HARVEST

As we move into Autumn we are thinking about Harvest, so donations of dried and tinned goods are collected and distributed to St Basil’s for young homeless people. Speak to Mark or Christine about how to contribute. Our Harvest Service this year will take place on **Sunday 7th October at 11.00am** and all are welcome. There will be a soup lunch following the service too. This will be followed by an auction of the fresh display goods to raise some more money for St. Basil’s.

On **Friday 19th October** our next Messy Church event takes place. There will be crafts galore, music, friends, food and fun for all the family. It starts at around **3.30pm** so you’re welcome to come straight from school. Call Mark on 07505521302 for more information.

On **Saturday 3rd November**, at Weoley Hill Church, our new minister, Leonora, will be inducted into the pastorate. The service will take place at **2.30pm** and this will be followed by refreshments.

Find out more about Weoley Castle and its people:
weoleycastlechurch.co.uk          www.stonehousegang.co.uk
www.shenleyacademy.org.uk            weoleycastlecommunitychurch.urc.org.uk
God's Hand in Sandwell Scan

At home now I live on a hospital-style bed. To sleep, I pull a blanket over.

Some nights I put one hand out, reach for God's hand, and pray
for people who are on my heart.

Saturday, to Sandwell General for MRI scan. There's a slim lad of Eastern Europe.
Young Iranian, senior radiographer. They check forms, put away metal things in locker, get me on a sliding table running into the scanner tunnel. My upper back is deformed, won't lie flat. They put wedges under. Lad doubles a pillow behind my head. Plug my ears, put head-phones. Hand me a panic button. OK? Now I slide head-first into the lighted tunnel. A close fit. Pillow raises my face near the curving top. Some people get claustrophobic, wonder how they will breathe. I say: ready.
They say: don't move.

Machine begins racket. In my head I reach for God's hand.

BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP grak grak granak granak KRWX KRWX KRWX KRWX KRAWK KRAWK KRAWK KRAWK KRAWK KRAWK KRAWK KRAWK KRNK KRNX bidla bidla bidla bidly bidly bidly BEERP BEERP BEERP BEERP - Poing - Poing - Poing - Poing - "One Done How U Doing?" "OK" "Hold Still" - Poing – Poing – Poing – Poing - GRIK GRIK GRIK GRIK GRIK GRIK GRIK GRIK BWNG BWOING BWOING BWOING BWOING grik BWOING BWOING grik "Well Done. That's 2. U OK?" "Get on with it" "Hold steady" KRZANGKRZANGKRZANGQweeee KRZANGKRZANGKRZANGQweeee KRZANGKRANG KRZANGKRANGQweeeeee weeeeee weeeee weeeee [Table suddenly slides back several inches] GRISZQ GRISZQ - GRIISZQ GRIISZQ - GREEIISZQGREEIISZQGREEIISZQ -

It's noisy but not half as bad as a scan four years ago, which banged from different angles and depths without warning. After 20 minutes we are through, the table slides forward, I'm out. "Well done!" Hands pull gadgets off my head, I take deep breaths. Hands reach to pull wedges out, I signal "Slow!" Hands slowly help me swing up and round, one leg down, second foot down, hands support me moving to the door.
I'm still holding God's hand.

Light dawns. God's hand feels like a human hand. They say "God likes to be helped". These human hands, from distant countries, give God a hand here in Sandwell.

miles, musician

Our 1% commitment for life appeal is on again this year. Envelopes will be handed out at the Harvest Festival Service. Please return them by the end of Oct if possible. Thanks.
REGULAR ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY  11.00am  Family Worship—everyone welcome
            Holy Communion - 2nd Sunday each month

MONDAY  10.00am  Day Centre
        12.00 noon  Lunch Club
        1.30pm     Over 60’s Keep Fit (Gentle Exercise)
        5.30pm     Karate

TUESDAY  6.00pm  Children’s Club (TFC) 7-11yrs (Term Time)
            7.30pm  Youth Club (12+)

WEDNESDAY  9.15am  Parent & Toddler Group (Term Time)
                5.00pm  Elite Dance Academy

THURSDAY  10.00am  Advice & Support Café (Vaious)
                5.30pm  Karate

FRIDAY  9.15am  Parent & Toddler Group (Term Time)
            10.00am  Day Centre
            12.00 noon  Lunch Club
            1.30pm  Cardiact Club
            3.45pm  Sign Language Club (Term Time)
            3.30pm  Messy Church (once each half term)
            5.00pm  Elite Dance Academy

SATURDAY  9.00am  Elite Dance Academy

Marriages, Funerals and Baptisms by Arrangement
For children 3—18 yrs old, a chance to learn many different dance styles such as ballet, tap, modern, and much more. If you are interested contact Yvonne on 07787062248 for more details, or drop in and see her.

**Free Hearing Aid Battery Replacement**—This service is still be available here on Mon, Wed & Friday between 9.30am and 2pm. Ask for Christine Hopkins.

**This Month's Funnies**

What's the ratio of a pumpkin's circumference to its diameter?
Pumpkin Pi

How does an Elephant get out of a tree?
Sits on a leaf and waits till Autumn

What do you use to mend a Halloween lantern?
A pumpkin patch

Why do birds fly south in the Autumn?
Because it’s too far to walk

If money did grow on trees, autumn would be the best season ever!

