

Cadbury Pastorate News

Bournville, Weoley Castle &
Weoley Hill Churches



2020 Easter cross

April 2021

From the *Minister's study*—

EASTER

Where do we meet the risen Christ?

Dear Friends,

Alleluia, Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! That will be our proclamation again on Easter day when we hope to gather in our church carparks for an outdoor service, at Weoley Hill at 10.30am and at Weoley Castle at 11am. And as the Bournville church has no carpark their members are invited to join either of the two Cadbury pastorate outdoor services.

Christ is risen, we proclaim. But where do we meet the risen Christ? Well, let me tell you.....

Do you know that every Saturday, as our Jewish sisters and brothers meet in the Synagogue, they read from the Torah, the five books of Moses? First Genesis, then Exodus, followed by Leviticus, Number and finally Deuteronomy. Three years it takes to read through the five books, and after three years they start again from the beginning: "In the beginning God created..." The three-year cycle ends with Deuteronomy 34 from which I quote the sentence "*Then Moses, the servant of the Lord died...at the Lord's command. He was buriedbut no one knows his burial place to this day*" (Deut. 34: 5-6)

Yes, the Torah ends with the death of Moses, one of the greatest leaders and prophets in the history of the people of Israel. Every three years the weekly readings in the synagogue end with the account of the death of Moses whose tomb has never been found. Isn't that interesting? Doesn't it make us think of the gospel of Jesus Christ which also ends with the death of the greatest

teacher and prophet in *our* history, whose tomb was found but...it was found empty. So where is Jesus? Where is Moses?

Where is Moses? That is the question left open at the end of the Torah. And what do our Jewish brothers and sisters do? They start to read the Torah from the beginning again. Where is Jesus? That is the question we are faced with as we come to the end of the gospel, especially as we read the gospel of Mark. (This lectionary year we read through the gospel of Mark, my favourite gospel!) Where is Jesus if he is not found in the empty tomb? The angel, that is, the young man wearing a white robe that the women find in the tomb gives us the answer: *“Jesus of Nazareth...he is not here.....he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him”* (Mk 16: 6-7)

Galilee? That brings us back to the beginning of the gospel, the beginning of Jesus’ ministry. *“Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God and saying, ‘The time is fulfilled and the kingdom of God has come near’”* (Mk 1:14)

Yes, just like the Jews and their Torah, so we are redirected to the beginning. It is no use looking for a tomb, or to look for someone in an empty tomb; that is not where we are going to find the one whom we are looking for. So where do we find him? We find him by rereading the Torah, by rereading the gospel, right from the beginning. That is where we will find him, as we read again and again and again.....

Each time as we read the Torah again, as we read the gospel again, we make new discoveries, we find new depths of meaning, we gain more insight and we get the spiritual nourishment that sustains us in the living of our days in the words and teachings that are wonderfully life-affirming and life-giving...

What do you think? That when we come to the end of the gospel we can set it aside, just like we do when we have finished reading a novel? The story is finished, Jesus is raised and we now fix our gaze upon Christ who has journeyed from death to life, who is lifted up, glorified and “sitting on the right hand of the Father” as the church proclaims? No, the risen Christ *“is going ahead of you, to Galilee”* Christ who is raised can be found in the reading of the gospel. (Remember that Mark and the other gospel writers who recorded the ministry of Jesus always had in mind that Jesus was the risen Christ)

Christ who is raised can be found in the faithful reading and rereading of the gospel, the good news of the kingdom. For some that is **not** enough. They want more, a more risen and exalted Christ. And when they do not find him in the gospel they may invent him, capture him in doctrines and traditions. Then the risen Christ becomes Lord, King, Judge, sitting on a heavenly throne, or he becomes a personal Saviour, saving some and sitting in judgement of others.

We cannot find a Christ who is more risen than the one whose words and actions touch, move and inspire us as we read and study the Bible, alone or together. It is in the Bible that we meet the risen Christ; in the Bible the God of life, whom we know in Jesus Christ, is revealed in simple words, grand narratives, short parables, straightforward teachings, beautiful poetry, cries of anger and revolt, and in what is left unsaid. God in Christ reveals himself in these in order to offer life, life in abundance, to all.

