

Cadbury Pastorate News

Bournville, Weoley Castle &
Weoley Hill Churches

Lockdown latest: no services in Church for this month at least!



2021

January 2021

From the Minister's study—

Living the Jesus Way in 2021

A few years ago I was invited to give a talk at an ecumenical gathering on “Living the Jesus Way” or “How a more radical understanding of Jesus affects the way we live our faith.” I enjoyed preparing for the talk by picking up some of the books that I have on my bookshelf. Quoting from these books, I want to give you just a flavour of my talk and hope it can inspire and encourage us as we try to *live the Jesus way* in 2021.

Throughout the first five centuries people understood Christianity primarily as a “way of life”not as a doctrinal system, esoteric belief, or promise of eternal salvation. By followers enacting Jesus’ teachings, Christianity changed and improved the lives of its adherents and served as a practical spiritual pathway.....earliest Christians were called “the People of the Way” ...

However one interpreted the effects of the new faith, both enemies and defenders of Christianity understood that the new religion transformed people...The way was based on Jesus’ teaching.....what is now called the Great Command: “You shall love the Lord your God.....You shall love your neighbour as yourself” Jesus’ followers took these words very seriously....

It is upon the Great Command that we find common ground with ancient Christians, not because our world is like theirs or because they somehow knew how to be better Christians than we do. Many of them....did not follow very well; they, like us, struggled, doubted and failed to walk the way. Yet even in our shortcoming we stand with them in the way.....like them, seek[ing] a life organized around love for God and neighbour. We recognize their longing for change.....Christian communities are once again embracing the ancient insight that the faith is a spiritual pathway, a life built on transformative practices of love rather than doctrinal belief.

(Diana Butler Bass, A people’s history of Christianity)

Christianity is a “way”, a path, a way of life. Practice is about the living of the Christian way. And “practice” really should be thought of as

plural: practice is about practices, the means by which we live the Christian life.

A major reason that Protestantism has paid little attention to traditional Christian practices goes back to the Reformation, which sharply contrasted “faith” and “works”A second reason is that within much of modern Western Christianity, faith came to be understood as “belief” and was thus not about “doing.”

If the Christian life is about relationship and transformation, practice will be central. By practice, I mean all the things that Christians do together and individually as a way of paying attention to God. They include being part of a Christian community... and taking part in its life....They include worship, Christian formation, collective deeds of hospitality and compassion and being nourished by Christian community. They include devotional disciplines, especially prayer and spending time with the Bible. And they include loving what God loves through the practice of compassion and justice in the world.

(Marcus Borg, *The Heart of Christianity*)

We are all called once more to ask the most basic theological questions: Who was Jesus before he was the Christ? What does it really mean to follow him as a teacher and not just worship him as a supernatural deity on a rescue mission?

Christianity as a belief system requires nothing but acquiescence. Christianity as a way of life, as a path to follow, requires a second birth, the conquest of ego, and new eyes with which to see the world. It is no wonder that we preferred to be saved.

(Robin Meyers, *Saving Jesus from the Church*)

May these quotes give us food for thought as we seek to live the Jesus way this year, with all its challenges but also its joys!

Best wishes,

Leonora

Pastorate Prayers.

From Sue at Weoley Hill:

Remember Christians in the non-Western world where many think that New Year is a Christian festival. This often results in increased violence against Christian minorities.

Prayers for our congregations.

Remember

- those unable to get to services and feel isolated;
- those whose health makes them more vulnerable at the moment;
- those whose treatment has been postponed;
- those who mourn and miss loved ones;
- those who have had extra burdens put upon them this last year;
- that despite restrictions we meet physical and spiritual needs of others and have vision to teach, worship and witness in new and relevant ways.

Romans 15:13 - A message for the coming year. *May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the holy Spirit.*

Bournville Prayers JANUARY to FEBRUARY 2021

Date	Prayers
Jan 3	Shirley Beaumont Rd
Jan 10	Maureen Mary Vale Rd & Franklin Way
Jan 17	Glynis Linden Rd & Watford Rd
Jan 24	Louise Franklin Rd
Jan 31	Astrid Midland Rd
Feb 7	Ruth Rowheath Rd & Park Ave
Feb 14	Leonora /Stuart Ashmore Rd
Feb 21	Shirley Selly Oak Rd
Feb 28	Maureen Bournville Lane, Laurel Grove & Beech Rd

Pastorate News

Weoley Castle

With Tier 4 and the more infectious new variant virus around, most of **our activities in the building for January are suspended.**

The Senior Citizens' Day Centres would be allowed to open under Tier 4 restrictions as they are support groups. However, it has been decided, in consultation with the relatives of the users, not to re-open until the users have had their first vaccine jabs. **Therefore, the current plans are only to re-start on Monday 8th February.**

For those who wish to attend, we plan to hold services in the building on the 2nd and fourth Sundays: 10th & 24th January at 11 am. However these plans will of course be subject to review, and on all Sundays there will be online services (available on WCCC & WH websites), also available in print. To reduce the risk of spreading the virus, we shall not have communion, and people attending are strongly urged speak to others only outside the building.

