



Weoley Hill Church News

June 2017

From the Manse

Dear Friends,

When we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the world pauses to celebrate Christmas with us. When we celebrate His resurrection, fewer people understand the reason for the celebration but they do enjoy Easter eggs! When it comes to Pentecost, however, few outside the church know what it means or has heard of it. Yet, it is really important because it recalls the coming of the Holy Spirit to the disciples.

In Acts we read about the risen Jesus meeting with the apostles on the Mount of Olives and telling them that they are to be His witnesses to all the world. He also tells them to wait in Jerusalem until they receive power from on high. Then He ascends out of their sight.

They go to Jerusalem to wait and pray, and Luke tells us what happens next:

“When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. “Now there were staying in Jerusalem God fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard them speaking in his own language”.

In the midst of all this excitement, Peter spoke up and got the crowd’s attention:

“Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. These men are not drunk, as you suppose. It’s only nine in the morning! No, this is what was spoken of by the prophet Joel...”

And so he began to preach about Jesus. Some of the audience thought the Apostles were drunk, because of their excitement and joy.

Three prospectors found a rich vein of gold during the California Gold Rush. Sensing the amazing potential they agreed to keep it secret. They headed off to file their claim and buy the equipment necessary to mine the gold. They didn't say a word to anyone. They filed their claim, bought the equipment, and headed back to their mine. However, a crowd of people followed them because the expression on their faces had given them away. People could tell that they had found something very special.

The coming of Holy Spirit on the Apostles at Pentecost was a once in history event. If only we could rediscover that joy of being part of God's church and that others would see the joy on our faces.

In the years since that first Pentecost the church which became to be known as "The Way" (which rather implies a group of people on the move) has slowed down and 'solidified'. I think the word 'institution' implies permanence, inflexibility and resistance to change. If that's the case, we might imagine Simon Peter calling a meeting of the apostle saying "We're here to talk about whether or not to start a Church." There's a discussion, James puts forward a resolution to start a church, John seconds it, and all vote in favour.

It didn't happen that way! "Suddenly, a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven." This was God's doing and God calls us to be part of it.

At Pentecost the early Christians discovered an incredible joy in being called to be part of being Jesus' Church. On the Day of Pentecost there are three thousand new Christians, no doubt people are caught up in the joy as the apostles suddenly share something that had never been shared before. Suddenly a whole different atmosphere prevailed

No wonder their number quickly grew to five thousand as more and

more people were attracted to join. It was different from anything else.

Pentecost reminds us that the world changed after Pentecost because of the birth of the Church which came with an explosion of joy. And it ought to be the same today.

Every blessing and happy Pentecost!

David

This was written before the bombing at Manchester Arena on May 22nd. I decided not to try and write at length on that atrocity simply because there are no words that are adequate to describe the anguish and pain in what has happened. But there is faith and love great enough to transform in the God who reached out to us in Jesus, in the giving of his very self by Jesus on the cross and in the wonder of his resurrection. In that love we may have hope of new beginnings and peace. If we want to see some good in the world, love and hope in action, look at the stories coming from Manchester. Please hold the City of Manchester, the families of the victims, their friends and neighbours and those who were injured and their families in your prayers.



Personalia

We remember those of our members and friends who are undergoing difficult treatment or investigations, especially Kath and David Upton, Maureen Davenport, Colin Graham and Edna Bayliss. We think of friends who attend lunch club, Primrose Garrow and Joan and Richard Ensor.



Ann Evans says:

I wish to thank everyone who sent me wishes and prayers for a speedy recovery following my recent surgery. The support of friends from Weoley Hill Church is valuable at such times. I am progressing well but at the moment find I cannot sing. I hope that is only temporary so I can return to the community choir.

A particular thanks to those who led the service I was supposed to be leading on 14 May. Thank you Ian Ring and Lorraine.

*Some of you may know that Revd Jinsub Chung has been called to ministry at a pastorate in Weston. Although we will be very sorry to lose Jinsub and Youngsun from our congregation we are obviously delighted for them and wish them well for the future. Their last service at Weoley Hill will be on **Sunday 11 June** so please join us then as we say goodbye. Thankfully Grace and Edward will be staying here so we won't be losing the whole family!*



***Friends of the Church of India in association with
Indian Christian Organisation welcomes you***

TO

THE UNITY LECTURE

On Monday 12th June 5.00pm

At Queens Foundation for ETE

Somerset Road

Edgbaston Birmingham B15 2QH

Speaker

Professor Daniel Jeyaraj

Title of the Lecture

**"Christian Presence and Witness in contemporary India:
Challenges and Opportunities"**

**Plenty of time for discussions and questions after the
lecture.**

Local Contact person is Rev Dr Joshva Raja 01675470384

Christian Aid Collection

Thank you to everyone who assisted with the Christian Aid collection this year, both at the Friendship Group Christian Aid Sale and with the house-to-house collection.

The total collected was £1660, £926 of which was from the house to house collection. Details of the breakdown are on the notice board in the John Kydd Hall.

