

Cadbury Pastorate News

Bournville, Weoley Castle &
Weoley Hill Churches



September 2021

From the Minister's study—

Dear friends,

One of the joys of returning to Birmingham was that I could meet up more regularly again with Consolata, my “refugee friend” from Rwanda. Years ago, after I had done the Restore befriending training (at Weoley Hill), I was matched with Consolata who was seeking asylum in the UK after her life was in danger in her home country. But not only in Rwanda but also in the UK, her experiences would prove to be traumatic as she had to battle prejudices and “racism” in a variety of forms. She had to battle the usual suspicions and degrading treatment during the asylum process. She had to battle consultants in the NHS who did not take her health complaints seriously. (She even had to travel to Tanzania to get the treatment she needed.) She had to battle landlords (paid by the council) who had no shame about the appalling state of her accommodation. But, of course, she had good experiences too. A very sympathetic GP who put her in touch with Restore, a circle of friends (of many nationalities) who stood by her and a church community where she found a warm welcome and acceptance. And she did win her battles, she got refugee status and 5 years later I had the privilege of accompanying her to a Citizenship Ceremony at the Birmingham Council House when even her usual stoic exterior could not hide a true sense of joy and gratitude that she had been granted UK citizenship. Also, since many years she lives in a comfortable small flat in Handsworth and is well cared for by the NHS.

And why do I write this? Because, like you, over the past few weeks I have been watching the heart-breaking scenes of Afghan people desperate to flee from the Taliban and their oppressive regime, begging to be airlifted to safety. When scenes like these tend to overwhelm it is good to find comfort and hope in individual stories of people who have found safety and a warm welcome in the UK and other countries that provide sanctuary. And we need to remember that finding safety is only the beginning of a long journey to a new life, in a new country, with no doubt many challenges on the way. It is heart-

warming to see the relief in the faces of those who have made it to the UK as well as the outpouring of support from many British people, local communities and organizations. I hope that the Afghan refugees, among which many families, will soon find shelter in suitable accommodation, in communities that will welcome them, so that they can build up their new lives, with the boys *and* girls resuming their education and the adults able to contribute and share the many gifts and graces they surely bring with them in our society.

As churches and as the good, kind and compassionate people we were made to be when God “planted his word in our hearts,” let us be as welcoming, generous and loving as can be towards the newly arrived refugees, as well as those who have come here before and will come after to seek sanctuary. And we hear the call in the words, “When an alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien. The alien who resides with you shall be to you as a citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt” (Leviticus 19.33-34). And, of course let us also continue to pray, act and advocate for peace and justice (economic, social, climate etc) in the world, so that people will not need to leave their homes, their families, their livelihoods, fleeing their country to seek safety and a hopeful future elsewhere.

And I end with a short prayer: *Accompany your people, O God. Lead us to walk alongside the refugees who seek welcome, safety and comfort. May we recognize your presence in those who are hungry, thirsty, in need of clothing, shelter, kindness and respect.*

With all best wishes,

Leonora

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

Prayer page

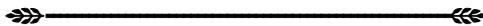
As attention continues to focus on Afghanistan, remember the minority groups, including Christians who have to practise their faith in secret. There are news reports that they are being sought out in house-to-house searches and phones are checked for downloaded bibles. At least one person has been killed for owning a bible.

Sue Beeby

And let's not forget other countries where Christians are persecuted or targeted, including Burma, China, Eritrea, India, Iran, Nigeria, North Korea, Pakistan, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Syria, and Vietnam.

Please remember:

- ❖ the ongoing pandemic, victims, health workers, families
- ❖ people whose medical treatment is still delayed
- ❖ victims of natural disasters such as earthquakes, hurricanes and wildfires around the world
- ❖ all of us individually and as countries, learning to respect and care for our world and to heal the damage we have done
- ❖ all of us, individually and as countries, learning to respect and care for our neighbours as Jesus taught, close at hand or far away.



2022 Prayer Handbooks & Diaries

If you wish to have a copy of the URC prayer handbook or a URC special 50th anniversary diary for 2022, please contact Ann Evans as soon as possible so she can order them from Synod and have them in the middle of October.

Prayer Handbook: Prayers from the heart A5 edition - £4.99 each.

Diaries: The diaries come in 2 sizes: pocket and A5

Pocket diary *blue* or *purple* - £6.99 A5 diary black - £9.99.

