



The
United
Reformed
Church

Sherwood

1 Edwards Lane,
Nottingham,
NG5 3AA

www.sherwoodurc.co.uk

The Newsletter

April to May 2015

Easter to Pentecost



Christ the Lord is risen today

Minister's Letter

We are close to Easter when we celebrate the death of Jesus on the cross – a prolonged and cruel execution. And yet we Christians insist on talking about it as Good News. Of course it is not the Cross itself that is good news, but what followed that: The resurrection of Jesus from the dead, the slow but steady process of the 'penny dropping' in the disciples minds culminating with Pentecost, and then the establishment and growth of the church. Surely that is good news?

And yet here we sit two thousand or more years later, struggling to express what is Good News about Christianity. The need to show how Christianity is Good News for everyone has never been more urgent! Singer-songwriter Shaun Escoffery, currently starring as Mufasa in *The Lion King*, spoke on Good Morning Sunday about how at school he was made to feel a freak because he was a Christian. In the light of troubles around the world, which are often presented as religious in origin, all religions are being viewed with some suspicion – and we feel the weight of that on our shoulder.

How is Christianity Good News? Christianity is, as I have often said before, a world-view: it contains a philosophical picture of what humanity is like. It begins by saying that Humanity is God's creation, and was made pure and perfect but with the freedom to make decisions. Humans usually make decisions based on what will bring a quick reward, they tend to focus on themselves and not on others. In this way they push themselves away from God – this is sin. In short we are selfish. Given half a chance we will take advantage of others, abuse them, rip them off. That is why we need rules to guard against fraud, to enforce a minimum wage, to reveal racism, and so on.

The good news is that it should not be like that and it does not have to be. The sacrifice that Jesus made on the cross was so that we could *all* be considered as Children of God, all equally loved and valued by God, all called by name to turn back to God. To do what? To live lives infused by the love of God – loving one-another

(friends, neighbours, and enemies) as though we really are God's Children, and loving the world that God created for us, cherishing it, treasuring it, caring for it and every plant and creature therein.

So we are called to live, like Jesus, the life of a willing servant, treating others at worst as equals, while seeking always to consider them better than ourselves. We are not to dominate, bully or try to force people into living God's way but move them by our own example into seeing for themselves that Christ's way is *the way*.

And there is more Good News, for through the Holy Spirit God offers help to lift us above selfishness and sin – if only we would accept it.

Are we crazy promoting the idea that for the world to be a better place we should act out of love? I think not.

Is religion inherently bad? No.

At its roots, Christianity is about freedom, and living life to the full.

However It is, like any system, promoted by Humans and it is able to be twisted into something it is not.

With God's help we (you) have to say what it actually is!

Discover the Good News of Christianity and share it with someone!

David

Family News

Barbara Adams: 1928 – 2015

I have only known Barbara for five years and all that time she was someone shrouded in Dementia. But even though she wore that shroud, a lot of what was Barbara peeped out. For example, Tricia and Barbara could talk about Manchester which they both knew. Pam can remember how, back in 1998, Barbara and Edna Parr worked together to create one of the displays for the church's flower festival. She also remembers walking trips out to Derbyshire – places like Monsal head. Joy, who became a good friend of Barbara, also remembers walks, days out and trips. Mavis K remembers how it was usually Jimmy, Barbara's husband, who

acknowledged her when passing in the streets, and how that became an important memory for Barbara to hold on to latterly - "you know my Jimmy don't you" was a statement in all their conversations. She will be missed.

David

News that **Jean Challands** passed away on 6 March aged 84. Jean was a member at Sherwood URC from 1930 initially worshipping with her mother Emma and sister Dorothy (her father John went to St Martins). She served in India as a nurse and midwife in the 1950s with the London Missionary Society (now CWM). Rev Gilbert Featherstone conducted her wedding to Brian in 1962, and she continued to be an active part of church life until the early 70s. Jean returned to Sherwood to run the synod bookstall when Malcolm Hanson was moderator in the 90s

A letter has been received from the Nephew of **Alvinza Riddoch** with information that she died peacefully in her sleep on the 19th February 2015 in Cramlington, Northumberland at the care home she had been living for the past 4 years, at the wonderful age of 100.

