

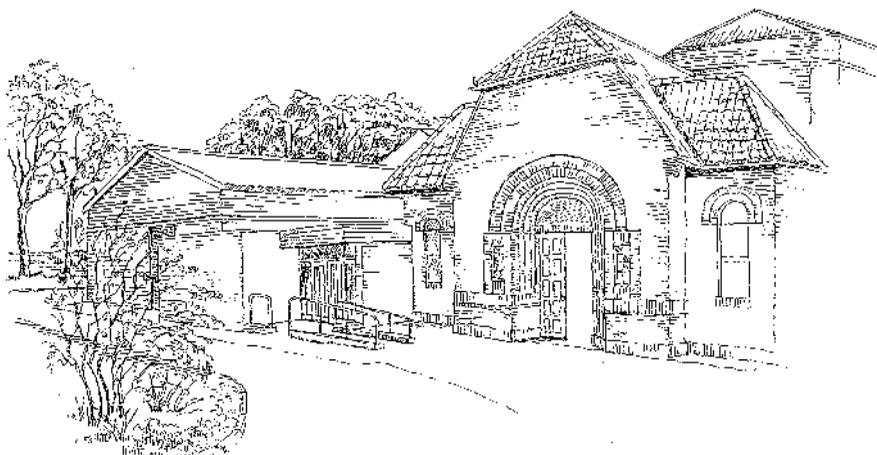


The
United
Reformed
Church

Sherwood

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Nottingham,
NG5 3AA

www.sherwoodurc.co.uk



The Newsletter

October to November 2015

“It was you who set all the boundaries of the earth;
you made both summer and winter.”

Psalm 74:17

Minister's Letter

Sunday 13th September was **Racial Justice Sunday**, and in the evening along with other members from Boulevard United Reformed Church Tricia and I went to the Ecumenical Service held at Calvary Family Church in Highbury Vale (in the Old Baths on Vernon Road on the way into Bulwell). I had thought that this was a local Hyson Green / Basford / Forest Fields event, but it was a county wide service organised by the Diocese of Southwell.

We sang "How Great Thou Art", "Amazing Grace" and "And can it be" – surprisingly slowly as we were led by drums, guitars and choir of Calvary Church's music Group. Singer Songwriter Freddie Kofi sang a couple of his songs, inspired by world events of this summer. The Rainbow Choir sang some South African songs.

Psalm 69 was sung in Punjabi in a setting from Pakistan (with a translation in the Order of Service booklet), and the Prayers of Intercession were in Punjabi and English.

The main speaker was Sonia Aslam, a Pakistani Christian and human rights activist who shared her harrowing story. She was brought up in Pakistan and worked there encouraging all people to speak up for their rights. She was challenged for a few years because she was a woman, and more recently threatened because she was a Christian. Eventually, she had to flee for her life and came to the UK. She now volunteers for the Rainbow Project which is based at St Stephen with St Paul's in Hyson Green.

The Rainbow project began its life in 2001. It was a vision of being a 'Rainbow people of God' in response to the high number of destitute asylum seekers arriving in Nottingham and seeking help and a place of safety to practice their faith and engage with others.

The Project offers help and support in various forms by: Practical help – visiting, providing food parcels etc.; Befriending; Signposting; Providing advocacy, writing letters of support and accompanying to appointments; Assessment and then referral to other organisations if needed; Awareness training; Giving talks to other churches, organisations and events; Social events; Days of prayer; and Fund-raising. Through the sister "Welcome Project" refugees with qualifications can be given valuable work experience often leading to full employment.

It was moving to hear first hand of the experiences of one refugee, and heart-warming to see the work of one of our local churches as it responds to the situation in Nottingham.

I am sure that this project will have an increasing call for its ministry in the coming months with the flood of refugees into Europe. It may need our support.

David

Family News

Congratulations to **Kath and David** on their 55th Wedding Anniversary, and **Roy and Barbara** on their 68th.

We wish **Barbara Bibby** every happiness in her new abode and we look forward with interest to receiving the "letters from our foreign correspondent" which she has offered to contribute to our magazine!

We ask you to pray for **Marita** that she responds well to the treatment which she is receiving as we go to press.

Our thoughts are with **Margaret Sharman** recently visited by Anne Hicks who found her alert and in good spirits.

As always we ask for your prayers for each and every member and friend of this fellowship.

Past Events

We held our **Harvest Festival** on Sunday 13th September. The Church was decorated by floral baskets (kindly arranged by Sheila), plants, and vases of many varied flowers. During the Service non-perishable goods were donated and these goods were taken to the Friary. A letter from the Friary has been received stating that "the food will provide nutritious healthy hot lunchtime meals or for food parcels and snacks at our Café. Everything will be appreciated by those who really need the support."

