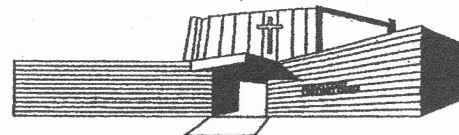


Weoley Castle Community Church



117 Quarry Road, Weoley Castle
Birmingham B29 5LE

Tel. 0121 475 3841



Newsletter

MAY 2016

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS MONTH

Vintage Tea Party



the centre for **voluntary action**

Thursday 12th May will see a Vintage Tea Party here at the church. There will be tea, coffee, cakes and other delights for you to come and enjoy. The event may be aimed at our older members of the community but everyone is welcome to join us. It will run from **10.30am—12.00 noon**. There will be an opportunity to find out more about local services for the over 50's, hearing about the Ageing Better initiative that is currently being

promoted in Birmingham. Just turn up on the day but if you would like to know more speak to Mark or contact Julie on 01214725913

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 15–21 May 2016

This is the week we love every neighbour. Jesus calls us to love our neighbour just as much as we love ourselves. Our neighbours are not just the ones next door or at the end of the street, but a multitude of human beings who have just as much a right to a decent life as we do. Christian Aid Week unites over 20,000 churches to put this love in to action, and raises about £13 million. If you can help to deliver collection envelopes (any age) or collect (adults only) in Weoley Castle please have a word with Ted Forgan. Many streets get missed out, so if you don't get one delivered at home, please take an envelope from Church and bring it back here before the end of the month.

Another way you can contribute is by coming to the "coffee morning" at Weoley Hill Church on Wednesday May 11th. It is in the AFTERNOON from 2 till 4 pm, with tea, cakes and other items to bring and buy.



Find out more about Weoley Castle and its people:

www.weoleycastle.net

weoleycastlechurch.co.uk

www.stonehousegang.co.uk

www.shenleyacademy.org.uk

weoleycastlecommunitychurch.urc.org.uk

Musical Keys to living and dying {m. miles}

I realised recently that accompanying the 'whole-church choir' at WCCC is the most enjoyable thing on my agenda. In Spring last year, I took time out to visit a dozen other churches in Birmingham, and get a breath of fresh air. It was good to see how other people make their music and accommodate their choir and instruments. My main memory was of friendly people in bone-chillingly cold buildings, sitting on rock-hard pews! It was good to get back to 'my corner' at WCCC, and feel warm air from the heaters, and sit in comfort. [For people at WCCC who joined latterly, and wonder how on earth the beautiful Blüthner grand is operated from a bright blue office chair - this was a special effort by Ted Forgan years ago. I had complained that, while playing "God is love" to the Welsh tune Blaenwern, on the third verse I got caught up so far as to join in the singing. I took a lungful of air - which changed the usual bent-over configuration of my crumbling backbone. As I hit the keys while breaking into song, I very nearly went flying backwards off the flat piano bench we used at the time. ("Action and reaction are equal and opposite" - it would have been a great example of the Thermo-dynamic Laws of Hymn-singing, or flying by the seat of one's pants!) Ted had access to some low-cost 'used' furniture, and promptly supplied a comfortable, adjustable chair, which has served very well ever since!]

Last month I started new chemotherapy for my bone cancer, now with kidneys working below 17% capacity - a narrow margin. My main consultant, looking through the file, remarked that people with this level of complications usually die within a year. This Kashmiri man, whom I've come to know as a friend and brother, has always previously been very positive in his approach; so I appreciated that he spoke honestly to me from his experience. (Afterwards, he added "But some survive!" For the written record, he made it a little vaguer - it may be hard for the chemo to pull back the problems).

