and continue straight up a grassy rise. Continue straight then bear right on more grassy rides to exit the park by Fire Station in top right hand corner. Cross Brook Lane and Yardley Wood Rd at traffic island. Head south on service road in front of houses. Billesley Common is at the back.

Take Billesley common entrance on RHS via access rd. Go left on perimeter track and continue south. Leave perimeter track and continue south downhill. Bear right over stream then exit common by bus stop on Haunch Lane. Cross road to second bus stop opposite. Enter Warstock woods behind second bus stop. Cross bridge then bear left. Follow track uphill to find Stratford canal.

Go left with canal on RHS. Follow canal under High St. Continue to a high brick wall on LHS. Canal stays level as it crosses Cole Valley. Look over wall to see R Cole below. Continue on canal tow path to drawbridge. Cross over canal via drawbridge. Follow road to right, go a short distance along Peterbrook Rd then go right under canal through road tunnel to pick up R Cole on RHS.

Follow Aqueduct Rd north. At junction with Green Lane bear right to continue following R Cole through a green corridor. Cross Colebrook Rd. Continue following R Cole across Scriber's Lane to Tritiford Mill Pool. Keep pool on LHS. Bear left around north end of pool to exit onto junction of Highfield Rd. Cross with care and bear left up Tritiford Rd for a few metres then enter green corridor on right and walk straight with R Cole on RHS. Cross Brook Lane and continue to follow R Cole. Cross Cole Bank Rd back to Sarehole Mill.



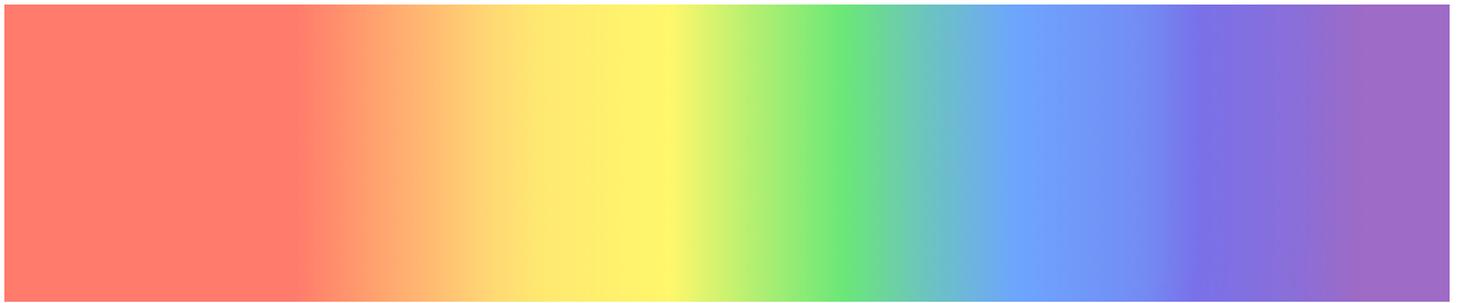


## Rainbows

White light is actually produced from a mixture of all the colours, and a rainbow shows these to us. A rainbow is a multicoloured arc caused by the light being transmitted through raindrops by reflection, refraction and dispersion, always seen directly opposite to the sun. Exactly how you see them depends on where you and the sun are. Light will pass through many different substances, including air, water, and glass. Whenever light passes through a junction between these, it is bent [or refracted] through an angle which varies with the wavelength of the light, and the difference in densities of the two media. The greater the difference is, the more it gets bent, and the smaller the diameter of the rainbow circle. [So rainbows made between sea water droplets and air are smaller than those between raindrops and air, because the seawater is more dense]. Some of the light is also reflected back from the interface. *It gets a bit more complicated to explain after this, but if you are interested, Wikipedia has a good article.* Then we see a rainbow. Everyone sees a slightly different rainbow because they stand in a different position. As you move, so does your rainbow.

Thus it is VERY difficult to find your crock of gold!

Anyway - enough of the science for the time being.



We love rainbows. They are beautiful. They are mentioned in the Bible.

In **Genesis 9:9-14** God put a rainbow in the sky with the promise that he would never again send a flood to kill all living creatures.

**Genesis 9:15-17** This rainbow is the sign of the covenant I am confirming with all the creatures of the Earth.

**Ezekiel 1:26-28** All around him was a glowing halo, like a rainbow shining in the clouds on a rainy day. This is what the glory of the Lord looked like to me. When I saw it, I fell face down on the ground, and I heard someone's voice speaking to me." The rainbow shows the presence of hope in the midst of disaster.