Yes, we have rejected him, crucified him but he is gracious to us and invites us to start again. “I go ahead of you to Galilee” I want to start again with you. You did not want me, I who am the resurrection and life? Do you realize that you reject life in

abundance? Do you regret it? Let us start all over again, you and I, from the beginning. And again, and again, and again.....

The resurrection is not the end and does not come at the end; it is the beginning, a new beginning. Where do we meet the risen Christ? Take up your Bible and go to Galilee. There you will find him!

Hoping to see many of you at Easter and with all best wishes for the glorious new day!

Leonora



Holy Week Worship

Worship will be recorded and in a print version as usual during lockdown.

Maundy Thursday 1 April Alan Cotgreave

Good Friday 2-April Ann Evans

Easter Sunday 4-April- Leonora

Easter Sunday worship will be celebrated outside Weoley Hill at 10.30 am. Singing will be permitted. Please let Cheryl know if you plan to attend, wear a face covering and be sure to maintain a safe distance from others. We will record attendance. All welcome.

Prayer Page

(a selection of prayers of gratitude prayed by the Bournville congregation over the past year)

We give thanks

- œ For the good news of Easter! For Easter celebrations all over the world.
- œ For the sunshine which draws out into our gardens and parks. May the sunshine remind us that you are the light of the world, even in darkness.
- œ We give thanks for our neighbours and friends who offer support and hope that the flames of kindness we experience will continue and not be extinguished when circumstances change.
- œ We continue to give thanks for all the doctors and nurses and care workers who daily work long hours caring both for Covid 19 patients as well as patients with other illnesses. We also give thanks for the many key workers who are providing essential services.
- œ We give thanks for each other and the beauty we experience every day through sunshine, bird song and clear skies.
- œ We are thankful that more outdoor attractions are beginning to open and that we are able to enjoy visiting places further afield. Thank you for the efforts of all the people who have worked so hard to provide a safe environment.

- ☞ For the comfort and encouragement we find knowing that you love us and are with us always, whatever our circumstances.
- ☞ Thanks for technology both old and new which has enabled us to stay in contact with each other. We thank God for upholding and strengthening our fellowship and pray that we may continue to faithfully serve God, each other and the world through our church and with the gifts and graces we share.
- ☞ Lord, we thank you that during this pandemic more people have been looking at articles on prayer and viewing services online.
- ☞ Lord, thank you that scientists have been able to develop several Covid 19 vaccines.
- ☞ We are grateful that the vaccine roll out is proceeding at pace and we pray for all the health workers and volunteers who are involved in delivering the vaccine.

For all these things, and much more, we give God thanks and praise....



Pastorate News

Weoley Castle News



Eileen Garret, a long-time member of our Monday and Friday social club passed away in the QE hospital on 26 February 2021 at the age of 97. She will be sadly missed. Our thoughts and prayers go out to her family. RIP Eileen.

Eileen loved making and sharing her chocolate treats!

Bruce Harvey has been home from hospital for a few weeks and is recovering well with the help of carers coming in frequently.

Fay Harvey 'made it to heaven' at 3.45 AM on 30 March.

We hear that Jane Goldstein's husband Andrew had been volunteering at the Millennium Point Vaccination Centre, but caught Covid (probably there) and all the family got it. Jane & Andrew were quite ill for a fortnight each, but are now recovered apart from a few remaining aches; the twins sailed through it in a day, and Jane's older children felt poorly as if they had flu, but are also recovered.

We are intending to hold our first **in-person service on Easter morning**, April 4, at 11 am. If weather conditions permit, this will be outside in front of the Church, or inside if necessary. It will be led by Peter Cruchley. We will continue then with online/printed services until our next in-person service at Pentecost (23 May)

Assuming that the roadmap does not change, Elite Dance & Karate groups for children only will re-start after 12th April.

