

Cadbury Pastorate News

Weoley Castle &
Weoley Hill Churches



February 2024

From Weoley Hill—

Dear friends,

Lent will start during February. Ash Wednesday is 14 February this year as Easter is early, Easter Sunday being 31 March.

We will be holding ecumenical study groups this year with our friends from St Mary's and Selly Oak Methodist Churches. (see notice in the newsletter for dates and times).

We will be studying the Christian Aid material 'Act on Poverty'. Some figures from the first week's study: 3.8 million people in the UK experienced destitution in 2022 (Joseph Rowntree Foundation). More than 1 billion people in the majority world live in poverty. (Global Multidimensional Poverty index 2023). These are horrendous figures for our world today. The gap between the rich and poor is getting wider. We know that many more people are turning to food banks and with the cost-of-living crisis many people have to make the decision between eat and heat.

We have just had a night without heating and hot water as we had a problem with our boiler. We are very lucky as the problem has been sorted and so we are now warm again. We can afford to get it sorted and pay our bills when many cannot. It made me realise how difficult life can be without these basic requirements and how people with power cuts due to the recent storms must suffering. Also, those people in war zones without the very basic requirements of food water and shelter.

I remembered a verse from the Bible. *For you always have the poor with you, and you can show kindness to them whenever you wish; but you will not always have me* (Mark 14:7) (NRSV). Looking this up I found a connection to a passage in Deuteronomy 15: 7-11. *⁷If there is among you anyone in need, a member of your community in any of your towns within the land that the LORD your God is giving you, do not be hard-hearted or tight-fisted towards your needy neighbour. ⁸You should rather open your hand, willingly lending enough to meet the need, whatever it may be. ⁹Be careful that you do not entertain a mean*

thought, thinking, 'The seventh year, the year of remission, is near', and therefore view your needy neighbour with hostility and give nothing; your neighbour might cry to the LORD against you, and you would incur guilt. ¹⁰ Give liberally and be ungrudging when you do so, for on this account the LORD your God will bless you in all your work and in all that you undertake. ¹¹ Since there will never cease to be some in need on the earth, I therefore command you, 'Open your hand to the poor and needy neighbour in your land.' (NRSV)

The setting for this passage in Deuteronomy is during Moses' time which is about 1400 years before Christ. So, there was poverty then, in Jesus' time and now. The Israelites in Moses' time were encouraged to help the poor and needy without moaning about it. It certainly true that you will always have the poor with you. We must find ways to help those in need. We at Weoley Hill contribute to the B30 and South Birmingham food bank on a regular basis and Weoley Castle do what they can with supporting the Incredible Surplus initiative with food, school uniform and clothes exchange every Friday.

Can we collectively do more? We can pray, give of our money, time and energy to supporting all sorts of charities that support the poor and needy. We can lobby those in power to do more as a local authority or government. We can come to the Lent groups to find out more about what can be done using the Christian Aid Bible study.

I hope you can attend one of the Lent courses.

Warm regards

Ann

The next issue of the newsletter will be available around 1 March. Contributions are requested! Send them to Ted Forgan at Weoley Castle or Cheryl Thornett at Weoley Hill.

Prayer page

O God, Giver of Life,
in the dark places of the world where ignorance & fear breed
cruelty & destruction,

may your Holy Spirit move to banish all fear.

In the hearts of powerful leaders and governments
who can change the world for worse or better,
may your Holy Spirit move to banish all fear.

Through the healing touch of doctors and nurses in hospitals and
hospices,

wherever people cry for comfort,
may your Holy Spirit move to banish all fear.

Wherever your children's hearts are broken,
and love in families and amongst friends has died,
may your Holy Spirit move to banish all fear.

Where innocents are caught in turmoil and crossfire,
and there's despair in every shadow,
may your Holy Spirit move to banish all fear.

Where your Church has forgotten to proclaim your message
and the voices of your people remain silent
may your Holy Spirit move to banish all fear.

that we may go forth and declare your redeeming love.

Now and always. AMEN.

*This prayer by The Revd Nicola Furley-Smith is from the URC Daily
Devotions weekly worship notes for 28 January 2024.*

Pastorate News

News from Weoley Hill

In memoriam

Celebration of the life and works of Michael Walpole

We will remember and honour Michael, long-time member, Elder and former Church Secretary, in a service led by the Revd Leonora Jagessar-Visser't Hooft in the church at 1.30 PM on Thursday 15 February. Refreshments will be provided in the JKH after the service. Please see Nancy or Lorraine if you can help with the preparations.



Some of you will remember **Rev Dr John and Ruth Chung** (Korean and Japanese missionaries) who worshipped with us while John did further training in Birmingham. Since then, they have been working in a theological college in Kenya.

