

Cadbury Pastorate News

Bournville, Weoley Castle &
Weoley Hill Churches



November 2021

From the Minister's study—

Dear friends,

As some of you know, Lucky, our border terrier, who in his lifetime has lived in four Manses is now very elderly, blind and deaf, but still taking pleasure in his meals! Occasionally he is not well and we have to stroke him “back to life,” so he may not have much longer to live. When that time comes we will miss him but also be very grateful for the time he shared with us and the joy he gave us. Also, it was Lucky who took us on daily walks (he doesn't do it anymore) and given us the pleasure to appreciate the natural beauty of the neighbourhood we lived and live in, in all the seasons of the year. I am particularly reminded of the first four years of Lucky's life when we lived in a Manse by the Edgbaston Reservoir. Every morning and evening we would walk around it and so get to know the beauty of the Reservoir through all the seasons, so much so that I made a photo album called “The Edgbaston Reservoir.”

Every day and every season the Reservoir looks a bit different. When the sky is grey, the water is grey and when sunny the water is a blue. When there is wind the ripples or waves make patterns on the water and when sunny and still, you can see the reflection of the trees in the water. The water level of the Reservoir can be low, even very low, or high and very high so that the footpath nearly overflows. And then there is the woodland, grassland and the wetland, each with their greenery and wildlife. One day the leaves are light green, then a shade darker and then they get the beautiful autumn colours of yellow and brown until they fall and leave the tree barren. One day you see dozens of foraging squirrels (and Lucky used to love to chase them) and on other days they are strangely absent. And then there are the water birds paddling in the water, in springtime with their offspring in tow, or they may be resting leisurely on the banks of the Reservoir. Yes, the Reservoir is really a place of natural beauty, in the middle of Birmingham, to which we often return for a walk. And still each time we notice something new, we still are wonderfully surprised by a different view. Probably all of us have a place we know, a place where

we walk (or walked), where we regularly return to (or returned to) and every time we discover or are surprised by something new.

We can make a comparison with reading the Bible or saying prayers. We read and reread the Bible stories, we may say the same words in our prayers, over and over again, but every time the text can still surprise us and every time the words we say can have a different meaning or ring to them. The Bible stories never get stale; we never tire of them. Like any really good book, you can reread the Bible and never get enough of it. I have never heard anyone say, "Oh, next Sunday we are reading the parable of the Good Samaritan in church. I can as well stay home!"

But why this enduring appeal of the Bible stories; how come that they always come afresh to us? It is because through the Bible, through the collection of books written over many centuries in many different communities, we meet God. Yes, God speaks to us and comes to us, in a variety of ways, as we read the stories and reflect on them, just like when we say our prayers. And no day is the same, of course. Each day brings its surprises, its joys and challenges, and that has a profound influence on our thinking about God and how we hear God speaking to us.

Of course, not only through the Bible but in so many ways God speaks to us, in art, in literature, through the natural world around us and, last but not least, through people. "Apprehend God in all things, for God is in all things. Every single creature is full of God and is a book about God. Every creature is a word of God..." Meister Eckhart, the medieval mystic, wrote. Perhaps that is what we discover each and every day anew, that God is present and speaking in the changing seasons, in the beauty of water, land and sky and all creatures within it!

May we all appreciate and enjoy the last days of the autumn and may we listen to God in the sounds, the smells and the beautiful sights of the season as nature, and as we, prepare for the winter (including Advent and Christmas).

With all best wishes, Leonora

Prayer page

World News

Many Christians across the world need our prayers. Even in harrowing situations, they are amazing witnesses upheld by support from people like us. It might seem depressing sharing some of their difficulties but our prayers do help change the outcomes.

By mid-June over 2,000 pastors in India had died of Covid and Nepal is similarly affected. Because there aren't enough Christian workers, it is not unusual for Christian pastors to be young. A 16-year-old leader suffered more than 60% of burns to his body after an acid attack in August. He had been warned previously by radical nationalists to stop holding prayer meetings.

On 28th August, an Assyrian Christian village in northern Syria was bombed by the Turkish air force as part of their campaign against Kurdish militants. Miraculously there were no casualties. The Turkish offensive has been systematically displacing Christian communities as well as Yazidis and Kurdish minorities.

