

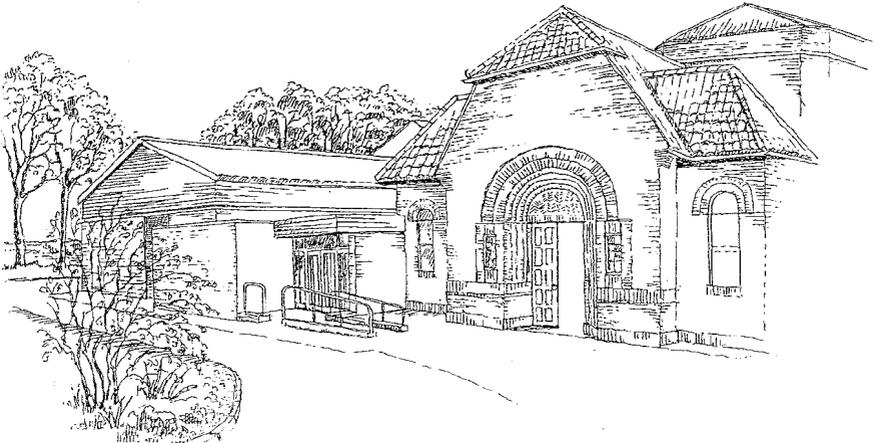


*The*  
**United  
Reformed  
Church**

# *Sherwood*

1 Edwards Lane,  
Nottingham,  
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[www.sherwoodurc.co.uk](http://www.sherwoodurc.co.uk)



## **The Newsletter**

***August and September 2018***

Ask **How?** not **What If**  
Ask **How can I?**, not **who will?**

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## Minister's Letter

I hesitate to write this because it might look a bit like bragging, but recently I received a couple of very moving comments. When I was expressing a 'less than enthusiastic attitude to a forthcoming Newsletter meeting, someone said "Oh. But I look forward to your 'ministers letter' it is always worth reading"; and then, on Sunday, someone said "I do enjoy coming on a Sunday – your services are so interesting".

I say this because I was the last person on earth that many people who know me would expect to become a minister of the church – my family tried to put me off, (well I failed French three times, how am I going to cope with Greek and Hebrew?) My university careers advice should have put me off (Jobs to avoid: anything dealing directly with people), my Grammar School English teacher should have put me off – When I passed English O-level with a three, much to my and everyone else's surprise, she said "You do realise that technically this means you could study English at A-level? We would NOT Recommend it!" (well, I was never higher than 97 out of 99 in my year).

No, I am not innately preacher material, let alone Minister material. And yet here I am heading towards the end of 32 years of making a reasonable stab at it. When I started (before training, before candidating) I was a bit like that other David L who has been with us for four months as part of his lay preachers training – a bit rough around the edges. It is only practice that gives the polish. You know, someone even said to me after a service, "Well,

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that was almost a sermon". Thinking about it, that was probably during my first year or so of ministry!

I am who I am, and do what I do because I gave it a go, and expect / allow / am amazed when God helps me.

The point is, if I can do it, so can you.

I began in a little church that had no pews, no fixed seating, no front, no back row! It was easy to get involved because we all sat in the round, or square, or horse-shoe, or whatever shape the leader of the day chose when they arrived! And if that leader wore no distinguishing costume, then it would take a newcomer quite some time to figure out who it might be because usually several of us were involved, all from our seats where-ever we happened to be sitting, and we were not expected to be instantly brilliant. (Ok, so you could tell who the pianist was because for most of the time she had a big piano in front of her!)

I want it to be easy for people at Sherwood URC over the next year or so to become involved in helping to shape acts of worship in our church by becoming part of the worship group. I want Sherwood URC to be a place of acceptance and encouragement as people, as you, give it a go for God, for Jesus, for the church. I want you to be able to feel, as I do (from time to time) that with God's help, you can!

*David*

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## Inspiration by video



*At the U.R.C. National Ministers Spring School in June we were treated to three thoughtful and inspiring talks by Rowan Williams. It was a treat to be able to hear an address by someone of such spiritual and academic insight.*

*He spoke without notes, each talk telling the story of a woman "from the edges" whose life and witness provided a challenge and encouragement to the church "at the centre". His talks were so clear and riveting, we did not want them to end.*

*You will enjoy them too.*

*If you are on the internet just point your browser at one of these:*

<https://youtu.be/iGILm6QyxWY>

<https://youtu.be/EujUjW2zQIE>

<https://youtu.be/i--mnGqamm>

## Inspiration in Your Inbox



Each morning the United Reformed Church sends out a reading, short reflection and prayer to around 2500 people. They are written by a variety of people from different places and perspectives across the Church.

