



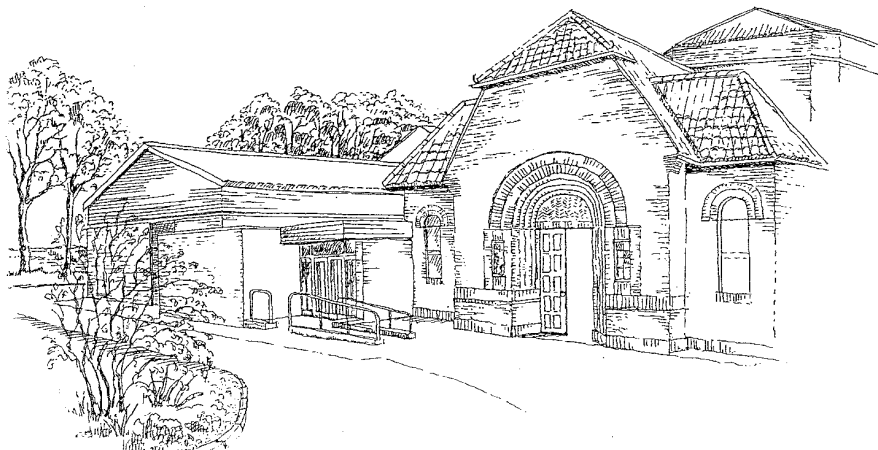
*The*  
United  
Reformed  
Church

# Sherwood

1 Edwards Lane,  
Nottingham,  
NG5 3AA

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

## The Newsletter



August September 2014

**Late Summer**

**Build one another up in love.**

**St. Paul**

## Minister's Letter

The height of summer approaches, and as you can see from the Diary section, the holiday season arrives - and how we are looking forward to it! The past couple of months have been full and busy, almost all of which has been good and exciting.



A huge amount of the busyness was generated by the planning and preparation for the SAW Craft Fair and our exhibition in the church. The Craft Fair is a wonderful piece of collaboration with a community organisation - Sherwood Art Week - and has

grown into one of the best art and craft events in Nottinghamshire! We get around 3,000 people coming onto our premises and *actually meeting us*.

This year the display of art by Revd Elizabeth Gray-King alongside the church banners from St Andrew's URC Chesterfield enabled us to draw people into the sanctuary of the church and to talk to them about art and faith. Elizabeth was impressed by the number of comments in her Artists visitors book. We also had visits from at least two people who came specifically to look at the church itself - they knew we would be open because of the Art Week publicity.

In the lead up to the craft fair was the "Wedding in Edinburgh". My nephew Simon, son to Pauline (Tricia's elder sister) and Mark decided to get married in Edinburgh Castle. He visited the Castle when up there for work and realised that the Chapel, which seats only 30 people would solve a problem - the mismatch between the size of our family and Beccy's. (We still outnumbered them!)

I had to be 'approved' by the Registrar of Scotland - which required a requesting letter from me, the East Midlands Synod, and the Synod of Scotland - and I was approved for

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that couple, on that day, in that chapel, at the stated hour! So I conducted the wedding in what is thought to be the oldest building in Edinburgh, according to Scottish law. This is much simpler than in England. The wording of the vows is not 'prescribed' word for word, but simply has to have the couple say that they will take each other as husband/wife. There are no registers to worry about either - the schedule (similar to the licence we have here) is fully typed out with details of the bride and groom, the two witnesses and the celebrant. All we had to do on the day was to each sign the relevant box, and return it to the registrar. Marvellous! It made me think that there are different ways to do things, and that some may be far better than what we are already used to - a lesson we need to learn in all our churches.



While all this was been happening, 3 mums called requesting a christening for their child. We have had one already - Jack the son of Jax and Peter, and the other two will happen in the Autumn.

And then there was my surprise Birthday party (see below). I did say I did not want to be reminded that I was 60 but thanks anyway!!! It really was a wonderful event. There are more pics on the website.

