Bournville, Cotteridge, Kings Norton & Stirchley

Points

The bi-monthly mini-magazine of Churches Together in Birmingham 30

New Beginnings in Our Lives

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‘*Nobody ever crosses the same river twice. For it is not the same river and they are not the same person’*

Heraclitus

An old expression; perhaps a more modern one could be

“If you remember the fashion the first time around then this time it’s not for you!”

When you try something for the first time there can be a lot of emotions wrapped up in the experience; for example, taking your first holiday abroad.

Equally you may refuse to try some new food because you don’t like the look of it. At a later date your experience might be completely different.

In all these ideas there are two things you may like to consider; firstly, the external source the river, the fashion item, the holiday, the food. Secondly you.

You are constantly changing and evolving. As a baby you suckled before progressing to solid food. As a teenager you experimented with different clothes styles (would you wear them now?). As an adult you eventually moved on to holidaying without your parents.

We are all on a journey and we cannot stop the experiences that we encounter on the way. Some of us will say ‘no’ to new experiences, it’s the safest option (isn’t it?) with no nasty surprises, and it won’t take us beyond our comfort zone. Others will say ‘yes’ to new experiences, risk the possible challenges for the adventure and the possibility that they might bring enrichment into our lives. Which group do you fall into?

For some, the Christian journey can also be a yes/ no experience. As youngsters we may have developed our faith at our parents' knee, or found our religious faith at university or through contact with a close friend. Maybe we carry these beliefs with us still. How has our faith developed and how has it changed us? What paths have we travelled? Have we chosen a reflective prayerful route? Have we chosen an active, outwardly helpful route? Have we chosen an inquisitive searching route? Or perhaps a mixture of all of them.

How have we immersed ourselves in the river of faith to allow us to grow into the people we are now? John Slevin

Meeting Up Again

The members of the Mothers Union from the Cathedral Branch met together at Winterbourne Gardens Edgbaston. We had not seen each other since March last year.

We had a lovely day talking about what we all had done during the last year. Everyone looked well and we were all happy to see each other without masks on.

Winterbourne is such a lovely place to visit. Food is very good and the staff are very pleasant people.
It was a great day seeing people enjoying themselves. If this is new beginnings then we can all be happy. Gill Broadhead

New Every Morning

Every day is a new beginning in our lives. We say prayers asking for forgiveness for not doing things we should do and for doing the things we should not do and God's promise to everyone is that if we truly repent God is willing to forgive us and to wipe the slate clean to start another new day. What a liberating and life changing promise this is.

Now as we approach the end of restrictions and lockdowns we should reflect on this promise and pledge to wipe the slate clean of the past 2 years and to look forward and put ourselves on a "road to bring us daily nearer God."

More words from John Keble's hymn emphasize this point.

New every morning is the love our waking and uprising prove.

New mercies each returning day hover around us while we pray. New perils past new sins forgiven, new thoughts of God, new hopes of heaven.

Old friends, old scenes will lovelier be as more of heaven in each we see, some softening gleam of love and prayer shall dawn on every cross and care.

Help us this and every day to live more nearly as we pray.

Linda Mann

Life Changing

Very often we begin by believing in one thing, something happens, and we believe in something quite different.

My first, and most famous of these life changing experiences is the story of St Paul's Road to Damascus - no need to elaborate on that.

My second life changing experience story is taken from the book: Who Moved the Stone, by Frank Morison written in 1930, in which, after careful analysis, Morison's skepticism in the resurrection of Jesus turns to belief. Incidentally, Morison, whose real name was Albert Henry Ross (1881 - 1950) was a local man, born in Kings Norton.

My third life changing experience story brings us very much up to date. It is taken from the book: The Boy, The Mole, The Fox And The Horse, by Charlie Mackesy, published in 2019. It became an instant best seller. Mackesy is a very gifted artist. The sort of artist we would all like to be - a few effortless lines of the pen become a galloping horse, a little boy thinking, a tree waving in the breeze… His words are few, but profound. The boy, the mole, the fox and the horse, are all manifestations of Mackesy himself - indeed, all of us - our faults, our fears, our aspirations…

> 'Nothing beats kindness,' said the horse. 'It sits quietly beyond all things.'
>
> 'I am truly tiny,' said the mole. 'The love inside you,' said the boy, 'is as big as the universe.'

