

Cadbury Pastorate News

Bournville, Weoley Castle &
Weoley Hill Churches



February 2023

From the Minister's study—

Dear Friends,

As I was going through my papers, written and collected over many years, I came across a report I wrote after attending a seminar on Culture, Faith and Ethnicity at the Leveson Centre in Temple Balsall. And while I attended the seminar many years ago, I think the question that was asked then about what we can learn from other faiths and cultures regarding aging and old age and the services provided seem to be just as relevant today as then. So let me share some of what was presented which is of interest.

One presentation was about “Religion, culture and institutional care for the older Jews in the UK.” What is the Jewish approach to old age? The clear point of reference is the care of elderly in biblical times, and as recorded in the Hebrew Bible (the OT). Care in biblical times was based on charity, *zedakah* (Hebr), which means righteousness and justice. And the primary unit of support is always the family, but if no family is available the community has the responsibility of care. So how does the care in biblical times compare with the care provision of the Jewish community in the UK today?

A problem is that too often there is a big cultural gap between those who receive care and those who provide the care. And it was noted that the majority of Jewish elderly want to go to Jewish homes, to be “among their own.” They want to be safe and be where their cultural and faith values are respected. But a problem is finances as many of the Jewish care homes are quite expensive and state-funded elderly may not be able to afford them. And while care legislation stipulates that members of ethnic communities are entitled to culturally sensitive care provision, funding challenges mean that it cannot always be provided.

Another presentation gave some insights of the feelings among the elderly in different ethnic communities with mention of fear of racial attacks, the feeling that disease and ill health had something to do with God, the expectation that sons (and daughters-in-law) would help (in

Asian communities), the feeling of being deserted by the family and left in a nursing home, and the need to be among peers to talk to (while children are busy living their own lives). And the point was made that in African, Afro-Caribbean and Asian communities looking after elderly and frail relatives is an act of honour, a kind of sacred obligation. And the question was asked again whether hospitals and care homes were sensitive enough to the needs of different cultures and what happens when increasingly the family is not able to look after the elderly.

And a last presentation picked up on “Ageing in a foreign land,” especially with reference to South Asian elders. It was noted that while often the emphasis is on living in old age and the quality of life, the fact of dying is often overlooked while that has particular meaning in Asian culture. In the “care package” offered to (Asian) elderly no consideration is given to dying, and the wishes of the elderly. There is no recognition that aging is a spiritual process in Hinduism, Buddhism, etc. Many Asians do not want to die in the UK, although they know they have to, but rather in their homeland (where they were born). There is an emotional reckoning that all the rituals of their faith cannot be performed, eg the lighting of the funeral pyre by the eldest son. A button pushed at the crematorium is not the same.

Also interesting was the observation that the terminology used by social services is very foreign to Asians who also use different language to describe their (physical and mental) problems. That can lead to misunderstanding. And Asian elderly want to live in community; they do not know the concept of sheltered housing. They do not want to be isolated. They want to live with their family, and preferably their extended family, but often their homes may not big enough to accommodate their wish.

So what would we say about the cultural British “Christian” approach to aging and old age? Do we recognize some of same feelings expressed by elderly of other faiths and cultural backgrounds? Can we learn from them how to approach old age? And what faith values are important to

us as we age and as we may be recipients of care in our own homes, in hospital or in care home?

“Grow old along with me! The best is yet to be. The last of life, for which the first was made: Our times are in His hand.....” (Robert Browning)

With all best wishes, *Leonora*

Prayer page

The Leading the Church into Growth Prayer

God of Mission,
Who alone brings growth to your Church,
Send your Holy Spirit to give,
Vision to our planning,
Wisdom to our actions,
Joy to our worship
And power to our witness.
Help our church to grow in numbers,
In spiritual commitment to you,
And in service to our local community,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

To Be Grateful

Henri J. M. Nouwen

To be grateful for the good things that happen in our lives is easy, but to be grateful for all of our lives – the good as well as the bad, the moments of joy as well as the moments of sorrow, the successes as well as the failures, the rewards as well as the rejections – that requires hard spiritual work. Still, we are only truly grateful people when we can say thank you to all that has brought us to the present moment....Let us not be afraid to look at everything that has brought us to where we are now and trust that we will soon see in it the guiding hand of a loving God.

Pastorate News

Bournville



Christmas lunch at Bournville URC on the 1st of December. A wonderful occasion and delicious meal in a beautifully decorated church which was enjoyed by us all! And little did we know.....