Two months of chemo have left me exhausted much of the time, half asleep and having trouble getting anything done. The weekly session of Sunday music-making, where as few as ten singers and a keyboard manage to fill WCCC sanctuary with joyful sounds, adjusting the pace and volume to the words we are singing, has a great therapeutic effect. One of the chemo side-effects is cramping of feet and hands (peripheral neuropathy), a major threat to piano playing, so I'm glad we now have the digital music box as a fall-back. That gadget actually made me feel a bit competitive - I'm determined to 'out-play' it! (Can one be so stupid? Yes!) I continue to believe that our lives are in the hand of God. As the ancient Jewish sage said, one can look at one's hand, and see each side (or see the span from thumb to little finger) at a glance. As we take life's little journey across the palm of God's hand, God sees the beginning and the end, whether it takes 10 years or 40 or 90 years.

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CONTACTS

CHURCH NUMBER :0121 475 3841.....weoleycastlecommunitychurch50@gmail.com

COMMUNITY MINISTER : Mark Tubby.....07505521302...crew4wccc@talktalk.net

HALL BOOKINGS : Mark Tubby.....475 3841.....crew4wccc@talktalk.net

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	6.00pm 7.30pm	Children's Club (TFC) 7-11yrs (Term time) Youth Club (12+)
WEDNESDAY	9.15am 5.00pm	Parent & Toddler Group (Term time) Elite Dance
THURSDAY	Mornings 6.00pm	Foot Health Practitioner (Occasionally) Karate
FRIDAY	9.15am 10.00am 12.00 noon 1.30pm 3.30pm 5.00pm	Parent & Toddler Group (Term time) Day Centre Lunch Club Cardiac Club Messy Church (once each half term) Elite Dance
SATURDAY	9.00am	Elite Dance

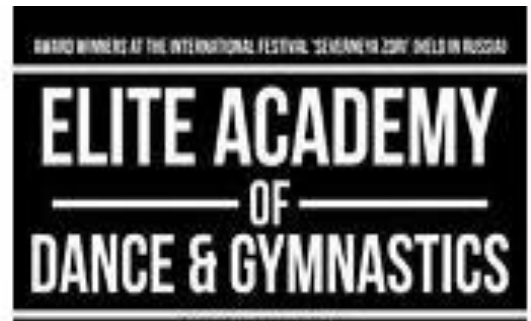
Marriages, Funerals and Baptisms by Arrangement

OTHER EVENTS / ACTIVITIES



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

On **Sunday 8th May**, children from the Elite Academy will be performing a live show at the Artrix Centre in Bromsgrove. Book your tickets for this great show of local talent. Performance starts at **6.00pm**. For more info speak to Yvonne or Mark.



Each month, on a Saturday morning, there will be a Men's fellowship group, a chance to eat, pray and talk together. It will take place at the home of Joe Bevan, so contact him for more details on 07852238244

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

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Can the prayers of human beings change the course of our lives? There is a curiously simple old proverb saying "God likes to be helped!" If we pray to this all-knowing God, it arises because the Spirit of God prompts us to pray. What we say and ask comes out full of confusion through our human frailty, but that is not a problem for God. There is all of time and eternity in which to attend to the cries of human beings, and to weave our attempts at 'helping God' into patterns that are beyond our imagination.

Musical Keys to living and dying {m. miles}

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday 1st May	11.00am	Rev David Parker
Sunday 8th May (Communion)	11.00am	Rev Brian Brown
Sunday 15th May	11.00am	Andy Vail
Sunday 22nd May	11.00am	Frank Challenor
Sunday 29th May	11.00am	Worship Group

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 our friends at
St Gabriel's for Communion and Prayers

Elders Meeting	7.30pm	Wed 11th May
Church Meeting	12.30pm	Sun 22nd May

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Margaret Wetherall is gradually recovering in West Heath and hopefully will soon be well enough to move out. She has been in the Willow House part of the hospital where the staff and environment have aided her rehabilitation, so thanks to them. Visitors are welcome till then.

Margaret Wozencroft is back at home following her operation and also welcomes anyone able to visit her.

Matthew Tubby is finishing his school life this term and is currently exploring Apprenticeships in IT.

John, Anne Izzard's brother, is recovering from a broken hip and keen to get back to work.

ALSO IN THE NEWS

Facebook!

<https://www.facebook.com/WeoleyCastleCommunityChurch>



Like us on facebook !



