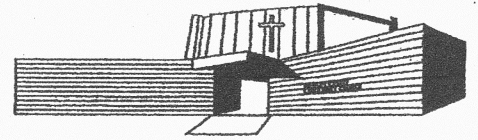


# Weoley Castle Community Church



117 Quarry Road, Weoley Castle  
Birmingham B29 5LE

Tel. 0121 475 3841



## Newsletter

MARCH 2013

# WHAT'S ON - MARCH

### GOOD FRIDAY HAPPENING

As most of you will know, each year on Good Friday, the church invites local families to join us in thinking about the Easter season and what it is all about. This is done through various craft activities, drama and song. The event takes place here at the church between 10am and noon, when



parents are invited to come and see what the children have been creating and to see a short drama production of the story of Good Friday. Any person who would like to help with this event can speak to Audrey, Mark, George, Ted or any Elder. It's a really fun activity which engages all ages and brings to the fore the message of Easter. Book your place soon as space will be limited.

### Walk of Witness

Following the events of the morning the local churches will be gathering together to commemorate Good Friday by singing and praying on the square as a witness to the message of Easter for the wider community. Anyone free to join this would be most welcome. It begins at 4.00pm here at the church.

# From the Minister's Desk

Hello everyone,

I hope lent is going well for all of you, especially for those who have been fasting, or following up other forms of self-denial? I know it is never easy, but being tenacious means that one can go all the way to the end despite the pressures emanating from those self-denying decisions we took at the start of the season. The most important thing is to realise the reason why we are doing what we are doing, not for ourselves but for Christ. The Scripture says, 'whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him (Col. 3:17).' Also the prophet Joel in the Old Testament draws our attention to what is important – our inward state, not the outward. He says 'Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love' (Joel 2:13).

As Easter comes into view I am already getting excited about the upcoming services and activities, especially during Holy Week. At the Weoley Hill end the Selly Oak ecumenical Lent study course is already running every Monday at the Selly Methodist Church. We started the Lenten season with a service at St Mary's Anglican Church, and will be concluding it with a Quaker style ecumenical service at the Woodbrooke Quaker Centre, on Palm Sunday evening. Things will assume some kind of frenzy during Holy Week. Among other things there will be ecumenical communion service with St David's Anglican Church on Maundy Thursday. This will be followed by a Good Friday evening service. Young people are going to have a great time on Holy Saturday with Messy Easter.

For Weoley Castle Community Church there will be a Maundy Thursday service, and then the popular Good Friday happening for young people. Later the same Friday there will be the ecumenical Walk of Witness with local churches to the Weoley Castle Square. The climax on Easter Day (Sunday) will be two services at both Weoley Hill Church and Weoley Castle Community Church. I encourage members of our two churches to endeavour to attend these services and activities.

On the home front we thank the Lord for His mercies. Rock has been doing well with his studies at Caterham, and David is now due to join him in September. David did so well in the entrance examination that he was awarded an automatic bursary to cover all fees. In fact, it was so good the school awarded him a scholarship as well. Isn't God amazing? The rest of us are doing just fine. Nnenna is enjoying her job, and Sharon is doing well at school.

Let us be reminded once again that at Easter God poured out His love lavishly on the cross of Calvary for all humanity in the person of Christ. Have you received this free gift? See you soon. Happy Easter!

