



Weoley Hill Church News

February 2017



From the Manse

Dear Friends

First, I'd like to say thank you for the welcome we have received in the three weeks since our arrival in Birmingham and for the work done to make the Manse ready for us. I'd also like to thank everyone who organised and took part in the Induction Service on January 28th. I hope you found it as enjoyable and encouraging as I did although I'm not sure I recognise the paragon of virtue our Preacher spoke about!

It seemed a good idea to write a few words about myself by way of introduction. The concept of journeying has always been important to me as a metaphor for the Christian life. It has been said that the processing around the church done by our Anglican and Roman Catholic brothers and sisters originates in a need to remind themselves that Christians are a pilgrim people on the move!

My journey began in Preston, where my father was stationed, but we moved to York when I was just five months old. After York came a few months near Abergavenny. After my father retired from the army we spent a year in my mother's home town of Paisley in Renfrewshire and then settled in Crewe where I started and finished school. During the Crewe years I attended the Methodist Church down the road from our home and joined the Cub Pack and, later, both the Scout Troop and Venture Scout Unit sponsored by the church. I was involved as a Scouter in various Scout Groups until I began training for Ministry.

I started to feel a call to ministry as a teenager but it was more than twenty years before that came to fruition. My journey has taken me to Exeter to study Theology (which didn't work out), but I made good friends in the Methodist Society at the university and met somebody called Hilary.... And the journey continued in London

(where I worked as a junior Civil Servant), suburban Surrey and then to Cambridge as a student at the United Reformed Church's Westminster College, Ordination in Essex, Norwich and Wymondham in Norfolk and then Worthing in West Sussex. A journey through different places and contexts.

Outside ministry, my interests are listening to classical music, railways, photography, enjoying the countryside and hills; at home I, can often be found listening to Radio 4, Radio 3 and Classic FM.

Hilary and I married thirty-six years ago and have experienced the kind of highs and lows that many others experience. We have four children, Andy, Catherine, Ben and Becky. Catherine died aged two and a half just a year after we left Cambridge. We also experienced a miscarriage and the pain of my mother's Alzheimer's disease. This is not to ask for your sympathy but simply to say that we know that life can be a struggle. Following Jesus is not a guarantee of an unchallenging and pain free life.

Our coming to live and share ministry with you is about responding to a sense of call. The profile painted a picture of the churches, their hopes, challenges, desire to share the Gospel in three quite different contexts, as well as celebrating what is working and loved.

My priority in the first few months of coming will be in becoming familiar with the different services and activities of the churches and meeting as many of you as possible. It's very important to me I have opportunity to listen. I hope to hear your own stories and journeys, and what is important to you. I am looking forward to getting to know you all, to serving in these communities, and most particularly, to sharing this stage of our journey together.

With my very best wishes

David

Personalia

Val Cotgreave died peacefully in the evening of Saturday 28 January. Our sincere condolences to Roger, Alan, Lydia, Jacob, Esther, Joel, Levi and the rest of the family. The funeral is Tuesday 14 February, 11:30AM at Preeshenlle URC, Gobowen, Oswestry Shrops SY11 3PH.

Len Fisher also died on the 28th. We are waiting for details of the funeral, which the family wants to be here.

Joyce Cope thanks everyone for the lovely cards and messages she received following Robert's death.

Linda Bradley has a granddaughter, Myra, born 30 January. Baby and mother Helen are doing well.

Please remember all who are ill or undergoing medical treatment: Deb Moriaty (recovering slowly), José Marsland in Telford, Kath & Dave Upton, Peter Mullinex (C Grubb's partner), Colin Graham and Maureen Davenport.



Thanks received

The secretary has received a card from Jennifer and Marius Felderhof, thanking us for 'your generous donation to Auditory Verbal UK in memory of Steve's little girl Charlotte and also for your thoughts and prayers. I know Steve has been helped by the support of friends, family and the wider community.'

Ian Ring thanks the congregation for the book and check he was given in appreciation of his work and help as our Interim Moderator.

Neighbourhood News

News and events from other local churches:

Pavilion Christian Community welcomes Birmingham Community Hosting to talk about local refugee support. 7.30 PM, Wednesday 15 February in the Cafe, Rowheath Pavilion. See item.

Bournville URC: The Thursday club at no longer meets.

The Gospel Of Mark: A dramatised reading with music at Shirley Methodist Church Sunday 2 April 2017 at 6.30 PM

Barnes Close has a quiet Retreat for Lend 28-30 March; £150 full board, £125 unwaged. A leaflet is available.

FISH 'N' CHIP SUPPER AND QUIZ

Yes, it's here again. If you are not doing anything else interesting why not exercise 'the little grey cells', and have a good meal at the same time, at the quiz on **Saturday 25 February**. Come from 6.00PM for a **6.30 start**, eat around 7.30 and home for 9.00PM. For **£6.00 per person** you will have fish-and-chips, mushy peas, bread and butter and a hot drink including entry to the quiz. There is also a raffle, with some quizzical prizes, and all proceeds will go towards **Fairtrade** as it is the start of Fairtrade Fortnight. Come with friends to make up teams of six and see Lorraine to book a place.

