

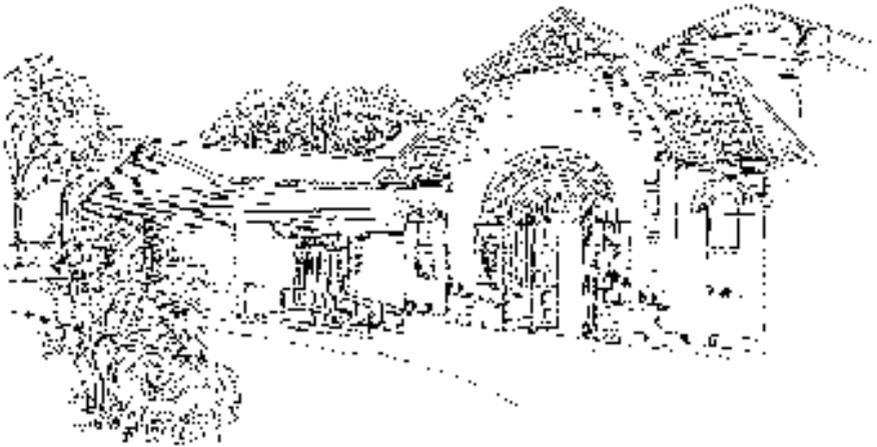


The
**United
Reformed
Church**

Sherwood

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Nottingham,
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www.sherwoodurc.co.uk



The Newsletter

December 2018 and January 2019

**Glory to God in the Highest
and Peace on Earth**

Minister's Letter

This magazine spans the years – it covers December of the old year and January of the new. I wonder if you, like me, think more of New Years eve and New Years Day as being the point of new birth rather than Christmas?

For me Christmas is the culmination of the year. My work in leading worship heightens as we pack in joyful celebrations. As I look at it from this November end, my heart sinks as I wonder how I am going to tell that oh so familiar story in a new and exciting way. (especially as most of what we think of as familiar is not exactly biblical!). I also see 11.00am on Christmas day, at the end of our morning service, as being the end moment of my working year. My holiday does not start until after then! So any peace, any renewal, any re-birthing for me comes at New Year, when I stand outside to experience the turning of the year and pause before “Letting the New Year in” for a neighbour or two.

As a minister I almost envy those parts of the church that celebrate Christmas in January. How much more fitting it must be to celebrate the birth of Jesus at the start of the new year, when light is noticeably returning to the world, when our thoughts are truly on the new year to come and the new life to be had in it.

Whenever we celebrate, whenever we experience that ‘new birth’ feeling, we remember that Christ was born to bring new life into the world, the new life of people forgiven and set free, able to experience life in all its fullness.

May you feel the new life Christ offers touching your life over Christmas and New year, may you discover hope for the future and joy overflowing.

David

A prayer for the Church Family

Late autumn is a time for brooding. The nights are really drawing in quite fast now, and darkness envelopes us earlier each evening and we have more time to think of our woes. In addition the winter coughs and colds come out to get us.

So we pray, asking God for the light of Christ to shine through the darkness in the hearts of us all, and for the indwelling of the Spirit to strengthen and heal us. Our prayers are for everyone connected to the church family, for those loved ones who are important to us, and for all the people in our community.

Peace be with you all.

What's Happened

Looking towards 2020

Notes from a meeting with Paul Howard, (who works for the Southwell Diocese responsible for the elderly and has worked closely with AgeUK Nottingham)

Having introduced our church to Paul, he gave us a few pointers:-

-
- Find out what area of service is needed in the area.
 - Ask at the medical and community centres. (There may be a doctor that is sympathetic to the elderly)
 - Try to work with the idea of bringing people 10 years younger.
 - People always want a good welcome
 - Whenever possible, have a group revolving around food – as Jesus did.
 - Look at the government's 80 page report 'The young at heart are lonely'
 - Advertise. This gives folks chance to join in and it also lets the community know what you do as a serving church. Let AgeUK know one has started.

Paul's 1st question

- What do we do already for this group of people ?

Light refreshment, Talking on the Way, and the new Knit/etc and Natter. Paul thought that was good doing something that interested us but we must always remember to Advertise and Invite. We should also advertise it for people who are lonely as AgeUK say there are many lonely people out there today. From our experience we can help people to cope with living with loss.

Paul's 2nd question – **Do you have meals?**

We have meals that we invite people from groups who use the premise too. He suggested we invite Stroke Club as they fall in the age group of interest.

He said Food brings people in – Food can take people out
Paul has taken folks for a fish and chip meal to the chip

shop who were pleased to have 20 folks there. He negotiated a £5 a head special rate.

He reminded us that many courses are based around a simple meal, such as like Senior Alpha – for folks with some knowledge of Christianity – and ‘The START! Course’ – for non Christian’s who are interested in spirituality.

We said we were planning to start prayer meetings.

Paul's 3rd question

Do you hold a service/meal to celebrate what you do?

eg. After the craft fair which brings so many people into the building; Following the collection of knitting?

