



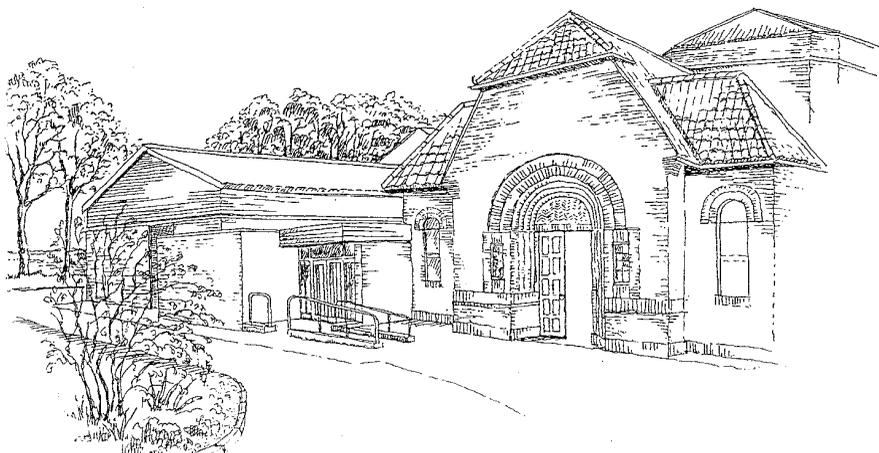
The
United
Reformed
Church

Sherwood

1 Edwards Lane,
Nottingham,
NG5 3AA

www.sherwoodurc.co.uk

The Newsletter



April and May 2014

through Lent, Easter and Ascension

Christ the Lord is risen - Alleluia

Minister's Wife's Letter

Since Joseph rapidly fades out of the gospel story, it is often assumed that he died young. But what if he was still around, offering support in the background, when Jesus 'set his face towards Jerusalem'?

Jesus visits Joseph

"Hello!" Jesus looks round the door of the workshop

"Hello! Don't stand out there, come on in."

Jesus goes in. Joseph brushes off the sawdust of a stool with his sleeve.

"Sit down. Do you want a drink?"

"Mmm that would be good – it's been a dusty hot walk"

Joseph pours some water and gives it to Jesus.

"Thanks"

"This a surprise."

"Yes. It's been a long time. I've been travelling all over the country."

"I've heard from people who have seen you. They say you looked well. And they tell me your story telling is bringing in larger and larger crowds was 5000 an exaggeration?"

"Yes. That day we were on 4000! It was a lovely warm day, not too hot and the crowds just kept coming – men, women, and children. Some good stories were told that day but I just hope they hear the lesson I'm trying to pass on."

"Neighbour Andrew told me your story of the Samaritan. He was a bit unsure whether you should be encouraging people to talk to *those* people but I said 'well if it was you who had been attacked and left to die wouldn't you want anyone passing to help first and ask questions after?'. He agreed he wouldn't want anyone to pass by and leave him to die."

"We do get hang ups over where people come from and what they do, but we are all equal, and we are all God's children. Talking of God brings me to why I came to see you.

I just wanted to explain"

"Explain...explain what?"

"Well. I've got to... Well God, he;s... he's wanting me to..."

"God's putting you on the line. By the pain I read in you eyes he's wanting you to do something you are not liking."

"You are so right."

"I've been there myself. I understand."

"Understand?"

"Yes... you are God's Son and when I was told that, and told that I was going to bring you up I was shocked. I couldn't get my head round it. I just couldn't understand. Why me? What had God let me in for.

And If I had followed my head I would have left your mother when she told me of her pregnancy because I knew you could not be mine. All I could see was a life with someone else's child and no trust in your mother and was this going to lead to our love being lost.

But God had a one to one with me, telling me the baby boy to be born to Mary was his son and not to be hard on her. He tugged at my heart strings and thank goodness I listened to him."

"It must have been difficult trying to get your head round the situation you were being put into."

"Yes it was hard to begin with. I asked myself whether I had really heard God. Was it true or was I just making it up because I had dreamed for so long of a life with Mary and I couldn't see a life without her because I loved her? So in your early years when I was alone in here doubts would come to mind. But I love you and I would have lost all that if I had walked away. Gradually I have come to understand."

"I'm so pleased you did. It was a good life. We may not have had lots of money but we were rich in our love for one another, our family and friends. This has always been a strong lesson in my teachings and has kept me going in the bleak times like now..."

"Are you having doubts?"

"I was, but I know this final task on earth has to be done. My head tells me I'm too young and there's a lot more I can do here. But my heart tells me that it's my time to go to my true Father and show the people of the world how much I love them and how much God loves them too."

