



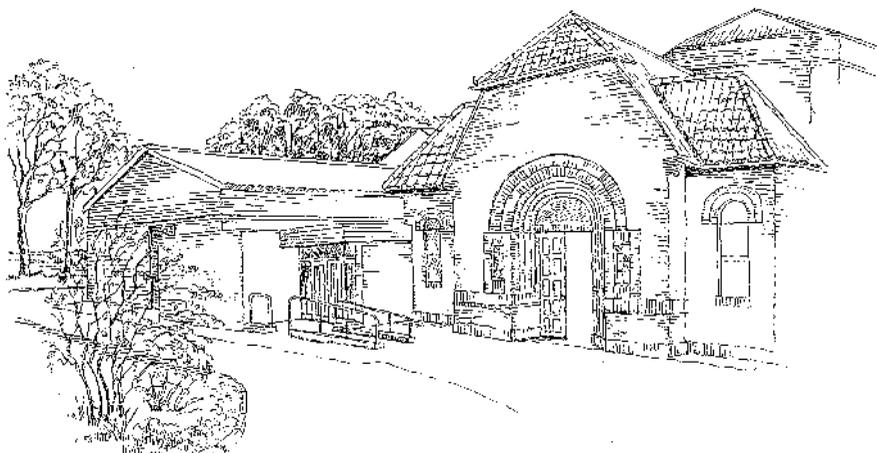
*The*  
United  
Reformed  
Church

# Sherwood

1 Edwards Lane,  
Nottingham,  
NG5 3AA

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

## The Newsletter



**February and March 2015**

Winter

Epiphany to Easter

*One more step along the way I go*

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**Minister's Letter****Mel's daughters wedding**

On the first Sunday of the year, when I was still on holiday, I received a phone call from Mel Attridge asking if it was possible for her daughter **Jessica** to get married to **Tom** her fiancée on the following Saturday, because his mother had suddenly become very ill. In the free churches we conduct weddings by licence of the registrar – the couple have to get permission from the registrars office for the ceremony to be performed at our church. Normally this permission takes three weeks to be granted, but sometimes the registrar is able to grant a 'special licence'. So Tom and Jess applied on the Monday.

On the Tuesday they rang me to say that they had permission. We had three days to plan a wedding! Tuesday evening we had a wedding interview down at church and covered in one evening what usually takes three or four sessions!!!! They had a suit and a wedding dress to choose and fit, a reception to book and plan, people to invite . . . and all the stuff I asked them to do – choose the three Hymns, the two Bible Readings and choose the particular wording for eight sections in the service.

It was late Wednesday when we discovered that Stefan, who we thought was a secondary Authorised Person for the church, was in fact not on the registrar's system – even though he had sent renewal papers in before Christmas (the perils of email!). Thus began a stressful 24 hours as I tried to ring round other URC's to borrow an AP to fill in the registers. It was not until nearly 5 o'clock that one was found – then two more came along like buses within ten minutes! - one of these being Stefan if he could submit a new application in time, which he did. At midday on the Friday, Stefan was duly Authorised and able to register the wedding.

The day came – the first wedding I have conducted where we did not have a practice run a day or two beforehand – but Tom and Jess could just about remember Gemma's wedding from over a

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year ago, and coped admirably. I, of course, had everything printed out and in front of me in my blue folder (but with me that does not necessarily help)!



I was surprised to see flowers in the church other than the roses Sheila had placed on the communion table. Tom and Jess had decided that the church looked lovely as it was, and in the rush flowers were one luxury that could be dropped. Well, a friend who was a florist had turned up out of the blue on the Friday night with an unexpected gift - a brides bouquet and two matching displays for the front of the church! How wonderful!

We sang the Hymns which Tom and Jess had chosen: "Make me a channel of your peace.", "One more step along the world I go" and "The Lord of the Dance" with Marita playing the organ for the bride she had taught in Sunday School. Tom and Jess had chosen all the passages for the service, and had primed friends to read the bible passages: Mark 10:6-9 and 1 Corinthians 13. It was wonderful to see how many people had turned out at short notice – several from our congregation - and the church had only a couple of empty seats as we did not open the partition.

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Following the service, after a short break, an extra wedding cake was cut in the Garden Room, just in case Tom's mum could not make the reception later. We ate the cake with a cuppa, as the photographer (another generous friend) got on with her job – lots of photographs inside and outside. Tom's mum rose to the occasion and thoroughly enjoyed the day.