On **Friday 20th May** we are having our next Messy Church event, with the whole thing kicking off around 3.30pm, straight after school. There will be lots of fun, friends, food and full on mess for all the family.

Everybody is welcome to this event where we come together to discover God in the community and make friends in a space that is safe and fun.

For more details or to get involved contact Mark on 07505521302.

During May my mum, Margaret Basterfield, will be running a raffle in aid of NICE centre for movement disorders, otherwise known as the National Institute for Conductive Education. <http://www.conductive-education.org.uk/> It is 30 years since the charity was formed to bring Conductive Education to this country from Hungary and I have been involved with it for over 28 years, as many of you will remember I went to the Peto Institute in Budapest in January 1988 as one of the first group of children. Since then things have moved on with work being done with both children and adults with a range of movement disorders. The raffle draw will take place after the Sunday service on 5th June (See separate sheet for more on this article)

THIS MONTH'S FUNNIES

Mahatma Gandhi was a great man with an almost mystical belief in the power of the Indian people to achieve independence by non-violent means. He led a simple life, often walking barefoot, so the soles of his feet were covered with callouses. Because he engaged in hunger strikes to further the cause, his health was not strong. Also, he was quite prepared to eat the low-quality food which was the only thing available to the poorest people. This food would often give him bad breath. Because of all these things, you could say that Gandhi was a: Super-calloused fragile mystic hexed by halitosis



FROM WEOLEY HILL CHURCH

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

There is a monthly Lunch Club, if you wish to join then please give your name to Nancy Nicholls. The next one takes place on **Wednesday 4th May at 1.00pm.**

The Friendship group are meeting on **Wednesday 11th May at 2.00pm.**

The Community Choir meets weekly on **Fridays at 6.30pm** and all are welcome.

There is also a Community Garden group meeting monthly and will next meet on **Saturday 7th May at 10.30am.**

The book group are next meeting on **Tuesday 3rd May at 7.30pm.**

Service 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**

AND FROM BEAUMONT ROAD

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

Thursday 5th May there is a Thursday afternoon group, for retired folk, from **2—3pm.**

On **Thurs 12th and 26th** there will be a quiet space for meditation from **3—4pm.**

Sunday Services begin at 10.30am and all are welcome.

Contact Jim Garrow if you would like more details on **jgarrow7@btinternet.com**

THE WORLD OF CRCW

So, as we move into spring the snow arrives, strange weather heh! Things are gradually bursting into life though, blossom on trees, daffodils then tulips appearing. This new lease of life had me thinking, especially as while writing this I'm caring for a 10 week old kitten with cat flu. It seems all so impossible at times. We look out in the garden and all seems dead, how can life spring from that. A life that somehow seems so fragile too. If you've seen a cat with flu you'll know just how touch and go it is. Things can seem hopeless sometimes. Guess that's how Jesus disciples might have felt. Yet, where there is hope, there is life and somehow, like the garden, things grow and flourish. Creation seems so fragile and yet is so wonderfully robust and sustainable. Despite our best efforts too.



Over the past few weeks I have been updating and revising our church policies. With the introduction of the new URC Safeguarding handbook I have been busy ensuring our policies comply with the latest thinking and guidelines. If we as a church are to help sustainability we need to look at how we do things and what we do. This goes way beyond policies and practice of course but it's given me a chance to look and reflect on my own practice. How sustainable is it? Answers on a postcard please!



While on sustainability, we have just heard that the Youth Service are committing to the group here in Weoley Castle for another year, which in council terms is as long as you get. This is good news for the young people locally and will enable a genuine working partnership to grow with ourselves as we look to serve the community.

The Weoley Festival now has a new committee, with myself as chair, and we are looking to get as many local groups and people involved as possible, so let me know if you or someone else could offer something to this fun community event, which this year is set for 11th September.

Steve Summers, the national development worker for Community Ministry came to Birmingham recently and was pleased to hear how things were going. He wants to come back in the summer to do an official review along with other church officials, so we have that to look forward too.

Mark Tubby CRCWM

Creating Change
in Communities and the Church

