

# Weoley Hill Church News



*October 2017*

## *A Pastoral Letter from the West Midlands Moderator*

The sudden death of David Littlejohns has come as an enormous shock to us all. It hardly seems possible that having celebrated his induction to ministry at the “Cadbury” pastorate only at the end of January this year, we have had to say goodbye to him. Of course our immediate concerns are for Hilary and their family. But the loss is acute for the three churches as well.

I had heard good and encouraging reports of the pastoral care and leadership that he was exercising. David arrived into the pastorate after a reasonable vacancy, and I know that some of you felt that the vacancy was too long! Even without the tragedy of this bereavement, none of you would be looking forward to starting that particular process again, and neither am I. Yet that is where we find ourselves.

We shall come to that in due course, but first, as our funeral service liturgy says, let us grieve for one already loved and now lost to us, “but not as those without hope.” Those left behind feel the real pain of separation, but for David there is the joy of everlasting life with our Lord.

It is ok to admit that we are hurting. It is good to share our weakness, our vulnerability. It is essential, at any time but especially now, to draw together as a church family to bear one another’s burdens. The Elders of the three churches will be vital in providing pastoral care in the coming months, but please – those of you who are not serving Elders – find ways to support them, and offer help rather than waiting to be asked. Have faith: you will come through this season of bereavement.

Thank you to those who have already offered support to Hilary in tangible ways and with expressions of love and your prayers. I know that they have meant a huge amount to them. Please continue in this.

David has made a difference, and changed your lives just by being amongst you, even if for only a few months. He has achieved God's purposes for his ministry there. "Well done, good and faithful servant.... Come and share your Master's happiness."

Steve Faber

Synod Moderator



## Interim Moderator

The Revd Ian Ring has again been appointed our Interim Moderator.

## *Personalia*

*Please remember Hilary, Ben, Andrew, Becky, and all the Littlejohns family in this time of loss and sorrow.*

*We give thanks that Jean Greening is out of hospital.*

*Several members of our church family are still undergoing treatment: Séana Davis, Cath and Dave Upton, Brian and Cath Wood.*

*Alan Cotgreave has raised over £1200 with his 3 Peaks Climb for 'Zero hunger with Langar'.*

*Please make sure you are using the correct email address for Ina Clason*



*The churches of the Cadbury Pastorate have received a number of expressions of sympathy and assurances that we are in the prayers of individuals and of other churches.*

*CT*

## **Easyfundraising Thankyou**

Thank you to all those members (13 of you!) who use easyfundraising when buying from on-line shops. Our latest donation from easyfundraising is £38.18. The donation from each sale may seem small but as you can see it mounts up to a significant sum. Thank you and keep it up!

David

PS. Plenty of resources at <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/raise-more/>

## Neighbourhood News

*News and events from other local churches:*

**Carrs Lane Lectures** : 13-15 October, **Revd Gretta Vosper**, United Church of Canada minister speaking. Leaflets and reservation forms in corridor off car park door.

**Selly Oak Methodist**: 7 October at 7:30 PM, Proposed *British Methodist Youth Choir concert*. TBC

Saturday, 14 October: 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their church organ. *Recital by our church organists*. Refreshments at 10 AM, recital at 11. Retiring Collection in aid of Church Property projects.

**CfR Barnes Close**: Wednesday 18 October 3 PM to 5 PM. Celebrating 100 years of women's ministry & the ordination of Constance Coltman in 1917 as the first woman minister in the Congregational Church. Film, afternoon tea, sharing stories.

## October retiring collection

**Children with Cancer's** aim is to improve survival rates and quality of survival in young cancer patients and to find and reduce the causes of cancer, currently funding more than 50 research projects at centres of excellence around the UK. These projects are investigating a broad range of childhood cancers—helping to better understand these diseases and to find more effective, less toxic ways of treating them.

## Prayer Handbooks and Diaries for 2018

If you wish to have a copy of the prayer handbook 'On Eagles Wings' for 2018 or a diary for 2018 please see Ann Evans as soon as possible so she can order them from Synod and have them available before the end of the month. There is also a variety of Constance Coltman merchandise available to buy but quantities are limited. Constance was the first woman minister ordained 100 years ago this year. AE

# FRIENDSHIP GROUP

Unfortunately due to illness, other commitments and people being on holiday the trip to Hanbury Hall did not take place as planned. As there was a sharp shower during the afternoon, perhaps this was all to the good.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday October 11, 2.15 for a 2.30 PM start, when there will be a discussion about **Dealing With Cancer** when two who have had this will talk about their experiences, their feelings on being given the news, treatment given and aftercare. This month is Breast Cancer Awareness month and November is dedicated to raising awareness of Testicular Cancer ,both common forms of the disease, so come along for some first-hand information, discussion and a slice of cake!

We are hoping to do a “Poetry Please” session next year. If you have a favourite poem, or know a line or two of something but do not know the whole; If you know of a poet but cannot remember what poem he, or she is famous for; If you can read one yourself or prefer to have it read by someone else, then you will be contributing to an interesting afternoon my friend. We will be collecting names—and lines—over the next few months. (Unfortunately Sir Ian McKellen and Dame Maggie Smith are otherwise occupied so it will be one of us reading it!)



## Masonic Charitable Foundation Grants

You may recall that during the summer we were asked to give our votes to either of two extremely worthwhile local charities but not , alas, to vote for both of them. I am pleased to say that both have been awarded grants.

**Birmingham Crisis Centre** has been awarded a grant of £6,000.

**NICE – Centre for Movement Disorders** has been awarded a grant of £25,000. Cheryl Thornett

# HARVEST SERVICE AND LUNCH

Both these events were very successful and thanks must go to all concerned for the hard work they put in.

