

Cadbury Pastorate News

Weoley Castle &
Weoley Hill Churches



November 2023

From the Minister's study—

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (1 Corinthians 1: 3-9)

I quote this greeting of Paul to the congregation in Corinth as I want to express one more time my gratitude for having had the privilege to be your minister for the past five years. I am very grateful because both Weoley Hill URC and Weoley Castle Community Church truly witness to “the grace of God that has been given to you in Christ Jesus.” In both congregations, and in you who make up the congregations, God is doing good things. Yes, the grace and love of God is at work in and among you.

As I will look back to my time among you, I will remember that you are both generous, faithful and gifted congregations. I hope you will trust and feel confident that “not lacking any spiritual gift” you have all you need to continue maintaining and building up your church life and outreach, wherever God will lead you in the future and however ministry will be organized in a new grouping in south Birmingham. I hope and pray that God will lead and strengthen you to the end; God will be faithful as God has called you into the fellowship of Jesus Christ.

Thank you very much for the good times I have spent in your midst and for the privilege to minister to and with you for the

past five years! And thank you for the wonderful buffet lunch after the Harvest service at Weoley Hill and the very generous and kind gifts that I will take with me in my retirement, and which will remind me of you. Michael and I very much appreciate all the good wishes we have received for our retirement together and we both send you all good wishes as you continue your journey of faith and faithfulness in Weoley Hill and Weoley Castle.

With love and blessings,

Leonora

PS Our new address is 108 St James Road, Sutton SM1 2TT, Surrey. You are very welcome to come and visit us! We are just a few minutes' walk from the West Sutton train station.



Prayer page

We pray for

Peace and justice for the people of Palestine and the people of Israel; for an end to the cycle of revenge.

Peace and security for the people of Ukraine, and for all the people in war-torn regions.

We give thanks for the peacemakers and for aid and rescue workers.

We pray for people who are squeezed between housing costs, energy costs and food costs until they can't manage.

We give thanks for foodbanks and other charities who try to make up for national failings.

People who have flood or wind damage from the storms.

We give thanks for workers who go out in storms to carry out rescues and repairs, and for people who care for their neighbours.

People, known to us and unknown, who are recovering from surgery or accidents, suffering illness, waiting for diagnoses and treatment, coping with the difficulties of disability or old age.

We give thanks for NHS workers at all levels, for carers and social workers, for family, friend and neighbours who step up to fill needs.

A long, happy and active retirement for Leonora and Michael and that they will visit us sometimes. We give thanks for their time with us.

Faith and strength as we move into vacancy, that we see a way forward, that a new minister is 'out there', and that whatever the new deployment, we can continue to serve and work for the glory of God.

We give thanks for our church officers, the elders, our visiting preachers, and the people who do so much more than their share among us.

Pastorate News

From the editor

Dear friends

We enter this vacancy with a lot of uncertainty and some big gaps to fill. The 'minister's letter' is not the biggest of these, but I'm sure we will all miss Leonora's letters. Ted and I have agreed that we will continue with regular newsletters for the foreseeable future, but we will need content to fill them! The Interim Moderator, when appointed, will probably not be a contributor, but I hope that we will have contributions from among ourselves.

I know there are some people from Weoley Hill I can ask, and I very much hope that one or more from Weoley Castle will also contribute a letter from time to time. Please suggest some names! It doesn't always have to be a pastoral letter; sometimes it's good to have updates on a situation or more detailed information on local or wider church activities or issues.

Cheryl

Weoley Hill News

OCTOBER QUIZ

This quiz, based on Nursery Rhymes, was in aid of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution. Although only 30 people attended, the lowest number so far, our total profit was £157.50. The raffle raised £68.50 so very many thanks to all those who donated items from bottles of pop, through all sorts of toiletries to mugs, photo-frames and a cake! A donation of £28 from Mr Turrel, from

whom we get the delicious fish and chips, was a very welcome and surprising gift, as was the extra cash given from those who donated extra for the food. Thanks must also go to John Fletcher for acting as scorer for the second time (he liked it so much he has volunteered for the next one!), and to Gini Tambyraja and Leonora for washing up glasses and cups. The winning team—Fred and Daniel DaCosta, Jo Taylor, Nick Harding and Liz Roberts—won Humpty Dumpty’s Kinder eggs, whilst the Booby prizes of candles, (but not candlesticks for Jack to jump over), were awarded to the losers. The next quiz will be in February 2024 when we will be raising money for Fair Trade, all welcome.

