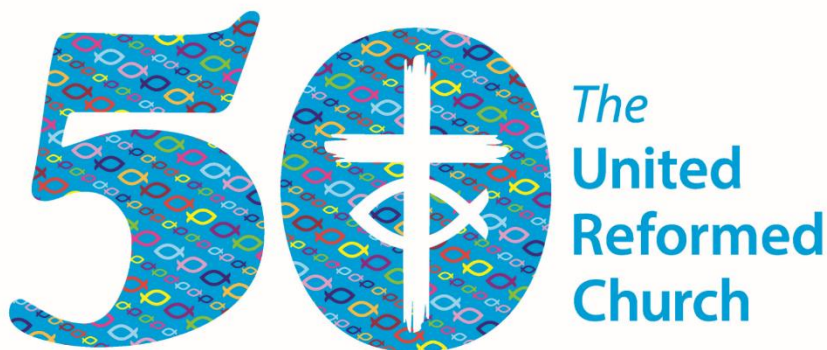


Cadbury Pastorate News

Bournville, Weoley Castle &
Weoley Hill Churches



Faith – Hope – Love – Since 1972

October 2022

From the Minister's study—

Dear Friends,

'The sun shone on London for 5 October 1972. Three thousand people, Congregationalists and Presbyterians, gathered to become the United Reformed Church, celebrating the fruition of nine years' work and full of hope for the future. Leading churchmen danced in the aisle. They did not rejoice for the creation of a new Church, they hailed the dawn of a new age of the reunion of Churches.' (*Stephen Tomkins, "That they all may be one. The story of the United Reformed Church" which can be ordered at the URC bookshop*)

The United Reformed Church is celebrating its 50th Anniversary this year – a Jubilee year! Unfortunately, because of the rail strike on the 1st of October the Jubilee events planned on that day, at Church House and the Methodist Central Hall Westminster have had to be postponed. But, no doubt, another suitable date will be found to celebrate and give thanks to God that after 50 years, we are still here and we hope to be there for many (or at least another 50?) years to come. In our Jubilee year, but also in the years to come, we reflect on our story, who we are and what we stand for. How can we pursue our ecumenical vision as we continue to be the active, engaged and faithful presence in our communities? And how can we, in the spirit of the biblical mandate of Jubilee (see Leviticus 25) and as we follow Jesus, who came to "bring good news to the poor" and "proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free the oppressed" (Luke 4: 18) create and support the conditions for all life to flourish, of peoples, of the land and all its creatures?

Many of you may have in your possession or had in sight the 2022 URC prayerbook which has as its theme "Jubilee." As

always, as the URC has some very talented writers, there are beautiful prayers and meditations that give voice to the biblical theme of Jubilee in its many and varied interpretations for today. I have chosen to print one, with permission from my URC colleague and friend who years ago did her ministerial placement with me and is now minister in Plymouth. The prayer is also suitable for our Harvest celebrations this month when we celebrate the beauty and richness of creation from which we reap the abundance of the harvest.....and which we need to preserve and care for! [*See the Prayer Page*]

While the Jubilee events in London have been postponed, we will celebrate the URC 50th anniversary in our service on the 2nd of October at Weoley Hill URC in the morning and Bournville URC in the afternoon. The service at Weoley Hill will be followed by a tree planting on the church grounds. We did not think we would manage to plant 50 trees, as local URC churches were challenged to do to mark the 50th anniversary, but we can make a start with two!

With all best wishes,

Leonora



Prayer page

Jubilee

Jubilee; time of emancipation and restoration
O God, may it really be so
for all your creation and all your peoples;
truly, lasting, fully....

not just for the few – us, perhaps – imprisoned by
a hold on power, wealth or religious certainty
of “God with us”

but for the many who feel powerless and forgotten;
whose poverty shames us;
who do not experience your love when meeting us.

O God, may your Jubilee be really so,
for all your creation everywhere;

not just in our own backyard,
but in the rainforest of Amazon;
on the islands of Tuvalu
and the mountains of Himalaya.

For none will be truly emancipated, nothing truly restored
until the whole of creation can breathe
in the fullness of life which you intended
when you created your beautiful world.