You may have seen Revds Susan Durbar and Andy Braunston talking about them on Songs of Praise in June.

You can sign up to receive them by going to [devotions.urc.org.uk](https://devotions.urc.org.uk) (and you can read previous devotions there too).

If you'd like to receive the devotions as a booklet in PDF format - so you can print them off for yourself or for members of your church who'd like them but don't have access to the internet please request this by email to Andy Braunston via: [dailydevotions@urc.org.uk](mailto:dailydevotions@urc.org.uk)

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## Family News

Congratulations to Sarah Francois (Alan and Sheila's Grand-daughter) on successfully completing a law degree at Nottingham Trent University . Sarah was a member of our Junior Church for many years. Well done Sarah.

Congratulations also to Mavis's grand-daughter Molly on achieving a first also from Nottingham Trent!

We are writing this on what might be the hottest day of the year we hope that you are enjoying the weather as much as we are!!!

Of course the hot weather is hard for those who are un-well, so please join with us in holding the members and friends of Sherwood U.R.C in your prayers.

## What's Happened

### Sherwood Art Week 2018

Once again the Sherwood Art Week's Secret Garden Craft Fair happened at our Church. Because we no longer have the Sherwood Hall, the church was the venue for those stalls, and there were even more stalls in total than previously. Again there was an estimated footfall of just under 3,000 – people know where we are! And again I received compliments over the helpfulness of our (Sherwood URC) volunteers. We had an unexpected donation from one of the stalls selling drinks run by SAW volunteers. I hope those of you who managed to come enjoyed it and were perhaps able to buy something good.

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Here is a stall on the day in the Church

## General Assembly

General Assembly was held at the Albert Hall from Friday 6<sup>th</sup> – Monday 9<sup>th</sup> July, and Tricia was responsible for organising the local Volunteers for the event. She organised the rotas for 42 people, who all were offering their time in different days, at different times and for different periods. It was not an easy task, especially as details for Assemblies layout and timetable are not fixed until very close to the event itself. I was open duty as a volunteer throughout Assembly from 8.00am through to 8.00pm each day (3.00pm on Monday) and on the day before it began from 11.00am to 6.00pm to help put things up and as final arrangements were decided.

Being there as a volunteer helper rather than a representative was sometimes frustrating, as you sometimes were able to hear some of the discussion but were not allowed to participate! It was also an eye opener because as a representative you have no idea of how many people are busy in the background making it all work well. It was good to meet other volunteers some people I had heard of in the Synod but never met. They were all without exception supremely helpful and thoughtful, meaning that there was very little 'supervising' required by Tricia.



Some of the members of Sherwood URC and Boulevard URC were able to join Assembly for the Sunday morning Act of worship – singing with over 400 other URC members accompanied by the Magnificent Binns Organ; enjoying the Anthems of the Synod Choir – organised by St Andrew's with Castlegate; being treated to a 'children's address by Assembly Moderator Nigel Uden and a sermon by John Procter – two of the URC's most easy to listen to

people; and in that huge congregation sharing communion led and shaped by the two Assembly Chaplains.

It was wonderful, and a stark contrast to the other wonderful service the night before led by the young people. It was those young people and the Pilots who in leading worship, in participating in the general debates, and in presenting some of the work they do lifted the mood of GA into one of considerable hope for the future of the United Reformed Church.

### **Talking on the Way**

We are continuing to meet for our 75 minutes of discussion based on Walking the Way: living the life of Jesus today – the URC initiative. We have been looking at Psalm 137 - By the rivers of Babylon . . . the one where the Israelites lament that they can not sing songs to God in a foreign land; where they pledge allegiance to Jerusalem and gruesome vengeance on their captors. Over two or more sessions, it made us think: Are we in a foreign land? Do we respect the past or live in the past? How can we live Christ like lives in today's society?

*David*

### **Article**

Victor has been worshipping with us on and off for a few months now, and several of you have spoken to him. It turns out he is a story-writer. Here is his offering for this months Newsletter. Hope you find it as stimulating as I did!

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## Pretty

A long time ago there was a place they called the asylum. It was where they used to put all the insane, and mentally ill people and some of those they couldn't understand or were afraid of.

