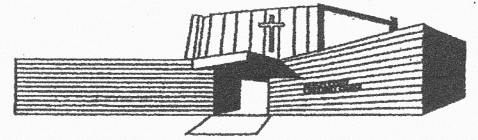


Weoley Castle Community Church Newsletter



117 Quarry Road, Weoley Castle
Birmingham B29 5LE

Tel. 0121 475 3841



APRIL 2014

Easter Edition

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS MONTH

IT'S ALL HAPPENING

On **Friday 18th April** the annual Good Friday Happening will take place here at the Community Church from 10.00am—12 noon. There will be craft activities galore, with lots of messy fun. This will be followed by a retelling of the story of Easter that the children will be part of in drama form and will perform for the parents when they arrive at the end of the morning. The event is open to all families, with children under 7 being accompanied. Over 7's can book their place by con-



tacting
Christine
Hopkins
on 0121
426 1227

or Mark on 07505521302. to find out more or to be involved in this fun family occasion call either of the two above numbers.

Also on Good Friday the local Weoley Churches are coming together for a prayer walk of witness, visiting various places and stopping to read, pray or sing. Anyone is welcome to join us for this event, which will begin on the square at about 1.30pm, and last for around 45 mins.

We are also having an Easter breakfast on **Sunday 20th April** and if you'd like to be there speak to Christine Miles to get your order in. Of course, everyone is welcome to join us for our Easter Services. Pg 5

Oh no! not evangelism!*

On 16th March, there was a “Church Day” at Weoley Hill, addressed by Rev. Nick Stanyon, who has recently been appointed “Synod Evangelist” for the West Midlands. He gave enthusiastic, humorous and encouraging presentations on “Doing the work of an evangelist”. He spent some time demolishing some ideas of the E-word that often put people off. For instance, the E-word means “giving good news”, so mournfully standing in a dirty raincoat and sandwich board proclaiming “THE END IS NIGH” is certainly not evangelism! Similarly, trying to convert people by cold-calling on the doorstep, or by forcing the name of Jesus into a conversation may well put people off. Nevertheless, it is very useful to think again how we express our faith, so that we can talk about with confidence about it if the occasion arises. An example occurred to me while I listened to Nick. If someone said to you “What does being a Christian mean to you?”, then replying: “Oh I just do it, I don’t think about it” might be a missed opportunity. This does not mean that we need to *know all the answers*. It might be better if someone complained about suffering in the world, to say “Yes I find that a problem too”. Also, it may well be by the quality of care for and service to others that we can best spread the good news. However, this can be supported by a carefully planned programme: Nick described a system of *asking* people in the neighbourhood what they would like the Church to pray about; in his experience, it had proved a useful means of outreach. He



Church Mice.

also pointed out that the kind of Sunday morning worship that regular members find satisfying and worthwhile may not appeal to others – particularly if it doesn’t seem both *fun* and *real*. I was reminded of the success of *Messy Church*, which is at an unconventional time and in an unconventional style for worship.

Nick finished by reminding us that churches need to *want* to grow to be successful, and recommended several courses and books, including *Evangelism for Normal People* by John Bowen and *How to explain your faith* by John Pritchard (both available very cheaply online).

Ted Forgan

CONTACTS

CHURCH NUMBER :0121 475 3841.....weoleycastlecommunitychurch50@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—2.00 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	Parent & Toddler Group
THURSDAY	1.30pm 6.00pm	Age Concern Bingo Club Karate
FRIDAY	9.15am 10.00am 12.00 noon 1.30pm 3.30pm	Parent & Toddler Group Day Centre Lunch Club Cardiac Club Messy Church (once each half term)
SATURDAY	OCCASIONAL COFFEE MORNINGS	

Marriages and Baptisms by Arrangement

OTHER EVENTS / ACTIVITIES

Activity Week

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.

Advance Notice

This year's Weoley Festival will be held on Sunday 14th September. Anyone wishing to be involved contact Mark on 07505521302.

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE - Can you find all ten?



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 afternoon at 1.30pm. 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

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday 6th April	11.00am	Rev Brian Brown
Sunday 13th April (With Communion)	11.00am	Mark Tubby
Thursday 17th April	8.00pm	Christine Miles
Friday 18th April	3.00pm	Anne Izzard
Sunday 20th April (Easter Sunday)	11.00am	Bruce Harvey
Sunday 27th April	11.00am	Joe Blackburn
Sunday 4th May	11.00am	David Parker

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

Elders Meeting	7.45pm	Monday 7th April
CRCW Meeting	2.00pm	Monday 7th April

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Margaret Basterfield is continuing her chemotherapy and thoughts and prayers are with her and with Chris.

