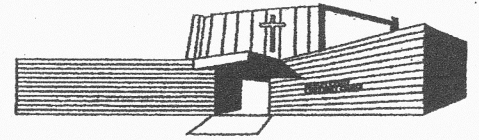


Weoley Castle Community Church



117 Quarry Road, Weoley Castle
Birmingham B29 5LE

Tel. 0121 475 3841



Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2013

WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH

WEOLEY FESTIVAL

Planning has happened for this year's Weoley Festival, which will take place on the grassed area in the middle of the Square on **Sunday 15th September** and runs from **1—4pm**. Folk are still welcome to get involved in this. People are needed on the day to help set up, stewarding, selling raffle tickets, etc.



If you can't get involved, just turn up on the day and take part, it's great fun for all the family and a chance to enjoy something as a community. Hundreds of people will be there, hopefully enjoying a bit of late summer sunshine. There will be various stalls, children's rides, art and circus workshops, food stalls, and all sorts of different entertainment throughout the afternoon in the arena area, such as various dancers, singers, clowns, and much more. It's one event not to be missed in the local calendar. So, see you all there !!

From the Minister's Desk

Hi there,

It is very good to write to you again after what has been a beautiful summer holiday. I hope you seized the occasion and enjoyed the weather. My family was able to visit Edinburgh and Newcastle-upon-Tyne to be with friends on familiar territory – a great re-union it was. As you can imagine there was so much reminiscing, laughter and banter. Our children were able to visit their old schools and play grounds. Unfortunately the school gates are still closed because of the holiday. Their hope of seeing their old friend Bush (the dog) at one of the playgrounds was dashed as well, as it was nowhere to be found. But it was a relaxing time despite all the travelling involved. But we are glad to be back now.

If you remember last month I wrote to you about Christian meditation. Did you follow up on any of the thoughts I shared? Good. But do you realise that more than us seeking after God that it is He (God) who is actually longing to be with us. Right back in Genesis 3 we read of a sense of familiarity between God and humanity, represented by Adam and Eve, when God visited them in the Garden of Eden in the cool of the evening. In due course we see God's relationship with the people of Israel as an example of the closeness God desires for all His creation. The Scripture portrays God Himself as Israel's 'husband' (Isaiah 54:1-8, 62:1-5). This same imagery is used in the New Testament to denote the relationship between Jesus Christ and the Church (Ephesians 5:21-33). In other words God desires an intimacy with us that is beyond casual acquaintances.

We see this same picture of a strong relationship from another perspective when Jesus teaches about prayer. He goes beyond the mechanics of Jewish rituals to paint the picture of a relational God, Who as our Father desires us to approach Him as such, without fear or excessive formality. Jesus begins this ageless prayer with the words 'Our Father in heaven' (Matthew 6:9f). It is not surprising then when God is depicted as the generous and merciful Father in the story of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15). I assure you that He still looking out for us today. So, I encourage you once again to seek God with all your heart. Whether it is in the cool of the evening or the quiet of the morning, or even in the cacophony of the rush hour traffic, do please find a moment in your day for God.

Anyway, for those of us with active school age children we know that the time has come again for us to hit the pavement on the familiar route to and from school. Can we then spare a moment in prayer for these families, parents and children, teachers and school administrators, as they all work to provide the right environment for knowledge to blossom? May we also pray for the quick recovery of those who are sick in our families, the church and the community.

I hope you enjoy other items of news in this edition of the newsletter. And until next month, I hope you have a wonderful time ahead. Please, remember to be part of our imminent annual Harvest. This is wishing you God's abundant blessings.

Shalom!

George

CONTACTS

MINISTER : Rev George Kalu.....472 0730.....minister4wccc@gmail.com
CHURCH COMMUNITY WORKER : Mark Tubby..07505521302...crew4wccc@talktalk.net
HALL BOOKINGS : Mark Tubby.....475 3841.....crew4wccc@talktalk.net

AGE UK OFFICE : Tues—Thurs 9.00 am—12.30 pm.....437 0479 (24 hours)

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

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

Marriages and Baptisms by Arrangement

Other Events / Activities

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 9th Sept 7.30pm at 123 Quarry Road.

OBINTO SANITATION PROJECT

: Some of you would probably be wondering what has happened with the Obinto Sanitation Project. So, far we have remitted all the money that we raised in instalments as the work progressed. Over the period I reported from time to time what level the work was at. The difference with jobs done at home is that folk have other competing chores, so not much is achieved without so much pressure exerted on them. The situation is obviously compounded by the fact of one not being physically present there. However, I can report that the structural work of the women's block has now been completed, leaving the men's at foundation level. The jobs completed include the toilet block itself, and a large septic tank covered with concrete slab. My only worry is that the dimension they used for the block is so large that it measures 50feet by 12feet. Thus, it consumed much more materials than envisaged, gulping the whole money raised in order to bring it up to the present level.



YOUTH WORK

Calling all people who are up for excitement ! We would like to start up a revised version of the youth club that ran here recently on a weekly basis for young people aged 13—17 ish. With ideas from sports, films and craft to bible discussions we would like to hear from anyone who feels they would like to know more or to be involved in some way. Contact George on 472 0730 or Mark on 07505523102. We are still at the planning stage so any input is welcome.

