

Cadbury Pastorate News

Bournville, Weoley Castle &
Weoley Hill Churches



February 2022

From the Minister's study—

Dear Friends,

Looking at significant dates in on the “social justice” church calendar I note that Racial Justice Sunday will be observed on the 13th, Church Action on Poverty Sunday on the 27th and Fair Trade Fortnight this year will be held from the 21st of February to the 6th of March. Whether we choose to focus on any of the issues of racial justice, of poverty and of fair trade in our worship this month, or at least remember them in our prayers, I think they certainly deserve our attention and support any time of the year. And especially as many in the UK are faced with fuel and food poverty with the rising costs of energy and food, I have taken an interest in the Church Action on Poverty charity, which is a national ecumenical Christian social justice charity, committed to tackling poverty in the UK. We work in partnership with churches, and with people in poverty themselves, to tackle the root causes of poverty. It aims to put gospel values of justice and compassion into practice.

No doubt we are all concerned that in a wealthy country like Britain there is widespread poverty and hunger. A large network of foodbanks and charities across the country have to help feed those who for various reasons find themselves with little or no food. We try to do our bit by collecting for the B30 foodbank (at Bournville and Weoley Hill) and hosting Incredible Surplus (at Weoley Castle). And probably many of us share the sentiment that the large and ever-growing gap between the rich and the poor in our society (not mentioning the world) is a scandal.

In the present situation we can no longer just be charitable—giving generously—but we must also strongly advocate for an end to poverty and hunger! We have to raise our voices and help

those who are marginalised by poverty to speak out, to make their voices heard and with them work to build a fairer world. And that is what Church Action on Poverty is about and that is what all churches should be seeking to do.

Throughout his ministry, Jesus listened to people who were on the margins of his society. He made visible those who were overlooked and gave them hope. We are called to follow Jesus' example: to listen to voices from the margins and make them heard, so that things can change.

On the Church Action on Poverty website I came across this story: In 2008, Revd Derek Rigby, the leader of Trinity Methodist Church in Prestatyn, let his beard grow for three days, put on a wig, dirtied himself up, drew tattoos on his arms and put on lager-soaked clothes. He then sat in the porch to his church as the congregation arrived for a Sunday service and settled on a pew in the church, drinking from a can of beer. None of the congregation spoke to him. He then took off his wig to reveal his identity, before delivering a sermon. He said: "It was interesting to see the reaction from people—I was totally ignored."

I can certainly think of some churches where this scenario would be played out too. And I remember a church that, while it was just celebrating communion, locked its gates when a poor "beggar" was trying to make its way into the building. I have often wondered whether that was Jesus in disguise!

I hope, and I even believe, that this would not happen in our three churches. Why? Because we have elders and members who truly care, who are faithful not only "in word" but also put their faith into practice and who have created a church ethos that is really welcoming and accepting of all. Of course, we may not all

be comfortable with those who are “different,” but if we are willing to listen to their stories we immediately recognize our common humanity and the urgent need to challenge the inequality and injustice that prevents people to live the “life in all its fullness” that God wants for each one of us.

So let us raise our voices! Be it through our own campaigning or supporting CAP or any other social justice charity to do the campaigning for us.

And a prayer we may wish to pray....

Lord Jesus, you say that when someone gives food to the hungry, when someone gives a drink to the thirsty, when someone welcomes a stranger, when someone clothes the poor, when someone cares for the sick and when someone visits a prisoner, they are really doing it for you. Enable us, with the wealth of our society, to do these things, but help us first to listen to the voices of those we desire to assist and to welcome those who are on the margins, because, in their strength and love and endurance, they are your voice, your words for us today. Lord Jesus, we pray in your name. Amen

(Revd Nick Jowett, Church Action on Poverty in Sheffield)

With all best wishes,

Leonora



Prayer page

Locally: Besides our own church and family members who are ill, awaiting treatment or recovering, we remember the many people whose diagnosis or treatment has been delayed by the pandemic.

We pray for everyone in any part of the world suffering from Covid 19 or the knock-on effects.

We give thanks for medical and NHS support staff at all levels and pray for their health and strength.

We pray for young people still facing disruption to their education and to their lives.

We give thanks for teachers and for parents, doing their best by them in difficult times.

Further afield: We pray for wise and compassionate decisions by people in power, and for justice and trustworthiness in government, in this country and across the world.

We pray for the people of Tonga following the volcanic eruption, tsunami and now earthquake.

We pray for peace.



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URC 50th Anniversary

Share your thanksgiving

People across the URC are being invited to send in a postcard to be used as part of the URC's Thanksgiving and Celebration service on 1 October. On a blank postcard write your details (name, age, location and what URC you're connected to) on one side, and on the other, as imaginatively and brightly as possible, share your thanksgiving to God for an aspect of the URC that you want to celebrate. The postcards will be used as photos on the screen as the service unfolds. Please send your cards to Dr Sam Richards, Church House, 86 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9RT, by 1 August.

Pastorate News

Weoley Hill

Our **February retiring collections** are for Age Concern.

As of writing, the January church meeting has been cancelled rather than just postponed. We don't yet have news of Lent study or groups.

In hospital, receiving treatment, waiting for treatment or tests:

Barbara Viney, Joyce Cope, Sue Cope, Chris Grubb and Peter, former member David Weaver, and Margaret Field.

Giving thanks for recovery: Ann Evans.

Reminder: reports for the Annual Report are needed by the first Sunday in March.