**Revelation 4:1-4** John describes the beauty surrounding the throne of God "Then as I looked, I saw a door standing open in heaven, and the same voice I had heard before spoke to me like a trumpet blast. The voice said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must happen after this." And instantly I was in the Spirit, and I saw a throne in heaven and someone sitting on it. The one sitting on the throne was as brilliant as gemstones—like jasper and carnelian. And the glow of an emerald circled his throne like a rainbow. Twenty-four thrones surrounded him, and twenty-four elders sat on them. They were all clothed in white and had gold crowns on their heads."

**Revelation 10:1-2** "I saw another mighty angel coming down from heaven, surrounded by a cloud, with a rainbow over his head. His face shone like the sun,

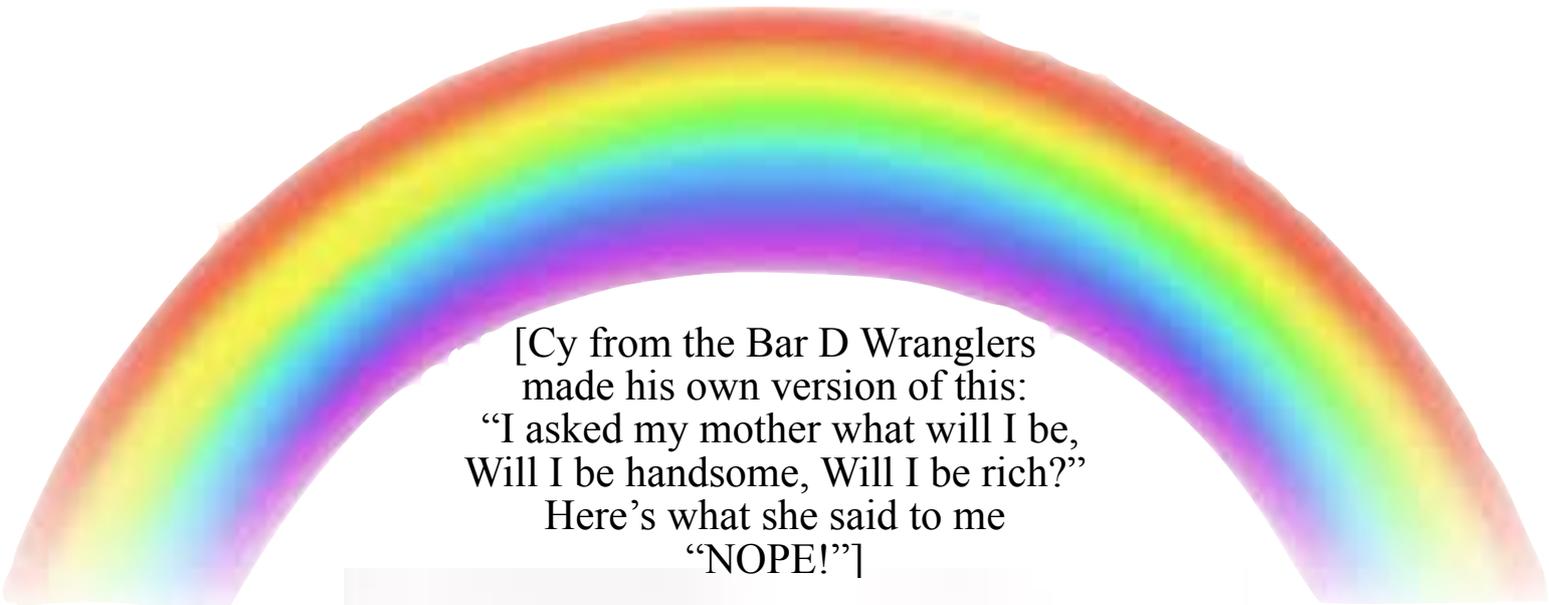
and his feet were like pillars of fire. And in his hand was a small scroll that had been opened. He stood with his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land.”

We will all know the rhyme to remember the colour order

**Richard Of York Gave Battle In Vain.**

It is little wonder that we have been seeing lots of rainbows around us lately, given our thunderous weather pattern of the past few weeks.

One of the things I have been up to during the lockdown is to transfer vinyl to mpeg, and enjoy again the pop songs of my youth - one of which is Doris Day's "Que Sera", which is actually quite prophetic: Whatever will be, will be:- The future's not ours to see... will there be rainbows, day after day?



[Cy from the Bar D Wranglers made his own version of this:  
“I asked my mother what will I be,  
Will I be handsome, Will I be rich?”  
Here's what she said to me  
“NOPE!”]

Celia Lester



Text Vivian Greene, 2006



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Please send copy for the next edition by 25th October 2020.

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