

# Cadbury Pastorate News

Bournville, Weoley Castle &  
Weoley Hill Churches



*November 2022*

## *From the Minister's study—*

Dear Friends,

One of my earliest memories is of the pale pink satin comfort blanket of my baby brother that got lost. I must have been about 3 or 4 years old. My mother had taken us, my two brothers and I, for a walk in the park and on the way home she realized that the blanket must have fallen out of the buggy. Panic! My baby brother would not sleep without the blanket which he would rub and cuddle while settling down in his crib. The blanket was quite worn already but it was only that one and no other that would do for him. Anyway, we had to retrace our steps in the park to look for the blanket, but we couldn't find it. I don't remember whether my baby brother cried for his lost blanket (whether he had noticed yet), but I do remember that my mother had to quickly go and buy another blanket that looked exactly the same, or at least very similar. This memory resurfaced in my mind when I came across a sermon online in which the preacher makes a comparison between the comfort blanket of babies and the "comfort blanket" or "security blanket" of our faith, and she does so in relation to our Reformed faith. It immediately struck a chord with me.

***Semper Reformanda.*** *Always Reforming. Change, change, change. Sometimes I just want the security of that old time religion. I want to feel the comfort, the security that I once felt in the church. All this reforming is wearing me out. I'm tired of thinking. I'm tired of reforming my ideas. I'm tired of learning new things. I'm tired of all the questioning. I'm tired of all the questions. I want some answers. (Dawn Hutchings)*

Yes, I want some answers too. How can our faith be meaningful in the world of today with its existential threats of the decline of natural resources, loss of biodiversity, global warming, food insecurity, pandemics, etc, beside the ongoing conflicts and wars, the effects of which are felt worldwide, as well as the economic crisis and growing inequality and poverty in our own country? In the past we may have found comfort in the church doctrine of sin and salvation proclaiming

that Jesus having died for our sins we are saved, and a happy ending is secured. But we have come a long way from the easy answers of the past. So much of the security that our faith used to offer us has been taken away from us as our thinking, knowledge and experiences have evolved.

Perhaps we have to admit that for too long we have reduced Jesus to a kind of security blanket in the dogma and doctrines of the institutional church (of sin and salvation) rather than proclaim the truth “that sets us free.” And how urgent it is to remind ourselves of the truth - the truth about Jesus who came “that we might have life and have it abundantly.” It means that Jesus came to lead us from our many fears into freedom that allows us to leave our security blanket behind. Freedom from fear of the other. Freedom from the fears that cause us to band together among “our own” and in our comfort zones. Freedom from fear to cross boundaries. Freedom from the fears that engender prejudices in us. Freedom from the fears that cause us to hoard our treasures or that engender greed in us. Freedom from the fear of death because neither death nor life can separate us from the love of God. In other words, Jesus leads us to freedom to live a different way, living faithfully and loving wastefully, without counting the cost.

And finally, a quote to ponder: *There are those who prefer certainty to truth, those in church who put the purity of dogma ahead of the integrity of love. And what distortion of the gospel it is to have limited sympathies and unlimited certainties when the very reverse, to have limited certainties and unlimited sympathies, is not only more tolerant but far more Christian. (William Sloane Coffin)*

With all best wishes,

Leonora

## Prayer page

**As the seasons turn, Lord:** We will face all that most concerns us:  
our fears, the shadowed places of the mind;  
the coming of winter darkness;  
the cold thin place between waking and sleep.

We call to mind the powerless, the lonely,  
those who most fear the knock at the door;  
all those deceived by the world's empty promises;  
all those cowed by menaces or threats.

We stand with those weak in body, mind or spirit  
and those seduced by treats or hurt by tricks.

Lord, your light shines into every darkness.  
You told us: pray 'deliver us from evil'.  
Your Spirit gives us hope, gives us courage,  
a candle in the window unhurt by the wind.



**Lord, in November,** We call to mind all those whose lives are done.  
We thank you that their time, now completed,  
however short or long, sad or joyful,  
is gathered up, looked on and known by you.

We offer up remembrance: those whose absence we feel daily;  
those who have shaped us; those who have nurtured us;  
the people we are grateful to have walked with;  
all those we hardly knew but wished we'd known better.

We give thanks for all they gave and all the future owes them.  
Lord, your love embraces every person who has ever lived;  
you promised that you lost none.  
May your Spirit make us always thankful  
for all our gifts of love and cherished memory.

*Author: Anne Richards and the Mission Theology Advisory Group of the Church of England*

# Pastorate News

## Food bank needs

According to a recent article in the Guardian <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2022/oct/20/uks-biggest-food-bank-network-to-spend-millions-on-parcels-this-winter>, need is rapidly outstripping food donations from the public and they are having to buy more supplies to the tune of £1400 per month per individual bank on average—some much more than that.