*George*

# CONTACTS

**MINISTER : Rev George Kalu.....472 0730.....go\_kalu@yahoo.com**

**CHURCH COMMUNITY WORKER : Mark Tubby..07505521302...crew4wccc@talktalk.net**

**HALL BOOKINGS : Deborah Tubby.....475 3841.....crew4wccc@talktalk.net**

**AGE UK OFFICE : Tues—Thurs 9.00 am—1.30 pm .....437 0479 (24 hours)**

## REGULAR ACTIVITIES

<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	<b>Family Worship—everyone welcome Holy Communion - 2nd Sunday each month</b>
<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>10.00am 12.00 noon 1.30pm 6.00pm</b>	<b>Day Centre Lunch Club Over 60's Keep Fit Karate</b>
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>10.30am 12.00 noon 1.30pm 6.00pm</b>	<b>Men's Club Lunch Club Dance Club Children's Club (TFC) 7-11yrs</b>
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>9.15am 10.00am</b>	<b>Parent &amp; Toddler Group Age Concern Club</b>
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>10.00am 12.00 noon 1.30pm 6.00pm</b>	<b>Good Company Day Centre Lunch Club Age Concern Bingo Club Karate</b>
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>9.15am 10.00am 12.00 noon 1.30pm</b>	<b>Parent &amp; Toddler Group Day Centre Lunch Club Cardiac Club</b>
<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>OCCASIONAL COFFEE MORNINGS</b>	

**Marriages and Baptisms by Arrangement**

# Other Events / Activities

## **ALL CHANGE -**

Please note the new telephone number for Age UK which is now **437 0479**

## **PRAYER GROUP**

Each month a group from various churches comes together to pray for the people of Weoley Castle, and for the current issues, concerns and opportunities that are around. All are welcome to join us, or to send us prayer requests. We are next meeting on Monday 18th March, 7.30pm at WCCC Manse, 123 Quarry Road.

## **GREEN DEAL**

As well as the above a second campaign, aimed at providing local residents with better insulation for their homes, working in partnership with the Northfield Eco Centre and Carilion, the council are offering funding for such work as boilers etc. to find out more about this scheme, which can benefit anyone locally, contact the Eco Centre on 0121 448 0119 and ask about Green Deal.

**LIFELINE FOOD BANK -** Hollymoor Community Church, The Old Chapel, Manor Park Grove, Northfield are providing emergency food supplies to those who find themselves in need. Clients are initially referred to the church who will assess what is needed on an individual basis.

To make a referral for an Emergency Food Pack from Life Line Food Bank in the first instance e-mail [lifelinefoodbank@eternallifechurch.co.uk](mailto:lifelinefoodbank@eternallifechurch.co.uk)

## **REMINDER**

June Walton would like to remind everyone that you can still place all your used postage stamps in the box at church. This raises money which goes to Hearing Dogs for the Deaf. Thank you all for your support.

More about Weoley Castle:

Take a look at local websites (below) to find out more about the people, place and facilities that are part of the green, friendly environment that make up the estate.

[www.weoleycastle.net](http://www.weoleycastle.net)

[www.stonehousegang.co.uk](http://www.stonehousegang.co.uk)

[weoleycastlechurch.co.uk](http://weoleycastlechurch.co.uk)

[www.shenleyacademy.org](http://www.shenleyacademy.org)

The church halls are available to hire for parties and events -  
contact Debbie on 0121 475 3841 for more details

# CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday 3rd March	11.00am	Rev Brian Brown
Sunday 10th March (Mothering Sunday & Communion)	11.00am	Rev Ernest Cruchley
Sunday 17th March	11.00am	Ian Carnell
Sunday 24th March (Palm Sunday)	11.00am	Rev George Kalu
Maundy Thursday	8.00pm	TBC
Good Friday Prayers	4.00pm	Rev George Kalu
Sunday 31st March (Communion)	9.00am	Rev George Kalu
	11.00am	Worship Group

Morning Prayers take place each weekday from 9.15—9.45am All welcome  
A Prayer Board and Prayer Request are available for use in the Entrance  
Foyer and Monthly Prayer Diaries are there to take away

CRCW Group Meeting	2.00pm	Mon 4th March
Elders Meeting	7.45pm	Wed 20th March

## CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Our thoughts are with June & Alf Walton as they both struggle with illnesses, pray that they recover well. Currently, it means Edwin has been under pressure too.

Rene Lucas is now back at home, though she has good and bad days. Anyone wanting to visit would be welcome, just call first to make sure it is okay.

Also, could we pray for Terry Elson, who is ill at present.