Emlyn



Request from the Arabic Church

Does anyone feel that they could help the Arabic Church with their children, ideally it would be two people? They meet on the second Saturday of each month all through the year for their service which starts at 6.30 pm and finishes around 8.00 pm. Please let me know if you think you could help. Jin Sub used to do it before they moved away.

Rosemary

FRIENDSHIP GROUP

Many thanks to all those who contributed to our Bring-and-Buy on Wednesday May 10th. It was a beautiful summer day and cream teas fitted perfectly with the usual stalls and various objects (d'arts?) on sale. We managed to raise £126.50 for Christian Aid, a little lower than last year, but a pleasant time was had by all that attended. Many thanks to Nancy for making the scones, all those who donated cakes and items for sale and also those who helped set out and clear up at the end. Items unsold were donated to St Mary's Hospice at Weoley Castle Square. We are very grateful for your support.

Our next meeting is the trip to the National Memorial Arboretum at Alrewas in Staffordshire. It is about a one hour journey along the A38 to just north of Lichfield. Admission is free and there is a restaurant, art display and museum as well as the 150 acres of lovingly tended grounds with many trees and sculptures. The 300 memorials cover all services and many groups who have served this country in times of war and peace. Sadly names are still being added to the main walls. You can walk as far, or as little, as you want, and there are plenty of benches to sit quietly and admire the monuments or have a picnic. There is a little train with commentary (cost £5 pp) if you would rather take the one hour scenic route and there is a restaurant serving hot and cold meals to sustain you. Admission to the main area is free, although you can donate if you wish, and there is a £3 parking charge and £3 for a map. Entrance to the 'Landscapes of life Exhibition', which includes an audio tour, is a further £6.00. If you want to hire a mobility scooter or wheelchair (free) please contact 01283 245 100 prior to the trip to reserve one.

As this is a longer trip than usual we will like to leave the church at 10.30am on WEDNESDAY 14TH JUNE. Please give your name to

Deborah Moriarty if you would like, or can offer, a lift. I have a few leaflets if you would like more details about this interesting and emotional place

Lorraine



Do you use WhatsApp?

Some of you will be familiar with WhatsApp messenger and use it to keep in touch with family and friends. A warning, however – if you get a message asking you to ‘renew your membership’ of WhatsApp and pay for it, this is a scam and do NOT respond to it - WhatsApp is free! Especially do not send money or give card or bank details to them.

In general, be very wary of ANY email or message which asks you to give your card details and check it out carefully.



The URC Golfing Society
WHITEHORN CUP GOLF DAY

Monday 4th September 2017

at Bromsgrove Golf Centre

Entries by 23rd August 2017

This popular event is an 18 hole Stableford competition which is open to Free Church Ministers (including retired ministers), who play for the Whitehorn Cup and members of the URC laity who play for the Patrick Figgis Putter.

Book your place today

Rev John Maile

T: 01562 515 423

E: johnfmaile@gmail.com

£38 Per Person, which includes

Goodie bag, bacon bap,

range balls, 18 holes of golf,

dinner, presentation & prizes

Congratulations to

The Taekwondo Group

who meet in the John Kydd Hall on Fridays

They went to the Eurochampionship in Greece and came home with 3 silver medals and 1 bronze!

Well done!





The Banner Group at work.



Our retiring collection in June is for the Jubilee Debt Campaign.

Jubilee Debt Campaign is part of a global movement demanding freedom from the slavery of unjust debts and a new financial system

Inspired by the **ancient concept of 'jubilee'**, it campaigns for a world where debt is no longer used as a form of power by which the rich exploit the poor. Freedom from debt slavery is a necessary step towards a world in which our common resources are used to realise equality, justice and human dignity.



Provocative

Poetry



Featuring: **Lucy Berry**

*Former Poet-in-Residence of the
Jeremy Vine show*



Emilie Lauren Jones



Craig Muir



Friday 7th July 2017

@7:30pm

Holyhead Road URC Church

Holyhead Rd, CV6 1QL

Refreshments will be available to purchase on the night

Price: £5.00

For tickets contact George: 02476 727 181 or 079 4609 5418
or email: georgejones@freeuk.com

All Profits go to Holyhead Road URC's Chosen Charity
-The British Heart Foundation
(registered Charity No. 22597)



WEOLEY HILL UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

PRAYER DIARY

*The love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit
who has been given to us. Romans 5:5*

	Church members	Topical prayers
WK 1: 4th-10th June	Margaret Shiner Vida Southall & Carys Kumar & Gini Tambyraja	That we as a church allow the Spirit of God to prompt us and that we respond, as we continue to seek ways to build-up our fellowship. <i>Holy Spirit of God, we long to be refreshed by you as does dry land by water. We thank you that in your Church there are signs of your Spirit at work and we ask for a fresh outpouring. May we be expectant and prepared to be challenged and used by you.</i>
WK 2: 11th -17th June	Helen Thompson Gordon & Cheryl Thornett David & Kathleen Upton	
WK 3: 18th- 24th June	Barbara & Philip Viney Rachel Wakeman Michael Walpole	
WK 4: 25th June-1st July	Ron & Iris Webb Brian & Kathleen Wood Xiujuan (Jane) Zeng	

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.