

# Cadbury Pastorate News

Weoley Castle &  
Weoley Hill Churches



*September 2023*

*From the Minister's study—*

Dear friends,

One of the joys during my summer holiday in France has been gazing up the night sky with the naked eye and through a telescope. During a weeklong heatwave when we only ventured outside in the early morning, staying mostly inside behind closed doors, windows and shutters until the evening, the cooler evening air provided a very welcome respite from the heat. At that time we would sit down on our lounging chairs, watching the stars gradually appearing until the sky was dotted with countless of them. *[The Lord] brought [Abraham] outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be."* (Gen 15:5). With the help of a stargazing "app" (a type of software you can download on your mobile phone) our son could identify the names of the various stars and constellations, as well as the location of the planets, whether we could see them or not. And then there was a telescope, a small one yet big enough for us to get a good view of the moon as well as see Saturn with its rings. Even though the planet was no more than a tiny dot (with the rings just about visible) it was amazing to see.

*When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them?(Psalm 8)* Yes, looking at the night sky with the moon, stars, planets, satellites (you see them too, mostly moving although some stationary) is a truly wonderful experience. And to think that the earth is just a tiny part of an immense universe, a universe which is just one of many, is truly awe-inspiring. *The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge. They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them. Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world. (Psalm 19)*

And another great pleasure this summer has been to use an “app” that identifies the sound of birds. The app is called “Merlin” and has been developed by a lab that is claimed to have the largest database of bird sighting, sounds and photos in the world. Some of the birds I have discovered through recording its sounds have been the Goldcrest, the Pied Flycatcher, the Eurasian Nuthatch, the Short-toed Treecreeper, the Common Redstart, among other more common birds like the blue tit, the Coal tit, the Robin, etc. *“But ask the animals, and they will teach you, or the birds in the sky, and they will tell you; or speak to the earth, and it will teach you, or let the fish in the sea inform you. Which of all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this? In his hand is the life of every creature and the breath of all mankind.” (Job 12: 7-10)*

While some bird sounds I would easily recognize (eg pigeon, owl, magpie, crow), others I would not have been able to place but for the help of the app on my phone. It is very enjoyable (and educational) to listen more intently to the sounds of the many different birds in their natural habitat. And once you hear the bird sound, of course you try to locate the bird that is singing, usually a morning song as the singing may stop in the heat of the day. So, birds have received my special attention this summer and, of course, a well-known bible verse has come to mind, *“Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life? (Matthew 6:26-27)*

*“Do not worry....”* Really? While Jesus’ words seem to refer to worrying about food and clothing, which is a genuine worry for many, another worry many of us share today is about climate change. It seems that 2023 has been another record-breaking year with heatwaves, fires and floods affecting many all over the world. At the end of our holiday, when the heatwave in France finally ended, we also experienced an incredible downpour of rain, a torrential rain, which flooded the scorched land in a matter of seconds. *“He provides rain for the earth; he sends water on the countryside.” (Job 5:10)* Yes, the land was and is

grateful for the rain but at the same time these weather events are now so unusual and extreme, that they cause widespread damage and destruction. And it is people and communities that are most vulnerable that suffer most from a changing climate, so we recognize the urgent need for climate justice.

The Season of Creation is the name given to the period from 1 September to 4 October when churches are encouraged to have a focus on creation, with all the joys and responsibilities that being part of God's creation brings to us. This year the theme is "Let justice and peace flow" echoing the call of the prophet Amos, "*But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!*" (Amos 5:24). We are called to join the river of justice and peace, to take up climate and ecological justice, and to speak out with and for communities most impacted by climate injustice and the loss of biodiversity. And below is the 2023 Season of Creation prayer that I encourage us all to include in our prayers:

With all best wishes, *Leonora*

## Prayer page

*Creator of All,*

*From your communion of love life sprung forth like a mighty river and the whole cosmos came into being. On this Earth of overflowing love, the Word was made flesh and went forth with the life-giving waters proclaiming peace and justice for all creation.*

*You called human beings to till and keep your garden. You placed us into right relationship with each creature, but we failed to listen to the cries of the Earth and the cries of the most vulnerable. We broke with the flowing communion of love and sinned against you by not safeguarding the conditions for life.*

*We lament the loss of our fellow species and their habitats, we grieve the loss of human cultures, along with the lives and livelihoods that have been displaced or perished, and we ache at the sight of an economy of death, war and violence that we have inflicted on ourselves and on the Earth.*

*Open our ears to your creative, reconciling and sustaining Word that calls to us through the book of Scripture and the book of creation.*

*Bless us once again with your life-giving waters so that the Creator Spirit may let justice and peace flow in our hearts and overflow into all creation.*

*Open our hearts to receive the living waters of God's justice and peace, and to share it with our suffering brothers and sisters, all creatures around us, and all creation.*

*Bless us to walk together with all people of good will so that the many streams of the living waters of God's justice and peace may become a mighty river all over the Earth.*

*In the name of the One who came to proclaim good news to all creation, Jesus Christ. Amen.*



This time of year we may also remember everyone starting a new academic year, and especially everyone moving on a level: children, students, educators and parents.



# Pastorate News

*Future newsletters: Ted Forgan and I have agreed to put out a newsletter for the foreseeable future on a monthly basis except for January and August. Contributions and suggestions are always welcome!*

## Weoley Hill

**Congratulations to Esther Cotgreave**, who gained the A-Level results she needed to read chemistry at Imperial College.

