

Cadbury Pastorate News

Bournville, Weoley Castle &
Weoley Hill Churches



March 2023

From the Minister's study—

Dear Friends,

When does Spring begin? Is it the 1st of March or the 20th? I always get confused because there is the meteorological beginning of Spring, on March 1st, with March, April and May being considered the “Spring months.” But on the astronomical calendar the Spring Equinox falls this year on the 20th and that is officially the beginning of Spring.

Anyway, from the beginning of March we can already feel that Spring is in the air. The days are getting longer, the temperature rises (although it can still be quite cold too) and we come out of our winter hibernation (metaphorically speaking). We go out more to catch the sun, we admire the colourful crocuses and daffodils and other spring flowers that have started blooming. We start seeing buds on the trees, signs of new life. And for those of us who wake up early, we may hear the wonderful early morning birdsong. Yes, Spring is a feast for the senses and Springtime is usually a really uplifting season.

One of my favourite hymns that mentions Spring is found in Mission Praise (a hymnbook that some of us love and others less so). It is No 348: “It only takes a spark, to get a fire going” and the second verse is as follows:

*What a wondrous time is spring, when all the trees are budding,
the birds begin to sing; the flowers start their blooming;*

*that's how it is with God's love, once you've experienced it
you want to sing, it's fresh like spring;
you want to pass it on.*

This verse does not only express the joy one feels at seeing the new life that springs up but it makes the connection with God's love that comes anew to us every day and which we want to share with others. Yes, God's love comes to us “fresh like spring” and, perhaps like the “lamb in the meadow” and the “lark in the sky” in the Easter poem of Jane Tyson Clement, we “leap for joy!”

Carol of Hope

Jane Tyson Clement

The lambs leap in the meadow,
The larks leap in the sky,
and all the bells of heaven ring
because our Lord rides by!

The sun lies golden on the bank,
warmth wakens in the deepest root;
like golden stars the celandine
now opens to the day;
the sherds of winter blow away
and buds break unconfined.

Stars of the heart, now open wide!
All frozen roots that once had died,
rise again, oh rise!

The lambs leap in the meadow,
The larks leap in the sky,
and all the bells of heaven ring
because our Lord rides by!

Enjoy the March Spring month as we are on our way to Easter!

Leonora

The next issue of the newsletter will be available around 1 April. Contributions are requested! Send them to the minister, Leonora Jagessar, or Chris Marlow at Weoley Hill while Cheryl is away.

Prayer page

God of wilderness and water,
your Son was baptized and tempted as we are.
Guide us through this season,
that we may not avoid struggle,
but open ourselves to blessing,
through the cleansing depths of repentance
and the heaven-rending words of the Spirit.
(Revised Common Lectionary)
Amen.

We remember:

the people of Turkey and Syria

The people of Ukraine and other war-torn nations

People suffering the effects of climate change

People in our own country who can't afford to heat their homes and
struggle to have enough to eat

Public workers

The people of Northern Ireland

The people of Scotland

People, wherever they are, who are excluded or persecuted, especially
people excluded or harmed by churches.

We pray for peace, for charity and kindness, for wisdom and
understanding.

We pray for the strength to repent our failures, individually and as a
community, and to better live as God's people in the light of Christ's
life, His sacrifice and His resurrection.

Pastorate News

Supper and quiz



Many thanks to all those who supported the latest fish and chip supper and quiz which raised £158 in funds for Fair Trade. The theme was *TV Programmes* and 40 people were present including team members from Weoley Hill, Weoley Castle and Bournville plus lots of friends, neighbours and families. There were a few hiccups along the way... I forgot the pickled onions (Noooooo!); the food arrived very late so we were all rather hungry and in an attempt to catch up, the answers to the previous 3 rounds were not given out; and finally we seemed to be inundated with lots of sliced bread!



However the missed questions and answers are on display in the JK hall and several families had a surprise bread and butter pudding on Sunday. The winners of the fabulous (?) prizes of TV Snacks were Cheryl and Gordon Thornett, Shirley and David Smith from Bournville and Sue Beeby. Special thanks must go to John Fletcher who was the new rookie scorer (and has even volunteered to do it again!), to Alan and Levi for folding all raffle tickets, plus for Linda, Norma and Sue who worked in the kitchen and did the washing up afterwards. Once again a real team effort for a good cause. Many, many thanks.

Lorraine

Weoley Castle

Sunday Services: 11 AM

March 5th: led by Chris Miles

March 12th: led by Leonora – with communion

March 19th: led by Ted

March 26th: led by Michael Jagessar



Half term Activity Day

On Pancake Day, the building was buzzing with children and parents engaging in craft pursuits, with occasional dancing led by Mena, and with free lunch including pizza and pancakes. Many thanks to the organisers Chris Hopkins and Mary Sparkes and their helpers.

*The contributions of **Alex Blackband** to Weoley Castle were among the many things remembered about him, during his funeral in Yorkshire in February, after a full life lived to the age of 86.*

Weoley Hill

The March Retiring Collection is for Corrymeela.

Lent Bible Study

Tenants of the King—what does the Bible say about the climate crisis?

This year's Lent course is a 4-week series taking a Christian look at environmental issues and our responsibility toward creation. Meetings are on Thursdays, 10.30 AM at St Mary's and 2.30 PM here, on 9, 16, 23 and 30 March.

What's creation for?

What's the problem?

What can I do?

Speak up

You can find some video clips that give an idea of the course at bit.ly/OpNoahToK.