Busyness is good - but it is one of the things that gets in the way of being at one with God. The 'mindfulness' that I wrote about in the last magazine has not been practised much at all by me or Tricia since I wrote the letter. I for one am looking forward to the lightness of the August Diary to catch up on things that have slipped over the past few weeks, and also to spend more time praying and 'being' in the presence of God.

*David*

"If the path is beautiful  
let us not ask where it leads"  
By Anatole France

*submitted by Doreen*

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## Family News

We ask your prayers for Joan France, Cath Hughes, Tricia Legge, Shirley Ringrose, Mavis Seed, Jill Turner, and Margaret Sharman - who celebrates her 80<sup>th</sup> in August!

### Letters of Thanks

Norman and Family wish to extend their very grateful thanks to Church Members and friends for the many cards and expressions of support, together with attendances at the Service of Thanksgiving for Edna's life. Your support and understanding was a great help in our sorrow. The number of people attending the Service both from the Church and other organisations with which Edna was involved showed the esteem in which she was held.

So far over £400.00 was raised for the Alzheimars Society, so thank you for your generous gifts.

*Norman Parr*

How lovely it was to pick up your good wishes from the card you sent. Colin and I felt really uplifted. Christian love flowed out like the Balin of Gilead. It really soothes the pain of loss. Being wrapped up in the prayers that others are sending up is something hard to describe - Invisibly supportive! Tears of love have flowed and will flow again because it is hard to 'let go' of one we loved who loved us so much too.

It is hard to think our Becky will never see her daughter Hayley pass her finals at Uni, her son Luke achieve his fencing medals etc., never see her grandchildren. We realise more deeply how precious family is that our tears are tears of love but it is hard to hold back at times when they want to choke us instead of waiting for 'a more convenient time'.

I think many of you know some of this anyway and that is why your kind thoughts and prayers are with us at this difficult time. Without our faith all would be pointless but as it is we know we have lives to live to do God's plan, and his

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strength to do it. God bless you all - thanks for your love and prayers

*Sheila and Colin Ashmore*

On 21st June 2014 I Had a notelet from Joyce Marson with whom I keep in touch - we sat next to each other at Church - after my Mother died - and Joyce then moved to Bedford. Her sight is quite poor - but I am able to read her writing. She wrote that she had celebrated - with her family - her 98th birthday . She is always interested to know the news of the Church family.

*Joy Hammond*

### **Home News from abroad**

As many of you will remember we have been supporting our dear friend Dorothy Magai since she returned to her home in Malawi four years ago.

Through no fault of her own the job of Principle Nursing Officer promised on her return failed to appear. Within months, she was having problems with her eyes and it looked like she would require an operation. We collected money to help her travel to the eye hospital and pay for the treatment. Her mother had to have an operation too, on her leg. Without a job, Dorothy decided to help out at the local prison. Conditions there were terrible - they had nothing: not even basic washing facilities and no medical provision at all. She used her own money and some given to her, to buy lotion for scabies and paracetamol for pain relief.

Throughout all this her faith in Christ never wavered. We here in Sherwood prayed with her, and the result, I think, is proof that the Lord not only listens to our prayers but answers them as well.

Dorothy did not need to have the eye operation as her condition improved - drops were used instead, and the money we had collected was returned to our church account. And when she told us of the plight of the prisoners, with the

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approval of the donors, we released this money to Dorothy for their relief, and she was able to bring more support and care to the prisoners.

And now we hear that she has been made Principle of a Nursing College currently running two diploma courses in Nursing and Midwifery and she is 'very busy'.

A consultant and a special "wound nurse" now look after her mothers medical needs and they are both having their eyes tested this week for reading glasses!

This latest new is wonderful and she sends her love and thanks for supporting her with our prayers - "please continue" she asks. It has been a hard journey for Dorothy, but through it all God's arms have been holding her and most of all loving her beyond all that we could ask or think.

*Carol Foote*

## Future Events

### Early Birds

If you like to discuss with friends the bible, every day topics or be prayerful for 30 mins and you cannot get to Talking on the Way, then come along to Early Birds.

