

Cadbury Pastorate News

Bournville, Weoley Castle &
Weoley Hill Churches

15-21 May 2022

Christian Aid Week

**Join us this Christian Aid Week, and help
turn hunger into hope. Hope lives in you.**

May 2022

From the Minister's study—

The United Reformed Church

Dear Friends,

“When does a man express his deepest desire?” asked the Patriarch (of Constantinople). And he answered himself: *“When he formulates his last will. And where do we find the last will of our Lord? In the high-priestly prayer in the seventeenth chapter of St John. Now, that prayer is all about unity and love. That is what we have so often forgotten in our theological quarrels. That is what the ecumenical movement must bring back.”*

This observation made in the heydays of the ecumenical movement, in the 60s when the Orthodox churches joined the World Council of Churches, is no less true today but sadly we see more division among churches, even of the same church “family”, especially when these churches and their church leaders ally themselves with political leaders or parties while failing to be the prophetic voice that is so needed. Lack of unity of the church hinders our prophetic witness for peace and reconciliation at a time that we see so many divisions and conflicts in the world and in our society. If we do not embody the peaceful reconciliation that is ours in unity with Christ, then our words about Jesus ring hollow. The unity of the church not only enables our witness, helps our witness but the unity of the church *is* our witness. And that is why we should celebrate the 50th anniversary of our *United Reformed Church*, as will officially happen in October and as we will do in our pastorate churches too.

As a united church, among other united churches such as the United Protestant Church of France, the United Church of North India/South India, the United Church of Jamaica, the United Church of Canada, the United Protestant Church in the Netherlands, we try to embody the unity of Christ as we accommodate or overcome our theological, liturgical and organizational differences. But differences remain, of course. Within the united churches some of us like formal liturgies and

others informal ones. Some of us hold on to a traditional, orthodox faith while others are particularly keen on new insights and open to the questioning of faith. Some are evangelical, some are progressive, some orthodox and some liberal and many do not like to be labelled in any way.

My experience is that united churches are usually quite “roomy,” I told the students at Queens College at an ecumenical panel presentation earlier this year. But as we are open to many people “walking a different way to heaven,” – an interesting expression used by a faithful church member – we probably know that having “united” in our church name is not always well understood. Therefore, some URC churches mention on their noticeboard what the “united” stands for. “United” is a word we should carry in our denominational name with pride—humble pride, of course. Especially at a time that political powers or powerbrokers, sometimes of the far right, divide (and rule), not only in other parts of the world but even in our own country.

In the “Fellowship of the Ring” (the first book of Tolkien’s trilogy, “The Lord of the Rings”) there is an episode that makes a wonderful point. If you have not read the book but only seen the movie, I am afraid that this scene has not made it onto the screen so you would have missed it. It is about the men, hobbits, elves, and dwarves who accompany the ring bearer on his journey. In order to defeat the power of Sauron, the Dark Lord, these historically divided groups must try to work together to destroy the ring that Sauron wants in order to gain absolute power. As the fellowship approaches Lothlorien, the home of the elves, the elven guard (Haldir) refuses to let Gimli the dwarf pass without a blindfold. This results in tension that threatens to divide the fellowship. But Aragorn, the group leader, suggests that if one has to bear the indignity of being blindfolded, let them all be blindfolded. Legolas the elf protests: *“Alas for the folly of these days! Here all are enemies of the one Enemy, and yet I must walk blind, while the sun is merry in the woodland under the leaves of gold!”* “Folly it may seem,” says Haldir. *“Indeed, in nothing is the power of the Dark Lord more*

clearly shown than in the estrangement that divides all those who still oppose him."

There is clearly a lesson that we can draw from Tolkien's wisdom. The forces that oppose the ways of God draw strength from the disunity of God's people, *all* people. Our call is not only to proclaim God's reconciliation but also to live it, in our daily lives, in our communities and in our churches. If we fail to do so, we will be ineffective and irrelevant, only reinforcing the division that the world already knows. The division of people, races, nations, communities, religions....You name it!

Better all blindfolded than only one. Better yet, all eyes open to the God who makes us one!

With all best wishes,

Leonora

PS If you feel inspired to write an "ode" to the URC on their 50th anniversary, just a reminder:



Share your thanksgiving

People across the URC are being invited to send in a postcard to be used as part of the URC's Thanksgiving and Celebration service on 1 October. On a blank postcard write your details (name, age, location and what URC you're connected to) on one side, and on the other, as imaginatively and brightly as possible, share your thanksgiving to God for an aspect of the URC that you want to celebrate. The postcards will be used as photos on the screen as the service unfolds. Please send your cards to Dr Sam Richards, Church House, 86 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9RT, by 1 August.

Prayer page

In joy and hope let us pray to the Father, that our risen Saviour may fill us with the joy of his glorious and life-giving resurrection ...

We pray to the Father—

that isolated and persecuted churches may find fresh strength in the good news of Easter ...

That God may grant us humility to be subject to one another in Christian love ...

That he may provide for those who lack food, work or shelter ...

That by his power war and famine may cease through all the world ...

That he may reveal the light of his presence to the sick, the weak and the dying, to comfort and strengthen them ...

That, according to his promises, all who have died in the faith of the resurrection may be raised on the last day ...

That he may send the fire of the Holy Spirit upon his people, so that we may bear faithful witness to his resurrection,

Heavenly Father,

you have delivered us from the power of darkness

and brought us into the kingdom of your Son:

grant that, as his death has recalled us to life,

so his continual presence in us may raise us

to eternal joy;

through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Adapted from a C of E Easter season prayer



Weoley Hill, Easter Sunday

Pastorate News

Weoley Hill

Joyce Cope has been moved to a hospice near West Heath Hospital. Only her daughters can visit.

