

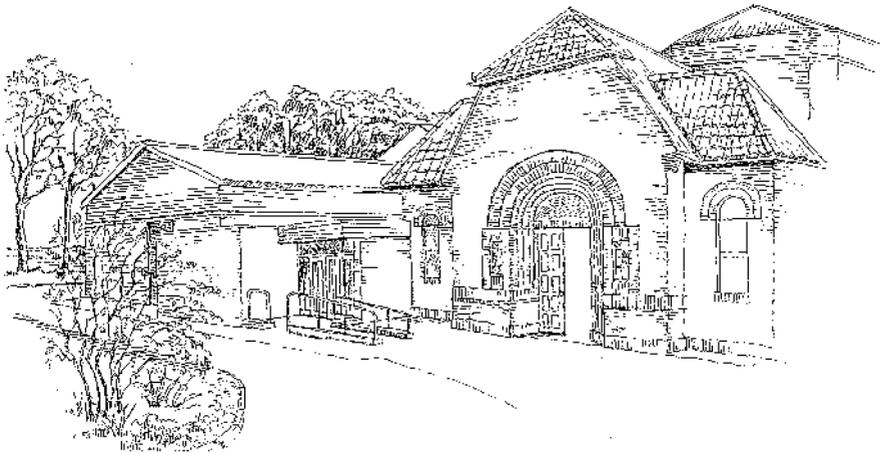


The
**United
Reformed
Church**

Sherwood

1 Edwards Lane,
Nottingham,
NG5 3AA

www.sherwoodurc.co.uk



The Newsletter

December 2017 – January 2018

*How silently, How silently
the wondrous gift is given!*

Minister's Letter

Over the past few months in our worship, under the URC's Feasts and Festivals umbrella, we have been exploring the history of our faith through worship.

We started with Abraham and the Hebrews, who worshipped God wherever and whenever he met him out there on his journey through the world. There were no churches or temples – simple a pile of stones, a cairn, sometimes making a rough altar.

Then we traced worship through the exile where, not content to meet god from time to time, they made the Ark - a vehicle on which God's presence would permanently reside.

Then Gods people became Israelites, people of the promised land, and God was finally imprisoned in the temple – the ultimate symbol of humanities desire to control God. The Temple was surrounded by a hierarchy of courts and priests and temple officials whose job it would seem was to keep people away from God. In contrast to God meeting the people out in the world, on their journey, now the people had to make a special journey to God in Jerusalem, and perform (or have performed at a financial cost) certain rituals to appease God.

Into this came Jesus. Jesus was God incarnate, God once again meeting people on their turf, God once again pitching his tent with the people and living among

them. Jesus set God free – that is what is meant by the curtain in the temple being torn at the time of his death, and why the Holy Spirit descended on everyone at Pentecost (not just the chosen few).

But human beings are human beings. They can not cope with God being free, the need to control God and wield him as an instrument of control. Emperor Augustine rebuilt the 'temple' when he turned the church into an arm of the state. Once more God was removed from the people, and hidden behind a host of clerics – Popes, Archbishops, Bishops, Priests Curates, Deacons. The worship of God was performed behind a wall (the rood screen) by the clerics, and in a language only the highly educated could understand (Latin).

Once the general population has no access to the roots of their faith the church could invent anything- and it did. For example, the court of money changers was reinvented in the form of Indulgences which supposedly granted 'time off' from the (invented) torture of Purgatory.

This is what Martin Luther railed against in his famous 95 Theses which precipitated the Reformation.

As a reformed church our understanding of Jesus and the shape of the church (our theology) is rooted in the Reformation. It's three core principles our our core principles:

1. God's word revealed through The Bible is 'the highest authority for what we believe and do,
-

alive for his people today through the help of the Holy Spirit'

The reformers rejected anything that was not biblical.

