

Cadbury Pastorate News

Bournville, Weoley Castle &
Weoley Hill Churches



July & August 2021

From the Minister's study—

Dear Friends,

A holiday is on the horizon and dropping in at the delightful Bookshop on the Green in Bournville, I came away with a pile of books for summer reading. Not that I do not read all through the year, of course! And so, in this newsletter I just want to share with you some of books I have enjoyed reading over the last few months. I have copied a few sentences or a paragraph or two for you to get a sense of the book and perhaps it will kindle your interest. In any case, I hope many of you will have the time and occasion to pick up a book and while reading may you enjoy being transported to another world or being inspired with fresh ideas, renewed hope, etc.

Rethink: How we can make a better world ed. by Amol Rajan

(Leading voices on life after crisis and how we can make a better world)

“For the past two years now there is one word that has appeared, over and over, in all search engines across the world. A quite simple one, at first glance: “Why?” ... Uncertainty has become a trademark of our times. But how we respond to uncertainty needs radical rethinking.... If the abrupt changes in politics deepened our sense of uncertainty worldwide, coronavirus undoubtedly made things worse. The pandemic did not create as much as reveal the existing factures and inequalities in our society. It also proved that we are all interconnected.... Being interconnected increases our perception of uncertainty but it also offers new probabilities as to the solutions we can find together to our problems as humanity.... In a world as complex, interconnected and ambiguous as ours, it is wiser and healthier to acknowledge uncertainty as an essential part of life rather than try to suppress or erase it by following populist demagogues. The “easy shortcut” to simplicity that they try to sell us only servers to trigger a yearning to go back to a mythical time in history, a romantic golden age that never was.” (Elif Shafak, Rethinking Uncertainty p206-210)

An Armenian Sketchbook by Vasily Grossman (.....impressions of the country—its rocky, mountainous landscape, its ancient churches, its people and their customs)

“There are many old churches, chapels and monasteries in Armenia.... Mankind has been labouring for millennia, creating many objects of spiritual value. Their creations often amaze later generations with their elegance, their grandeur, their opulence.... But only a few of these creations are perfect—and these perfect creations are not remarkable for their opulence or their grandeur.... I think that ancient Armenian churches and chapels also embody perfection. Perfection is always simple, and it is always natural. Perfection is the deepest understanding and fullest expression of what is essential.... Through its outward simplicity an ancient Armenian church shows that within its walls lives the God of the shepherds, of beautiful young women, scholars, old crones, warriors, stonecutters—the God of all people.” (p143-145)

Saving God from Religion. A minister's search for faith in a skeptical age by Robin R. Meyers. (A revolutionary manifesto on how we can reclaim faith from abstract doctrines and rigid morals to find God in the joys and ambiguities of everyday life)

“We can continue to worship a God created in pre-scientific cosmology that no longer exists, or we can graduate to an understanding of God that is as complicated and mysterious as the universe itself. In the process, we might move from fear to reverence. From obedience to wisdom. From separation to unity.” (p26)

“As a pastor I have learned that when people think that the small things they do don't change anything, they stop doing anything at all. I tell them that not every act generates consequences of equal significance but that there is no such thing as an inconsequential act. If organized religion is to survive, and not destroy us, then we will have to recognize that God does not *do* anything. But that without God, who connects all things to all things, *nothing gets done.... A theology of*

consequence answers the despair of perceived insignificance with faith in a universal significance we cannot see but can depend upon.” (p175)

Love after Love by Ingrid Persaud (Meet the Ramdin-Chetan family: forged through loneliness, broken by secret, saved by love)

“Reverend sent an elder everybody calls Uncle Baby.... It was then Uncle Baby’s moment to give a short meditation. At least ten times I warned him—keep it short. Like his ears were clogged up when I was telling him. Give a church man a mike and a hundred quiet people and them does forget how to tell time. He’s clearly been watching the American preachers on TV. All fifteen minutes passed and he was now warming up. *My brothers and sisters, do you think Mr Chetan’s going to heaven?* A few people said yeah and one woman in the back bawl out, amen. *I tell you, Mr Chetan will pass straight to the gates of heaven because he has only to ask the Lord for forgiveness and he gone through. That is our Lord. Always forgiving no matter what sins we commit while on earth.* I was watching him good. Let him say one word about Mr Chetan sinning for being gay and I will take that mike out he hand so fast. I might look small and dotish but today wasn’t the day to cross me. Well Uncle Baby surprised me.... Uncle Baby lasted a good thirty minutes and afterwards people said I was lucky. When Reverend’s not there to crack the whip he could go on hearing the sound of his voice for an hour easy easy. (p393-397)