It may be illegal to convert from Islam in the Gulf states but there are many churches of migrant workers. The Bible Society supports them with training seminars and by providing scriptures. God's work and presence is a very present help where conditions can be so hard.

Pray for Nasser, who was given a 10-year prison sentence in Iran for belonging to a house church. Although now eligible for parole, this has been rejected. He is desperate to return to being his mother's carer.

Sue Beeby

News from the B30 Foodbank



Update 9th October: . Last week we received in donations 2336 kg and gave out 1543 kg of food, 1534 kg to 160 people on 63 vouchers

and 9 kg was out of date.

Many thanks to All Saints Church, Beacon United Reformed Church, Hazelwell Church, St Andrews Barnt Green, The Cotteridge Church, the Church of the Ascension, Weoley Hill United Reformed Church for their harvest donations. *Our donation, including the generous donation from the Guides, was 77.6 kg*

There is an updated list of items needed on the donation box at Weoley Hill. **Strong** shopping bags are always needed so people can carry their items home safely.

However:



The Foodbank also welcomes money donations, which enable them to purchase anything in very short supply quickly, so if it is easier for you to donate money, you can do this in a number of ways, all gratefully received. And of course taxpayers can GiftAid their contributions. You can send a cheque, set up a standing order with your bank, or donate online. **Cheques:** B30 foodbank, The Cotteridge Church, 24 Pershore Road South, Birmingham B30 3EJ. **Online:** <https://b30.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-money/>

As has been mentioned in the news, the Universal Credit Uplift has ended, increasing hardship for many families.

Urgently Required:

Sugar 500g (not larger), potato smash, , jam/honey, porridge, cereal (not greater than 500g), UHT whole milk, UHT semi-skimmed milk, long-life fruit juice, tinned tomatoes, tinned rice pudding, pack/pot noodles, liquid or bar soap, gender neutral roll-on/stick deodorant, gender neutral shampoo, disposable razors, toilet rolls, washing up liquid (not bigger than 500ml), strong carrier bags.

Lower in Stock:

Instant coffee (not decaffeinated), tinned fish (not tuna), pasta sauces, rice, tinned potatoes, crisps, ready-made custard (tinned or carton – not powder) laundry powder/liquid (not family sized), squash, baby wipes, chocolate and snack bars, tinned/packet vegetarian meals

Pastorate News

Bournville News

Preaching rota:

7 November (at 3pm) Leonora

14 November Stuart

21 November Alan

28 November Leonora



Weoley Castle News



The non-perishable items from our **Harvest service** in October, plus a cheque for £150 have gone to St Basil's centre for young people. "Commitment for Life" envelopes - the URC's support to Christian Aid - can still be returned.

Covid situation permitting, we intend to continue with **weekly "in person" services** until Christmas. On November 14th, the service led by Leonora will give a chance to remember not only of those who have died in wars, but those who have died during the pandemic. On the 28th, Frank Challenor will lead the service. Advance notice: 5th December will be our "Toys & Gifts" service, when people are asked to bring Christmas gifts to go to less fortunate families.

The Parent & Toddler "Stay & Play" group has successfully started up on Wednesdays during term. We have not yet managed to restart the junior children's club, partly due to leader Donna Bailey being ill (get well soon Donna!) and partly a need for more volunteer helpers.

Madge Finch is now kindly serving coffee in the Hall to shoppers at “Incredible Surplus” on Friday mornings, so that they don’t have to queue outside in the cold, and can have conversations in comfort.

As his personal contribution to the mission of the Church, **Bill Hopkins** has purchased thousands of copies of the Christian ‘Good News’ paper, and hand-delivered them all round the Weoley Castle estate. The copies are overprinted with an article on the back page advertising the Church and the activities that take place there. He plans to do this again next month. Spare copies are available in the vestibule.



