

Weoley Hill Church News



September 2018

Harvest

Thoughts From The Cottage

Dear Friends



We are called to be witnesses to Jesus Christ. Right at the start of Jesus's ministry he said this. "Let me tell you why you are here. You're here to be salt-seasoning that brings out the God-flavours of this earth. If you lose your saltiness, how will people taste

godliness? You've lost your usefulness and will end up in the garbage." "Here's another way to put it: You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colours in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don't think I'm going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I'm putting you on a light stand. Now that I've put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you'll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven." You will find it in Matthew chapter 5. Fascinatingly it is at the start of Jesus' ministry not the end. Like it or not people should know that we are Christians and they will judge the church and God by what they see in us.

A witness is called in court to tell 'the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth' as part of the process of determining what actually happened. Other forms of witness include giving details following a road traffic collision or being a character witness for someone. All of our lives as Christian we are witnessing to the truth about God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It is not optional. It is a role given to all believer's when they

accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour and it is worked out individually as well as corporately through the church.

Of course there is nothing new in what I have written, we all know it, but sometimes it is good to go back to basics and remind ourselves of them. Just as a car needs servicing and topping up with fuel, water and oil we need regular servicing and spiritual top-ups.

Where the church has become weak is equipping its members to be the best witnesses they can be. This means good quality worship where the sermon expounds the Scripture and relates to the contemporary situation of the worshippers. It means having the opportunity for Bible Study, fellowship groups and small group prayer as well as a social and spiritual support networks. It also means continually reviewing the life and programme of the church to ensure that it acts as a witness for Jesus in the world. And it is not just about church members it is also community activities on church premises, they also witness to the community. Hallowe'en activities and martial arts, even for self-defence, are out. Jesus said if someone hits you then offer them the other cheek, he promoted passive resistance not self-defence or attack. So out go children's activities involving water pistols or other toys based on weapons because they promote a culture of violence. Individually and corporately we have to be uncompromisingly different to the world. Being witnesses for Jesus is counter-cultural, it is not the way of the world, it is different.

Dan



Personalia

Please remember: everyone who is unwell; everyone undergoing (or waiting for) treatment; everyone with injuries.

We look forward to welcoming the Jagessars to the neighbourhood as well as to our church and the Pastorate.

Former member Bill Campbell has a book out, *The nations in the divine economy*. See article.



“And it’s good night from him……”

..... as the Two Ronnies used to say at the end of their show.

Sadly it’s time now to saying goodbye to all of my friends at Weoley Hill and moving on. I’ve enjoyed being with you for the last four years. My time here has been of profit to all of us; the support and friendship which I received during a prolonged and very unpleasant illness has kept me going, and hopefully the support I’ve been able to provide during the two interregnums has equally been of benefit to you all.

Jill and I leave on holiday shortly, so it makes a suitable end point for my membership, and a new start with a new church after our return. I don’t like to leave without saying ‘goodbye’, but at the same time want to do it with the minimum of fuss, and I wish you all the best for a new beginning under Leonora’s guidance.

God bless you all, and may the future for the Cadbury Pastorate be full of hope and new vision.

John Davies

Neighbourhood News

News and events from other local churches:

TLS Bible study course at Bournville URC, time to be announced.

The Church at Carrs Lane Lecture: *Believing, Forgiving, Dying, our walk across the stage*, Richard Holloway, author, broadcaster, former bishop and all-round wise man is this year's speaker. ~~Saturday 6 October 2018, 10 AM — 4 PM. Tickets: £20.~~ Cancelled due to the speaker's ill health.

Jim Cox, Vicar of **St Mary's Church**, is leaving in mid-October. We wish him well and wish St Mary's well as they await a new vicar.

Amnesty International

This September's retiring collection is for Amnesty International. This is a global movement which works in over 150 countries, including Britain, and campaigns for human rights worldwide. It strives to fight injustice in many parts of the world, researches cases and publicizes cases of human rights abuse. Amnesty has helped to change oppressive laws in some countries. It is perhaps best known for bringing torturers to justice and for publicizing the plight of people unjustly jailed merely for voicing their opinions. Recently it has been involved in highlighting the plight of refugees and asylum seekers.

Barbara Viney

COMMITMENT FOR LIFE

In September we are again asked to contribute to this URC/Christian Aid charity. Weoley Hill was one of the first churches to contribute in its inception in 1973 as 'The 1% Appeal'. Money raised goes to one of four areas (Bangladesh, Central America, Palestine, Zimbabwe) and focusses on small projects over longer periods of time. These could be advice and finance for setting up a bank to give small interest free loans; providing sewing machines or goats to set up a women's independent enterprise; building a footbridge for shorter journeys to town; a place to meet to discuss peace plans or to hold a youth centre, in fact any one of hundreds of schemes that benefit the poor of an area. You will shortly be getting an envelope with information about this year's plans and last year's successes. Please do take time to read the booklet and, if you can, then please donate up to 1% of your unallocated income in the small envelope provided, gift-aided if possible. All contributions are private and very welcome. With many thanks.

