

# WEOLEY HILL CHURCH NEWS

From the Minister's desk

September 2011

Dear Friends,

## ARE YOU THAT ANGEL?

It feels like ages since I last wrote to you having had no newsletter produced in August. I hope you managed to enjoy some rest over the holiday period, whether you chose to stay at home (popularly now known as *staycation*), or went abroad for your vacation. We have missed a good number of you for several weeks and look forward to see you again. We have had a lovely time together as a family with all the children on holiday. While Rock and David attended a URC Children Assembly holiday camp in Kintbury in the south, Sharon had fun playing in the parks and gardens and helping our hosts in Oxford redecorate their house after a major extension work was recently completed. We explored some special attractions in the city as we came to the end of our stay, including the Oxford University's Museum of Natural History with its interesting collections.

Since the last newsletter many things have happened within our church, family and friends circle. First of all the good news – our new kitchen is now up and running. Hurray! It is fantastic. You need to see it if you have not. Also the Obinto Women Project has received various boosts since its launch, starting with Gordon's concert with his Sutton Coldfield Chamber Choir which was supported by the Young String Project. There has since been a coffee morning organised by Marilyn Raw in her house and a BBQ put together by Terry and Min at the Weoley Castle Church. Of course, Alan and I were able to complete our charity bike run along the canal into north Worcestershire. The total so far, I guess, should be close to a thousand pounds.

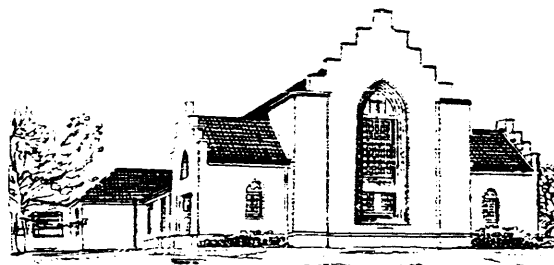
Sadly we lost by death one of our very active and longest serving members, Mrs Margaret Glen. She was an ordained Elder of the church (though not in active capacity in recent years), she was a former Church Secretary, and was the Archivist for the Weoley Hill Church until her death. We pray that her gentle soul rest in peace in the bosom of the Lord. Other families in the church have had similar news of bereavement and sickness, the latest being the Lukwago family who are currently in the US to sort out issues regarding the repatriation of the body of their late daughter Fiona. Please, let us continue to uphold all these ones in our prayers.

Who knows if some of the above challenging experiences

form part of the reasons why the Lord led us recently to study about angels for a few Sundays at Weoley Hill Church. Those services expectedly were quite animated, with people sharing their own personal experiences and related stories about angels. So, have you seen an angel? Responding to a similar question about the names of angels a child said there were two angels she knew, Hark and Harold. An apparent reference to the carol '*Hark the Herald Angels Sing*'. Well, who says kids are not listening to carols at Christmas.

I may never have seen angels physically, but I have experienced God's supernatural intervention in my life severally at different times and places. Thinking back now, I remember that I once had an angelic vision, with clear messages from God. Besides, I have received help in circumstances I can only explain as arranged by God – those are my angel moments. If you ask me I can tell you that our two churches (Weoley Hill and Weoley Castle) have many such angels, but not those with wings. They are those who live among us and eat the same food as we do. Despite the fact that they experience our same strengths and weaknesses, like the angels of God in heaven they have devoted themselves to serve the Lord and to radiate His love by the little things they do. Are you that angel?

*George*



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## *Personalia*

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sam and Alex Lukwago and their family following the sudden death of their daughter Fiona in Minnesota.

At this very sad time for the family we are however pleased that we can give our congratulations to Audrey on gaining her PhD from the University of Birmingham.

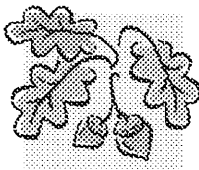
Our warm congratulations go to David Weaver on being awarded an honorary Professorship by the University of Birmingham.

Our congratulations and best wishes also to Tom and Doreen Bradley who celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 6th September!

Since the publication of our July issue we have lost our dear friend Margaret Glen and we continue to remember John, Marion and James and their families at this time. James's wonderful eulogy given at Margaret's memorial service is printed further on in this Church News.

