

# Cadbury Pastorate News

Bournville, Weoley Castle &  
Weoley Hill Churches

# 2022



*January 2022*

### *From the Minister's study—*

At the beginning of the new year, as the Christmas season is (nearly) over I ask myself what the most memorable time in church has been for me this time around. And I know, it was the Crib service at Weoley Hill church! Beside the service itself being memorable, it was the aesthetic beauty of the church that lifted my spirit and filled me with wonder, the moment I entered the church. The lit-up Christmas tree, the beautiful festive decorations, the flickering candle lights (including the Advent candles attractively decorated) and the crib with baby Jesus (thankfully not a white one!) in front of the altar drew me into the mystery, awe and wonder of Christmas.

Isn't it what all three of our churches try to do, especially for special days and holy seasons, that is, to beautifully decorate the church to add to the worship experience? For adding it does, as it enhances the mood, engages our senses, helping us to praise God for the gift of life in all its abundance and inspiring us to respond faithfully and generously. And it is not only for our own sakes that we put an effort in making the church appealing to enhance the worship experience; it may help the occasional or seasonal visitor to get drawn into the wonder and mystery of our Christian faith. And so, while we have packed away the Christmas decorations, boxed up the Nativity scene, dismantled or discarded the Christmas tree, we expect that next Advent/Christmas our sanctuaries will be transformed again with colours and lights and symbolism that convey something of the meaning of Christmas and the birth of Jesus, *Emmanuel*, the *Light of the World*.

However, even when the sanctuary of our churches may look rather bare as we have moved into the Epiphany season, perhaps it is good to note that the simple furniture and furnishings in our churches also help us to be faithful in worship and witness; they "tell a story" about our faith, our church, our welcome and our service. For instance, the two beautiful "mosaic-like" panels above the doors to the vestry in the Bournville church, depicting wheat and bread, grapes and a cup, tells the story that the sharing of communion is central to the life of the

congregation (formerly Churches of Christ) and has kept them together in a strong fellowship for many years. The sanctuary at Weoley Castle church, in its simple and somewhat chaotic appearance, perfectly tells the story of a church that warmly welcomes and generously serves the community, with heart and hands and all kinds of furnishings and “goods”!

But I am particularly pleased to mention the Weoley Hill church sanctuary that is in the process of transformation. Having received a generous donation of very nice and comfortable chairs from Halesowen URC (recently closed) the pews have been moved to make space for them in the front of the church. It looks good (and will look even better when the surplus of pews will find a new home). They are very practical and will allow for more flexibility in seating and creativity in our worship. To me that tells the story that the church, traditional in many ways, is open to change and renewal, forward looking as it considers how the church building can continue to be used in service to God and be welcoming to the community.

Changing pews for chairs may have taken a while to happen at Weoley Hill church, even though it was long dreamed of by many. And, of course, it is part of a trend in many churches over many years that have adapted or transformed their interior architecture and/or furnishings to bear witness to a faithful worshipping community that is welcoming and seeks to engage with modern senses and sensibilities rather than be a mere museum or custodian of a past heritage.

I hope that many of you (from the three pastorate churches) will be able to attend the joint service at Weoley Hill church on the 30<sup>th</sup> of January to see the transformation of the sanctuary for yourselves and to *“worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.”*

With all best wishes for the New Year,

*Leonora*

## *Prayer page*

### **Emmanuel – God with us**

About 1/3 of the population of Qushan island, Zhejiang Province, China are Christians. Fishermen there have been targeted by local officials who removed crosses from the masts of fishing vessels and also the word Emmanuel painted on some boats. Their fishing permits were put under threat if the symbols remained.

Thank God that Emmanuel whose coming as a baby we have just celebrated, cannot be obliterated from the world and the hearts of the faithful.

### **A seasonal prayer**

We thank you God for the birth of your Son, destined to become the world's Saviour. In your love and compassion you sent Jesus to our sinful world to live and die amongst us. Our hearts are warm with thanksgiving for your great gift. May we live in a spirit of gratitude and praise.

(From a prayer in The Soldier's Armoury Dec 1976)

Sue Beeby

*And closer to home:*

The Birmingham Crisis Centre, a refuge for abused women and their children, has been so overwhelmed by numbers in need of shelter that they have had to turn women away. Please give thanks for the work they do and remember the staff and, above all, the women and children who have to flee their homes for a place of safety.

Cheryl Thornett

# Pastorate News

## Weoley Castle News



*Christmas  
at Weoley  
Castle*



Our plans may change if new restrictions come in response to omicron cases, but at present we intend to return to fortnightly “in person” services in January, with Leonora leading the service at 11 AM on Jan 9<sup>th</sup> and Barbara Calvert on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

“Love Weoley” is a group of people who help to build community in Weoley Castle. Members of the local Churches are involved, along with other community activists, Asda and the Castle Croft care home. This year Love Weoley offered on the Weoley Community Facebook site\* a personalised “letter from Santa” for local children. Nearly 500 children were nominated by their parents and received a letter. This required all their details to be entered into a huge spreadsheet, followed by printing out, addressing and delivering by a group of volunteers. This

effort was much appreciated by the local kids. Love Weoley also organised a Carol service in front of the Elim Church on a Saturday before Christmas.

\* <https://en-gb.facebook.com/groups/weoley/>

Keep Margaret Wozencroft in your thoughts: she suffered a fall in December and had to spend Christmas recuperating in hospital. She was relieved to be back home again on Monday 27th but is rather immobile at present and is hoping that physio will help.

Some may remember Olive Rutherford: She and husband John (a minister of Weoley Castle) lived in the Manse next door while the Weoley Castle Church building was being put up more than 50 years ago. John later served in Botswana, and they came back to our congregation for a couple of years after their return to the UK. Olive died in December at the ripe old age of 97, and so has re-joined John.