Lorraine DaCosta



The Church Secretary will be away until 7 September and again from 6-13 October.

Harvest Sunday 30 September

Nick Stanyon leading all-age worship

*Harvest gifts go to Birmingham City Mission &
the Salvation Army*

Bring & Share lunch with Korean congregation

All welcome



Getting to grips with the Bible

A TLS Lite study course led by Stuart Scott

This will be held at Bournville URC if enough people sign up for it; the day and time are still to be arranged. Please contact the Bournville URC secretary, Maureen Peart, if you are interested, or tell Cheryl.

AIM: To provide helpful and practical approaches to understanding the Bible.

Unit 1: Looking at the Library
(A trip around the Bible)

Unit 2: The Story of Biblical Times

Unit 3: Language and Literature in the Bible

Unit 4: Analysing the Bible

Unit 5: Who Says?—Authority

FRIENDSHIP GROUP

We had lovely weather for the Friendship group Garden Party at Nancy's house on Wednesday 11 June. More than 20 people came for a delicious buffet tea, thanks to all those who donated a plate of something to add to the feast; these included several members of the Middle Park Road Street Association, with whom we hope to continue links over the next few months. As usual there were 'doggy bags' to take home and some people even stayed to watch the tennis later!

Our next meeting will be a short outing on **Wednesday 12 September to Blakesley Hall**, Yardley (B25 8RN), a local very interesting Tudor house once owned by the Smallbroke family. Entrance is £7.00 per adult—the hall is owned by Birmingham City council so there are no NT concessions. We have arranged a tour at 2.15 PM so we will **leave the church car park at 1.15 PM** to enable an easy ride and time to look around the gardens beforehand. There is free parking and a cafe and shop. Please contact Nancy if you would like a lift or can offer one.

Lorraine DaCosta



CANCELLATION of the Carrs Lane Lectures in Radical Christian Faith 2018

It is with the greatest regret that we have cancelled the Carrs Lane Lectures' day on Saturday 6th October 2018. Sadly Richard Holloway has had to clear his diary for the rest of the year on his doctor's advice. He has apologised profusely for letting us down, hoping that we might be able to reorganise the day but, with only five weeks to go, that did not seem possible. I'm so sorry.

It is extremely disappointing for everyone who was looking forward to hearing Richard, especially for those of us at Carrs Lane who have put so much into the event preparation. The priority now is to publicise the cancellation and arrangements for the refunding of tickets will be made as soon as possible. If you don't hear from us personally, please contact the church office for further information on 0121 643 6151; office@carrslane.co.uk

We are thinking of Richard and wish him well in his recovery.

Julie Grove

85th ANNIVERSARY

What a marvellous celebration were the two days of the 85th Anniversary of the building, 100th of worship in the area, during 7-8 July 2018. The weather, of course, was lovely and the general friendliness and enjoyment by all who attended the various events was well worth the hard work it took to arrange them.

Thanks to **Cheryl Thornett** for printing the posters and leaflets to advertise the event and sending out information to the locality. Thanks to **Ann Evans** who took all the 'congregation' photographs and then spent hours cutting them to size and arranging them on a drawing of the church, which is the first thing visitors see on entering through the main door. Also displayed there was one of the two beautiful floral arrangements donated by **Alex Lukwago and her niece Rosemary**. The other was in the Sanctuary—both were beautiful. The banners displayed there were hung by **David Marlow**, who gave up much of his time moving ladders and furniture on both days, as well as operating the sound system at the concert and replacing the banners later. **Nancy Nicholls** and **Liz Roberts** put on a lovely display of items made at the Embroidery group, the *only* group directly associated with the church that contributed a display.

On Saturday in the John Kydd hall **John Davies** brought a new, larger, model train layout of the village of 'San Fairy Ann', a work in progress, **Gini Tambyraja** had a jam and pickle stall in aid of 'Restore' and raised over £64, and we sold some books (£11.50) so there is now some space on the trolley! There were lots of donations of delicious cakes for the refreshment area in the lower hall, as usual overseen by **Nancy**, and thanks go to all those who donated. We made just over £80 after expenses there, and thanks to **Sue Beeby, Linda Bradley and Norma Johnson** who helped in the church, hall and kitchen throughout the day.