Heads up for March: we are making plans for a church soup lunch on Wednesday 2 March. As this is St David's Day look for leek and potato soup among others, and as it is the beginning of Lent there will be pancakes for afters. You will need to let Nancy know a week in advance if you are coming. Further details to come.

We will host the usual **World Day of Prayer** on 4 March at 10.30 AM. See Ann Evans for details.

We hope to resume having **tea and coffee** after worship from 6 March. Linda Bradley has kindly taken on organising the rota, so please see Linda to join the rota.

We also hope to pick up the earlier idea of having an optional **discussion group** during coffee time, which may include discussions of texts or ideas from the day's worship and discussions of some of the issues we face as a congregation, such as eldership and filling essential church offices.

Cheryl Thornett

| Weoley Hill Calendar for February 2022 | | |
|----------------------------------------|----|-------------------------------------------------------|
| Wednesday | 2 | 10 AM-12: Art Club. £1 |
| Friday | 4 | 6.45 PM: Community Choir |
| Sunday | 6 | 10.30 AM: Communion Service led by the minister. |
| Monday | 7 | 2 PM: F&B |
| Wednesday | 9 | 10 AM-12: Art Club. £1 7.30 PM: Elders' meeting |
| Friday | 11 | 6.45 PM: Community Choir |
| Saturday | 12 | 11 AM - 1.30 PM Synod Safeguarding Training |
| Sunday | 13 | 10.30 AM: Worship led by Ann Evans. |
| Wednesday | 16 | 10 AM-12: Art Club. £1 |
| Friday | 18 | 6.45 PM: Community Choir |
| Sunday | 20 | 10.30 AM: Worship led by the minister & Guy Willcock. |
| Wednesday | 23 | 10 AM-12: Art Club. £1 |
| Sunday | 27 | 10.30 AM: Worship led by Alan Cotgreave. |
| March | | |
| Tuesday | 1 | Shrove Tuesday |
| Wednesday | 2 | Ash Wednesday—Church lunch |
| Friday | 4 | 10.30 AM: World Day of Prayer |

Bournville

Preaching rota for February:

6 February Leonora

13 February Alan

20 February Stuart

27 February Louise

It is easy to watch the news and feel overwhelmed and impotent in the face of all the negative things happening in our world. The following item I came across spoke into this sense of despair.

Louise Tye

It is not true that this world and its people are doomed to die and be lost—

This is true: For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him, shall not perish but have everlasting life.

It is not true that we must accept inhumanity and discrimination, hunger and poverty, death and destruction—

This is true: I have come that they may have life, and that abundantly.

It is not true that violence and hatred should have the last word, and that war and destruction have come to stay forever—

This is true: For unto us a child is born, and unto us a Son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called wonderful counsellor, mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of peace.

It is not true that we are simply victims of the powers of evil who seek to rule the world. —

This is true: To me is given all authority in heaven and on earth, and lo I am with you, even unto the end of the world.

It is not true that we have to wait for those who are specially gifted, who are the prophets of the Church, before we can do anything—

This is true: I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall have dreams

It is not true that our dreams for liberation of humankind, of justice, of human dignity, of peace are not meant for this earth and for this history—

This is true: The hour comes and it is now, that the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth.

Alan Boesak, at the World Council of Churches, Vancouver
From *Liturgies of life* published by Christian Education © Donald Hilton

Weoley Castle

We hear that Margaret Wozencroft has been rather unwell and the latest news is that she is in the QE, where the chaplain, Maureen Foxall can visit her.

Bruce Harvey found that the live-in carer was not suitable, and has moved into the Gracewell care home in Edgbaston. He had lived in Quarry Road for nearly 50 years. The care at Gracewell is very good, but his visitors are limited to three family members.

Mary Sparkes has not been too well recently, but you might not guess so because she still keeps a bright and cheery face as she helps with the senior citizens' Day Centres & Lunch Clubs.

Our “in person” services during February are at 11 on the 13th, led by Leonora with communion, and on the 27th, led by Alison Geary (who also gives the grand piano some exercise!).

Ted Forgan

URC Prayer Handbook

In 2023, the URC’s Prayer Handbook has the theme ‘Cities of Sanctuary’. Our new Prayer Handbook Editors, the Revd Susan McCoan and the Revd Stephen Ansa-Addo, Ministers at Ealing and Wembley Park, and Reading and Hungerford respectively, invite you to submit an entry. Write as you would pray—no special words or format is needed—to allow us the privilege of sharing your prayers with others in the URC and beyond. The closing date for submissions is 26 February. Full details can be found [here](#).



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

Lowering the bar on Jokes

A weasel walks into a bar. The bartender says: "What can I get you?" "Pop", goes the weasel.

A sandwich walks into a bar. The landlord says, "Sorry sir, we don't serve food here."

A ghost walks into a bar and orders a whisky. The landlord says, "Sorry sir, we don't serve spirits."

A Catholic priest, a Rabbi and a URC Minister walk into a bar. "Oh I get it," says the bartender: "this is a joke isn't it!"

A man walks into a bar and says "Ouch!"
It was an iron bar.

A penguin walks into a bar, goes to the counter, and asks the bartender, "Have you seen my brother?" The bartender says, "I don't know. What does he look like?"

A panda walks into a bar and gobbles some peanuts. Then he pulls out a gun, fires it in the air, and heads for the door. "Hey!" shouts the bartender, but the panda replies "What did you expect? A panda eats shoots and leaves."

*Why are Pub landlords just like criminals?
They both spend a lot of time behind bars.*

Ted Forgan



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 on 2nd and 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 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

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