"Oh Jesus I've missed you so much, our talks our friendship and now it seems you're going from me for ever!"

"I have missed you too, dad. Not just the chats, but your advice and being here in the workshop with the smell and feel of wood. These are memories you can cherish but also remember – I will be with you always, even to the ends of the Earth. Always."

They got up, hugged one another, and left together to see Mary.

Tricia

Life rolls on. Every one of us has found, or will find, ourselves in a place like Joseph and Jesus. Things are changing, and we do not like the way it is shaping up. We are in the same place as a church too. We are not finding it easy to find people to do the jobs that need doing: cleaning, maintaining the building, serving as elders etc. But Easter is about new life.

Can we discover a vision of renewal for our church?

David

Family News

At the time of writing David Hughes is recovering from having his pacemaker replaced; Kath is awaiting a date for her second knee replacement.

We are pleased to welcome Roy and Barbara Musgrove as new Church members at Sherwood.

Edna and Norman are pleased to let you know of the birth of their second Great Grandchild Joshua a brother to two year old Emily; both mother and son are now doing well after a difficult birth.

Please continue to pray for all the people of the family of Sherwood United Reformed Church.

Thanks.

I wish to thank everyone for your prayers, cards and kind thoughts during my operation and recovery.
God bless you all.

Take the breath of the new dawn
and make it part of you
it will give you strength

A Hopi saying
(The Hopi Tribe is a sovereign nation
located in northeastern Arizona.)

Doreen Fillingham

News from an old friend

Some of you will remember Suzanne McDonald who came to us from Australia probably about 15 years ago. Here is some information from a recent email from her.

Yes, ordination is coming up now! It's looking like it will be on 1st June, which will also be the first Sunday that my parents are over. There are so many marvellous things

about this. I first met the minister who will be ordaining me while I was training for ministry at Westminster College. He came over to Westminster on their sabbatical programme for a semester in 2002. We lost touch, but when a mutual friend knew I would be coming to Grand Rapids to teach at Calvin College, she put us back in touch again, and I joined his church when I moved over here. He was also the one who encouraged me to think about completing the requirements for ordination over here. So it is beautifully fitting that he will be the one to ordain me.

I won't actually be going into the pastorate, though. I'll be ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacraments, so I could seek a pastorate if I wished, but my denomination over here also allows those who are ordained to fulfill their calling in a theological teaching ministry, so I will continue to do what I do - teach theology! However... I will be doing that in a different place. This will be my last semester at Calvin College. I've been here for 7 years now (time flies!!) and didn't anticipate leaving, but a ministry training college in a nearby town (they call them 'seminaries' over here) has been asking me for a number of years if I would consider joining their faculty, and last Spring, I finally gave them a hearing. The more I learned about how they do what they do, the more excited I became at the prospect of being part of that. So, the upshot is that they extended a call to me, and I will join them this summer. They voted for my appointment in December, but it has only just been ratified by their Board of Trustees, so now it is 'officially official'! I can't wait to be teaching theology there in the context of training people for ministry. The place is called Western Theological Seminary, and it's about 30 miles away in Holland (I love saying that... Holland is 30 miles away.... rather than about 5000 miles away!!!!). Here's their website - <http://www.westernsem.edu>

Later in the summer, after Mum & Dad have gone back home, I'll be moving to a house closer to there, and will commute to church for a few years at least - I'm an elder

there and want to at least see out my term, and then David will have a couple more years after that until he retires. I'll be sending through change of address information later in the year!

Jill

Past Events

Christian Women's Fellowship 87th Annual Convention 21st-23 February 2014



This year Pam Whitby, Tricia, Joy and myself made the short journey to the Hayes Conference Centre in Swanwick, Derbyshire. The theme this year was "Unconditional Love."

The main speaker this year was Paul Blakey from the organisation "Street Angels." Street Angels are part of the CNI (Christian Nightlife

Initiatives) Network which supports around 125 local projects at work within the night-time economy. Every weekend, as most people are settling down for the night, hundreds of volunteers go out onto the streets of villages, towns and cities. Armed with identifiable jackets, flip-flops, first aid kits and gloves these volunteers have seen crime reduced, lives saved, and communities and people go from binge to better!

The volunteers, aged 18 to 91, do anything that needs doing - picking up bottles, offering flip-flops, running safe place cafes, helping those who are vulnerable and chatting to those out on the town. Projects have contributed to significant reductions in violent crime, sexual assaults and anti-social behaviour and shows faith in action. In Nottingham the Malt Cross has been home to Street Pastors, led by church

volunteers to care for, love and protect anyone using Nottingham's night life on Friday and Saturday evenings.

