

Cadbury Pastorate News

Bournville, Weoley Castle &
Weoley Hill Churches



100



July & August 2022

From the Minister's study—

Dear Friends,

As I write in the lead-up to the **100th anniversary celebration at Weoley Hill URC**, on the 3rd of July, I am particularly mindful that I am only 4 years, of the 100 years, part of the history of the church. Well, perhaps I can say 5 years as I was interim-minister for a year in 2009-2010. But what a “newcomer” I feel among the many long-standing members of the church, who can tell stories of what happened in and through Weoley Hill church over many decades. And a photo exhibition, prepared by Sue and Ann, will also tell the church’s story for us to celebrate and be thankful for.

People whose faith and faithfulness have helped build up the church will be remembered; stories of memorable events may well be shared as we sit down for an anniversary lunch after our worship. And it is good that we remember and celebrate! But, also, it is good to look at the present and even dare to hope for the future. We would not celebrate the past if we did not have a vision for the present and the future. There is a saying in the book of Revelation, chapter 21, verse 5, that springs to mind. “Behold I make all things new.” Any vision that we have for the present and the future must take these words seriously. For new things always happen.

Changes and renewal are part and parcel of being church. We only have to look back in our history to see how much has changed over the years. Yes, there was a time that the church was full, with hardly enough room on the pews. There was the time when students and staff from the Selly Oak Colleges would bring the “world church” into our church, “to our great benefit,” and who went back home carrying cherished memories of their time in our midst. There was the time when the Sunday School (Junior Church) was thriving and many remember the good time they had in their youth in the church even if they have moved on and moved out of the church.....

Changes have happened and continue to happen. And, certainly, we do not experience or consider many of the changes as positive. On the contrary, we lament our dwindling membership, our increasing lack of energy, the activities we have had to discontinue because of lack of interest and participation...and lately because Covid has made us more cautious as to when, where and how we gather.

It is the usual story, repeated in many churches! But (big BUT) some changes have been positive, and we should celebrate those. We may have become a small congregation, but it means we know each other better. Perhaps we have become even more friendly and inclusive than we were before because we are fewer in numbers, and we look out for each other! And we have felt even more excited whenever we have welcomed new members in the last few years who have gifted us with their presence and involvement in our church life.

Also, social events are being organized again, after the Covid pandemic, and we are grateful that we still have an active group of elders (serving and non-serving) and members who faithfully and with amazing dedication share in the various tasks of ministry, in our church life and outreach, and in our very nice but quite 'high maintenance' church building. We continue to be a generous congregation, supporting the church ministry as well as raising awareness about and collecting for the various charities and causes that we take to heart.

We are also known as THE church of Weoley Hill, ie the church that the community around us feels is "their" church even if they only join community activities in our church halls. And, last but not least, we are very happy to share our church building with a Korean and an Arabic congregation as well as welcoming many community groups in our halls and the church.

So, there have been changes over many years, and some things have not changed, but the words “Behold I make all things new” challenge us to envision what this may mean for our future. Does everything have to change? No, of course not. But changes there will be. It is inevitable. Some of the changes will be thrust upon us. Some will come as a pleasant surprise. And some may be contrary to all our plans, our hopes, our dreams..... But let us trust that God is working through us, and others we may not know yet, to bring the changes and the renewal to which God is calling us into the future.

“Behold I am making all things new” is a promise to us at Weoley Hill church, as it is to Weoley Castle Community Church and Bournville URC, if we are open to hear and receive this promise—wherever it may lead us!

May God continue to bless our ministry at Weoley Hill, in the Cadbury Pastorate, and help us to discern and be open to the “new things” that God certainly has in store for us in the year and years to come!

With all best wishes,

Leonora

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



Prayer page

We pray for:

- † A just end to the conflict in Ukraine.
- † Repentance on the part of even a crucial few of the people who resort to violence, injustice and force to seize or hold on to more than their share of the world's blessings.
- † Repentance on the part of the people who contribute most to disastrous climate change.
- † Strength to repent of our own part in these and the wisdom to do better.
- † People suffering food shortages and the effects of climate change.
- † Greater justice and equity in our own country and community.
- † Young people leaving school, moving on a stage, waiting for exam results, and their parents and teachers.
- † The Commonwealth Games taking place in safety and good will.
- † Journey mercies for everyone travelling; and the people who work in travel, entertainment and tourism.

Gracious God, as we celebrate our past and rejoice in our present, we also look forward with eager eyes to the future. We pray that You would continue to make Your love known among us. Give us a zeal for mission. Help us to look beyond our walls to those who do not know You. Make Weoley Hill Church a blessing to those around us, and embolden us to move forward with strength toward what lies ahead, along with our brothers and sisters in Bournville and Weoley Castle.