Do you have a celebration service for people who have had strokes or bereaved?

These are ways of **Walking the Way** with Jesus Christ.

(Paul also found that children who have free school Meals in term time do not have anything during the holidays so through donations of food and money and help made sandwiches and took them and drinks to the park and gave them to any children and families who came.)

Whatever we choose to do, we must be prepared

- to give any group time (months) to get established
- not to be afraid of failure

Paul has a 14 seater bus with lift and driver which we can book at £50 a day plus donation (also a 16 seater)

Tricia

Knit and Natter

We held our first “Knit and Natter” gathering on Wednesday 7th November and were delighted with the number of people who came. Just look at how many people came to the first session - we were so surprised that we ran out of cake!

Some of us were knitting for our project - making blankets from knitted squares. The blankets will go with the



National Police Aid Convoy to wherever they are needed.

The rest were doing their own thing! So, to join us you have no need to knit – just come and enjoy the company, or bring any other form of handicraft you fancy, or just come and natter.

We meet again on Wednesday 5th December at 2.30 when **Heather from the NPAC will call to tell us about the convoys – do come.**

Harvest Festival

Harvest Festival The food given at the Harvest Festival was duly delivered to our local food bank based in the depths of Daybook Baptists Church.



Our offering was just a small, but much needed amount to add to the shelves ready for the winter and the launch of Universal Credit in Nottingham which is expected to dramatically increase the number of people who need help. Every donation matters!

Thank you to everyone who kindly donated food on this occasion, to for the two people who helped pack the food up and carry it into David's car



Talking on the Way

Following on from our fears (see last magazine) we spent an afternoon talking about our **hopes** for the future. Many of these were straightforwardly practical – people to do the jobs to keep the church going; people with new ideas; more younger people; a Sunday school. Some were outward looking – that we may fulfil the needs of our community. Others were hoping for increased faith or spirituality. Many of these hopes were coloured by our own experience and what has happened in the past.

My first hope was that the church can find a new way to –

- be (visibly Christian);
- worship (that is for those not in the church);
- advertise and actively invite;
- include people (allow them to take over roles in the fellowship).

My second was that Society gains a new interest in the church – because the church has changed and is more like Jesus!

In November we had some good news – we could write down three wishes for the fairy godmother to grant regarding the church. This was surprisingly hard to do, perhaps because we had had a few weeks gap after the previous session. Never-the-less there were seven or eight suggestions. What would your three wishes be?

Stop reading now and write them down.

The good news did not last for long. The bad news was that the Fairy Godmother was a figment of our imagination. So we had to think what someone would have to do to give our wishes a chance of coming true.

Then reality set in.

We remembered that Christ does not call us to 'find someone' to be a disciple for us, he calls **us** to be disciples, and that Christ does not call us to find someone to 'be the church for us', he call **us** to be the church.

Our homework – which will take us through to January – was to decide what we (as individuals, or as a church) need to do to have those wishes granted. It would be good if you can do the same homework (please).

David

What's Coming up!

Toy Service

Our 2018 **Toy Service** will be held on
Sunday morning 2nd December,
and we will be collecting **new, unwrapped** toys
suitable for 0 – 16 years old
(or gift cards for the older children).
These toys will be passed onto
The Great Notts Christmas Toy Appeal
who are continuing this part of the work of Family Care
who we have supported in the past.

Ecumenical Christmas

Nottingham City Council have invited
Churches Together in Sherwood & Carrington
to **sing Carols** at the Woodthorpe Park Christmas Fair,
on **Sat 8 Dec at 11am.**

This is open for all to join in. . .

. . . as is our **Carols at the Samuel Hall**
on **Wed 19th December at 8.00pm**

(practice run through at Sherwood Methodist at 7.30)

Decorating the Church for Christmas

on **Saturday 15th Dec** at 10.30am Sheila would love some
help in setting out the flowers in church – red flowers as
last year. Please just come along.

Big Band and the Reformed Players Christmas Concert

Another chance to “Swing into Christmas”
with the Big Band sound and some Reformed Comedy
Thursday 20th December, 7.30pm
to raise funds towards the new boiler.

Christmas Services

Christmas Sunday	23 rd	16:00	Pop-up Nativity & Carols by Candlelight
Christmas Eve	24 th	16:00	Christingle
		11:30	Midnight Communion
Christmas Day	25 th	10:00	Joy to the world!

Who can you invite to come with you?

The New Year Meal

is booked for **Sunday Jan 20th** around 12.15
(in the Hall after Morning Worship). A two course meal
with either “Steak & Veg Short Crust Pie with fresh potato”
or “Luxury Fish Pie topped with Creamed Potato” both with
Fresh Veg followed by a choice from three desserts.
£11.50 per head in advance. Please see Jean B

Article – Christmas Trees

For a friend of mine Christmas begins on the 1st of December. This is when his family put up the first of many Christmas trees in their house. Howard and I are much later at putting up our tree and this usually happens just a few days before Christmas Day.