First to those in the Worship Group who arranged the service, Junior Church who read the introductory prayers, and the Scouts who did a Bible reading, John who led the main prayers and Ann who gave the sermon, with the choir singing the traditional “Bringing in the Sheaves” and everyone learning a new hymn. It was lovely to see representatives of the uniformed organisations looking really smart in their uniforms with merit badges on display.

The church itself was colourfully decorated by four ladies who spent over two hours on Saturday morning placing fruit, flowers and food around the Sanctuary. Thanks now go to the Guides who compiled four great boxes of goodies which were later taken by Marilyn and Phil to the Salvation Army along with several bags of fresh items. The very many tinned and packeted items, donated by everyone, were then taken by Emlyn and Ann to the Birmingham City Mission for distribution in food parcels.

Finally thanks to those who helped with the joint Korean/Weoley Hill Harvest Lunch, which saw over 60 people sitting down together and sharing a wide variety of Korean and British food. There was plenty on offer from salad to seaweed, from onion pancakes to chocolate cakes, from oodles of noodles to oodles of puddings. As well as thanks for all your delicious donations there are also thanks for those who put out and cleared up tables, chairs and disposable plates and cutlery—these latter organised by Nancy.

From this you can see how much labour was needed to provide such a “happy and joyful” event and it is with such teamwork that we will support each other in the future. Once again many thanks to all concerned.

Lorraine DaCosta

# FISH & CHIP SUPPER AND QUIZ

The time has come once again to dust off those thinking caps and prepare for our second quiz of the year. This will be on **Saturday 7 October** from **6.00 PM**, with the quiz to start at 6.30 PM and hopefully finish by **9.00pm**.

To help your little grey cells there is a delicious fish and chip meal half way through, complete with pickles, peas and sauce, plus bread and butter and even a cup of tea or coffee to finish. All this for the sum of **£6.00 per person**, £4 of which covers all expenses.

There is also a raffle (any donations are very welcome!) to help raise further funds for the Youth and Family Worker and the more we raise here the less we have to dig into general church funds. No more than **six in a team**, please, so come along and bring five friends, or come and join a group. You may win a prize that will leave you speechless!

## AUTUMN FAIR

This year's event will take place on **Saturday 18 November from 2.00 to 4.00 PM** when we are going to operate a *jar tombola* instead of our usual bric-a-brac stall. Consequently we would like to ask for donations of things in jars. These could be jams, pickles, sauces in fact anything in a jar bought full, and fresh, from any retailer.

Perhaps you would like to be a little more inventive? Using a **clean** jar, any size, **fill** it with one of the following: chocolates, cotton wool balls, jewellery, money, perfume, sewing kit, soaps, stationary, sweets, toiletries, toys in fact anything you think would make a good prize, (but no alcohol in case a child wins). Obviously the more jars we have the more money we can raise and we are aiming for 100 jars to raise £100.

You can give donations to Lorraine at any time up to and including the afternoon of the fair and many thanks in advance for your support. More details for the Fair will be in the November newsletter. LD

# TRADCRAFT SALES

We have had Traidcraft sales at Weoley Hill Church for many years. I took over the operation from Sue and Joyce Cope almost exactly 11 years ago. During my time running the monthly Sunday stall, supplying the kitchen here with tea and coffee and making an appearance at fairs, coffee mornings etc., quite apart from the money from the sales that goes to Traidcraft, we have made donations of almost £1000 directly to Traidcraft from our profits. So it has been a very worthwhile operation.

However, it may be that the time has come to have a rethink. Clearly Traidcraft's costs have risen considerably in the last few years and this has had to be passed on to the customer, so many of the goods have become very expensive. Although sales of Christmas cards remain healthy as always, sales of food items have gone down, partly because of rising costs but also because we have gradually lost many members who were good customers. Also, it is now very easy to buy Fairtrade products in the shops, and Traidcraft goods specifically can be bought from the Oxfam shop in Harborne, from the Cotteridge church and from Carrs Lane church, as well as by mail order from a catalogue or online from the Traidcraft online shop.

Following the discussion we had at church meeting on 17 September, when several members agreed that the time had come to scale down the sales, I am proposing that we continue with the Christmas card sales and supplying the kitchen where possible, but that we discontinue the monthly Sunday food sales. This should mean that we can continue to call ourselves a 'Fairtrade Church'.

I would love to hear anyone's views on this, particularly if you feel strongly that we should continue – but if you have this view I hope you will be prepared to support the stall in the future!

Christine Marlow

# WEOLEY HILL UNITED REFORMED CHURCH PRAYER DIARY

He will cover you with his wings; you will be safe in his care; his faithfulness will protect and defend you. Ps 91 v4

	<b>Church members</b>	<b>Topical prayers</b>
<b>WK 1:</b> 1-7 <b>Oct</b>	John Glen Colin Graham Jean Greening	For those suffering trauma: those who have suffered loss, particularly the Littlejohns family; those we know with medical conditions; those affected by recent natural disasters- hurricanes, earthquakes, floods or drought; those who are persecuted and those who have fled their homes.
<b>WK 2:</b> 8-14 <b>Oct</b>	Christine Grubb Rosemary Hay Gill Hitchin	
<b>WK 3:</b> 15-21 <b>Oct</b>	Norma Johnson Betty Johnston Daniel & Dora Kyereh	
<b>WK 4:</b> 22 -28 <b>Oct</b>	Sharon Letissier & Hannah Hilary Littlejohns Doreen Longman	
<b>Wk 5:</b> 29 Oct-4 <b>Nov</b>	Sam & Alex Lukwago David & Christine Marlow Jose Marsland	

*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*

You may wish to add other members of the families mentioned to your prayers.