I hope you can see from the photo's what a happy occasion it was.

Here is Stefan presenting Tom and Jess with their certificate of Marriage

The decision to apply for a special licence was the right one – sadly, Tom's mum passed away on Monday 19<sup>th</sup>.

*David*

## Family News

### An Early Christmas Present

December 3rd came and went with no news - nothing until a phone call on the morning of Dec 14<sup>th</sup> announced the final arrival of our third grandson Ethan, born to Peter & Patricia. Weighing in at a healthy 9lb 1oz he was definitely worth waiting for!

*Stefan & Sue*

It is with sadness we report four deaths in our church family: **Gladys Muriel Slater**, a member of our Prime Time luncheon club, died on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014. We send our condolences to her sons Gordon and Derek and the extended family.

Nottingham Forest has lost one of its most ardent supporters as **George Harvey**, who lived at Ernhale Lodge Care Home in Arnold, died on the 10<sup>th</sup> January 2015. When he was well enough, George regularly attended Church which he loved - and we loved him.

When visiting Cherry, **Bill Rees** would attend our services. Bill had spent Christmas and New Year with his Nieces in Wales when on 6<sup>th</sup> January he died suddenly at their home, surrounded by those he loved. Bill worked for a time in Nottingham and attended Addison Street Congregational Church. We all remember him with affection.

And in the morning of Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> **Margaret Belcher** died as she was getting up. She could not get her breath and as Carolyn was helping her back to her bed, she gently sank to the floor. Paramedics were on the scene within minutes, but they could not revive her. Margaret, Carolyn and Stuart were in church on Christmas day, and are on the photo on page 8.

At the time of writing **Carol Foote** is in QMC receiving treatment for a 'deep seated' infection. Many other folk at church have had a hard couple of months suffering from the various and long lasting **winter**

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**bugs** that have been going round – We hope that the lengthening days will bring you all a strengthening of body, mind and spirit.

Please remember to contact the prayer chain via Carol if there is anyone you would like prayers for or who needs a church visit. Remember also the **“Time of Prayer for Healing”** where you can pray for yourself or for someone else. It will happen immediately after the service on the **first Sunday** of the month. If you want to take part, please do not go for you cuppa, just move to the front of the church. The prayers will start as soon as the church quietens..

A couple of people said they did not come because they thought they might start to cry. I said they would be in good company, as several people do cry! Do not let that put you off. Come and pray.

## Past Events

### Advent and Christmas

#### “Swing into Christmas”



was the title of the evening of entertainment that delighted the audience, given by **The Beeston Big Band** and **The Reformed Players**. On the 11<sup>th</sup> of December.

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“Big Band Sound” interspersed with ‘comical sketches’ made a most enjoyable evening and, although entrance was free, the donation plate collected over £200 for the Church.

*Thank You.*



### **Turning on Sherwood Christmas tree lights.**

We invited adults and children for an hour of warm drinks, biscuits and Christmas activities in the Gallery hosted by Stefan, Sue, Tricia and David. The street outside Wilkinson’s was packed with people for the lighting ceremony, but we were not sure how many would come to us - twenty people joined us and we had to put an extra table up!

The children and parents enjoyed the Christmas activities so much that two parents suggested it would be good to have such a group regularly on one evening during the week. What do you think?

### **Toy Sunday**

The **Toy Sunday** service was the last of our three trial Café Style services in the Hall – an interactive service held entirely in the Hall at the coffee tables.

In our discussion, we compared the two Christmas stories – the secular one with Father Christmas (etc), and the Christian one with Jesus, and contrasted the messages of each. We noticed how far away from the gospel message our secular story has grown – for example, Father Christmas requires you to be ‘good’ in order to get your reward, whereas Jesus gives unconditionally.

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The following day, the tokens and cash given in the 'Toy Sunday' offering were taken down to "Family Care" who were, that very same day, preparing the gifts for distribution. Thank You to the many generous people who gave extra on that day.

### **Carols in Sherwood**

Once again we shared in singing Carols in the community of Sherwood. For the last few years we have been singing inside "The Samuel Hall". (Yes, that's Derek on the left) This time the message had not got through to the manager, so when we arrived there was no place set aside for us to stand and sing. Never-the-less the staff rallied round, and soon had our usual spot clear.