Margaret Wozencroft has now finished her course of radiotherapy and needs to wait to find out the results and appreciates your prayers.

Keith & Diane Twamley's daughter Jaimee has given birth to her second baby boy, Oliver, on March 17th, weighing 6lb 12oz. Congratulations. Both mother and baby are doing well, despite him coming a month early.

Following a fall, Margaret Wetherall is recovering in West Heath. She is in good spirits and looking forward to coming out soon.

ALSO IN THE NEWS

As you will be able to see from the photographs below, the work on updating our toilet facilities has begun. Rob, the building contractor is having a smashing time taking down walls and tiles and toilets and generally

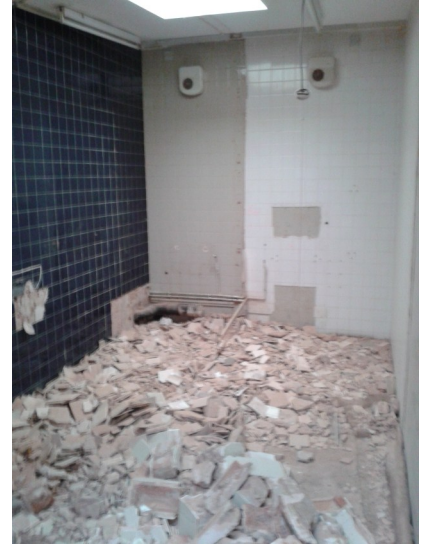


dismantling what was already there. This first phase of the work, which is the Men's and Disabled toilets should be complete next week. It is then hoped to go straight into phase two and dismantle the ladies.

We need to thank all those who have made this work possible, from various members of the church and community to

sponsors who have given us grants, such as Veolia, who were generous enough to fund half the work. We wish Rob well as he continues to

single-handedly demolish the building and look forward to seeing the finished result



Only Joking

A minister, known for his long sermons, noticed a man get up and leave during the middle of his message. The man returned just before the conclusion of the service. Afterwards the minister asked the man where he had gone.

"I went to get a haircut," was the reply.

"But, why didn't you do that before the service?" he asked.

"Because," the gentleman said, "I didn't need one then."

A minister went out one Saturday to visit his church members. At one house, it was obvious that someone was home, but nobody came to the door even though the minister knocked several times. Finally, the minister took out his card, wrote out "Revelation 3:20" on the back of it, and stuck it in the door. Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with me. - Revelation 3:20 The next day, the card turned up in the collection plate. Below the preacher's message was written the following notation: Genesis 3: 10 I heard your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself. - Genesis 3:10

More about Weoley Castle:

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. They generally take place on a Friday 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 2nd at 1pm.

Friendship Group—2.15pm on Wednesday 9th April

A Community Choir takes place each fortnight—next meeting at 6.30pm on Friday 11th then Friday 25th April

Also, there is a book group on Wed April 2nd at 7.30pm.

Contact Ann Evans on 07904961160 or email

annmargevans@hotmail.com for more info about these and more events.

THE WORLD OF CRCW

Well, yet another eventful month has flown by. In terms of Age UK and their presence in Weoley Castle, there has been some progress. The Information and Advice



Creating Change in Communities
and the Church

Centre will now remain in place for the time being, meaning local residents can still access these vital services Tuesday to Thursday each week, here at the church.



The progress on the Day Centres is less certain. For 3 months Wednesday and Thursday will move to new premises at Onnelly House in Harborne, where they will trial Day Centre activities for this period. Not all are happy with this arrangement. Meanwhile, the church continues to look for ways and funds to create a Community led initiative to head up Day Care services here at the church. With so little money available at this time it is proving quite hard to move this forward.

Whilst all this is happening we are also looking to create a Community Hub, a space to bring all sections of the community together, such as churches, schools, council services and community groups. Together we would look at services we provide, the needs of the community and where the gaps may be. Then there would be the opportunity to work together on ensuring the gaps in need are fulfilled in some way. We are going to hold an initial meeting on Friday 4th April, here at the church from 2pm and people wishing to know more or get involved are welcome.



Other things that have I was involved in this month include conducting Terry Elson's funeral, which, though it was a hard occasion, it was a privilege to be in that position with the family. Terry was a great guy, and will be missed by everyone who knew him. My thoughts and prayers are with Min and the boys.

Mark Tubby

