

Cadbury Pastorate News

Bournville, Weoley Castle &
Weoley Hill Churches



May 2021

Christian Aid Special

From the Minister's study—

Dear Friends,

Have you ever tried to read the Bible from beginning to end? If you did, I am impressed. I never managed it, even though I tried, as I would give up by the time I got to the book of Numbers, the 4th book of the OT or rather, the 4th book of the Hebrew Bible or the fourth book of the five books that make up the Jewish Torah. Of course, I did read some of the stories in Numbers but I never read the story of Eldad and Medad, in chapter 11.

The main story in Numbers chapter 11 is about complaining, both on the part of the people and on the part of Moses, who find themselves journeying in the wilderness after their flight out of Pharaoh's Egypt. The people will not stop complaining about their wilderness diet of daily manna. They want meat (yes, they are not vegetarians!). Moses is tired and weary and complains to God *"I am not able to carry all this people alone, for they are too heavy for me."* He even suggests that God can as well put him to death. But God responds *"I know you cannot bear the burden of the people alone, not even you. So I will take some of the spirit I put upon you and give it to the 70 elders that I ask you to gather at the tent of meeting. They will carry the load with you."* And so the spirit rested upon the 70 and they prophesied.

But beside the 70 who were chosen, there were two other men, Eldad and Medad, on whom the spirit rested too. And they began to speak; they prophesied too. Joshua is upset and tells Moses to stop them. But Moses responds *"Why would I do so? I wish all God's people were prophets and that God would put the spirit upon all of them."* In other words, the more prophets, the better.....

At Pentecost, when we meet again in church, we will hear once more the story of the Holy Spirit coming to rest on the followers of Jesus, and God's spirit has rested and continues to rest on many ever since.

We remember that God’s spirit has encouraged, challenged, strengthened and guided us over the years, and continues to do so.

However, we may feel that we have to carry so much, during this pandemic, in a society and world that is so unequal, in which people suffer needlessly, justice has to be fought hard for, and greed and hunger for power are so pervasive. We may well feel that being prophetic, standing up and speaking out for social, economic and racial justice is not “safe” (as it has never been) and that the powers-that-be and the dominant culture always find ways to silence critical voices, or to weaken resistance by co-opting us into the system. But the story of Eldad and Medad and the Pentecost story, as well as many other stories of the spirit being poured out on the people (cf Joel 2: 28), tell us that God’s spirit is abundantly given and shared so that we can carry the load together, we can break the silence, rise up and together work for change!

The Pentecost season is a great time to acknowledge that we can’t do it all—love God, eradicate racism, welcome the stranger, lift up the lowly, nurture beloved community, reinvent church for a pandemic, and more—on our own. And Pentecost is the perfect time to celebrate that we don’t have to. Because there is more than enough Spirit to go around. Because a people empowered can always do more together than the most gifted leader. Because a Spirit-filled church can change the world. (Vicki Kemper in UCC Daily Devotions)

So let me ask you a few questions:

Who is prophesying at this time? Who do we need to listen to, in our society, in our church?

“Would that all God’s people were prophets” What do we need to speak out *for* or *against*?

How can our church be a voice for change, at this time? And what is the spirit saying to us as we prepare for a “new normal” after the pandemic?

I hope we will have an occasion to discuss these questions together sometime soon. And looking forward to seeing many of you at Pentecost!

With all best wishes, *Leonora*

May worship

02-May		Leonora
09-May		Ann Evans
16-May		Leonora
23-May	Pentecost*	WH—Alan Cotgreave WCCC—TBA Bournville—Leonora
30-May	Pastorate worship† if possible	Leonora—outdoors at Weoley Hill if possible

***In-Church worship** resumes on Pentecost Sunday at Weoley Hill, Weoley Castle and Bournville. Weoley Hill plans to worship in church every Sunday thereafter, circumstances permitting. Weoley Castle will worship on 2nd & 4th Sundays, with online services at other times.