We remember all those students who will be off to universities and colleges this month, and we also feel concern for those who have been unable to find a place to continue their studies. We think of children who are starting or moving schools, and the parents of all these young people as they support them at this time.

Our thoughts are especially with the Chung family as they have to fund Grace's course at the Royal College of Music, for which she is being charged

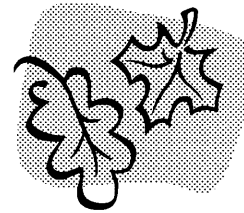


We are delighted that Gill Hitchen has agreed to take on Margaret Glen's role as Leprosy Mission co-ordinator. Gill is now the contact for collectors. We are very grateful that this important task is being continued.

### **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!



### ***Dates for your diaries:***

The next **Church Meeting** will be at **7.30pm on Monday 19 September**

For those involved in the **IGNITE** groups these will continue for a further 2 weeks in September.

### **FWO REPORT**

The FWO total for June of £2441.00, down £35.92 on the budget figure, was disappointing although the deficit was not as great as in May. However, the July total of £3,944.50 was excellent, being £848.34 above the budget figure; this was almost certainly due to one of our members giving their annual donation during this month.

Rosemary Hay

21.08.2011

# RESTORE

**Amnesty International and RESTORE**, from Birmingham Churches Together, invite you to a meeting on **"ASYLUM: Human Tragedy, Humane Response"**, On Tuesday 11th October 7.00-9.15 pm. Come and find out what is going on and what you can do, within a selection of workshops and talks from Shari Brown (Restore), Dave Smith (Boaz Trust, Manchester), and Mike Kaye (Still human, Still Here). Light refreshments served from 6.30pm at Wragge and Co. 55, Colmore Row, opposite the Cathedral, near Snow Hill station. Admission is free and there are further details on the Church and Society noticeboard, or contact [martintombate@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:martintombate@yahoo.co.uk) or on 0121 444 2454 a week beforehand to book a space.

**RESTORE** are running their usual courses for anyone interested in their work or in befriending a refugee or asylum seeker. There are afternoon sessions on Thursdays 29th September, and 6th & 13th October from 2.00-4.00pm at the International Mission Centre, 24 Weoley Park Road ... very near to us ..., and evening sessions on Mondays 3rd, 10th, and 17th October from 7.30-9.30 at St John's, High Street Harborne. Further details on the Restore Noticeboard.

Lorraine

## SEEKER'S FUND

This fund was set up about 12 years ago to help those who are seeking further knowledge of, or development in, their Christian life. It is there to contribute, in part, for ANYONE in our congregation wishing to undertake a period of study, and has been used in the past for funding books for the TLS course, visits to FURY conferences - both transport and residence - and part of any course fees. Applicants are expected to contribute some of their own money towards what is needed and all applications are submitted to Elders before amounts are agreed. Money raised for the fund has come from Plant and cake sales, individual donations or an occasional retiring collection, the last one of which was two years ago, so this fund is now rather low. We would therefore be very grateful for any contributions so that money can be made available if needed. Many thanks. Lorraine

## Summer Concert at Weoley Hill Church

On Sunday evening, 17 July, we were treated to a most enjoyable banquet of musical entertainment by Gordon Thornett and the Sutton Coldfield Chamber Choir. They were supported by the Young Strings Project (who meet locally) directed by Lucy Akehurst. Amongst the items they played was one called *the Typewriter* (written by Leroy Anderson) which would be familiar to many, but Lucy pointed out that none of these Primary School children knows what a typewriter is!

The Chamber Choir presented a mixed programme including songs from Great Britain, three sea songs, two sleep songs and two American songs. These included old favourites like *I do like to be beside the seaside*, *Shenandoah*, *For the beauty of the earth*, a Brahms lullaby and Jerome Kern's *The Way you look tonight*. Added variety was provided by some amusing poems by choir member David Richardson and an organ solo by Michael Gainford playing *Toccata* by Georgi Alexandrovich Mushel.

George launched his fund raising campaign for the Obinto Women's Sanitation Project and over £630 was raised by generous donations from those attending the concert. Thanks are due to Gordon and all who freely provided the entertainment and also to those gave so generously.

