

Weoley Hill Church News



June 2018

From the Church Secretary

Dear friends

It is very encouraging to have a candidate for our ministry so soon after the vacancy was officially declared, even though it feels as though we have been in vacancy for a long time, and many of us have found this period, even with David's time with us, tiring and discouraging.

I suppose we need to repeat what was said two years ago, when we agreed to call David: a minister won't solve all our problems, and however tired we are, we won't be able to sit back and let the minister do it. Ministerial time will be split between three churches—and Mark Tubby is required to move on from Weoley Castle next year, so Weoley Castle will need more support than they currently do.

In the six weeks or so between now and the weekend when we meet and hear the candidate, we need to pray for ourselves, for the pastorate and for the candidate, so that everyone makes the right choice as guided by the Spirit. We also need to remind ourselves that we are not obliged to call the first candidate unless we truly judge that they are the right person for the pastorate ministry.

To be positive, a new look at things and a fresh approach could enliven us all, so long as we are willing to try something new and maybe even give up something old.

Some interesting points have come from digitising the church histories compiled in 1983 and 2008: First, that a group of Presbyterians began holding regular Sunday worship 100 years ago in June 1918, while World War I still had several months to run. Another is that we were originally called Weoley Hill Village Church, with all Christians welcome to join, although worship and ethos were broadly Presbyterian, there being no other free churches in the area then.

Weoley Hill Church was begun largely as a church for the Selly Oak Colleges, and the college association was very strong for decades: the first ministers were full time academics and theologians and only part-time ministers or interim moderators. The 1983 history is perhaps a little boastful about the theologians and other academics associated with the church, while many of us still remember the wonderful people from other parts of the world who worshipped with us at different times.

There are drawbacks to this. We could seem to exclude or at least devalue people who weren't quite so academic. And when the Colleges closed, perhaps we never really replaced that association with anything else or became anything else. I hope, though, that we have held to the tradition of openness, and note that many of us came here from other denominations.

So we don't have to wait for a minister, noted academic or not, to try something new—or even something old. More than one person has recently mentioned the house groups that used to be an important part of our church life—perhaps it's time to return to that tradition in some form. Traditional Bible study/ prayer/ discussion groups; 'just' tea and chat with neighbours, church members or not; special interest groups (green issues, gardening, books?) or any number of discussion topics, or support for people who need it— and not forgetting an Open the Book group if we manage to get one going. We don't need a minister for this, but a minister would surely be glad to see it. Another 'something old' might be dividing into study/ discussion groups on occasional Sunday mornings as part of worship.

So let's pray, together and separately, for ourselves, for the Pastorate, for this candidate and any others there might be, and for the Spirit's guidance now and in the future.

Cheryl

Personalia

We join Chris Basterfield and the congregation of Weoley Castle Community Church in mourning the death of Margaret, his mother, on 23 May. Information about her funeral will be passed on as soon as possible.



The Bradley family would like to thank all who attended the celebration of Tom's life and especially those who provided such a lavish spread for the refreshments. Your kindness and helpful presence have been a great comfort.

Doreen Bradley

Neighbourhood News

News and events from other local churches:

Selly Oak Quakers (off the Bristol Road), Sunday 10 June, 11.30-12.30: Family fun for UNICEF Soccer Aid; games, face painting, ice cream, cake. etc.

Birmingham City Mission Summer Barn Dance 7 PM, Friday 8 June Rowheath Pavilion.

Eco Church conference 10 AM-4 PM, Saturday 14 July, Priory Rooms, Bull Street, Birmingham, B4 6AF.



Mary Bevin at 90

FRIENDSHIP GROUP

The members and friends who attended the Bring and Buy for Christian Aid on Wednesday 9 May were sustained by contributions of lemon, carrot and fruit cake, plus scones with strawberries and cream as they browsed the books, bric-a-brac and plants on sale. There are no costs for this event as all items are donated and so we raised £152.20 altogether, slightly more than last year, which will go towards our total church contribution. Thanks to all those who contributed, and especially to Ted Forgan from Weoley Castle for his plants and all the cake-makers—Iris, Doreen B., Norma and Nancy. Some items left over were given, as usual, to the St Mary's Hospice shop on the Square.

