

# Weoley Hill Church News



*July & August 2018*

## *From the Church Secretary—*

Dear Friends

An anniversary seems to call for looking back. We are celebrating the anniversary of the building, but we mustn't forget that the Weoley Hill was recognised as a congregation more than ten years before we had a church building, and that people were meeting together for regular Sunday worship as early as 1918. So perhaps we can think about where our beginnings lie—in official recognition, in the commitment of financing a building, in worshipping together? (I must tell you that the other day as I walked down Weoley Hill with a friend, a Baptist minister in Glasgow, she was impressed by our building, and by the garden areas around it.)

The anniversary, especially the Sunday worship, also gives us a chance to remember former members as friends and brothers and sisters in Christ, as well as for all, *all*, they did for us.

The current weather forecast is mainly warm and dry for some time, but the current forecast for churches, including ours, is at best 'unsettled'. It's tempting to compare those past years with the present and conclude that it's all going wrong, storms ahead, last one out turn out the lights.

But the Bible tells us over and over that God is often at work in the midst of human messiness and even catastrophes. Christ's birth, his execution, even his resurrection all took place in chaos. A few of us have begun studying Isaiah: the word of God spoken in a time of chaos leading to destruction and unspeakable suffering, but the word of God promising that while even a tall tree would be reduced to a bare stump, that stump would sprout new growth. (Isaiah 6.13)

My friend and I were talking about women's ministry and how early Baptists, like the early church, were a radical bunch who accepted and valued women's voices but then conformed to social expectations and suppressed women as they gained acceptance. When conditions are good and institutions flourish, they are more likely to attract 'top' people as defined by society—kings, priestly castes, wealthy donors—but when conditions are poor and unofficial groups struggle, the 'top' people tend to be elsewhere and it's up to the nobodies to do what needs to be done. Nobodies like fishermen, housewives, foreigners, slaves, stallholders, farm workers, secretaries, shopworkers, hospital porters, members of minorities....

It's not that God sends disasters and catastrophes; we do that by ourselves on top of the natural disasters that are part of this world. And let's leave out all the trite slogans that are meant to encourage people, or shut them up, when they are desperately hurting. But in the midst of the mess, God calls and someone answers 'Here I am, send me'. (Isaiah 6. 9)

We don't all get seraphim, earthquakes and glowing coals when the Lord calls. It might just be a feeling that you could help lead prayers, or an that you'd like to invite some people around for a chat, or that it would be good to come along to the next Bible study, or how we could interact better with local clubs and associations, or what social events would attract your neighbours, or....

Please pray for the candidate for the Pastorate ministry, and for all three congregations. God grant that we hear his voice and follow the leading of the Spirit throughout the stages of meeting the candidate, worship, discussion and voting.

Cheryl

## *Personalia*

*Please remember people recovering from illness and injury, including Rosemary Hay and Marilyn Raw.*

*Former member Phyllis Thompson died on Monday 15 June.*



## **The Church in Algeria**

The Bible Society asks for particular prayer for Christians and the Church in Algeria as the whole Christian community is under threat. Four places of worship have been closed, Christians have been intimidated and places of work have been closed down because they are owned by Christians. Since May '17, the Bible Society has, without success, been trying to obtain a license to import Scripture materials.

The General Secretary of the Bible Society in Algeria requests, 'Please pray for Algerian Christians and for the ministry of the Bible Society here. Our freedom of worship is facing a grave threat and there is a clear violation of fundamental freedoms. We need your prayers more than ever.'

Sue Beeby

## Neighbourhood News

*News and events from other local churches:*

The Revd Jim Cox will be leaving St Mary's Church this autumn.

Hmm, it looks like everyone else's programmes are winding down for the summer too.



## Summer study series

Ian Ring has offered to lead a study series on Christian life starting Monday 16 July at 2 PM (to be confirmed, and to be changed if needed). There will be a video, discussion, and he hopes there will be cake. The details will be confirmed when he returns from holiday.

# 85<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY



Come and help us celebrate!

SATURDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> JULY.....2.00-4.00 PM

Church open for displays of banners, embroidery, Slimming World, model trains, street association, cakes and refreshments.

SATURDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> JULY.....6.30-8.00 PM

A sing-along concert by the Community Choir and Bournville Gardens choir and solo musicians—  
Modern, folk & classical mixture.

SUNDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> JULY.....10.30-11.45 AM

A special memorial and thanksgiving service, all welcome.

SUNDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> JULY.....12.00 NOON

Picnic meal, FREE, in the JK Hall if wet. All events are free but donations towards our employment of a Youth and Family Worker

*Lorraine DaCosta*

## *Reminder:*

# *Preaching with a view*

A candidate for the ministry of the Cadbury Pastorate has come forward and the vacancy committee have concluded that this is someone everyone should meet and hear preach. After some negotiation the arrangements are:

### **Saturday 14 July**

**6.30 PM:** an informal meeting at **Weoley Castle**

**Community Church.** Questions and answers, tea or coffee and cake. *Offers of cake are welcome* and we will organise lifts for those who need them.

### **Sunday 15 July**

**11 AM:** the candidate will lead worship at **Weoley Castle Community Church**, with the usual tea/coffee, biscuits and chat afterwards. Lifts for those who need them.

**3 PM:** the candidate will lead worship at **Bournville URC**. Anyone is welcome to attend, but we won't organise lifts.

**5 PM:** We will meet **here** to discuss the candidate and vote, while Bournville and Weoley Castle do the same at their churches. For a call to be issued, each congregation must vote in favour by at least 80%

*We have been asked to maintain confidentiality throughout this process.*

Cheryl Thornett

# FRIENDSHIP GROUP

Our summer outing on Wednesday 14 June to *Attingham Park* near Shrewsbury was a very pleasant day. This National Trust property has a chequered history since its rebuilding in 1782 around an original Jacobean building, Tern Hall. It was acquired by **Noel Hill**, MP for Shrewsbury in 1768, given the title Lord Berwick for his support for William Pitt the Younger. Berwick was a nearby village, later demolished.

He commissioned **George Steuart** to build the mansion and stable block, in the French fashion of 'masculine' and 'feminine' sides with symmetrical extensions. The masculine side contained dining room, library, ante room and octagon room, all deeply coloured and filled with family portraits and 'manly' objects, with the feminine side having drawing room, 'Sultana' sitting room and boudoir, all gilded and delicately painted with flowers and birds. All rooms have beautiful views. The stable block included tack rooms and much more as well as stalls for 56 horses and living quarters for the grooms. The block was lime washed to give the impression that it was all made of expensive local Grinshill stone rather than brick.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Lord Berwick was succeeded in 1789 by his eldest son **Thomas**, who created a large picture gallery and commissioned **Humphrey Repton** to develop the parkland. This included removing trees to suggest the estate was much bigger than it was and building a weir to flood the river Tern to create a lake. Although Thomas inherited a fortune, his extravagant purchases, improvements to the house, and purchase of more land, together with a scandalous marriage to a former courtesan many years his junior (who also liked spending money), ensured the pair went bankrupt and Attingham's contents were put up for sale in 1827 and again in 1829 to pay creditors.

Thomas died in 1832 and the estate passed to his next brother, **William**, who had been a diplomat in Italy. He brought gilded Italian furniture, silver and French porcelain, which are still on show. When



he died in 1842, with no legitimate children, the estate passed to the youngest brother, **Richard**, a 68-year old Shropshire rector. This 4<sup>th</sup> Lord Berwick was also a spendthrift, who struggled to support a large family. But on his death in 1848 his eldest son, another **Richard**, cleared the debts through careful management and even made extensive repairs and alterations. He modernised the estate's agriculture, established a famous herd of Hereford cattle, built model farms and even invented a rifle as well as making flutes and clarinets! On Richard's death the estate went to his brother **William**, who had 17 live-in servants. He never married, so Attingham passed to his nephew **Richard**, an ex-soldier, in 1882. Once again financial problems arose and several heirlooms were sold.

After his death in 1897 Attingham was let, but in 1921 the last lord and lady, Thomas and Theresa, moved in. He had been a diplomat in Paris and brought many paintings, sculptures and furniture to the Park as well as installing electricity and upgrading the water supply. Land was sold to fund these and other improvements to the farms. During World War I the house was used as a hospital, and during World War II it was used by the evacuated Edgbaston Girls' School, and later by the Women's Auxiliary Air Force. The couple had no children so in 1937 Thomas negotiated for the National Trust to take over the estate. It remains one of their most generous bequests. When Thomas died in 1947, much of the mansion was leased to Shropshire County Council for use as an adult education college and during the 50s and 60s there was an eclectic programme of residential courses. This meant much internal reorganisation of the house to include student accommodation, bathrooms and the like.

