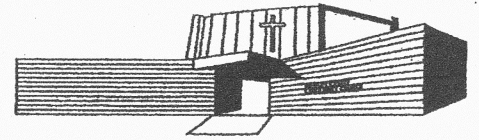


Weoley Castle Community Church Newsletter



117 Quarry Road, Weoley Castle
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FEBRUARY 2014

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS MONTH

Austerity! –

the knock-on effects for Senior Citizens in Weoley Castle
The Government is trying so save money – so they are hugely cutting the grants to Local Authorities.

Because of that, Local Authorities, like ours in Birmingham, are cutting grants to charities.

Birmingham Age UK fears that its grant from the city is going to be cut to nothing from April 1st, and needs to save money.

Some things that Age UK can cut are all the activities: Advice Office, Day Centres, Lunch Clubs etc, that they run at Weoley Castle Community Church.

This could be a double whammy: for the people who go to the Day Centres and Advice Office,

and for the Church, and we don't want it to happen! The Elders are urgently talking to Age UK staff about this and also looking for alternative sources of money to cover the costs of running the Day Centres and to pay the rents that keep the building, warm, cleaned and insured.

What **you** can do:

Tell Mark Tubby, our Church Community Worker or Val Jones in the Age UK Office about any charities or companies that could help financially in large or small ways.

Tell either of them if you could help as a volunteer from time to time to help keep these vital services open.

Contact your local councillors - for example:

peter.douglasosborn@birmingham.gov.uk (0121 454 5454)

eddie.freeman@birmingham.gov.uk (0121 303 2130)

vivienne.barton@birmingham.gov.uk (0121 475 3067)

bruce.lines@birmingham.gov.uk (0121 475 3789)

or:

The Council Cabinet member for Health& Wellbeing: steve.bedser@birmingham.gov.uk

or your local MP: richard.burden.mp@parliament.uk

richard.burden.mp@parliament.uk

– telling them how important this is.



FROM THE MINISTER'S DESK

Dear friends,

‘...pray for each other so that you may be healed’ (James 5:16).

Towards the end of last year I felt strongly the need to urge us all to be in prayer for the year ahead, 2014. The above words of St James’ capture the need for God’s people to continually pray for one another. This time I am calling on us to pray for our world in crisis. Right from the Old Testament believers have been encouraged to do so. I wrote not long ago that, Esther’s most popular line, ‘If I perish, I perish’, was born out of a time of adversity and was preceded by her call to prayers for herself and all Jews (Esther 4:15-17). They faced a possible annihilation and so needed God’s intervention in the circumstance. She prayed by herself and with her nation (in diaspora) who were praying together as well. God eventually intervened. And so both personal and corporate prayers have been part and parcel of the wider prayer circle of believers. Jesus said in John 16:33 (New Living Translation)

“I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.”

The truth is that God does not promise us a life of ease and total comfort. Of course, those will come, but there will as well be times of uncertainty and tears. One of Tearfund’s newsletters is called ‘Tear Times’. It captures the lives of people in distress and the needs they face. Their work interestingly started as a result of the humanitarian needs of the people of my part of Nigeria (called Biafra at that time) during our civil war (1967-1970). Tearfund writes on its website that *‘The terrible 1968 famine in Biafra, caused by civil war in Nigeria, prompts the public launch of the fund under the leadership of George Hoffman. The Evangelical Alliance Relief (TEAR) Fund is born. Cliff Richard gives his first fundraising concert for the cause in the Royal Albert Hall in 1969.’* Therefore, knowing that there will always be challenging times in the personal and corporate arenas of our lives we need to always stand by one another in prayer.

Today if not Syria, it is the Central African Republic, or South Sudan, or even Ukraine. It is clear that with the continued presence of wickedness in the world human sufferings will never end. But the milk of human kindness will surely always make a big difference when put into action. I am glad that our churches already support many good causes, locally and internationally. This is worth doing. However, there is something more that we can contribute that the secular world does not have – prayer.

I know it has become a cliché and often said glibly that ‘prayer makes a difference’. But I believe it really does. God’s promises are ever clear that He (God) answers prayers. I know we are frustrated that sometimes it takes longer than we expect, or even a different course than we would want, yet it is true that God does really answer prayers. Shall we now pray?