It was noisy. All day and all night you could hear screams and sobs, and laughter too. Some of those incarcerated didn't realise what was happening to them; others did but no longer cared. Only one or two understood the injustice and had learned to live with it, and do something they could feel good about rather than allow it to destroy them.

Sometimes people would visit the asylum and have a look at one person in particular, because they found him especially entertaining. He was tall. He had a beard and a moustache. He had long hair that had not been near a comb in months. He needed a bath. The guards knew this but they were too busy seeing themselves as guards. So they did a lot of guarding but they didn't do much caring. They reserved their care for their friends and families. The man was known as

'the talkative one'. People would stare at him through the bars of his cell. If he was asleep they would get the guards to poke him with a stick and wake him up. And then he would speak to them all,

'I have a question  
Can you answer me?  
How can I learn to be happy  
when my thoughts  
get in the way  
and ruin my day?  
My mind seems  
to have a mind of its own  
Some of its thoughts  
won't leave me alone  
It's worse when  
they come round at night  
And turn off the light.'

Some people laughed.  
Some people didn't know what to do so they laughed as well.  
One or two people felt sad but they hid it.

Then the talkative one said,  
'You who are hungry, why do you not eat? Those of you who are thirsty, why do you not drink? Those of you who are tired, why do you not rest?'

And why are you looking at me? You should look at yourselves. Have a look in the mirror and think about the things you can't see. That is what really matters. Go and look in the mirror and think!

Most of the people laughed. But a few went away with a strange feeling they didn't have a name for. One of these people was called Saran. Her friends called her Pretty because although she looked quite plain, she had a beautiful heart. She was not particularly well-dressed but she was always neat and tidy.

Pretty was so poor that she couldn't afford a good mirror. All she had was an old, cracked one that she had found next to a dustbin. It was three feet tall and had a metal frame which wasn't gold although it did look like it. The glass had a big crack in it from the top left corner all the way to the bottom.

It had been a long time since Pretty had seen herself in a good mirror. She was always having to use her imagination as well as

her eyes when she looked in her cracked old mirror.

So it wasn't too difficult for her to take on board what the talkative one was saying. And when she got home she looked in the mirror. She looked and looked and looked. She thought about what she couldn't see. She felt hungry, so she ate something. She felt thirsty, so she had a drink of water. And in a while she felt a little tired, so she rested.

Pretty fell asleep and dreamt of a place where no one was beautiful and no one was ugly. What people looked like had no meaning so there were no words to describe what people looked like. And everyone was kind, so kind. And there was only one word to describe what people did for each other. And that word was

lovewithrespect.

Pretty woke up and carried on with her life, just a little happier than she had been before.

*Victor Haven*

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## What's Coming up!

### Afternoon Tea



An afternoon tea party is being held on 29<sup>th</sup> August **at 2.00p.m.** for all those who have taken part in the knitting, and anyone who is interested in the project we have been supporting in Liberia. The knitted blankets, hats, cardigans etc., are being handed over to Abdul, for use by the Hospital/Midwives, who will take them back to Liberia with him the following day.

We are now looking for somewhere else to knit for – **have you any ideas?**

### Harvest Festival

Our Harvest Festival Service is on 7<sup>th</sup> October. Volunteers are required to help with the decorating of the Church on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October at 10.30.a.m. If possible flowers or plants in Autumnal colours are requested, or maybe donations to Sheila in lieu.

Gifts of non perishable foodstuffs may be brought to the service on Sunday and these are to be donated to our local food bank. Thank you.



## Diary

### August

4	Sat	10:00	Coffee Morning – Christian Aid
5	Sun	10:30	<b>Morning Worship</b> - Bev
11	Sat	10:00	Coffee Morning – Christian Aid
12	Sun	10:30	<b>Morning Worship</b> - David
18	Sat	10:00	Coffee Morning – Christian Aid
19	Sun	10:30	<b>Morning Worship</b> - Paul Burton
25	Sat	10:00	Coffee Morning – Christian Aid
26	Sun	10:30	<b>Morning Worship</b> - Helen Lidgett