**The Tuesday Fellowship** is resuming after a summer break, 10.30 am on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays, at Sue Beeby's\*. We have been looking at the *Leading your church into growth* material and plan to decide among the *Life builder* study books. Everyone is welcome, even if you can't always come. If there is something you would really like to discuss, please come along and propose it, or tell Sue or Ann. \*When Sue is away, we will meet at another house or in the church.

## MacMillan Coffee and Cake morning

**Friday, 6 October from 11 AM - 1 PM.**

**Hosted by the knitting group, everyone welcome.**

## Summer Tea

Many thanks to all those who attended and donated to the Summer Tea on Wednesday June 17<sup>th</sup>. A wide selection of cakes and sandwiches were on offer as usual and as usual there was so much available that everyone was able to take home a 'doggy bag' for later. The weather was unpredictable, so tables were set out in the JK Hall rather than outside as originally intended. Seventeen folks attended and £41 was raised for the Refreshments fund which is no longer supported by

funds from the Lunch Club but only from refreshments after services. Thanks to all those who helped set out and clear up particularly Linda, Cheryl and Kath Upton, once again a good team effort.

## October Quiz

This is booked for **Saturday 7 October** when once again we hope to have a fish-and-chip supper to accompany the quiz. Prices are **£8 per person in teams of six**, and funds raised will be for The Royal National Lifeboat Institution, which is instrumental in saving lives of the fishermen, and others, “who go down to the sea in ships”—and surfboards etc! Bread and butter, pickles (I promise to remember the onions this time) and hot drinks are also available and there will be the usual raffle for which donations are always gratefully received (20p per ticket). Please let me know numbers as soon as possible so we can get a rough idea of quantities to order. Thanks.

*September’s retiring collection is for Macmillan Cancer Care*

Weoley Hill Calendar for September 2023		
Sunday	3	10.30 AM: Communion Service led by the minister.
Tuesday	5	10.30 AM: Tuesday Fellowship
Sunday	10	10.30 AM: Worship led by Revd David Tennant.
Wednesday	13	7.30 PM: Elders' meeting
Sunday	17	10.30 AM: Worship led by the minister. NOON: Church meeting after worship.
Tuesday	19	10.30 AM: Tuesday Fellowship
Sunday	24	10.30 AM: Worship led by Revd Ian Ring.

Wednesdays 10 AM: **Art Club**

Fridays 6.45 PM: **Community Choir**



# Weoley Castle

## Services: 11 AM on Sundays

Sept 3<sup>rd</sup>: led by Chris Miles

Sept 10<sup>th</sup>: led by Leonora – with Communion

Sept 17<sup>th</sup>: led by Ted

Sept 24<sup>th</sup>: led by Alan Cotgreave

Oct 1<sup>st</sup>: Encounter Church are coming across the Square to WCCC for a service in their style, led by Rachel Jewson – with Communion.

## News

**Kate Titley** has been the ASDA Community Champion for quite a few years, and she hasn't just been distributing grants to help the community. She has been a wonderful member of the team of volunteers who brighten up the lives of people attending the Day Centres. However, she has just moved away to a new job, and was given a big thankyou and send-off at her last session on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> August.





The Day Centres have been needing a **new wheelchair** that could accommodate “more comfortable-sized bottoms”, so Debbie Flynn and friends, Chris Hopkins and Mary Toast organised a **Sale on Saturday August 19<sup>th</sup>** to pay for it. Maybe the attendance was a little quiet, but nevertheless over £200 was raised: more than enough for the wheelchair. Congratulations and thanks to all involved!





Some sad Day Centre news: **Brenda Lee**, who attended on Fridays, passed away peacefully on 16<sup>th</sup> August, while on holiday in Dorset with her daughter and two grandchildren. Dorset was her family's favourite holiday destination.

Mena Jones is intending to re-start the **Mega Movers Adult Dance Club** on Tuesdays in September.

We are intending to let the Weoley Castle Manse from mid-September to a young American couple, **Evan & Cambry Yoder**, who have arrived in the UK to work for the Christian organisation, Betel. They were introduced by Bill Hopkins.



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

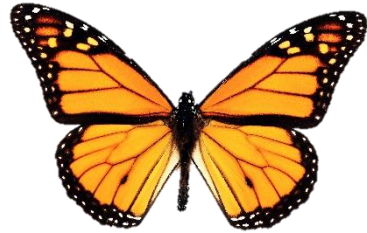
# A Plague of Insects

I heard a rumour of a giant butterfly in London. Probably just an urban moth.

*Jousting: What someone from the Black Country asks a bee.*

What was the Soviet Union's most secretive insect weapon? The Cagey Bee

*The unhappy butterfly wasn't allowed to go to the dance. It was a moth ball.*



I was going to buy an exotic spider from the pet shop, then I realised I could get one cheaper on the web.

*I got a new pair of spider silk trousers. They look great, but the flies keep getting stuck.*

What do you call a spider with 8 eyes? A spiiiiiiiider.”

*People who cannot distinguish between etymology and entomology bug me in ways I cannot put into words.*

What do you call an insect that hesitates before biting you? A nervous tick.

*Why did the fly fly? Because the spider spied 'er.*

What do you call a moth in a supermarket? I can't believe it's not butterfly!

# The Cadbury Pastorate

**Bournville URC has closed.**

Weoley Castle Community Church, Quarry Rd: Worship Sundays at 11 AM.

Weoley Hill URC, Greenmeadow Rd:

Worship Sundays at 10.30 AM.

*Sunday worship can be still found on the Weoley Hill website in outline or complete.*

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