Much of Paul's talk was about the word "Love" and what it really meant. If Street Angels were around in Nazareth he thought that Jesus would be on the team cleaning up feet and offering flip-flops to women who had taken off their high heels and cut their feet on broken glass. He stressed that love has to be demonstrated not just spoken about. Love is something we do. He also felt that faith groups are leading the way in offering unconditional love in almost every area of need in our nation

The Saturday evening collection raised over £560 (£700 with Gift Aid) for a golf buggy appeal for the Majorca Street Angels (Spain) - this will help the team get people back to hotels and then get back out to help more people - walking people from hotel to hotel takes up valuable time!

The week-end offered a selection of workshops including singing, knitting, walking and prayer. On Sunday there was a bible study session followed by a Communion service. Each convention offers some thoughts and ideas to take home. It is good to see familiar faces and share fellowship.

Beo Lockyer



Womens World Day of Prayer

This year it was held on Friday 7th March at St. Martins, Trevose Gardens in the side chapel which was full. The service had been compiled by the women of Egypt with the theme streams in the desert. The

readers were from us, St.John's, Devon Drive, and St. Martins.

The first part of the service was about the different lives of four Egyptian women, ancient and modern. The second half was the story of the Samaritan woman who met Jesus at the well (John chap. 4) We sang several rousing hymns including a lovely modern version of The Lord's my Shepherd. After the service we had a shared lunch and talked to members from the other churches.

Doreen and Mavis K

Articles

Shawl Ministry

"You created every part of me, knitting me in my Mother's womb. For such handiwork, I praise you. Awesome this great wonder!" Psalm 139:13-14

In the Autumn Newsletter for the Christian Women's Convention there was a paragraph about Shawl Ministry. It stated that a shawl ministry was a simple and effective way to show people you care for them and to remind them of the love and support that surrounds them, even when they are alone. Shawls can be knitted or crocheted and given to anyone who is facing a serious illness or surgery, is grieving, is facing difficult life circumstances, or is rejoicing in a happy event such as a wedding, the birth of a baby, a baptism, a graduation, a new home or any other significant moment in life.

As the theme of the CWF convention was "Unconditional Love" it was suggested that it would be a nice idea if we could make a shawl to take along and the shawls could be blessed and given to people. This was the first time I had ever heard about a Shawl Ministry. Pam Whitby and I

obtained the instructions and we both knitted a shawl to take along.

The shawl pattern is a simple knit 3, purl 3 to represent the Trinity (God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit). It is suggested that blessings are knitted or crocheted into every shawl.

This Shawl Ministry could be something that we might want to start in our Church. If anyone would like details about patterns please let me know.

Bev Lockyer

A story from

From the Christian Women's Fellowship weekend

A husband and wife were having an argument first thing in the morning, as to who was going to make the coffee. The Wife said it should be him as he was up first, he said it was her duty as she was in charge of catering. "No" she said "It was mentioned in the Bible he should do it." "Where does it say that he replied " so she opened her Bible and said "It was on top of several pages. "What do you mean? And she pointed to the words "Hebrews"

Future Events

Church Council dates

	Elders	Church
May	8th	25th
June	19th	
July	10th	13th
September	11th	14th
October	9th	
November	13th	23rd
December	11th	

The Reformed Players

present

“CHEERLEADERS”

Thursday 10 April
Friday 11 April
Saturday 12 April at 7.30 pm

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

When Dave, Ken and Norm decide to recruit cheerleaders for their ailing football team, they think they've struck lucky. But Brenda thinks they said char ladies - and promptly hires three! Not quite the clean sweep you thought - eh, lads?

Easter Flowers April 2014

We would love you to help us on **Sat 19th** from 10am to fill baskets for Easter Sunday. We also need a lot of spring flowers or plants – please help us by leaving them in the Flower Room on Friday 18th - or simply give a donation to Marita between now and Palm Sunday.
Your help is appreciated.