Over the last few years it has become popular for churches to hold Christmas Tree Festivals. These community events bring individuals, local organisations and shops together, by each decorating a Christmas tree. As well as the display of decorated trees, there can sometimes be some form of entertainment, Christmas stalls and usually tea and cake available.



Last year I visited festivals held at Melton Mowbray and Mansfield. The one at Melton Mowbray parish church was very popular and Howard and I had to queue to get in. I had never seen so many trees or so many people in a parish church at one time. It takes place every year and is advertised as the largest Christmas Tree Festival in the country with over 200 organisations taking part and over 1300 trees. No expense had been spared in decorating some of the trees. However, the trees decorated by local charities and schools showed what could be achieved with a small budget and lots of imagination. These were the ones that made us smile.

Each year as Howard and I decorate our own tree and unwrap our decorations, it is like seeing long lost friends again. We remember when some decorations were purchased and we remember the friends who gave decorations to us. We have three angels. I am always relieved that a

glass angel given to me by a dear friend has survived another year intact. The olive wood decorations I purchased when visiting the Holy Land remind me of my pilgrimage in 2011. The mosaic gingerbread man and star show my own attempts at learning a new skill.

Evergreen trees have been used to celebrate winter festivals for thousands of years, long before the advent of Christianity. The Christmas tree has become a part of our season, and any pagan connections it originally had are not often thought about. There are many theories and legends about how the evergreen fir tree became associated with Christianity. One legend is about Saint Boniface, a monk in the eighth century, who used the triangular shape of the fir tree to explain about the trinity of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

Many people believe that the decorations on the tree have a spiritual meaning. Stars represent the star that led the wise men to the stable. Red ornaments symbolise the blood Jesus shed for our sins and the lights remind us that Jesus is The Light of the World.

We do not have a real fir tree at Christmas but on the top of our tree we will have our friendly angel holding a star.

Bev Lockyer

Diary

December

1 Sat	10:00	Coffee Morning – Christian Aid
2 Sun	10:30	Morning Worship - Toy Sunday - David

5	Wed	14:30	Knit & Natter - Friendship Group
6	Thu	11:30	Chill-out
8	Sat	10:00	Coffee Morning – Christian Aid
9	Sun	10:30	Morning Worship – David
12	Wed	19:30	Elders' Meeting provisional
13	Thu	11:30	Chill-out
15	Sat	10:00	Coffee Morning – Christian Aid
16	Sun	10:30	Morning Worship - Worship Group
20	Thu	11:30	Chill-out
		20:00	Swing into Christmas – for the boiler!
22	Sat	10:00	Coffee Morning – Christian Aid
23	Sun	10:30	NO Morning Worship - David
23	Sun	16:30	Nativity and Carols by Candle Light
24	Mon	16:00	Christmas Eve - Christingle
24	Mon	11:00	For 11:30 – Christmas Eve Communion
25	Tue	10:00	Christmas Day
30	Sun	10:30	Morning Worship - Bev Lockyer

January

2	Wed	14:30	Knit & Natter - Friendship Group Do Check
6	Sun	10:30	Morning Worship
12	Sat	10:00	Coffee Morning – Christian Aid
13	Sun	10:30	Morning Worship - Geoff Ware
16	Wed	14:30	Talking on the Way
16	Wed	19:30	Elders' Meeting
17	Thu	11:00	Chill-out
19	Sat	10:00	Coffee Morning – Christian Aid

20 Sun	10:30	Morning Worship
23 Wed	14:30	Light Refreshment - David
24 Thu	11:00	Chill-out
26 Sat	10:00	Coffee Morning – Christian Aid
27 Sun	10:30	Morning Worship
27 Sun	12:00	Church Meeting
31 Thu	11:00	Chill-out

February

2 Sat	10:00	Coffee Morning – Christian Aid
3 Sun	10:30	Morning Worship - Ian Pickering
6 Wed	14:30	Knit & Natter - Friendship Group
7 Thu	11:00	Chill-out

Rotas

		Flowers	Refreshments	Vestry
December	2	Margaret McAdams	Norman	Pam R
	9		Jean and Christine	Alan
	16	Christmas Flowers	Communion	Bev
	23	Christmas Flowers	Sheila and Ann	Alison
	30	Christmas Flowers	George and Margaret	Christine

		Door Steward	Reader	Prayers
December	2	Howard	Sheila	Stefan
	9	Norman	Mavis S	David
	16	Margaret	Roy	WG
	23	Jean	Norman	David
	30	Joy	Howard	Bev

The 2019 rotas were not ready when we went to press

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 – 12.30	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	Knit and Natter - 1 st Wed	
	2.30 – 4.00	Talking on the Way discussion 2 nd Wed	G
	2.30 – 4.00	Light Refreshment – friendship 4 th Wed	Gr
	7.00pm – 9.30	Belters Choir	H
Thur	11.00 – 1.00	‘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

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
 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 News-
 letter by Sunday 13th January 2019 at the latest,
 handwritten to Pam (926 8044)
 or by email to David (revdjl@virginmedia.com).