Pat Weaver  
18.7.2011



## HARVEST SUPPER

After the wonderful Korean Picnic you are now invited to an equally wonderful

## African Evening

which will be our **Harvest Supper on Saturday 24th September from 6.30pm to 8.30pm**. It will be our usual "Bring-and Share" type meal but there will be mainly a selection of African dishes for you to sample, home cooked by members of our congregation, as well as more familiar desserts and accompaniments, with tea or coffee of course.

As well as the food there will be a short fun quiz about Africa (only 30 questions!), a "treasure hunt" map and some entertainment about Africa. If you have any African traditional dress that you would like to wear then please feel free to show it off!

All of this is designed to raise money for the **Obinto Womens' Sanitation Project** which funds began with a flying start in July with a charity concert, and a coffee morning and George and Alan's sponsored bike ride in August. Hopefully this evening will complete the target of £2,500.

Please see Iris if you can volunteer to contribute some of the food ... British or African ... and don't forget to invite your relatives, friends and neighbours to, what promises to be, an interesting and unusual evening.



## Could you be our Archivist?

As many of you will know, Margaret Glen was for many years our Church Archivist, and it is now necessary for us to find a replacement to take on this activity.

The job is not a very onerous one, and you may find it interesting. It involves saving a copy of all material that is produced by Weoley Hill Church for our own use—orders of service for both weekly services and weddings and funerals, papers for Church meetings, Annual Reports, anything produced for the congregation and for any event we organise here. Also any official documents that are received pertaining to the Church and its buildings.

Once a year these items are taken to Special Collections at the University Library where they are stored.

Please have a word with Ann Evans or Lorraine DaCosta if you think you would like to do this. John Glen can give you any further details if you are interested.

6,300 kg CO2 saved!

Gas use 25% of average B'ham home

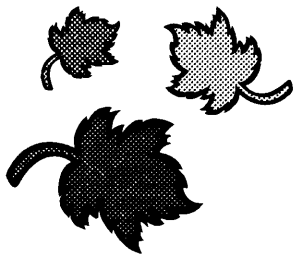
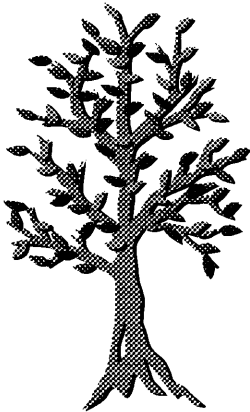
Generates as much electricity as uses.

## Old Home Superhome

39 Hawthorne Rd  
Bournville B30 1EQ

Open house with 90 minute tours:  
**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> Sept: tours at 4pm, 5.30pm**  
**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> Sept: tours at 11am, 1pm, 2.30pm, 4pm**  
**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> Sept: tours at 2pm, 3.30pm, 5pm**

Book to visit online at  
[www.superhomes.org.uk](http://www.superhomes.org.uk) ("Find a Superhome near you"),  
 or phone 0121 475-2088 or email [harrietmartin@btinternet.com](mailto:harrietmartin@btinternet.com)



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**The Friendship Group September Outing**  
 is to the **Jinney Ring** on Wednesday 14 September  
 Meet at 1.30pm in the Church Car Park.  
 Please give names to Deb Moriarty.  
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### 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](http://www.carrslane.co.uk)

**The next edition of the Church News will appear on 2 October 2011  
 Please send notices, contributions etc. to Pat Weaver by 18 September.**

## In Memory of Margaret Glen 1928-2011

Helen Margaret Simpson was born on the 20th September 1928 in Montreal, Canada.

Her parents, Milne and Philip, took the 2 year old Margaret across the Atlantic in 1930 to meet her grandparents, and their large extended family in England. She didn't remember much about the visit, but there are photographs of her (already wearing glasses) meeting her 4 year old cousin Mark. They returned to Canada, but as a result of the economic slump, Milne had to take the 5 year old Margaret and her younger sister Barbara to live in London, to be joined later by their father. During this time in Canada a very familiar scene played out. Margaret had been asked if she wanted something, to which she had replied 'Yes.' As you all know the obligatory grown up response to this is "Yes What? Margaret" to which she confidently replied "Yes SIR". She was proud to be both Canadian and British.