Joy Hammond

Carolyn and Stuart would like to thank everyone within the Church family who sent cards and messages after the sad loss of our Mum. We were very grateful for the support, especially on the day of her Service of Thanksgiving. We would like to say a particular thank you to everyone who helped with the practical arrangements on that day.

Carolyn and Stuart

Carol Foote is now back at home after her lengthy spell in QMC and Lings Bar. Carol has been in constant contact via text

messages and thanks everybody for their cards and prayers. Give her a ring!

Congratulations to **Dorothy Gerrie** on achieving the spectacular age of 100! Congratulations also to a number of other people in our congregation who this year will celebrate a 'significant birthday'.

The **six "80's"** would like to thank everyone who helped make the lunch on Sunday 6th March such a success. Thanks especially to Jean Bull for all her hard work in organising the event.

Past Events

Stepping Out in Faith

This was the theme for the 88th annual convention of the Christian Women's Fellowship held at Swanwick in Derbyshire. Pam Richmond, Pam Whitby, Joy Hammond, Tricia Legge, Mavis Seed and myself attended the conference this year.

The guest speaker was Margaret Barker, a Methodist preacher, who has developed an approach to Biblical Studies known as Temple Theology, (Jerusalem Temple). She has published a number of papers and books about the Old Testament – see www.margaretbarker.com. Her *"Walk through the Old Testament"* had three parts – the contents of the books, writing the books and collecting the books.

Temple theology recognises that the Old Testament has a complex history and those who shared this history did not always share the same beliefs or scriptures. The current Old Testament is not the same version that was used by the first Christians. This was a fascinating talk as Margaret has a great knowledge about Hebrew and Greek biblical texts and Bible translations. She covered a great deal of ground in one day and I am sure that I am not the only one to say that at times I found there was a lot to take in and understand.

The Sunday Bible Study was taken by another attendee at the conference and looked at women in the Old Testament. Many women are unnamed and lost in their husband's accomplishments, merely described as "the wife of." One attendee adopted the guise of Mrs Noah and gave a very humorous account about her life on the ark.

We were reminded that 88 years ago the convention was started by women who stepped out in faith. Three ladies spoke about their own personal experience of what it meant to step out in faith. Each of them spoke about either a new venture or challenge that they had not expected. The overwhelming message was that if God calls us to step out he will give us what we need. He doesn't let us down. By trusting in him we may find greater opportunities for both service and fulfilment.

The combination of generous amounts of faith, fellowship and food made the week-end an enjoyable experience.

Bev Lockyer

Future Events

Maunder Thu 2nd April

We will visit the upper room and reflect on the events surrounding that first 'last supper'. We will share communion together, and turn our thoughts to Good Friday.

Good Fri 3rd April

The annual Ecumenical Walk of Witness will start at Sherwood URC at 10.00am. We will then move through 8 stations – at St Martins door, at the Coop,

outside Wilkinson's, by the library, at the Methodist Church doors, at the gates of St John's, and by the doors of St John's. Each station has a reading, prayer and hymn. If you would like to join us, but can not walk, then we may be able to arrange a lift that will enable you to do most of it! See Tricia.

Easter Flowers 4th

We would love you to help us on Sat 4th April from 10am in the

Sherwood Hall to prepare the flowers for Easter Sunday. We also need a lot of spring flowers or plants – please help us by leaving them in the **VESTRY** on Friday 3rd – or simply give a donation to Marita between now and Palm Sunday.

Your help is appreciated.

Sheila

Easter Day – 5th April

8.30.a.m. A Short Service followed by breakfast leading into our Easter Communion Service. If you would like to come, it will help if you sign the sheet in church so we have an idea about numbers.

