

Cadbury Pastorate News

Bournville, Weoley Castle &
Weoley Hill Churches



April 2022

From the Minister's study—

EASTER 2022

If you ask me what my favourite Easter story is, for there are as many different stories as there are gospels, I will hesitate whether to choose the story of Mary meeting Jesus in the garden, thinking he is a gardener, or the two disciples encountering Jesus as they walk to Emmaus. What I particularly like about these stories is that they convey the gradual, dawning realization that Jesus is alive.

What historically happened at Easter, “three” days after Jesus’ death, we do not really know—but we do know that something happened in the days and months after Jesus’ death that had a profound, life changing effect on the women and men who had followed Jesus of Nazareth throughout his ministry. These followers had an experience, an encounter with the “living Christ” that was so powerful and real that all fear, doubt, and grief gave way to an amazing joy, hope and courage. Not death but life has the final word! Jesus, we have seen you; you are alive!

Yes, the resurrection is not an event so much as an experience. It is a dawning realization that death could not contain Jesus and that Jesus continues to be a real presence in our lives as comforter and guide “into all truth.” The Easter experience is that all that Jesus did and taught was really “from God.” In his life and ministry, Jesus revealed God and God’s purposes of love, peace and justice. God dwelled fully in Jesus. Did that end when Jesus died on the cross? No, of course not! God does not forsake; God is always faithful. And we cannot be separated from the love of God that Jesus Christ revealed and continues to reveal to us.

Easter is the experience that God's revelation in Christ is true....and that the way to God's future is following Jesus who is alive and calls us, again and again, to follow him as we "search the Scriptures" and "break the bread" with others. That is how the two disciples on the way to Emmaus came to recognize Jesus, as they were searching the Scriptures and breaking the bread. Yes, Jesus is alive and so we can live. We can live as new people, as people who are "alive" to the promise of God's kingdom of peace and justice. May we continue to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, the living One!

With all best wishes for Easter!

Leonora

And a quote to ponder on:

To reduce [Easter] to a spectacular miracle a long time ago and a hope for an afterlife is to diminish it and domesticate it. It is not about heaven. It is about the transformation of this world. Jesus was killed because of his passion for a different kind of world. Easter is about God's "Yes" to what we see in Jesus. Easter is not about believing in a spectacular long ago event, but about participating in what we see in Jesus. Crucifixion and the tomb didn't stop him. Easter is about saying "Yes" to the passion of Jesus. He's still here, still recruiting people for his passion for the Kingdom of God. (Marcus Borg)



Prayer page

Eternal, empowering, holy God, we praise you for the promise and fresh energy

the Easter story brings into our lives.

We are thankful that Jesus continues to show himself to us in new ways and that we can experience his love, his presence and vision for the world, in our own lives and times.

Gracious God, we praise and thank you for the witness of the women who went to the tomb.

The scripture describes the fear as well as the joy and relief they experienced. We too are caught between the fears and doubts of our faith, and the joy and affirmation of what we have seen and known.

It is good to recognize we are part of the history of your people struggling between fear of what is and has been and a desire to affirm an open and unknown future.

Unexpected, moving, evolving spirit of God, you bring about powerful reversals in the world and in our lives. The mystery of your created universe is a constant reminder of the ways you create and re-create through cycles of death and new life, through change and fresh beginnings.

As your Easter people, we want this new life to be offered and experienced

by people and situations all over the world, for hope to be known and embraced. AMEN

Good Friday in Ukraine

Here in the middle of Lent, with much of Ukraine under siege, the news reports call to mind what Good Friday might have been like for the people there. I have a mental 'news flash' of the streets of Jerusalem thudding with the boots of Roman soldiers; a man on his way to the temple being confronted by distinctly hostile temple police; rumours flying everywhere, the usual trouble-makers congregating in public places, ready for a fight.

Christian tradition, too often antisemitic, would have the crowds that followed Jesus suddenly turning on him and calling for his crucifixion, and very likely some did: perhaps disillusioned when he didn't summon up an army of angels to throw the Romans out; others never true followers, or just as fickle as tradition paints them. Other members of the mob? Servants and clients of the authorities no doubt, the violence-prone who dog most large demonstrations, and people offended by Jesus from the start. Now think of the images from the news, not of the Ukrainians who have taken up arms, but of the people huddled in cellars or any shelter they can find, caring for each other as best they can, the refugees.

See Jesus' followers huddled in the back rooms of homes or shops, windows and doors barricaded with whatever they can find, armed with tools and sticks, prepared to defend their families as best they can, knowing that if it all turns violent, then if the Romans don't hunt them down, the temple police will. I imagine most of them stayed hidden until at least the worst threat of violence had passed. That would include most of the male disciples.

Word would have passed through windows and doors, over rooftops, shocking, horrifying: *Appalling news, it's crucifixion... They're letting some low-life go instead... It's over. No, it can't be, surely God will save him as he said...*

But just as we see Ukrainians staying behind to feed and care for others, despite the risk, Luke tells us that 'many' followed the death march to Golgotha, hoping for a miracle or at least for a last sight of a loved face. A group of faithful women stood by until the end, the last caring act they could offer.