In the 80s the Trust started building and conservation work and detailed research of the archives. Records of journeys, household wages, bankruptcy sales and personal letters reveal the lives of those who have lived at Attingham and all are on display. Work is ongoing from re-creating wax flowers in the dining room, conserving wall paintings on the stairs and new planting and greenhouses in the walled

garden. Visitors' comments and suggestions are used to decide what should be done next. One afternoon was not long enough to see everything!

Our next meeting is the annual Garden Party at 45 Middle Park Road, 2.30 PM, courtesy of Nancy Nicholls, when **everyone** is welcome to attend. Bring a plate of something to eat if you can, but come anyway if you can't so we can have a good meeting before our break in August. This is the **Friendship Group** after all *so bring a friend or make a new one!*

Lorraine Dacosta

## Journeys Through the Bible in 3½ Minutes

Three 3½ minute videos have been produced by the Bible Society which span the Bible. Their purpose is to show the bigger picture of God's unfolding narrative through the Bible and how the events in the Bible fit together.

They are free and can be downloaded from  
[Biblesociety.org.uk/3andahalfminutes](http://Biblesociety.org.uk/3andahalfminutes)

Sue Beeby

## August Collections

The August retiring collections are for Heart of England# (B'ham) Heart Foundation.



## **THE ROYAL NATIONAL LIFEBOAT INSTITUTION --July collections**

This marvellous institution serves to save “those in peril on the sea” and around our coasts. Staffed mainly with volunteers and depending entirely on grants and public donations, they have existed for 164 years. Every day of every year people of all backgrounds get in to danger on the water whether floating out too far on a Lilo or having a puncture in the side of a boat in a storm. Since their founding in 1854 they have saved over 140,000 lives from over 350 stations on Britain’s 19,000 miles of coast. Volunteers from the local areas that know the currents and tides, the cliffs and shallows, the piers and sandbanks can be called out at a moment’s notice leaving meals, sleep and family plans behind. They are not always fishermen—and women—but after training, shopkeepers, decorators, lawyers, police officers, cooks, in fact any profession, will turn out when ‘the maroon’ goes off, often putting their own lives in danger. As Midlanders, miles from the sea but visiting the coast on holiday, we can still appreciate the work they do so please give generously to this month’s retiring collection.

Lorraine



# **Multi cultural fun day!**

The Shrewsbury Inter-faith Forum invite you to the annual fun day to enjoy; The Oswestry Street band, Bhangra dancers, Footlights, Art workshops, Food stalls, and much more

All ages are welcome to this family friendly event.

**FREE ENTRY**

**Date: 29th September 2018**

**Location: Shrewsbury United Reformed Church,  
Coleham Head, SY3 7BJ**

**Time: 12:00 to 15:30**

# WEOLEY HILL UNITED REFORMED CHURCH PRAYER DIARY

*There is nothing in all creation that will ever be able to separate us from the love of God which is ours through Christ Jesus our Lord.*

*Rom 8:39*

	<b>Church members</b>		<b>Church members</b>
<b>WK 1: July 1 -7</b>	Ursula Aitken Edna Bayliss Sue Beeby	<b>WK 6: Aug 5 - 11</b>	Mohamad Chamanbaz Juliet & Yvonne Chideya
<b>WK 2: July 8 -14</b>	Mary Bevin Iris Bird Jim Brackley	<b>WK 7: Aug12 - 18</b>	Jinsub, Youngsun, Edward & Grace Chung Ina Clason
<b>WK 3: July 15 - 21</b>	Linda Bradley Doreen Bradley	<b>WK 8: Aug19 - 25</b>	Joyce, David, Susan & Catherine Cope
<b>WK 4: July22 -28</b>	Joy Brain Jane Byford	<b>WK 9: Aug26 - Sept 1</b>	Alan, Lydia, Jacob, Esther, Levi & Joel Cotgreave Roger Cotgreave
<b>WK 5: July29 - Aug 4</b>	Bill Campbell Kay Campbell Grace & Joy Carter		

*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.