Pastorate News

Weoley Hill news

Heritage Open Day, Saturday 11 September 10 AM to 4 PM.

Please see Sue if you can help with set up or clear up, spend an hour or so in the church to answer visitors' questions, contribute cakes or jam and preserves, or help serve refreshments.

We will display some of our own photos, so if you have printed or digital photos of special events or people, please see Sue. It would be especially good to have any older photos. We will recycle many of them for our centenary next year and will no doubt ask for more over the next few months.

We would like to have some posies on the windowsills and a seasonal flower arrangement at the front—any volunteers for a posy or arrangement?

I am writing up a fact sheet (People & events, the building, the grounds) for visitors and as a reference for volunteers on the day. If you know some odd or amusing bit of information, please let me know, because I may not have found that yet.

And don't forget to visit!

WH Village News Error

My apologies for the incorrect church calendar in the WHVN, but unfortunately they reprinted the one from last spring instead of the new one I sent, probably because of trying to get all the photos right. We will have corrections made through emails, etc.

Harvest Sunday 3 October

Please note the date. We will collect foodstuffs for the B30 Foodbank (staples) and the Salvation Army (perishables). Instead of our usual bring & share harvest lunch, we will have soup, rolls and fruit. Please don't bring food for the lunch unless asked, but if you want to help with the cost, see Nancy. We will make this as covid-safe as we can.

Diary dates

Please note the Church Meeting has been changed from 19 to 26 September.

Wednesdays, 10 AM-12: Art Club. £1, all welcome.

Fridays, 6.45 PM: Community Choir, all welcome

Saturday	4	10.30 AM: Gardening group
Sunday	5	10.30 AM: Communion Service led by the minister.
Wednesday	8	7.30 PM: Elders
Saturday	11	10 AM-4 PM: Heritage Open Day with Village Council
Sunday	12	10.30 AM: Worship led by Ann Evans.
Thursday	16	2 PM: Manse meeting in the garden ,weather permitting.
Sunday	19	10.30 AM: Worship led by the minister.
Saturday	25	2.30 PM: Walking group. Meet at church.
Sunday	26	10.30 AM: Worship led by Alan Cotgreave. After worship: Church meeting
Wednesday	29	10 AM-12: Art Club. £1

OCTOBER

Sunday	3	10.30 am: Harvest Communion Service led by the minister. Harvest Lunch (Soup and rolls)
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easyfundraising

Weoley Hill United Reformed Church has been paid by

#easyfundraising! Thanks to everyone who's helped make a BIG difference during this difficult time by raising donations for us. If you're not supporting us yet, please sign up now. It takes 2 minutes & 5,900+ shops will donate to us for free every time you shop with them! Visit:

easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/weoleyhillurc/payments/60fffa399aab-e05bbf235517/

Our Treasurer has received the following from our electricity supplier:

Where your energy came from last year:

Every year, we share where our electricity comes from and we're really excited to let you know that we sourced 100% renewable electricity for our customers between April 2019-March 2020. So you can focus on running your business[!] knowing you've done your bit for the environment.

Based on your consumption, you helped us prevent 4.23 tonnes of CO₂ from going into the atmosphere, which is the same as a 2115-mile car journey or 4.7 flights from London to New York.

So, how do we know?

All of our renewable electricity is backed by Ofgem recognised certificates and our processes are audited by EcoAct.

If you'd like to find out more about the specific sources of electricity, visit opusenergy.com/our-energy-sources. Or get in touch with any questions Monday to Friday from 9AM to 5PM on 0843 227 2377 or contactus@opusenergy.com

Yours sincerely,
The Opus Energy Team

Opus Energy Limited

(relates to electricity supplied in the period from April 2019 - March 2020)

Electricity supplied has been sourced from the following fuels:	Electricity supplied by Opus Energy Limited	Average for all UK Suppliers
Coal	0%	4%
Natural gas (CCGT)	0%	39%
Nuclear	0%	17%
Renewable	100%	38%
Other	0%	2%
Total	100%	100%
Environmental Impact		
CO ₂ emissions	0g per kwh	198g per kwh
Radioactive waste	0g per kwh	0.00119g per kwh

For further information on our environmental commitment visit www.opusenergy.com

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

Mo, as we knew him, died in Hayward House at Nottingham City Hospital. Sue Beeby and I had visited him not long before that.

