

Weoley Hill & Weoley Castle Church News



October 2024

From Ann Evans—

Dear friends

When I was asked to write this letter for this month's newsletter, what came to my mind immediately were two things. Harvest and John Keats poem *To Autumn* with its opening line 'The season of mists and mellow fruitfulness'.

I am not generally a lover of poetry and do not have much knowledge of it, so I went to the internet to read and listen to the poem.

To quote from Wikipedia: *In To Autumn, John Keats paints three perfect autumnal landscapes in three powerful stanzas. He also highlights the impact on the senses which occur to the patient observer.*

Scholars have unanimously decreed that 'To Autumn' is one of the most perfect poems in the English language, despite being his last.

This month we are now really beginning to feel the autumn chills evening and morning and can wake to find the mist has come down on several occasions. Summer has gone but we can still get sunny days despite all the torrential rain we have had during September, particularly on Thursday 26th, when so many roads and gardens were flooded. One would expect the trees to be changing colour but with all the rain during the summer and recently the leaves are still green apart from the horse chestnut trees along the Bristol Road near the Orthopaedic hospital. Another effect of climate change, rain to excess and delay in autumn colours. How is the wildlife coping does it know it is time to store food for the winter or to migrate north or south depending on the type of bird or animal?

Keats describes autumn beautifully. The first stanza addresses the atmosphere of autumn, the second one compare it to a goddess and the third almost mourns the loss of spring but points out there is

still plenty of life in the flora and fauna. The mellow fruitfulness sums up the richness of the harvest time when so many plants produce their fruit at this time of year and animals and insects prepare for winter by storing food.

The seasons are part of God's creation. The cycle of life in the trees and plants losing their leaves or cutting down on the moisture they take from the ground, resting in the winter months to come to life again in spring. Evergreen trees continue to grow in winter but more slowly.

This time of year is normally one of my favourite seasons with the autumn colours and chilly days so our home is warm and cosy. I cannot let this pass without thinking about those people in fuel poverty and having to make the choice of heat or eat. I support the food bank each week but what can we do more as a church. We at Weoley Hill tried conversation times last winter without mentioning it was a warm space what can we do this year? Weoley Castle have a warm space and clothes swap among other things.

Our harvest has its roots in biblical times when the first fruits were offered to God. So, our harvest service is a service of thanksgiving for all God's gifts.

*All good gifts around us
Are sent from heaven above,
So thank the Lord, O thank the Lord
For all his love.
Amen*

Happy harvest time

Ann Evans

Prayer page

We give thanks for

- † The glorious creation we are part of
- † Kindness shown by strangers
- † Our visiting preachers and the messages they bring us
- † Church workers of all kinds, especially the people who take on the unseen, unrewarded jobs that keep our churches going
- † The fellowship and care for each other we share; the Spirit that gives it life

We pray for

- † The situations in Gaza, Lebanon, Ukraine and Sudan—and that somehow peace with justice will prevail
- † People trapped in violence not of their making
- † People afflicted by flood, fire, storm, drought
- † People who are ill, waiting for treatment, undergoing treatment or recovering
- † People who face the prospect of cold homes this winter
- † Christians facing persecution for their faith in countries where our faith is unwelcome or illegal
- † Our newly formed pastorate, the agreements we reach together, the eventual call to a minister, and the person who will answer our call.

Pastorate News

Update on pastorate group

The South and Central Birmingham pastorate will consist of 4 churches: Carr's Lane Church, Cotteridge Church, Weoley Castle Community Church and Weoley Hill URC.

There were Methodist ministers at Carr's Lane and Cotteridge as they are Local Ecumenical Partnership (LEPs), but both have either moved on or are about to do so. This means the 4 churches are without a fulltime minister so the urgency to put ourselves forward as a vacant group is getting more so. The 4 churches will each write their own profile and then a summary sheet will be compiled to sell us all to any potential minister. We are all getting on with this.

There are major changes going ahead at Carr's Lane Church as the site will be sold and redeveloped but it will be stipulated that some space in the site will be as a church.

We still have to find a pastorate banker/treasurer and open an account in the name of the pastorate so funds can be available for the minister's expenses.

