

Cadbury Pastorate News

Bournville, Weoley Castle &
Weoley Hill Churches



May 2023



From the Minister's study—

Dear Friends,

At a funeral recently I quoted again a reading from the Siddur Lev Chadash (the Prayer Book of the Jewish liberal synagogue), the words of which I treasure.

The great use of life is to spend it for something that will outlast it. On that condition, that we do our best to use well the time allotted to us, we need not fear death; we may even welcome it, when the time comes, as a friend. But until that time comes, let us prolong and enhance life, for ourselves and for our fellow human beings. So may we draw guidance from our faith to sanctify life, and to make it joyful. When we are dead, and people weep for us and grieve, let it be because we touched their lives with beauty and simplicity. Let it not be said that life was good to us, but, rather, that we were good to life.

It reminded me of the Bible passage in Deuteronomy 30: 11-20 that exhorts us to “choose life!” And so here a short reflection on choosing life, in the season of Easter when we celebrate our Easter faith that God is a life-giving and life-affirming God.

As the story goes: Moses has fulfilled his mission. At first he expressed all kind of excuses that he could not obey the call of God to liberate his people from slavery in Egypt. But in the end he could not resist (who can resist a call from God?!) and so he did what he had to do and the people followed him on the way to the promised land. Forty years they journeyed before they reached the Jordan, the border of the promised land. Moses could see the land from the mountain he was standing on but he knew that he would not enter the promised land. Once again he summons the people and says, “See I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God....by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways....then you shall live.....”

You can live yet be dead. We can be living dead when our hearts turn away from each other and from God, when we do not listen to each other or try to understand each other, when we fail to invest in loving relationships and live selfish lives, when “having” becomes more important than “being”—then we so much impoverish our lives—and then we die, even though we do not know it.

We are amazing creatures. We are complex human beings. We are impatient. We cannot wait. We do not always listen well. We do not share very well. We are fearful of the unknown (eg the stranger) and therefore we build walls and hide behind them. We find it difficult to say sorry—Yes, we have to learn “God’s ways” because they do not come natural to us.

Is it difficult to know what God asks of us? Not according to Moses. You do not have to travel for it. You will not find the answer in heaven nor on the other side of the ocean. You only have to look into your heart. You can know it; you can choose it. Choose life! Bachareta Bachiyim! (in Hebrew)

Those are the parting words of Moses and they are very encouraging. We can choose life even though Moses recognizes that it is not always easy. For we are complex and conflicted people. Animals are simple. They live according to their nature. Not we people—we are all the time growing, developing, learning from mistakes, again and again seeking to be fully human and to discover who we really are.

And sometimes that journey of growth, developing, learning, self-discovery is sadly cut short—but with our Easter faith we can still proclaim: Because Jesus lives, we shall live also!

With all best wishes,

Leonora

Prayer page

Prayer for the King and Queen

Eternal God,

You order and govern our world and all that is therein,
bless, we pray, Charles and Camilla on their coronation day

as they are crowned and anointed,

that amid the pomp and ritual,

they may feel your loving presence,

that they may fulfil the roles prescribed for them,

and that we may, in this kingdom, be better governed,

and always reminded of your eternal Kingdom which is to come. Amen.

(adapted from URC Daily Devotions)

Prayer for the nation

Holy and just God, we look to You for guidance.

We ask for Your wisdom for the leaders at work in our world.

We pray for political leaders.

We pray for leaders in the cultural sphere.

We pray for the leaders in the Church.

We pray for courage and inspiration for our Ministers,

Church Related Community Workers, Local Church Leaders, Church Secretaries, Elders and all those who lead local churches.

We pray for Junior Church and Youth group leaders.

God as you call all of us to “lead” people to a closer relationship with you, we pray for those around us - our “flock.”

People at work, school, in our families and in our community whom we meet and have conversations with.

God we pray that we are good shepherds, caring for the people we meet in the words we speak and the actions we take.

Lead us, God, in Your ways of just living: make plain Your paths before us. *(adapted from URC Daily Devotions worship study notes 30 April)*

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK May 14 -20

We plan to deliver envelopes in the streets near to Weoley Hill and to raise as much as possible from this and other activities.



There is a big focus on Malawi this year.



As well as using the envelopes for donations we also have the on-line giving using Give Star.

