

# Weoley Hill & Weoley Castle Church News



*June 2024*

## *From the Weoley Hill Church Secretary —*

Dear Friends

I am writing this while the sun is shining, but it is not as warm as it looks. Things can be deceptive. It is the time of the year when we expect the weather to be warm, being able to go out without coats, gloves and scarves. Getting back to wearing sandals and no socks. Putting the summer weight quilt on the bed and enjoying a BBQ or just a cuppa out in the garden. But today it is not really that warm, my feet are making me aware that it is not that warm.

Next week is half term and a time to be going away or being with families or just resting. We will be coming into the month of June or will have already done so as you read this. The month with the longest day of the year, then the days will slowly be getting shorter as the year progresses.

This time in the church calendar after Pentecost is known as ordinary time. Ordinary you ask? Something that is normal, routine, usual and not special in any way. To me this sounds boring. To quote Kathleen Long Bostrom, who is a retired PC(USA) minister: *'Ordinary Time comprises all the days not marked by a specific season. It stretches on for 27 to 29 Sundays (not counting the Sundays of the Transfiguration, All Saints and the Trinity), or 33 to 34 partial weeks depending on how early or late Easter falls on the calendar and whether the year has 52 or 53 weeks. This year it is 27 weeks which is more than half the year!*

*The name "Ordinary Time" does not mean ordinary as we use the word. It comes from the word ordinal, an adjective denoting a numerical position of an object. It's "first, second, third," instead of "one, two, three." Originally, all the Sundays that weren't contained in the Advent/Christmas or Lent/Easter seasons were indicated by ordinal numbers, hence the designation. Ordinary Time is basically "counted time."*

*Yet there is something about the word “ordinary” that fits. Not in the sense of boring or dull but as an “in-between” season, a time to breathe after the culmination of the celebratory days. Just as most of our days are lived between the big events, so the church year is filled with more ordinary days than holidays. The holy days are the mountaintops, whereas Ordinary Time is the slopes, valleys and flatlands. All are beautiful—and necessary.’*

Does this time need to be mundane and boring as ordinary can feel? Certainly not, let us be glad and optimistic and as we say each Sunday bring joy to our worship. Our worship is led by someone, but we are all participants so let us be glad to be able to be together and worship our God.

Let’s be optimistic and positive during this ‘ordinary’ time. We can be thinking of how God is leading and guiding us to work with other churches. We can use this time to build up our faith and start to explore our new potential pastorate with the group of churches. Also, we can pray about how we can make use of the fund we have for a youth and family worker. Having a worker will be useful as an outreach worker and support a minister who we will have to share with other churches.

Let us all think about our Mission, our reason for being a faith presence here in Weoley Hill. Any ideas you have please share them with your elder or with me, just don’t keep them to yourselves. We need to be joyfully, thoughtfully and prayerfully using this ‘ordinary’ time to lift our spirits and enjoy being part of God’s wonderful creation and sharing it and the good news with all whom we meet. Do not be ordinary!

God’s blessings to you all

Ann Evans

## Prayer page

*We may not feel this is an 'ordinary' time at all, with elections here and in other countries, with warfare, natural disasters, climate change, growing inequality and other problems. We might wish to shut our minds, hoping to fend off fear, anger, despair.... But our hope is in the God in whom 'we live and move and have our being'. (Acts 17.28)*

We pray for the UK General Election next month, for wisdom and the leading of the Spirit in voting; and that the MPs elected and whatever government is formed will act for the general good. We pray this for other elections in other countries as well. We give thanks for the right to vote freely.

We pray for people struggling to live in the war-torn parts of the world, especially, Ukraine, Gaza, Yemen and Sudan, and for people living with violence and the threat of war or persecution; we ask that just settlements may yet be found.

We pray for people suffering natural disasters, whether rain with flooding and landslides, drought, volcanic eruptions, storms. Help us as individuals, along with aid agencies and governments, to help them, especially the poorest of our brothers and sisters. We pray that individually and collectively we will act to reduce the effects of climate change and pollution.

We give thanks that there are people and organisations who labour to make the world better, especially for the poorest.

We pray for the representatives of the three congregations, about to begin discussions on the workings of the new pastorate; we pray that an eventual minister is being led toward us even now, and that together we will help in the work of the Kingdom.