†Only if weather and guidelines permit.

Online and print versions will be supplied for the foreseeable future.

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

Tea-Time Prayer for climate justice

God of all of life,
waiting for the water to boil
we confess and lament
the rise of temperature
that has led to a climate crisis
across this beautiful planet.
We wait, impatient for change.
Pouring out hot water
on loose-leaf or tea bag,
into teapot or favourite mug,
we pour out our intercessions
for a change of heart by
politicians
to put planet and people first.
Stirring teabag, leaves or sugar
we ask that you would stir in us
a passion to take action,
to do all we can at this critical
hour

to take care of our common
home
and amplify the call for climate
justice.
Drinking that first satisfying sip
we give thanks for the day
when
'they will hunger no more, and
thirst no more'*
Infuse us with a strongly
brewed vision
of your creation healed and
restored.

Amen

#AmenToClimateJustice

*Revelation 7:16

- Wendy Lloyd, Christian Aid

Take action

- Grab a cuppa, say our tea-time prayer and post a picture of yourself and your brew at 11am every day during Christian Aid Week (10-16 May). Use the hashtag: #AmenToClimateJustice.

- Join our online prayer service for climate justice on May 19th – we'll pray with communities from around the world and find out how we can act together in the pursuit of climate justice at the G7

<https://prayer-for-climate-justice-pre-g7.eventbrite.co.uk>

*- Take action for climate justice ahead of the G7. Visit our special G7 activities page to find out how you can make a difference.
caid.org.uk/g7action*

URC partner Durgapur India

We've had information from our partners in Durgapur this week. KSN hospital is starting to be overwhelmed by Covid patients and staff members are also being infected. Covid is also affecting the ability to deliver education at their child study centres (all closed, no laptops for home-schooling in the poorest homes, parents largely uneducated and unable to support the children themselves). Increasing poverty will increase pressures from human traffickers, so the needs grow in every sense. Please pray!

—*Notice from the URC*

Recycling blister packs

Do you ever sigh at the number of blister packs of medicine you use, assuming they can't be recycled? Now they can be, through some pharmacies. So far, it's just the Superdrugs in the Grosvenor Centre and Harborne High Street in this area. There are recycling boxes at the pharmacy counters. CT

Thanks as always to Alan Cotgreave, who creates the audio-visual presentations for Sunday worship, and to everyone who is helping to distribute worship sheets and newsletters.

Christian Aid Week 10-16 May

As you may be aware Weoley Hill cannot do the usual house-to-house collections this year. However, we will be distributing deliver-only envelopes for people to use to make their own contributions. These will be going to houses in the streets around the church.

On the envelope there will be information as to where donations can be made. One method is via the Christian Aid website <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week> Another will be via a crowdfunding website, TapSimple, which will be giving us an idea of how much is collected for Christian Aid is associated with Weoley Hill Church



<https://giving.tapsimple.org/online/christian-aid/weoley-hill-church>

There will also be a QR code on the envelope to take you to this web page for people with the know-how and technical skills.

Emlyn and hopefully others will be doing a sponsored walk starting at Bournville URC and walking to the other 2 churches of the pastorate. This will be starting at 10.00 am on Saturday 8 May. You can support him by donating via TapSimple:

<https://giving.tapsimple.org/online/christian-aid/sponsored-walk-the-3-urc-churches>



Each QR code is different so the sponsored walk one is:

Thank you and please give what you can via any of these ways or put a donation in the deliver only envelope and put it through the church letter box or send it to Emlyn.

Emlyn & Ann Evans

Give thanks for your vaccine in Christian Aid Week



We are certainly grateful for the skill and dedication of all the people who have made it possible for us to receive a Covid-19 jab – ranging all the way from the scientists to the volunteers at the vaccination stations.

