



WEOLEY HILL CHURCH NEWS

From the Minister's Desk

October 2011

Dear friends,

Autumn is here with us and so also is the season of harvest – fresh apples and all. In fact we have loads of apples on our tree in the garden. In case you want some for your jams and pies, you are welcome. Indeed talking about harvest, I am told by a number of people that we have had, in our just concluded African themed harvest, the most memorable harvest festival in recent years. The Saturday night supper was so well attended that we had the pleasant ‘problem’ of fitting in more tables to accommodate people as they arrived. In all it was a beautiful evening. Thanks to all those who worked so tirelessly to make it possible.

Harvest also reminds us of that great event when Christ will call His saints home at His coming. A precursor of this being home-call of his saints by death, an experience that has left us bereaved of dearly loved ones like Fiona Lukwago, Fay Harris and Kay Hawthorn at Weoley Hill Church. This brings to mind the big question concerning what the real meaning and purpose of life is. Whereas God encourages us in Scripture not to live in fear as people without a certain future, or to grieve as people without hope (knowing that we have a sure and certain hope of everlasting life in Christ Jesus our Lord), yet we are reminded of that important question about the essence of life. Why are we here on earth? What are we living for, is it for ourselves, our jobs, our family and friends, or what?

For the Apostle Paul, life had meaning only when lived fulfilling God’s purpose. He lived life in the light of eternity and its wider implication. He was sure of what God had called him to accomplish, and so lived every moment to fulfil that. As a result both the associated blessing and challenges were

nothing to be compared to the excellency of knowing his Master and Lord, Jesus Christ. His heart cry was ‘that I may know Him [Christ] and the power of His resurrection’ (See Philippians 2:7-11).

Going to those cemeteries I came face to face once again with tombstones of all shapes and sizes, with various inscriptions for people of all ages whose memories we hold so dear. I was reminded of that philosophy of life amongst my tribal people (the Igbo) of Nigeria that, life is a market place, people come and go, and buy and sell, at their own time – morning, afternoon and evening – that one day it will be our turn. So, when all is said and done what shall we be remembered for? What will our epitaph read?

As Advent and Christmas are round the corner Church will get busier and exciting. I can already feel it. Watch for activities including our traditional carols. Are you ready-y-y-y! See you soon. God bless you.

George

SIDE BOARD

Prayer is surrender – Surrender to the will of God and cooperation with that will. If I throw out a boat hook from a boat and catch hold of the shore and pull, do I pull the shore to me, or do I pull myself to the shore? Prayer is not pulling God to my will, but the aligning of my will to the will of God. [E Stanley Jones, A Song of Ascents]

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Personalia

It has been a sad summer for our congregation as we have lost several members and friends.

We remember the family of Kay Hawthorn who died on 17 September. She would have been 93 this month. The funeral was arranged at short notice so there may be some who were unable to attend and who will enjoy the description of her life which was read at her funeral by her son Andrew and which appears later in the News.

Our prayers are also with the family of Fay Harris who died recently after a difficult illness.

Our thoughts are also still very much with the Lukwago family whose daughter Fiona's funeral was held here last month following her death in the USA.

Seana Davis has now moved to Rubery, her address is 14 Cleves Road, B45 9US. We wish her all the best in her new home.

Prayer Hand books and Diaries for 2012

Please give your name to Ann Evans if you wish to have either or both of these items. Ann has a sample of the Prayer Handbook for people to look at before they place their order and the cost is £5.00. Diaries or organiser inserts cost £6.25 each, the same as last year's prices. Several colours are available.

The more we order the lower the postage and packing costs!



Thank You

Sam, Alex, Brian and Audrey are deeply thankful for the love, prayers, messages of sympathy and assistance given in various ways by members of Weoley Hill Church at the very difficult time of loss. They were also very grateful that so many of you joined them for the funeral service for Fiona. Thank you very much and God bless you.

We are delighted that Joy Brain has agreed to take on the role of Church Archivist which was held for many years by Margaret Glen. We wish her well in what we hope will prove to be an interesting task.

Please remember to keep a copy of any church documents which you produce and especially photo-

FWO REPORTS

The FWO figures for August are truly amazing. The total for the month is £3,585.00, and £1,108.08 above the budget figure. Once again, we have had a very generous donation for the coming year from one of our members so this should stand us in good stead for the autumn months ahead. Many thanks to everyone – keep it up!