2. People are saved by the undeserved Grace of Christ, and not by anything they can or may try to do themselves. Justification is by Faith Alone, and is a free gift from God. All we have to do is accept that gift, and respond to the love in which that gift is given.
3. The third great reformation principle was termed the 'Priesthood of all Believers'. The reformers saw that there was no precedent in the early church for the priest as mediator, and realised that all Christians have direct access to God. There was one gospel, one justification by faith, and one status before God common to all – men and women, 'clergy' and laity.

The reformers also opposed the idea that authority rested in the exclusive priesthood. Once more there were no human layers between God and his people.

If the people were to be effective priests, if they were to be a people with faith of their own, if they were to build their lives on the Gospel, then they needed access to the bible itself. The new invention of the printing press made this possible. Scholars risked their lives to translate the bible into the common language of their people and make it widely available.

The reformation failed to reform the One Roman Church. Instead it became a movement adopted by politicians and the church was fragmented into denominations and churches that were defined by their country. (Augustine all over again?)

And, human beings being human beings, they slowly but surely began to rebuild the temple – the temple in which we live today.

The story continues. It is not just a history story, it is a story that should help shape the future. At Christmas we celebrate God incarnate, God set free in the world. Our job as Christians and as a church is to set God free and not imprison him. How are we to do that in 2018?

David

Decisions at the Church meeting

In the November church meeting we spent 40 mins or so looking through the list on page 2 of the "Looking Ahead" document, and we voted on whether we thought each item was essential, important, good, can be dropped, should be stopped now! Here is a summary of the 'vote' and some of the comments made in discussion.

Worship on a Sunday and Special worship at Christian festivals was unanimously voted essential. This is almost by definition – if we are not worshipping, we are club not a church! The festivals define our faith, and celebrate its origins, and its priorities.

Weddings and Funerals etc. The majority voted this essential. Could we make funerals and weddings a church occasion, where we can meet and greet as a the church – almost like a village or local community event?

Junior Church (child education) was voted essential or important If there are children we must cater for them. However, the question is do we focus on reaching out to children, families and young adults, or people who are just a little younger than ourselves – say the recently retired? We can not do both (or can we?) so which would be the most effective?

Talking on the Way (adult education) voted as important by most, but some though we could drop it as there were more important things to be doing with our time. It takes a lot of time from the leader for so few people.

Light Refreshment was unanimously important. It was set up as a social activity to which we could bring others as we get to know more about ourselves. We should therefore promote it and invite people we know to come along.

Chill Out & Prime Time were both also unanimously important. The question is can we draw people in from these events to the church? If they are important, then when we come to the point of it being hard for us to continue to provide these services, how can we enable others to take them over so they continue, but not necessarily as a church run event. How can we work in partnership.

Concerts. The majority voted these as good, but they get little support from the community or from the church. Tricia will not organise any in 2018, but has offered to do some other outreach work for the church.

Community use of Halls. This was unanimously essential. It is a clear service to the community, and balances the books!

Working with community (e.g. SAW) was voted important by a majority. For SAW we do very little to participate in such a huge event. We as a church get a large amount of respect from our involvement.

Magazine was voted as important by the majority even though it takes up a lot of time from the minster and others. It gives people outside a flavour of who we are; it lays out what is happening in the church; it lets us keep in contact with people who have moved away. The magazine team need more help and contributions from people in the church. it essential It was set up as a social activity to which we could bring others as we get to know more about ourselves. We need to promote it and bring people to it!

David

Family News

We ask your prayers for carol Foote who swings between spending a few days at home followed by a few days in hospital. At the time of writing she is in

QMC, and needs our prayers to escape the cycle of infections she is having.

Marita Chambers has moved – not far, just ‘over the road’ and into Sycamore house. Her phone number remains the same.

It is good to see both Mavis Seed and Mavis Kimberley getting back into circulation after a period of illness.

Also pray for Pam Whitby who was too ill to be able to help with this magazine.

What’s Happened!

The Prime Time Outing

On the 20th September nine ladies met at church to go on our day out to Beardsley Priory Derbyshire.