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

weoleycastlechurch.co.uk

www.stonehousegang.co.uk

www.shenleyacademy.org.uk

weoleycastlecommunitychurch.urc.org.uk

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

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday 1st Sept	11.00am	Rev Bob Ash
Sunday 8th Sept (Communion)	11.00am	Rev George Kalu
Sunday 15th Sept	11.00am	Rev George Kalu
Sunday 22nd Sept	11.00am	Frank Challenor
Sunday 29th Sept	11.00am	Fiona Elvins

**Morning Prayers take place each weekday from 9.15—9.45am
All welcome**

Elders Meeting 7.45pm Wed 18th Sept

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Following another spell in hospital Terry Elson is now back at home which is less stress for the family. They are taking things one day at a time and appreciate your prayers.

Alf & June Walton are both at home and Edwin seems to be coping ok. Thoughts and prayers with Alf, June and the boys.

Anne Izzard has had an operation for cancer and is undergoing a course of chemotherapy. She is recuperating at her brother's house.

Margaret Wozencroft is awaiting the results of a biopsy to find out what further treatment is needed. Prayers for her please.

Lucy, Ann & Graham's oldest, is having 8 weeks of physiotherapy for a twisted vertebrae. The family are due to move house next month.

Many will know the sad news that Rene Lucas died on 18th July and Brenda Aston died on 28th July. Thoughts are with the families.

Congratulations to Michael Harvey who gained his degree and found a job at Moseley School & 6th Form as a librarian and Teaching Assistant.

ALSO IN THE NEWS

We have a dream...

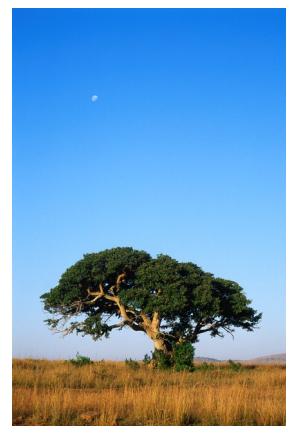
... to upgrade of the toilet facilities at the Church. As users will know, the Disabled toilet is not properly wheelchair-accessible; the Gents has cracked and missing tiles, and in the Ladies one of the basins cannot be used. The cubicles in the Ladies have been there for more than 40 years and are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

Obviously, we think it is important to upgrade these important facilities for the hundreds of people who use the building every week. This work will cost more than £10,000, and we are beginning to raise money already. We are grateful for the donations we have received and this has been a good start to our fundraising efforts, thank you. We are continuing to look for funds from any grants that we can access and have found some more support, any help or support that others can offer, would be welcome....

..... **it could become reality**

ZAMBIA REVISITED

Last year, as some will know, Amy Wakefield ventured into the unknown by going on a trip to Zambia. Well, she made it back and is coming to tell the tale. So, after the service on Sunday 22nd September, Amy is giving a talk and explaining about some of the projects she was involved with in her time out there, and how the donated money was used. Hopefully you will all be able to stay after the service to listen to Amy and see some of the pictures she has taken of her time in Zambia. It will be very interesting for sure.



COFFEE MORNING

On **Saturday 28th September** the church is hosting a coffee morning in aid of the Macmillan Cancer charity. It is taking place from **10am—**

1.00pm and anyone willing to bake for the event should contact Mary on 07720583563 or Lyn on 07932711128 . Please come along and support this fantastic cause and tell friends and neighbours too..





FURY is 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 20th Sept at 3.30pm***

For more details on what happens or to get involved 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 Ann Evans for more details. Next meeting Tues 3rd Sept at 7.30pm.

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 Wednesday 4th Sept at 1pm.

Friendship Group—1.00pm on Wednesday 11th Sept.

We are also having a Harvest Supper on Sat 28th Sept at 7.00pm.
All welcome

Contact Ann Evans on 07904961160 or email **annmargevans@hotmail.com** for more info about these and more events.

THE WORLD OF CRCW



Creating Change in Communities
and the Church

Hi all, hope you have had a really good summer. It seems to have flown by, here we are already in September.

There's been plenty going on still around here. Not least of course was Activity Week. With a theme of Creepy Crawlies it was always going to be great fun. We had over 50 children this year including the helper's children, which is fantastic. Several had never been be-

fore but clearly enjoyed themselves throughout the week. We had plenty to keep them amused, from craft and creativity to mini-beast Olympics and games, there was always something going on. Our day at Ackers Adventure was a great success as always, and the visit to the National Farm Park was equally well received, so much so it was hard to tear them away at the end of the day. We also had Dudley Zoo bring in some of their smaller animals for the children to see and touch, and even the odd adult braved it too.



The end of the week saw Ted demonstrate some amazing science experiments and Nola and her team do amazing things in the kitchen, teaching kids and providing a fabulous Caribbean Buffet. The celebration went off really well, with plenty of parents coming along to see what we'd all been up to and join us in food and fun. Thanks to Christine, Mary and everyone who helped make this great event happen, from comments made the parents seemed to appreciate it as much as the children. Another successful year !!



At the end of last term we held a BBQ for the families of the Tuesday Club children as a celebration of a good year and to help build relationships with local families. It was a brilliant occasion with almost all the children bringing along someone to join us, the manse garden was

packed with people having fun and chatting and eating, after queuing for a while anyway. Perhaps we need a second BBQ to cope with the numbers next time! Anyway it was lovely to get to speak to so many parents and get to know them better, thanks to all who came and to the team of helpers who made it possible.

In terms of that team, it seems we are now in a position where we are down to a bare minimum of help, with illness and new arrivals taking some helpers out of the equation. So, if you or someone you know may be able and willing to offer your support to these great children, we would love to hear from you. Contact Mark on 07505521302 or come along on Tuesday evening and speak to us.

Finally, we have a CRCW Management Group Meeting on **Mon 16th Sept at 2.00pm**, and if you would like to know more about Community Work and even get involved speak to Mark.

Mark Tubby