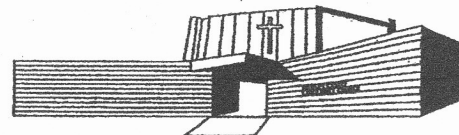


Weoley Castle Community Church

Newsletter

APRIL 2017

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS MONTH



117 Quarry Road, Weoley Castle
Birmingham B29 5LE

Tel. 0121 475 3841



Well Friday is ! If you are newer to the area you may not be aware of the **Good Friday Happening**, which takes place from **10am to about 12.15pm**. All are invited to come along and share in making Easter themed crafts, lots of mess, refreshments and then produce and perform a drama around the first Easter. Hopefully see you there !



Following the service on **April 2nd**, Ted Forgan will be presenting a pictorial account of his recent visit to Africa, and this includes a soup lunch, so should be good.

Of course, with Easter comes new life, so we also invite you to try something new. We have an Easter Day service just after breakfast which will be at 9.30am at church. Come and join us. Details of the other services and events that happen here are inside.

Our next **Advice Café** will take place on **Thursday 6th April from 10am to 1pm**. If want any advice or support on a particular matter, please contact us, but we have a range or expertise on hand on the day from legal to benefit to money to support groups.

Look out too for other activities during Easter and after the holidays, such as the **Arts Café** on **27th April**.



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

Dear Friends,

As I write we are just about half way through Lent and Easter is still some way off but as I start to think about Holy Week and Easter this hymn comes to mind.

*Come, let us worship him, endlessly sing;
Christ is alive and death loses its sting.
Sins are forgiven, alleluia!
Jesus is risen alleluia!
Go tell others; Christ is alive;
love is eternal, faith and hope thrive.
What God intended, Jesus fulfilled;
what God conceives, can never be killed.
Christ has arisen! Now all can see
how humankind is meant to be free.
Though pow'rs of darkness threaten their worst,
through every barrier Jesus has burst.
Let heaven echo, let earth sing:
Jesus is saviour of everything.
All those who trust him, Christ will receive;
therefore rejoice, obey and believe!*

(Written by Bernard Kyamanywa translated and John Bell. © 1993 WGRG, c/o Iona Community, 21 Carlton Court, Glasgow, G5 9JP, Scotland. www.wildgoose.scot)

Christ is alive – alleluia! Celebration and thanksgiving must surely be our response to this and to the mystery of cross and resurrection in which we are set free from all that separates us from God and each other. We are forgiven and because it is God's intention to share resurrection life with those who come to him through Jesus Christ, there is every reason to hope for the future.

Of course it would not have felt like that for the disciples in the week or so before that first Easter. They would have been heavy with foreboding as they travelled to Jerusalem with Jesus: he had a heavy heart as they travelled. As I read the Gospels I get a sense of the forces of darkness swirling around Jesus and growing stronger as the week went on. By the Thursday night and the upper room the atmosphere would have been tense with a pervading sense of sadness as Jesus talked of what was to come. As the events of the night and Friday unfolded the disciples must have felt that their world was collapsing around their ears and that the very life was being crushed out of them. On Saturday they had no hope and no future. Then came Sunday and everything changed when they accepted that Jesus was alive. They could hardly believe what was happening. The world was not so dark and there was every reason for hope. Love, eternal, divine love had triumphed over the forces of evil and darkness. Nothing would ever be the same again.

We are an Easter people: we live in the light of the resurrection and we have every reason to look the future with confidence. We have a God who comes to us in Jesus; we have a Lord who shared our life with all its joys and troubles and who defeated death and evil; we have the promise and the reality of the Holy Spirit who comes to us to lead us and empower us. We don't know what the future holds but we *do* know who holds us: the God who will never desert us and who longs to lead us, help us and carry us.

It is part of the deal, part of our calling as Christians, to be a pilgrim people always moving and changing as we walk with God and seek to share the good news of his love with society and other individuals. The church is supposed to be a movement – not a fixed institution: something we forget because it is more comfortable to set up camp in the place we are and which is familiar. We can be sure that the future will bring more change and we can be sure that in God we have what we need to face it – if we are willing to trust, listen and obey.

May God Bless you this Easter

Every blessing **David**

CONTACTS

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

MINISTER Rev David Littlejohns..0121 4720730.....minister.mansemob@btopenworld.com

COMMUNITY MINISTER : Mark Tubby.....07505521302...crcwm4wccc@gmail.com

HALL BOOKINGS : Mark Tubby.....475 3841.....crcwm4wccc@gmail.com

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY	11.00am	Family Worship—everyone welcome Holy Communion - 2nd Sunday each month
MONDAY	10.00am 12.00 noon 1.30pm 5.30pm	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 (11+) (Term Time)
WEDNESDAY	9.15am 5.00pm	Parent & Toddler Group (Term Time) Elite Dance Academy
THURSDAY	10.00am 5.30pm	Advice & Support Café (Various) 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 Academy
SATURDAY	9.00am	Elite Dance Academy

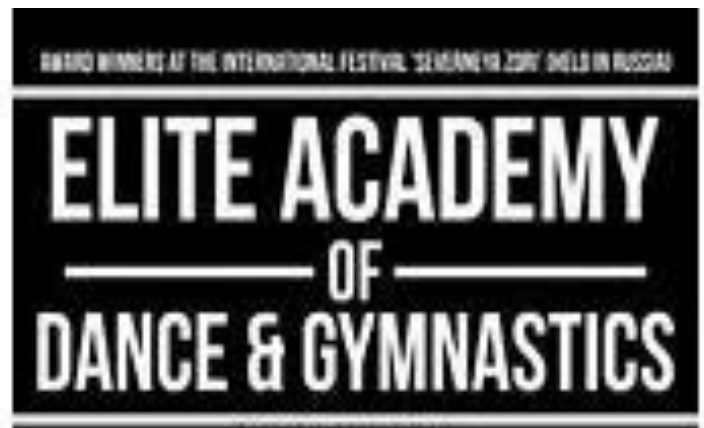
Marriages, Funerals and Baptisms by Arrangement

OTHER EVENTS / ACTIVITIES



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

Run by award winners Yvonne and Oleg Teplitski, Elite offers children **3—18 yrs** old a chance to learn many different dance styles such as ballet, tap, modern, and much more. If you are interested contact Yvonne on **07787062248** for more details, or drop in and speak to her.