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

Weoley Hill news

Retiring Collections... 2022

Now is the time when we decide what charities we will support over the next year. We have three regular monthly commitments, and some that we support every three or so years, but there is always room for a new one that you think deserves our attention. I already have two new suggestions, (as well as a thick folder of others!) so that leaves seven months when you could offer your idea. Please see me before Sunday November 14th when I will sort out the new list. Lorraine Da Costa

November Retiring Collection: Limbless Ex-Service Personnel Association

Weoley Hill diary dates

November 2021		
Wednesday	3	10 am-12: Art Club. £1
Friday	5	6.45 pm: Community Choir
Sunday	7	10.30 am: Worship led by Maureen Foxall, QE Hospital chaplain, with the minister presiding at communion.
Wednesday	10	10 am-12: Art Club. £1 7.30 pm: Elders' meeting
Friday	12	6.45 pm: Community Choir
Sunday	14	10.30 am: Remembrance worship led by Ann Evans.
Wednesday	17	10 am-12: Art Club. £1
Thursday	18	2 pm: TBC: Manse meeting
Friday	19	6.45 pm: Community Choir
Sunday	21	10.30 am: Worship led by the minister. Church budget meeting
Wednesday	24	10 am-12: Art Club. £1
Friday	26	6.45 pm: Community Choir
Saturday	27	2.30 pm: Walking group. Meet at church.
Sunday	28	10.30 am: Advent 1 worship led by Alan Cotgreave.

Christmas Lunch

Although we have not had a Lunch Club meeting for nearly two years we would like to offer a Christmas Lunch for **Wednesday 1 December**. This will be a smaller version of our usual meal being a two-course meal, with hot drinks, for £5 per person. You **MUST BOOK** a place beforehand so that we can gauge numbers and prepare the room accordingly to make it as covid safe as possible. If you would like to attend please give your name to Nancy by Sunday November 28th.

Lorraine Da Costa

Walking Group: While walking to Weoley Castle (the ruin, not the church or the square) on a beautiful October afternoon, the walkers present agreed that November's walk will be in Warley Wood. We will meet in the car park at **2 pm on 27 November** and travel together. Since the last Saturday of December is Christmas Day, we will have a New Year's Day walk instead.

Cheryl Thornett

All Saints All Souls Despite cold, wind and rain, 24 people attended, including some from Bournville and from the neighbourhood. One visitor said she appreciated having a church service now because funerals were so restricted at the time her mother died.

Report from Synod meeting

Saturday 16 October 2021 at Wylde Green URC

The meeting started with a welcome and worship (no singing) from Wylde Green giving us a taste of Wylde Green's past, present and future.

News of local churches, awards, deaths and long service were announced which included the 60 years' service of Harold Tonks, who worshipped with us [Weoley Hill] before the pandemic.

The first report was about Legacies of the slave trade. David Reynolds, Professor of History is convenor of the group which was launched by CWM (council for world mission). The remit was to see how we can put right the

things that went wrong. Karen Campbell spoke and suggested we apologise and offer reparation. They had a report for 2019 but so many things have changed in recent years such as the Black Lives Matter initiative. Inequalities are still with us and there is racial abuse going on. The group hope to present concrete proposals to General Assembly in 2022 and that we can actively become an antiracist church. (Ann & John have a document relating to this topic if you require further information)

News from the July General Assembly was highlighted and included a new promise to be used when new elders are ordained.

Synod Eco group

The synod office is actively checking its carbon footprint. In 2019 it was 32.26 tonnes CO₂ and 2020 it was 27.4. This was lower as there was less travelling and fewer meetings, so it is expected to rise for 2021 but they have reduced printing and postage costs as the papers were sent out electronically to most people. The carbon footprint has been offset by helping other parts of the world and developing projects. The synod has budgeted £600 (£20 per tonne CO₂) for 2022. **It was suggested local churches do their carbon footprint using the website 360carbon.org.**

Ministers pension fund.

This is about a deficit in the fund. The regulator has advised caution, and this has resulted in a projected deficit of £45 million. Synods hold the money within the denomination and It was decided to redesignate £4 million of the manse fund which holds £7.4 million to the pension fund. This was agreed by consensus. The Methodist church is asking local congregations to donated 15% of their funds so this will impact on LEPs.

Building development fund

This is a new fund to help finance major projects like rebuilding church halls, or even churches. This will initially be funded by the sale of 2 churches which will be about £1 million. It will be added to by 80% of the sale of other churches and the rest going to the mission fund.

Safeguarding

All elders and those involved with children and vulnerable adults will need to be trained. The first module is online for all to do.

Note: Leonora is arranging training for all pastorate elders.

50th anniversary of URC

2022 will be the anniversary year and various activities are planned. On 1 October there will be a service in the Methodist Central hall, in London where the original covenant was signed. The Synod hope to hold a family day which will have activities for all ages and seminars. This will be on a Saturday in June 2022. Visit the website for more information.

