

# Weoley Hill Church News



***October 2018***

*From Leonora*

Dear Friends,

Moving...we all have done it sometime in our lives, and some of us more often than others. Without counting temporary moves to university, I have so far moved twelve times in my life! And soon I will move again, back to Birmingham! Michael and I are slowly but surely starting to pack the estimated 110 book boxes beside the rest of our belongings. (We call ourselves book collectors but I wonder if we are bordering on being book hoarders!) And the move is planned for the 30<sup>th</sup>/31<sup>st</sup> of October, in the week before my induction.

With any move there are the usual mixed feelings. We may look forward to the move when we are ready for a change, or when we are called to new “pastures” or want to live closer to family and friends. Or we may be rather reluctant to move and only circumstances, within or beyond our control, compel us to move (eg when we need to downsize or move to a care home or, as so many people in the world today, have to flee violence and poverty) Whatever the reason for our move, especially further away, we always leave something or someone behind. Whether it be people or memories that are important and precious to us as well as familiar places where we shop, where services are delivered to us, where we socialize and where we worship! We leave behind the place which for a time we have called “home.”

For many years I felt quite nostalgic each time Michael and I returned to Birmingham where we lived from 1999 until 2010. While there have been quite a few amazing new developments, Michael and I still pretty well know our way around the city. And we both cherish the good memories of our sons growing up and going to school there, of the churches I served (Banners Gate,

Balsall Heath and St Columba, Moseley) and the ministries Michael engaged in (at Bishop Latimer, in the Synod, at Queens College and at Aston University), of the many good and faithful people we got to know and of the familiar places in which we moved around. A few times we even went back to the Edgbaston Reservoir beside which we used to live and around which we used to walk with Lucky, our border terrier.

But moving, it is exciting but it is also stressful. It is something to look forward to and something to dread. The Bible is packed full of stories of people moving from one place to another. It starts with Adam and Eve, moving out of paradise with their new address being “east of Eden.” Abraham and Sarah leave Ur and move to Canaan where their new garden has some beautiful oak trees. The people of Israel move from Egypt to the promised land, a land flowing with milk and honey. Ruth moves with her mother-in-law and David, the shepherd boy, moves into a palace. And there is Jesus, moving around, having no place to lay his head, and Paul moves all around the Mediterranean and in and out of prison. In these, and many other stories, are the people excited to move? Adam and Eve surely not, but the others? There is grumbling, there are tears, but usually the move is necessary and considered part of God’s plan. And often the move has a happy ending, with peace, prosperity and newfound love (eg Ruth) and a long, faithful and fruitful life as the outcome.

What is God’s plan for us? We never know for sure but whether we move by choice, by answering a calling or by necessity, I believe that God is journeying with us, giving us courage and hope, which is often mediated by kind and caring people “on the way”. And through all the moves God is at work to make us who we are. Yes, I have found that every place has its unique

blessings, with many joys and perhaps a few challenges, and always good people to meet, new lessons to learn and fresh horizons to explore.

Michael and I look forward to move into the Weoley Hill Manse and to make Birmingham our “home” again. But more so, I look forward to join you in your ministry and to discern with you what God’s plan is for the three churches in the Cadbury pastorate. What “moves” are in store for us in the next few years? May God surprise us! Looking forward to see you at my induction on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of November and with all best wishes and blessings,

*Leonora*



## The Induction

*Just in case anyone doesn't know the schedule yet:*

30/31 October: the Jagessars move into the Manse.

Saturday 3 November: **The Induction**

We will need people to help set up tables and chairs during the early afternoon,[after the Korean School has left] and volunteers to provide early arrivals with tea or coffee from about **3.30**.

The service of induction will begin at **4**. Please leave the car park for people with mobility problems (and for the Revd Graham Sweeney, who will be dashing across Birmingham to conduct the induction).

There will be soup, bread, cheese and cake afterwards.