HOMELESS PROJECT

A very big 'thank you' to all who donated so generously to our appeal for supplies for the homeless. Each and every item has been distributed and gratefully received.

The project is on going and the number of displaced people is growing daily so If you can help in any way it would be much appreciated. We are asked for hot drinks which is proving a bit difficult if any one has a pump action flask that they no longer use please think of us. Also some kind of trolley would be useful. Any suggestions? With thanks

Sally Hurlston 07878291003

Steph Wixey 07889 856 333

Margaret Hurlston 0791 367 6341

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

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday 2nd April (Joint Service)	11.00am	Rev David Littlejohns
Sunday 9th April (Communion)	11.00am	Rev Ernest Cruchley
Thursday 13th April (Maundy Thursday Service)	8.00pm	Rev Ernest Cruchley
Sunday 16th April (Easter Day)	11.00am	Worship Group
Sunday 23rd April	11.00am	Rev Brian Brown
Sunday 30th April	11.00am	Rev David Littlejohns

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

CRCW Meeting	2.00pm	Friday 28th April
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CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Please remember Miles and Christine in your prayers.

Margaret Basterfield is back at home, so good news, pray for her continuing recovery from a chest infection, and for Chris too.

Let me know of birthdays and I will add them in here, it's good to remember all those associated with the church community.

ALSO IN THE NEWS

Facebook!

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

Like us on facebook !



CALL TO DERBY

To my church family and friends

It is with pleasure, and a little sadness, that I can confirm that I have received a call to the Derby A2C Church Related Community Work project.

Ashbourne Road (Methodist/URC LEP) and Central URC are in the same area and are working together to create a joint project. They have a passion for walking in Jesus' footsteps and to reach out to their community, and they want some help getting there. They have no major plans in place, just a desire to find out what the local needs are and how they can assist in meeting those needs.

I know that this is where God is calling me, and whilst I know there will be challenges along the way, I feel that good things will come out of Derby. Tony and Harry are both looking forward to the opportunities ahead of them.

The commissioning and induction service will be on Saturday 12th August at Ashbourne Road. More details coming soon!

No matter how exciting this is, I am also filled with sadness at leaving our numerous friends and those who have supported us throughout this journey. I have been blessed to have been part of your church. You have nurtured and guided me, you have carried me through the tough times (and there have been a lot of those!), you have given me confidence and you have loved me.

I can never thank you enough for all you have given me.

We will still be around until July!

Many blessings **Vicky**

THIS MONTH'S FUNNIES

What happened to the Easter Bunny when he misbehaved at school?
He was eggspelled!

Why do people paint Easter eggs?
Because it's easier than trying to wallpaper them

What do you get if you pour boiling water down a rabbit hole?
A hot cross bunny

Did you hear about the lady whose house was infested with Easter eggs?
She had to call an eggs-terminator!

So, Easter commemorates when Jesus hid eggs for the disciples to find, and then he turned all the rabbits into chocolate, right?



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 5th April at 1.00pm.**

The Friendship group are meeting on **Wednesday 12th April at 2.15pm.**

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

The Community Garden group that meet monthly on **Saturday's**, have now rested for the winter and will begin again on **1st April. At 10.30am**

Services are each **Sunday at 10.30am** and anyone is welcome to join us.

Plus for Easter there is a Good Friday service at **7.30pm** and Easter Day Sunrise service at **7.00am**

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:

1st **Thursday** there is a Thursday afternoon group, for retired folk, from **2—3pm.**

On 2nd and 4th **Thurs** 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, Spring is coming and Easter almost upon us. All around are the signs of new life; from the garden colours are bursting forth from so many places. Within the church too is new life, receiving new members. The Love Weoley Castle is a sign of newness too, giving rise to hope in something better. There is always so much to be thankful for.

Our children's club, TFC, had a visit from Prof Ted recently, bringing with him a wonderful mix of humour, knowledge and madness. The children really enjoyed it. Thanks, Ted. With Easter approaching we are getting ready for the Good Friday Happening, which each year brings to life the story of Easter to so many local families. Look forward to seeing you there!



We are also due a visit from a school this month, bringing an opportunity to share our faith story with the local community, which we will do in conjunction with Rev Fiona, from St Gabriel's Church. Look forward to that.

So, the Love Weoley Castle launch took place last week and folk from council, business, schools, groups and community came along to see what it was all about. We want to celebrate all that is good about living and working in Weoley Castle, to counter in some ways the negative media image that the estate has gained. We are looking to get as many people involved as we can to make a positive difference in this community. We Love Weoley Castle.



I also want to say a big thank you to Vicky, who has been on placement with us here for a couple of years and made quite an impact. I wish you all the best on your next part of your journey with God and look forward to seeing what you get up to. God Bless you.

Meanwhile, if anyone out there would like to help with what Vicky has instigated, contact us, we'd love to hear from you.

Mark Tubby CRCWM

Creating Change
in Communities and the Church