The Elders decided that we should not organise in-person activities for Christian Aid in May, but instead to wait till harvest time. However there is huge need right now, and you can give remotely to support Christian Aid in May.

Ted Forgan

Weoley Hill News

We hope as many as possible will join us for outdoor Easter worship, even though we may need warm coats and umbrellas. Bring some flowers, if you can, to decorate the Easter cross as we did last year. **Good news! We can sing hymns during outdoor worship!**

News flash—the Gardening Group resumes in April—phone Norma for date and time.

Weoley Hill elders have their first 'real' meeting since December later this month. Topics include when we can safely resume regular **worship in church** and how and when to begin **small group meetings** of some kind. The URC advises waiting until Pentecost, at least, assuming infection rates don't go up again. Your thoughts are not only welcome, but essential! Let Cheryl or your elder know.

We know some activities may not resume again, at least not as they were, and that everything may be interrupted again by further outbreaks of the virus. Let's think about new ways to share fellowship during the week and how to include our neighbours. CT

Daniel Kyereh's funeral took place on 23 March.



My dad Daniel Kwadwo Kyereh was born in Ghana in 1936. As did many people from the Commonwealth, he moved to the UK in the 60s, and pursued further training and employment in the field of Psychiatric Nursing. Daniel was joined by his wife Dora in 1966, and had my brother Kofi and me in 1976 and 1973 respectively.

For 30 years he worked across a range of Mental Health hospitals in Birmingham and retired in the 1990s. Daniel was an extremely generous person, supporting his family and friends in Ghana as well as charities in the UK and abroad. He was delighted when he became a grandfather and doted on his granddaughters Carys and Kaya. Sadly, the last years of his life were affected by ill health, and he became one of the millions that lost their lives due to Covid-19. However, we will always remember him as a kind, caring and hardworking man who loved his family dearly. Rest in peace Dad.

Vida Kyereh

Bournville News

The Elders have met and decided to resume worship in church at Pentecost, when everyone should have had their Covid vaccine. In the meantime, we continue to take turns to phone around each week and prepare a prayer sheet that we use beside the pastorate worship. And twice a month on a Thursday some of us pause for an hour to meditate on a Scripture reading that Louise chooses for us.



CHRISTIAN AID 2021 MAY 10-16

Christian Aid 2021 will be very different this year – with no planned house-to-house collection.

How can we raise funds?????? (Subject to Covid rules in place!)

- Use TapSimple for on-line giving—this is what Christian Aid recommend, and this is being set up for our local group of churches.
- Organise a sponsored Walk—Emlyn and others plan to walk the route between the 3 churches—date to be confirmed.
- Attend the giant on-line Christian Aid quiz—Saturday 8 May at 7pm.
- Use delivery envelopes only—this may be possible—with a TapSimple address and/or the Church address on the envelope.
- Challenge yourself to do 300,000 steps in May.

What else can we do??????? The local churches are meeting regularly to discuss , but more ideas are needed!!

Emlyn Evans

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

URC West Midlands Synod

Saturday 13 March 2021

Reflections for Weoley Hill URC and the Cadbury Pastorate

The meeting was held remotely using Zoom, which worked reasonably well with some glitches. It was a long time to be on Zoom, even with breaks for coffee and lunch.

There are quite a lot of points where it is useful to refer to some web links which will as far as possible be gathered as an appendix rather than break the flow of this account.

This report covers highlights in each topic. More information is available from John and Ann.

I hope that as things open up we will have a chance to meet face to face with people from churches across the Synod. I would like to explore linking with one or more churches in a rural part of the Synod. (John)

Opening worship This led directly to the **Birmingham Charter** on the issue of racial justice. We are asked as a church to consider adopting this.

Eco Synod News The West Midlands Synod is the first to achieve a Bronze Award. Churches are encouraged to apply for awards and also to progress to higher awards. Would you be interested in joining an Eco synod steering group, contact our Green Apostle, see below

Trust Finance and Property Some churches may be able to apply for money under **Business Interruption Insurance**. This will depend on which insurer they are with. Advice is available for filling in the forms. It is considered a **duty of trusteeship** to apply where this is possible. Our Elders are the trustees.