Rosemary Hay
07.09.11

JUBILEE DEBT NEWS

As part of DEBT WEEK, 8th-16th October, there are two meetings of the JDC.

The first is on Monday 10th October looking at **the emergency, and underlying causes, in the Horn of Africa**. Starting at 6.30pm with a bring and share vegetarian meal the actual meeting will have as its main speaker Jehangir Malik, Director of Islamic Relief, and will last from 7.00-8.30pm. It is at the Central Mosque, 180 Belgrave Middleway, Highgate, B12 0XS .

The second, entitled **'What does Debt Justice mean in 2011? -A Christian and Muslim perspective'**, is on Saturday 15th October from 2.30-4.30pm in the Library Community Space, 67, Church Street, London NW8 8EU. Contact John Nightingale 458 6182 if you are interested in going.

LD

Toilet Refurbishment

Following the successful replacement of the Church kitchen another major project is now under way. Refurbishment of the toilets will begin tomorrow, Monday 3 October. The intended programme of work starts with the ladies' toilets, during which time ladies will have to use the disabled facilities. When that is completed work will move on the gents' and men will have to use the disabled facilities. The disabled toilet will be the last to be upgraded. We hope that the work will be completed within 3-4 weeks but we are sure that the disruption will be well worth it!

DM

Campaign of Radical Welcome

The URC will be launching the Zero Intolerance initiative in the New Year and as part of this it has been asking Churches to show interest in the campaign. As yet we have not done this as some of us have been looking at the Evangelism part of Vision4life. This is now nearly over as regards the study and so we may be able to look more closely at this venture.

There are 3 stages with it, the first being showing and registering our interest and looking at the DVD which was sent out a while ago. The second is to 'opt-in' and undertake the training required. The third stage is to be accompanied by a Campaign Companion who will help the congregation reflect on their strengths and weaknesses and the tasks ahead, as the church journeys towards becoming a Campaign Church.

In order for all this to happen the Synod are looking for people to do the training to become Campaign companions. If you are interested in becoming one please let Ann know as the training sessions are on Tue 25 to Weds 26 October in Pershore or Mon 31 Oct to Tues 1 Nov at Barnes Close. They are residential and all expenses paid.

I realise Weoley Hill has not started on the journey yet but some of you may like to be more involved.

Our prayers are for a successful campaign as there have been several changes en route but it did start from 'God is still speaking' a successful campaign in the USA.

Thank you

Ann Evans

African Evening

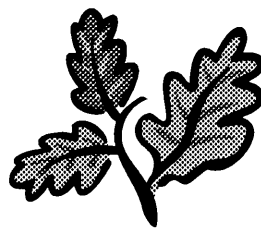
A very warm thank-you to everyone who made our African evening go with such a swing. What an evening! We had several visitors from the local area which was lovely—there were so many people that extra chairs and tables had to be hurriedly assembled!

This was a real test of our new kitchen facilities and it has to be said that lessons were learnt! How many of you realised that a fuse blew less than half an hour before the proceedings began causing a major electrical failure? Thanks should go to the Marlow's next-door neighbour who was able to provide old-fashioned fuse-wire for a repair by David which restored the power and prevented a nervous breakdown in the kitchen!

A very big thank you to Nancy Nicholls who masterminded the feeding of what seemed like the five thousand! Just as in that miracle, there was much food remaining at the end too. What a feast we had—thank you to all those who provided such a delicious spread and such a wide variety of different dishes. Thanks too to all those who worked hard in the kitchen and clearing up afterwards.

Thank you to Lorraine for all her hard work in producing such an interesting and challenging quiz and a map competition, to George for his presentation about Nigeria and to Nnenna and others who decorated the John Kydd Hall so beautifully.

Thank you especially to all who came and so clearly enjoyed yourselves and for your generous donations to the Obinto Women's Sanitation Project for which £413 was collected.



Westminster College, Cambridge Appeal

Westminster College is owned by the URC and is one of 2 Learning Resource Centres that the URC uses to train ministers; the other is Northern College in Manchester.

The College was opened in 1899 and although it has had heating and hot water added since then it is in great need of updating to the 21st century. I have stayed there on several occasions and love the place but would prefer en suite facilities and access to Wi-Fi. It also needs better teaching facilities such as a large room to hold large groups. It also has an archive of historical documents which will benefit from storage under the correct conditions.

