

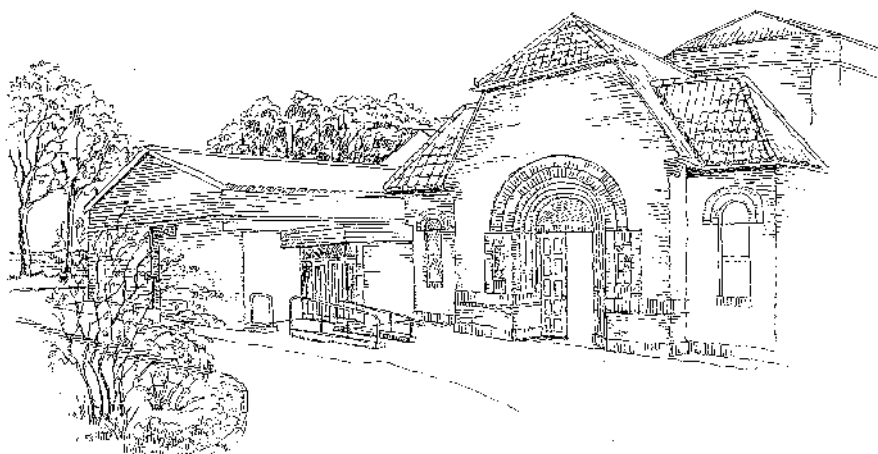


*The*  
United  
Reformed  
Church

# *Sherwood*

1 Edwards Lane,  
Nottingham,  
NG5 3AA

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



## **The Newsletter**

**December 2015 and January 2016**

**Advent to Epiphany**

*Glory to God in the Highest*

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## Minister's Letter

As I start to think about this editions "minister's letter", the already sorry state of the world became even sorer with the indiscriminate shootings and bombing in Paris.

Even as I type that line, I realise that it has only become sorer from the point of view of Europeans and their allies. The world already could not get any sorer from the point of view of those refugees fleeing for their lives. We are not alone in facing this terror.

We in the UK have faced public violence before – not too long ago – from the IRA. In 1996 it came close to our family in Manchester; in 2001 to friends in Birmingham. Those 20<sup>th</sup> century attacks always seemed to be accompanied by warnings. They wanted to disrupt society, but they did not want to kill people (unless they were 'soldiers').

What does seem to be new, and totally shocking, in the more recent attack is the total indifference to people, to human life, to mercy. The 2001 '9/11' attacks on the world trade centre in New York, the 2005 'London bombing', the Paris attacks and other recent events show that there are still a large number of people who, like Hitler, do not believe that *every human being* is a child of God. These acts of terror are calculated to try to *make us think like that*, to try to make us fear everyone who is not like us, to try to make us think they are neither lovable by us nor loved by God.

Christianity allows us to understand that Human Beings are not perfect creatures, that we will make mistakes, we will fail to live up to God's standards, we will sin. But it also tells us that God is far bigger than we could ever imagine: God is love, so much love that he gave his only

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son in order to give forgiveness. And it teaches us that we should love like God love. And in this age of growing fear, we need to tell that to the world – at least to the people who we come across in our part of the world. How can we articulate that?

In preparing the recent 'songs of praise' I rediscovered the wonderful treasury of our Hymns. Here are words – poems - we can learn, remember and share. Look again at the first verse we sang in that service:

*Let us build a house where love can dwell  
and all can safely live.*

Christianity is about the ability to live life to the fullest, it is about making the world a safe place for everyone to do just that

*a place where saints and children  
tell how hearts learn to forgive.*

Saints and Children – this is not just about age, it is those with life experience of faith and those new to faith, or people with different ideas and different ways of thinking and approaching things.

*Built of hopes and dreams and visions,*

This world tries to take away our hope, our dreams and our visions, and tries to replace them with things manufactured.

Christianity thrives on it, and God tells us that "where there is no vision the people perish"

Dare we try to live our dreams

*Rock of faith and vault of grace;*

Faith is trust in God. It has little to do with understanding. Grace is giving to the undeserving: It is what God in

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Jesus did for the whole human race  
in Bethlehem, and later in Jerusalem, all those years ago.

*Here the love of Christ shall end divisions:*

Christianity is about ending divisions. That is exciting –  
but it also hurts because we Christians are experts at  
creating and maintaining divisions.

*All are welcome in this place.*

Because every Human Being is a Child of God

*David*

## Family News

We had a quick “catch up” with **Barbara Bibby** when she  
and her daughter called in to our Christian Aid Coffee  
morning, during a fleeting visit to Nottingham. It was  
good to see her. And she has written to us - see below!