On Saturday evening we had a marvellous concert when about 100 people filled the Sanctuary with song. Three very young string

musicians, Min and Jai Too from the Korean church and our own **Levi Cotgreave**, joined members from the **Bournville Gardens choir and the Community Choir** to give us a wide range of music from the “Vicar of Dibley” to “The ruler of the Queen’s nay-vee”, from popular songs of the 30s to more modern offerings and lots of audience participation. Both choirs have been practising for months under the directorship of **Gordon Thornett** who had prepared the music, planned the programme and played most of the accompaniment. He was ably assisted by **Alan Cotgreave** who directed 2 pieces and played an organ solo at the start. Many grateful thanks to them both for all their hard work. There were many pleased and appreciative comments afterwards, one person even said “it was uplifting!” Sixty or so people stayed for tea and cake and long chats with friends creating a lovely atmosphere. Thanks again to **Nancy**, helped by **Juliet Chideya**, on drinks.

Then on Sunday, there was a moving service planned by the **Worship and Arts group** which included a memorial list of all those members and friends we have lost over the last ten years. Compiled by **Ann and Cheryl** we were able to reflect on the differences they had made in our lives as mentioned in the opening prayers. Finally everyone was invited to a shared meal of chicken and rice all cooked and donated by **Juliet**, augmented by salads and fruit donations from other members.

From the above you can see how many people were involved in making this weekend such a success, and the work that has gone on behind the scenes in preparation. Once again an example of the teamwork needed. We raised just over £330 altogether for the Youth and Family Worker Project. Thanks to the many donations but the added value of friendliness and enjoyment is priceless. Many thanks to you all.

Lorraine



The Church in Morocco

It is not easy to be a Christian in Morocco. You could lose your job, be imprisoned or even killed, depending upon the accusation. But since the government crackdown in 2012, the indigenous Church has been growing. There are perhaps, 40,000 believers but there may be tens of thousands more who keep their faith secret.

The Bible Society team receive about a 100 requests a week for a Bible. The first Moroccan Arabic New Testament was published and made online in 2012 and it is hoped that a full Bible will be available in 2021.

Pray for Christians in Morocco, for spiritual leaders and for the work on Bible translation which has been in progress since 1999. – This gives an idea of just how long translation work takes.

Sue Beeby



Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

Fiona and Ivor Elvins are organising another pilgrimage to the Holy Land next year. The dates are 30 April - 9 May which is 10 days and 9 nights. The cost is £1187 + £260 single room supplement if required. The trip consists of 6 nights in Bethlehem and 3 nights in Nazareth and includes the cost of trips, half board, flights and all transfers, etc.

I have been on the previous 2 pilgrimages they have arranged and enjoyed them both very much. They are good value for money and thought provoking as we visit many places that Jesus would or could have visited 2000 years ago.

Please see me if you are interested or would like more information. The deadline for booking is 15 October 2018.

Ann Evans

The nations in the divine economy

This book by former member Bill Campbell was published recently.

'Historic Christianity, in claiming to be a new Israel, has ignored its Jewish roots, William S. Campbell argues, leaving a lacuna in its own

identity that can only be overcome by a covenantal understanding of diversity in Christ. Covenant language is not prominent in Paul's letters but remains the basis of his thought concerning Israel and the nations. God's covenant with Israel remains valid. Through the covenant reratified in Christ, non-Jews, although not included in the covenant, participate through Christ in the Abrahamic promises.

Hence, participation language is core to Paul's letters because these address non-Jews in Christ. Paul's gospel is not antiethnic but is focused on respect for difference and the call for reconciliation, a fundamental concern for the apostle.'

—From the back cover.

THE NATIONS IN THE DIVINE ECONOMY



PAUL'S COVENANTAL HERMENEUTICS
AND PARTICIPATION IN CHRIST

WILLIAM S. CAMPBELL

WEOLEY HILL UNITED REFORMED CHURCH PRAYER DIARY

*I will proclaim your greatness, my God and king; I will thank you
for ever and ever.*

Psalm 145 vi

	Church members	Topical prayers
WK 1: 3-9 Sept	Lorraine & Fred DaCosta Gary Davenport Ken & Maureen Davenport	<i>The forthcoming ministry of the Cadbury pastorate and the churches that Leonora leaves.</i>
WK 2: 10-16 Sept	John & Jill Davies Séana & Richard Davies Corinne Dawson	<i>The continued negotiations regarding Brexit and the future of Great Britain.</i>
WK 3: 17-23 Sept	Rob & Anila Edge, Oliver & Yona David & Geraldine Evans Emlyn & Ann Evans	<i>For peace in war torn countries, whether or not they are in the headlines.</i>
WK 4: 24-30 Sept	Marius & Jennifer Felderhof Margaret Field Josie Fisher John & Mary Fletcher	<i>For individuals and agencies, many of which are church based, seeking justice in South America for those killed or disappeared.</i>

NOTE: As always, please feel free to send any feedback on the 'Prayer Diary' and specific prayer requests that you would like to include in future lists to Sue Beeby

You may wish to add other members of the families mentioned to your prayers.