Please let the Church Secretary know if you are planning to attend.

Sunday 4 November: We will celebrate communion at **Weoley Castle at 11 AM**. There will also be an afternoon communion service at **Bournville at 3**.

## *Personalia*

We are sorry to report the deaths of Jim Hay on 11 September and of Maureen Davenport on 25 September. Please remember their friends and families in your prayers.

Also for your prayers: several members and friends of the congregation are not well. The Revd Nick Stanyon, who was going to lead our Harvest worship, is on sick leave.

Please remember folk from Weoley Castle who are unwell or facing major changes in their lives.



## **Selly Oak Quaker Open Day**

Selly Oak Quaker Meeting to invite anyone at Weoley Hill URC who might be interested to our open day on 7 October. Running from 12.00 to 5.00, it includes a family friendly wildlife workshop, an invitation to worship with some of us at 2.30 PM, a discussion on refugee and asylum issues and tea with sandwiches and cake 3.30 - 5.00 PM.

## **October retiring collection**

This month's collections are for our Youth and Family Work Project, which we hope will result in a part time worker to initiate and organise projects like a youth club. Besides actually increasing the funds we have in readiness for this, the continuing effort demonstrates our continuing commitment to working with young people and families.

## Neighbourhood News

*News and events from other local churches:*

### **Weoley Castle Cafés**

1st Thursdays pet advice 10 till 12

2nd Thursdays advice café with various organisations and usually a councillor 10 till 1

4th Thursdays Naf Caf arts café with food 10 till 1

**TLS Lite Bible Course at Bournville**, *Getting to grips with the Bible*, all 2 PM to 4 PM at Bournville. Dates are: 9 October, 16 October, 6 November, 20 November, 27 November.

**Selly Oak Quaker Open Day:** Sunday 7 October 12-5. Wildlife workshop, worship at 2.30 PM, refugee & asylum issues, tea & cake 3.30-5.



### **Barnes Close:**

### **Reflection days and a retreat**

Reflection days costing £15 from 10.00 AM to 4.00 PM

Thursdays

11 October

8 November

13 December

The Advent Retreat is Tuesday 27 to Thursday 29 November 2018. More details from Ann Evans

## FWO UPDATE

Free Will Offering figures for the year so far are:

Jan-Sept Total income £25,243.00

Budget £27,435.00

**This means that for this year so far we are about 11.5% below budget.**

Emlyn Evans (FWO Officer)

	Envelopes			Standing Orders		
	2016	2017	2018	2016	2017	2018
Jan	£944.60	£1,198.00	£630.00	£1,861.00	£2,036.00	£1,908.00
Feb	£934.00	£872.50	£836.00	£2,041.00	£2,186.00	£2,058.00
Mar	£1,079.00	£764.00	£834.00	£1,891.00	£2,046.00	£1,908.00
Apr	£932.00	£1,035.90	£987.00	£1,901.00	£2,098.00	£1,908.00
May	£1,084.00	£1,077.00	£1,058.00	£1,941.00	£2,098.00	£1,963.00
June	£815.50	£858.90	£748.00	£1,941.00	£2,108.00	£1,893.00
July	£834.00	£857.50	£1,249.00	£1,941.00	£2,108.00	£1,853.00
Aug	£669.00	£810.00	£758.00	£1,941.00	£2,108.00	£1,893.00
Sep	£856.00	£553.00	£866.00	£1,941.00	£2,108.00	£1,893.00
Oct	£1,166.00	£1,278.00		£1,941.00	£2,108.00	£1,893.00
Nov	£936.00	£707.00		£2,021.00	£1,908.00	£1,893.00
Dec	£949.00	£940.00		£2,036.00	£1,908.00	£1,893.00
	£11,199.10	£10,951.80	£7,966.00	£23,397.00	£24,820.00	£22,956.00
Change		-£247.30	-£330.47		£1,423.00	-£1,864.00
			£10,621.33			
			(Predicted)			