### September

1	Sat	10:00	Coffee Morning – Christian Aid
2	Sun	10:30	<b>Morning Worship</b> - Ian Pickering
6	Thu	11:30	Chill-out
8	Sat	10:00	Coffee Morning – Christian Aid
9	Sun	10:30	<b>Morning Worship</b> - David
12	Wed	14:30	Talking on the Way
12	Wed	19:30	Elders' Meeting
13	Thu	11:30	Chill-out
15	Sat	10:00	Coffee Morning – Christian Aid
16	Sun	10:30	<b>Morning Worship</b> - David
19	Wed	11:30	Prime Time
20	Thu	11:30	Chill-out
22	Sat	10:00	Coffee Morning – Christian Aid

23	Sun	10:30	<b>Morning Worship</b> - David
23	Sun	19:30	Church Meeting
26	Wed	14:30	Light Refreshment: <b>Street Pastors</b>
27	Thu	11:30	Chill-out
29	Sat	10:00	Coffee Morning – Christian Aid
30	Sun	10:30	<b>Morning Worship</b> - Geoff Ware

## October

4	Thu	11:30	Chill-out
6	Sat	10:00	Coffee Morning – Christian Aid
7	Sun	10:30	<b>Harvest Festival</b> - David
10	Wed	14:30	Talking on the Way
10	Wed	19:30	Elders' Meeting
11	Thu	11:30	Chill-out
13	Sat	10:00	Coffee Morning – Christian Aid
14	Sun	10:30	<b>Morning Worship</b> - Bev
17	Wed	11:30	Prime Time
18	Thu	11:30	Chill-out
20	Sat	10:00	Coffee Morning – Christian Aid
21	Sun	10:30	<b>Morning Worship</b> - Stefan
24	Wed	14:30	Light Refreshment: <b>Scandinavia</b> - Bev
24	Wed	14:30	NO Talking on the Way
27	Sat	10:00	Coffee Morning – Christian Aid
28	Sun	10:30	<b>Morning Worship</b> - Jane Henderson

<b>Rotas</b>
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		<b>Flowers</b>	<b>Refreshments</b>	<b>Vestry</b>
<b>August</b>	5	Doreen Fillingham	Jean and Christine	Pam R
	12	Mavis Seed	George and Margaret	Alan
	19		Communion	Joy
	26		Pam R and Doreen	Sue J
<b>September</b>	2	Pam R	Jean and Christine	Pam R
	9		Norman	Christine
	16	Joy Hammond	Communion	Alison
	23	Jean Bull	Sheila and Ann	Bev
	30		George and Margaret	Jean
<b>Oct</b>	7		Pam R and Doreen	Alan
	14		Norman	Stefan

		<b>Door Steward</b>	<b>Reader</b>	<b>Prayers</b>
<b>August</b>	5	Joy	Howard	Stefan
	12	Howard	Barbara	Tricia
	19	Pam W	Sheila	WL
	26	Howard	Mavis S	Joy
<b>September</b>	2	Norman	Jean	WL
	9	Margaret	Roy	Stefan
	16	Jean	Norman	David
	23	Joy	Howard	Tricia
	30	Howard	Pam W	Stefan
<b>Oct</b>	7	Pam W	Christine	David
	14	Howard	Barbara	Joy

*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	Gr
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)	Gr
Wed	10.00 – 11.00	Weight Watchers	H
	12.00 – 1.30	Prime Time Lunch Club (as arranged)	G
	2.30 – 4.00	Talking on the Way discussion 2 <sup>nd</sup> Wed	G
	2.30 – 4.00	Light Refreshment – friendship 4 <sup>th</sup> Wed	Gr
	6.00 – 7.00	Weight Watchers	H
	7.30 – 8.30	Zumba with Charm	H
Thur		‘Chill Out’ drop-in (term time) for under fives and their carers	H
	2.15 – 3.15	Notts Community Transport monthly	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	Gr

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

see [www.sherwoodurc.co.uk/reservations](http://www.sherwoodurc.co.uk/reservations)

## 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

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

**Church Secretary:** Stefan Janiszewski 07812 975625  
secretary@sherwoodurc.co.uk

**Assistant Ch. Secretary:** Bev Lockyer 981 0960  
secretary@sherwoodurc.co.uk

**Hall Booking** *Send a text to* 07952 324912  
*or use the website:* [www.sherwoodurc.co.uk](http://www.sherwoodurc.co.uk)  
and click on "I want to book a room"  
(on the left)

### For the next Magazine

Please submit your contribution for the next issue of the Newsletter by Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2018 at the latest to Pam (926 8044) or by email to David (revdjl@virginmedia.com) or Stefan (sherwood.urc@ntlworld.com )