.....three weeks later the church was broken into and most of the lead/copper piping was stolen, as well as the sound system, the communion silver, etc. And a few days later the burglars came back to break off the remaining pipes they had failed to take the first time. The discovery of the extensive damage was made on Christmas Day and as there was no more heating, the Christmas Day service was held in a cold church. But we did have visitors joining us!

After the break-ins and recognizing that for some time the church admin and maintenance has been a heavy burden carried by a few, it is with sadness that the church meeting of Bournville URC, on the recommendation of the Elders, has decided to close the church. We plan for the closing service, a service of thanksgiving for the faithful witness and service of Bournville URC (formerly Churches of Christ) over many years, to be held on the 9th of July 2023. We hope that by that time all the repairs to the church building will be finished so we can welcome our pastorate friends to join us for the last time to celebrate our anniversary (yes, it is our anniversary Sunday!) and to give God thanks for the journey of faith and faithfulness we have been able to share as a very friendly and welcoming Christian community in Bournville and in our Cadbury pastorate.

As our church building is no longer usable, with no heating, electricity and water, you may well see members of Bournville URC occasionally joining worship at Weoley Hill and Weoley Castle Community Church while we also plan to meet a few times in members' homes.

Leonora



Weoley Hill

Fish & chip supper and quiz

This will take place on Saturday 18 February at 6 PM (for 6.30 start). Cost will be £7.00 per person for teams of six which will include the fish, chips, bread and butter, pickles, sauce and a drink. All money raised will go towards *Transform Trade**. As usual there will be a raffle and any donations for this will be gratefully received. Prizes are indescribable! *See below.

Please let me know if you wish to attend as soon as possible for catering purposes.

Lorraine

The Demise of Traidcraft

I was sad last week to hear that Traidcraft plc is going into administration. After an exceptionally difficult few years, this company, one of the founders of the trade justice movement, is closing its doors. We at Weoley Hill have supported Traidcraft in a number of ways over many years, with sales of food, clothing, jewellery, cards etc. first organized by Sue Cope for several years, and then for the last 16 years by me. Sadly we had to discontinue the sales other than Christmas cards when goods became too expensive. We continue to support fair trade with money raised at events such as our quizzes.

Transform Trade, (formerly Traidcraft Exchange), the development charity partnered with Traidcraft and other trade justice organisations to work for justice in trade, says:

“Since 1979 Traidcraft has reimagined the relationships between producers and consumers, putting justice at the heart of trade. It's no exaggeration to say that the fair trade movement as we know it would not exist without Traidcraft.”

To try to clarify the various organisations:

Fair Trade is the trade justice movement which began in the USA back in the 1940s and has spread worldwide. *Transform Trade* is the charity to whom we make donations from the sale of goods and events and who provides direct support and advice to producers in developing countries, and campaigns for fair trade policies and practices, *Traidcraft plc* is (or was) the trading arm of the *Traidcraft Foundation*, working worldwide with smaller producer groups, helping them to find a route to market where no-one else could.

So we will continue to raise funds to support Transform Trade, though I'm afraid there won't be any more Traidcraft Christmas cards. And please continue to buy goods with the Fair Trade logo from supermarkets or charity shops. We plan to continue as a Fairtrade Church.

CM

February's retiring collections are for *the Leprosy Mission*.

Lent study groups

As of late January, plans for an ecumenical Lent study are being discussed, but there is no decision on which one or when they will start. Studies will most likely be at Weoley Hill on Thursday afternoons, St Mary's on Tuesday mornings and SOMC on Wednesday evenings. Details will be announced when they have been worked out.



**World Day of Prayer,
Friday 3 March 10.30 AM at Weoley Hill Church**

It would be great to see you at this year's World Day of Prayer service which has been prepared by women in Taiwan.

There will be a meeting on Tuesday 7 February at 10 am to plan the service. If you would like to be involved, please speak to Sue and join us then.

Sue Beeby



News from Bill Campbell

I have spent the last four years writing a commentary on Paul's letter to the Romans, now with the publishers (Harry Potter's publisher) Bloomsbury, London. It should be out around the end of 2022 but was earlier discussed at the annual Society for Biblical Literature conference in Denver. Even though we live in Basel (where Kathy was a minister of the Reformed Church for 16 years), Kathy is still able to continue her Encyclopedia work part-time online with occasional visits to Berlin to attend meetings and give lectures.