Pastorate News

Weoley Castle News

Services at the Church in July and August will be fortnightly at 11 AM. There will be services at Weoley Hill & Bournville instead or there is a link to online services on the Weoley Hill website.

July 3rd at 10.30 AM joint Pastorate service at **Weoley Hill:** celebration of the centenary of the Weoley Hill congregation, followed by lunch.

July 10th at Weoley Castle: service including Communion led by Leonora.

July 24th at Weoley Castle: service led by Chris Miles.

July 31st 10.30 AM joint Pastorate service at **Weoley Hill.**

August 14th at Weoley Castle: service including Communion led by Leonora.

August 28th at Weoley Castle: service led by Frank Challenor.

The Day Centres & Lunch Clubs will continue most of the Summer, except for a week off at the beginning and end of August.

The Parent & Toddler Group will stop for the Summer at the end of school term.

The 7.30 PM Tuesday Craft Group tried to do origami recently. This was not so good for natter, as we had to concentrate, but very good for working together, as we tried to help each other interpret the instructions! We'll give origami a miss for a while, but will carry on meeting...



The Day Centre/Lunch clubs prepared some of the decorations for their "Indoor Street Party" on the Monday after the Jubilee weekend. A very successful occasion was enjoyed by all. It included a party game of

“pin the crown on the Queen”. Pictures of the Party are in the newsletter.

Lorraine DaCosta kindly organised a Quiz + Fish & Chips Evening at Weoley Hill on 25 June, which was greatly enjoyed and appreciated by all. The “Kings* of the Castle” team, pictured in the newsletter gained a narrow but very satisfying victory. (*& Queens)



Congratulations to Peter Cruchley, who has been appointed as new Director of the World Council of Churches Commission on World Mission and Evangelism. Later this year, Peter and Lena will be leaving the Manse next door to the Church in order to move to Geneva. Future use of the Manse to be considered!

Best Wishes to Margaret Wetherall, whose 90th birthday will be in August.

Ted

QUIZ

Our first quiz since October 2019 was in aid of Fairtrade and was loosely based around the theme of 100 to link in with our 100th Anniversary. There were fewer people attending, only 36, perhaps because of covid fears, but we managed to raise £88, which has been passed on. Many thanks to all those who attended and especially to those who generously donated items for the raffle. Thanks also to those who helped pack up at the end and, of course, a special thanks to Nancy and Cheryl who helped serve food and clear the kitchen. The quiz was won by “The Kings and Queens of the Castle”, the Weoley Castle team pictured above. The next quiz will be **Saturday 15th October** when we hope there will be more folk who will feel able to attend. Lorraine

Monday Social Club/Day Centre Celebration of the Queens Platinum Jubilee at Weoley Castle Community Church on June 6.

The group hand painted their crown and plates for the table centre pieces. They all looked fabulous!



They all made their own place mats. We had a quiz about the Queen and played “pin the crown and the lips on the Queen.” What a laugh that was!!



Our indoor street party was a hit. Music, dancing and lots of lovely food to eat!





A good day was had by all! Thank you for everyone who helped make this a fabulous day!



Weoley Hill news

Centenary

Flower arranging will take place on Friday 1 July from around 10 AM; other setting up will take place on the afternoon of Saturday 2 July.

Ann will read messages just before the centenary lunch.

We will return to our practise of remaining seated for communion during the centenary service. Some people cannot hold or pass the wine tray but if they sit near aisles, the serving elder can pass it to the next person—and we can all be aware of our neighbours and assist anyone who needs it. We may return to this as our regular practise.

The church meeting on 19 June voted that we would no longer require people to wear masks during church services, leaving this to individual choice. We will still have masks available in church and will as far as possible accommodate anyone who feels safer sitting away from others.

Apologies

As I write this it is only a few days before our celebratory service and meal. There is a lot of background work going on so a great big thank you to everyone who is involved.

I sent out invitations to about 90 people and am pleased to say that the majority said they could come which is wonderful to have a good number to help us celebrate.

Unfortunately for many reasons like health concerns, other commitments and holidays and not forgetting Covid several people have declined. All these people send their good wishes to us as we celebrate and are sad they cannot join with us. They are in no particular order: Richard Alford, Brian Brown, Ian Ring, John Glen, Ursula Aitken, Pat and David Weaver, St Columba's church and their minister Fiona Elvins, Marius and Jennifer Felderhof, Gini & Kumar

Tambyraja, Jacky & John Embrey, Blair Kessler and last but by no means least Tom & Marieke Arthur.