We learned from Ruth that John died suddenly in November in Kenya. Naturally, this has been a hard shock for Ruth who would value our prayers for her, as we give thanks for her and John's faithful lives of service.
Sue Beeby

We offer our sympathy and condolences to the family, friends and colleagues of Michael and John and hold them in our prayers.

World Day of Prayer Friday 1 March, 10.30AM

You are all invited to this year's ecumenical World Day of Prayer service which has been prepared by Christian women in Palestine. How relevant that we hear some of their inspiring stories. Offers to take part on the day would be appreciated.
Sue Beeby

NEW YEAR QUIZ

The first quiz of the year will be on **Saturday 17 February** and will be for Fairtrade, which is one of the events we are obliged to do in order to keep our status as a Fairtrade church. As usual we will start at 6.30 PM but try to arrive about 6.15 PM to get settled. Fish and chips are ordered for 7.30 PM and we hope to leave by 9.00 PM. Teams of six at £8.00 per person please, but you can come and join up with a group to make up a team. Donations for raffle prizes are always welcome. Prizes are surprising... and indescribable!

Lorraine

Lent course 2024

The course this year is from Christian Aid. It is 'Act on Poverty'. Christian Aid has teamed up with partner organisations across the UK to help churches gain a deeper understanding of poverty and empower Christians to act in the run up to the next UK general election. It all starts with our 'Act on Poverty' Lent course.

The local sessions will be:

Tuesdays at 2.00 PM at Weoley Hill Church Hall

Wednesdays at 2.30 PM at Selly Oak Methodist Church

Thursdays at 10.30 AM at St Mary's Church

They will start in the week beginning 19 February and continue for 6 weeks or thereabouts. Everyone is welcome to attend. Please support this important cause.

Ann

COMMITMENT FOR LIFE

Many thanks to all those who have sent their donations to this Christian Aid based charity which we have supported for over 23 years. The total raised so far, and which David has already sent off, is **£2164** plus **Gift Aid from HMRC of £526** so total is **£2690.25**.

This is £500 less than last year but very good considering the current financial climate and the loss of some good friends. If you have not yet sent in your envelope, and would like to do so, then please hand it in

when convenient as donations can be received all year. Our area of focus is Palestine, which was chosen *last November*, but is now in the forefront of everyone's mind, so continue to pray about this area.

Lorraine

Our Links with the Church Abroad (1)

We are glad to have Ali and Mahtab worshipping with us but may not be aware of just how tough it is for Christians in Iran. Persian speaking Christians, who are mostly converts or descendants of converts from Islam, may be arrested under various pretexts, such as spreading anti-state propaganda. It is not possible to worship freely or together and pastors, in particular, have received long prison sentences. Other punishments include fines, internal exile and restrictions on employment and sometimes forced attendance of classes on Islam. It is amazing that believers continue to be faithful under such difficult circumstances.

Non-Persian Christian groups tend to have much more freedom.

(Information from Barnabas Aid prayer diary January '24)

ADVENT LUNCH

Once again an excellent example of teamwork resulted in a lovely lunch. The *actual* Lunch Club have not met this year but the usual folk came together to provide a three-course meal for 18 people. Thanks to Chris Marlow for providing the introductory mulled wine; to Cheryl Thornett and Fred DaCosta for making the soups... leek and potato and 3Mushroom respectively; to Nancy Nicholls for cooking the turkey and ham; to Gill Hitchen for sorting the bread rolls and butter and Gini Tambyraja for the mixed salad; to Cheryl again for sorting out the Christmas Pud and custard; finally to Kath Upton for donating the crackers, and to Sue for providing the Christmas wordsearch which kept everyone entertained whilst waiting to be served. All these helped

to lay tables, serve the food and then clear up and wash up afterwards, and everyone who came also helped to return the hall and kitchen so it looked as though no-one had been there! One guest even said it was like magic! Unfortunately we had to dig into the Refreshment Budget as costs slightly exceeded income so thanks to Linda Bradley for agreeing to that (as well as being a great helper with clearing up). Perhaps we can try it again during the year when a few more people will join us?

RETIRING COLLECTIONS

Notices about these collections are displayed in the JK hall, by the vestry and in the vestibule of the main entrance. Thanks to those who submitted suggestions. We have our usual three commitments to The Leprosy Mission, Corrymeela and Debt Justice, new suggestions to the British Red Cross, St Chad's Sanctuary, Royal Naval Association and The Peace Pledge Union, and recurring ones with The Project, Shelter, Practical action, the Barnabus Fund and Breast Cancer Research, most of which we have not done for some years. If you are a taxpayer please consider Gift Aiding your donation where the government will take some of your tax and pass it on the charity of your choice. Brown envelopes are available beneath the pulpit or by the entrance, and donations are kept completely private to the treasurer. With grateful thanks to all those who support these.