Weoley Hill Away Day

Saturday 1 April, 10-4, at the Greenhouse, Barnes Close

We will look at the "Leading Your Church into Growth" program and how we grow in various ways. Stuart Scott will provide an input in our thinking and discussion. Bring a packed lunch, but drinks will be provided.

Leonora

Electricity charges

The church has now come to the end of our contract for electricity and we have had our first bill under the new tariff. These are some figures to show the difference the church is experiencing and, no doubt, many of us can relate similar stories from our own homes.

	2022		2023	
	kWh	£	kWh	£
January	2310	387	2071	411
February	2235	375	2526	743

David Marlow



At Weoley Hill we have decided to promote our collections for the foodbank by publicising the collection box to the users of the church premises. The box for collections will be in the corridor near to the back door and there will be a poster on the door inviting donations. This will start soon.

The figures from the foodbank show that the need for their support was much greater in 2022 than in the previous year. I know that the volunteers who work there wish that this was not so.

John Fletcher

Weoley Hill Calendar for March 2023

Friday	3	10.30 AM: World Day of Prayer service
Sunday	5	10.30 AM: Communion Service led by the minister.
Monday	6	2.30 PM: F&B in Upper Hall
Wednesday	8	7.30 PM: Elders meeting
Thursday	9	10.30 AM: Lent course at St Mary's 2.30 PM: Lent course at Weoley Hill
Sunday	12	10.30 AM: Worship led by Seve Faber, WM moderator.
Thursday	16	10.30 AM: Lent course at St Mary's 2.30 PM: Lent course at Weoley Hill
Sunday	19	10.30 AM: Mothering Sunday worship led by the minister. Discussion after worship
Thursday	23	10.30 AM: Lent course at St Mary's No Manse meeting 2.30 PM: Lent course at Weoley Hill
Sunday	26	10.30 AM: Worship led by Alan.
Thursday	30	10.30 AM: Lent course at St Mary's 2.30 PM: Lent course at Weoley Hill

Wednesdays 10 AM: **Art Club**

Fridays 6.45 PM: **Community Choir**

Weoley Hill Holy week services

Sunday	2 April	10.30 AM: Palm Sunday. Communion (NOON: Annual Church Meeting)
Thursday	6 April	7,30 PM: Maundy Thursday worship at St Davids
Friday	7 April	7.30 PM: Good Friday worship led by the minister.
Sunday	9 April	7.00 AM: Early Easter worship led by the minister. Easter Breakfast, advance notice needed. 10.30 AM: Easter Communion led by Stuart Scott.

Advance notice for Coronation weekend:

On Sunday 7 May we will mark the coronation with a buffet-type lunch after worship. There will be a sign-up sheet for contributions of food, mainly cold food like salads, close to the time. If you are unable to shop yourself, perhaps you could ask a friend to pick something up on your behalf or see Lorraine or Cheryl if you would prefer to make a cash donation towards the meal.

Cheryl Thornett

Bournville

After several building companies had submitted a quote to the insurers we are happy that Robinson & Co Ltd have been given the job of doing the repair/remedial work in our church building. They are keen to start the work as soon as possible and we look forward to seeing the church building in its "former glory" again before our closing service on 9 of July.

On 14 of March we will gather at Woodbrooke for a Day Retreat in which we will reflect on how to let go and deal with our loss but also tell the story of Bournville URC and share in remembrance and thanksgiving. And we will also look forward with hope that God is leading us on a path of blessing full of surprises.

What is a “senior citizen”?

Senior citizens remember rationing and the new young queen. They didn't own a black and white television to watch her coronation, but managed to sit in the living-room of a rich neighbour who did. We did 'the pools', without swimming a single length to keep fit; 'postal orders' were not the Government telling the posties to accept a pay offer.

We were around before 'the pill', contact lenses, credit cards, email and the internet. 'Telegram' was not a way to avoid hostile security services knowing what messages you were sending. 'Application' was never shortened to 'App'; instead, your teacher said you lacked it when you

should have been revising for O levels. 'Twitter' was for birds only. 'Nectar' was for bees – and that was all we knew about 'the birds and the bees', since parents were too embarrassed to give 'the talk'.

'Satellites' were European countries behind the 'iron curtain', which was not what you did after spring-cleaning your living room. Senior citizens heard that sputnik had gone into orbit, long before humans walked on the moon. '1984' was a worrying prospect on the horizon and '2001 – a Space Odyssey' was a possible distant future.

For us, 'time sharing' meant togetherness, not holiday homes. A 'chip' was a piece of wood, 'hardware' meant hinges and screws, and 'software' wasn't even a word.

We got married, then lived together, and a house would cost about three times a single person's salary.

A 'stud' was used to fasten a detachable collar to a shirt and 'going all the way' meant sitting on a trolley bus until it reached the depot.

'Fast food' was what you ate in Lent; a 'Big Mac' was an oversized raincoat, and a 'crumpet' was toasted in front of a gas fire and eaten for tea.

In our day, you mowed 'grass', 'pot' was for cooking in, 'coke' was kept in the coal house and a 'joint' was put in the oven on Sundays.

All in all, I think we're a pretty hardy bunch, considering all the changes we've seen. After all, we've learned how to pronounce 'quinoa', to google any fact we may have forgotten, and use a satnav.

All through history, people have had to cope with change: several hundred years BC, the writer of Ecclesiastes wrote: 'Never ask: "Oh why were things so much better in the old days?"' (Chapter 7, verse 10, Good News Bible).

Ted Forgan

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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