William S. Campbell, *Romans. A Social Identity Commentary*. London, New York: Bloomsbury/T&T Clark 2022.

Bill Campbell

Margaret Geyer sends greetings Geyer to those who remember her and John.

Weoley Hill Calendar for February 2023

Sunday	5	10.30 AM: Communion Service led by the minister. NOON: Church meeting after worship.
Tuesday	7	10 AM: World Day of Prayer planning meeting
Sunday	12	10.30 AM: Worship led by WM Moderator Steve Faber.
Saturday	18	6 FOR Quiz night and fish & chips supper, £7 per 6.30 PM: head, raffle, proceeds to Fairtrade charity. Let Lorraine know as soon as possible.
Sunday	19	10.30 AM: Worship led by the minister. Discussion after worship
Wednesday	22	Ash Wednesday
Thursday	23	10.30 AM: Manse Morning discussion
Sunday	26	10.30 AM: Worship led by Alan

Wednesdays 10 am: **Art Club**

Fridays 6.45 PM: **Community Choir**

The final **Commitment for Life** amount collected was £3253.67.
Thanks to all those who donated.

David Marlow

FWO Envelopes and Standing Orders.

A big "thank you" to those who have increased their donations recently. It is very much appreciated at this difficult time.

If you still use FWO Envelopes please consider changing to a Standing Order because there is a minimum order for the envelopes and we are now well below that number. Standing Orders are easy to setup and to make small adjustments each year.

Emlyn and David

Weoley Castle

Sunday Services: 11 AM

February 5th: led by Chris Miles

February 12th: led by Leonora—with communion

February 19th: led by Ted

February 26th: led by Brian Brown

Half term Activity Day

Chris Hopkins & Mary Toast are planning another Family and Children's Activity Day: 10 am till 2 PM on Tuesday 21 Feb.

Day centre Christmas lunch



Funeral of Chad Heath

We were gratified that in December the family felt that WCCC was a suitable place to hold Chad's funeral: he tragically died at age 18 in a car accident. There was a minor-miracle during the music after Leonora's address: the sun suddenly shone and illuminated the cross at the front of the sanctuary; this beautiful spectacle was a memorable part of the service, attended by many friends and family.



From Feb. 7th, Mena Jones begins **“Mega Movers” - Adult Dance for Health and Wellbeing** - on Tuesday evenings at 6.30.

Weoley Castle Warm Spaces

In the run-up to Christmas, the WCCC Warm Space, Incredible Surplus and Toys & Clothing Exchange were very busy, and we received spontaneous donations towards these activities from many individuals. Tim & Mel (calling themselves “Spirit of Rosa”: 07708 382391) just rocked up with their guitars and serenaded us - and the Day Centre - with songs and carols. Everything has re-started in the New Year, and it seems likely to continue even when the weather gets warmer. We are grateful for a donation from ASDA towards the cost of this activity.



Tim and Mel

More random jokes



A man went into a hardware store to buy a kitchen sink. 'Would you like one with a plug?' asked the assistant.

'Don't tell me they've gone electric!' he responded.

During an auction, the auctioneer announced that a wealthy bidder has mislaid his wallet containing £1,000; he would give a reward of £50 to the person who found it. From the back of the hall, a voice shouted: 'I bid £100!'.

Our crazy world: supermarkets make the sick people walk all the way to the back of the store to get their prescriptions, while healthy people can buy cigarettes at the front.

Why do cows wear bells? Because their horns don't work.

What is the longest word in the English language?

'Smiles' - because there is a mile between its first and last letters.

Did you hear about the man who was convicted of stealing luggage from the airport?

He asked for twenty other cases to be taken into account.

Teacher to school student: 'Give me a sentence beginning with "I".'

Student: 'I is the...'

Teacher: 'No! it's "I am" not "I is."'

Student: 'OK: I am the ninth letter of the alphabet.'

Teacher to school student: 'Where's the English Channel?'

Student: 'I don't know: our telly doesn't pick it up.'

Two old men, somewhat hard of hearing are on a London tube train.

#1 mutters, 'Is it Wembley?'

'No,' says #2, 'Thursday.'

#1 answers, 'OK, when we get there, let's find a pub and have a drink.'

Cost of living crisis: I've heard about an out-of-work contortionist who says he can no longer make ends meet.



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



The Cadbury Pastorate

Bournville URC cannot use their building at present. Please contact the minister or church secretary for times and places for worship.

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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