Margaret & Barbara had to cross the Atlantic again in 1940 when they were evacuated, with their Aunt Phemie and cousins, to stay with relatives in Toronto. What was expected to be a short break from London lasted for 3 years, so having left her parents aged 12, she returned to them in a still war torn London at 15 years old (in 1943). Remarkably, given the turmoil and era, Margaret went on to read sociology at Bedford College, University of London. She was active in the Student Christian Movement and attended an SCM conference in 1948 where she met one John Glen, with whom she remained in touch for the next ten years, if only by Christmas card. Luckily for us, our future mother was a very conscientious letter writer and correspondent.

After graduation Margaret came to Bournville to work for Cadbury Bros., she used to say as an Oompa Loompa, but I later found out she was actually a 'women's employment officer' with responsibility for the recruitment of their (up to) 3500 female piece workers. Amongst other duties, she arranged recreational activities for the young ladies, one of whom remarked to Margaret, who was then in her early 20's, "We'll make you young again, Miss Simpson!"

In fact the young Margaret was very busy with young people. She worked as a voluntary youth worker at a large mixed youth club and later was on the management committee of both that and another: the Shenley Green Youth Centre. She also became Brown Owl, in charge of the Brownies here at Weoley Hill, sixty years ago in 1951, which she continued until the birth of Marion in 1963.

As he too had moved to Birmingham, John decided to contact Margaret again in 1959. He had two tickets for the theatre, but apparently she had "already seen it". They did instead meet for lunch, presumably quite a good lunch, as their wedding was later arranged for July 1960. She was

tickled by the fact that on her marriage to John she changed from being Her Majesty's Ship (HMS) to being Her Majesty's Government (HMG)

Margaret continued to make significant contributions through extensive voluntary work until well past retiring age. She joined "Victim Support" as a volunteer visitor in 1980 and was later chair of the West Midlands Federation of Victim Support Schemes. It was in that capacity that she was invited, with John, to one of the Queen's Garden Parties at Buckingham Palace. As an active member of the Labour Party and the Fabian Society she took great delight in saying that they were off to look at *their* (rather than the Queen's) gardens!

She was a long serving governor of three local schools, served on the Community Health Council, and organised the church Friendship Group, aided by John, for about 25 years. She has been active on many other committees and groups including the consumer group, before retiring from the majority of them in her 70s, although even then she continued in active support of many people and organisations.

Margaret was encouraged and strengthened by the fellowship here at Weoley Hill Church. She enjoyed her family and many friends and always remembered the birthdays and anniversaries of her cousins of several generations, her many god-children, and their children.

After her heart attack in February it was reassuring to hear that the resuscitation interventions had not been unpleasant, and that she had felt that, if this was her time to go, that would be, in her words, "all right". She recovered sufficiently then, and on two subsequent hospital stays, to persuade medical staff that she was fit enough to go home. She had hoped to be able to go on a planned cruise around the Baltic with John & Barbara, but increasing breathlessness and a further emergency admission persuaded her that she would accept the suggested heart surgery. She spent 6 weeks in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital critical care unit after the operation, visited daily by John, and receiving the undivided attention of highly skilled and caring nurses and doctors throughout that time, but alas was unable to recover from that final test and died on the 3rd of July.

We have received a large number of letters, phone-calls and expressions of condolence. There are recurring themes throughout these, as people describe a very capable, caring, humorous and considerate person who took an interest in everyone and everything. She gave wise counsel to many, both on the many committees and individually. Margaret was respected, loved and appreciated by all.

One letter was from John Geyer, the former minister of this Church with whom Margaret had served as Church Secretary. He is rather good at articulating himself, as ministers tend to be, and his words were echoed by many in their own expressions of condolence, I'm confident that he would not mind me reading you a section of his letter:

"It was with a profound sense of loss and deep sorrow that we received news of Margaret's death.

She was not so much a pillar of the Church as a mountain in society. Many are the groups that are going to be weaker because she is no longer there to support them.

Every Minister who served in Weoley Hill with Margaret as secretary or member will gladly testify to how much her kind, vigorous and humorous support sustained them.

But sharpest of all, will be the pain which strikes the family and which will never heal, for there is no replacement to such a loss as that of a wife, sister, mother and grandmother, especially of such a wife, sister, mother and grandmother as Margaret.

You are not among those who grieve like the rest of mankind, having no hope, but believe that Jesus died and rose again. I will never forget Margaret striding into the Vestry on Easter Sunday morning proclaiming: "The Lord is risen!" – to which the only possible reply was, "He is risen indeed! Hallelujah!"