The Reformed Players

present

“MY FRIEND MISS FLINT”

Thursday	30 April
Friday	1 May
Saturday	2 May at 7.30 pm

Tickets available on the door £4
[includes programme, tea/coffee]

Tom's in trouble. The Inland Revenue is demanding a very large sum of money but his accountant is fleeing the country leaving him to face matters on his own. Bit of a taxing time all round...

Magazine Deadline

Please submit your contribution for the next issue of Church News by Sunday 17th May 2015 handwritten to Pam (926 8044) or by email to David (intermediation) or Stefan (sherwood.urb@ntlworld.com)

Vintage Fair: Sat 9 May
 organised by **Liane** (who helps at Chill Out)

Open from 12noon through to 5pm
 to raise money for Alzheimer's Society Nottingham.
 Entry is Adults £2, Children £1.

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|--|--------------------------------|
| ★ stalls | ★ children's fun corner |
| ★ music with the
"Gordon James Band" | ★ cake stall |
| ★ swinging moves from
"Revival Dance" | ★ refreshments |
| ★ D.J. | ★ raffle |
| ★ hairdresser | ★ and a load
of other stuff |

Look Out for:

Organ Recital by Richard Morden at St Martin's in support of
Christian Aid 10th May – time to be confirmed.

Beeston Big Band Charity Concert: evening of Thu 21st May
 to support *Lace City Chorus* to compete
 in the *Sweet Adeline World Championships* in Las Vegas.
 The band has three members in the Lace City Chorus!

June 18th: 26th **A concert by the "Music for Everyone" Choir**
 with guest choir from Seely Primary School
 in aid of Seely School's new sensory Room.

Articles

Hidden Churches, Steeples and Spires

In February Pam Richmond and I had a five night break at Willersley Castle in Cromford. The theme for the week was "Hidden Churches,

Steeple and Spires.” A mini bus was arranged to take us to visit the churches. Although we didn't visit as many churches as we had hoped we might the week was still interesting and enjoyable.

Day 1 – Derby Cathedral and Duffield: St Alkmunds



A guide had been arranged to show us the main features of the Cathedral and provide a bit of historical background. The building, previously known as All Saints' Church, became a cathedral by 1927. It has the second highest perpendicular church tower in England. The interior is

light and airy and contains a number of monuments, many dedicated to members of the Cavendish family of Chatsworth fame. Bess of Hardwick is in a vault here and there is a large memorial to her. The Cathedral bookshop and café across the road from the Cathedral is well worth a visit.

Duffield Church is one of only six in England dedicated to Alkmund the 8th century Northumbrian prince and Mercian martyr. In the north chapel is a fascinating memorial, built at the end of the 16th century by Anthony Bradshaw which includes incised drawings of himself, his two wives and 20 of his 23 children.

Day 2 – Chesterfield: St Mary and Edensor: St Peter

It is difficult to miss the crooked spire of St Mary's as it dominates the town. Unfortunately, we didn't have a guide today to walk us round the church and I am sure that I missed some interesting features. The stained glass windows were glorious. Having visited Assisi last year I found the window of St Francis particularly interesting. It was installed in 1994 and shows Francis surrounded by animals. There is also an image of the Church of San Damiano where Francis heard Jesus telling him to rebuild the church.



Edensor village is the closest village to Chatsworth House and much of it belongs to the Dukes of Devonshire. Within the Cavendish burial ground at the top of the churchyard, is the grave of Kathleen Kennedy. She married Billy Hartington, elder son of the 10th Duke in May 1944, and they had only 5 weeks together before he left with his regiment to take part in the Allied invasion of Europe. On 10th September 1944 he was killed in action and was buried in a military cemetery in Belgium. Four years later, his widow, Kathleen, died in a plane crash aged

28. A flat stone records the visit to her grave of her brother, John Fitzgerald Kennedy on 29th June 1963 shortly before he was assassinated. There is also the grave of the Duchess of Devonshire who died last year.

Day 3 – Cromford: St Mary

Originally planned as a chapel for Willersley Castle, by Sir Richard Arkwright, St. Mary's was completed five years after Sir Richard Arkwright's death in 1797. Arkwright left provision in his will for the church to be completed and also provided an annual income for its maintenance.