Happy summer reading! With all best wishes,

Leonora



Prayer page



Loving God,
We live in this waiting time,
Wondering what will happen next.
Asking, questioning, searching.
Will we return to the old normal?
What new things do you have in store for us?
Creator God, grant us hope in the midst of a confused
and troubled world.
Redeemer God, pour out your gift of love, that our lives
may bear fruit.
Sustainer God, free us from fear about what the future
might hold
and give us power to live whole-heartedly for others
and all creation.
Amen.

From the URC Prayers during the pandemic, by the Revd Dr Elizabeth Welch, member of St Andrew's URC in Ealing

Pastorate News

Manse meetings: The meeting at the Manse will be on Thursday August 19 at 2pm (in the garden, weather permitting).

Bournville News

Street Prayers

Several years ago Nick Stanyon visited Bournville URC to tell us about reaching out into the community through prayer. We took his ideas on board, discussed how and when we could do this at Bournville and in 2014 started 'Street Prayers'.

We follow the same pattern each year and over the 4 weeks in June, we deliver letters to 25 houses at the beginning of each week. The letter advises the household that 2 members of the church will call at their house during the week to ask if there is anything they would like us to pray for and inviting them to attend on the following Sunday when we will pray for them in church.

We do the same stretch of road (100 houses) each year. Although there isn't a huge response, many people say how much they appreciate what we are doing and we get the opportunity to have a chat, or just a greeting, with many of our church neighbours. It is good to be building these small relations with our local community and helping them to know we are here for them.

Shirley Smith

Weoley Castle News

On **Sunday July 4th, Bruce Harvey's family** will be scattering Fay's ashes. Please think of Bruce and family on that day.

Government restrictions permitting, Chris Hopkins, Mary Sparkes and others are planning "**Activity Days**" for children at the

Church building on the first and second Tuesdays of August: the 3rd & the 10th. We intend to include craft activities (one of them is making and launching water-powered space rockets) and lunch.
Volunteers welcome: please contact Chris on 0121 426 1227 for more information.

As an extra protection from Covid-19 for people you come in contact with, we have a lot of **lateral flow test kits** at the church. The kits, and instructions for use, are in the Lounge, and may be used by anyone in the building. We also have a couple of the 7-test packs that can be taken home.

During the Summer, we intend to continue having two “in-person” services on the **2nd & 4th Sundays** of the month. These will be inside or outside the building, depending on the weather, with Communion on the 2nd Sunday.

In the latest issue of the URC magazine “Reform”, there is an article by Mark Tubby: <https://www.reform-magazine.co.uk/2021/06/busyness-as-usual/> or you can borrow a copy from Ted Forgan or Chris Miles.



Day centre meeting in the sanctuary: this restarted early June.

Weoley Hill news

Mo Chamanbaz is now in a palliative care facility in Nottingham, where he has had visits from his son and from chaplains. The address is Haywards House, South Rd, Nottingham NG5 1 PB.

Congratulations to **Rachel Wakeman**, recently appointed Synod Clerk.

Please remember our several members who are waiting for surgery or other treatment in your prayers.

The new **Art Club** is meeting at 10 AM on Wednesday mornings—anyone from the Pastorate is welcome. £1 each to cover use of the building. Several people joined Alan Cotgreave to begin the **Walking Group** with a stroll to the far end of Manor Farm Park and back (about 2 miles). Along with a gentle healthy walk, there was plenty of chat and good company. We're starting with 2.20 PM on last Saturdays of each month. And don't forget the **community gardening group**, which meets on 1st Saturdays from about 10.30, March to September/October.

We are still collecting for the **B30 Foodbank**, in the church and in the Thornett's front porch.

