

# Weoley Hill Church News



*March 2019*

*From the Minister's study—*

*The 'emotional' journey through Lent*

Friends,

Over the past weeks, months and even years emotions have been running high in our country. Since the referendum in 2016 the Brexit vote has exposed the deep divisions in our society as well as in Westminster. And with the Brexit negotiations rather badly handled by the government (that failed to seek a cross-party consensus) feelings of anger, frustration, guilt, anxiety, fear, confusion, etc have become very apparent. This beside the deep disappointment still felt by many Remain voters.

At the same time, no week passes without a news report about the poor mental health among children and young people, as well as older people. We speak of a mental health crisis with young people struggling with stress and depression and older people with loneliness and fear. Of course, it is good that we recognize the crisis for then we can direct our efforts to deal with it. And so we must—urgently!

We know life is a mix of emotions. Sometimes we are much happier than at other times; life is full of highs and lows, mountains and valleys. And I wonder if we never experience the 'lows', finding ourselves sad, lonely, fearful, angry, etc whether we can fully appreciate the 'highs' of being happy, filled with joy, confidence, love, gratitude. But that said, there may be times when we get stuck in feelings of sadness, anxiety, guilt or anger and we need help.

As you probably know all too well, when we meet a friend or family or acquaintance we haven't seen for a while the first question we often ask is, 'How are you?' And usually the standard response is, 'I'm ok' or 'I'm fine' even if they are not. We are good at hiding our feelings, especially when we feel sad or lonely. We do not want to burden others with the emotions we struggle with, even though it may be better to speak about them.

We are entering again the season of Lent that leads up to Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter. This is a time full of mixed emotions as we journey with Jesus to his last days in Jerusalem where he faced trial and was crucified. Jesus knew what was going to happen; he knew what would

await him in Jerusalem. Why? Not because his death was preordained but because he challenged the status quo. Lifting up the lowly and marginalized, empowering the powerless, challenging the leaders and politicians of his time, breaking bread with both the poor and the rich, preaching a message of peace, justice, equality and inclusion of all (ie the Kingdom of God) instilled jealousy, fear and anger in the powers-that-be. So they wanted to get rid of Jesus, and Jesus knew it.

However, Jesus faithfully and courageously pursued his final journey to Jerusalem even though he wrestled with feelings of sadness and fear too. Jesus, human as he was, felt the same as we feel. 'The sorrow in my heart is so great that it almost crushes me' Jesus said to his disciples (Mark 14:34). And 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me' he would cry out. (Mark 15: 34). But his faith did not waver and the love of God that Jesus embodied meant he would overcome his sadness and fears. 'Perfect love casts out fear' (1 John 4: 18).

Throughout Lent we will focus on some of the myriad of human emotions that we come across in the Bible stories in which we may recognize ourselves and which help us to reflect on the way these emotions help (or hinder!) our spiritual growth. And we will be prepared for the great swing of emotions that we observe from Palm Sunday to Good Friday to Easter!

Looking forward to seeing many of you during Lent, in the Sunday services, at the Lent study groups and/or Lent lunches. With all best wishes,

*Leonora*

## *Personalia*

We give thanks for those who are recovering from illness or surgery: the Lukwagos' daughter Susan, Michael Walpole and Gordon Thornett.

Please remember everyone who is unwell.



## Reading/Discussion at the Manse

We had our first meeting at the Manse when 11 of us discussed the Shamima Begum case, shared our views on words that are “lost” (while other words are gained), discussed the speed of change over the past decades and what it means for our ability to tackle climate change, and we laughed at some church and other slogans. Our next meeting will be on the 27th of March at 10.30am at the Manse. Everyone is welcome and may also bring a news item of interest along!

## Room Hire

Room Hire is now being managed by Christine and David Marlow. If you need to book one of the halls or the Sanctuary for an event, please now contact either Christine or David to arrange this.

We are extremely grateful to Rosemary Hay for her many years of carrying out this very big task, it has been a considerable commitment and she has worked hard to increase our income from letting out the premises to outside groups and organisations. We offer her our thanks for her commitment to the job and her warmth and tact in dealing with the many people she has come into contact with.

Christine Marlow

## Neighbourhood News

*News and events from other local churches:*

**Bournville:** *Shrove Tuesday* pancakes & devotions.

*Meditation* sessions on alternate Thursday afternoons at 3 PM. Next sessions, 7 & 21 March.

**Selly Oak Methodist:** *Ash Wednesday* service, 7.30 PM on 5 March.

**Weoley Castle:** *Jobs Fair*, Thursday 7 March, 10 AM-1 PM. *Brain Health workshop*, Thursday 28 March at 10.30 AM. *New Youth Project*, Tuesdays 7.30 PM weekly.

*Barbara Calvert*, a Methodist minister who has preached at Weoley Castle, would like **sponsors for a bike ride** she is doing on behalf of **Christian Aid**. <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Barbara-Calvert1>

## Afternoon Tea at Weoley Hill Cricket Club

As part of our 90th Birthday celebrations this year we are pleased to be hosting an afternoon tea on Saturday 30 March from 2-5PM. The tea, an ideal gift for Mothering Sunday, will include a selection of homemade sandwiches, scones and cakes served with tea, coffee and optional fizz.

**£15 for 2 guests or £20 for 2 guests with 2 glasses of fizz each**

Specific dietary needs can be catered for upon request

*Raising money for the new ground – The Oval in Selly Oak.*

To book please contact the cricket club via Facebook or [weoleyhillcc@gmail.com](mailto:weoleyhillcc@gmail.com),

## March retiring collections

### Corrymeela

Corrymeela's mission is: 'Transforming division through human encounter'. Every year about ten thousand people attend programmes held at Corrymeela, located near Ballycastle.