The driver helped us ladies, with their walkers and sticks, climb on to the 16 seater bus/taxi. It could have been difficult but with the drivers help and many laughs we managed it and then the driver helped us all with our seat belts. The atmosphere reminded me of excited Brownies going on Pack Holiday.

On our arrival we went into the lounge where there was a welcome cup of tea or coffee and biscuits. Going into the dining room my heart dropped as it was a buffet! How were we going to carry our dinner. 2 young ladies came to our rescue and carried our plates as we made our choices and took the them to our places. It was a

very good spread plenty of starter, main meals and super dooper sweets. Everyone had a very enjoyable meal.

After the meal we could walk round the gardens but though it was sunny there was a cold wind. So a few ladies stayed in side others sat out side or went for a walk.

It was then time for home. There was jollity again as we got on the bus/taxi. I cannot thank the Driver enough for his kindness, helpfulness and consideration and also the girls at the Priory they made our day out lovely.

Thank you Mavis Crouch for arranging it.

Mavis K

The Phoenix Singers Concert.

On the 21st October the choir came to sing for us. The concert was in aid of Hayward House.

This was a return visit from the choir and they were even better than the first time we had heard them.



It was a shame the audience was small but the choir still sang as if the church was full. £107 was raised with thanks to the members of the choir who emptied their handbags and waving their fee as well as the generosity of all who came to listen. Thank you to everyone who helped – I could not do the concert without you.

Here is the response from Cairns Nene of Hayward House: "That's fantastic!! People are so generous when donating to Hayward House as it's such a lovely cause to give to. I'm glad you enjoyed Carol being there, she's lovely and so passionate about Hayward House."

Soup and Sandwiches at Anne's

Doreen, Pam, David and I went to Anne's to join with her friends and family for her annual soup and sandwich lunch in aid of 'Clic Sargent'. There was a lovely friendly atmosphere and the soups were delicious once again. Though there were fewer people than last year over £400 was raised – more than last year!

October Synod

October Synod was held at Sherwood this year. The staff of Synod wanted to arrange the church as a cafe church. This would have been difficult for us. So the staff arranged the church and we arranged the main hall for the drinks and lunch. Thanks to everyone who helped in any way as the day went with out a hitch.

Light Refreshment

Joy Rice entertained us through poetry and music. She began by telling us about her exciting day when she pressed the button that detonated the explosive demolishing part of the Broad Marsh Shopping centre. She came armed with her high vis, helmet, inscribed sledge hammer and many pictures of the event.

As usual her poems were good, amusing and interesting and this time she accompanied some on her ukulele. It was a good, fun, relaxing afternoon.

24th Jan - Mary is speaking on her Grandmothers diary

28th Feb - Bev is telling us about her and Doreen's trip to Scandinavia.

There is speaker booked for April and some more suggestions to work through. If you would like to talk to the group or have an idea please let Mavis K or Tricia know. Please come and join us anyway!

Tricia

Knitting because we care!

Here is Abdul – the pharmacist from Liberia who we are helping to fund though his MA - admiring the knitted baby clothes the we showed in the last magazine. Abdul came when midwife Helen spoke to us at the October Light Refreshment about the simple but life saving work the midwives are doing in Liberia. The baby clothes are



actually needed in the cold Liberian nights, and are a strong incentive for the mothers to go to see the Midwives and get their professional care and guidance.

At the Christmas Fair we are helping to raise funds to Life for African Women to help transport vital

drugs (given to them for free by the Pharmaceutical company) as their sponsor has pulled out – apparently due to uncertainties caused by Brexit!

First World War Bibles

In September, Howard, my brother and myself had a few days in Edinburgh. We visited the Castle and looked around the military museums there and I was drawn to a bible on display in a glass cabinet.

The bible had been carried by Private Donald McNab, 5th Battalion of the Seaforth Highlanders during World War 1. It had been given to him by his master. Private McNab was killed in action on the first day of the German offensive of 1918. His bible was found by a German officer who later sent it to the McNab family as an act of remembrance and reconciliation.