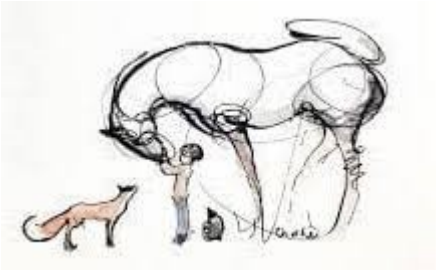
…and the list continues. The theme of the book is of course: LOVE.

Mackesy describes his younger-self as 'hotly against Christianity' - an atheist in fact. Then a life changing experience - he became a Christian and has been for some years. For

many of the 1.4 million people who read his book, it too became a life changing experience.

Now here's the rub - Nowhere in the book does Mackesy mention: God, The Bible, or Jesus. That's quite an achievement for an evangelist.

…and now on a personal note: - Mowgli is now Grandpa Mowgli - all is well. Mowgli



Sponsor Pam

60 60 60 VaccinAid challenge In the 60 days before her 60th birthday, Pam Waddell is running 6x 10km runs (hopefully each in less than 60 minutes) for UNICEF's VaccinAid appeal. If you would like to sponsor her, please do so online at https:// Annual www.vaccinaid.org/60-60-60-challenge Every contribution will help UNICEFto deliver 2 billion Covid vaccines, as well as treatments, around the World this year.

“Well begun is half done” Really?

My mother often used this phrase when trying to persuade one of her four procrastinating children to complete some homework, piano practice or the washing up. I’m not really convinced.

I make new beginnings every week. I resolve to save the bees, eat less chocolate, read more, solve world poverty. I often start quite well. If it really is getting towards post pandemic, my list is endless.

The thing is that it often isn’t the beginning that is the issue, it’s the continuing. Beginning a new job isn’t too difficult. Even the toughest job gives you something of a grace period. It’s not the first few months that are difficult, it’s year 3 or 5 or 10. People like new beginnings, new people. Politicians (and CEOs, and Vice Chancellors) are fond of announcing new strategies, new initiatives, new beginnings, a new Tsar, a new slogan, new terminology. It’s easier to have a new neon-lit vision for 10 years’ time than it is to take the hard practical, often boring steps to complete the interim work.

So, let’s have a new Royal Yacht (announced May 2021) and hope that no-one has a long enough memory or capacity for sustained analysis to work out that the £200m it would cost is 10 times more than the free school meals the government voted not to give to hungry kids. (October 2020)

It’s often easier to begin with an apparent clean sheet and set impressive targets for some future date than it is to read the research to find out how we got here and then actually work out how to get there. Targets often do the opposite of what they are expected to do. Instead of galvanising people into action, they are just a way of kicking the can down the road…. I’ve told

everyone that I've set a target, now maybe they'll get off my back."

The 2016 Paris agreement on climate change (signed by 175 countries) obliged signatories to submit their adaptation plans, but by 2021 only 13 countries have done so. One of those is the UK, but government plans were judged by its own independent advisors to have "failed to keep pace with the worsening reality of climate risk".

The Trussell Trust, which oversees most UK Food Banks, has a 2020-25 Strategy, stating that its vision is for a UK without the need for Foodbanks and that they are 'working towards a compassionate, just society without the need for large-scale emergency food distribution'. All very laudable, but without sustained interim, recognisable measures, the new beginnings are just that…… beginnings.

