

Cadbury Pastorate News

Weoley Castle &
Weoley Hill Churches



October 2023

From the Minister's study—

Dear Friends,

Moving... we all have done it sometime in our lives, and some of us more often than others. Without counting temporary moves to university, I have so far moved twelve times in my life! And soon I will move again. After five years living very comfortably in the nice Weoley Hill Manse as minister of the Cadbury Pastorate my move to a URC retirement house is planned for a not-yet-set date towards the end of October. Yes, I am quite looking forward to retiring, following Michael who has retired already since the beginning of the year. But I am a little apprehensive too, of course, as it marks the end of more than three decades ministry in the church in the UK, the Caribbean and the Netherlands.

Anyway, we will be on the move again and with any move there are also the usual mixed feelings. We may look forward to the move when we are ready for a change (eg retirement), or when we feel called to new or greener “pastures” or want to live closer to family and friends. Or we may be rather reluctant to move and only circumstances, with or beyond our control, compel us to move (eg when we need to downsize or need to move to a care home). Whatever the reason for our move, especially further away, we always leave something or someone behind. Whether it be people or memories that are important and precious to us as well as familiar places where we shop, where services are delivered to us, where we socialize and where we worship! We leave behind the place which for a time we have called “home.”

For Michael and me, Birmingham has been “home” not only the past 5 years but also the 11 years we lived here until 2010.

Returning to Birmingham in 2018 was like “a dream come true”

as the years in-between we often felt nostalgic and hoped to return one day to the city, a city that had been “good to us.” While in the 8 years there had been quite a few new developments and changes, Michael and I still pretty well knew our way around the city and we cherished the good memories of our boys growing up and going to school there, of the churches we served and the ministries we engaged in, of the good people we got to know and befriended and of the familiar places we visited and enjoyed. It all continued to be so very familiar, so returning to Birmingham felt like coming “home” again.

But moving, it is exciting, but it is also stressful (especially when you are downsizing!). It is something to look forward to and something to dread. The Bible is packed full of stories of people moving from one place to another. It starts with Adam and Eve, moving out of paradise with their new address being “east of Eden.” Abraham and Sarah leave Ur and move to Canaan where their new garden has some beautiful oak trees. The people of Israel move from Egypt to the promised land, a land flowing with milk and honey. Ruth moves with her mother-in-law and David, the shepherd boy, moves into a palace. And there is Jesus, moving around, having no place to lay his head, and Paul moves all around the Mediterranean and in and out of prison. In these, and many other stories, are the people excited to move? Adam and Eve surely not, but the others? There is grumbling, there are tears, but usually the move is necessary and considered part of God’s plan. And often the move has a happy ending, with peace, prosperity and newfound love (eg Ruth) and a long and faithful life as the outcome.

Of course, in our present context we think of the many people around the world who are one the move, seeking refuge as they

flee war, violence, poverty and environmental disaster. These are men, women and children on the move in the most difficult and distressing circumstances, and who are not certain where their journey will end and what place they will eventually be able to call “home.” Just as we always hope for a warm welcome when we move to a new, unfamiliar place, so we should always be prepared to help “the stranger” feel at home in our midst.

Whether we move by choice, by answering a calling or by necessity, I do believe that God is journeying with us and gives us strength and courage, often mediated by caring and supportive people who help in the transition or at the destination. Michael and I have certainly felt your warm welcome when we arrived in Birmingham in 2018 and we were very grateful for all the help we received as we settled in the churches and the lovely manse.

While ministry in the three churches of the Cadbury Pastorate has not been without challenges for all of us (eg the Covid pandemic, break-ins at Weoley Hill and Bournville churches, decline in church membership and participation in events and activities, etc) it has been a real joy and privilege too and I will take many good memories with me. Memories of worship, enhanced by good music and singing. Memories of social events (quizzes, lunches & teas, church anniversaries and celebrations in all three churches etc) that were so well organized and very enjoyable. Memories of the Day Centre at Weoley Castle that is a wonderful outreach and brings together such a lovely group of elderly people. Memories of the few Away Days/Retreats we managed to organize as well as the meetings at the Manse. Memories of faithful church members and friends whose lives we gave thanks for as well as memories of faith stories that we shared in church services. Memories of how we continued to

keep in touch and worshipped online during Covid lockdown, as well as the joy when we could meet again. And many, many more memories....