Lorraine

Harvest

It was wonderful to have friends from Bournville join us for our Harvest worship and a Pastorate harvest lunch. The church looked lovely, as always, thanks to Lorraine, Norma, Kath Upton, Sue, Linda, Cheryl, and everyone who brought their offerings in early. Special thanks go, as always, to our Guides (especially their leaders) for generous and beautifully presented boxes. The staples have gone to the B30 & South Birmingham Foodbank and the fresh food to the Salvation Army. The same group then set up tables in the JKH and got everything ready for Sunday’s lunch. Some of the flowers were later taken to members who are currently housebound and were unable to join us.

Another round of thanks goes to everyone who contributed to the meal, the cooks and those who helped to buy some of it. As usual, there was plenty left over! We were glad to welcome some of Weoley Castle to the lunch along with Michael, who was their preacher that day.

At the same time we celebrated a different kind of 'harvest', Leonora's 5 years of ministry with us. We said goodbye to the Jagessars with some plants for their new garden and a book of memories.

Time without a minister

Now we are without a minister there are many uncertainties.

As the number of ministers is low, as are the congregation sizes, more churches are being grouped together to share a minister. As yet, we do not know exactly which churches we will be grouped with, but one church that has been mentioned is Carr's Lane in the city centre. We and Weoley Castle will be consulted, I'm told, and after that an Interim Moderator will be appointed to help the group with the process of choosing a new minister.

In the meantime, we can support each other and if you have any questions or concerns contact your elder or me.

We carry on doing what we do best and that is worshipping God. We also try to spread the word and so please come to our 'Coffee and chat' sessions on Thursday mornings at 10.00 AM in the John Kydd Hall. Everyone is welcome and please bring a friend.

Ann Evans

November's retiring collection for is for the RAF Benevolent Fund.



Calendar for November 2023

Sunday	5	10.30 AM: Communion led by the Revd Alison Geary.
Monday	6	2.30 PM: F&B Budget meeting
Tuesday	7	10.30 AM: Tuesday Fellowship
Wednesday	8	7.30 PM: Elders' meeting
Sunday	12	10.30 AM: Remembrance worship led by Worship & Arts.
Sunday	19	10.30 AM: Worship led by Andy Vail. noon: Church Budget meeting
Tuesday	21	10.30 AM: Tuesday Fellowship
Sunday	26	10.30 AM: Worship led by Alan.

Wednesdays at 10: Art club

Thursdays at 10.00: Coffee & Chat

Fridays at 6.45: Community Choir

Weoley Hill, Harvest Sunday







After the final worship at Weoley Castle









Weoley Castle News

Services: 11 AM on Sundays

Nov 5th: **Castle Elim Church** are coming to WCCC for a service in their style, led by Rachel Jewson— with **Communion**.

Nov 12th: **Remembrance** Sunday led by Alison Geary

Nov 19th: led by Chris Miles, with **Communion**

Nov 26th: led by Ted

Dec 3rd: **Castle Elim Church** are coming to WCCC for a service in their style, led by Rachel Jewson— with **Communion**.

Encounter Church across the Square and the California Christian Centre are joining and now call themselves “Castle Elim”. They mainly have separate services at the two sites, but came together for the service at WCCC, and since we were also taking part on Oct 1st, there were three separate congregations present on that day. There is a picture of this



The Weoley Castle team nearly came first at the quiz night at Weoley Hill on the evening of Saturday Oct 7th.

Leonora led the funeral service for Diane Twamley's mother on 25th October.

Several local Churches are once again teaming up for "Warm Spaces" this winter—see the poster. We are continuing with what we have been doing through the Summer.