Henriette Wentink in URC Prayer Handbook 2022 p.154



From the Moderator

September 8, 2022

Dear friends,

I write having just returned from the monthly Moderators' Meeting, and to the very sad news this evening of the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

The Late Queen gave us the highest example of dignity, humility, and Christian service. Our country, the Commonwealth and the world are poorer because of her death. Please join me in prayer for the Royal Family, and especially for our new king, Charles III, that they may know comfort and peace, and that they may be sustained by the knowledge of the Late Queen's deep faith in our God.

A tribute from the United Reformed Church, including prayers and worship resources have been published at <https://urc.org.uk/urc-shares-nations-grief-on-the-death-of-queen/>

I had been intending to write to all churches this evening following a long conversation between the Synod Moderators and the General Secretary this morning. As we were talking, the new Prime Minister was making her announcement on the energy bill price "cap" (which, of course, is not actually a cap, but defining what a "typical" household should expect to pay.) We are yet to truly understand the implications of the announcement for our churches and Ministers. What we do know is that although the peaks of what we were expecting have been lowered, but at the cost of having high bills perhaps for a decade ahead.

At a meeting of the Synod's Resource & Compliance Committee earlier this week, we agreed to recommend to the Synod Trust Board that a major new fund be established to enable energy efficiency grants to be made to churches. The Trust will consider that recommendation in a couple of weeks, and we shall write again with details of what is covered and how to access the fund, once that discussion has taken place. I am very grateful to our Synod Treasurer Steve Powell and Finance Officer Mervyn Davies for the work they have put into this proposal.

Assuming the RCC recommendation is accepted, this will be in addition to a fund being established by the denomination, again the details of which are to be finalised in the coming days, and which aims to make grants to churches, reflecting the very significant increase in costs especially through energy bills. It is our intention that no church which is otherwise viable should be forced into closure because of unpayable energy bills.

I would remind all churches that under the Plan for Partnership in Ministerial Remuneration, payments of contributions to the Ministry & Mission Fund, "is the first charge on the local church's income."

I, and my colleagues, are also deeply aware that many Ministers are facing significant personal challenge with energy bills. Please contact me sooner rather than later if you are facing difficulties about this.

With my prayers for you all,

Steve Faber

Synod Moderator

Pastorate News

Discussion/conversation meeting at the Manse

I am pleased that I have been asked whether we can resume the monthly meeting at the Manse when we will look again at news items and articles that are of particular interest and may engage us in interesting and animated conversations. Yes we can and I certainly have missed the opportunity to have a group discussion about news, comments and articles, whether they are in religious or “secular” papers and magazines, that seem very relevant to share our thoughts about from a considered and faithful perspective. We used to meet on the last Wednesday of the month and I would like to suggest we do so again (at least initially) which would mean the first meeting would be on the 26th of October at 10.30 AM. Do come, if you can, or let me know if another day/time would be more suitable for you as we go forward.

Leonora



Bournville

Preaching schedule:

2 Oct (3PM) Leonora (Communion)

9 Oct tbc

16 Oct Stuart

23 Oct Leonora

30 Oct Joint Service at Weoley Castle

Weoley Castle

Services

Oct 2 at 10.30: Joining the service at Weoley Hill – celebrating 50 years of the URC.

Oct 9 at 11.00 at Weoley Castle – led by Leonora, including communion.

Oct 16 at 11.00 at Weoley Castle – Harvest Festival – led by Ted Forgan: please bring non-perishable harvest gifts to donate to St Basil's; Harvest is also the time when we help others to enjoy better harvests, by contributing to the URC 'Commitment for Life' fund.

Oct 23 at 11.00 at Weoley Castle – led by Joe Bevan

Oct 30 at 11.00 at Weoley Castle – led by Leonora: joint Pastorate service, followed by a 'bring & share' lunch.

Day Centres, Lunch Clubs, Parent & Toddler, Knit & Natter, Incredible Surplus and Uniform & Clothes Exchange all continue as usual, as listed in earlier Newsletters

Additional activities

Tuesday 25th October – Children's Activity Day in half term week, with the theme of 'Autumn'. 10 am to 2 pm, with free lunch. Volunteers to help with craft activities welcome.

