

# Weoley Hill & Weoley Castle Church News



*June 2026*

## *From the Editor—*

The latest Daily Devotions series is a meditation on water in the Bible, very timely considering the heat wave that covered much of the UK recently and forecasts of rain to come. How many reminders to drink plenty of water did you see every day while it was hot?

What a precious thing water is! Life on earth would not exist without it. No wonder the writers of scripture used it as a symbol of spiritual life. No wonder a drought was seen as God's direct punishment for a people gone astray, physical suffering and death reflecting spiritual and moral death. At the same time, water as the sea was a fearful thing that God controlled and regulated in creation.

In dry landscapes like the Holy Land or my native Southern California, it's easy to spot riverbeds even in the dry season by the lines of trees that follow them. Rain can turn a dead, dry hillside to lush green or an explosion of colour overnight. It's easy to take rain and water for granted in the UK until there's a dry spell and water use has to be restricted; or to complain about another wet day.

But water shortages are a terrible reality of everyday life in many parts of the world—do you remember the photo [maybe from Christian Aid or Oxfam?] of a woman trying to decide whether to give her baby polluted muddy water, almost certain diarrhoea, or to let it die of dehydration? Clean water—and from a tap in our own homes!—is one of the greatest blessings of our civilisation, one we must not allow to be taken away from ourselves or anyone else. Christian Aid, Tearfund and other effective aid agencies know the importance of reliable, clean water and sanitation to underpin their other work.



Climate change, pollution and the demands of many industries threaten the supply of clean water for all of us, even in the UK, even now. It's not too much of a stretch of Christ's words to go from giving a thirsty person a drink to working to ensure that a thirsty world has enough drinking water.

Water, like wind and fire, other symbols of the Spirit, can be destructive. Heavy downpours, floods, tsunamis, tides that sweep people and land away—even too much water drunk too quickly can be lethal. But in the fury of a storm, the strength of a river, the endless roll of the sea we can see and recognise something of the power and eternity of God. Most of the destruction water causes comes from the actions of people, not a destructive God, and otherwise are part of the cycles of renewal of the earth.

We can also see a metaphor of the Trinity in water: it can exist as solid, liquid and gas pretty much all at once (given the right conditions), and stays H<sub>2</sub>O in all of them. I hope that's not too far out, Ted.

Someone sits, waiting, by the well of our lives. He asks for a drink of well water—but offers us living water, water that never runs dry, water that quenches a thirst we never understood before.

*As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God.  
Psalm 42.1*

Cheryl

## Prayer page

God of wind, of fire, of living water, of the Living Word that murmurs in our hearts:

We ask for your Spirit to live within us, inspiring us and aiding us to continue the work begun on the first Pentecost.

We pray for true peace within and between nations, with people of power turning away from war and enmity and turning to justice and better lives for the people within their power.

We pray for better care for the world and its people, for the wisdom and the will to change in each of us and in all of us.

We pray for a real will to ensure clean water, sanitation, enough food, health care and education—all the basic needs of life—for everyone, the 'least of these' as well as the wealthy and powerful.

We ask for your love in our hearts to bring your love and comfort to people who are ill, in pain, grieving, isolated, frightened, overburdened and to help us to love them as you do.

We give thanks for the refreshment of physical water and of the living water. We give thanks for all that renews and refreshes the earth. We give thanks for everyone, wherever and whoever they may be, knowing or unknowing, who does your work of caring for one another and for the world we share.