Sue and I went to the funeral on Monday 20th July, at the Carlton Cemetery in Nottingham. This was a Moslem funeral as that is what the family had decided.

The Carlton Cemetery is a large area on a hillside to the east of Nottingham city centre. The Moslem section is up on the top of the hill and mostly an open field with a line of graves along one side. A grave had been prepared which was a concrete box set in the ground.

People gathered at about 2 pm and the hearse arrived with the coffin and the imam to take the service. The coffin was opened so that those who wished could see in. It was then set up on a metal frame for the service. The coffin was then moved by stages and lowered into the grave, which was covered by concrete slabs and then a pile of earth shaped into a ridge.

Whatever we may understand to have been Mo's wishes, this was what suited the family. There were more there than I expected and there are a lot of cousins of around Ali's age who I know are a support for him. I was sad not to stay longer. I had felt faint standing in the sun and had to sit down, so it seemed better to be start for home.

At the end of the service there were trays of sweetmeats and bags with fruit, a cake and fruit juice.

Paul and Jane Roper were there from the Manchester church community where Mo had lived before he moved to Birmingham. We hope to arrange a memorial event for Mo jointly with them at some time to be agreed.

John Fletcher

Weoley Castle News

The photo is of the WCCC porch at the beginning of a Friday morning. By the end of the morning, almost everything is gone, served by Carol & Tom of **Incredible Surplus**, who didn't want to be in the picture.

This activity makes sure that "surplus" food and other items don't get wasted, and provides a "pay what you feel" service for an increasing number of people who make use of it. In addition, several housebound people from the Friday morning Day Centre have enjoyed the chance to do a bit of shopping on their own account and choose what they want, as a supplement to relying on others to do it for them.



We were very sorry to hear that **Margaret Morris** fell while on holiday up North and cracked a hip and an arm. However, John reports that she is now back at home and recovering.

We are continuing for September to have "in person" services just on the second and fourth Sundays of the month, with communion on the second.

We are hoping to re-start "Stay and Play" for parents and preschool children from mid-September: initially 9.30-11 Wednesday mornings only, to reduce the chance of passing on the virus to the Friday Day Centre people, who have all kept clear of it so far.

We are also hoping to re-start the "Tuesday Friends Club" for junior school children. We have some volunteers lined up and hope that parents will get involved too.

Kathleen Cruchley is enjoying attending the Monday and Friday Day Centres

Ted Forgan



Kathleen Ricketts was a valued member of the Day Centre, attending on both the Monday and Friday. She passed away peacefully in the QE on the 27th of July at the age of 89. She will be sadly missed and all her family are in our thoughts and prayers.
Mary (DC staff member)

Photo 1: Photo of Kathy at the Christmas party. Josh, her beloved grandson, chose this photo for the newsletter as his nanny looks happy

Photo 2: The flowers were from the Day Centre members & staff



Bournville News

The fortnightly meditation continues at home, with Louise informing us which Bible reading to focus on. All are welcome to come and join us from 2-3 PM on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month.

These jokes are criminal!

Doctor, Doctor: I can't help stealing things!

Have you taken anything for it?

Newsflash: a lorry-load of filing cabinets, wall calendars and document folders was stolen last night.

Police believe that it is the work of organised crime.

A shoplifter was caught carrying some condiment and an AAA cell from a supermarket, so he paid for them.

He was charged for a salt and battery.

My parents told me I could be anyone I want to be.

But it turns out that identity theft is a crime.

A man rushes up to some passers-by and asks: 'Have you seen a policeman near here?'

'Sorry, no.' they reply, so the man takes out a gun and says: 'Give me all your money then!'

There are some criminals in this city that keep stealing wheels from parked police cars.

The cops are working tirelessly to catch the suspects.

Did you hear about the two guys who stole a calendar? They each got 6 months.

Criminals don't want to go before a judge who likes the sound of his own voice, because they may get a long sentence.

I recently decided to apply for Australian citizenship, and I was surprised at one of the questions. They asked if I had ever been convicted of a crime.

I had no idea that was still a requirement!

The Cadbury Pastorate

Open for Worship

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 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

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WEOLEY CASTLE COMMUNITY CHURCH: 475 3841

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weoleycastlecommunitychurch50@gmail.com

BOURNVILLE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Secretary: Maureen Peart 605 3540