Below you will find the QR code and the web link. These will take you to the Weoley Hill Church page.



<https://giving.give-star.com/online/christian-aid/christian-aid-weoley-hill-church>

Pastorate News

Bournville news:

Sadly, **Mike Eaton**, husband of Ruth, has died and the funeral service will be on 19 May at 1 PM at Lodge Hill. We keep Ruth and Mike's children and their families in our thoughts and prayers.

We are planning our closing service to be held on 9 July when we hope many from Weoley Hill and Weoley Castle churches will join us. On this occasion of sadness but also joy (as we feel we have made the right decision) many treasured memories of our faith community will be shared, some of which we will certainly submit for print in the newsletter.

The repairs of the church building are nearly finished and we look forward to being shown around and see the building again in its "former glory!"

Weoley Castle News

Services: 11 AM on Sundays

May 7th: led by Chris Miles

May 14th: led by Leonora—with communion

May 21st: led by Ted

May 28th: led by Frank Challenor

Bequest in memory of John & Olive Rutherford

John Rutherford's daughter recently contacted Leonora, and the following is an extract from an e-mail to her:

'My name is Christine Falb and I am the daughter of Rev. John Rutherford, who was one of the founding members of Weoley

Castle Community Church in the late 1960's, and who lived with his second wife, Olive Rutherford, in the Manse next to the church while the building work was going on.

My father died some years ago, and Olive passed away last year and left a small amount of money in a Lloyds bank account in Penrith, where they lived in their retirement. I would like to bequeath this sum, of just over 3,000 pounds, to Weoley Castle Community Church in remembrance of the happy times they spent while members of the community and congregation there.'

We have received this sum with thanks to Christine Falb, and assurances to her that it will be put to good use in the Weoley Castle Community.

Easter Eggs & Easter Celebration



'Andy from Manchester', a Christian worker has noticed our community activities, and came with a big donation of Easter Eggs. The Day Centre members received some, and so did the children who came



to our Easter Celebration on Good Friday morning. This included dance in the Sanctuary led by Mena Jones.



Mega Movers Adult Dance and Fitness Club— a month's pause

Mena Jones recently required an urgent operation for a slipped disc. The operation went well, but she has been told not to engage in vigorous exercise for a month. She hopes to restart on Tuesday 23 May.

Weoley Hill News

Church lunch: there will be a buffet lunch after worship on Sunday 7 May, beginning around noon, marking the coronation and a special birthday. Offers of finger or fork food are still welcome, or contributions towards the purchase of food. Please see Lorraine or Cheryl. Everyone is welcome.

John Waters, husband of former member Cynthia Waters, died on 17 April. He was at home but had become more frail and extra care was being provided.



In memoriam John Ankcorn

John was born on 8 May 1931 in Birmingham and attended Saltley Grammar School. He qualified as a Chartered Surveyor and worked for Neale & Aldridge (later taken over by Lambert Smith Hampton), becoming a senior partner. In the early part of his career, he specialised in reviews of rateable value which required him to travel to Scotland. On retirement he specialised in the Landlord and Tennant Act and qualified as an Arbitrator for

rent reviews.

John married Lyn in 1962 and was very happily married for 60 years. They had a lot in common, both Chartered: John a surveyor and Lyn a Physiotherapist! They had 3 sons, Timothy, Christopher and Matthew. Neale & Aldridge asked John to do some charity work, the start of the Birmingham Crisis Centre. There then were no places in Birmingham for women and children suffering from domestic abuse. From a small house in Handsworth the service developed to occupy a purpose-built refuge which has accommodation for 23 mothers and around 50 children with a large nursery fit for all ages. John's interests were varied: he loved music and reading, and played the violin and viola in a number of amateur chamber and orchestral groups. This led to him becoming President of the City of Birmingham Choir. John was invited to join the Birmingham Book Club, founded in the 1790s, and went on to become President, their meetings and company giving him great pleasure.

John joined the Rotary Club of Birmingham and become their president. He was awarded the Paul Harris Fellow Recognition for his work with the Birmingham Crisis Centre. The Birmingham Crisis Centre nominated him for an MBE which he received from the Queen in 2010.