We pray for those among us, and those we know, who are ill, facing treatment, or recovering, and for those who are mourning the loss of loved ones.



**AmbaCare Solutions**

# Become a Dementia Ally

**Tuesday 18 June 2024 10am to 3pm  
at Weoley Hill United Reformed Church Hall  
Green Meadow Road, Birmingham B29 4DE**

**Contrary to popular belief, dementia is not an inevitable part of getting older! Come and join us for this FREE interactive workshop to learn about the factors which increase the risk of dementia and the steps you can take to boost brain resilience. Gain the knowledge and skills to become a Dementia Ally, able to support and encourage others to take steps to reduce the risk of dementia and to raise awareness about dementia and make a difference in your community.**

**Refreshments and sandwich lunch provided.**

*Book your place via Eventbrite using [this link](#) or the QR code below or by emailing [admin@amba-uk.org](mailto:admin@amba-uk.org) or by calling Ruth Chauhan on 07974 727223*



**Psalm 24:1 A Psalm of David. *The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein***

My name is Helen Thompson—I belong to the 'clan' better known as the Shiner family. Since dad passed away and mom's dementia gradually getting worse I find myself in Birmingham pretty much every weekend and so read the church news when it pops through mom's door. When I saw the eco call for someone to write something every month to remind about 'improving our awareness of eco-issues and increasing our positive responses to the local environment and climate change with small actions that can help us, both individually and as a church, to protect the planet.' I thought that was something that I could do as I am passionate about recycling and eco issues.

So leading on from the eco tip to do with 'soft plastics' I am amazed at how little I now throw away in my rubbish with one of the leading contenders being these soft plastics. I keep a plastic bag next to my recycling space in the kitchen and when I take any plastic off a ready meal, fruit punnet, chocolate bar, stack of fizzy drinks etc I pop the plastic straight into the plastic bag and drop off on my next visit to the supermarket.

I know that the last part of this is sometimes the most difficult and so at the school where I work I have set up a small bin for people to add their plastics (in a plastic bag of some description) and then I just take them when I am going. I will set one up at Weoley Hill



church for people to bring with them on a Sunday—pop it in the bin—and then not only will you have contributed less to landfill (Birmingham council will be proud) you are actually doing something 'concrete' with the packaging that has taken over our lives.

Helen Thompson

### Eco Tips 3

Yes we all recycle our old/unused clothes but even those too far gone for whatever reason have a use. If you put them in a bag **clearly labelled** as rags they can be sold by charity shops for so much a kilo and re-used after processing for insulation etc.

Old towels and blankets are very useful for the RSPCA as animal covers etc. They can be taken to their facility at Frankley, (Just down the hill from Frankley Beeches). Small car park nearby.

Heard on the radio recently a request for old sheets which are very useful for garage work as they get through a lot of oily rags. Ask at your garage first if they want them!

## Pastorate News

### Weoley Castle News

**Services: 11 AM on Sundays**

June 2<sup>nd</sup>: led by Alison Geary (postponed from May)

June 9<sup>th</sup>: led by Phil Turley, including Communion

June 16<sup>th</sup>: led by Ted

June 23<sup>rd</sup>: led by Joe Bevan.

June 30<sup>th</sup>: Joint service with WH joining us: led by Andy Vail with the Northfield Baptist young music group.



## News

**The Joint Service with St. Gabriel's & Castle Elim** at WCCC on 5th May was judged a success by all three parties. We enjoyed the fellowship afterwards, and we plan to do a repeat in October, and to look at other ways of collaborating.

**Debbie Flynn**—who has been organising the clothes and uniform exchange on Friday mornings was recently tripped up by her dog, fell onto a hard kitchen floor and broke her hip. Perhaps this accident can be regarded as an 'Act of Dog'! She is recuperating well at home after her operation, but will not be able to run things for a while. However, the free coffee and refreshments and lunch provided as part of our Warm Welcome, and the Incredible Surplus food pantry will continue as usual, except starting a bit earlier at 10 am on Fridays.

**Chris Miles** has had a recurrence of cancer, which is either causing pain or doziness due to painkillers. She is just starting treatment. Also, **Keith Twamley** has been having a hard time recently in response to his treatment. Please remember them both, and of course **Diane T.** in your prayers.