Please remember everyone who is not well or is recovering from treatment, including Sue Cope, Michael Walpole, Dave Upton and Rosemary Hay.

A new knitting group has started at the church on Thursdays.

We are going to improve the projection system as we have a new laptop. David Marlow is researching new projectors or LED screens.

Weoley Hill Calendar for May 2022		
Sunday	1	10.30 AM: Communion Service led by the minister.
Thursday	5	Local elections, groups cancelled.
Saturday	7	Cubs sleepover
Sunday	8	10.30 AM: Worship led by Ian Carnell. .
Friday	13	9.30 AM: Work party
Sunday	15	10.30 AM: Worship led by the minister. Discussion after worship. Christian Aid Week
Wednesday	18	7.30 PM: Elders' meeting
Saturday	21	2.30 PM: Christian Aid walk. Meet at church.
Sunday	22	10.30 AM: Worship led by Ann Evans. .
Thursday	26	Ascension Day
Sunday	29	11 AM: Pastorate worship at Weoley Castle led by members of the Pastorate.

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

Fridays in term time, 6.45 PM: Community Choir, all welcome

Photos—a reminder

If you have a photo of a family wedding or other event that has taken place at Weoley Hill URC, would you be willing to lend it for a centenary display? If so, please pass it on to Sue or an elder ASAP.

Plant Trees!

As an initiative for the 50th anniversary of the URC each church in the Synod has been asked to plant 50 trees. This does not have to be surrounding our church building but can be in our own gardens or being involved with another tree planting scheme. It has been suggested we do some tree planting on our anniversary weekend in July as part of our centenary celebrations.

Recently several trees were planted on the Weoley Hill Parkway by the Bowling Club and local people. To quote an article from BVT website: *Hundreds of trees have been planted in Weoley Hill parkway to create a tiny forest that will be a haven for wildlife.* Pupils from Northfield Manor Primary, members of Weoley Hill Bowling Club and the local community worked together to plant 600 trees on Friday 1 April and learn how the trees will benefit the local community for years to come.

Let us think about how we can plant 50 trees to help our environment and the planet.

Ann Evans

Work Party

We are holding a Work Party on Friday 13 May at 9.30 AM—12.30 PM. The main task is to empty a cupboard/room off the upper hall so we can have the wood treated. There are also other tasks as always. Everyone is welcome to come and help.

Ann Evans

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2022

MAY 15 – MAY 21

Christian Aid

We believe in life before death

WALK IN AID OF CHRISTIAN AID

This will be on Sat May 21st at 2 PM. We will meet outside Church for a walk of around 4 miles.

ENVELOPE DISTRIBUTION

We plan to distribute delivery-only envelopes in the streets around church (and put some in church). Donations can be given in the envelopes (Cash/cheques etc)

I have set up an on-line giving page using Give Star. The shareable link is below. I also attach the QR code.

<https://giving.give-star.com/online/christian-aid/weoley-hill-united-reformed-church-christian-aid-week-2022>



I also attach the QR code in black, as I have found it easier to use.

May's retiring collections are for Christian Aid.

Weoley Castle

There will be services at 11 AM at Weoley Castle on every Sunday in May, led by:

1st May – Ted Forgan

8th May – Leonora, including communion

15th May –Maureen Foxall,

Regards, Ted 22nd May – Peter Cruchley

29th May – joint Pastorate service at WCCC – led by members of all three churches



Advance notice: the Senior Citizens’ Day Centre will be holding an “Indoor Street Party” on Monday 6th June to celebrate the Queen’s jubilee.

“Good Friday Happening”



A morning of Easter crafts and drama for local children and their parents took place for the first time for two years – many thanks to all those who helped make it happen! The drama retold the events of the last week of Jesus’ earthly life, beginning with Palm Sunday and ending with the Last Supper and Jesus’ arrest. It was led by adults and acted out by the children. It closed with a YouTube video of a college students’ performance of the last scenes of the musical Godspell.

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yMrCKSvOck8>). It was a busy and happy morning, but there was a sour note at the end because there were a couple of Muslim parents who felt that their children should not have been involved in the drama. My own feeling is that this event was a chance to tell our faith story and the nature of the event should have been obvious. In local schools, there is usually a chance for all faith stories to be shared, to help mutual understanding.

I have been present at Islamic worship events, found common ground with Jewish believers and I think that the three Abrahamic religions all worship the same God - coming to God in different ways. What do you think?

Ted Forgan

Bournville

The preaching rota for May:

May 1 Leonora (at 3pm)

May 8 Alison Geary

May 15 Stuart

May 22 Leonora

May 29 Pastorate Service at WCCC



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

B30 & South Birmingham Foodbank

We are very, very short of instant coffee, tinned rice pudding, new potatoes and tinned spaghetti so please prioritise these items.

Laugh till you are horse

A horse walks into a bar. The barman offers him a glass of water, but can't make him drink.

A horse walks into a bar. "Hey," says the barman.
"Yes please," says the horse.

Where do horses go when they're sick?
The horsepital.

What's black and white and eats like a horse?
A zebra.

Why should you never be rude to a jump jockey?
In case he takes offence.

What's a horse's favourite TV show?
Neighbours of course.

How do you spell 'Hungry Horse' in four letters?
MTGG.

How can you tell a police horse from a normal horse?
The police horse goes "Neigh-naw-neigh-naw-neigh-naw."

What sort of horses come out after dark?
Nightmares



The Cadbury Pastorate

Open for Worship

(In line with Government guidelines.)

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 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 as in print form, and through email 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: Ann Evans 628 4558

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WEOLEY CASTLE COMMUNITY CHURCH: 475 3841

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BOURNVILLE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Secretary: Maureen Peart 605 3540