How can we give thanks? Surely we should be expressing our gratitude in a practical way – particularly because we know that most people throughout the world have not yet received a jab. Christian Aid has set up a “Wall of thanksgiving”, where you can add your own words or prayer, and where you can also donate to help to reduce inequalities in the world:

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/give/ways-donate/give-thanks-your-coronavirus-vaccine-messages> (or Google: give thanks for vaccine).

The URC is supporting Christian Aid by its own fundraising campaign:

<https://urc.org.uk/latest-news/3740-give-thanks-for-your-vaccine-through-urc-fundraiser>

NB: See also the information about Weoley Hill's TapSimple page for Christian Aid for online giving, not restricted to Weoley Hill.

Alternatively, you can contribute directly to the cost of delivering vaccines by visiting the UNICEF page:

<https://www.unicef.org.uk/donate/coronavirus/> (or Google: UNICEF donate vaccines).

Perhaps you feel political action is required: see Oxfam's accounts of the efforts to spread the vaccine more fairly:

<https://www.oxfam.org/en/tags/peoples-vaccine> (or Google: people's vaccine).

You can email your MP about this: Google: who is my mp? This will lead you to information about how to contact them.

Some more food for thought: well over 400,000 people (many of them children) die from malaria every year. These people mainly lived in sub-Saharan Africa, and malaria caused a much bigger toll than Covid-19. Why do we not hear about this on the news every day? However there are signs of hope: the development of the first really effective vaccine against malaria has just been announced by part of the same Oxford team who developed the Astra-Zeneca vaccine. Will this malaria vaccine be rolled out as quickly??



SOMC Gardeners' Market 29 May

Selly Oak Methodist expects to hold their outdoor Gardeners' Market again this year on Saturday 29 May. It works on a bring-and-buy basis, so you are welcome to bring any excess plants from your garden or with your window boxes and planters and go away with something new. Proceeds go to *Christian Aid* and *Jubilee Debt*.

CT

Pastorate News

News from Weoley Castle

We were very happy to have an Easter outdoor service, preceded by a walk of meditation, led by Peter Cruchley. Our next “in person” service will be at 11 am on Pentecost Sunday, 23rd May, and starting in June we plan to have services in person at 11 am on the 2nd & 4th Sundays, with online services at other times.

Bruce and family decided not to hold a funeral service for Fay, but will have a “Fay Day” at his house, provisionally planned for Saturday 4 July.

We were glad that Elite and Karate youth groups were able to re-start in April, and “Incredible Surplus” continues on Friday mornings. Other groups are carefully waiting longer before they re-start.

On Monday April 26th, two classes from Year 6 at Princethorpe School were “evacuated to Gloucestershire” at the beginning of their topic on the 2nd World War. The School had been looking at possibilities for joint activities with us, and “Gloucestershire” was actually the Church building. The children arrived wearing labels and clutching their suitcases and boxes for gas masks. They separated into small groups to work out what clothing they could get for 76 rationing coupons (that’s how an arithmetic lesson was incorporated!) and also wrote down answers to questions like: “How would having fewer clothes change your life?”

I was sorry to see that they didn’t have to do any sums using £ s d!

Ted Forgan





Weoley Hill news

Easter Sunday

We were equally delighted by warm sunshine and the number of worshippers when we met in the car park for Easter Sunday

worship. It was a joy to see Dave and Kath Upton able to join us after so long, and to share worship with Bournville.



Worship in church will resume, God willing, on Pentecost Sunday. 23 May, and will continue in the shortened form we adopted last autumn for the time being. Printed and online versions of Sunday worship will still be available.

The Elders would like to know how many people will continue worshipping at home for a while and of those, whether you would be able to watch services online if we can set it up. The Elders are considering how and when small groups can meet in the church or in homes, perhaps as Elder groups or as groups focussed on prayer, discussion, particular interests, general chat and so on. We'll be asking for your ideas.

Mo Chamanbaz has surgery planned for later this month.