We will not produce pre-recorded worship during August, but will experiment with livestreaming. Please tell Cheryl or Leonora if you still require printed material or a recording of some kind.

The **July** retiring collection is for **Guide Dogs for the Blind** and the **August** collection is for **Cobalt cancer diagnostic imaging**:

COBALT HEALTH

www.cobalthealth.co.uk; Registered charity #1090790

Cobalt Health is a medical charity, based in Cheltenham, but serving the whole UK. It provides patients with access to the very best

medical imaging for their diagnosis. Its services are above and beyond what is usually available from the NHS.

During the pandemic, Cobalt's powerful mobile equipment has been able to provide urgent scans, assisting the diagnosis of cancer and dementia. Their mobility enabled patients to be scanned more safely without entering hospitals under Covid regulations.

Whilst the Birmingham Nightingale Hospital was on stand-by, Cobalt's mobile scanners were assigned to it 24/7 for lung scans.

Donations to Cobalt also support medical imaging research e.g. at the Q.E.'s Institute of Translational Medicine.

Colin Graham

Heritage Day, Saturday 11 September: Arrangements are coming along—this is a joint effort with Weoley Hill Village Council, who are celebrating their centenary and will come under the umbrellas of Bournville Open Day and Heritage Open Days. We are looking for volunteers to help put up our banners, to available to visitors to the church building, to help sell refreshments and home-made preserves (also to bake cakes and make preserves), and to help at a BVT information stand on the church grounds.

Further details will be provided as we get them; we'll have publicity materials in August.



Photo by [Wolfgang Hasselmann](#) on

[Unsplash](#)

Weoley Hill Calendar July & August 2021

JULY

Saturday	3	10.30 AM: Gardening group
Sunday	4	10.30 AM: Communion Service led by the minister.
Wednesday	7	10 AM-12: Art Club. £1
Thursday	8	2-3 PM: Meditation at Bournville (TBC)
Sunday	11	10.30 AM: Worship led by Ann Evans.
Monday	12	<i>The minister is on holiday until 4 August</i>
Tuesday	13	10.00 AM: F&B
Wednesday	14	10 AM-12: Art Club. £1 7.30 PM: Elders
Sunday	18	10.30 AM: Worship led by Prof Ted Forgan.
Wednesday	21	10 AM-12: Art Club. £1
Thursday	22	2-3 PM: Meditation at Bournville (TBC)
Saturday	24	Walk?
Sunday	25	10.30 AM: Worship led by Rev Stuart Scott.
Wednesday	28	10 AM-12: Art Club. £1
Saturday	31	2.30 PM: Walking group. Meet at church.

AUGUST

Sunday	1	10.30 AM: Communion Service led by Rev Peter Cruchley.
Wednesday	4	10 AM-12: Art Club. £1
Saturday	7	10.30 AM: Gardening group tbc
Sunday	8	10.30 AM: Worship led by Ann Evans.
Wednesday	11	10 AM-12: Art Club. £1
Sunday	15	10.30 AM: Worship led by the minister.
Wednesday	18	10 AM-12: Art Club. £1
Sunday	22	10.30 AM: Worship led by Alan Cotgreave.
Wednesday	25	10 AM-12: Art Club. £1
Saturday	28	2.30 PM: Walking group. Meet at church.
Sunday	29	10.30 AM: Pastorate worship led by the minister.

Jokes for the school holidays



How is a teacher's summer vacation like someone closing their eyes?

There aren't any pupils to see.

Who goes to school during the summer?

Surfers – they go to boarding school – and fishes: they stay in a school.

My friend went for a job at a sun cream factory but didn't get it.
He's going to reapply.

I'm trying to save money on my staycation in Derbyshire this year, so I'm going to the Off-Peak District

I didn't realize how bad a driver I was until my satnav said, "In 400 yards, do a slight right, stop, and let me out."

What did the beach say to the tide when it came in?

Long time, no sea! - and the sea said nothing – it just waved.

I had my bag torn to shreds on my summer holiday flight, so asked a lawyer if I could sue the airline. He said, "You don't have much of a case".

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

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 2nd & 4th 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 an audio/visual presentation or in print form, and through email and postal distribution 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.

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

