

Cadbury Pastorate News

Bournville, Weoley Castle &
Weoley Hill Churches



December 2022

From the Minister's study—

Advent & Christmas 2022

Our Border Terrier, Valdo, is now an eight-month-old puppy, still learning some important words. One such word is “come”. Oh, he actually knows what it means but, as a truly stubborn and strong-willed terrier, he does not always heed the call! He only does so when we add the word “snoepje” which in Dutch means “sweet” or “treat”. He will then look at us as if making up his mind before making a dash for us. We have had to teach him another word, “wait,” which is not easy for him as he sits expectantly to get his treat or his food. Now let me say something about these two words, “come” and “wait,” which we say and hear a lot during the season of Advent and Christmas.

Christians around the world look forward with expectation to the coming of Jesus more than 2000 years ago and at the same time are also reminded that we wait for a “second” coming, which, however it is interpreted, is an expression of our hope for a future of peace and justice. So, the past is coming to us in Christmas celebrations as we journey towards the future full of promise.

A danger, however, is the possibility that we can focus too much on the past or dwell too much in the future. The real opportunity is for us to reflect on how we live more fully and more faithfully in the present as we move between past and future. We live between what we have received and what we hope for.

Whether we are people of faith or not, certain things come to us rather than that we are always going somewhere, towards something. This may be a lesson worth noting in our world where we are taught to believe that if we need or want something we must always go after it, rather than “waiting” for it to “come” our way.

But the art of waiting is something that is presently in limited supply. Waiting for peace; waiting for reconciliation; waiting for healing; waiting for end of our economic woes. We get impatient with what we

see and hear and with what happens in the course of history and all around us, and sometimes in our own lives too.

Many of us are concerned about or impacted by waiting times in the NHS, in getting appointments, in delivery of services, in supply chains, etc. Waiting is not easy, especially in our plug and play, wired and connected world and as we have become accustomed to get what we want instantly or same day or next day in our rushed lives. But are we losing something as we hurry along?

While it is very understandable that we are going after what we need (or want), it can sometimes mean that we have been unable to receive what comes to us. And how we receive what comes to us does determine how we live in the present and shape our views of the future. Certainly, what “comes” to us can be both good and bad and, very often, surprising.

Just like Christmas always comes as a surprise. For “Who would think that what was needed to transform and save the earth might not be a plan or army, proud in purpose, proved in worth. Who would think, despite derision, that a child should lead the way? God surprises earth with heaven, coming here on Christmas Day.” (Bell and Maule)

In the season of Advent and Christmas we recognize again that the future comes to us with the promise of God’s reign of peace and justice. That is good news in a world presently filled with bad news. And as we look for the signs, and as we ourselves become signs and bearers of good news, we can be assured that Divine “Love came down at Christmas” and still comes to us....watch, wait and be surprised!

Best wishes and blessings for Advent, Christmas and the New Year!

Leonora



Advent Message: The Shepherds rushed into Bethlehem; we don't have to!

Luke tells us that after the angels had announced the birth of Jesus, the shepherds agreed that they should go into Bethlehem and see for themselves what the Lord had told them about, and so “they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger” (Lk 2:16 NRSV).

Sometimes, as Longfellow put it, “the mills of God grind slowly, yet they grind exceeding small.” It can seem like forever for church life to achieve anything—to make decisions and put them into action, to see change, to bring about growth in our churches. Sometimes, time is exactly what we need to spend to make the right plans and get the right results. Sometimes it simply is better, even if frustrating, to wait, and not rush into action.

On other occasions, it is the opposite that is needed: we've put off making a decision or taking action for long enough, and time is slipping away. If we don't get on with something—anything—there will be none of us left to do it. There is what we call a *Kairos* moment – that's a Greek New Testament word that means the exact moment of opportunity; precisely the right time for something to be done. If we miss the *Kairos* moment, we may never get another opportunity.

How do we get the balance right between waiting and acting? There is no simple answer, other than to listen for God speaking through the Holy Spirit. Is God saying, “move; act now,” or “not yet; not that?”

How do we learn to hear God speaking? By practice. By spending time being still and knowing that God is God and asking God to speak and taking time to listen. We learn to hear God by learning to listen.

I was grateful to be reminded this week of Toki Miyashina's paraphrase of Psalm 23:

The Lord is my Pace Setter, I shall not rush,

He makes me stop and rest for quiet intervals,
He provides me with images of stillness,
Which restore my serenity.
He leads me in ways of efficiency,
through calmness of mind; and his guidance is peace.
Even though I have a great many things to accomplish each day,
I will not fret, for his presence is here.
His timelessness, his all-importance will keep me in balance.
He prepares refreshment and renewal in the midst of my activity,
by anointing my head with his oils of tranquility,
My cup of joyous energy overflows.
Surely harmony and effectiveness shall be the fruit of my hours,
For I shall walk in the pace of my Lord,
and dwell in his house for ever.