Job interviews sometimes ask, "Where do you see yourself in 5 years' time? I've often been tempted to answer such a question with, "Who knows?" ….. and the pandemic has shown how ridiculous such a question might be. However, without any new beginnings at all, we wouldn't even have the option for half done and where would we be then? Helen Gale

B30 foodbank Update Spring 2021

Clients needing emergency food are referred to B30Foodbank by E-Voucher through a referral agent OR call CITIZENS ADVICE 08082082138 Or call BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL on 0121 216 3030 Or call The Project on 0121 453 0606 Whats App 07974 106813

Distribution of food

Clients or their representatives will need to collect the parcels from B30Foodbank, Quaker Friends Meeting House 23aWatford Road B30 1JB on Tuesday and Friday between 1.30 and 3.30pm.

Urgently needed

Instant coffee (not decaffeinated), tinned fish (not tuna, sugar 500g (not larger), chocolate and snack bars, potato smash, gender neutral shampoo, roll-on deodorant, Disposable razors, strong carrier bags. Low in stock Tinned meat (ham, corned beef, pork sandwich meat, pulled pork or chicken), ready-made custard (tinned or carton - not powder), packet/pot noodles, pasta sauces, tinned tomatoes, tinned rice pudding, jam/honey, long life fruit juice; tinned fruit in juice (not prunes or grapefruit), crisps, washing up liquid (not family sized bottles), laundry liquid/powder (not family sized), toilet rolls. Well stocked UHT milks, squash, instant hot chocolate (not cocoa powder), baked beans, pasta shapes, dry spaghetti, tinned macaroni cheese, tinned spaghetti, tinned/packet sou, rice, tinned potatoes, tinned vegetables, tinned tuna, teabags (40’s or 80’s), biscuits, nappies all sizes, porridge, cereal, pet food, baby food and baby care items, gender neutral shower gel, sanitary pads, liquid or bar soap, toothpaste, single or duo wrapped toothbrushes

Not needed at all

Decaffeinated drinks or fruit infusions, bottled water, large bottles of lemonade or coke, any foods or toiletries containing alcohol, cooking ingredients or sauces, fresh products including vegetables, meat, eggs and bread, non-dairy items, gluten-free items, coffee beans, loose tea, large boxes of teabags (120's or more), very large bags or boxes of cereal or porridge, cocoa powder, tampons, make-up, hair accessories, perfume or after-shave.

B30 FOODBANK Cotteridge Church, 24 Pershore Road South info@b30foodbank.org.uk 07582 14397 information and clients 07985 629201 collection foodbank Redemption Media and then open B30 Warehousing: Warehouse, is at 17 Castle Rd, Kings Norton Business Park, B30 3HZ. 2.00-4.00 on Tuesday and Friday. B30 Foodbank.

Click on the different links below to find out what's happening in your church

(Crl + click on link)

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https://ssjandh.org

https://bournvilleparishchurch.org.uk/

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https://www.weoleyhillchurch.org.uk/links.php

https://www.birminghamvineyard.com/

https://www.facebook.com/vineyardbham/

https://b30.foodbank.org.uk/

https://www.birminghamchurches.org.uk/news/

CHURCH CONTACTS

For further details of worship and/or activities at any of the churches please contact the people below:

- St. Andrew's Methodist Church
  Revd. Nick Jones - 453 9497
- Bournville United Reformed Church
  Revd Leonora Jagessar - 472 0730
- Society of Friends, Bournville
  Claire Bowman - 07753 635438
  Room Hire, 471 2155
  annegiles57@gmail.com
- St. Francis Church, Bournville
  Interregnum - phone Church Office - 472 7215
- Rowheath Pavilion Church
  Revd. Matt Wilson - 433 3912
  Office - 458 1711.
- Society of Friends, Cotteridge
  Chris Martin- 475 2088
- The Cotteridge Church
  Revd. Mike Claridge - 433 5176
  Revd. Roger Collins - 459 4009
  or Church Office - 433 5518
- Ascension Stirchley
  Revd. Catherine Grylls - 443 1371
- Catholic Church of Ss Joseph and Helen
- Catholic Church of St Paul's
  Father David Barry - 458 1236

"Points" is published by Churches Together in Birmingham 30 for the exchange of ideas and news. Opinions do not necessarily reflect the official policy of the churches as a group or individually.

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Next Issue's Focus will be

What is really important?