Let us give thanks we are able to celebrate such milestone

Ann Evans

Entrance Banner

If there is anyone who has not had their name added to the banner displayed in the main entrance please see Lorraine or Nancy who will hand you a yellow circle of material on which to write your name... printed, capitals, or your usual signature, whichever you want. These can then be embroidered and will be added to the banner sometime in September before the heritage weekend. We would like to complete the full congregation by the end of our 100th year at the very latest.
Lorraine

A service of thanksgiving for the life of José Marland will be held here at 2 PM on Wednesday 13 July. If you can, please bring a cake to go with the tea the family are providing.

Christian Aid

We raised £1,724.00 during Christian Aid week. Many thanks to all those who contributed to this. The money is very much appreciated.

The break-down is:

House to house (Delivery only) and donations	£1434.00
Sponsored Walk (via Give Star on-line)	£290.00
Total	£1724.00

Emlyn Evans

The July **retiring collection** for is for the *Christian Blind Mission* and the August collection for *Hearing dogs for the deaf*.

The **Art Club** will meet on 6 and 13 July, then not until September.
The **Community Choir** will meet up to 15 July and resume in September.

Weoley Hill Calendar for July & August 2022		
JULY		
Saturday	2	10.30 AM: Gardening group 2 PM Set up for centenary lunch
Sunday	3	10.30 AM: Centenary Communion service led by the minister and W&A. . Church lunch to celebrate our centenary.
Wednesday	6	7.30 PM: Elders' meeting
Friday	8	1.00 PM Funeral of Prof. Joe Vinen
Sunday	10	10.30 AM: Worship led by Ann Evans
Wednesday	13	2 PM: Funeral of Jose Marsland; tea after service.
Sunday	17	10.30 AM: Worship led by the Revd Ian Ring. .
Sunday	24	10.30 AM: Worship led by Andy Vail.
Saturday	30	2.30 PM: Walking group tbc. Meet at church.
Sunday	31	10.30 AM: Worship led by Revd Ian Thornley.
Saturday	6	10.30 AM: Gardening group
AUGUST		
Sunday	7	10.30 AM: Communion Service led by the minister.
Sunday	14	10.30 AM: Worship led by Stuart Masters. .
Sunday	21	10.30 AM: Worship led by the minister. Discussion after worship.
Saturday	27	2.30 PM: Walking group tbc. Meet at church.
Sunday	28	10.30 AM: Worship led by elders.

Residential Synod in October

If anyone would like to go to the residential Synod meeting In October please let Ann know. It will be on 14-15 October 2022 at the Holiday Inn hotel by the airport. It starts at 5.30 pm on Friday 14th until about 5.00 pm on Saturday 15th. The theme is 'Leading your church into Growth'. The cost is £155 for a single room and includes all meals for

24 hours but it is hoped the local church will support this along with Synod.

These have been very interesting events in previous years, and I have learnt a lot about the wider church. Elders are encouraged to attend if they can as one of their roles is to be a bridge between the local church and the wider church.

The deadline for booking is around 13 July.

Please see me for more details.

Ann



Bournville News

Preaching rota

- 3 July WH Anniversary service
- 10 July Leonora (at 3pm)
- 17 July Stuart
- 24 July Ian Thomson
- 31 July Joint service at Weoley Hill
- 7 Aug Leonora (at 3pm)
- 14 Aug Michael
- 21 Aug Stuart
- 28 Aug Leonora

We think of **Ruth Eaton** who is staying at the Ann Marie Howes Centre in Sheldon, recovering from her hip operation. We wish her a restful and comfortable stay and pray for a speedy and full recovery.

more blooming jokes!

What kind of flower grows on your face? *Tulips.*

What do you call Dracula with hay fever? The pollen count.

What did the bee say to the flower that appeared to be trying to attract it?

The bee said: "Hello honey" - and the flower replied: "I was just pollen your leg."

I was going to catalogue my dried flowers, but I realised I have more pressing problems to deal with.

There's a country where everyone drives the same colour vehicle and has the same flower in their garden.

It's a red car nation.

I wasn't all that interested in flowers, but I planted a few seeds, and they grew on me.

Someone keeps sending me bunches of flowers with the heads cut off: I think I'm being stalked.

My neighbour asked me if he could use my lawnmower: I told him of course he could – so long as he didn't take it out of my garden.

(Eric Morecambe)

What do you get if you cross a sheepdog with a daisy?

A collie-flower.

I'm not very good at making flower jokes - but thistle have to do.



The Cadbury Pastorate

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
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 outline or complete.*

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