

Weoley Hill & Weoley Castle Church News



July & August 2024

From Alan Cotgreave—

It is that time of year when schools are organising end of year trips, a time for pupils to have some fun and relax with their friends and for schools to reward pupils for a year of hard work and study. It's a time that teachers either love or hate—it's definitely a "marmite moment". Those of us who love going to Theme Parks (that's where the majority of trips from secondary schools go) absolutely love it, whilst others just see it as a long, stressful day spent continually counting children to make sure you haven't lost them.

I have been privileged to go on two trips to theme parks in the last week, once to Alton Towers with our leavers, those who have just completed their GCSE and A level exams and who are looking forward to a summer of enjoyment whilst waiting for their results.

The second trip was a truly magical experience. I was lucky enough to accompany a trip with our Resource Base students to Drayton Manor. The Resource Base is a unit in our school that works with those who have additional needs and who may not need the full support of a special school but who would not cope fully in a mainstream setting.

Taking them on a trip is very different to taking a mainstream class. At Alton Towers we counted the students off the coach and told them to meet us at 4pm at a particular point. For the rest of the day I was able to do pretty much as I wanted and so I got to do the rides I had planned for myself. The Resource Base students need an adult with them at all times and so as a teacher prepared to go on the rides I was given a group of 8 students who were all up for the thrill attractions in the park.

We had the most wonderful day. These students were so incredibly excited about the day and were so looking forward with a great deal of anticipation to the sensation of the rides. They couldn't help but smile virtually the whole time! They loved the uncertainty of the rides and their faces beamed with total enjoyment for the entire time. It was infectious and my face ached at the end of it all because I had spent so much time smiling with them.

Their looks of wonder and excitement reminded me of Jesus' words in Matthew 18 verses 2-5

²He called a little child and had him stand among them. ³And he said: "I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. ⁵"And whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me."

It made me wonder about us as we look forward to our uncertain future. Are we entering into this new phase in our church life with the excitement these young people showed me or are we rather anxious and maybe a little negative about how things will work out?

The big news story over the summer for me has been the opening of



the new ride Hyperia at Thorpe Park, the largest roller coaster with more inversions than any other in the country. It's been fraught with difficulties and has had to close several times but when it is open I fully intend to be there to experience the feeling of

travelling that fast and in so many directions with the same smile of excitement on my face as the young people I had the honour of spending the day with this week.

I pray that as we continue our journey into the future we may feel the excitement and the exhilaration of that ride into the future that God has planned for us and that we may enter into it with the same sense of wonder I saw this week in the faces of the children.

I hope you all have a blessed summer.

Alan

Prayer page

We pray for:

The future of the new Pastorate and for the congregations involved.

The General Election and the future of the UK.

The future of the world and the people of the world: elections, climate change, internal and external threats.

The future for people whose present is bleak: through illness, declining health or dementia, poverty, unjust systems, lack of opportunity.

Young people still taking exams or waiting for results.

People travelling during the summer, and people who can't afford holidays or travel.

We give thanks for:

The good will and concern for the Lord's work shown at the recent Pastorate planning meeting.

People of good will and integrity in the political process, here and abroad.

People who make sacrifices to work toward restoring the world we live in, and for the peacemakers.

People who care for others in the NHS, in social services or care agencies, in food banks, family members, and campaigners.

Teachers and families supporting young people.

People who show kindness and hospitality to strangers and who support families here or abroad.

Our Creator God who makes all good things possible, our Lord and brother Jesus Christ, and the indwelling Holy Spirit.

Pastorate News

Pastorate Vacancy meeting 19 June 2024

The group representing the 4 proposed churches in our Pastorate group met for the first time on 19 June. The pastorate will be known as South and Central pastorate.

Since we met with Steve Faber back in April the separate churches have been having church meetings to agree or not whether to be part of the pastorate. Three churches agreed to join, those being The Church at Carr's Lane, Weoley Castle and us. Cotteridge Church did not agree because they were concerned about how the future minister's expenses would be shared if it is based on membership numbers.

Having spent some time at the meeting sharing information about our own churches we discussed a way of sharing these joint expenses and came up with a set of figures.