Also, the synod will have to purchase a manse somewhere between the Bristol and Pershore roads that has easy access to public transport for environmental reasons to save car usage.

Keep praying for the work of the Vacancy group and the potential new minister.

God Bless

Ann

Weoley Castle News

Services: 11 am on Sundays

Oct 6th: led by Ted

Oct 13th: at WCCC: Joint service with Castle Elim & St. Gabriel's – including Communion

Oct 20th: Bible study, led by Carol

Oct 27th: led by Phil Turley

News

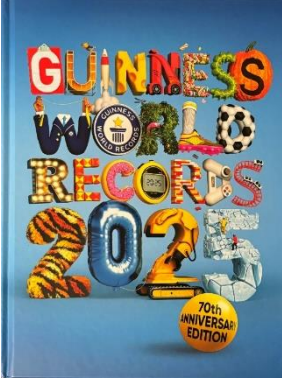
Please see the pictures and account by **Daniel Teplitski**—son of Yvonne and Oleg, who run the Elite Dance Club at WCCC—of his **Guinness World Record**. Most of the other young people who attend Elite sessions are not doing anything so athletic, but there's always a buzz of enjoyment there. Information about the club from Yvonne Teplitski (0121 422 6297).

Lots of people are preparing **supporting letters** for a woman volunteer at many of our weekday activities, who is appealing against the Home Office rejection of her asylum application. Please pray for peace and comfort for her and her children, and that the Judge at the Immigration Tribunal in the New Year will show the compassionate discretion that the H.O. lacked.

We are planning a **Family Activity Day** on the Tuesday of Half Term: October 29th from 10 am till 2 pm, with free activities and a light lunch.

There are vacancies both for volunteers and users in the Monday & Friday **Day Centres**: contact Chris Hopkins on 0121 426 1227 for more information.

Local young man in the 2025 Guinness World Records book!



We asked Daniel Teplitski if he'd share his thoughts and achievements with the Newsletter:

Since the age of 8 I've been training in the genre of 'power juggling' (juggling, balancing and doing various tricks with heavy weights) under the supervision and coaching from my father Oleg Teplitski who also did this.

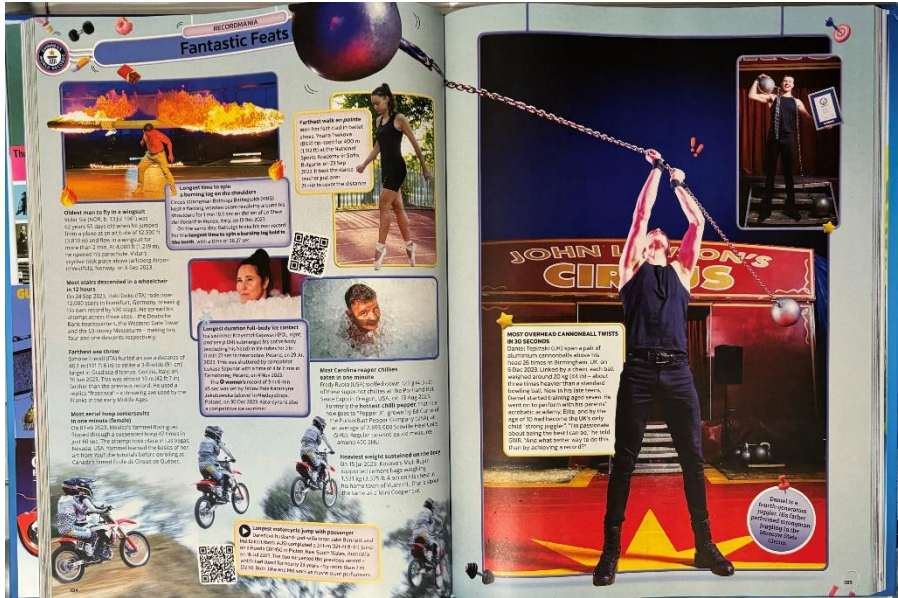
My parents run Elite Academy: the dance/gymnastics classes at Weoley Castle Community Church. My mom was a professional dancer and my father a third-generation circus artist.