The February retiring collections are for The Leprosy Mission.

The March retiring collections will be for St Chad's Sanctuary

Art Group meets 10 AM on Wednesdays

'Chat' 10 AM Thursdays

Community Choir 6.45 PM Fridays

Calendar for February 2024

Thursday	1	10-11.30 AM: Coffee & Chat
Sunday	4	10.30 AM: Worship & communion led by Ann & Alan.
Tuesday	6	10.30 AM: Tuesday Fellowship
Thursday	8	10-11.30 AM: Coffee & Chat
Sunday	11	10.30 AM: Worship led by Ann.
Wednesday	14	7.30 PM: Elders' meeting?
Thursday	15	10-11.30 AM: Coffee & Chat
		1.30 PM: Michael Walpole's funeral
Saturday	17	9.30 AM Work party
		6.15 for 6.30 PM: Quiz night and fish & chips supper
Sunday	18	10.30 AM: Worship led by Andy Vail.
Monday	19	2 PM: Lent Group at Weoley Hill
Tuesday	20	10.30 AM: Tuesday Fellowship
		2 PM: Lent Group at Weoley Hill
Wednesday	21	2 PM: Lent Group at Selly Oak Methodist
Thursday	22	10-11.30 AM: Coffee & Chat
		10.30 AM: Lent Group at St Mary's
Sunday	25	10.30 AM: Worship led by Alan.
Tuesday	27	2 PM: Lent Group at Weoley Hill
Wednesday	28	2 PM: Lent Group at Selly Oak Methodist
Thursday	29	10-11.30 AM: Coffee & Chat
		10.30 AM: Lent Group at St Mary's

News from Weoley Castle

Services: 11 AM on Sundays

Feb 4th: led by Chris Miles.

Feb 11th: led by Brian Brown, including Communion.

Feb 18th: led by

Feb 25th: led by Phil Seadon

Mar 3rd: a visit by Steve Faber – the Moderator

We are continuing joint services with Castle Elim, but just twice a year, with the next one in May.

It's old news now, but the Day Centres held their usual much enjoyed Christmas dinner, with elves Madge, Beverley and Katey among the servers.



The refurbishing of the wooden floor in the main hall of the Church was most successful and it is now all a lovely shiny brown. We are requesting no high heels in there!

We are planning one of our regulars for parents and kids - a "Family Fun Day" in half term: on Tuesday February 13th from 10 AM to 2 PM with a snack lunch provided.

Our **Friday 'Warm Welcome'** continues to be busy, and we are pleased to be able to host occasional "signposting" services as well. We had a GP, Randeep, giving advice and blood pressure tests at the end of January. On the last Friday of February, Caitlin Reilly-Scard from the Northfield Community Partnership will be offering 'Family Early Help' from 10.30 till 12 (or phone 07516918133). Andy Mullaney, a City Council Community Support Officer will also be offering advice and information on another Friday a month (or phone 07517590320).

'Love Weoley Castle' are organising a "**Weoley Castle Heritage**" event from 2-4 PM on Sunday 25th February at St Gabriel's. This will be a family event with activities for children, and old photographs for adults to see and compare with today. Did you know that in 1933 the then Conservative prime minister Neville Chamberlain came to open the 40,000th Birmingham Council House since the Great War, at 30 Hopstone Road in Weoley Castle? The new residents were given a golden key!

What do you call...

Oh No! – more of the same...:

- 1 What do you call a woman who looks after money?
2. What do you call a man who's been harvesting potatoes?
3. What do you call a man who's harvested just one potato?
4. What do you call a woman who likes singing at Christmas?
5. What do you call a woman who's good at tug-of-war?
6. What do you call a man with a lavatory?
7. What do you call a woman with two lavatories?
8. What do you call a man who's always there when you need him?
9. What do you call a woman hanging out the washing?
10. What do you call a man with lots of rabbits?
11. What do you call a woman who brightens every morning?
12. What do you call a man in a brown paper suit?
13. What do you call a woman who can blow down garden fences?
14. What do you call a man floating in choppy waves?
15. What do you call a woman sitting in a bath of Martini?
16. What do you call a Spanish guy who just got discharged from hospital?

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|------------|
| 15. Olive |
| 14. Bob. |
| 13. Gail |
| 12 Russell |
| 11. Dawn |
| 10. Warren |
| 9. Peggy |
| 8. Andy |
| 7. Lulu |
| 6. Lou |
| 5. Eve i |
| 4. Carol |
| 3. Douglas |
| 2. Doug |
| 1. Kitty |

The Cadbury Pastorate

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 in complete form.

Bournville URC has closed.

THE PASTORATE IS CURRENTLY IN VACANCY

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