Carr's Lane	44%
Cotteridge Church	20%
Weoley Castle	6%
Weoley Hill	30%

These figures need to be submitted to Synod for approval. Please pray they will be acceptable.

We need to find a pastorate treasurer who will administer this. Any volunteers?

We now have to start to work on our church profile which is to sell ourselves to a prospective minister.

We have exciting times ahead as we learn to work together.

Ann

Weoley Hill News

The funeral of Peter Mullinex, Christine Grubb's partner, will be at Lodge Hill Crematorium on Wednesday 3 July at 3.15 PM. Refreshments will be at the Working Men's Club on Barnes Hill afterwards.

Concert in aid of Children's Hospital

Saturday-6 July,-2.30 PM

Concert with Weoley Hill Community Choir and Sutton Coldfield 'Our Choir'. Free, with collections for the Children's Hospital., Refreshments after the concert.

Summer Garden Party

The Garden Party has been changed to 10 July, still at Nancy Nicholls' house from 2.15 PM. Please bring some food if you can.

Eco-Church Award

As you know we have been trying to upgrade our Bronze award to a Silver level. We went through the application form but unfortunately, although we had one gold and two silver levels, the overall total of points was not enough to raise our score. The main reason was that we did not know enough about what individuals are doing. Accordingly you will shortly be receiving a questionnaire asking about what you are doing on your own to help the environment.

It will be totally anonymous. We do not need to know names.

We would be very grateful if you would tick, or circle, the answers on the sheet and post it in the pink carton which will be at the back of the church soon. If you have any suggestions or ideas please feel free to add these. With Thanks.

Lorraine and Ann

Retiring collections:

July—Barnabas Aid

Barnabas Aid supports Christian communities across the world that suffer repression and hardship.

Christians are the group of people most persecuted for their religious beliefs. In so many countries, there are frequent attacks on Christians and many have little opportunity to earn a living or are allowed to keep their homes, land or places of worship. Not only does Barnabas Aid provide immediate aid, it has established schools, skills training, small loans projects, theological training and agricultural and health projects. Money and resources are channelled through local churches or Christian groups.

Barnabas Aid has recently established Opportunity Africa to help communities in sub-Saharan Africa become self-sufficient, sustainable and resilient, rather than needing repeated support from outside agencies following attacks and climate vagaries. It also includes, the provision of clean water, emergency healthcare and health education and solar powered internet hubs.

We can help support fellow believers, who in great difficulty continue to be faithful.

(The latest Barnabas Aid magazine is pinned up in the church corridor.)

August—Peace Pledge Union

The Peace Pledge Union is a pacifist campaigning organisation which has been promoting pacifism since 1934, in alliance with other pacifists around the world. They also work with other peace and human rights campaigners. These values are exemplified by the white poppies that they distribute every year and which are available at Weoley Hill for Remembrance Sunday

Any Old Anything

Our local Freedom From Torture supporters' group is planning to have a pitch at the Rowheath car boot sale, 7th September. If you have items you don't want that might sell, please pass them on to Sue at WHURC.

The group meets on-line or at Bournville Friends' meeting house, the 3rd Tuesday, 7PM each month and have frequent fund and awareness raising events. New members welcome.

Weoley Hill Calendar for July & August 2024		
Tuesday	2	Tuesday Fellowship cancelled
Wednesday	3	3.15 PM: Funeral of Peter Mullinex at Lodge Hill. Refreshments afterward at the Working Men's Club on Barnes Hill
Thursday	4	all day: General Election. We are a polling station, so no groups will meet in the church.
Saturday	6	2.30 PM: Concert with Weoley Hill Community Choir and Sutton Coldfield 'Our Choir'. Free, with collections for the Children's Hospital.
Sunday	7	10.30 AM: Worship & communion led by Revd Brian Brown.
Wednesday	10	2.15 PM: Garden Party at Nancy Nicholls. All welcome, please bring something to share if you can.
		7.30 PM: Elders' meeting
Sunday	14	10.30 AM: Worship led by Ann.
Tuesday	16	10.30 AM: Tuesday Fellowship
Sunday	21	10.30 AM: Worship led by Alan ..
Monday	22	2.30 PM: F&B meeting
Sunday	28	10.30 AM: Worship led by Guy Willcock.
August		
Sunday	4	10.30 AM: Worship & communion led by Rev Alison Geary.
Sunday	11	10.30 AM: Worship led by Andy Vail .
Sunday	18	10.30 AM: Worship led by Ann.
Sunday	25	10.30 AM: Worship led by Alan.