Fridays 10 AM – 3 PM from November 4th until the end of February: this is WCCC's contribution to 'Weoley Castle Warm Spaces'. The aim—co-ordinated by 'Love Weoley Castle'—is to provide somewhere warm to host people every weekday, with a light lunch provided free. There will be a small kiddies space and also activities, books to read and the opportunity to use the Church WiFi. Could you be a volunteer to help, or to chat to people coming and/or give a donation? Of course, there will also be warmth and a warm welcome at our Sunday services!

Weoley Hill

Tree planting

On Saturday 1 October, a number of events are taking place to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the URC. They include a Service of Thanksgiving and Celebration at Methodist Central Hall Westminster, Open Church House events and a Walk to Westminster.

As our celebration of this event we will be planting 2 bee-loving trees (a goat willow and a hazel) on the Green Meadow side of church on Sunday 2 October after worship.

On the practical side the young trees will need to be watered regularly. Please see Norma if you can help so she can organise a rota.

4 trees have been ordered and delivered so if anyone wishes to plant a dog rose or a crab apple tree in their garden or elsewhere please see Ann.

Ann Evans

For those who remember Jack and Phyllis Thompson:

Their daughter Jenny is running in the London Marathon on October 2nd. This is to raise money for the Thompson fund supporting the education of girls in Malawi. (Mamie Martin fund) If you would like to support this cause, here is the just giving page:

<http://www.justgiving.com/Jenny-Chambers1>

Thanks
Emlyn

Memorial service for Hilda Mngaza on Saturday 22 at 2.00 PM. Hilda worshipped with us for many years before moving back to South Africa 8 years ago. She died 2 years ago and the family wish to hold this service for UK family members, but all are welcome.

Heritage Day 2022

We held our Heritage Day as part of the Bournville area on Saturday 10 September from 10.00 am – 4.00 pm. We were the only church on the west side of the Bristol Road that participated.

Our grateful thanks go to Lorraine and Sue and others for their tireless work in preparing for the day.

We had a display of our banners which Lorraine put up and also, we had a display of Gethsemane costumes for the Westhill trust which were displayed on heavy wooden frames. Sue put up a display of photos of the past and recent past with captions. Several people who came had been members of our uniformed organisations in the past enjoyed looking at these and so memories were shared.

One positive outcome is that we had a visit for Robert Lea-Trengrouse, the Neighbourhood Action Co-ordinator for the Bartley Green and Selly Oak districts. He had a discussion with Sue Beeby about the possible provision of ‘warm spaces’ in the area during the coming winter. Help with both finances and people may be available. We need to partner with other local organisations for this and Leonora agreed to discuss it with St. David’s church.

It was disappointing that the total number of visitors was only about 50 but there were about 40 who sat outside and listened to the clarinet choir give a concert. Sam and Gordon demonstrated how the organ and a piano worked to some children who came. We served tea and cakes, and we raised over £100 for the B30 and South Birmingham food bank. Some people felt it was a lot of effort for a small return and so whether we offer ourselves to be part of the Heritage Day next year has to be decided.

Let us pray for ideas for next year to keep us part of the community events.

Ann Evans

Quiz Night Fish & Chips

Despite rising prices everywhere, fish & chips for Quiz Night on the 15th will still be a bargain £7, including a Christian Aid donation.

Weoley Hill Calendar for October 2022		
Saturday	1	AFTERNOON: Gardening group
Sunday	2	10.30 AM: Communion Service led by the minister. Joint with Weoley Castle for URC 50th Anniversary . Tree planting after worship
Tuesday	4	12 NOON: Ivor Elvins funeral at St Columba's URC Moseley
Sunday	9	10.30 AM: Worship led by Alan Cotgreave.
Monday	10	2.30 PM F&B
Wednesday	12	7.30 PM: Elders' meeting
Saturday	15	2 PM: Decorate church for harvest 6.30 PM Quiz and fish & chip supper.
Sunday	16	10.30 AM: Harvest worship led by the minister. No lunch.
Saturday	22	2.00 PM: Memorial service for Hilda Mngaza. All welcome.
Sunday	23	10.30 AM: Worship led by Ann Evans.
Wednesday	26	10.30 AM: Manse Morning discussion
Saturday	29	2.30 PM: Walking group. Meet at church.
Sunday	30	10.30 AM: Pastorate worship at Weoley Castle . Bring & share lunch to follow.