# ALSO IN THE NEWS

## **We have a dream...**

... with plans for the upgrade of the toilet facilities at the Church. As users will know, the Disabled toilet is not properly wheelchair-accessible; the Gents has cracked and missing tiles, and in the Ladies one of the basins cannot be used. The cubicles in the Ladies have been there for more than 40 years and are showing it!

Obviously, we think it is important to upgrade these important facilities for the hundreds of people who use the building every week. The only problem is money: this work will cost more than £10,000, and we don't have that amount of cash! Please think if you know of any organisations or charities, which would be prepared to help with the costs. We are looking to find funds from any grants that we can access but any help or support that others can offer would be greatly appreciated and welcome.

## **DISCO TIME**

As Easter approaches the time for the annual Easter disco is here. This year this will take place on Friday 22nd March at 6.30pm. Tickets are available from Mary Sparkes, who can be contacted on 07720583563. She is also around on Wednesday and Friday mornings during the play-group.

Any money that is made by the disco will go towards the Kids' Activity Week during the summer holidays, so a great cause, and a chance to contribute to this brilliant event. The kids love it.

So, get your tickets now, places are limited, though they could be bought on the night. Thanks.



## **SYNOD**

Saturday 9th March sees the West Midlands area Synod meeting, where ideas, concerns, resolutions and the like are discussed. Look out for any important information in next months issue.



Each month a local FURY Group hopes to meet at Bournville URC on the 4th Sunday at 6.30pm. Aimed at young people of secondary school age and above with activities ranging from prayers to parties. Contact Mark on 07505521302 for more details

Messy Church takes place once each half term—It is a family friendly opportunity to explore your creative side using bible themes and stories, and to make lots of mess in a safe environment, and to then enjoy a shared meal.

All families are welcome with or without children— just come prepared to join in and have fun. The next one will take place on

***Friday 15th March at 3.30pm***

For more details on what happens contact

**Mark on 07505521302 or 475 3841 or George on 472 0730**



## **FROM WEOLEY HILL CHURCH**

Our sister church Weoley Hill also have events and activities to join in:

There is a monthly book group, which takes place on a Tuesday evening, speak to Anne Izzard or Ann Evans for more details. Next meeting Tues 12th March.

There is also a monthly Lunch Club, if you wish to join them please give your name to Iris Bird. Next event takes place on Wed 6th March.

Friendship Group—Wednesday 13th March at 2.15pm.

Messy Church with the theme of Easter will be taking place on Saturday 30th March at 10am.

Contact Ann Evans on 07904961160 or email **[annmargevans@hotmail.com](mailto:annmargevans@hotmail.com)** for more info about these and more events.

# THE WORLD OF CRCW

It's hard to believe but this month will see Easter; it feels like the year has hardly got going yet. However there has been plenty going on.

For instance, the young people have been involved in a digital photography project, looking at Weoley Castle through a lens. Given the opportunity to go and explore the community armed with cameras and left to use their creativity, they came up with a variety of excellent results. The second session saw the editing and printing happen and with a final mounting and display session yet to take place you will have to watch out for the results. They should be on display at the local library and here at church in the near future. You may even recognise a few faces.

Thanks and congratulations to all the young people that took part in this, you have done a good job.



Also, the Tuesday Friends Club is going on from strength to strength, with an increase in both helpers and children. It is great to have the extra support from folk in the community but we must not let that mean we are a finished article. We would still welcome others on board to come and help on the night, even if it was occasionally, and it's good to have ideas and extra creativity to help us engage all of the children. It continues to be a real pleasure to work with these young people and long may that carry on.

A project for this year will be a Residents/Community Association group happening for the area. Looking to work with other churches and local people it is hoped that we can give Weoley Castle a stronger voice when it comes to decision making and raising awareness of local issues and concerns. If you would like to be involved in this then please come and speak to me.

Having been involved in Mission workshops at the URC Youth assembly recently it is a good time to think about our mission locally. We are approaching a 4 year review and it's an ideal time to reflect on what has been happening at where we are going next. Input into this thought process is welcome.

Wishing you all a great Easter.

*Mark*