FRIENDSHIP GROUP

For our first meeting in 2017 we tried something new. Whilst discussing ideas for further events, and of course eating cakes, we attempted a Puzzling Wordsearch, (compiler learn how to spell!), and then had a go at a form of “Countdown”.

From the nine vowels and consonants some interesting words were formed and conundrums answered. Cheryl proved a whizz at this! Everyone had a go and we may do something similar again.

Thanks to Nancy as usual for making the delicious cakes, apple and chocolate—some took home extra slices. Our next meeting is **Wednesday 8 February** when we will be decorating Valentine’s biscuits and finding out a bit more about this little-known saint. Come for the 2.30 PM start and dunk some pretty biscuits later!

Lorraine DaCosta

Love Justice- Love Birmingham's Asylum Seekers

Are you concerned about the refugee crisis? Do you wonder what happens to asylum seekers in Birmingham, and who they are?

We have a visitor to the **Pavilion on 15 February** who runs an organisation called Birmingham Community Hosting (birchnetwork.org). They organise hospitality and welcome for Birmingham’s refugees and asylum seekers. Come and find out about what’s happening in our city and how we may be able to help.

7.30 PM, Wednesday 15 February in the Cafe, Rowheath Pavilion.

WEOLEY CASTLE CHURCH—THURSDAY CAFE

This is a new venture for our sister church and you, or someone you may know, will be very welcome to attend at any of the Thursday Morning Cafe sessions starting 10.00 AM until 12 NOON from 2 February and **every** week thereafter. Each week has a different focus and refreshments will be provided **free**.

Week 1 Advice Cafe: Free professional advice on Finance, Benefits, Legal matters, Mental Well-being, Unemployment, Carers' support

Week 2 Dementia Cafe: Engaging activities and mutual support for those who have dementia, and their care givers.

Week 3 Carers' cafe: An informal gathering of all types of carers in a safe space for mutual support and to share information and ideas.

Week 4 Arts Cafe: A safe place for people to express themselves and develop confidence by connecting with the arts in various forms. No experience needed.

Should there be a '5 Thursday month' there will be a simple coffee and chat meeting.

Lorraine DaCosta

*This month's retiring collections are for
The Leprosy Mission.*

Retiring collections 2017

January the Benevolent Fund

February The Leprosy Mission

March the Youth & Family Worker Fund

April Corrymeela

May the Acorns Children's Hospice tbc

June Jubilee Debt

July Sightsavers eye surgery

August Freedom from Torture

September Practical Action

October Children with Cancer

November the Church Mission Society

December WaterAid



The Herbert Protocol

The Herbert Protocol is a tool to be used in the event of an adult with care and support needs going missing. It consists of a form that contains vital information about a person at risk that can be passed to the police if the person is reported missing. Essentially it is designed to be compatible with existing police procedures, giving a description and essential information about the person, ideally accompanied by a photo, so that they can be identified and located as soon as possible. The form is only submitted (on paper or electronically) when someone goes missing.

If you have a friend or relative who might be at risk of going missing, please consider this—ask carers if they use the protocol. The Elders have agreed that we should keep a copy of the form and accompanying information in the church.

Online resources: Inspiration in Your Inbox

Every day of the year, early each morning, the URC sends out, by email, a Daily Devotion consisting of a reading, reflection and short prayer. You can read them on your computer, phone, or tablet and they provide inspiration in your inbox! The Devotions are written by a team of over 90 people from a range of perspectives and places within the URC. If you would like to receive them you can sign up by going to <http://tinyurl.com/URCDailyDevotions> and filling in the form.

You might also be interested in *Praxis*, The public issues newsletter of The Baptist Union of Great Britain, The Methodist Church, The United Reformed Church and The Church of Scotland.

<http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/newsletter/>

WEOLEY HILL UNITED REFORMED CHURCH PRAYER DIARY

'Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart as working for the Lord'

Col 3:23

'May the favour of the Lord our God rest on us; establish the work of our hands for us – yes, establish the work of our hands.'

Ps 90:17

FEB 2017	CHURCH FAMILY	OTHER PRAYER POINTS
WK 1: 5-11 Feb	Alan, Lydia, Jacob, Esther, Levi & Joel Cotgreave Roger Cotgreave	*The new Cadbury pastorate: for fresh vision & boldness to serve our communities
WK 2: 12-18 Feb	Jinsub, Youngsun, Edward & Grace Chung Ina Clason	*Those sleeping rough during our coldest months & those helping them to improve their prospects
WK 3: 19 - 25 Feb	Joyce, Susan & Catherine Cope	*Give thanks for medical science & the medical provision we receive *The many in the world for whom treatment is hard to obtain
WK 4: 26-4 Mar	Grace & Joy Carter Juliet & Yvonne Chideya & the rest of the family	*Those we know waiting for medical interventions

NOTE: As always, please feel free to give any feedback on the 'Prayer Diary' and specific prayer requests that you would like to include in future lists to Sue Beeby.