Our thoughts and prayers are with all members and friends  
of our congregation who are unwell, or unable to share in our  
fellowship in any way. We ask your prayers for them and if  
anyone would like to pray for specific people we invite you to  
join our Prayer chain – please phone Carol Foote 9137323

## From our Foreign Correspondent

I thought it was about time I wrote to you all. I would like to  
thank everyone who has sent me cards, given me a ring and  
written letters. They are all appreciated and bring back  
memories of Sherwood URC.

I am settling into life here, I think 50 of the 56  
apartments are now occupied. We have a variety of  
people, most are very friendly and activity groups are  
being formed for the Winter .I have attended two exercise

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groups ( in case you're wondering how I managed ) which involved sitting in a chair.

My daughter, granddaughter and I went to Majorca two weeks ago but we had two days of very unsettled weather. We enjoyed the break and managed some sun.

I am attending Christchurch in Hitchin which is URC/Methodist. They have very large congregations and a thriving young church, I am to be visited tomorrow morning by a deacon. I think Sherwood is more friendly being a smaller group of people who recognise a visitor more easily.

I'm not looking forward to darker nights and wintry weather but I won't have to turn out or be stranded in for weeks. Love to you all

*Barbara Bibby*

## Past Events

### **Smartie Club**

There may be one or two people who do not know about the above Club. This was started by my late Husband John to help with the maintenance of the Church and it involved collecting 5ps in Smartie tubes. This was when the tubes were round and fairly strong cardboard, but now the 5ps (or other small change) can be collected in whatever you like, and the contents handed to me.

So far this year my loyal band of Smartie collectors have raised the wonderful sum of £114.58p. Well done thank you so much.

*Pam W*

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With great thanks to the male voice A capella **Major Oak Chorus**, who not only gave a spectacular performance on the 17<sup>th</sup> October, but also generously donated their fee to our total, we raised £330.50 supporting the work of Rotarians Terry and Val Leivers in India.



It will go a long way to providing benches and tables and other equipment for a whole class of children.

Thanks to everybody who supported this event.

## Future Events

### Volunteers needed!

Can you knit?  
Are you free on a Friday afternoon?  
Yes? Then Seely Primary School needs you!

Their community project for 2015 – 16 is for people who can knit to go in for an hour or so to teach the children and continue to support them as they knit squares towards making baby blankets. Interested? Please tell Tricia!

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**Christmas 2015**

**“Toy” Service Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> Nov at 10:30**

Our Christmas events begin this year with a **“Toy” Service** on Advent Sunday to help “Angel Tree” a local charity to provide a Christmas gift for prisoners children.

**Please note** that because of the nature of this charity we can **only give gifts of money** to allow them to organise the purchase of specific presents.

**Christmas Flowers Sat 5<sup>th</sup> Dec at 10am.**

We would be delighted if you could come and help decorate your Church for the Festive Season.

For the window sills we will use pots of red cyclamen (or other red plants) with holly/ivy and other greenery.

Gifts of plants can be left in the flower room on the Friday (during Open Church) or donations of money towards the flowers can be given to Sheila. Many thanks.

*Sheila*

**The Christmas Fair - Sat 12 Dec**

*Christmas Cup-cakes*

*Mulled Wine*

*Refreshments*

*Mince Pies*

*Coffee*

*Tea*



*Hand Made Cards*

*Objets d'art*

*Lotions*

*Potions*

*Jewellery*

*Textiles*

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The Christmas Fair is organised by Sue and Tricia in support of the church.

It starts at the same time as the Coffee Morning and runs on into the afternoon 10am – 4pm.

### **Beeston Big Band - “Swinging into Christmas”**

**Dec 17<sup>th</sup> from 7.30** Just drop in to hear the Big Band perform Seasonal Music, and members of **the Reformed Players** read some seasonal passages.

No entry charge – just bring a donation.  
Refreshments served.

### **Carols by Candlelight Sun 20<sup>th</sup> 4.30pm.**

We know that you love singing, and have arranged a wonderful opportunity to sing some favourite carols, interspersed with readings serious and amusing.

### **Christmas Eve - Thursday 24<sup>th</sup>**

At 4 o'clock come along to make a **Christingle** to use during the **Crib service (4.30.p.m.** approx)

Come again later at **11pm** when our doors open for a hot drink and perhaps a mince pie to warm you up before the **midnight communion service** which starts at 11.30 and runs on until about 12.15.

### **Christmas Day - Friday 25<sup>th</sup>**

please join us **at 10am**  
here at **Sherwood United Reformed Church**  
for a celebration of the special day  
– bring a present you have received,  
and expect to stay for about ½ hour.