It's worth remembering, too, that a pace setter has two tasks: to help the runner run fast enough, and to stop the runner going too fast so that they last the course. The Lord is my Pace Setter. I shall seek to run at the Lord's speed—no faster and no slower, and be guided by the Spirit as to what that pace should be.

With my prayers for a peaceful Advent and Christmas season, and a happy and healthy year ahead.

Steve



Festive Concert for Human Rights

Sunday 11th December 3PM

Friends Meeting House, Linden Rd, Bournville, B30 1JT

£8 (under 16s free)

Tickets can be bought at the door.

A festive mix of jazz music, Indian dance and choir music organised by Bournville Amnesty and Freedom from Torture. Proceeds will go to both charities.

Prayer page

Here at the beginning of Advent, the beginning of the church year and looking towards the new calendar year, we pray *O come Emmanuel*:

O come to a war-torn world, delivering peace and justice, turning the resources of war into resources that feed, house and clothe everyone.

O come to refugees from conflict, persecution and climate change, bringing them to places of safety and welcome.

O come to the hearts and minds of those who have plenty, inspiring them to share with people who have little.

O come to a world being destroyed in the name of profit and ever greater riches, instilling appreciation of your creation and inspiring its protection.

O come to a world of great inequality—of power, of wealth, of freedom, of security—bringing the day of Micah’s vision, when everyone can be secure in what they need for life.

O come to a world not yet free of the covid-19 pandemic, nor free of too many preventable diseases, especially diseases of poverty, giving strength to all health workers and campaigners and giving hope to those who suffer.

O come to our hearts, burning in us with your holy spirit, leading us to work always for your kingdom and to share your love with everyone around us.



Pastorate News

There will no longer be a January newsletter. The next issue will be available between late January and 1 February, so please send in news, notices and dates around the middle of January, exact date tba. Contributions are requested! Send them to the minister, Leonora Jagessar, or Cheryl Thornett at Weoley Hill.

Manse Mornings will resume Thursday 26 January at 10.30 AM.

World Cup Challenge

The World Cup has raised the profile of migrant workers and their treatment in Qatar, as well as of other minority groups. However, there has not been general coverage about the plight of nationals who wish to convert from Islam (an act which carries the death penalty, as in many Muslim states) and worship freely. Migrant workers of other religions can worship but are not allowed to evangelise.

Bible Society in the Gulf will have distributed St John's Gospel and the New Testament in 14 different languages to migrant workers and visiting football fans in November. (This will have been dependent on importation and distribution challenges having been overcome.) What an opportunity for the good News to be shared back in their own countries when workers and fans return home.

Please remember the leaders of churches and Bible Society staff in the Gulf region who will continue their work long after the World Cup hype is over.

Sue Beeby

Weoley Castle News

Sunday Services: 11 AM

December 4th: Toy & Gift Service—led by Chris Miles
December 11th: led by Leonora—with communion
December 18th: Christmas Carol Service—led by Ted
December 25th: probably no service at WCCC: service at Weoley Hill—10.30
January 1st: led by Chris Miles
January 8th: led by Leonora—with communion
January 15th: led by Ted
January 22nd: led by Ann Evans
January 29th: Joint Pastorate Service at Weoley Hill—10.30—
led by David Tennant
February 5th: led by Chris Miles

Christmas celebrations and Christmas breaks

Some classes from **Princethorpe School** will be singing carols in the Sanctuary on the 5th and 9th December. **Jervoise School** Years 4 & 5 may also hold a Christmas concert at WCCC. The **Day Centres** and **Lunch Clubs** will finish with a Christmas Dinner on Monday 19th December, and then re start on Friday 6th January. The **Parent & Toddler Group** will hold their Christmas Party on 14th December and will re start on 4th January. It is likely that **Warm Spaces** will have a break on Friday 23rd & 30th December, and **Knit & Natter** will drop their stitches and conversation on 27th December.

Adult Dance Group starting soon

Mena Jones is planning to set up an **Adult Dance for Health and Wellbeing Group** in the New Year. This will be on a Tuesday evening while the Craft (Knit & Natter) Group operate in another room. Watch this Space!

Weoley Castle Warm Spaces

The WCCC contribution to this scheme on Fridays is particularly busy when it starts at 10 AM, with many coming for **Incredible Surplus** and **Toys & Clothing Exchange**. It continues with a smaller number until mid-afternoon with a light lunch soon after 1 PM. Many thanks to those who come along to help and/or chat. Weoley Castle Library has now joined: providing a warm space on Mondays: 10.30-12.30; also Midland MenCap (Bottetourt Rd.): Mon-Fri 11-1.