Some of the Arkwright family are buried in the small graveyard, and Sir Richard Arkwright is in the crypt which lies beneath the chancel and nave. In the mid-19th century the church was completely redesigned and given a makeover by Henry Isaac Stephens. There are some stunning wall paintings by A.O.Hemming from the 1890s. Recent conservation work on the murals mean that they will survive for future generations to admire. Our day in Cromford also included a tour of the mill and the village. I can recommend taking a coffee stop at the café at the mill where the cherry scones are the best I have ever eaten.

Day 4 – Our last day of visiting churches had to be cancelled due to heavy snow but Pam and I walked along the River Derwent, up High Tor and down into Matlock where we caught the train to Whatstandwell. From Whatstandwell we walked back into Cromford along the canal.

Willersley Castle is owned by the Christian Guild and guests are invited to attend a short act of worship in the morning and evening. Our host for the holiday led some very thoughtful sessions of worship.

Bev Lockyer

Finance

Offertory and Lettings

	Money coming in		Money going out
	Offertory	Lettings	
October 2014	£676	£1773	£3446
November 2014	£1614	£1687	£6184
December 2014	£1219	£980	£6512
<i>Average per month for 2013</i>	<i>£1136</i>	<i>£1290</i>	<i>£4035</i>

Gift Day

Our delayed Gift Day will now be held in May 2015. The Gift Day envelopes will be distributed in April. Then, please add your Gift Day envelope to the offertory collection on ANY of the five Sundays in May, and the total will be collected and counted at the end of May. Money raised this way will be used to help support the recent work in refurbishing our Church.

Diary

April

1	Wed	10:30	Prime Time
2	Thu	11:00	Chill-Out
3	Fri		GOOD FRIDAY
		10:00	Walk of Witness Open Church
4	Sat	10:30	Coffee Morning - Christian Aid
5	Sun		EASTER DAY
		08:30	Easter Meditation & Breakfast
		10:30	Morning Worship / Junior Church
8	Wed	14:30	Talking on the Way
9	Thu	11:00	Chill-Out
10	Fri	10:00	Open Church
11	Sat	10:30	Coffee Morning - Christian Aid
12	Sun	10:30	Morning Worship / Junior Church - Sheila Ashmore
15	Wed	10:30	Prime Time
16	Thu	11:00	Chill-Out
		19:30	Elders Meeting
17	Fri	10:00	Open Church
18	Sat	10:30	Coffee Morning - Christian Aid
19	Sun	10:30	Morning Worship / Junior Church
22	Wed	14:30	Light Refreshment - Sheila Waldron
23	Thu	11:00	Chill-Out
24	Fri	10:00	Open Church
25	Sat	10:30	Coffee Morning - Christian Aid
26	Sun	10:30	Morning Worship / Junior Church
30	Thu	11:00	Chill-Out

19:30 Reformed Players Performance

May

1	Fri	10:00	Open Church
		19:30	Reformed Players Performance
2	Sat	10:30	Coffee Morning - Christian Aid
		19:30	Reformed Players Performance
3	Sun	10:30	Morning Worship / Junior Church
6	Wed	10:30	Prime Time
7	Thu	11:00	Chill-Out
8	Fri	10:00	Open Church
9	Sat	10:30	Coffee Morning - Christian Aid
		12:00	VINTAGE FAIR
10	Sun	10:30	Morning Worship / Junior Church
13	Wed	14:30	Talking on the Way
14	Thu	11:00	Chill-Out
		19:30	Elders Meeting
15	Fri	10:00	Open Church
16	Sat	10:30	Coffee Morning - Christian Aid
17	Sun	10:30	Morning Worship / Junior Church
		12:00	Church Meeting
20	Wed	10:30	Prime Time
21	Thu	11:00	Chill-Out
22	Fri	10:00	Open Church
23	Sat	10:30	Coffee Morning - Christian Aid
24	Sun	10:30	Morning Worship / Junior Church - Lionel Anderson
27	Wed	14:30	Light Refreshment: "Old Nottingham" - visiting speaker
28	Thu	11:00	Chill-Out
29	Fri	10:00	Open Church