The group meets at 9.15am every second Sunday (i.e. 10th Aug, 14<sup>th</sup> Sept). We start with a cuppa with biscuits or brioche depending if someone's in need of breakfast and we finish 10.15 when some stay for the service and others go and face the world. Can you make it?

*Tricia*

**ADVANCE NOTICE:  
CONCERT  
SAT 11 OCTOBER - EVENING**





# The Joy Of Giving

Serving The Community & The Wider World

**The Community Fair** - Saturday 30th August 2014

10.30am until 5.30pm

Admission: Adult £1.00 Children 50p.

- raising money for good causes incl Sherwood URC -

## *The Reformed Players*

*present*

### **“A FUNNY KIND OF DAY”**

Thu 25, Fri 26, Sat 27 September 2014

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

When a wealthy businessman turns up wanting to buy the rights to his magazine, Tim thinks his money problems are solved.

Trouble is, he writes all the articles himself and without the writers there'll be no deal. Time for some desperate measures....

## Past Events

### **Christian Aid Week 2014**

Many thanks to everyone who made the week a great success. A total of £1,784.21 was raised by Sherwood URC, St Martin's and Devon Drive Methodist Church.

Nick Thorley from the East Midlands Christian Aid Office also sends his thanks and writes -

“One of the countries focussed on in Christian Aid Week has been Columbia. Despite being a middle-income country, after 50 years of war Columbia has 5.7 million displaced people. Christian Aid Columbia focuses on the related issues of violence, land and territory, vulnerable communities and human rights. Together with our partner organisations, we have helped many communities back on to their previously stolen land through fighting for it in international courts and continuing to support them after their return. Your efforts really do go a long way in supporting the world’s most vulnerable communities.”

*Beo Lockyer, Christian Aid Treasurer*

## **A Well Kept Secret**

A few months ago a group of Church members discovered that it was David’s 60th Birthday this year on the 4th July, so decided it would be a good idea to hold a surprise Birthday party for him.

Now for this to have any chance of success, it would have to be an ‘inside job’ and a double agent (Tricia) was quickly recruited. Over the coming weeks, menus were discussed and agreed, caterers booked and guests invited. Clearly this had to be an open secret among the congregations of Sherwood, Boulevard, and Chesterfield so how it never got out was nothing short of a miracle.

The day arrived (5th July) and at 4PM the hall was filled with guests all eagerly anticipating David’s arrival. How he got there was left to Tricia. We didn’t have long to wait and David was greeted by 80 guests singing ‘Happy Birthday’, this is the one and only time I have ever known David to be speechless!

The gathering was in the form of an afternoon tea with fresh cream scones and a suitably large birthday cake addressed to both David and Trish (as another little bird had told us that her next birthday was also a significant one).

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Guests were from Sherwood, Boulevard, Chesterfield Churches and family and friends and a fantastic time was had by all. Everyone from Sherwood URC was delighted that Jill Turner and her family could attend.

### **Visit of Brumas**

We were all delighted to see Brumas again (who brought along his friend Duncan to help him with the Service) on 6th July. We enjoyed a bring and share Faith Lunch afterwards and were able to catch up with the news of Duncan and Elizabeth and their family (Elizabeth was unable to come as she was at General Assembly in Cardiff) Thank you to all who contributed in any way to make this a special event.

*Stefan*

## **Articles**

Whilst going through my desk recently I came across a letter written by a previous Minister of Addison Street in January 1982 (the Revd T Elfed Isaac) to John and I, and in it I found this quotation which stirred me

“God gave his children memory  
that they might have June roses in December”

Elfed married my cousin in 1947, and I was one of their bridesmaids, and he was referring to the happy times he spent in Nottingham.

*Pam Whitby*

### **Commitment for Life**

You may remember that in January our worship was led by Sylvia Salmon who spoke about Commitment for Life. Our Harvest service will focus on Commitment for Life and so these few notes are to jog your memories.