And so, at the beginning of April, we too wait fearfully for news, torn between hope and dread. Not, of course, to anything like the degree Jesus's followers or the people of Ukraine feel, not the hopeless hope, the sheer terror nor overwhelming grief, but perhaps we can look at the hopes and fears of this situation and renew in our hearts the wonder that is Easter.

Cheryl Thornett



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Pastorate News

Bournville Sunday Worship

April 3 Leonora (at 3pm)

April 10 Peter Cruchley

April 17 Stuart

April 24 Leonora

May 1 Leonora (at 3pm)

Weoley Castle News

We are returning to weekly “in person” services from 10th April, Palm Sunday, which will be led by Leonora. There will be a Maundy Thursday service at 8 pm, led by Peter Cruchley and an Easter Sunday service at 11 am, led by Alan Cotgreave. On 24th April, Andy Vail will lead the service.

We are planning a “Good Friday Happening” on Friday 15th April from 10 am to 12.30 pm. In crafts, music and drama we shall re-tell the Easter story for children and their parents. If you would like to help with the activities, please contact Chris Hopkins or Mary Sparkes, if they have not already contacted you!

Margaret Wozencroft is feeling much better back in her flat at Hagley Road .

Margaret Weatherall has been in hospital. I've just heard from her niece that she is going into Uplands Nursing Home Selly Park this Wednesday. I know it: a lovely atmosphere in an old building—not a modern purpose-built one. Former member Frank Harrison was there....

Bruce Harvey can be visited if you do a lateral flow test beforehand. Bruce's care home has been taken over by another company and is now called "Edgbaston Manor Care Home"—so he will be able to live in an Edgbaston manner....

Margaret and John Morris expect to be moving shortly to their new home in Wigan. We say a sad farewell and wish them a happy retirement in their new home.

Margaret and John Hurlston have just moved house to a bungalow on Weoley Hill. Enjoy! *Weoley Hill's gain! Ed.*

"Incredible Surplus" on Friday mornings is really buzzing, following the start of the school uniform exchange. All the items are laid out marked with labels saying ages, not prices!

Weoley Hill News

Centenary: Please find your photos of people and events to display in the July Centenary celebrations—other mementos welcome as well—and give them to Sue Beeby, who is arranging the display. For **Heritage Day** (10 September) we would like photos and documents of our church history, please. See Lorraine or your elder about recreating as many of our church family records including membership, christenings, weddings, etc., as possible

Personalia: Gill Hitchin and Rosemary Hay are recovering from delayed surgery; Rosemary is still in Bryony House, where visits are still very limited due to Covid among the staff. Lorraine has a new granddaughter. The Evanses and Alan Cotgreave have recovered from recent bouts of Covid.

Please remember to let Leonora or Cheryl know if you have personal or family news you would like to see in the newsletter.

We will elect a new Church Secretary and serving Elder in the AGM on Sunday 3 April.

The April retiring collection is for Centre Point, which supports young homeless people.

Regular events:

Art Club Wednesdays at 10 am.

Community Choir Fridays in term time at 6.45 pm.

Weoley Hill Calendar for April 2022		
Sunday	3	10.30 am: Communion Service led by the minister. AGM
Tuesday	5	10 am: Lent study group at St Mary's
Wednesday	6	7.30 pm: Lent study group at Selly Oak Methodist
Thursday	7	2.30 pm: Lent study group here
Friday	8	6.45 pm: Community Choir
Sunday	10	10.30 am: Palm Sunday worship led by Ann Evans.
Thursday	14	7.30 pm: Maundy Thursday worship here
Friday	15	7.30 pm: Good Friday
Sunday	17	7.30 am: Early Easter worship led by the minister. t . 8.30 am: Easter breakfast. 10.30 am: Easter Communion led by the minister
Wednesday	20	7.30 pm: Elders' meeting
Sunday	24	10.30 am: Worship led by Revd Ian Thornley. R
Saturday	30	2.30 pm: Walking group. Meet at church.

Christian Aid Week 15-21 May 2022

We hope to distribute delivery-only envelopes in the streets near church. I hope also to organise a sponsored walk.

Please could you think of any other ideas for events which could raise money for Christian Aid?

The Tap Simple on-line platform has now been replaced by GiveStar , and I will set this up for our church. We will also be able to take cash/cheques, as before.

There appears to be a big emphasis on supporting the people of Zimbabwe this year.

Emlyn Evans

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

Going cuckoo

We may now be on Summer time, but the jokes are just as bad as in the Winter

When is it best to go on a trampoline?
Spring time!

When's the best time to wash a Slinky?
During spring cleaning.

What's Irish and comes out in Spring?
Paddy O'Furniture!

How do you know that bees are happy?
Because they hum while they work.

What did the mother worm say to the little worm who was late?
Where in earth have you been?"

What did the dirt say to the April shower?
If this keeps up, my name will be mud.

Should I plant flowers in April?
May as well!

If April showers bring May flowers, what do May flowers bring?
Pilgrims!



The Cadbury Pastorate

Open for Worship

(In line with Government guidelines.)

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 as in print form, and through email on request.

Check with the organisers for news of groups which normally meet in Weoley Hill and Weoley Castle.

Please check the churches' websites for further news and any changes, as well as details of precautions to be observed.

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