Thank you to all who helped to make our Harvest Festival something we enjoyed and knowing we were helping others.

P.S Helping the Friary is an ongoing project and if you feel you can help with tinned goods etc., a box is in the Garden room for the collection of items.

The Friary no longer accepts Bric-a-Brac.

Thank you.

Pam Whitby

Commitment for life

Our Harvest Festival also launched our connection with Commitment for Life "Central America" Region. Here is news from Nicaragua.

A second chance

It is difficult to imagine that Humberto Urbina, a charming, smart and articulate young man from Nicaragua, was once a drug dealer and violent criminal. His past as a gang member still haunts him – 'To have taken people's lives... that you can't forget' – but thanks to Christian Aid partner



Centre for the Prevention of Violence (CEPREV), he has turned his life around. He has learned that being a man is not about reaching for

a gun, but reaching out to his children and giving them the affection he lacked.

According to CEPREV, men are increasingly turning to violence to reinstate their power as women now have more public roles and employment opportunities. The rates of domestic violence and femicide continue to soar.

This is precisely one of the issues that CEPREV addresses in its workshops and counselling sessions. It helps young men and women learn to express their repressed fears and traumas without using violence. Breaking stereotypes today Humberto is a single dad looking after his two young children, which is rare in a country where childcare is considered to be a woman's job.

Humberto's life has changed for the better, but he recognises that when he is short of money for his children, he feels tempted by his previous high earnings. During these times CEPREV continues to support him. He is now a CEPREV volunteer, helping other young people whose lives have been devastated by drugs and crime. 'Now I stop the killings by preventing my friends from doing it,' he says.

Through its work, CEPREV has helped to demobilise 125 gangs in Nicaragua's capital, Managua.

News

CHRISTIAN AID COFFEE MORNING

For many years the coffee morning has been run at the Sherwood U.R.C on a Saturday morning, by different Volunteers over the years. For sometime we've felt that it has become more difficult to sustain it in its present form. We've had a meeting of all the Volunteers and have decided the following changes; as from the first Saturday in October we will move the venue to the Garden Room at the back of the Church. Coffee will be served there but we will no longer have stalls. Hope that this meets with everyone's approval.

Pam Richmond

BOWEL CANCER RESEARCH

Please remember the **card stall on Sunday mornings**. This is on-going and your support is greatly appreciated.
Thank you

Barbara Musgrove

Future Events

“In Harmony”

Male Voice

A capella Chorus

Sat 17th Oct, 7.30pm £5.00

Supporting Rotarians

Terry and Val Leivers

with their work in India





Christmas Craft Fair

Christmas Cup-cakes, Mulled Wine
Mince Pies, Refreshments, Hand
Made Cards, Objets d'art. Lotions &
Potions, Jewellery. Textiles
12th Dec 10am – 4pm (free entry)

Articles

Port Sunlight

I recently went on an organised trip to Port Sunlight on the Wirral opposite Liverpool) I'm sure you are all aware of Lever Bros and Sunlight soap! The history of the village of Port Sunlight is tied up with the development of the soap industry.

Sunlight soap was first produced in Warrington in 1885 it was soon a great success and William Hesketh Lever decided to move his enterprise to a marshy area of land alongside the Mersey – it was cheap! As well as building a factory and his own dock (saving paying the Mersey Harbour any dues). He also built a village – if you could call it that, for his workers away from the smoke and grime of the industrial revolution towns and cities.

Port Sunlight contains some 900 Houses or rather cottages all very ornate and varied in design, built mainly in terraces, very pleasing to look at with some having intricate black timber-work, “twisted” chimneys and fancy brickwork

a far cry from the slums of the Cities, even in 1888 these properties had plumbing and internal bathrooms!

As well as houses, the villagers were provided with schools, a theatre, meeting rooms and indoor and outdoor sports facilities. Life expectancy for these workers was far far greater than in most industrial areas.

Hard soap is no longer manufactured at Port Sunlight but was moved to Africa where one of the ingredients Palm oil is sourced – only liquid soaps are produced at Port Sunlight.

In 1999 the Port Sunlight trust was set up by Lever Brothers in order to maintain the principal buildings and conserving and managing some 250 houses, the monuments and landscape. Today the whole area is in pristine condition, manicured grass areas, wide tree lined avenues and wonderful flower beds. Most of the houses are privately owned, but there are strict conditions, for instance no advertising boards, no double glazing, not allowed to paint front doors in different colour to that specified! And you must pay for your front lawn to be mowed- very expensive £1.00 per year!

