

Cadbury Pastorate News

Weoley Castle &
Weoley Hill Churches



May 2024

Community Engagement –

Personal view of Ted Forgan, WCCC

Many times have I sat after the Weoley Castle Community Church Sunday service, thinking “I enjoy this style of worship; it is meaningful and effective for me; however, I am usually sharing it with the same people every week, and it is very infrequent that ‘strangers’ come in and appreciate this too.” Meanwhile, the life of Weoley Castle goes on outside, or the users of the building come and go, without us having a particularly strong connection – although we do have a good relationship with them.

This may suggest that we try different styles of Worship on Sunday, but how will the community know? In any case, although worship is important, there is also the need for love and service. Hence, first there is a need for community engagement.

For many years we have had Day Centres and Lunch Clubs for senior citizens, and ‘Stay and Play’ for toddlers and their parents, where we interact with parts of the community. In recent years, this engagement has been greatly supplemented by the “Warm Welcome” that happens on Fridays. Many of the people who come on Friday contribute to making it work, and supporting each other, and it seems that we could take this further. In addition, both Weoley Hill and Weoley Castle have arranged ‘Family Fun Days’, with games, crafts and food for families to attend, and similar events occur at St. Gabriel’s and Castle Elim Churches in Weoley Castle. The joint service of our three churches at WCCC on 5th May partly recognises that we are working together on community engagement.

At WCCC, we have been considering how we can extend this mission, and our vision coincides with that of Sam Poursain, who

has been actively engaging with the Warm Welcome activities on Fridays. Sam and family have recently moved into Shenley Fields Rd. He will graduate in the Summer from the “pioneers” course run by Ash Barker at Lodge Road URC, and wishes to put these ideas into practice by further developing our community engagement and finding fresh expressions of Church life. He has a job with flexible working hours, and our plan is to engage him via Ash Barker’s ‘Seedbeds’ company as a (20%) part-time Weoley Castle URC Community Outreach Worker. In this, we are aiming to emulate the success achieved by Ash’s team at Lodge Road, and we have their involvement in the aims and the fundraising for Sam’s venture as a ‘pioneer’ in Weoley Castle. He has discussed with the Elders an initial outline of his possible involvement in developing the quality and outreach of our Friday activities, plus further midweek Worship & Community activities, and occasional support for Sunday services. We are currently considering a detailed job description and contract, but with fundraising and pledges, we can already look forward to an initial contract for 2 years. We welcome prayer and practical support for this venture.

Ted



Prayer page

A prayer for Pentecost:

Perplexing, Pentecostal God,
you infuse us with your Spirit,
urging us to vision and dream.
May the gift of your presence
find voice in our lives,
that our babbling may be transformed into discernment
and the flickering of many tongues
light an unquenchable fire of compassion and justice. Amen.

(Revised Common Lectionary Year A)

Lord of wind and fire

blow through our lives with your renewing spirit; speak to us in
thunder and in the still small voice that carries over every
distraction; give us words of truth and love.

burn in our hearts with love for justice and the desire to see the
wrongs of this world made right, sharing your love for all your
children, our brothers and sisters.

Come, Holy Spirit!

Lord may your Spirit work in all the discussions about the Pastorate to
be formed. Show us how we can find unity in love and purpose while
accepting our different characters and histories. May we find new
strength and a deeper sense of the missions you call us to.

*The next issue will be available around 1 June. Contributions are
requested! Send them to Ted Forgan at Weoley Castle or Cheryl Thornett
at Weoley Hill.*

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

MAY 12-18 2024



The main focus this year is on Burundi.

Life in Burundi

In Burundi, malnourishment and poverty affect more than 70% of the population, making survival a daily struggle. Jobs and food are hard to come by, and those who have homes often have no electricity or running water.

CHRISTIAN AID – WEOLEY HILL

Our service on May 12TH will include some Christian Aid worship material.

We plan to deliver envelopes in the local streets, and also organise a sponsored walk.

PLEASE SUPPORT CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

Pastorate News

Weoley Hill News

Family Fun

The afternoon of games and craft activities for children in the Easter holiday worked out well with a good number of children and young people, and accompanying adults. Thank you for the support of time given as well as for the games and cakes donated that made it successful.

We plan to have another such afternoon on Thursday 30 May, 2-4 PM, during the school half-term break. Any help or support again would be much appreciated.

Sue

Grace Chung

The marriage of Grace Chung and Christopher Tomlinson took place at the Nazarene Theological College, Didsbury, Manchester, on Saturday 6 April, 11 AM. We wish them much happiness in their life together.



Sam Lukwago

Sam Lukwago, a longtime member of our church, went to be with the Lord on 5 April 2024. He was born in Uganda and completed his education through to secondary school there before attending university in the United States. He then returned to Kampala, Uganda where he held several positions in the Uganda Development Corporation, a body that facilitated the industrial and economic development of Uganda. The family later moved to Kenya, and then to the UK in the early 1990s.