One of the reasons is that demand didn't fall as much as usual over the August and September. Even the limited numbers who have received additional government aid are finding it is falling short of necessary expenses (this being an expensive time of years for families with schoolchildren.) And as we know, the cost of basic food items is rising substantially, with high fuel bills to come.

So yes, please continue to donate food items for the B30 and South Birmingham Foodbank, paying attention to their regular lists of what is needed and not needed, but please consider donating cash as well if you can.

CT



*Please note: November's Manse Morning will be at 10.30 AM on **Thursday 24 November**.*

## **Weoley Castle**

### **Sunday Services: 11 AM**

November 6<sup>th</sup>: led by Chris Miles

November 13<sup>th</sup>: led by Leonora (Remembrance Sunday)

November 20<sup>th</sup>: led by Ted Forgan

November 27<sup>th</sup>: led by Paul Tucker (First Sunday in Advent)

December 4<sup>th</sup>: Toy & Gift Service

### **Commitment for Life**

At our Harvest service in October, envelopes were available for donations to the URC programme helping others to have a better harvest. More Commitment for Life envelopes are available if you were not present then, and they can be returned during November. If you wish your donation to be Gift-Aided, please indicate on the envelope.

### **Departure of Peter & Lena Cruchley**

Elsewhere in this Newsletter, there is a long letter from Peter, giving his thoughts on leaving the Manse to take up his post with the World Council of Churches in Geneva. [WCCC to WCC – Revelations Ch 21 v 1b]. We are giving thought to creative uses of the Manse in future.

### **Autumn Activity Day**

On Tuesday in half term, the Church halls were full of parents and children who came for a happy time doing crafts and finishing with lunch. One of the many activities was making Autumn leaf collages.



### **Weoley Castle Warm Spaces**

This will begin on Tuesday 1st November at various sites as in the advertisement, with the WCCC contribution on Fridays 10 am – 3 PM beginning on Nov 4th. Do come along to help and/or chat. You can see local location information by visiting [www.warmwelcome.uk](http://www.warmwelcome.uk) and entering B29 5LE to see our and adjacent sites in Weoley Castle.



**Fridays Weoley Castle Community Church 10 -3pm lunch**  
*1pm, free hot drinks, WiFi, children's corner B29 5LE*

**Tuesdays St Gabriels 4-5pm with Foodcycle**  
*free three course community meal B29 5LS*

**Wednesdays Stonehouse Gang 9.30-12.30pm**  
*90-92 Burnel Road B29 5SN*

**Thursday Encounter Church 10.30-2.30pm**  
*free hot drinks & snacks,  
 children's corner games and arts B29 5QD*

**Fridays St Gabriel's 3.30-5pm**

*Come & Play for families; games, snacks, fun and chat*

**Weoley Castle Library**

*Mon, Tue, Thurs, Fri, Sat times coming soon B29 5HR*

*More info: Chris Hopkins [bill-Hopkins@btinternet.com](mailto:bill-Hopkins@btinternet.com)  
 or Rachel [rjewson@encounterchurch.uk](mailto:rjewson@encounterchurch.uk) 07548731257  
 or Fiona [revdfiona@stgabrielsweoleycastle.com](mailto:revdfiona@stgabrielsweoleycastle.com) 0121 4763505*



*A letter from Peter and Lena Cruchley that just missed our publication date last month*

Dear Friends

As Lena and I prepare for our move to Switzerland later in October, we wanted to write to express our thanks for the last two years we have spent living in the Manse (again) in Quarry Road.

You provided us with a safe place when everything was in turmoil: Dad had recently died; Brexit meant we had to return to the UK from Singapore so that Lena could qualify for pre-settled status; the pandemic had shut all the estate agents, and the URC would not assist us with finding affordable accommodation in London where the CWM office is based.

We were deeply grateful when Leonora got in touch to say 123 was available for rent and that you were willing to ignore the Synod lawyer's warnings about renting to an EU citizen! I came with some trepidation, wondering if there would be too many 'ghosts' coming back to my childhood home and somewhere so strongly rooted in our family and mum and dad especially. But it was comforting to be here and to see dad's roses still flowering, work in his study and be able to visit mum so close by and participate again in your life.

Leonora has been so kind to let me lead worship, where I have particularly felt close to dad again. In some ways this pressed me to feel I needed to keep some space, knowing we would have to move at some point, and so I don't think we have been very good members. Forgive us for that, if you had hoped we might have been more engaged. Even so, we have particularly treasured being able to bring mum to communion together. She does have

strong associations with all of you still, even as she forgets. It was a shame the pandemic continued to make her participation in day centre so difficult. She hates bingo, but the kindness and chattiness she found amongst you all more than made up for that, and the obvious chocolate winnings!

We have scattered some of dad's ashes in the back garden and this brought some comfort in the moment to mum who, like us, was not able to be at the funeral and meant she was included, even though she has forgotten and remembered many times since.