The last Community Choir meeting until September will probably be on Friday 12 July.

Please check with Lorraine for the last Art Club meeting.

Eco Tips 3

Saving water..... (*just in case we get a hot, dry summer!*)

- If you do not have a dual flush toilet then put a stone in the cistern to use less water. A simpler idea is to fill a plastic bag with water, tie it tightly and drop it in the cistern.
- If you are on your own you do not need to flush every time you use it. Remember: "If it's yellow, leave it to mellow, If it's brown flush it straight down!"
- Do not let the water run all the time you are brushing your teeth but just at the finish.
- If you are waiting for the water to warm up when washing up, remember to catch it all in an old milk carton or similar so it can be used on the garden later. Used washing up water is just as good (and the vegetables don't taste of soap). Dishwashers use less!
- Investigate having a water meter from Severn/Trent. It could save you money as well as water. Tel:

Weoley Castle News

Services: 11 AM on Sundays

July 7th: led by Hephzibah

July 14th: led by John Burgess, including Communion

July 21st: led by Ted

July 28th: speaker: Sam Poursain.

For our August services, with people on holiday, we have decided not to sing, but instead to have bible study and prayer services without visiting preachers.

News

Debbie Flynn has managed to get to Church on her mobility scooter, but she will not be able to restart the clothes and uniform exchange on Friday mornings until the end of the Summer. No more donations to that for now please! Warm Welcome, and the Incredible Surplus food pantry will continue through the Summer.

Chris Miles has just finished radiation treatment and is hoping this will relieve symptoms; chemotherapy is planned to start soon. **Keith Twamley** is recovering after a major operation on his back. We hear from Peter that **Kathleen Cruchley** is in hospital after suffering a stroke. Please remember all these people and their families in your prayers.

We send good wishes to **Hephzibah & Ashly** and their son **Spear** as they move to Wolverhampton on July 1st, in preparation for Hephzi's first job as a teacher in the UK after her training. As a parting gift, she is leading our service on 7th July.

Bill & Chris Hopkins are saying goodbye to their latest foster-child **Jackson**, who is fitting in happily with his new adoptive family. No doubt, we shall shortly see yet another newborn arriving to be fostered by them.

Sam Poursain is speaking at our service at the end of July, just before he starts as part-time "Community Outreach Pioneer" at WCCC. He and **Katie** are imminently expecting their third child.

The next issue will be available around 1 September. Contributions are requested! Send them to Ted Forgan at Weoley Castle or Cheryl Thornett at Weoley Hill.

They think it's all over...!

My granddaughter knows me very well: for my birthday she gave me a book of jokes for 7-year-olds—these jokes celebrating the Euros are certainly at that level!—Ted Forgan

Why was a small ghost included in the England squad?

They needed a little team spirit.

Why did a skeleton not get included in the team?

He had no heart for it.

Why did a horse not get included in the team?

He had two left feet.

Why did a centipede not get included in the team?

He took too long lacing up his boots.

Why did a chicken not get included in the team?

He kept on getting red cards for fowl play.

Why did Cinderella not get included in the team?

She ran away from the ball.

How did a sheep practice to try to get into the team?

He did a lot of sheepie-uppies.

Where's the best place in the US to buy football kit?

New Jersey.

Why don't grasshoppers watch the football?

They prefer cricket.

How did the football pitch end up triangular?

Somebody took a corner.

What would you call a whirlwind goal-scorer?

Let's hope its Harry Kane.

Weoley Castle & Weoley Hill Churches

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 in outline or in complete form.

Bournville URC has closed.

THE PASTORATE IS CURRENTLY IN VACANCY

WEOLEY HILL CHURCH Office: 244 6711

Secretary: Ann Evans 628 4558

B29 4DE

weoleyhillchurch.org.uk

WEOLEY CASTLE COMMUNITY CHURCH: 475 3841

weoleycastlecommunitychurchurc.org.uk

weoleycastlecommunitychurch50@gmail.com

B29 5LE