And, of course, I will never forget your friendliness, your good spirits and your faithful commitment to the church, its ministry and outreach. I pray that God may continue to bless you in all your good words and works and I trust that you will continue to faithfully walk the way of Jesus in your lives and as members and friends of Weoley Hill URC and Weoley Castle Community Church.

My last service will be the joint pastorate service at Weoley Castle Church on the 29th of October. But given that Michael and I may be in the midst of moving it seemed better to have the official farewell on the 16th of September, at the Harvest lunch at Weoley Hill. I hope many of you can join the lunch which follows a Harvest Service of Thanksgiving at both Weoley Hill (led by me) and Weoley Castle (led by Michael).

I do not say farewell yet, that will be done on the 16th and the 29th, but for now I just send you all best wishes,

Leonora



Prayer page

We give thanks for:

Leonora's ministry, here and elsewhere

The fellowship and friendships we have developed in the
Pastorate

Your beautiful and bountiful world in this season of change
and fruitfulness

Friends, family, community

We pray for:

Strength, faithfulness and wisdom for the future

Stronger ties through our growing shared history

Understanding and courage to be better stewards of creation

Greater love for others as God loves us, shown in practical
ways

Members of our fellowship, families, friends, wider
community and the world at large who are in need of
physical, mental or spiritual healing, comfort, courage....

Your children throughout the world who are oppressed by
war, poverty, injustice, climate change....



Pastorate News

Weoley Castle News

Services: 11 AM on Sundays

Oct 1st: Encounter Church are coming across the Square to WCCC for a service in their style, led by Rachel Jewson—with Communion.

Oct 8th: led by Leonora—with Communion

Oct 15th: led by Michael Jagessar – Harvest Celebration

Oct 22nd: led by Barbara Calvert

Oct 29th: Joint service - led by Leonora—her final service with us

News

There will be a **Harvest Lunch at Weoley Hill** after the service on October 15th.

Harvest time is when we think of other people's harvests. 'Commitment for Life' envelopes, to contribute to the URC's fund for development will be available during October. Please return to Chris Hopkins or Ted, or put them into the Church letter box.

We are intending to take a Weoley Castle team to the **quiz night at Weoley Hill** on the evening of Saturday Oct 7th.

Welcome to Evan & Cambry Yoder and a large friendly dog who are now occupying the Weoley Castle Manse.

Paul Tucker is stepping back from running Incredible Surplus food supplies every Friday. We are keen to continue this facility – along with Debbie Flynn's clothing exchange, and Chris Hopkins' free lunch. These things are all very much appreciated by the community, and provide a Warm Welcome where people can

enjoy the company, exchange information and sometimes engage in discussions about God. Most Fridays, Ted Forgan and Chris Miles will collect the food from Incredible Surplus over at Winson Green; Madge Finch & Beverley Smith are most important volunteers, but more volunteers, maybe just to chat, would be most welcome.

Weoley Hill News

It's all go this month—

The Tuesday Fellowship is discussing *Prayer and listening* from the *Life builder* series of study books. We meet at 10.30 am on 1st and 3rd Tuesdays each month. This will be at Cheryl's house on 3 October and at Sue's on the 17th. Everyone is welcome.

A MacMillan Coffee Morning will be hosted by the knitting group that meets on Fridays—please join them on 6 October, 11 AM-1 PM, for some excellent cake and to donate to MacMillan.

The October Retiring Collection is for the Acorns Hospice.