*The July/August issue will be available around 1 July. Contributions are requested! Send them to Ted Forgan at Weoley Castle or Cheryl Thornett at Weoley Hill.*

# Midsummer Music

*Please join us for an  
informal choral  
concert!*

*Audience participation*



*Saturday 20 June at 2:30 PM*

*Weoley Hill Church*

*Green Meadow Rd, Birmingham B29 4DE*

*Entrance free—refreshments available*

*Donations to Christian Aid*



# Pastorate News

## Weoley Hill News

*The retiring collection for June is for Corrymeela*

**From Chris Marlow:** Many of you will know that we lost our beloved grandson Abhainn recently. His funeral will be on 4 June, and to remember him his parents have asked that people donate to their local food bank in his name, or carry out random acts of kindness. David and I will do a special food bank shop, and would ask that perhaps you add a little extra to your shopping bag this week, and donate either that or some money to the B30 food bank in memory of Abhainn Somhairle MacDonald Marlow 2005-2026. Please see John Fletcher for a list of items that are needed or to give a donation.  
Chris and David

Weoley Hill Calendar for June 2026		
Tuesday	2	Quinquennial survey this week.
Sunday	7	10.30 AM: Worship & communion led by Revd Ian Ring .
Sunday	14	10.30 AM: Worship led by Ann.
Wednesday	17	7.00 PM Elders' meeting
Saturday	20	2.30 PM: Community choir charity concert in aid of Christian Aid.
Sunday	21	10.30 AM: Worship led by Blair Kessler.
Sunday	28	10.30 AM: Worship led by Alan. Chur 12 NOON: Church meeting with discussion

**Tuesday group:** See Ann or Sue for details of summer meetings.

**Community Choir:** Fridays in term time, 6.45-8 pm. See Gordon or Alan.

**Please be on the lookout** for hazards in and around the buildings: trip hazards, a pile that might topple over, fire hazards in particular. If you notice anything that might pose a risk, please notify our Safety Officer, Emlyn Evans.



### *It's summer so....*

Our summer garden party is at Nancy's as usual on Wednesday 8 July—please invite a friend or neighbour to join us.! If you can help with the preparations, see Nancy. Details in the July/August newsletter.

## **Weoley Castle News**

### ***Sunday morning services: 11 AM at Weoley Castle Community Church***

June 7<sup>th</sup>: **Informal Family service** led by Sam, Susie & Jonah

June 14<sup>th</sup>: led Richard Alford—including **Communion**

June 21<sup>st</sup>: **Informal Bible Study**, with cuppa & biscuits—led by Carol

June 28<sup>th</sup>: led by Joe Bevan

July 5<sup>th</sup>: **Informal Family service** led by Sam, Susie & Jonah

### **Other News**

On **Pentecost Sunday**, May 24<sup>th</sup>, very appropriately, the congregation included people whose mother tongue was Korean, Shona, Swahili, Malayalam—and English!

Also in May, **the Knit & Natter group** had an enjoyable evening learning how to make necklaces, led by June Nolan. See the pictures.

**The beginner's "English Conversation Class"** for people whose first language is not English on Tuesdays from 1.30—3 PM is proving popular, with more than a dozen participants. However, the group will not be meeting 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> or 30<sup>th</sup> June and will take a break for the school summer holidays from 20<sup>th</sup> July.

On Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June, we shall hold a **safeguarding training day** for all volunteers helping in the Church.

On Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> August, we are planning a **day trip to Barry Island** in S. Wales, leaving from WCCC at 8 AM. The cost is £10 per adult, with children (who must be accompanied) going free. This is a repeat of last year's lush pilgrimage to the setting of Gavin & Stacey. Two coaches have been booked and one is already fully booked. To join this community celebration, pay £5 deposit per adult—or the full cost if you can afford it now—to Sam Poursain or Paul Tucker.

**The Synod Mission Committee grant** to support our Community Outreach activities is just becoming fully operational. Including contributions from our own funds, we are supporting 1½ days a week by Sam Poursain, and 1½ days a week by Paul Tucker. This represents a collaboration between WCCC and 'Love Weoley Castle'.