Diary

April

Wed 2 12.00pm Prime Time

Thur 3 11.00am Chill Out

-
- Sat 5 10.30am *Christian Aid Coffee Morning*
- Sun 6 10.30am *Morning Worship / Junior Church led by Lionel Anderson*
- Wed 9 2.30pm *Talking on the Way*
- Sat 12 10.30am *Christian Aid Coffee Morning*
- Sun 13 9.15am *Early-Birds Morning Worship*
- Sun 13 10.30am *Morning Worship / Junior Church, led by David Legge*
- Wed 16 12.00pm *Prime Time*
- Thur 17 6 00pm *Maundy Service Reflection***
- Fri 18 10.00am *Good Friday Walk of Witness***
- Sat 19 10.30am *Christian Aid Coffee Morning and decorating the Church for Easter*
- Sun 20 8.30am *Easter Morning service followed by breakfast***
- Sun 20 10.30am *Easter Worship with Communion/ Junior Church, led by David Legge***
- Wed 23 2.30pm *Light Refreshments*
Alan Waldron "How I ended up in prison"
- Thur 24 11.00am *Chill Out*
- Sat 26 10.30am *Christian Aid Coffee Morning*
- Sun 27 10.30am *Morning Worship / Junior Church, led by David Legge*

May

- Thur 1 10.30am *Chill Out*
-

-
- Sat 3 10.30am *Christian Aid Coffee Morning*
- Sun 4 10.30am *Morning Worship / Junior Church led by Sheila Ashmore*
- Wed 7 12.00pm *Prime Time*
- Thur 8 11.00am *Chill Out*
- Thur 8 7.30pm *Elders' Meeting*
- Sat 10 10.30am *Christian Aid Coffee Morning*
- Sun 11 9.15am *Early-Birds Morning Worship*
- Sun 11 10.30am *Morning Worship / Junior Church, led by David Legge*
- Wed 14 2.30pm *Talking on the Way*
- Thur 15 11.00am *Chill Out*
- Sat 17 10.30am *Christian Aid Coffee Morning*
- Sun 18 10.30am *Morning Worship / Junior Church, Communion led by David Legge*
- Wed 21 12.00pm *Prime Time*
- Thur 22 11.00am *Chill Out*
- Sat 24 10.30am *Christian Aid Coffee Morning*
- Sun 25 10.30am *Morning Worship / Junior Church, followed by Church Meeting led by David Legge*
- Wed 28 2.30pm *Light Refreshments*
Hannah : "My little Village"
- Thur 29 11.00am *Chill Out Meeting*
- Sat 31 10.30am *Christian Aid Coffee Morning*
-

June

Sun	1	10.30am	Morning Worship / Junior Church, led by David Legge
Wed	4	12.00pm	Prime Time
Thur	5	11.00am	Chill Out

Rotas

Sunday		Flowers	Coffee
April	6		Mavis Seed and Shirley
	13	Pam Whitby	Jean Bull and Christine
	20	EASTER	Joy and Margaret McAdams
	27		Pam Richmond and Doreen
May	4	Margaret McAdams	Mavis Seed and Shirley
	11	Pam Richmond	Jean Bull and Christine
	18		Joy and Margaret McAdams
	25		Pam Richmond and Doreen
	1		Mavis Seed and Shirley

Flowers: 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 Marita Chambers or Sheila Waldron

<p>Magazine Deadline: Please submit your contribution for the next issue of Church News by Sunday 11th May 2014 to Jill (jill.turner2@ntlworld.com) or written to Pam (926 8044)</p>
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Regular Weekly Events

at Sherwood U.R.C

- Mon 10.00 - 10.50 Zumba (Small Hall)
 10.00 - 12.00 Line Dancing
 7.30 pm Singing for fun choir
- Tue 3.30 - 8.15 Children's Dance Class including
 various age classes
 7.00 - 9.00 Lishi (Taichi and Wushu)
 7.00 - 9.00 Sherwood Women's Institute (4th Tue)
- Wed 10.00 - 11.00 Osteoporosis group (Sherwood Hall)
 12.00 noon Prime Time Lunch Club (1st & 3rd)
 1.00 - 3.00 Y.M..C.A Active for Life
 7.30 - 9.00 Taekwondo
- 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 noon 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
 (discussion group)
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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

'Second Sunday at 9.15' informal worship & breakfast in the Foyer.

'Epilogue', a short Communion Service,
on the first Sunday at 6.00 p.m. (Summer) or 3.30
(Winter).

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:

Carolyn Belcher	960 3357	Sue Janiszewski	01623 75 0374
David Hughes	960 4432	Pam Richmond	926 3310
Kath Hughes	960 4432	Jill Turner	953 2915
Christine Hyndman	840 2521	Alan Waldron	965 3283
Stefan Janiszewski	01623 75 0374		

Church Officers:

Church Secretary:	Stefan Janiszewski	07812 975625
Assistant Church Secretary:	Jill Turner	953 2915
Church Treasurer:	Carolyn Belcher	960 3357
Pulpit Supply Secretary:	Bev Lockyer	981 0960
Chair of Management Cttee.	David Hughes	960 4432
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	Designated telephone number	0795 232 4912
	<i>For all enquiries for room use</i>	