Although some soldiers carried their own personal bibles with them, others were given bibles or sections of the New Testament by charities. There were over 40 million



Bibles, New Testaments and prayer books distributed by the British and Foreign Bible Society in World War 1.

I have in my possession a replica copy of St. John's Gospel which was produced by the Scripture Gift Mission and reissued to mark the centenary of the First World War. It has some hymns at the back so that Chaplains could hold services in the field.

Although many bibles would have remained unread, or thrown away, or destroyed in battle, it is not surprising that the bible became the most read book in the trenches. Most of the military bibles and testaments issued were small and lightweight so that they could be easily carried in breast pockets and knapsacks. Although many soldiers might have questioned their faith some may have found faith during their time at war.

Some bibles were returned in the possessions of soldiers who died in the war and today many people who have a copy of a bible that has survived the war place great value on it even if they are not religious themselves. It becomes a family heirloom. They can appreciate that it may have provided comfort, inspiration, strength and hope to a distant family member.



Bev Lockyer

What's Coming up!

Christian Women's Fellowship

"Your Life in God's Balance"
Fri 23rd to Sun 25th Feb 2018

join friends from Sherwood
on a weekend of inspiration and fun and worship
at The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick.

Ask Tricia for more details.

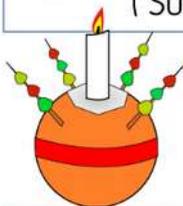
Christmas

Thurs 7th 7.30PM for 8.00



'Swing into Christmas'
* Free Entry *
Beeston Big Band
& The Reformed Players

Christmas Eve
(Sun 24th)



Christingle
4.00pm – make it
4.30.p.m. – light it

11.00pm, refreshments
for 11.30pm start
Midnight Communion

Note:

No morning worship
on 17th or 24th

**Christmas
Craft Fair**



December 9th 2017
10am – 4pm

Come along
and buy
your special
Christmas Gifts

20 stalls including: Jewellery, Wood,
Leather, Textiles, Glass, Cards, Food &c.

Sunday 17th
at 4.00pm



**Pop – up
Nativity**
Come along
& take part

in our pop-up nativity,
sing carols by candle light

Christmas Day
(Monday 25th)



10.00am for about ¾hr.
Jesus – God's gift to you!
Bring a gift you have
received to show everyone!

Diary

December

2	Sat	10:00	Coffee Morning – Christian Aid
3	Sun	10:30	Morning Worship - D.J.L
6	Wed	11:45	Prime Time
7	Thu	10:30	Chill-out
9	Sat	10:00	Coffee Morning – Christian Aid
10	Sun	10:30	Morning Worship - Sheila Ashmore
13	Wed	14:30	Talking on the Way - Discussion
13	Wed	19:30	Elders' Meeting
14	Thu	10:30	Chill-out
16	Sat	10:00	Coffee Morning – Christian Aid
17	Sun	10:30	<i>Note NO Morning Worship</i>
17	Sun	16:30	Nativity and Carols by Candle Light
21	Thu	10:30	Chill-out
23	Sat	10:00	Coffee Morning – Christian Aid
24	Sun	10:30	<i>Note NO Morning Worship</i>
24	Sun	16:00	Christmas Eve - Christingle
24	Sun	23:30	Christmas Eve - Communion
25	Mon	10:00	Christmas Day – D.J.L
31	Sun	10:30	Morning Worship - Visiting Preacher

January

6	Sat	10:00	Coffee Morning – Christian Aid
7	Sun	10:30	Morning Worship – Stefan
10	Wed	14:30	Light Refreshment-

10	Wed	19:30	Elders' Meeting
11	Thu	11:30	Chill-out
13	Sat	10:00	Coffee Morning – Christian Aid
14	Sun	10:30	Morning Worship - David
17	Wed	11:30	Prime Time
18	Thu	11:30	Chill-out
20	Sat	10:00	Coffee Morning – Christian Aid
21	Sun	10:30	Morning Worship - David
24	Wed	14:30	Talking on the Way
25	Thu	11:30	Chill-out
27	Sat	10:00	Coffee Morning – Christian Aid
28	Sun	10:30	Morning Worship - David