Thanks to John Fletcher, aided by Gordon Thornett, for taking the generous contributions from Weoley Hill and the Bryony/Tamarisk/Mimosa Street Association to the B30 Foodbank. The need is still great.



In those 3 months the B30 foodbank has fulfilled 779 vouchers, to help feed 1086 adults and 566 children, a total of 1652 people



B30foodbank is part of the Trussell Trust's UK wide foodbank network
Contact us on info@b30.foodbank.org.uk or 07582143972

www.b30foodbank.org.uk

Groups are beginning to return, with Slimming World being one of the first. All groups will have to assure Christine Marlow, as booking secretary, that they are complying with safety requirements, and we are getting further information from Birmingham Environmental Health about keeping the church and all who use it as safe as possible.

Cheryl Thornett

Bournville News:

We (Leonora and the Elders) have had a good meeting with Martin Robinson and Doug Sembuzee (Youth and Community Minister) from Rowheath Pavilion and Steve Faber and Catherine Harris (Synod Trust Officer) to discuss the possibility of RP sharing the Beaumont Rd church building with us for mission outreach in the community. The Elders are excited about the possibility of this mission partnership and outreach and will discuss it again at their next Elders meeting on the 11th of May.

Leonora

Earth Day

Were you aware of Earth Day's existence before the publicity this year? I'm not sure I was or what it stood for. It has been on the world calendar on 22 April every year since 1970 – 51 years of people making the world aware of what is happening to it.

Why have one day every year to highlight the plight of climate change and environmental issues, it should be every day that we are thinking about these vital aspects?

On the BBC there has been a documentary about Greta Thunberg as an activist for climate change and other environmental issues. Greta says big governments and businesses around the world are not moving

quickly enough to cut carbon emissions and has attacked world leaders for failing young people.

At last year's World Economic Forum in Davos, she called for banks, firms, and governments to stop investing in fossil fuels—such as oil, coal and gas—and use their money to help "existing sustainable technologies, research and in restoring nature" instead.

Some people criticise Greta for repeating the same message but until people listen and act I think she will continue to make the same comments that not enough is being done by those in control to change the world and save the world for the next generation and beyond.

We have a beautiful planet, and it is particularly wonderful at the moment with the emergence of the leaves on the trees, the bird song, new growth, blossom on the trees in Middle Park Road, Bournville Lane and other places and spring flowers.

Let us do what we can by not wasting food, not using single use plastic products, eating less red meat, turning our thermostats down a degree and use power companies that do not get their power from fossil fuels, etc. These are all small steps but together we can make a difference. Let every day be Earth Day.

Ann Evans



P.S: I was part of a march in Syracuse, New York, on the first Earth Day, 22 April 1970. Clean air, clean water, and healthy waterways were our featured concerns, as I remember. Cheryl

Political jokes to celebrate the local elections on May 6th

This morning the Prime Minister held a meeting with his cabinet; he also spoke to his bookcase and had an argument with a chest of drawers. - *Ronnie Barker*

Too bad that all the people who know how to run the country are instead driving taxis or cutting hair.

Q: How many politicians does it take to change a light bulb?

A: Two: one to change it and another to change it back again.

Q: *How many spin doctors does it take to change a light bulb?*

A: *Four: one to change it and three to deny it.*

Q: How many Marxists does it take to change a light bulb?

A: None: the seeds of change are within the light bulb itself.

MI5: a government organization that actually listens to you!

Q: What is the difference between the Government and the Mafia?

A: One of them is organised

I have given orders to be awakened at any time if there is a national emergency - even if I'm in a Cabinet meeting. - Ronald Reagan

Donald Trump's ex-presidential library was completely destroyed by fire this morning; no books were lost in the blaze.

These are just jokes: do vote – politics can make a real difference to real people's lives!

Ted

The Cadbury Pastorate

Opening for Worship

(From 23 May, Government restrictions permitting)

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. Online 1st & 3rd Sundays.

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.

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