

Weoley Hill Church News



February 2018

Thoughts from The Cottage

Dear Friends

I look out of the office windows and see the fields and the trees but my mind is drawn not to them per se but to the creator behind them, to God himself. I am reminded that God created everything for his pleasure and gave us this world to enjoy. He didn't have to do it, but he did because of his immense love for us. Alongside this my mind went to the Westminster Shorter Catechism of 1646/7. This says that the main purpose of *(hu)man(kind)* is to glorify God and to enjoy him for ever. So what does this all mean?

As Christians our duty, responsibility and joy is to point people towards God and to reflect him in our lives. Not for us is the desire to moan about the state of the world, indulge in gossip about other people or to encourage the cult of self-aggrandisement. For us our desire is to improve the state of the world, encourage and support other people and to remind people that all they have and all they are is given to them by God. This is underpinned by the knowledge that we serve the one and only true God and that anyone who accepts his son, Jesus Christ, as their Saviour can spend eternity with him.

Of course this is not something that happens because it seems like a good idea to us. It happens as the natural result of a deep relationship, and a life walked, with God. We cultivate this by prayer, worship, Bible study, time spent with other Christians and time spent in the presence of God without an agenda or prayer requests. Periodically I hear people say I couldn't come to church, church meeting, or whatever because..... I wonder

how often people say I couldn't do so and so because I had to go to church, attend church meeting, pray, read my Bible?

In our life as a church do we get the balance right? At Church or Elders Meeting what proportion of time is spent in prayer, in waiting on God, in business? In worship how much time do we fill with words and how much with quiet waiting on God? If we don't get the balance right in church we are not likely to get in right at other times and in other places.



It is vital that we have plans for the future and structures to help us function but more important than either of these is the need to spend time in prayer, praise and

waiting on God. How else will we know his will for us?

It is our relationship with God that is the most important thing in our lives. We have plenty of opportunities for us to deepen our relationship with God both individually and corporately.

Maybe as Lent approaches we can commit ourselves to spending more time with God seeking his mind and see what difference it makes to us and our church.

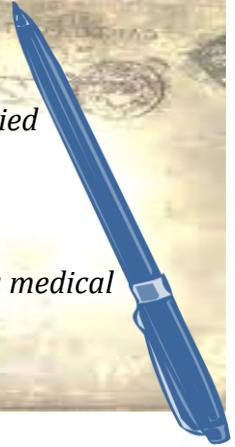
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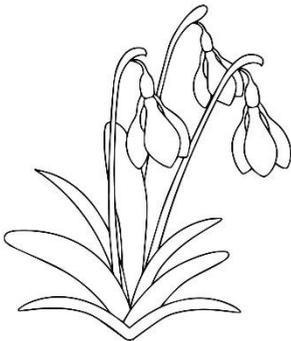
Former Weoley Castle minister Janet Hargis died recently.

Joyce Cope has been unwell.

Please remember everyone who is undergoing medical treatment.



*This month's retiring
collections are for
the Leprosy Mission.*



**Please try to get
Annual Reports to the
Church Secretary by
the beginning of March
so there is time to
collate and check
everything.**

Neighbourhood News

News and events from other local churches:

St David's Ash Wednesday Communion 7.30 pm, 14 February.

Weoley Castle: The Rep is mounting a play called *Elephant* at Weoley Castle on 17 March at 7 PM. Details will be shared when available.

St Martin in the Bull Ring 7 to 9 PM Wednesday, 7 February: First annual Newbiggin Public Lecture with Steve Bevans, responses from Bishop Mike Royal and Dr Paula Gooder.

Carrs Lane players: *Pools Paradise*, comedy by Philip King Thursday 22 February at 7.30 PM; Friday 23 February at 7.30 PM, Saturday 24 February at 6.30 PM. Tickets £7 Suppers served at 6.00 PM on Thursday and Friday: £5. Late afternoon tea on Saturday at 5 PM: £4 . 0121 643 6151 or office@carrslane.co.uk

FISH SUPPER AND QUIZ

Be ready for quizzing **Saturday 24 February** when once again we have our quiz to raise funds for *Fairtrade*. Teams of six, at £6 per person, can battle it out for prizes that will leave you speechless! As usual we aim for a 6.30 PM start, (come at 6.00 to bag a table!) then eat around 7.30 PM and finish around 9.00 PM. There will be fish, chips and peas, as well as bread and butter, pickles and sauce, and there will also be a raffle—donations welcome! Please give names, and/or money to me as soon as possible so I can order and pay a deposit in advance. This is a good social evening so if you haven't tried it before come along and bring a friend, or even a team!

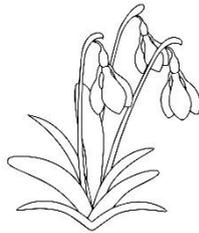
Lorraine DaCosta

Monthly Food Collection

Thank you to all who bring contributions for the monthly food collections we make to pass on to Birmingham City Mission. The Mission gives food parcels to people referred to it by social workers, churches or doctors. At present the Mission's services are much in demand and our contributions are very welcome.

Until last December goods were given to the Rev Ray Price who took them to the Mission's Resource Centre, together with items donated by other churches. Unfortunately Ray has had to stop driving and the Mission has moved further away, so from now on, one of the Mission's vans will collect our contributions every two months. We should still like people to bring food on the first Sunday of each month, although it can always be added to the store if you are away then. We shall store the goods to await collection. This means that all donated goods should be at least three months within use-by date. All packaged or tinned goods are very welcome and at present there is a particular demand for sugar, UHT (Long Life) milk, tea and coffee.