And did you know: On the first day of autumn (autumnal equinox), the number of hours of daylight and darkness are approximately equal.
CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday 7th October                          11.00am                           Worship Group
     (Harvest Festival)
Sunday 14th October                         11.00am                       Christine McAteer
     (Communion)
Sunday 21st October                         10.30m                        Joint at Weoley Hill
Sunday 28th October                         11.00am                                 Paul Tucker
Sunday 4th November                       11.00am                Rev Leonora Jagessar
     (Joint Service)

Morning Prayers take place on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9.15—9.45am All welcome
On Wednesday morning at 10am we are welcome to join St Gabriel’s

Next WCCC Elders Meeting Mon 15th Oct 7.30pm
CRCW Meeting Fri 26th Oct 2pm

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Please think of Chris Basterfield as he settles into a new care system.

Oliver Smith starts at Oxford University, so all the best to him.

For a while Audrey Stables has been in the old part of the QE. She is in ward 1, bed 17, for any visitors. She is unsteady on her feet so unable to go back home. Well, she is nearly 96. She did have a good conversation with Ted the other day.

The church halls are available to hire for parties and events - contact Mark on 0121 475 3841 for more details
ADVICE AND SUPPORT

Advice and Support
Each month, on the **second Thursday**, we devote the morning to enabling the local community to find the help and support they need. Various organisations come to help us in this including: Council, Solicitors, Jobcentre, Debt Advisors, Benefits Advice, Pregnancy Loss Support and Young People’s Employment. Come along between **10am and 1pm** to find out more, get the help you need, or simply drop in for coffee. If you would like to book an appointment with a particular organisation you can either contact them or call Mark on **07505521302**. If you know of other organisations that could get involved in this please let me know, thanks.

DAY CENTRE FOR THE OLDER GENERATIONS

Our Day Centre currently has spaces for more people. Anyone 60+ who is looking for a place to find friends, enjoy a hot meal and be in a safe caring environment is welcome to join us. We run on a Monday and Friday from approximately **10am till 1.30pm** and do various games, craft and outings. To find out more contact Christine Hopkins on **0121 475 3841** or call in at the church.

ARTS CAFÉ AT WEOLEY CASTLE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Each month, on the fourth Thursday, the church is turned into a family friendly arts venue, with music, painting, drawing, knitting, poetry or whatever your craft is, coming together to make a place that is fun and creative. Led by Northfield Arts Forum, everyone is welcome to have a go or to simply relax and enjoy the atmosphere and food and refreshments. It runs from **10am to 1pm**. Next one is on **Sept 27th**.
The Church at Weoley Hill also has events and activities to join in:

There is a monthly Lunch Club, ask for Nancy Nicholls. The next one takes place on **Wednesday 3rd October at 1pm**.

The Friendship Group are next meeting on **Wednesday 10th October at 2.30pm**.

The monthly Community Gardening Group are meeting next on **Sat 6th October at 10.30am**

The Commnity Choir is on Friday evenings at **6.30pm**.

The book group next meets on **Tuesday 2nd Oct at 7.30pm**

Services are each **Sunday at 10.30am** and anyone is welcome to join us.

For details of these and more events contact Cheryl Thornett on email **cherylthornett@hotmail.com**

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**AND FROM BEAUMONT ROAD**

Beaumont Road, in Bournville, also part of the pastorate too:

**Sunday** Services begin at **10.30am** and all are welcome.

Contact Jim Garrow if you would like more information on **jgarro7@btinternet.com**
Autumn is arriving and the leaves are starting to turn. It’s wonderful to see the array of colours that appear at this time of year. The gardens are rapidly changing along with the weather, which, following a long hot summer is noticeably cooler and greyer. There are changes all around us. Indeed, there are changes within the church here too. A new minister, Leonora, who will be inducted on 3rd Nov, will start serving here and across the Cadbury pastorate from then. It’s an exciting time. Whilst that is happening I need to think about what is next for myself. Come next summer my 10 year stay will be finished and I’d have to move on. It won’t be easy to leave such a friendly, welcoming bunch of brilliant people. It has bee a privilege to work with so many great folk. ‘Still’ that’s next year, meanwhile, we are getting on with all sorts of activities and events. Our Tuesday Club is still growing in numbers and a waiting list awaits space. The great group of helpers that come and give time, talent and energy to make it such a safe and popular place to be, do a great job but we are always looking for more help to make this club run for years to come. Our toddler group, which runs on Wed and Fri mornings is still proving popular too, but if you know of others that have babies or toddlers they are welcome to come along. On Friday morning also, we have a Day Centre for the elderly which also has space for more. Contact Christine on 01214753841 for more info. There are plenty of other things that happen too, and this month a new group is starting. Shape By Dance (SBD) is a not for profit organisation that is aimed at women, of no particular age, who would like to get fitter, and find a healthier lifestyle. Contact Ivanna for more details. If you have ideas to enhance what goes on in Weoley Castle please let us know, you can contact Mark on 07505521302.