October Quiz

This is booked for Saturday 7 October (6 for 6.30 PM) when once again we hope to have a fish-and-chip supper to accompany the quiz. Prices are £8 per person in teams of six, and funds raised will be for The Royal National Lifeboat Institution, which is instrumental in saving lives of the fishermen, and others, “who go down to the sea in ships”—and surfboards etc! Bread and butter, pickles (I promise to remember the onions this time) and hot drinks are also available and there will be the usual raffle for which donations are always gratefully received (20p per ticket). Please let me know numbers as soon as possible so we can get a rough idea of quantities to order. Thanks.

Harvest

We will decorate the church for Harvest and set up tables for lunch on Saturday 14 October, starting around 2 PM. Flowers, foliage and fruits of the season are very welcome, and you can bring your harvest gifts then if you wish. As usual, staple items will go to the Foodbank and fresh food to the Salvation Army kitchen.



Harvest and farewell lunch

Harvest Sunday is 15 October this year. This will be the last service Leonora leads at Weoley Hill before her retirement.

We will say farewell to Leonora and Michael at the Harvest Lunch after worship, so we have invited all Pastorate members, including the former members of Bournville to join us in a bring and share meal. Please sign up for a contribution to the meal—fork or finger food, please—and remember that contributions of items like bread and fruit, or something towards the cost of the meal are also welcome.

The last Pastorate worship Leonora will lead is at Weoley Castle at 11 AM on Sunday 29 October. Please let your Elder know if you need a lift there, and Elders, please remember to check with everyone on your list.

Weoley Hill Calendar for October 2023

Sunday	1	10.30 AM: Communion Service led by the minister.
Tuesday	3	10.30 AM: Tuesday Fellowship
Thursday	5	The first Coffee & Chat has been postponed
Friday	6	11 AM: Macmillan Coffee Morning hosted by the knitting group. All welcome.
Saturday	7	6 FOR 6.30 PM: Quiz night with fish & chips, £8 per head.
Sunday	8	10.30 AM: Worship led by Revd Dr Michael Jagessar.
Thursday	12	10-11.30 AM: Coffee & Chat 7.30 PM: Elders' meeting. <i>Note change of date.</i>
Friday	13	5 PM: West Midlands Synod, ends 5 pm Saturday
Saturday	14	2 PM Decorate church for harvest
Sunday	15	10.30 AM: Harvest worship led by the minister Harvest lunch & farewell to Leonora.
Tuesday	17	10.30 AM: Tuesday Fellowship
Thursday	19	10-11.30 AM: Coffee & Chat
Sunday	22	10.30 AM: Worship led by Ian Carnell.
Thursday	26	10-11.30 AM: Coffee & Chat
Sunday	29	10.30 AM: Pastorate worship at Weoley Castle led by the minister, Leonora's final pastorate service.

Wednesdays 10 AM: **Art Club**

Thursdays 10 am: **Coffee & Chat**

Fridays 6.45 PM: **Community Choir**

The next issue will be available around 1 November. Contributions are requested! Send them to the minister, Leonora Jagessar, or Cheryl Thornett at Weoley Hill.

Jokes of a feather flock together

1. When is the best time to buy a budgerigar?
2. What shape is a dead parrot?
3. What kind of birds are locked up?
4. Why didn't the pelican like the up-market restaurant?
5. What bird steals soap from the bath?
6. Which bird is always out of breath?
7. How many birds does it take to change a light bulb?
8. Why do scientists think hummingbirds hum?
9. Why did the chicken cross the road, roll in mud, then cross the road again?
10. What do you call a man with a seagull standing on his head?



1. When it's going cheep!
2. A polygon
3. Jail-birds!
4. Because he had a very large bill
5. The robber ducky.
6. A puffin
7. Toucan do it.
8. Because they don't know the words!
9. He was a dirty double crosser!
10. Cliff!

The Cadbury Pastorate

Weoley Castle Community Church, Quarry Rd: Worship
Sundays at 11 AM.

Weoley Hill URC, Greenmeadow Rd:

Worship Sundays at 10.30 AM.

*Sunday worship can be still found on the Weoley Hill
website in outline or complete.*

Bournville URC has closed.

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