Our next meeting will be the summer outing to Attingham Park, near Shrewsbury. This is a National Trust property with lovely gardens designed by Humphrey Repton, and an interesting house built in the 1770s, undergoing some conservation and refurbishment. This applies to the walled garden, now celebrating its 10th anniversary of new growth after being cleared completely of all plants, as well as items of damaged furniture and hangings. There is the usual shop and cafe, a plant sale and a Mile Pleasure Walk for the more active, but most is level and there is disabled access and a lift for those who cannot manage the front steps. There may be a buggy if necessary to transport folk from the entrance to the house but this is only a fairly short walk. Entrance is £5.75 for non NT members.

We will meet in the car park from 10.15 AM to aim to leave by 10.30; it takes about an hour to get there. A guide is available to give a short talk about the history of the stables, hall and grounds at 12.00 but you can join in or not. Please let Nancy or Lorraine know as soon as possible if you would like to come and can offer, or would like, a lift.

Lorraine Dacosta

The Weekend of Invitation

The weekend of invitation – Friday 15 to Sunday 17 June – offers every church the opportunity to do something. It can be big or small, for young or old, for a special group or for all.

One weekend. Multitudes of personal invitations to those outside our churches. All with a simple request to please 'Be our guest'. Offering a welcome to those who may just have been waiting to be invited.

Simple? Yes. And it is something every church can be part of.



POPULAR PUCCINI

A Spring breeze from the Mediterranean has arrived at Midland Opera as we prepare to bring you an evening of Puccini highlights. James Longstaffe, our fantastic Musical Director, will be at the piano as soloists join the Midland Opera chorus to bring you an evening of delightful singing, featuring *Turandot*, *Tosca*, *La Boheme* and *Madame Butterfly*. Friday 15 June Weoley Hill United Reformed Church. at 7.30 PM. Tickets £10

The Jubilee Debt Campaign

This month's retiring collection is for The Jubilee Debt Campaign. We have been supporting this charity, which fights for financial justice for poor communities, for over fifteen years. Although it has only five paid staff members the Campaign has been very successful in publicising the problems faced by poor countries in the global south which have fallen into debt. Recent articles in The Guardian newspaper has highlighted some of J.D.C.'s findings e.g. that " a study of 126 developing nations showed that they were devoting more than 10% of their revenues on average to paying the interest on money borrowed from the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank."

While still fighting for the financial rights of third world countries J.D.C has also now become involved in debt problems closer to home in Britain. The interest on credit card loans is exceptionally high and J.D.C says "The household debt crisis is driving poverty, misery, mental health problems and homelessness. And with the economic insecurity posed by Brexit and further planned cuts to public spending, the problem is set to get worse." The group is working with the Centre for Responsible Credit think tank and says they are working "for a write-off to tackle the burden of unjust debt on the poorest households, and for a cap on the cost of credit to tackle rip-off lending."

Barbara Viney



Preaching with a view

(Strange phrase, isn't it?)

A candidate for the ministry of the Cadbury Pastorate has come forward and the vacancy committee have concluded that this is someone everyone should meet and hear preach. After some negotiation the arrangements are:

Saturday 14 July

6.30 PM: an informal meeting at **Weoley Castle**

Community Church. Questions and answers, tea or coffee and cake. *Offers of cake are welcome* and we will organise lifts for those who need them.

Sunday 15 July

11 AM: the candidate will lead worship at **Weoley Castle Community Church**, with the usual tea/coffee, biscuits and chat afterwards. Lifts for those who need them.

3 PM: the candidate will lead worship at **Bournville URC**. Anyone is welcome to attend, but we won't organise lifts.

5 PM: We will meet **here** to discuss the candidate and vote, while Bournville and Weoley Castle do the same at their churches. For a call to be issued, each congregation must vote in favour by at least 80%

We have been asked to maintain confidentiality throughout this process.

Cheryl Thornett



The date is drawing nearer to celebrate the 85th year of the building here in Weoley Hill, but Cheryl has also discovered that it is the 100th anniversary of worship in the area. Have you had your photograph taken to go on the entrance board? If not see Ann Evans. Have you any photographs of events over the last few years that we could use on a display to remind you of the various things with which we have been associated, and lastly have you made a note of the weekend of 7-8 July so that you can take part in whatever is going on?