- 30 Sat 10:30 Coffee Morning - Christian Aid
- 31 Sun 10:30 Morning Worship / Junior Church - "Interlude" from the Dales URC

June

- 3 Wed 10:30 Prime Time
- 4 Thu 11:00 Chill-Out
- 5 Fri 10:00 Open Church
- 6 Sat 10:30 Coffee Morning - Christian Aid
- 7 Sun 10:30 Morning Worship / Junior Church - Barry Drake
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- 20 Sat All day Sherwood Art Week Craft Fair and Exhibition

Rotas

		<u>Flowers</u>	<u>Coffee</u>
Apr	5		Barbara and Maureen
	12		Jean and Christine
	19	Pam Whitby	George and Margaret
	26	Margaret McAdams	Pam and Doreen
May	3	Pam Richmond	Barbara and Maureen
	10	Mavis Seed	Jean and Christine
	17		George and Margaret
	24		Pam and Doreen
	31		Barbara and Maureen
Jun	7		Jean and Christine

Adopt a Sunday: Please **volunteer with Sheila Waldron or Marita Chambers** to buy or pay for flowers for one of the un-adopted Sundays.

Regular Weekly Events**at Sherwood U.R.C**

Mon	10.00 - 12.00	Line Dancing
	6.00 - 7.00	FitSteps Health and Fitness
	7.30 - 9.00	Singing for fun choir (term time)
Tue	3.30 - 8.15	Children's Dance Class including various age classes
	7.00 - 9.00	Lishi (Taichi and Wushu)
	7.30 - 9.00	Sherwood Women's Institute (4 th Tue)
Wed	10.00 - 11.00	Osteoporosis group (Sherwood Hall)
	12.00 noon	Prime Time Lunch Club (1 st & 3 rd)
	1.00 - 3.00	Y.M.C.A Active for Life
Thu	11.00 - 1.00	'Chill Out' drop-in for under fives and their carers
	7.30 pm	Reformed Players
	7.30 pm	Beeston Big Band practice night
Fri	10.00-12.00	Open Door (Church open for quiet time)
	11.00 am	Stroke Club (fortnightly)
Sat	10.30 am	Christian Aid Coffee Morning (Traidcraft, cakes, greeting card stalls etc.)
	10.30 am	Progressive Christian Network (monthly discussion group)

Please check www.sherwoodurc.co.uk for up to date information.

You can apply to use any of our Halls through the website
or by sending a text to 07952 324912

General Information

Minister: Revd David Legge, 0115 952 5759
Contact David for baptisms, weddings and funerals.

WORSHIP

Sunday Morning at 10.30 with activities for children.
with communion on the third Sunday of the month

Prayers for Healing and wholeness:
Following morning worship
on the first Sunday of the month (11.45am approx.)

Voluntary offerings maintain the work of the Church and details of planned giving can be obtained from Alison Taylor, Gift Aid Secretary (07757311531)

Serving Elders of the church:

Christine Hyndman	840 2521	Sue Janiszewski	01623 75 0374
Stefan Janiszewski	01623 75 0374	Pam Richmond	926 3310
Bev Lockyer***	981 0960		

*** subject to vote at the March Church meeting

Church Officers:

Church Secretary: Stefan Janiszewski 07812 975625

Assistant Church Secretary:

Church Treasurer: Carolyn Belcher 960 3357

Pulpit Supply Secretary: Bev Lockyer 981 0960

Organist: Marita Chambers 962 5700

Magazine Secretary: Pam Whitby 926 8044

Flower Secretaries: Marita Chambers 962 5700

Sheila Waldron 965 3283

Church Stewarding: Norman Parr & Pam Whitby 926 8044

Hall Booking

Send a text to 0795 232 4912
or use the website: www.sherwoodurc.co.uk