*The next issue will be available around 1 December.
Contributions are requested! Send them to Ted Forgan at Weoley Castle or Cheryl Thornett at Weoley Hill. And please include any notices for January, as we do not plan to have a January newsletter.*



Love Weoley Castle Presents

WARM SPACES

Tuesday St. Gabriels 4-5pm with Foodcycle

Free 3 course community meal B29 5LS

Wednesday Stonehouse Gang 9:30am-12:30pm

Free hot drinks and snacks B29 5SN

Thursday Castle Elim Church

(formerly Encounter Church) 10:30am-2pm

Free hot drinks and lunch, kids corner, games, arts and craft B29 5QD

Friday Weoley Castle Community Church 10am-3pm

*Incredible Surplus food pantry, school uniform and clothing exchange,
Free lunch 1:30pm, WIFI, free hot drinks, kids corner B29 5LE*

Friday St. Gabriels 3:30pm-5pm

Come and Play for families, games, snacks and fun B29 5LS



For more information contact:

St. Gabriels - Paul

paultucker73@hotmail.co.uk 07913 785505

Castle Elim - Rachel

rjewson@castleelim.church 07548 731257

Weoley Castle CC - Christine

bill_hopkins@btinternet.com 0121 476 1227

Pastoral Search Report

(this jokey item was found by Leonora)

We have been searching for a replacement minister. However, we have not yet been able to find a suitable candidate for this Church, though there is still one promising prospect. We do appreciate all the suggestions from the Church members, and we have followed up each one with interviews or consulting at least three references. The following is our confidential report on the present candidates.

- o **Adam:** Good man but problems with his wife. Maybe a bit hippy-ish: one reference told how his wife and he enjoyed walking nude in the garden.
- o **Noah:** His former pastorate was 120 years with no converts. Prone to unrealistic building projects.
- o **Abraham:** Though the references reported wife-swapping, the facts seem to show he never slept with another man's wife, but did offer to share his own wife with another man.
- o **Joseph:** A big thinker, but a braggart, believes in dream interpretation, and has a prison record.
- o **Moses:** Modest and a poor communicator, even stuttering at times. However, sometimes blows his top and acts rashly. Some say he left an earlier church over a murder charge.
- o **David:** The most promising leader of all until we discovered the affair he had with his neighbour's wife.

- o **Solomon:** Great preacher but our Manse would never hold all those wives.
- o **Elijah:** Prone to depression: collapses under pressure.
- o **Elisha:** Reported to have lived with a single widow while at his former church.
- o **Hosea:** A tender and loving pastor but our people could never handle his wife's occupation.
- o **Deborah:** Female.
- o **Jeremiah:** Emotionally unstable, alarmist, negative, always lamenting things, and reported to have taken a long trip to bury his underwear on the bank of foreign river.
- o **Isaiah:** A bit far out? Claims to have seen angels in church. Has trouble with his language.
- o **Jonah:** Refused God's call into ministry until he was forced to obey by circumstances beyond his control. He told us a fish spat him out on the shore near here. This is a worry.
- o **Amos:** Too backward and unpolished. With some further ministry training, he might have promise, but he has a hang-up against wealthy people. Might fit in better in a poor congregation?
- o **John:** Says he is a Baptist, but definitely does not dress like one. Has slept in the outdoors for months on end, has a weird diet, and provokes denominational leaders.

- o **Peter:** Too blue collar. Has a bad temper-even has been known to curse. Had a big run-in with Paul in Antioch. Bit of a loose cannon: opens his mouth and puts his foot in it.
- o **Paul:** Powerful CEO type leader and fascinating preacher. However, short on tact, unforgiving with younger ministers and women preachers, and has been known to preach all night.
- o **Timothy:** Too young.
- o **Jesus:** Has been popular at times, but once when his church grew to 5000 he managed to offend them all and this church dwindled down to twelve people. He seldom stays in one place very long, and a disadvantage is that he is single.
- o **Judas:** A steady plodder. Conservative. Good connections. Knows how to handle money. We are inviting him to preach this Sunday. Possibilities here.



The Cadbury Pastorate

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 in complete form.

Bournville URC has closed.

THE PASTORATE IS CURRENTLY IN VACANCY

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Secretary: Ann Evans 628 4558

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