On **Saturday 7 from 2.00-4.00 PM** there will be displays in the Sanctuary and John Kydd Hall of the banners, items from the embroidery group, Slimming world, The local street associations, photos of yesteryear, and model trains with stalls selling books,

jams and, of course, refreshments in the Lower Hall. If you have items to donate please see Lorraine or Nancy.

On **Saturday evening from 6.00-7.30 PM** there will be a sing-a-long concert when the Community and Bournville Garden choirs will lead everyone in song, plus there will be some items from the Korean church.

On **Sunday** there is a special service to give thanks for all the years of worship that have happened here and also of remembrance for all those friends we have lost over the past 10 years. A memorial book is being made and if you would like to include a photograph and notes for this please see Cheryl. The service will be followed by a **meal around 12.30 PM** provided by Juliet Chideya and friends. If you would like to donate a dessert, a cake or soft drink then please let us know but this meal is **free** to anyone who would like to attend.

Do come along to help celebrate this happy occasion. Any donations from the three events will go towards the Youth and Family Worker fund.

Lorraine DaCosta

Selly Oak Quaker Meeting

930 Bristol Road, opposite St Mary's Church

is fundraising for

Unicef Soccer Aid

Sunday 10th June

11.30-12.30

**Come after your service/Meeting
for Worship**

Crafts

Cakes

Face Painting

Dribbling challenge

Ice cream

Penalties



SOCCER AID

A Future for All...



*Implementing
the Christian
imperative
to care for
our World*

ECO CHURCH
AN A ROCHA UK PROJECT

Saturday 14th July 10.00am - 4.00pm

Priory Rooms, Bull Street, Birmingham, B4 6AF

**An ecumenical day of worship, speakers,
workshops and conversations.**

**We'll be learning from each other and discovering
action we can take: individually and together.**

Register at: centralenglandquakers.org.uk/futureforall

Organised by

Birmingham Anglican Climate Action Group
Central England Quakers
Low Carbon Commitment Forum

Hosted by



A Future for All...

Saturday 14th July 10.00am - 4.00pm

Priory Rooms, Bull Street, Birmingham, B4 6AF

Speakers

Bishop David Atkinson - scientist, theologian and author of "Renewing the Face of the Earth: A theological and pastoral response to climate change"

Paul Parker - Britain Yearly Meeting Recording Clerk: Quaker's commitment to becoming a low carbon community and working for climate justice

Rich Bee - Engagement Director at A Rocha UK: A Rocha's vision of all churches caring for creation as an integral part of loving their neighbours and following God faithfully.

Workshops

- A Rocha UK Eco Church Project
- Worship and teaching
- Community and global engagement
- Buildings and land - challenges and opportunities
- Engaging with politicians (led by Hope for the Future)
- Fossil fuel divestment campaigning
- Interfaith experience (led by Footsteps)
- Life styles and living sustainably

Register at: centralenglandquakers.org.uk/futureforall

WEOLEY HILL UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

PRAYER DIARY

It is God himself who has set us apart, who has placed his mark of ownership upon us, and who has given us the Holy Spirit in our hearts as the guarantee of all that he has in store for us. 2Cor 1v21,22.

| | Church members | Topical prayers |
|--|--|--|
| WK 1: 3-9 June | Margaret Shiner Vida Southall & Carys Kumar & Gini Tambyraja | For the Spirit's continuing guidance with regard to a new minister for our pastorate. |
| WK 2: 10 -16 June | Helen Thompson Gordon & Cheryl Thornett David & Kathleen Upton | For an acceptable outcome of negotiations with Iran for the non-proliferation of weapons grade nuclear material. |
| WK 3: 17- 23 June | Barbara & Philip Viney Rachel Wakeman Michael Walpole | For containment of the ebola outbreak in the ravaged country of DRC. |
| WK 4: 24-30 June | Kathleen Wood Xiujuan (Jane) Zeng | For those persecuted for their faith; particularly Christians in Indonesia. |

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

Names in the prayer lists are on our church register but please add other members of the families mentioned to your prayers.