Cadbury Pastorate News

Bournville, Weoley Castle & Weoley Hill Churches

October 2021

From the Minister's study—

REMEMBERING THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

Service of Remembrance 31 October

Dear Friends,

On the **31st of October at 6.30 PM** we will meet for an All Souls/All Saints service **at Weoley Hill Church** to remember those whom we have known, whom we have loved, in church and/or in our circle of family and friends or in the wider community, who have died in the past year (or even years). We will light candles and place stones as symbols of the permanence of the memory and legacy of those who have died. We will name them and affirm that their memory continues to live in and through us.

It is perhaps quite fitting that this service of remembrance takes place in the autumn season. Autumn is the season of "letting go" as we have had to let go of the pleasant summer months and the trees are letting go of their leaves that fall on the ground. And "letting go" is what we have had to do when someone we know and loved has died, perhaps after a long and fulfilled life or perhaps because of an illness or accident that tragically cut life short. Letting go….it is never easy, but we have had to. As the German poet Rainer Maria Rilke wrote: *"We need in love to practise only this, letting each other go. For holding on comes easily: we do not need to learn it"*

"Letting go," we can learn it. We learn it all through life as at one time or other we have to let go of our parents, our children, our partner, our work, our hopes and dreams, our home, and probably even some of our abilities. But even with all the practise, it does not become any easier, especially when we have

to let go of someone we love. After all, we are born to live and to love. We want to hold on to life, as long as possible, even if sometimes against our better judgement. And we want to hold on to our loved ones, of course.

To hold on or to let go, is that the choice set before us? Maybe, if we think of the words of Jesus, we may come to another conclusion. It is not a matter of "letting go" or "holding on" but to "let go with trust."

And can anyone of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Your heavenly Father knows what you need, Jesus says.

To let go is to trust. Trust that your child who leaves home will find his own way in life. Trust that you have done your best at work and now you have handed over to someone else. Trust that while you had to let go of driving because of failing eyesight, neighbours and friends will help you with shopping and bringing you to appointments. Trust that even if you have to let go of some of your dreams, your life can still be fulfilling and be a force for good, etc.

As Nelson Mandela wrote in a poem about "letting go": *"To let go is not to regret the past, but to grow and live for the future. To let go is to fear less and love more."*

It is wonderful to see when people can trustfully let go of their own lives or the lives of those whom they have lived with, have loved or have shared friendship with. Trust that life was good, even with its ups and downs. And, sometimes trusting that life after death will be good too. Trusting that faith, hope and love remain, and the greatest of these is love. It is trusting that just as

the tree let go of its leaves, that fall on the earth, when life comes to an end and we "fall" (return) to the earth, *"there is One who holds this falling, infinitely softly in His hands."* (Rainer Maria Rilke)

And so we will remember those who have died, we who are the keepers of their memory.

Please do pass on the word to anyone in your circle of family and friends or in the neighbourhood who may appreciate the opportunity to remember in what will be a reflective service with music, readings from different (faith) traditions, prayers and the symbolic acts that remind us how much the people who have died still live on in our hearts and minds. We will remember, how can we forget?

All best wishes,

Leonora

JOINT SERVICE AT WEOLEY CASTLE COMMUNITY CHURCH

On the **31st of October** we will gather **at 11 AM** for a joint pastorate service at WCCC. This Sunday, Reformation Sunday, is a very significant day on the church calendar for all the churches that have their roots in the movement of the reformation that began in the 16th century. Therefore, we will celebrate our Reformed heritage which we acknowledge as we carry the name "Reformed" (not Reform!) and recognize that we share this heritage with Reformed churches all over the world. However small we are in the UK, we are a very sizeable community in the world. And next year we will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the URC!

Prayer page

Days go by; weeks pass; the months accumulate
and the world seems to move on.
People gather; families reconnect; social life is rekindled
And we breathe a sigh of relief.
The pandemic storm has been weathered …

But for many the clouds do not lift;
Their loved ones have died;
Long Covid persists;
jobs and careers are stunted.

Lord be there in the midst of us all.
Be with us in our rejoicing
at renewal and return to what we have treasured.
And Lord also embrace those
who continue to mourn and grieve;
for whom things will never be the same.

Lord be with us all in the days in our life.

Amen.

URC Daily Devotions Pandemic Prayer by Professor Graham Handscomb, member of Christchurch URC, Chelmsford

Pastorate News

MEETING AT THE MANSE

The meeting at the Manse on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 2.30 PM will still be on the agenda in October but as we meet in the Manse garden, it will be very weather dependent!