There is a very grand War Memorial to 700 workers from the area who died in the first World War, and a massive Art Gallery built by Lord Leverhume as a memorial to his Wife.

We had a tour round the site in our bus with a guide who told us the story of Port Sunlight and its buildings.

I was able to make a visit to the Church which is URC (formally Congregational). It is a very large building very much in the style of an Anglican Church with the choir area facing East and having North and South transepts, a wonderful timbered roof, stained glass windows and eight bells.

I was able to talk to some of the Stewards on duty and they told me their morning congregations were over a hundred and afternoon some thirty to forty, the Church was built to hold Five hundred. They too have issues with the cost of maintenance and are at present without a Minister and when one is appointed he or she will also be responsible for another Church in the area.

What did surprise me was that some eighty weddings were held each year in spite of many other venues now available. A combination of a lovely Church, surrounding area and eight bells would take some beating.

Some of the great industrialists in the 1800's also provided better facilities for their workers including Titus Salt at Saltaire in Yorkshire, also a Congregationalist who built a large Church and people like the Cadbury Brothers.

I came away with a packet of two bars of Sunlight soap in an appropriate box which stated that:

- 1) Whip up a little Sunlight in the water, fat and leftovers are removed and dishes become clean and shiny.
- 2) Use Sunlight to wash silk, wool and synthetic fibres, it is gentle to clothes and hands.
- 3) Its cleanness and mildness never takes the lustre off paint or varnish.
- 4) It is mild enough for domestic hand washing.

Some claims – there will be no excuse not to sit next to me in Church!!

Norman P

P.S. If you are thinking of moving to Port Sunlight there are no shops! And no bins or other clutter in front of your abode.

An Inspector Calls

I wonder how many of you saw the BBC TV adaptation of *An Inspector Calls*, on September 13th? This is one of my absolute favourite plays, and at various times I have been fortunate enough to see the film version with Alastair Sim, I have seen it on stage, and now this latest adaptation. It never fails to move me, and I find it an incredibly powerful message.

It was particularly interesting that it was screened on the same day that *Good Morning Sunday* had included a piece about angels. Fern Britton was interviewing Tony Christie and he was explaining why he believes that we all have a guardian angel, since God is inundated with requests for help and so needs a team of assistants!

This made me wonder.... Is the Inspector an angel?

Is he in fact an avenging angel?

But why does he not act before Eva's death?

Does she have to die so that the other characters will realise the full impact of their behaviour towards her?

But whoever (or whatever) the Inspector is, I find his closing speech one of the most powerful and moving pieces of theatre, which always makes me think.

"But just remember this. One Eva Smith has gone - but there are millions and millions and millions of Eva Smiths and John Smiths still left with us, with their lives, their hopes and fears, their suffering and chance of happiness, all intertwined with our lives and what we think and say and do. We don't live alone. We are members of one body. We are responsible for each other. And I tell you that the time will soon come when, if men will not learn that lesson, then they will be taught it in fire and blood and anguish"

Carolyn

Finance

Offertory and Lettings

	Money coming in		Money going out
	<u>Offertory</u>	<u>Lettings</u>	
July 2015	£884	£685	£3756
August 2015	£1105	£781	£2790
<i>Average per month for 2014</i>	<i>£1323</i>	<i>£1407</i>	<i>£4674</i>

Donations to our Church

We have received several legacies and donations from the estates of some dear friends.

Jill Turner's brother contacted me to say that Jill requested that the sum of £500 be paid out of her estate to the church. Alan requested that the family be allowed to have some input as to how the money is to be used, and this will be discussed at Elders and Church Officers meetings.

Lymn's funeral service have sent a cheque for donations sent to our church from the service for Dorothy Gerrie, for £235, which included the wonderful sum of £145 from the retiring collection.

And on a personal note, I have recently discussed with David the legacy which my dear Mum, Margaret Belcher, asked to leave to the church.

I hope that we can think the best way of spending this money, in order to continue the work of the Church in a way these three remarkable ladies would approve of.