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Commitment for Life is the world development programme of the United Reformed Church. Participating churches are encouraged to take action, pray and give for people across the world but especially in the four partner countries of Bangladesh, Central America, Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory and Zimbabwe. In partnership with Christian Aid and The World Development Movement, Commitment for Life raises over half a million pounds a year from contributing churches.

Commitment for Life grew out of the '1% Appeal' which asked local congregations to give a penny in the pound towards development work. The emphasis is on 'Commitment' in Commitment for Life - our individual response as Christians to give ongoing support to improve life for the world's poor. It is a programme of the Church that asks congregations to make a yearly monetary commitment, however large or small, for the long term. This Commitment should also include giving of our time to learning and praying about the partners and the issues that affect them - as individuals and in the life of our Church.

Until the last few years our Church has raised money for this cause and at a recent Church Meeting it was decided that we will reintroduce Commitment for Life and select a partner country. By being part of the scheme we will be committing ourselves to give life to those whose life may otherwise be burdened and hopeless.

*Bev Lockyer*

## **In the Steps of the Saints**

In May, Doreen Fillingham and I joined with friends from St Martin's to visit Assisi and Rome to follow in the steps of St Francis, St Peter and St Paul. We stayed two nights in Assisi and five nights in Rome.

On our first morning in Assisi we met together in the hotel's chapel to have a brief service. The hotel had once been a Franciscan convent. A good beginning for our band of pilgrims. It was a grey, cool day to explore the beautiful

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medieval town. The Upper Town is enclosed within walls and has narrow streets and arches. Although the earthquake in 1997 damaged many churches they have been restored to their former glory.

The Basilica of St Francis is the final resting place of St

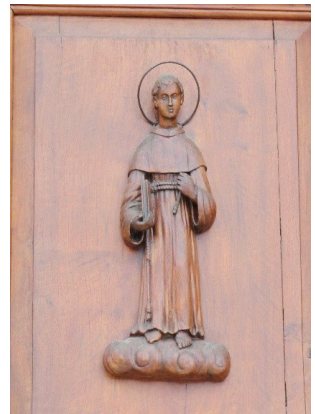
Francis and dominates the view of the town as pilgrims approach it. The church is very decorative and contains a large number of frescoes and paintings. It made me wonder what Francis would have thought about it as the church is a stark contrast to the simple life that he led.

Our guide pointed out one picture known as the “Sunset Madonna.” So called because it receives the best light at sunset. The picture shows Mary with the baby Jesus and St John and St Francis. The story of the painting is that Jesus is asking his mother who loves him most – St John or St Francis? Mary is shown pointing her thumb towards St Francis to indicate that he loves Jesus the most.

The Church of St Claire has a very large cross suspended above the main altar. Tradition states that this cross was the one originally hanging in the church of San Damiano and from which St Francis heard a message from God telling him to rebuild his church.

Our second day in Assisi was also grey and cool. In the Lower Town we visited the Church of St Mary of the Angels. The interior of the church is plainer than the Basilica of St Francis. Inside is the tiny Porziuncola Chapel said to have been restored by Francis.

Just outside the town of Assisi is the Sanctuary of Rivotorto, built in the area where St Francis gathered his first



followers. The church contains a reconstruction of the Sacro Tugurio (or sacred shed) where Francis and his followers lived and worshipped from 1208-1211. Inside the church we sang the hymn “Be still in the presence of the Lord”.



On to the City of Perugia where Francis was imprisoned for a year. It is thought that this experience and the ill health that he suffered as a result of his imprisonment, led Francis to start thinking more about his life. The buildings in Perugia are very impressive. The main

square contains the Fontana Maggiore, a monumental medieval fountain. From Perugia we travelled to Rome.

*To be continued  
in the next Newsletter.*

*Bev Lockyer*

## Offertory and Lettings

	Money in		Money out
	Offertory	Lettings	
May 2014	£1240	£1776	£4032
June 2014	£1548	£1332	£3283
Average per month for 2013	£1136	£1290	£4035

### **Donation:**

The sum of £50 was very kindly donated by the First Aiders at the Sherwood Art Week Craft Fair.