Weoley Castle News

We have decided to change to weekly "in person" services, with some Sundays led by members of the congregation. The 3rd will be led by an Elder, the 10th by Leonora, 24th by Ann, and on the 5th Sunday in October, the 31st, there is a joint Pastorate service and all are invited to Weoley Castle at 11 AM. We shall make sure that there is enough space for social distancing.

October 10th will be our Harvest service. People are asked to bring non-perishable goods as a harvest offering to go to St. Basil's centre for young people, maybe also something traditional to decorate the table. At the end of the service, people are invited to take perishable items home and leave a little monetary offering, also for St Basil's.

In May, we decided not to have Church activity for Christian Aid. People are therefore asked to support the 'Commitment for Life' programme of the URC, with a donation any time during the month.

We offer belated happy returns to Roy Carr, who celebrated his 80th birthday on Saturday 25th September.

Bournville Services for October

3 October (Harvest at 3 PM)	Leonora
10 October	Peter Cruchley
17 October	Stuart Scott
24 October	Leonora
31 October	Joint Pastorate Service at WCCC

Weoley Hill News

Harvest Worship

In the Harvest service at Weoley Hill on the 3rd of October we will give thanks for "all things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small" As the next day, the 4th of October, is the feast of St Francis of Assisi, we will give particular attention in the service to the small animals that have brought, or still bring, joy in our lives, ie our pets! For the service I invite you to bring a photo of a pet you have/had, or to bring a (fluffy) toy pet….or a live pet?! Of course, if you are not into pets, that is ok too!

Leonora

Break-in

There was a break-in at Weoley Hill during Saturday night. Thankfully, we were still able to worship in the church.

The safe, which mainly contains records and registers, was taken,. and quite a lot of damage was done when doors and cupboards were forced open and the contents thrown around. The communion set was scattered across the vestry floor, but the cups were unbroken—just the handle of a jug which is part of a set, and can be mended.

The police forensic team visited the church and identified some further security measures we can take.

Thanks to everyone who turned up on Tuesday to put things away and clear up the mess.

Cheryl Thornett

ZAMBIA ORPHANS AID

There are 1.2 m orphans in Zambia, and around 700,000 children miss out on school. This leaves them in danger of abuse, child labour and exploitation.

Zambia Orphans Aid (ZOA) is a UK charity which works with local partners in Zambia to help disadvantaged and vulnerable children to access education. This is vitally important work in a country like Zambia, where 58% of people live in poverty.

Web site : zoa.org.uk

Lorraine DaCosta

Heritage Open Day at Weoley Hill

COME HOLY SPIRIT

COME HOLY

The Village Council Centenary display

Weoley Hill October calendar

Wednesdays, 10 AM-12: Art Club. £1, all welcome.

Fridays, 6.45 PM: Community Choir, all welcome

Saturday	2	10.30 AM: Gardening group tbc
Sunday	3	10.30 AM: Harvest Communion Service led by the minister. Harvest Lunch (Soup and rolls)
Sunday	10	10.30 AM: Worship led by Ann Evans.
Monday	11	2.30 PM: F&B budget meeting
Sunday	17	10.30 AM: Worship led by the minister. R
Wednesday	20	7.30 PM: Elders' meeting
Thursday	21	2 PM: Manse meeting, in the garden weather permitting.
Sunday	24	10.30 AM: Worship led by Alan Cotgreave. .
Saturday	30	2.30 PM: Walking group. Meet at church.
Sunday	*31*	*11 AM: Pastorate worship at Weoley Castle*
		6.30 PM: Community All Saints/All Souls service

Autumn leaves a smile on my face even if the jokes are a bit ‘a-corny’

If money really did grow on trees, we’d be raking it in at this time of year!

How do you fix a broken pumpkin? With a pumpkin patch!

What’s worse than finding a worm in an apple you are eating? Finding half a worm.

What did the leaf say to the season? I’m falling for you!

How do trees get on the internet? They log in!

Why do birds fly south in Autumn? Because it’s too far to walk!

Why do lions move at the end of summer? Because pride goes before the fall!

Ted Forgan

The Editor says 'No chestnuts here'.

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

The Cadbury Pastorate

Open for Worship

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 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 in print form, and through email 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.

PASTORATE MINISTER: the Revd Leonora Jagessar

WEOLEY HILL CHURCH Office: 244 6711

Secretary: Cheryl Thornett 475 6338

weoleyhillchurch.org.uk

WEOLEY CASTLE COMMUNITY CHURCH: 475 3841

weoleycastlecommunitychurchurc.org.uk

weoleycastlecommunitychurch50@gmail.com

BOURNVILLE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Secretary: Maureen Peart 605 3540

The United Reformed Church