# FRIENDSHIP GROUP

## Blakesley Hall Visit

On Wednesday September 12 a small party from the Friendship Group visited Blakesley Hall, Yardley, and we all very much enjoyed the trip. The house, built in 1590 by the Smalbroke family, is interesting and is set in beautiful grounds. The house is partially furnished with carefully chosen furniture and artefacts, many being authentic to the period of the building—there is actually still remaining an original table, which is splendid. There are also good reproductions which meant we were able to touch and handle them. The pleasant grounds have lawns, apple trees and a large herb garden. There is also a comfortable visitor centre with a shop and a café. Our visit was helped by two very nice, knowledgeable guides who answered all our questions and smoothed our way around.

Liz Roberts



## October meeting

Unfortunately, due to a double booking, we are unable to have the proposed talk by Rosie Mayer, *Postcard collecting and more*, which will now take place in January 2019. Therefore we have brought forward a 'Pencil and Paper' games session similar to one tried last year and which was well received then. Don't worry! it's not too onerous and you can do as much, or as little, as you please so just come along for a friendly chat with tea, coffee and cake and hear the plans for the rest of the year.

Lorraine Da Costa

## HARVEST

Many thanks to all those who contributed to the Harvest Festival celebration on Sunday 30 September. To those from the Worship and Arts group who stepped in to take the service that Nick Stanyon had planned, but who was prevented from leading it due to illness. To all who came on Saturday to decorate the church—Sue, Norma, Deborah, Cheryl, Kath and David, Barbara—and of course all who contributed to the wonderful display of harvest goodies on Sunday. Thanks to Anne and Emlyn for taking all the bags to the Salvation Army, who with Birmingham City Mission, are always very grateful for our donations, and also for clearing the displays afterwards with Linda's help.

Then many thanks later to all who helped set out and donated to the joint meal with members from the Korean church. As usual there was a wonderful presentation of all types of food at a buffet with many items to try, and perhaps experiment! Membership is down in both churches so it was good to meet some old friends, with whom we have been associated for over 20 years, and also to meet the new intake from the university. Those members of our congregation who could not attend missed a great meal.

Lorraine Da Costa

### Christmas hamper....

#### Wot, already?



Chris Grubb has offered to organise a Hamper for raffling at Christmas, £1 per ticket, in aid of the Youth and Family Worker Fund. At the moment she is looking for a suitable container—wicker basket? interesting box?—but will also ask for donations nearer the time. Can you help? If so please contact Chris. If we have enough things perhaps we could stretch to a couple of hampers.

Lorraine

*We are assured that raffle tickets would only be offered to church members at a few church events in December.*

*—the Church Secretary*

## WEOLEY HILL UNITED REFORMED CHURCH PRAYER DIARY

We do not know how we ought to pray; the Spirit himself pleads with God for us in groans that words cannot express. Rom 8:26

	<b>Church members</b>	<b>Topical prayers</b>
<b>WK 1:</b> 7 <sup>th</sup> -13 <sup>th</sup> Oct	John Glen Colin Graham Christine Grubb Rosemary Hay	Those affected by severe weather conditions and natural disasters.
<b>WK 2:</b> 14 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Gill Hitchin Norma Johnson Betty Johnston	The political and economic situation in Venezuela and those so badly impacted.
<b>WK 3:</b> 21 <sup>st</sup> -27 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Daniel & Dora Kyereh Sharon Letissier & Hannah Hilary Littlejohns	Future plans for the use and service of Barnes Close.
<b>WK 4:</b> 28 <sup>th</sup> Oct- 3 <sup>rd</sup> Nov	Doreen Longman Sam & Alex Lukwago David & Christine Marlow Jose Marsland	Leonora's induction. The new ministry of the Cadbury pastorate. That she & Michael settle-in well.

You may wish to add other members of the families mentioned to your prayers.

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