## Weoley Hill News



*Are you sitting comfortably? 'Nearly new' chairs in use on the first Sunday of the year, thanks to Halesowen United Church and the two work parties who moved pews and arranged the chairs.*

The January Church meeting is being postponed until February or when circumstances, infection rates in particular, permit. We agreed last year that the method of nominating Elders adopted during Tom

Arthur's ministry is no longer appropriate, but if you wish to suggest someone for Eldership, please notify the minister. The currently serving Elders will discuss issues around Eldership and church offices and present their ideas at the next church meeting.



The January retiring collections are for the **Benevolent Fund.**

*Weoley Hill ready for the Christmas Eve Crib service*

The Birmingham Crisis Centre sent us a lovely Christmas card featuring a painting by one of the child residents, thanking us for the toys donated and with special thanks for including gift wrap and ribbon separately, which makes things easier for the staff.



*The walking group in Warley Woods on New Year's Day. We mostly walk at a gentle pace around the local area—do join us when we resume, probably in March (depending on the weather).*

**Mohamad Chamanbaz**  
**(28/3/1971-12/7/2021)** Memorial

Service Holy Trinity Platt, Platt Lane, Rusholme, Manchester.

I was able to attend a memorial service for Mo on Saturday 27 November. It was an evening meeting with a meal and informal worship.

I came away with a very strong impression of the time that Mo had spent in Manchester among a community which mixed British people with a number of Iranian families. A feature of the evening was a display on the wall of slides of Mo doing a lot of things which he was

clearly enjoying a lot. This included vegetable gardening, cooking and going on trips out into the countryside.

I think that it was a big wrench to him to leave there and come to Birmingham when his son moved.

I had a chance to share some of what Sue Beeby had written as well as sharing my knowledge of his illness.

John Fletcher

Weoley Hill Calendar for January 2022			
Wednesday	5	10 AM-12:	Art Club. £1
Friday	7	6.45 PM:	Community Choir
Sunday	9	10.30 AM:	Worship led by Revd David Tennant.
Wednesday	12	10 AM-12:	Art Club. £1
		7.30 PM:	Elders' meeting <i>in the sanctuary</i>
Friday	14	6.45 PM:	Community Choir
Sunday	16	10.30 AM:	Worship and Communion led by the minister.
Wednesday	19	10 AM-12:	Art Club. £1
Friday	21	6.45 PM:	Community Choir
Sunday	23	10.30 AM:	Worship led by Alan Cotgreave. .
			<i>Church meeting postponed</i>
Wednesday	26	10 AM-12:	Art Club. £1
Friday	28	6.45 PM:	Community Choir
Sunday	30	10.30 AM:	Pastorate worship led by the minister

*Just before Christmas, the Witherford Way Street Association organised Carol Singing along their street in aid of St Basils, who work with homeless young people in Birmingham. A total of £425 was raised, and both those who sang and those who gave felt that this was a really good celebration of Christmas.*

## Bournville News

On Christmas day Glynis led a very nice family-focused worship with about 24 in attendance. We haven't seen our church so full for a long while! Glynis' lovely granddaughters were very much involved in the service and gifts scattered in the sanctuary revealed why we celebrate the birth of Jesus and what he means to us. At the end of the service all the visitors received a beautifully knitted Christingle (thanks to Maureen) filled with chocolate and a note explaining the symbolic meaning of the orange with red ribbon and candle.



### January worship

2<sup>nd</sup> Stuart

9<sup>th</sup> Leonora (at 3PM)

16<sup>th</sup> Michael

23<sup>rd</sup> Leonora

30<sup>th</sup> Joint service at WH

# 2022

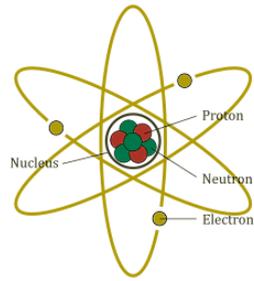


## *To wake you up after the Christmas break: some “intellectual” jokes*

A biologist, a physicist, and a mathematician are standing in front of an empty house. They all observe that two people walk in, and three people walk out. The biologist says: “They must have reproduced.” The physicist says: “There must have been a measurement error.” The mathematician says: “If one more person walks in, the house will be empty again.”

*Two atoms are walking along the street.  
One says “Drat! I’ve lost an electron!” “Are  
you sure?” replies the other; “Yes, I’m  
positive” responds the first.*

A neutron walks into a bar and orders a pint; “For you, no charge.” says the bartender.



AG Caesar, CC BY-SA 4.0  
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*C, E-flat, and G walk into a bar. The  
bartender says, “Sorry, no minors.”*

A horse walks very unsteadily into a bar. The bartender says: “You’re drunk!” The horse begins: “I don’t think...” but suddenly disappears before it can finish the sentence. Perhaps I should have explained at the beginning of this joke that the philosopher Rene Descartes famously said: “I think therefore I am.” However, I decided not to, because that would have put Descartes before the horse.

*Infinitely many mathematicians walk into a bar. The first says, "I'll have a pint." The second says, "I'll have half a pint." The third says, "I'll have a quarter of a pint." Before anyone else can speak, the bartender fills up exactly two glasses of beer and serves them. "Come on, now," he says to them, "You guys must know your limits."*

What happens if you tell a joke to three helium atoms? They go: "He, He, He."

*A photon checks into a hotel. The hotel porter asks: "Can I help you with your luggage?" It replies, "I don't have any: I'm traveling light."*

The other day I baked several batches of synonym rolls. They looked quite different, but they all tasted the same.

# Happy New Year!

*The next issue will be available around 1 February. 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.*

**PASTORATE MINISTER:** the Revd Leonora Jagessar

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