The leaders and staff of the community work with, for example, youth groups, refugee groups, teachers' groups, student groups, families and individuals. The volunteer-led courses aim to persuade some attendees into rejecting social and religious practices and policies that divide. The hope is that some are equipped to make a meaningful contribution to society not only in Northern Ireland but also throughout the world.

Corrymeela is a place where healing, reconciliation and wholeness undoubtedly grow. Aspects of its governance are kept under regular review to ensure that it is run effectively and in the best interests of beneficiaries.

Please consider making a contribution to the Corrymeela Community via our retiring collection this month. Thank you.

Colin Graham

## Lent Calendar

**Ash Wednesday:** 5 March

**Lent Course:** begins week of 11 March at Weoley Hill, St Mary's, & Selly Oak Methodist—please sign up on sheet in John Kydd Hall

**Lent Lunches:** St Mary's on 16<sup>th</sup>, Selly Oak Methodist 23<sup>rd</sup>, Weoley Hill 13 April

**Palm Sunday** 14 April (and Evensong at St Mary's 6.30)

**Maundy Thursday:** 18 April at St David's, 7.30

**Good Friday:** 19 April, ecumenical service Weoley Hill 7.30

**Easter Sunday:** 21 April, early worship, breakfast, communion



# **THE MYSTERY OF GOD**

## **LENT COURSE 2019**

The resource is prepared by the Churches Together in Britain and Ireland  
<https://ctbi.org.uk/lent/>

Tuesday 2 PM @ Weoley Hill URC

Thursday 10.30 AM @ St Mary's C of E

Thursday 7.30 PM @ Selly Oak Methodist

**Ash Wednesday Evening Service @ 7.30 PM**

Selly Oak Methodist Church

**Palm Sunday Evening Service @ 6.30 PM**

St Mary's C of E

**Lent Lunches:**

*16 March at St Mary's, 23 March SOM, 13 April Weoley Hill.*

*Times to be announced.*

Selly Oak Methodist Church, Langleys Road B29 6HT

St Mary's C of E, Bristol Road B29 6ND

Weoley Hill URC, Green Meadow Road B29 4DE

## JPIT issues

Last month I introduced J.P.I.T.

**J.P.I.T. is the Joint Public Issues Team of the Baptist Union, the Church of Scotland, the Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church.**

It seems to me appropriate to say some more about how they approach the issues of the day.

They have a page called **Living Lent** – see <https://livinglent.org/>

**They explain it like this:**

**Living Lent is about recognising that changing our climate is not just an activity, but a lifestyle.**

That's why this Lent, you are invited to become part of a community who will respond to the call to climate action by making significant personal commitments to changing our lifestyles for the climate.

As the Living Lent community, we will share in this together, encouraging and challenging one another as we journey through Lent.

**What could I do?**

As members of the Living Lent community, we will each make a commitment to changing our lifestyle for the climate during Lent.

You are invited to choose something that will stretch you.

What do you rely on most? What would be something that would change your daily habits?

As we do so, we will become part of a community who will be making these commitments alongside each other. Through the Living Lent community, we will share in reflections, devotional, practice and creative resources.

**Join us, by choosing one of these six commitments**

**There is not room for the details. They cover plastics, meat, transport, energy use, local living and buying nothing new.**

John Fletcher

# FRIENDSHIP GROUP

Many thanks to Nancy for providing the ingredients for, and later cooking, the 40+ pancakes for the 15 members who came to answer puzzles whilst indulging in our “Pancakes and Puzzles” meeting on Wednesday 13 February. Yes, we know we were a bit early for Shrove Tuesday but the meeting was an early excuse for them and served to provide energy for the *Wordsearch*, *Name that Film* and *Rhyming Pairs* quiz sheets that everyone tried. Some of the questions were even as sticky as the syrup and lemon fingers of the participants!

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 13 March, 2.15 for 2.30 start, and will be based around card games, 3 types of solitaire and others, that will **not** involve gambling but will encourage strategy and group interaction. Do come along for the usual friendly chat with a drink and cake and bring a pack of cards if you have one!

Lorraine DaCosta

Please sign up to #easyfundraising and help us raise FREE funds for Weoley Hill United Reformed Church when you're doing your everyday shopping online. THIS IS FREE MONEY FOR US! Plus, when you raise your first £5, easyfundraising will match it!!

This short video explains how simple it is and it doesn't cost you anything – <http://efraising.org/cv1Wj5Bman>.

Sign-up using our unique link:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/invite/253TAT>

# WEOLEY HILL UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

## PRAYER DIARY

*For it is by God's grace that you have been saved through faith. It is not the result of your own efforts, but God's gift, so that no-one can boast about it.*

*Ephesians 2:8&9*

	<b>Church members</b>	<b>Topical prayers</b>
<b>WK 1:</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> - 9 <sup>th</sup>	Lorraine DaCosta Ken Davenport	<p>For the future of our country.</p> <p>Our politicians, that they may have wisdom and act on it.</p> <p>For Christians in politics and the times of prayer at Westminster.</p> <p>For Christian teachers.</p>
<b>WK 2:</b> 10 <sup>th</sup> - 16 <sup>th</sup>	Séana Davies Corinne Dawson	
<b>WK 3:</b> 17 <sup>th</sup> - 23 <sup>rd</sup>	David & Geraldine Evans Emlyn & Ann Evans	
<b>WK 4:</b> 24 <sup>th</sup> - 30 <sup>th</sup>	Marius & Jennifer Felderhof Margaret Field Josie Fisher John Fletcher	
<b>WK 5:</b> 31 <sup>st</sup> Mar-6 <sup>th</sup> April	John Glen Colin Graham	

*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*

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