Margaret expressed a wish that the glorious and upbeat 'Hosanna' from Andrew Lloyd Webber's Requiem be played on this occasion, and we will hear it shortly.

We are very proud of her, and give thanks for her life, and for all that she meant to us. Hers was truly a life well lived.

**James Glen**

The British Heart Foundation have sent their warm thanks for the sum of £723.90 collected in memory of Margaret.



### Shopping and Searching on the web with Easyfundraising and Easysearch

I'm helping Weoley Hill United Reformed Church to raise money whenever I shop online or search the internet - could you do the same?

#### Shopping

It's very simple - just follow the link on the church's website 'Home' page to register and shop with over 2000 well known retailers like Amazon, Argos, M&S, eBay and many more. Whenever I buy something, the retailer makes a donation to Weoley Hill United Reformed Church. They've helped other causes raise over £2,000,000 so it really does work.

Weoley Hill church has raised £8.34 so far with only 4 people registered!

I'd be really grateful if you could use easyfundraising too. It won't cost you a penny extra to shop through easyfundraising and you can even save money with special offers and voucher codes.

So please make a difference to Weoley Hill United Reformed Church and take a look at easyfundraising today.

#### Searching

Searching the internet is simple too - just use the search link on the church's website 'Home' page. Each search will raise  $\frac{1}{2}$ p, doesn't sound much but it will soon add up! The 4 registered users have so far raised £1.37 - well done!

Thanks

David Marlow



# Church Open Day & 'Let the Needles do the Talking' Embroidery Exhibition

**Sat. 10th & Sun. 11th September 2011:  
12.00-3.00pm**

**Bournville United Reformed Church,  
Beaumont Road, Bournville**

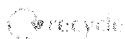
A chance to look around Bournville United Reformed Church. The Church was founded as Bournville Church of Christ in Ruskin Hall in 1905. It moved to the present purpose built Meeting House in 1914. The church retains a number of original features including a Baptistry for Believer's Baptisms.

Especially for the Heritage Open Days weekend only, there will be an exhibition entitled 'Let the Needles do the Talking.' This is a range of meaningful textiles by embroiderer and textile artist Pamela Pavitt. They are presented in two groups one dealing with ideas of peace and reconciliation, and the other the stewardship of the world we live in, creation and the environment.

Further information from: [avbournville@aol.com](mailto:avbournville@aol.com).



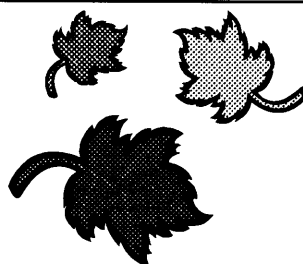
Heritage Open Days is your chance to visit thousands of buildings and places across England and Wales. Free entry, often with a special charge for admission. To find out what's on in your region, go to [www.heritageopen-days.org.uk](http://www.heritageopen-days.org.uk)



## **INVITATION TO PRAYER BREAKFAST AT LIBERAL DEMOCRAT PARTY CONFERENCE**

The Liberal Democrat Christian Forum and the Free Churches Leadership Group cordially invite you (or a representative from your church) to their annual Prayer Breakfast at the Liberal Democrat Party Conference in Birmingham on **Tuesday 20 September 2011**. Details of this Prayer Breakfast are as follows:

- Venue:** Birmingham Christian Centre, 65 Parade, Birmingham B1 3QQ
- Time:** 8.00 - 09.00 am (commencing with a Continental breakfast from 7.45 am)
- Chair:** Tim Farron MP, Liberal Democrat Party President
- Speaker:** Martin Turner (Chair of the Liberal Democrat Parliamentary Candidates Association and past Chair of the Liberal Democrat Christian Forum)
- Topic:** Media ethics in the light of the phone hacking scandal
- RSVP:** It would be helpful if you would kindly confirm your attendance at this prayer breakfast by contacting Wendy Cooper on wendy.cooper@urc.org.uk (020 7916 8632) by no later than **14 September 2011**.



## **St. Mary's 150th Anniversary**

Friday 9th September 10 am – 5 pm **Flower Festival**

Saturday 10th September 10 am – 5 pm **Flower Festival**

Sunday 11th September—**Festival Day**

**1 – 5 pm Flower Festival**

**6.30 pm Festival Choral Evensong with Bishop David followed by  
cake**