The Art Club meets every Wednesday, 10 AM-12. £1

The Community Choir meets every Friday at 6.45 PM.

October's retiring collection is for Jubilee Debt.



URC General Assembly 2022

For some reason I had never thought of going to General Assembly until this year. I had the opportunity to apply for a place to represent the West Midlands Synod. These are some notes on the experience.

Before going

There was a concern from both the centre and synod to make sure that new delegates were briefed about what to expect. This was fulfilled with a series of Zoom briefings. There was an excellent one with Steve Faber for the West Midlands delegates and important ones on the major decision to be made about pensions for ministers and others.

I decided to go by car rather than attempting to go by train. That worked out well as I was able to give another delegate from Walsall a lift.

I booked all the meals which turned out to be the correct thing to do. There is a choice of meals and arrangements for those with particular needs.

Arriving

This was less formal than I expected. We could check in and get our room passes and voting cards. It was possible then to move the car near to the block where we were staying to unload luggage.

The Hayes, Swanwick

The conference centre is located north of Derby just off the main A38. It is based around a substantial mansion which has the dining room attached. The assembly sessions were in another building with a large hall up the hill from the mansion. Most of the residences were in another building down the hill. This meant that on most days I left my room for breakfast and did not return there until late evening. On many days I did 4000 to 5000 steps getting around. Almost all the sessions were in the main hall. There were some breakout sessions in

smaller rooms. The bedrooms provided tea and coffee making which I did not use except first thing in the morning.

Worship

The conference started with a communion service and there were morning prayers and other worship, including a service on Sunday morning. There were some very thought provoking bible studies and some of the hymns were the winners from a competition for new hymns.

Friendships and contacts

This is a big feature for me. I have made a lot of new friends and renewed old friendships. I also have a much better understanding of how the URC works at a national level.

Would I go again?

Definitely yes. Not only did I enjoy the experience, I was able to be a part of the functioning of the URC and made a lot of contacts. I think it will be worthwhile for me to go again next year as the continuity will be useful. I also want to encourage other URC members to go too.

John Fletcher



NHS still in crisis!



Doctor, doctor, I keep getting smaller every day!

I'm sorry but we don't have an appointment till next week.

But I'll have shrunk even more by then!

You'll just have to be a little patient...

A man goes to see the doctor about serious burns on both of his ears

The doctor asks him: "What happened to your ears?"

"Well, yesterday I was ironing a shirt when the phone rang and I accidentally answered the iron."

"Well that explains one ear," the doctor replied, "but what about the other one?"

"I had to ring for an appointment!"

Why did the practice nurse take a red pen to work?

To help her to draw blood!

A man arrives at the doctor's surgery for an appointment.

The doctor remarks: "We haven't seen you here recently."

"Well", replies the man: "I've been ill"

"Doctor, doctor, will I be able to play the violin after the operation?"

"Yes, of course."

"Great! I never could before!"

Receptionist: "Doctor, there's a patient on the phone who says he's invisible."

Doctor: "Well, tell him I can't see him right now."

How did the hospital cure the invisible man?

They took him to the ICU.

A skeleton went to the doctor.

*The doctor looked at the skeleton and said,
"Aren't you a little late?"*



"Doctor, doctor, What can I do? Everyone thinks I'm a liar?"

"I find that very hard to believe!"

"Doctor, doctor, they've left me out of the cricket team - they call me butterfingers."

"Don't worry, what you have is not catching."



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

The Cadbury Pastorate

Bournville URC, Beaumont Rd: Worship at 3 PM on 1st Sundays and 10.30 AM on other Sundays.

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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Secretary: Ann Evans 628 4558

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