Ministry Development The present system of **Area Ministers** is being phased out and support will be available for ministers from the moderator and peers.

Worship during lockdown We were able in breakout sessions and report backs to share the diverse experience across the Synod. There is a set of **Synod Video Stories** available. There are also some **Information Guides**.

Opening for worship This is a matter for the elders in each church to consider. It is clear that there is a wide variation in what is going to happen across the Synod, with varying local circumstances. Safety is of paramount importance.

Modern Day Slavery Mervyn Davies introduced this with a moving address. The Synod adopted a proposed policy which will was also forwarded to general assembly. There is also a recommendation that this should be included in Safeguarding Policy for churches.

In summary:

The Synod urges churches to adopt the statement and will seek to direct churches to resources....

The Synod, in conjunction with other partners, will endeavour to provide training...

The Synod will encourage local churches to make helpline numbers and contact details of support organisations available in their premises so that any victims using the premises may find access to them.

Nominations: Resolution 4 *That Revd. Steve Faber be nominated to be Moderator of General Assembly for 2022-23.* The Moderator withdrew while this was discussed. There was a lot of discussion

of the responsibilities involved and the consequences for the West Midlands Synod. The nomination was approved.

General Assembly & Synod meetings General Assembly in 2021 will be held remotely. The next Synod meeting will be in October 2021 and hopefully in person but it will not be the residential one as planned; that will take place in October 2022 all being well.

Appendices

Birmingham Charter <https://www.time4change.uk/the-charter>

Eco steering group jdavey126@gmail.com

Synod Video Stories

<https://www.urcwestmidlands.org.uk/synod-video-stories.html>

Information Guides <https://urc.org.uk/information-guides.html>

John Fletcher & Ann Evans



April News bulletin

The shortage of spaghetti on supermarket shelves is not due to Brexit or stockpiling. Late spring frosts in northern Italy have damaged the spaghetti harvest.

A new variant of the virus has been detected in Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwlllantysiliogogoch. This Welsh variant is spreading rapidly in England, because doctors are reluctant to tell patients what they have been infected with.

Signs of spring: squirrels have been seen building their nests in oak trees, ready to lay their eggs.

Burglars have broken into our local police station and stolen all the lavatories. The burglars have not been caught, because the police have nothing to go on.

Due to the shortage of boy sopranos, Birmingham cathedral is planning to issue their altos with cylinders of helium gas.

Good Friday is reckoned a good day to plant your seed potatoes. If you boil the potatoes before planting, you can save time in cooking the crop that you harvest.

Boris Johnson will utter no untruths on April 1st this year.

In April, petrol stations will relabel the pumps: diesel will be green and petrol black. Be sure you get the right April fuels.

Due to the pandemic, April Fools Day has been cancelled this year.
TF

The Cadbury Pastorate

Covid-19 cancellations:

Worship has been suspended in our churches for the time being, but Sunday worship can be found on the Weoley Hill website as an audio/visual presentation or in print form, and through email and postal distribution.

Easter Sunday worship will take place outdoors at Weoley Hill at 10.30 AM and at 11 AM at Weoley Castle on 4 April.

Groups which normally meet in the churches have ceased meeting, except for *Incredible Surplus* at Weoley Castle Fridays 10.30 AM -12. (See article for details.)

Please check the churches' websites for further news and any changes.

PASTORATE MINISTER: the Revd Leonora Jagessar

WEOLEY HILL CHURCH Office: 244 6711

Secretary: Cheryl Thornett 475 6338

weoleyhillchurch.org.uk

WEOLEY CASTLE COMMUNITY CHURCH: 475 3841

weoleycastlecommunitychurch.org.uk

weoleycastlecommunitychurch50@gmail.com

BOURNVILLE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Secretary: Maureen Peart 605 3540