February

1	Thu	11:30	Chill-out
3	Sat	10:00	Coffee Morning – Christian Aid
4	Sun	10:30	Morning Worship - David
7	Wed	11:30	Prime Time
8	Thu	11:30	Chill-out
10	Sat	10:00	Coffee Morning – Christian Aid
11	Sun	10:30	Morning Worship – Bev

Magazine Deadline

Please submit your contribution for the next issue of Church News by Sunday 21st January 2017 at the latest to Pam (926 8044) or by email to David (revdjl@virginmedia.com) or Stefan (sherwood.urc@ntlworld.com)

Rotas

		Flowers	Coffee	Vestry
December	3		George and Margaret	Christine Hyndman
	10		Pam and Doreen	Pam R
	17		- communion -	Bev Lockyer
	24		Jean and Christine	Jean Bull
	31		George and Margaret	Alison
January	7		Pam and Doreen	
	14		Jean and Christine	
	21		- communion -	
	28		George and Margaret	
Feb	4		Pam and Doreen	
	11		Jean and Christine	

		Reader 1	Reader 2	Prayers
December	3	Doreen Fillingham	Mavis Seed	Stefan
	10	Pam Whitby	Norman Parr	Joy
	17	Roy Musgrove	Barbara Musgrove	Tricia
	24	Alan Waldron	Mavis Kimbley	Roy
	31	Christine Hyndman	Stefan Janiszewski	Stefan
January	7			
	14			
	21			
	28			
Feb	4			
	11			

Please adopt a Sunday to put fresh flowers into, perhaps to commemorate someone or some event, or simply just to support the church. Tell Sheila Waldron

Regular Weekly Events

at Sherwood U.R.C

Mon	10.00 – 12.00 Line Dance	H
	6.00 – 6.45 FitSteps Health and Fitness	H
	7.30 – 9.00 Singing for fun choir (term time)	H
	7.30 – 9.00 Yoga Class	G
Tue	9.30 – 2.30 Toddler Talk (sign language)	H
	3.30 – 8.15 Emma Cain Dance Class	H
	7.30 – 9.00 Sherwood Women’s Institute (last Tue)	G
Wed	12.00 – 1.30 Prime Time Lunch Club (1 st Wed.)	G
	2.30 – 4.00 Talking on the Way discussion 2 nd Wed	G
	2.30 – 4.00 Light Refreshment – friendship 4 th Wed	G
Thu	11.00 – 1.00 ‘Chill Out’ drop-in (term time) for under fives and their carers	H
	2:15pm to 3:15 Notts Community Transport <i>monthly</i>	H
	6.00 – 6.45 FitSteps Health and Fitness	H
	7.30 – 9.30 Reformed Players	H
	7.30 – 9.30 Beeston Big Band practice night	Ch
Fri	11.00 – 1.30 Stroke Club (fortnightly)	H
Sat	10.30 – 12.00 Christian Aid Coffee Morning	G

H: The Hall; G: Gallery; Ch: Church; G: Garden Room

Please note that the Sherwood Hall at the rear is no longer available

see www.sherwoodurc.co.uk/

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
Check inside the magazine for special services
which may be at other times.

Voluntary offerings maintain the work of the Church and details of planned giving can be obtained from Alison Taylor, Gift Aid Secretary (07757 311531)

Serving Elders of the church:

Christine Hyndman	840 2521	Bev Lockyer	981 0960
Stefan Janiszewski	01623 750374	Pam Richmond	926 3310
Sue Janiszewska	01623 750374	Alan Waldron	965 3283

Church Officers

Church Secretary:	Stefan Janiszewski	07812 975625
Assistant Ch. Secretary:	Bev Lockyer	981 0960
Book Keeper:	Maria Butt	
Pulpit Supply Secretary:	Bev Lockyer	981 0960
Magazine Secretary:	Pam Whitby	926 8044
Flower Secretaries:	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