Barbara Viney



**There is no Lunch Club on
Wednesday 7 February because
of electrical repairs in the church.**

FRIENDSHIP GROUP

On Wednesday 11 January we had a presentation from several members of the Korean Ladies English chatting group who meet throughout the year to practise their English and learn a little of life in Britain. In return they tell us about Korea, so they were asked to talk to our group. The two main speakers told us about festivals, food and family life and also brought some examples of Korean snacks for us to try.

An early western explorer, Isabella Bird-Bishop, described Korea in her book of 1894, 'Korea and her Neighbours', as "hopeless, helpless, pitiable and piteous, a mere shuttlecock of certain great powers" and certainly Korea was invaded and fought over many times, first by the Mongols, then the Manchu dynasty, Russia, China, with later French and American interests, before being annexed by the Japanese in 1910. It was not until the end of World War two that the true development of Korea began leading to its position as one of the most technologically advanced nations in the world. In 1948, with independence from Japan, the Republic of Korea was proclaimed and although the Korean War, 1950-53, led to the division of the country into North and South Korea the South has prospered and now has a high standard of living, literacy, infrastructure, health and trade. From the 1980's there has been an increasing shift towards high-tech and computer industries... it is the home of Samsung, LG and Hyundai after all! Much of this is thanks to the hard work of its citizens many of whom initially left the country to work and study abroad, sending much of their money home not only to their families but also to build bridges, roads and the like. One of the reasons for its growth could be its written language which was invented in 1443 by King Sejong who wanted to increase the literacy of his people and which has not changed since. Each character has only one sound making it easy to learn.

Family life is very important and most festivals include recognition of ancestors. On 15th August there is a 3 day Thanksgiving holiday, **Chuseok**, where many family members will gather to clean and tidy the graves of their ancestors but also have a picnic. Favourite foods are **Kim Chi**, a spiced, pickled cabbage; Fried pork and chicken; **Songpyeon**, a steamed rice cake stuffed with sesame seed, cinnamon and honey; and red-bean paste and fruit served on ice, which is both sweet and cool. In February there is another 3 day holiday to celebrate New Year and traditional national dress, called **Hanbok**, (a full sleeved blouse or jacket with clear, simple lines, without pockets and a full skirt for ladies), is often worn. It is always very colourful and often worn at weddings. A family game called **Yut**, played by tossing 4 shaped and marked sticks, moving along a board depending on the way the sticks fall, is often played, and food such as grilled fish or meat, chestnuts, stir fried vegetables and **Tteokguk**, a soup made from a thinly sliced rice cake in a beef or chicken broth is served. The annual **Seoul Lantern** festival, which was established in 2009, has over 3 million visitors and runs for 17 days in November.

There are about 51 and a half million people in South Korea and about half of them live in, or near, Seoul which is the capital. Consequently it is very expensive to live there and most live in apartments in 20 storey blocks. However there are still traditional villages and some beautiful scenery in the countryside which is now being increasingly preserved. There are lots of tea plantations to see, and as 70% of the countryside is mountainous many Koreans like to walk and climb there, or perhaps visit some of the many small islands, such as **Jeju**, which cater for tourists. Unlike its northern neighbour it is a very democratic country. Recently over a million people marched through Seoul to protest about the behaviour of the president who later resigned. There were no riots or arrests, it was very quiet, no-one was injured and everyone

cleaned up afterwards! Korea is much colder than Britain in Winter but their Spring is very beautiful to make up for it. The ladies like our country very much for its history, our gardens, our summers and, surprisingly, some of our food, especially scones and cream!

We were very grateful for Sung Min and Haejee Yoo for compiling the pictures and information and talking so well. It was very enjoyable. Our next meeting is **Wednesday 14 February** when we hope to have some pancakes, both sweet and savoury, and a quiz sheet to accompany the usual tea. Come along at 2.15 PM and invite a friend.

Lorraine DaCosta

BUSY WEEKEND?

On 3 July this year the church will be 85 years old and we have decided to hold a small celebration to commemorate this. It will consist of three main parts. We will be open on Saturday afternoon, 7 July, to show displays of work done by all groups that use our buildings, followed by a concert in the early evening with contributions from **anyone in any** group. Then there will be a special service on Sunday 8 followed by a bring-and-share picnic in the grounds if the weather is kind. No other details have been decided and there is a short planning meeting on **Monday 12 February at 7.30 PM** to which everyone is invited to discuss what can be done. All suggestions are welcome and if you would like to take part, or help in some way, that would be even better. Come along then, or give ideas to Lorraine beforehand so that we can make a start on what will be a busy weekend.

Lorraine DaCosta

WEOLEY HILL UNITED REFORMED CHURCH PRAYER DIARY

I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.
Isaiah 41:10

FEB 2018	CHURCH FAMILY	OTHER PRAYER POINTS
WK 1: 4-10 Feb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grace & Joy Carter • Mohamad Chamanbaz • Juliet & Yvonne Chideya 	The Cadbury pastorate
WK 2: 11-17 Feb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jinsub, Youngsun, Edward & Grace Chung • Ina Clason 	Those sleeping rough during our coldest months & those helping them to improve their prospects
WK 3: 18 - 24 Feb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joyce, David, Susan & Catherine Cope 	Those recently bereaved and missing loved ones
WK 4: 25-4 Mar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alan, Lydia, Jacob, Esther, Levi & Joel Cotgreave • Roger Cotgreave 	Our young people, that they continue to grow in the knowledge of our Lord

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.