We plan a WCCC Elders' meeting on 12th January at 2 PM.

Cathy Grigg's grandson Ellis (age 7) entered the Wiltshire Foods Christmas Card competition: he WON it and received cards to his own design. Perhaps without intending it, his rainbow design of a Christmas tree expresses the hope of Christmas. (See the photo section)

Fay Harvey is now in a care home.

Weoley Hill

Changes to worship: We will continue to meet for worship for the time being, but will not celebrate communion and the choir will not sing. Please do not stop and chat inside the church. Any changes will be circulated as quickly as possible.

Changes to Church Meeting dates: The January church meeting and nomination of an Elder, has been postponed, probably until March, and

the AGM will be postponed until June, at least. Notice will be given for reports for the Annual Report, which will still be for **2020 only**, but of course the Secretary is happy to receive them at any time between now and then. The currently serving Elders and church officers whose terms are due to expire have agreed to serve for the additional months. This is in line with URC guidelines.

January retiring collection: the Benevolent Fund.

Thanks received

for Lunch Club hampers from Doreen Longman, Kath Wood and others.
from Princethorpe School

We just want to say a huge thankyou on behalf of ourselves and the families for the hampers. They looked amazing and were well received by everyone. Merry Christmas. Warmest regards, Sarah

from Lyn Ankorn and Birmingham Crisis Centre

...with your help the Centre will be able to provide presents for all the families under their big umbrella, many of whom would have nothing without the presents you give....

Christmas greetings from Bob Mundell: *I would like to pass on my greetings and best wishes to all at Weoley Hill Church, and I hope it won't be too long into 21 when I can join you in worship again.*

We have also received greetings from the Chung family and the Al-Mahdi Institute.

People to remember: *John Glen* fell and broke his hip some time before Christmas. *Mo Chamanbaz* begins treatment soon—see his Elder, John, for more information.



The next issue of the Pastorate News will be available around 1 February. Contributions are requested! Send them to the minister, Leonora Jagessar, or Cheryl Thornett at Weoley Hill.

Despite everything, we celebrated Christmas



Back in Weoley Hill for the 2nd Sunday of Advent



Bournville Nativity





**Weoley Castle gift service
13 December**

Weoley Hill Lunch Club hamper (





The Day Centres decorated the tree

Francis



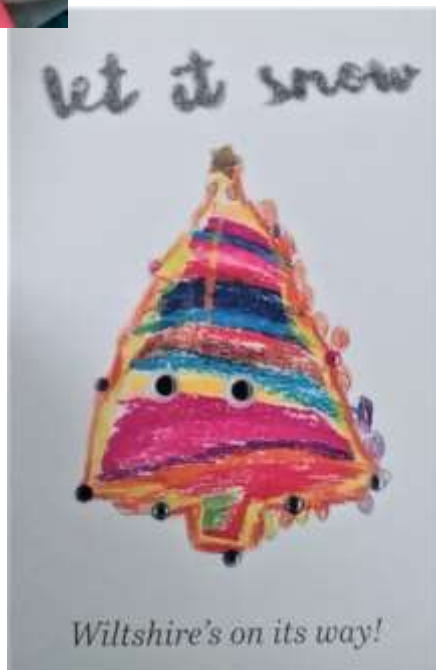
Day Centre volunteer





Day Centre Christmas Party

Prize-winning card by Weoley Castle member Cathy Grigg's grandson Ellis (age 7)





Some of the Christmas hampers, ready to go to Princethorpe and Northfield Manor schools. Leonora, Gini & Linda. Thanks to Gini, who had the idea and did most of the work.



The carol service at Weoley Hill, postponed to a very cold and windy but dry Christmas Eve. At least 40 visitors, in well-spaced family groups, joined us.

The Cadbury Pastorate

Open for Worship

(Government restrictions permitting)

Bournville URC, Beaumont Rd: Worship at 3 PM on 1st Sundays and 10.30 AM on other Sundays.

Weoley Castle Community Church, Quarry Rd: Worship 2nd & 4th Sundays at 11 AM.

Weoley Hill URC, Greenmeadow Rd: Worship at 10.30 AM.

Sunday worship can be still found on the Weoley Hill website as an audio/visual presentation or in print form, and through email and postal distribution on request.

Check with the organisers for news of groups which normally meet in Weoley Hill and Weoley Castle.

Please check the churches' websites for further news and any changes, as well as details of precautions to be observed.

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