The aim is to make Westminster a place of art and music as well as books, a place of prayer and quiet as well as lively discussion. It is envisaged as a conference centre as well.

The college requires £7 million to do this; so far £2 million has been given. If anyone would like to contribute to this please visit their website www.westminster.cam.ac.uk or see Ann Evans for more information.

Ann Evans

FRIENDSHIP GROUP VISIT TO THE JINNEY RING

Although skies were overcast we did not have any rain and the 25 members who travelled to the JINNEY RING craft centre at Hanbury near Droitwich on Wednesday 14th September had an interesting afternoon.

Opened in 1980 and using the disused barns of a small farmhouse, there are several, highly individual craft workshops showing how to make stained glass mirrors and panels, hand-made chocolates, blown glass in a myriad of colours, pottery, hats and jewellery, There are also a violin maker, milliner, pure soap maker, weaver, landscape artist, wood turner, plant nursery and frame maker on site as well as an excellent, if expensive, gift shop with all sorts of bags, scarves, clothing, soft furnishings and tasteful, original and unusual gifts for the home. A comfortable restaurant selling full meals as well as tea and coffee is there but be prepared to pay a bit more than usual (ham salad+ tea =£9.50; coffee and slice of cake = £6!).

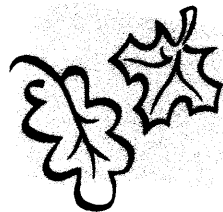
An added attraction are the lovely gardens and duck ponds which are at the rear of the barns in a small valley with Hanbury church to the right, and Malvern Hills on the horizon to the left. In good weather restaurant food can be eaten here on the many picnic tables with inquisitive ducks, ducklings and geese of all shapes and sizes looking on.

We were lucky to have the opportunity to walk around an exhibition of over 70 sculptures displayed around the lakes. These ranged from small metal butterflies and dragonflies, through various metal designs of flowers and creatures, willow hedgehogs and small human groups in stone or resin, to birds made of recycled metal and glass objects to hang in trees or place around your garden. All were for sale and all the artists based at the Centre will undertake any commission of any size in their particular craft should you so wish. This is an interesting place for an afternoon's trip out with something to catch everyone's eyes and it is not too far away.

We hope to see everyone next month, **Wednesday 12th October**, at our usual time of **2.30pm** in the Lower Hall when **Chris and Brian Clarke** will be giving a talk on **their work in Bulgaria with Krasif Aid**. Come early for a drink and a chat and bring a friend.

(P.S. A JINNEY RING is a large ancient farm machine used to separate husks from seeds or grains, powered by a tethered animal walking round in a circle, and not a lady called Virginia who makes rings!)

LD



Carrs Lane Lectures

This year the series on 'Rethinking Christian Theology' will be led by Professor Paul Knitter and Professor Roger Haight. Both these men are from America and are well known theologians in their respective fields. For more details see Ann.

Thurs 6 Oct	What is atonement?	Prof Paul Knitter
Thurs 13 Oct	Is there life after death?	Prof Paul Knitter
Thurs 20 Oct	Who is Jesus?	Prof Roger Haight
Thurs 27 Oct	What is the Trinity?	Prof Roger Haight

The meetings will be chaired by Dr David Cheetham from the University of Birmingham.

The lectures will take place at 6.00 – 7.30 pm and cost £5 per lecture.

For further details see the website www.carrslane.co.uk

Kay Hawthorn

October 8 1918 to September 17 2011

Kay was born in Manchester, where her father was an Anglican minister. She had an elder sister, Joan, and went to Bury Grammar School where she made friendships that lasted throughout her life. From there she went in 1937 to Oxford to study history at Lady Margaret Hall.

While at Oxford she met Tom through the SCM. When she completed her degree she did a teacher training diploma while Tom started his training for the ministry at Mansfield. Kay taught at Colston Boys School and they were married at Mansfield in June 1944. Their life for the next few years was disrupted by the war; Rachel was born in 1945, and Kay and Rachel went to live in Norfolk with Kay's parents.

While at Oxford, they had resolved to go to China with the London Missionary Society, and after some delays they set off, arriving in the midst of a civil war. Anne was born soon after their arrival. Although they had hoped that mission in China would be their life's work, political disturbances both disrupted their time there and soon curtailed their mission itself—they left in 1950.