As a child I performed on a show with Stephen Mulherne, the 'Little Big Shots' TV show with Dawn French and won a Global Child Prodigy Award. This year as a 20-year-old I was chosen from 70,000 people worldwide to perform on the world's biggest stage: AGT (America's Got Talent) in California. I received 4 yes's and a standing ovation from judges in front of an audience of 4000 people. I met lots of great artists from all over the world and saw Los Angeles for the first time: memories I will treasure and an experience I will never forget.



Now the book is on sale, I can finally reveal that I have just been awarded a Guinness World Record (for twirling a pair of 20 kg cannonballs around above my head 26 times in 30 seconds—see the picture!) and I'm fortunate enough

to be included in the 2025 edition of the book.



I would like to thank people at Weoley Castle Community Church, who have supported and believed in me over the years. I'm very grateful and I will continue to work hard and strive to achieve the best I can from myself.

Weoley Hill News

Harvest time

Weoley Hill's harvest service on Sunday 20 October will be led by Revd Ian Thornley and will also be a parade service. We will be decorating the church on Saturday 19th at 1.00 pm. Please come and help and bring produce or greenery if you can. The harvest gifts will be given to the B30 and South Birmingham food bank and the fresh produce to the Salvation Army as usual. This will benefit those in need in various ways.

Harvest Lunch: see Alan about contributing to our harvest lunch following the service.

The October retiring collections are for Breast Cancer Now, a charity which campaigns for a number of issues related to breast cancer, with a current focus on better diagnosis, treatment, and support for people with secondary cancer, as well as fund-raising. They also provide much of the leaflet information given out by hospitals and offer individual support through phone lines, a website and online discussion groups for anyone with concerns about diagnosis, treatment, living with breast cancer, and much more, including support for family members.

Weoley Hill Calendar for October 2024		
Tuesday	1	10.30 am: Tuesday Fellowship
Sunday	6	10.30 am: Worship & communion led by Alan.
Wednesday	9	7.30 pm: Elders' meeting
Sunday	13	10.30 am: Worship led by Ann
Monday	14	2.30 pm: F&B budget meeting
Tuesday	15	10.30 am: Tuesday Fellowship
Sunday	20	10.30 am: Harvest worship & parade service led by Revd Ian Thornley. Harvest lunch
Sunday	27	10.30 am: Worship led by Alan.

Art Club Wednesdays 10 AM-12

Community Choir Fridays 6.45-8 PM

The **Birmingham Korean Church** will celebrate its 41st anniversary and induct its new minister on Sunday 27 October.

Advance notice: The quiz night with fish & chips will be in November. Please see Lorraine if you have items for the raffle.

*John Fletcher delivering
Weoley Hill URC donation at
B30 and South Birmingham
Foodbank*



Eco Tips

If you are replacing an older electrical item with a new one, check whether the shop will take the old one for recycling. Some shops will accept all kinds of tech and electric goods for recycling, including those stray leads that don't seem to belong to anything, whether or not you're buying something at the moment.

Charity shops can't usually accept electrical items unless they have someone qualified on hand to check them for safety—by all means ask if you want to donate something in good condition.

Most larger supermarkets have special bins for spent batteries. And do consider replacing them with rechargeable batteries.

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

JOKES AT LEAST 65 MILLION YEARS OLD

1. What do you call a dinosaur with poor eyesight?
2. How do you raise a baby dinosaur?
3. What do triceratops sit on?
4. Which dinosaur knows the most words?
5. Why did the dinosaur take a bath?
6. What do you get if you cross a pig with a dinosaur?
7. How many dinosaurs can you fit in an empty box?
8. Can you name 10 dinosaurs in 10 seconds?
9. What makes more noise than a dinosaur?
10. What should you do if you find a dinosaur in your bed?
11. What do dinosaurs put on the floor of their kitchens?
12. What came after the dinosaur?

1. Doyouthinkesaurus?
2. With a crane!
3. Their tricerabottoms.
4. The thesaurus.
5. To become ex-stinked.
6. Jurassic pork.
7. Only one—after that, the box isn't empty.
8. Yes: 8 Iguanodons and 2 Stegosaurus.
9. Two dinosaurs.
10. Find somewhere else to sleep.
11. Rep-tiles
12. Its tail.

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.

THE PASTORATE IS CURRENTLY IN VACANCY

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