We sang through the "Silent Night Carol Sheet" which used the Christmas Day Football Match to speak about 'Peace on Earth'. These booklets had been handed out to each table courtesy of Sherwood Methodist Church so that everyone could sing along (we did get a couple of requests!)

### **Carols by Candlelight**

Around two dozen people joined us for this non traditional service. We enjoyed singing the well known carols and listening to bible readings and modern readings.

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**Christmas Eve** at 4.00 p.m. a little band of enthusiastic helpers met to prepare the Christingles (oranges decorated with ribbon and candles) - one each for each person to use during the Crib Service. At 4.30 p.m the **Crib Service** took place in the Church with carols and the Nativity story being enacted with readings and building the stable scene.

Later on we gathered 'in the round' for the **Midnight Communion Service**. David read a parody of the Christmas story - "And behold, there were people abiding in the supermarkets, filling up their shopping trolleys by night . ." and again we focused on the difference between our 'secular' and our 'Christian' Christmas, recognising that God in Jesus calls us to be different.

### **Christmas Day**

A few of us gathered for a short service with readings and carols on this special day – again in the round as you can see.



On **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup>** December we still had snow everywhere Bev Lockyer took our Service and the topic was "Carols". It really was "In the Bleak Mid Winter" but the intrepid thirteen who made it thoroughly enjoyed the service.

Perhaps the best thing was that at each of the Christmas eve and Christmas day services we had a couple a folk join us who were new to the church.

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**'Cold' phone calls.**

*From the neighbourhood alert* :A report has been made by a Nottinghamshire resident stating that she was cold called by someone claiming to be from the **County Council**; the caller offered the resident free smoke detectors and informed her that a member of the fire brigade would come and inspect her property. The resident was also asked if she lived alone. *She believed the call to be bogus and did the right thing, - she rang the County Council to verify.*

Nottinghamshire County Council in fact **are working** in partnership with Nottinghamshire Fire & Rescue and District Councils to contact potentially eligible disabled or elderly residents to offer free fire safety checks. If the resident agrees to a free check **a confirmation letter** is sent and Nottinghamshire Fire & Rescue contact the resident to make an appointment. The Home Safety Checks carried out by Nottinghamshire Fire & Rescue officers take about 40 minutes and they will give advice and fit smoke alarm(s) if they are required.

If you do receive a call from someone claiming to be from Nottinghamshire County Council and you are at all unsure about it, **ask for their full name** and say you'll contact them back. Make sure they really do **hang up** – by listening for the dialling tone – and then ring the **County Council on 0300 500 80 80** to verify the identity of the caller. If the caller is bogus they will probably hang up without giving you any details.

The **City Council's number is 0115 915 5555.**

**Trading Standards recommend you ignore cold-callers.** To report suspicious traders in your area, or to receive further advice, please phone Citizens Advice Consumer Service: 03454 04 05 06

*Carolyn*

If you have a computer, then the same advice about cold calls applies. I have had a few calls recently from someone who claims

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that they are from Microsoft. They ask me to switch on my PC and go to a website that will check my PC for a virus they think I might have. They were **very** persistent, even when I told them that I was a computer programmer.

Of course I **did not** look at their website – it would have infected me with a very difficult to remove virus. They would then have sold me an anti-virus program to cure it. It would not have worked (for very long) so I would have to buy it again repeatedly every few months – and I would have given my card details to a criminal.

If someone called you out of the blue, claiming to be a doctor, and started asking you medical questions, would you answer him? If he then told you that you had some illness you didn't know you have -- even though you have no symptoms and feel fine -- would you pay him money to "cure" you? Of course not. So, why would you do that with your PC?

**Never** respond to any cold caller about your computer. They are **never genuine**. Never give them any information about your machine (make or where you bought it) or your internet provider – they will only call back later claiming to be from them!