Remembrance

Remembrance artwork by all ages at Princethorpe School was exhibited in the WCCC sanctuary for parents to come and see on Thursday 10th, and it provided a backdrop for the Day Centre on 11th November, and the service on the Sunday. See a sample photo in this newsletter. Day Centre members also produced their own artwork, which was put up in the side hall.



Bournville



On 1 December at 12.30 PM we will have our **Christmas lunch** in the church. We look forward to getting together in the beautifully decorated church for the festive meal as well as a short act of worship after. We are happy that Ruth can join us.

6 December 10.30AM **Elders meeting**

Church Services:

4 December Leonora (at 3PM)

11 December Alison Geary

18 December Stuart

25 December **Christmas Day** Michael



Weoley Hill

We are sorry to announce the death of **Jennifer Felderhof** on 27 November. The celebration of her life will be here on Tuesday the 13th at 1 PM. She will be buried in Scotland.

The Thornetts have a new grandson, Felix Lin Thornett Evans, born on 5 November. Felix and mother Sarah are doing well. (Lin is a Chinese name meaning *forest*.)

Retiring Collections: **December's** collection is for **Birmingham Crisis Centre** and as usual, the **Toy Service** donations will be taken to the Crisis Centre. Please choose for a range of ages, girls and boys, and remember not to wrap your offering. Rolls of inexpensive gift wrap are very much appreciated by the staff who sort, assign and then wrap the gifts. The **January collection** will be for the **Benevolent Fund**.

Thanks to everyone who helped to decorate the church for Christmas.

We have received the letter below following our Gift Day:

I confirm receipt of the donation of £77.

I should like to thank you on behalf of Revd Steve Faber and the West Midlands Synod for the kind contribution to the Church of North India Hospital appeal

Please pass on our grateful thanks to the members of Weoley Hill United Reformed Church.

Best wishes,

Lynne

Finance Assistant,

West Midlands Synod

of the United Reformed Church



Christmas at Weoley Hill Church

Sunday 11th December 10.30am:

*Toy service. Bring new toys for
Birmingham Crisis Centre*

Saturday 17th December 5pm:

Carols by candlelight

Christmas Eve 4pm:

Crib service for families

Christmas Day 10.30am:

Christmas family worship

New Year's Day 10.30am:

Sunday worship and communion

Weoley Hill Calendar for December 2022/January 2023

Saturday	3	2 PM: Decorate church
Sunday	4	10.30 AM: 2 Advent Communion Service led by the minister
Friday	9	6.45 PM: Community Choir
Sunday	11	10.30 AM: 3 Advent Toy Service led by Ann Evans.
Wednesday	14	1 PM: 'Festive' lunch. £8, must book in advance. 7.30 PM: Elders' meeting
Friday	16	6.45 PM: Community Choir tbc
Saturday	17	5 PM: Carol service
Sunday	18	10.30 AM: 4 Advent Worship led by Ian Thomson.
Saturday	24	4 PM: Family Crib service led by the minister.
Sunday	25	10.30 AM: Christmas Day Family Worship led by the minister.
January		
Sunday	1	10.30 AM: New Year's Day worship and communion led by the minister.
Sunday	8	10.30 AM: Worship led by Ann Evans
Monday	9	2.30 PM: F&B meeting
Wednesday	11	7.30 PM: Elders' meeting tbc
Sunday	15	10.30 AM: Worship led by the minister.
Sunday	22	10.30 AM: Worship led by Alan Cotgreave.
Thursday	26	10.30 AM: Manse Morning discussion
Sunday	29	10.30 AM: Pastorate worship led by David Tennant.

The **Art Club** meets on Wednesdays at 10 AM-12, £1 (towards cost of electricity). Check with Lorraine for last meeting in December and first meeting in January. Everyone is welcome!

The **Community Choir** will meet on the 2nd and 9th, with a brief rehearsal before the carols service on the 17th, time to be announced. Meetings will resume at 6.45 PM on 13 January, TBC.

The sayings of tea-towels and fridge magnets

Allergy warning:

This kitchen contains nuts!

Tea-towel says:

You wash – I'll dry...

Not quite Martin Luther King:

***I have a dream: that one day,
chickens can cross the road without
having their motives questioned!***



Chicken, laying an egg says:

I poop breakfasts; what is your superpower?

Schoolteacher holding a very large glass of wine says:

I'm on special measures!

In your dreams:

Alexa: cook dinner, then do the dishes!

One cute endangered animal to another:

If that's David Attenborough over there, we must be the last two!

Give this tea-towel to your nan:

Chocolate biscuits are my 'crack', and grannie is my dealer!

A tea-towel with a message:

Preach the Gospel at all times; use words if necessary!

*Send me your favourites and we can publish another selection
sometime - Ted*

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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