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## Christian Aid



### Give a precious gift this Christmas

As Christmas approaches, we often find ourselves lost in the aisles of shops along with hundreds of other frantic shoppers who have lost sight of the real meaning of Christmas – even the true reason for giving someone a gift.

In Nigeria, many communities have been receiving gifts but haven't necessarily understood what the gift is, or why they need it – does this sound familiar? The gift they have received is a long-lasting insecticide-treated net, which when hung correctly, should protect people from mosquito bites, and potentially deadly malaria.



Malaria is a leading cause of death in Nigeria, with approximately 250,000 children dying every year. It is particularly dangerous for pregnant women to get malaria. What is shocking about this situation is that

it is preventable but many people don't know how to protect themselves.

Christian Aid partners in Nigeria are working hard to teach communities how to protect themselves from malaria. Nurse Dorothy has received training in malaria prevention and management so that she can deal effectively with

malaria cases and share her knowledge with her patients. On the day that, we spoke to her she had just helped to deliver Onuchukwu Okoye's baby boy, Israel. Onuchukwu had attended antenatal sessions with Dorothy so she knew how to avoid getting malaria.

Dorothy's expert care enabled Onuchukwu to protect herself and her baby during pregnancy. Without this help, this story could have had a very different ending.

This Christmas, we are joining with Christian Aid by praying for the work in Nigeria and raising money to support people like Dorothy.

Please stop and remember that, this Christmas, your gifts have the potential to achieve so much. It costs just £3 to buy a long-lasting insecticide-treated net, and £33 to train a primary health worker like Dorothy in malaria prevention and treatment.

Why are we doing this rather than giving to Christian Aid via our Commitment for Life programme? Because the UK Government will again double\* what you give! (\*up to £5 million) – meaning we can transform the lives of even more people living in poverty.



## Articles

### The Cherbourg Experience

Many years ago John, Alison and myself had been caravanning in France, and on our way home were caught up in the Fisherman's strike in Cherbourg.

We were in a car park awaiting to board the ferry surrounded by many hundreds of people.

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Very soon it became obvious that we were going nowhere.

We were very fortunate, we had food, our own facilities, and beds; many around us, some who had only gone to France for the day, others just in cars, were without. There were so many people it was impossible to do much, but we just helped those around us, with tea, hot water to shave, and anything else we could share.

The Cherbourg experience is a good way of life and it applies to church as well. There are many little jobs in the Church to be done: not the ones that need the expert help of our maintenance team, but a little TLC if the plants or flowers need it, if bottles and cans are thrown over onto the garden these can be picked up if you are able and binned, hymn books and bibles may need repairing\*, flowers need to be bought or paid for every Sunday, little contributions are needed for the magazine. And so on...

Maybe if we could just deal with anything around us the little jobs would be done - this includes befriending strangers and newcomers to our premises, and in our daily life whoever we come in contact with.

Wherever you can see something you can do to help, please do it. After all it is your church!  
Let us all in 2016 share the "Cherbourg experience".

\* *I will mend them*

– *if you spot them and give them to me!*

*Pam W*

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**Diary**
**December**

- 2 Wed 11:45 Prime Time
- 3 Thu 11:00 Chill-out
- 4 Fri 10:00 Open Church
- 5 Sat 10:30 Coffee Morning - Christian Aid
- 6 Sun 10:30 Second Sunday in Advent
- 9 Wed 14:30 'Talking on the Way' - Discussion
- 10 Thu 11:00 Chill-out
- 11 Fri 10:00 Open Church
- 12 Sat 10:30 Coffee Morning - Christian Aid
- 13 Sun 10:30 Third Sunday in Advent - visitor
- 17 Thu 11:00 Chill-out
- 18 Fri 10:00 Open Church
- 19 Sat 10:30 Coffee Morning - Christian Aid
- 20 Sun 10:30 Fourth Sunday in Advent  
4.30 Carols by Candle Light
- 21 Mon am Seely School Christmas Services
- 24 Thu 4.00 Christingles  
11.30 Midnight Communion
- 25 Fri 10.00 Christmas Day
- 27 Sun 10:30 Morning Worship

**January**

- 3 Sun 10:30 Morning Worship - Visiting Preacher
- 8 Fri 10:00 Open Church
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**January**