### **Gift Day:**

We have decided to re-instate our annual Gift Day, as a way of raising money for the renovations to the Church. Details of how this will be organised will follow.....

*Carolyn*

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**Diary**

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**August**

Sat 2 10.30am Christian Aid Coffee Morning

Sun 3 10.30am Morning Worship led by David

Sat 9 10.30am Christian Aid Coffee Morning

Sun 10 9.15am Early Birds

10.30am Morning Worship led by Sheila Ashmore

Sat 16 10.30am Christian Aid Coffee Morning

Sun 17 10.30am Morning Worship led by Lionel Anderson

Sat 23 10.30am Christian Aid Coffee Morning

Sun 24 10.30am Morning Worship led by Mike Playdon

Sat 30 10.30am Christian Aid Coffee Morning

10.30am Community Fair - till 5.00pm

Sun 31 10.30am Morning Worship led by David

**September**

Sat 6 10.30am Christian Aid Coffee Morning

Sun 7 10.30am Morning Worship led by Bill Blackamore

Wed 10 2.30pm Talking on the Way - Prayer

Thu 11 7.30pm Elders

Sat 13 10.30am Christian Aid Coffee Morning

Sun 14 9.15am Early Birds

10.30am Morning Worship led by David  
Church Meeting

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Sat 20 10.30am Christian Aid Coffee Morning  
 10.30am Macmillan Coffee Morning at Boulevard  
 U.R.C

Sat 27 10.30am Christian Aid Coffee Morning

Sun 28 10.30am Morning Worship led by David

**October**

Sat 4 10.30am Christian Aid Coffee Morning

Sun 5 10.30am Morning Worship - Harvest ,led by David

**Rotas**

		<b>Flowers</b>	<b>Coffee</b>
<b>August</b>	3		Christine and Barbara
	10	Mavis Seed	Joy and Margaret
	17		Pam and Doreen
	24	Dorothy Gerrie	Jean and Maureen
	31		Christine and Barbara
<b>September</b>	7	Pam Richmond	Joy and Margaret
	14	Joy Hammond	Pam and Doreen
	21	Jean Bull	Jean and Maureen
	28	Mabel Holden	Christine and Barbara

**Flowers:** Each Sunday we enjoy seeing a beautiful bunch of flowers on the communion table, and sometimes in the Garden Room. Can you adopt one of the 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

## Regular Weekly Events

- 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 (last Tue)
- Wed 10.00 - 11.00 Osteoporosis group (Sherwood Hall)  
12.00 noon Prime Time Lunch Club (1<sup>st</sup> & 3rd)  
1.00 - 3.00 Y.M..C.A Active for Life
- 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 cards etc.)  
10.30 am Progressive Christian Network  
(discussion group)

## Magazine Deadline

Please submit your contribution for the next issue of Church News by Sunday 14th September 2014 to David (revdjl@virginmedia.com) or written to Pam (926 8044)

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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

**Prayers for Healing:** *NEW*

A short time of prayer for healing and wholeness in the church following the communion service 11.45am approx.

**'Early Birds'** at 9.15' on the second Sunday  
informal worship & breakfast in the Gallery.

**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:

<b>Church Secretary:</b>	Stefan Janiszewski	07812 975625
<b>Assistant Church Secretary:</b>	Jill Turner	953 2915
<b>Church Treasurer:</b>	Carolyn Belcher	960 3357
<b>Pulpit Supply Secretary:</b>	Bev Lockyer	981 0960
<b>Chair of Management Cttee.</b>	David Hughes	960 4432
<b>Organist:</b>	Marita Chambers	962 5700
<b>Magazine Secretary:</b>	Pam Whitby	926 8044
<b>Flower Secretaries:</b>	Marita Chambers	962 5700
	Sheila Waldron	965 3283
<b>Church Stewarding:</b>	Norman Parr & Pam Whitby	926 8044
<b>Hall Booking enquiries</b>	Send a text to	0795 232 4912
	<i>or use the website</i>	