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

Toilets Update



Our upgrade to the church toilets will be happening in the near future, though details need to be sorted out first . We are grateful to everyone who has participated to this project, through time, money or expertise. Details of when the work is to begin will be circulated as soon as they are sorted and finalised. It is unclear as yet how the work will proceed, whether we close the building for a period or find a solution where we can work around activities. Meanwhile, thanks to all who have helped.

AWK

For those who have been awaiting this date, and others who may be willing to be involved this year, the Kid's Activity Week will take place from **Monday 4th August to Friday 8th August** . If you would like to know more or wish to be involved speak to Christine Hopkins or Mark Tubby for more details.

Friends With Anxiety

A new self-help group, aimed at people who suffer with anxiety, panic attacks and other related problems are welcome to come along on a Wednesday evening at 6pm. There will be an opportunity to share with others in a similar position, in a place of understanding and care, and maybe find some helpful tips or strategies. There is also the possibility of bringing in some free help from MIND, who could run a course to help you understand and deal with situations you regularly face. For more information contact **Donna on 07725181246**.



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

ALSO IN THE NEWS

Meeting

On **Saturday 22nd February** there will be a meeting where the speaker will be Richard Burden, the local MP, who is looking to address issues faced by local residents in Birmingham. Come along to hear what he has to say or to air your opinions or concerns where they will be heard. The meeting will begin at **2pm** here at the church.

Community Hub

In the wake of what is happening with Age UK and with cuts in services generally, a suggestion that a Community Hub is set up has been put forward. This idea would bring together stakeholders from every sector, schools, businesses, churches, groups and organisations as well as local community to act together for the good of the local area. It gives a stronger voice, looks for funds for local services or need and tries to look out for the local community. To get involved speak to Mark.

THIS MONTH'S FUNNYS

A skeleton walks into a bar. The bartender says, "What'll you have?"
The skeleton says, "A beer and a mop."

Adam was walking around the Garden of Eden feeling very lonely, so God asked Adam, "What is wrong with you?" Adam said he didn't have anyone to talk to. God said he was going to give him a companion and she would be called "woman."

God said, "This person will cook for you and wash your clothes, she will always agree with every decision you make. She will bear your children and never ask you to get up in the middle of the night to take care of them. She will not nag you, and will always be the first to admit she was wrong when you've had a disagreement. She will never have a headache, and will freely give love and compassion whenever needed."

Adam asked God, "Wow ! what will this woman cost?"

God said, " Oh, an arm and a leg."

Adam thought for a moment then said, "What can I get for a rib?"

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

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
14th
Feb at
3.30pm**

For more details on what happens or to get involved contact

Mark on 07505521302

or 475 3841



FROM WEOLEY HILL CHURCH

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

There is a monthly Lunch Club, if you wish to join then please give your name to Iris Bird. Next event takes place on Wednesday 5th Feb at 1pm.

Friendship Group—2.15pm on Wednesday 12th February

Also, there is a book group on Tues 25th at 7.30pm.

Finally, there is a Traidcraft Big Brew on Sat 1st March, from 2.30pm—4pm.

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

THE WORLD OF CRCW

Hi all,

A new year brings new challenges and new possibilities as well as eve-



rything else. This January has proved no exception. As you will have read on the front page, Age UK Facilities in Weoley Castle are under serious threat of closure and there is plenty to do to ensure that the vital services that are offered to the community around us in the partnership between the church and Age UK are not dropped. The many frail elderly folk that rely upon these services would be left abandoned, to become

isolated in their own homes, should council cuts mean the end of Weoley Castle Age UK.

So, with that in mind we are hoping to persuade the powers that make such decisions to rethink. At the very least, if we are given more time, alternative ways and means of ensuring the future of Day Care in Weoley Castle can be sought. We are looking to bring anyone who has an interest in this issue together to discuss and action a plan to show we care about our older generation. Contact Mark or anyone in the Age UK office to find out what you can do!!

Other projects that continue include Messy Church, which is on this month on Feb 14th, and anyone is welcome to come along and join in the fun. Taking the theme of God's Love, we'll have games, craft, songs, stories and of course food together and share that love. To get involved call Mark on



07505521302 or come along on the day and just join in.

George, our minister, will be on study leave throughout February, so if there are pastoral issues please feel free to contact Mark, or Anne Izzard the secretary, for other things.



Creating Change in Communities
and the Church

In the meantime, if you have an idea that you think will benefit the church or community or both, I'd love to hear from you. The next CRCW Management meeting will take place on **Monday 3rd February at 2pm.**

Mark Tubby