The Children and youth Development officer (CYDO) then spoke and mentioned about advent boxes and other resources for young people. He is also leading a training session on hybrid churches on zoom on 21 October – sorry you have missed this but there could be other sessions.

Deployment

There is an extra document about this difficult issue. It is based on how many stipendiary ministers the denomination can afford over the next 10 years. As the church numbers decline so will the number of ministers. This does not include non-stipendiary ministers and lay people in pastoral charge. The synod is entitled to 25 ministers in 2022 to cover about 108 churches. Churches will be grouped to share a minister and our group includes Cotteridge and Carrs Lane. Area ministers will be phased out so those ministers will have more time for pastoral charge roles. Discussion took place about this issue and strong feelings were shared. The resolution that synod accepts this document was agreed by consensus and it is hoped it will be in place by 2024.

The minutes of the previous synod meeting held by Zoom in March 2021 were signed after minor amendments.

The Meeting closed about 4.00 pm with worship led by Steve Faber, the Moderator. This worship included the induction of the Synod clerk, Rachel Wakeman [of Weoley Hill].

The next Synod meeting will take place by Zoom on 19 March 2022.

Ann Evans

Climate Concerns

We are getting bombarded by climate change issues these days. We have the forthcoming COP26. What is that I hear you ask! The UK will host the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) at the Scottish Event Campus (SEC) in Glasgow on 31 October – 12 November 2021. The climate talks will bring together heads of state, climate experts and campaigners to agree coordinated action to tackle climate change.

As COP26 Presidency, the UK is committed to working with all countries and joining forces with civil society, companies and people on the frontline of climate change to inspire action ahead of COP26.

[Go to the COP26 website](#) for more information. This is an informative website to see the aims of the conference for the world and how rich countries can help poorer nations, among other things.

Also on Sunday 17th October the winners of the Earthshot prize were announced by the Duke of Cambridge. The Earthshot Prize is centred around five 'Earthshots' – simple but ambitious goals for our planet which if achieved by 2030 will improve life for us all, for generations to come. Each Earthshot is underpinned by scientifically agreed targets including the UN Sustainable Development Goals and other internationally recognised measures to help repair our planet.

Together, they form a unique set of challenges rooted in science, which aim to generate new ways of thinking, as well as new technologies, systems, policies and solutions. By bringing these five critical issues

together, The Earthshot Prize recognises the interconnectivity between environmental challenges and the urgent need to tackle them together.

The five winners of The Earthshot Prize will be announced by a line-up of presenters including The Duchess of Cambridge, Emma Thompson, Emma Watson, David Oyelowo and Mo Salah. Each winning solution will be awarded £1million in Prize funding to help support and scale these ingenious innovations, with the potential to repair our planet.

The awards ceremony will celebrate the global Finalists before awarding the first five Winners of The Earthshot Prize. These top five solutions will have the greatest impact on the biggest environmental challenges facing our planet. Every year from 2021 until 2030, The Earthshot Prize will find and reward solutions to the five 'Earthshot' goals, to protect and restore nature, revive our oceans, to clean our air, build a waste-free world and fix our climate. Prize winners will each receive a £1 million prize fund and tailored support to scale their solutions and realise an even greater impact of their ground-breaking work.

These are 2 events going on by other people but what can you and I do as individuals and what can we do as church communities to help save and clean up our precious God given planet? Watch, listen and read about these things and decide what you can do. Let us share our ideas to encourage others to help reduce the impact of this crisis.

Ann Evans



Fizzing and sparkling or damp squib?

Police observed a battery and a firework behaving suspiciously.
They charged one of them but let the other one off.

Guy Fawkes walks into a pub. What does he order for lunch?

Bangers & mash, with rocket salad.

How many aerospace engineers does it take to light a roman candle?

None: it's not rocket science.

What did Alan Sugar say to the rocket?

You're fired!

What do you call a duck who likes watching fireworks?

A firequacker.

I bought my friend a very large rocket as a surprise gift.

He's over the moon.

A pyrotechnic display expert lost his job after the fireworks didn't go off in the right sequence.

That was bang out of order.

I can't believe people have been letting off fireworks in October!

It scared the dog so badly he knocked the Christmas tree over.

Ted Forgan



Photo by Isravel Raj on Unsplash

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 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.

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