Carolyn

Diary

October

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|----|-----|-------|---|
| 1 | Thu | 11:00 | Chill-out |
| 2 | Fri | 10:00 | Open Church |
| 3 | Sat | 10:30 | Coffee Morning - Christian Aid |
| 4 | Sun | 10:30 | Morning Worship - Bev Lockyer |
| 7 | Wed | 11:45 | Prime Time |
| 8 | Thu | 11:00 | Chill-out |
| 8 | Thu | 19:30 | Elders' Meeting |
| 9 | Fri | 10:00 | Open Church |
| 10 | Sat | 10:30 | Coffee Morning - Christian Aid |
| 11 | Sun | 10:30 | Morning Worship |
| 14 | Wed | 14:30 | 'Talking on the Way' - Discussion |
| 15 | Thu | 11:00 | Chill-out |
| 16 | Fri | 10:00 | Open Church |
| 17 | Sat | 10:30 | Coffee Morning - Christian Aid |
| 18 | Sun | 10:30 | Morning Worship |
| 23 | Fri | 10:00 | Open Church |
| 24 | Sat | 10:30 | Coffee Morning - Christian Aid |
| 25 | Sun | 10:30 | Morning Worship - Visiting Preacher |
| 28 | Wed | 14:00 | Light Refreshment
- Hillary: "Walking in Nottingham" |
| 30 | Fri | 10:00 | Open Church |
| 31 | Sat | 10:30 | Coffee Morning - Christian Aid |
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November

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- | | | | |
|----|-----|-------|---|
| 1 | Sun | 10:30 | Morning Worship |
| 4 | Wed | 11:45 | Prime Time |
| 5 | Thu | 11:00 | Chill-out |
| 6 | Fri | 10:00 | Open Church |
| 7 | Sat | 10:30 | Coffee Morning - Christian Aid |
| 8 | Sun | 10:30 | Morning Worship |
| 11 | Wed | 14:30 | 'Talking on the Way' - Discussion |
| 12 | Thu | 11:00 | Chill-out |
| 12 | Thu | 19:30 | Elders' Meeting |
| 13 | Fri | 10:00 | Open Church |
| 14 | Sat | 10:30 | Coffee Morning - Christian Aid |
| 15 | Sun | 10:30 | Morning Worship - Visiting Preacher |
| 19 | Thu | 11:00 | Chill-out |
| 20 | Fri | 10:00 | Open Church |
| 21 | Sat | 10:30 | Coffee Morning - Christian Aid |
| 22 | Sun | 10:30 | Morning Worship |
| 22 | Sun | 12:00 | Church Meeting |
| 25 | Wed | 14:30 | Light Refreshment
- Christmas Reflections (everyone) |
| 26 | Thu | 11:00 | Chill-out |
| 27 | Fri | 10:00 | Open Church |
| 28 | Sat | 10:30 | Coffee Morning - Christian Aid |
| 29 | Sun | 10:30 | Morning Worship - Advent Sunday |
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December

2	Wed	11:45	Prime Time
3	Thu	11:00	Chill-out
4	Fri	10:00	Open Church
5	Sat	10:30	Coffee Morning - Christian Aid
6	Sun	10:30	Morning Worship

Rotas

		Flowers	Coffee
October	4		George and Margaret
	11	Margaret McAdams	Pam and Doreen
	18		Barbara and Maureen
	25		Jean and Christine
November	1	Doreen Fillingham	George and Margaret
	8		Pam and Doreen
	15		Barbara and Maureen
	22		Jean and Christine
	29	Carolyn Belcher	George and Margaret
Dec	6		Pam and Doreen

Each Sunday we enjoy seeing a beautiful bunch of flowers on the communion table, and sometimes in the Garden Room. As you can see for most Sundays no-one is down to do this simple yet very appreciated job. Can you take one of these vacant Sundays? Or another Sunday in the year perhaps to commemorate someone or some event? Please make your offer to Sheila Waldron

Regular Weekly Events

at Sherwood U.R.C

Mon	6.00 - 7.00	Taekwan-Do	S
	5.45 - 6.45	FitSteps Health and Fitness	M
	7.30 - 9.00	Singing for fun choir (term time)	M
Tue	3.30 - 8.15	Children's Dance Class including various age classes	M
	11.30 - 1.30	Tiny Talk - sign language for babies	M
	7.30 - 9.00	Sherwood Women's Institute (4 th Tue)	C
Wed	12.00 noon	Prime Time Lunch Club (1 st Wed.)	G
	10.00 - 11.30	Y.M.C.A Active for Life	M, S
	20.00 - 22.00	Revival Dance	M
Thu	11.00 - 1.00	'Chill Out' drop-in for under fives and their carers	M
	6.00 - 7.00	Taekwan-Do	S
	7.30 pm	Reformed Players	M
	7.30 pm	Beeston Big Band practice night	S
Fri	10.00-12 noon	Open Door (Church open for quiet time)	C
	11.00 am	Stroke Club (fortnightly)	M
Sat	10.30 am	Christian Aid Coffee Morning	C

M: Main Hall; S: Sherwood Hall; G: Gallery; C: Church Garden Room

Please check the Website for up to date information