Though Sam was retired for many years, he rarely stayed still. He volunteered to help whenever and wherever possible—including right here at Weoley Hill Church.

One of Sam’s greatest passions was music. He played the organ for every church he attended and belonged to several choirs over the years. There was always a piano in the home and he exposed all his children to learning to play the piano.

Sam loved keeping abreast of international current affairs. All who were fortunate enough to interact with him were beneficiaries of engaging conversations. Sam loved spending time with his family and thanks to his passion for taking photographs, we have a wealth of recorded memories of wonderful times spent together.

Above all, Sam loved the Lord and studying His word. He lived a full and happy life in keeping with a Bible verse that is central to the family across the generations: “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.” (Proverbs 9:10).

The church was filled with family, friends and admirers at the celebration of Sam’s life on 24 April. The service was led by

Pastor Andrew Kisuma; several family members paid tribute; former ministers Tom Arthur and George Kalu also joined us to honour Sam. There was, of course, plenty of music: Pastor Kisuma's family provided instrumental accompaniment and the Community Choir sang to remember Sam as a member. (The flowers were magnificent.)

Thanks to everyone who spoke so well about Sam, to Juliet Chideya for organising the meal, and to all who helped with the service and with the meal.

Korean School anniversary

Saturday 27 April was a very special day for our Birmingham Korean School, when they celebrated their 30th anniversary with a wonderful show here in the church. David and I were invited to join them. All 60 children and their teachers were involved in a beautifully acted story - needless to say we didn't understand a word, but with the help of pictures on the PowerPoint and the children's costumes we got the gist of it. Afterwards we joined them for a buffet meal, and a slice of a huge anniversary cake.

That was the third big event here in the last week, with the Korean wedding last weekend, the very sad but beautiful occasion of Sam's funeral on Wednesday, and now this special anniversary. How fortunate we are, though a small congregation, to have a rich and diverse community.

CM



SILVER AWARD ECO-CHURCH

As you may know we are trying to upgrade our BRONZE Eco-Church award to a SILVER award by improving our awareness of eco-issues and increasing our positive responses to the local environment and climate change with small actions that can help us, both individually and as a church, to protect the planet.

One way is to try to add a small piece in our monthly newsletter to mention ways in which this can be done, or to remind us to think about our own personal use of fuels and commodities. This does not have to be a long, scientific essay but rather a short 'Eco-tip' that maybe could prompt you to act on something you may not have thought about before; perhaps an idea heard on the radio or TV; something read in a newspaper or an article in a magazine?

It would be good if there was a church member who would collate any 'tips' sent in by members and pass them on to Cheryl for publishing in the next newsletter... any volunteers? Joyce Cope did this for a while. There is an example below to show you what could be done. If you have ANY suggestions please forward them for the June (and rest of the year) news. Many thanks.

Lorraine

*May's retiring collection is for **The Project**, formerly South Birmingham Young Homeless, based at Bristol Road Longbridge by Colmers Farm School.*

Eco Tips

- The major supermarkets have bins for recycling old plastic bags. Not just shopping bag size but bags around bread, potatoes, frozen food, fresh fruit and vegetables, unused charity collection bags and even some tools and deliveries. To make sure they are the correct kind you need to try to s-t-r-e-t-c-h them first as the non-stretch ones are too tough and made of a different kind of plastic. (If you do have some of the larger size John Fletcher and the food bank would be grateful!) [*Check your bags: some will say 'recycle at larger supermarkets, not at home' or something similar and alas some still say 'do not recycle'. Editor*]
- MAY is a good time to plant annuals to attract bees. They make the garden—or simple pot—look great but also help our local bee population which is essential for all plant growth. Try cornflowers, dianthus, lavender, nicotiana, stocks, viola, wallflowers, and 100's of others.

Eco church

It has been a few years since we obtained our Eco Church Bronze award from A Rocha. I thought it is about time to see if we could qualify for our silver award.

To do this means filling in a very comprehensive questionnaire under the sections of: Worship & Teaching, Buildings, Land, Community and Global Engagement and Lifestyle. It is not a questionnaire that is straightforward for one person to complete because of the complexity

of various sections. David Marlow has given me responses regarding the building and land sections regarding any Eco-friendly issues we follow such as power suppliers having some green tariffs. He also knows where we have insulation and double glazing or not in the church premises and manse. Our land has trees and plants that are animal and bee friendly, and we do compost materials.

Under the section on worship and teaching it asks how often we mention God's creation in worship during the year. We do not have a designated Sunday for this apart from harvest so maybe one Sunday I will dedicate worship to Eco issues. Should we have an external speaker from a Christian environmental organisation come to lead our worship or at least use the reflection time to educate us?