- 9 Sat 10:00 Coffee Morning - Christian Aid  
10 Sun 10:30 Morning Worship  
13 Wed 14:30 Talking on the Way  
14 Thu 10:30 Chill-out  
14 Thu 19:30 Elders' Meeting  
15 Fri 10:00 Open Church  
17 Sun 10:30 Morning Worship  
21 Thu 10:30 Chill-out  
22 Fri 10:00 Open Church  
24 Sun 10:30 Morning Worship  
24 Sun 12:00 Church Meeting  
27 Wed 14:30 Light Refreshment  
28 Thu 10:30 Chill-out  
29 Fri 10:00 Open Church  
31 Sun 10:30 Morning Worship - Visiting Preacher

**February**

- 3 Wed 11:45 Prime Time  
4 Thu 10:30 Chill-out  
5 Fri 10:00 Open Church  
7 Sun 10:30 Morning Worship  
10 Wed 14:30 Talking on the Way  
11 Thu 10:30 Chill-out  
19:30 Elders' Meeting
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**Rotas**

		<b>Flowers</b>	<b>Coffee</b>
<b>December</b>	<b>6</b>	Marita - Xmas flowers	Pam and Doreen
	<b>13</b>	Margaret McAdams	Barbara and Maureen
	<b>20</b>	Mavis Kimbley	Jean and Christine
	<b>27</b>		George and Margaret
<b>January</b>	<b>3</b>	Not available at the time of going to print	Pam and Doreen
	<b>10</b>		Barbara and Maureen
	<b>17</b>		Jean and Christine
	<b>24</b>		George and Margaret
	<b>31</b>		Pam and Doreen
<b>Feb</b>	<b>7</b>		Barbara and Maureen

**Please 'Adopt a free Sunday':**  
 Please **volunteer with Sheila Waldron**  
 to buy or pay for flowers for one of the un-adopted Sundays.

**Regular Weekly Events**

<b>Mon</b>	10.00 - 12noon	Line Dance	<b>M</b>
	6.00 - 7.00pm	Taekwan-Do	<b>S</b>
	5.45 - 6.45pm	FitSteps Health and Fitness	<b>M</b>
	7.30 - 9.00pm	Singing for fun choir (term time)	<b>M</b>
	7.30 - 9.30pm	Yoga Class	<b>S</b>

Regular Weekly Events			15
<b>Tue</b>	11.30 - 1.30pm	Tiny Talk - sign language for babies	M
	3.30 - 8.15pm	Children's Dance Class including various age classes	M
	7.15 - 9.00pm	Sherwood Women's Institute (last Tue)	R
<b>Wed</b>	10.00 -11.30am	Y.M.C.A Active for Life	M
	11.30 - 1.30pm	Y.M.C.A Active for Life	S
	11.30- 1.00pm	Prime Time Lunch Club (1 <sup>st</sup> Wed.)	G+R
	8.00 - 10.00pm	Revival Dance	M
<b>Thu</b>	11.00 - 1.00pm	'Chill Out' drop-in for under fives and their carers	M
	2.00 - 3.00pm	Notts Community Transport(2 <sup>nd</sup> Tue)	R
	6.00 - 7.00pm	Taekwan-Do	S
	7.30 - 9.30pm	Reformed Players	M
	7.30 - 9.30pm	Beeston Big Band practice night	S
<b>Fri</b>	10.00 - 12noon	Open Church (Church open for quiet time)	C+R
	11.00 - 2.00pm	Stroke Club (fortnightly)	M
<b>Sat</b>	10.30 -12.00am	Christian Aid Coffee Morning	R

M: Main Hall; S: Sherwood Hall;  
G: Gallery; R: Garden Room; C: Church

Please check the Website for up to date information

## 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 and wholeness:** Following morning worship  
on the first Sunday of the month (11.45am approx.)

**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:

Christine Hyndman	840 2521	Sue Janiszewski	01623 75 0374
Stefan Janiszewski	01623 75 0374	Bev Lockyer	981 0960
		Pam Richmond	926 3310

**Church Officers:**

<b>Church Secretary:</b>	Stefan Janiszewski	07812 975625
<b>Assistant Church Secretary:</b>	Bev Lockyer	981 0960
<b>Church Treasurer:</b>	Carolyn Belcher	960 3357
<b>Pulpit Supply Secretary:</b>	Bev Lockyer	981 0960
<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

**Hall Booking**                      *Send a text to*                      0795 232 4912  
*or use the website:* [www.sherwoodurc.co.uk](http://www.sherwoodurc.co.uk)

## Magazine Deadline

Please submit **your contribution** for the next issue of Church News  
**by Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2016** at the latest  
written to Pam (926 8044) or by email to David ([revdjl@virginmedia.com](mailto:revdjl@virginmedia.com)).