**Sam Poursain** is starting almost immediately as a (20%) part-time "Community Outreach Pioneer" at WCCC for an initial period of 2 years. (Further information about this project is in the May Newsletter.)





# Weoley Hill News

## Garden Party

Everyone is invited to a **garden party** at Nancy Nicholls house on **Wednesday 3July**. We have held these in the past, pre-covid, and wish to start them up again so if you are free then do come along for a pleasant time in a lovely garden from 2.00-4.00 PM. Invite a relative, friend or neighbour to **45 Middle Park Road**, just round the corner from church, and bring a plate of finger food if you are able. Hope to see you there!

Lorraine

Weoley Hill Calendar for June 2024		
Sunday	2	10.30 AM: Worship & communion led by Revd David Tennant..
Tuesday	4	10.30 AM: Tuesday Fellowship
Friday	7	9 AM-12: Work party inside 9-11 then outside work
Sunday	9	10.30 AM: Worship led by Ann. 12 NOON: Church meeting
Wednesday	12	7.30 PM: Elders' meeting
Sunday	16	10.30 AM: Worship led by Revd Ian Thornley.
Tuesday	18	10.30 AM: Tuesday Fellowship
Wednesday	19	7.30 PM: Pastorate committee meeting
Sunday	23	10.30 AM: Pastorate Worship led by Alan
Sunday	30	10.30 AM: Pastorate Worship at Weoley Castle.

*The June retiring collection is for Corrymeela .*

Art Club Wednesdays 10 AM-12

Community Choir Fridays 6.45-8 PM

## Transform Trade Donation

*Following our fish and chip supper and quiz in February I was able to send a cheque for the proceeds of £176.00 to Transform Trade (formerly Traidcraft). This is the message I received from them (partly paraphrased):*

Dear Christine,

Congratulations on hosting a successful Big Brew / Fish and Chip Supper and Quiz at Weoley Hill United Reformed Church and raising a fantastic £176.00! Thank you so much for your hard work hosting and your faithful commitment to the fight for trade justice—your commitment helps make all of our work possible.

Some of those benefitting from the fundraising at our Big Brew events are the remarkable women-led community shops in Bangladesh—their ambitious plans to expand and benefit their communities for the long-term are inspirational. Sriti Rani, who manages one of these stores, told us:

*“Before Sadaipati [the store], activities of women in our area were confined within their homes only. That is not the case anymore. Sadaipati has become a safe place for our women to socialize and have some quality times with their peers. I feel our males and older generation are also accepting the positive changes that Sadaipati is trying to bring. They too are acknowledging the new role of women in their area.”*

These stores are helping local people access resources close to home, creating a social hub and economic independence for women in the community—this is the kind of long-term impact your event will fund.

We are so grateful to every one of your Fish and Chip supper guests for joining in—please share our thanks with them too.

With warmest wishes,

Karen

*The July/August issue will be available around the beginning of July. Contributions are requested! Send them to Ted Forgan at Weoley Castle or Cheryl Thornett at Weoley Hill.*

## DO WAITERS MAKE EATING OUT AN ENJOYABLE EXPERIENCE FOR YOU?

Waiter, waiter: there's a slug in my salad!

*I'm sorry sir: I didn't realise that you were a vegetarian.*

Waiter, waiter: this coffee tastes like mud!

*I'm not surprised madam: it was ground only a few minutes ago.*

Waiter, waiter: I can't eat this! Please get the manager.

*No point in doing that sir: he wouldn't want to eat it either.*

Waiter, waiter: is there soup on the menu?

*Oh madam! If there is, I'll just clean it off for you.*

Waiter, waiter: there's a dead fly in my wine!

*What's wrong, sir? You told me that you wanted wine with a little body in it.*

Waiter, waiter: I'd like a cup of tea without milk.

*I'm sorry madam: we don't have any milk. Would you like it without cream?*

Waiter, waiter: is my table ready yet?

*I'm sorry sir, not quite ready: do you mind waiting?*

No, that's okay.

*Great! Please take these salads to table six.*

Waiter, waiter: your thumb is in my soup!

*Don't worry about me madam: the soup isn't hot.*

Waiter, waiter: what's this fly doing on my steak?

*I think it might be praying, sir.*

Very funny! I can't eat this. Take it back!

*You see, sir? The fly's prayers have been answered!*

# Weoley Castle & Weoley Hill Churches

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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