As you can imagine we have complicated feelings leaving here again, and leaving mum. She has reached a state where her forgetfulness envelops her as soon as you leave, but the moment I will particularly miss is praying with her. It has been a lovely comfort that however 'lost' or 'found' mum has been, when we are together, praying has always been something she values and connects with. If any friends can visit her in Lapal House, she may not know you but is still jolly, especially if gluten free chocolate ginger biscuits appear and praying offers some comfort.

Dad had such high opinions of the World Council of Churches and appreciated its leadership on justice and faith, so I know my going there is something he would be so pleased and proud about. I trace my calling to mum and dad especially, but also to my formative years amongst all of you in Weoley Castle. And this step in my ministry is still a fruit of your life and ministry and I will continue to voice the passion and faith many of you recognise is in me because of dad.

We want to especially thank Leonora and Michael. They are such exceptional friends and they have offered us such kindnesses along the way, grounding us not just in the community here, but in the warmth, wit and welcome of the Spirit. We will miss them in Geneva.

We tell friends of the exceptional commitment, faith and energy that is in Weoley Castle, that amongst a small number a larger truth and service is enabled and embodied. We will hold you in prayer in the difficult issues and times that lie ahead given all that is being experienced in the UK at the moment.

Peter and Lena

*If anyone would like Peter's personal email address, to use now he has moved, I can let them know it - Ted*

### **Change to newsletter schedule:**

There won't be a January newsletter in future, so please include any January notices with the December ones and add news from late December and January to the February news. If really necessary, each church or the Pastorate together can distribute a short supplement during January.

## Bournville

**The preaching rota** of Bournville in November is:

6 Nov Leonora (at 3PM)

13 Nov Alan Cotgreave (Remembrance)

20 Nov TBC

27 Nov Leonora

### **And Bournville news:**

A Quinquennial inspection of the building has taken place on the 26th of October.

Ruth is staying at Fieldview Care Home in Redditch. Visits are much appreciated

## Weoley Hill

**Edna Bayliss** died on 5 October. Her funeral will be at the church on 1 November at 12 noon. So far there is no information regarding a reception. Please remember her daughter.

**David Upton** died on 24 October. Please keep Kath in your thoughts and prayers. Dave apparently went very quickly downhill so his death was a bit of a shock. But he died peacefully in the QE with Kath at his bedside.

*November's retiring collections are for the Royal British Legion .*

## Weoley Hill Calendar for November 2022

Tuesday	1	12 NOON: Funeral for Edna Bayliss; cremation at Lodge Hill.
Sunday	6	10.30 AM: Communion Service led by the minister.
Wednesday	9	7.30 PM: Elders' meeting
Sunday	13	10.30 AM: Remembrance Sunday. Worship led by Elders and W&A..
Sunday	20	10.30 AM: Worship led by the minister. Church budget meeting
Thursday	24	10.30 AM: Manse Morning discussion
Saturday	26	2.30 PM: Walking group. Meet at church. (Depends on the weather)
Sunday	27	10.30 AM: 1 Advent Worship led by Alan Cotgreave. .

Wednesdays 10 AM: **Art Club**

Fridays 6.45 PM: **Community Choir**

### **FWO - 2023 BUDGET**

**Electricity costs up** by 285%!! (£3,700 to £14,270)

**FWO income down** by 5.9% !! (£34,000 to £32,000)

In fact the actual FWO income for year 2022 is likely to be down by much more than 5.9%.

If you are at all able to, please consider increasing your FWO giving.

Many thanks, Emlyn Evans ( FWO secretary)

# Power of Attorney

You may not have considered setting up a power of attorney—or perhaps we're just slower than everyone else—but as none of us are as young as we once were, this might be the time to think about it. We discovered, when the issue arose for a relative, that we probably should have done so years ago. Why? For one reason, people are more likely to have prolonged periods in declining physical and mental health than in the past.

There are two types of Power of Attorney, for health and welfare and for property and financial affairs,

It currently takes about 20 weeks after all the forms have been completed, signed and submitted to get a power of attorney approved, so do think about whether now is better than later for you. And of course, shop around and get recommendations if you can.

CT



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



## Food for thought

*Q: What's the best thing to put into a slice of pizza?*

A: Your teeth!

*Q: Can you tell me the joke about peanut butter?*

A: I'm not telling you. You might spread it!

*Q: Why do the French eat snails?*

A: Because they don't like fast food!

*Q: What kind of nuts always seems to have a cold?*

A: Cashews!

*Q: In which school do you learn to make a delicious ice cream pudding?*

A: Sunday School.

*Q: If you can make shoes from crocodile skin, what can you make from a banana?*

A: Slippers!

*Q: Waiter, will my pizza be long?*

A: No sir, it will be round!



# The Cadbury Pastorate

Bournville URC, Beaumont Rd: Worship at 3 PM on 1<sup>st</sup> 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.*

**PASTORATE MINISTER:** the Revd Leonora Jagessar

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