This is where we all come in under sections of Community and Global Engagement and Lifestyle. Do we engage locally with our local leaders on environmental issues? At the moment the answer is yes because of the proposed flood scheme but maybe not as a church. Do we car share? Do we participate on clean up projects as individuals or as a church? Are we committed to pray for a specific overseas environmental project? Do we participate as a church in Toilet Twinning? Could we do that?

For Lifestyle do we encourage each other about reduced use of our cars and personal energy consumption? Do we encourage limiting waste by reducing, reusing and recycling? Do you use food at home that is LOAF (locally grown, organic, animal friendly and fairtrade)? Do you use ethical investment with your personal savings? Are you aware of your own carbon footprint and how to work it out? Ought we to do one for the church?

Ann

Weoley Hill Calendar for May 2024

Thursday	2	all day	Local Elections; we are a polling station, so no groups meet in the church
Sunday	5	10.30 AM:	Worship & communion led by Ann.
Tuesday	7		No Tuesday fellowship
Wednesday	8	7.30 PM:	Elders' meeting
Sunday	12	10.30 AM:	Worship led by Ann.
Tuesday	14	7-9.30 PM:	Bournville Freeholders and Leaseholders AGM in John Kydd Hall
Sunday	19	10.30 AM:	Pentecost. Worship led by Worship & Arts.
Tuesday	21	10.30 AM:	Tuesday Fellowship
Sunday	26	10.30 AM:	Worship led by Alan.
Thursday	30	2-4 PM:	Family Fun activity

Please note that the Thursday morning Coffee & Chat sessions have been suspended.

Art Group 10-12 noon on Wednesdays, all welcome.

Community Choir 6.45-8 PM on Fridays in term time, all welcome.

Weoley Castle News

Services: 11 AM on Sundays

May 5th: Joint Service with St. Gabriel's & Castle Elim at WCCC
10.30

May 12th: led by Alison Geary

May 19th: led by Ted

May 26th: Led by Joe Bevan.

News

At the WCCC AGM in April, the following motions were passed:

WCCC is prepared to be part of the proposal for a Minister for the 'Central & South Birmingham Pastorate' and appoints Chris Hopkins & Ted Forgan to the "Call Committee" of the proposed four Churches, which would oversee the initial processes of calling a minister. This decision is not to rule out collaboration with Lodge Road URC in seeking ways for churches to operate in working class areas. Further information may put this decision under review.

The meeting authorises the Elders to negotiate a detailed job description and contract and (D.V.) proceed with the project to employ a part-time Community Outreach Worker for an initial period of 2 years. (Further information about this project is given earlier in the Newsletter)

The Meeting also received the accounts for 2023, which showed that expenditure was (a small fraction of reserves) larger than income, but this still amounted to about £20 a week, so if members were able to increase their giving, it would be welcome.



Spoonerisms

Rev. William Archibald Spooner (1844 – 1930) was a British clergyman and long-serving Oxford don. He was well-known for his absent-mindedness, and for mixing up the sounds of words when speaking. It is claimed that in proposing a toast at a dinner in his Oxford College attended by Queen Victoria, he cried: *"Three cheers for our queer old dean!"* — *"dear old Queen"* (mangled words in italics). Here are some more (mostly not coined by Spooner) for your untangling and enjoyment.

A steward ushering people into a Church service: "I'm sorry Madam, but this pie is occupewed. Can I sew you to another sheet?"

In a sermon: "The Lord is a shoving leopard."

At a wedding: "It is kisstomary to cuss the bride."

Criticising student work ethic: "You have hissed all your mystery lectures, and you have tasted two whole worms."

I live in a flock of bats.

I used to travel to work on a well-boiled icicle. Losing my job was a blushing crow.

I decided to have chilled grease on toast for supper. Tomorrow it will be chork pops.

The Government's announcement about supermarket shortages is a lack of pies. They claim to have a plaster man.

We care about the oceans: we want to wave the sails.

If you want to reduce your water bill, don't shake a tower every day.

When I go to the Post Office to pet my gentian, I take a stalking wick.

I have dropped my hat: could somebody pat my hiccup?

Farm labourers are noble tons of soil.

Overseas workers have been heaving loam to get a job.

(Another example of Rev. Spooner's absent-mindedness, unrelated to Spoonerisms: he preached a long Sunday sermon and on finishing, returned to his seat. However, he immediately remounted the pulpit to add: "Every time I said 'Aristotle', I meant to say 'St. Paul'.")

The Cadbury Pastorate

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 in outline or in complete form.

Bournville URC has closed.

THE PASTORATE IS CURRENTLY IN VACANCY

WEOLEY HILL CHURCH Office: 244 6711

Secretary: Ann Evans 628 4558

B29 4DE

weoleyhillchurch.org.uk

WEOLEY CASTLE COMMUNITY CHURCH: 475 3841

weoleycastlecommunitychurchurc.org.uk

weoleycastlecommunitychurch50@gmail.com

B29 5LE