*Congratulations to our friends at Selly Oak Methodist!*



### **60th Anniversary Weekend**

Selly Oak Methodist Church is celebrating 60 years since we moved into our Church at Langleys Road in 1966. You are warmly invited to join us for an Anniversary Celebration—3 PM – 6 PM Saturday 13 June, including a quiz led by the Junior Church, music and afternoon tea

Our Anniversary Service – 10.30 AM Sunday 14 June with Rev Novette Headley, Co-Chair West Midlands District, as guest preacher.

### **Eco Church is celebrating 10 years. How can we celebrate with them?**

*Some suggestions from Eco church by A Rocha*

#### **Hold a special service or outdoor worship gathering**

An Eco Church Celebration at Exeter Cathedral included an awards ceremony for 21 churches. Holy Redeemer, Lamorbey, held a green communion service outside on the last Sunday of the Season of Creation. St Mary's East Grinstead gathered for a family service to celebrate their gold award. They were joined by the Mayor and their MP.

#### **Go on a prayer walk**

Take time to walk outside in awe of God's creation, alone or with others. St Mark's Winshill share their local prayer walks. Falmouth

Methodist Church's eco group led a guided prayer walk through 7 worship stations in a local garden. St Tyssil's Church, Llandyssil, Montgomeryshire, has a prayer trail around the churchyard with Bible verses and lines from hymns written on roof slates from the church.

### **Take part in citizen science or a guided nature tour**

Celebrate what's on your doorstep! Do a nature count or other citizen science activity in your church's outdoor space. Invite others in the community to join you on a tour of your churchyard or a guided nature walk. Newport Methodist Church on the Isle of Wight take a local walk as a church community in each season.

### **Plant!**

Plant a seed of hope! Plant a tree, hedge, bulbs, wildflower patch or pot, as a visual commemoration. St Mary's Church, Hanley Castle, organised a village-wide daffodil planting. St Michael and All Angels church in Flax Bourton held a 'golden wassail' to celebrate their gold award, writing, prayers on wildflower seed paper, to be planted and grow into beautiful wildflowers.

### **Cuppa and cake**

Host a Fairtrade/eco coffee and cake morning at one of your usual coffee mornings or as a special event. Invite local people and neighbouring churches and share your Eco Church story with them.


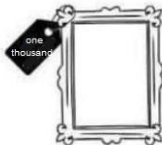

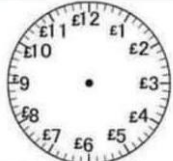

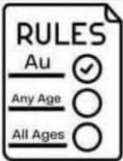

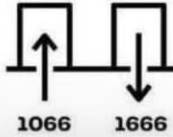

### **Get creative with artwork**

Make a collage, run a pottery or junk modelling session—there are so many ways you can get creative! 'Flock,' a creative Christian community in Shepton Mallet, organised an eco-arts festival celebrating the waterways of Somerset and the plant and animal life they support. Beulah URC in Cardiff has undertaken many creative projects with an artist in residence and organised 'Think of the Alternative', an eye-catching gallery of lifestyle choices created from leaves, bark and petals on a wall outside their building for local people to enjoy.

Ann

# Uncle Rebus' Puzzle Page

The pictures represent everyday words or phrases. Answers upside down below

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1—Back to Back; 2—Hang in There; 3—Make a Long Story Short; 4—No Pain, No Gain; 5—Pull Yourself Together; 6—The Last Straw; 7—Get Bent out of Shape; 8—A Picture is Worth 1000 Words; 9—Add Insult to Injury; 10—Take a Rain Check; 11—Burn Bridges 12—Time is Money; 13—Down for the Count; 14—Copycat; 15—Crack of Dawn; 16—Golden Rule; 17—Hit the Big Time; 18—Mile a Minute; 19—Year in, Year out; 20—Go Down in a Blaze of Glory.

# 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.*

*We have formed a new Pastorate with Cotteridge & Carrs Lane churches and have called a minister who will join us later this year.*

**WEOLEY HILL CHURCH Office: 244 6711**

Secretary: Ann Evans 628 4558

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