In the period before their next mission, to South India, they lived with Tom's parents in Warrington where John was born. Kay's sister Joan died in the same period, and as a result they arrived in India with four children including Kay's niece, Kate. Kay did some teaching at the college where Tom was employed, while bringing up her young family, which saw the addition of Elizabeth in 1953.

The family left India in 1956 and again returned to Sidlaws, Tom's parents' house, where they stayed for a few years. Andrew was born in 1957, and Tom worked for the LMS in the North of England. In 1962 the LMS called him to help the church in Niue, a remote island in the South Pacific where the mail boat came only once a month. For Kay this meant leaving all the family except Andrew at school in England and seeing them once in the next three years.

Their return to England brought them to Selly Oak and St. Andrews Hall. Kay plunged into the activities of the college and enjoyed the stimulating wider fellowship of the Selly Oak colleges and their membership in Watford Road Congregational Church. Before long, however, Tom again accepted a call to the Pacific, this time to Tangintebu Theological College on

Tarawa in what was then the Gilbert and Ellice Islands, another remote posting. There, Kay taught at the college and at the local high school and as on Niue, worked with the local girls' and women's organizations.

They stayed on Tarawa for eight years, their longest posting, and finally returned to the UK in 1978. Tom's last post was at Holly Mount in Malvern, where again Kay was happily busy with church and community affairs. On retirement, Kay and Tom returned to Weoley Park Road, knowing that Selly Oak is the centre of the universe. Retirement of course meant no diminution of Kay's activity—she taught in the English department of the Selly Oak colleges and entered into a host of volunteer activities, and she was able to support and enjoy her family, which now included several grandchildren.

Kay and Tom became active members of Weoley Hill; Kay taught in the junior church and hosted Traidcraft and One World week events. Tom died in 1994, but Kay carried on an active life; in later years her health declined and in 2007 she moved to Selly Wood House, where she continued to organize the staff and other residents.

Some characteristics

When we look at Kay's life in the round we can see that it was shaped by her commitment to Tom's calling and her love for him. On occasion, this led to difficult decisions for her, to separations from her family or from Tom himself, for example in Niue or Tarawa.

What can we say about someone who stepped into such varied and demanding lives as she found in China, India, the Pacific and Birmingham? Simply, she was gallant, brave, resilient and strong. Latterly, she had been described as unstoppable (literally), or unsinkable

She also had an obvious genuine interest in people from around the world which stayed with her lifelong, as those who enjoyed her legendary curry evenings will testify. Furthermore, her open hospitality extended to her household, and there were many grateful lodgers at 11 Weoley Park Road, from all parts of the world.

Kay was a teacher throughout her adult life, and taught whatever the situation demanded!

Kay had an open, independent and questioning mind which led her to support the League of Nations aged 17 and support the TLS in her eighties.

When you look at the breadth and depth of her activities and interests you might imagine Kay was in perpetual motion. While I'm sure her energy and stamina would have sustained this, she was also compan-

ionable and enjoyed sharing a crossword or tucking into the latest Dick Francis.

Because Kay's capacities have been so diminished in recent years, it is with great joy that we can here celebrate a life of faith, fully lived.

Andrew Hawthorn



One World Week
Coffee Morning and Traidcraft Sale
Saturday 29 October
10 am - 12.00 noon



Come along and partake of a cup of coffee or tea, with a slice of cake, and browse amongst the usual Traidcraft stall, book trolley, quiz sheet and displays about Commitment for Life and One world Week placed around the John Kydd Hall. All proceeds will go towards the Obinto Womens' Sanitation Project. As usual we are asking for donations of cakes, jams, plants etc to help the event, which is getting better known in the area, to go with a swing.



Could you be our Newsletter Editor?

Pat Weaver offered to take on the editorship of the Church News for a period of six months—four years on she has decided that it is time for her to pass this on to someone else. Our very warm thanks go to Pat for the excellent work she has done and we hope she can enjoy giving more time to her many other pursuits, not least of which is spending time with her grandchildren.

I have produced this month's News, but I am not able to do this all the time and we now need to find either someone else to take on the job or else several people who would be willing to share the task and take turns at production so that no one person is over-burdened.

If you would enjoy being involved please see Ann Evans or me as soon as possible.

Christine Marlow