John was a passionate family man and was given support by Lyn and the boys, one of whom needs extra help. (Matthew gets enormous pleasure from his weekly time spent at Martineau Gardens.) He was always busy but somehow found time to sail, garden and do a lot of DIY, sometimes with disastrous results! John loved animals, especially dogs, and in his eyes the family Labrador, Cassie, was best dog in the world!

A message from Lyn:

The Ankcorn family want to 'Thank you all' for the enormous amount of work you put in to preparing and helping at John's Memorial Service.

We had NO idea how many to expect; but it was all your good work that all our needs were met! The Church looked lovely and welcoming – and all your acts of kindness very re-assuring.

I will be forever grateful that this lovely man, John my husband was given the farewell he SO deserved.

Kind regards and Blessings

Lyn



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Calendar for May 2023

Monday	1		Bank Holiday
Thursday	4	10.30 AM:	Manse Morning discussion, postponed from 27 April
Saturday	6		Coronation
Sunday	7	10.30 AM:	Communion Service led by the minister and induction of Elders. Lunch after worship
Monday	8		Coronation bank holiday
Wednesday	10	7.30 PM:	Elders' meeting
Sunday	14	10.30 AM:	Worship led by Alison Geary. Start of Christian Aid Week. Christian Aid Week
Sunday	21	10.30 AM:	Worship led by Alan Cotgreave..
Thursday	25	10.30 AM:	Manse Morning discussion
Sunday	28	10.30 AM:	Pentecost worship led by the minister.

Art Club 10-12 Wednesdays, £1, see Lorraine.

Community Choir 6.45 PM Fridays, all welcome.



Christians against Poverty

christians
against
poverty

CAP

On Sunday 23 April we had Bill Wilson and Kristal Kierstenson from Christians Against Poverty (CAP) to lead our worship. Bill led the service and Kristal gave her testimony of how she became involved with the charity.

CAP is an organisation which links with churches to help people with debt problems. It provides help and support to help the most vulnerable or needy in the local community. It also provides job clubs and life skills such as managing to budget on a low income.

There will be some leaflets at the back of church for you to find out more about the charity and maybe give to someone who needs help. The leaflets are: 'We believe in your church' and 'CAP's guide to coping with the cost-of-living crisis'.

There are people who volunteer to walk alongside people and if appropriate do spread the message of Jesus. This is how several people have come to be involved with the charity and there are stories of people becoming debt free in the literature.

I am not suggesting we become a partner church as that is a great commitment but hopefully we can support this charity in other ways. The cost-of-living crisis is a national problem and ways we can support this vital service is by prayer, capuk.org/pray, campaigning capuk.org/campaign-with-us, and donating capuk.org/donate.

I also have a book entitled 'Nevertheless' written by John Kirkby, the founder of CAP, if anyone would like to read it.

Ann

What's the difference?

What's the difference between a management consultant and a rhinoceros?

One is thick-skinned, short-sighted and charges a lot, and the other is an animal with horns.

What's the difference between bird flu and swine flu?

One requires tweetment and the other needs oinkment.

What's the difference between a well-dressed man on a bicycle and a poorly dressed man on a unicycle?

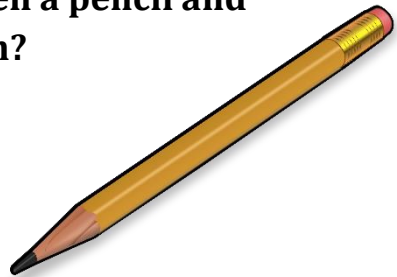
Attire.

What's the difference between a cat and a comma?

One has claws at the end of its paws, and the other is a pause at the end of a clause.

What's the difference between a pencil and someone you're arguing with?

The pencil has a point.



What's the difference between Dubai and Abu Dhabi?

The people in Dubai don't like the Flintstones but the people in Abu Dhabi doo.

What's the difference between democracy and feudalism?

With feudalism, it's your count that votes.

What is the difference between standing in the rain and standing in the shower?

The water bill.

What's the difference between unlawful and illegal?

One is breaking the law and the other is a sick bird.



The next issue will be available in early June. Contributions are requested! Send them to the minister, Leonora Jagessar, or Cheryl Thornett at Weoley Hill.

The July/August newsletter will be available in the middle of July, to include Bourneville's farewell service.

The Cadbury Pastorate

Bournville URC cannot use their building at present. Please contact the minister or church secretary for times and places for worship.

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 complete.

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