*David*

## Diary

### February

- |       |                |  |
|-------|----------------|--|
| 1 Sun | 10.30am        | Family Worship - Lionel Anderson<br>& Prayer for Healing |
| 4 Wed | 10.30am        | Prime Time   |
| 5 Thu | 11.00am - 1.00 | Chill Out  |
| 6 Fri | 10.00 - 12noon | Open Church  |
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- 7 Sat 10.30 - 12noon *Christian Aid Coffee Morning*
- 8 Sun 10.30am *Family Worship*
- 11 Wed 2.30pm *Talking on the way*
- 12 Thu 11.00am - 1.00 *Chill Out Elders Meeting*
- 13 Fri 10.00 - 12noon *Open Church*
- 14 Sat 10.30 - 12noon *Christian Aid Coffee Morning*
- 15 Sun 10.30am *Family Worship & Communion*
- 17 Tue **SHROVE TUESDAY**
- 18 Wed **ASH WEDNESDAY**
- Wed 10.30am *Prime Time*
- 19 Thu 11.00am - 1.00 *Chill Out*
- 20 Fri 10.00 - 12noon *Open Church*
- 21 Sat 10.30 - 12noon *Christian Aid Coffee Morning*
- 22 Sun **FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT**
- 10.30am *Family Worship - Bill Blackamore*
- 25 Wed 2.30pm *Light Refreshment*
- 26 Thu 11.00am - 1.00 *Chill Out*
- 27 Fri *Christian Women's Fellowship  
weekend at Swanwick*
- 27 Fri 10.00 - 12noon *Open Church*
- 28 Sat 10.30 - 12noon *Christian Aid Coffee Morning*
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**March**

- 1 Sun 10.30am Family Worship - Sheila Ashmore  
& Prayer for Healing
- 4 Wed 10.30am Prime Time
- 5 Thu 11.00am - 1.00 Chill Out
- 6 Fri 10.00 - 12noon Open Church
- 7 Sat 10.30 - 12noon Christian Aid Coffee Morning
- 8 Sun 10.30am Family Worship
- 11 Wed 2.30pm Talking on the way
- 12 Thu 11.00am - 1.00 Chill Out Elders Meeting
- 13 Fri 10.00 - 12noon Open Church
- 14 Sat 10.30 - 12noon Christian Aid Coffee Morning
- 15 Sun **MOTHERING SUNDAY**  
10.30am Family Worship & Communion
- 18 Wed 10.30am Prime Time
- 19 Thu 11.00am - 1.00 Chill Out
- 20 Fri 10.00 - 12noon Open Church
- 21 Sat 10.30 - 12noon Christian Aid Coffee Morning
- 22 Sun 10.30am Family Worship & Church Meeting
- 25 Wed 2.30pm Light Refreshment
- 26 Thu 11.00am - 1.00 Chill Out
- 27 Fri 10.00 - 12noon Open Church
- 28 Sat 10.30 - 12noon Christian Aid Coffee Morning
- 29 Sun 10.30am Family Worship - Lionel Anderson
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**April**

- 1 Wed 10.30am Prime Time
- 2 Thu 11.00am - 1.00 Chill Out
- 3 Fri 10.00 - 12noon Open Church
- 4 Sat 10.30 - 12noon Christian Aid Coffee Morning
- 5 Sun **EASTER**  
10.30am Easter Sunday Communion

**Rotas**

		<b>Flowers</b>	<b>Coffee</b>
<b>February</b>	1	Pam Richmond	Pam and Doreen
	8		Jean and Maureen
	15	Margaret McAdams	Christine and Barbara
	22	Mavis Seed	George and Margaret
<b>March</b>	1		Pam and Doreen
	8		Jean and Maureen
	15		Christine and Barbara
	22		George and Margaret
	29		Pam and Doreen
<b>Apr</b>	<b>5</b>		Jean and Maureen

***Flowers:** Please volunteer with Sheila Waldron or Marita Chambers to provide flowers for one of the un-adopted Sundays.*

**Regular Weekly Events****at Sherwood U.R.C**

- Mon 10.00 - 12.00 Line Dancing  
5.45 - 6.45 Buena Vida Health and Fitness  
7.30 - 9.00 Singing for fun choir (term time)
- Tue 3.30 - 8.15 Children's Dance Class including  
various age classes  
7.00 - 9.00 Lishi (Taichi and Wushu)  
7.30 - 9.00 Sherwood Women's Institute (4<sup>th</sup> 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 card stalls etc.)  
10.30 am Progressive Christian Network  
(monthly discussion group)

Please check the Website for up to date information

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

**'Early Birds'** at 9.15' on most second Sundays  
informal worship & breakfast in the Gallery.  
*(please check with the minister)*

**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:

David Hughes	960 4432	Sue Janiszewski	01623 75 0374
Kath Hughes	960 4432	Pam Richmond	926 3310
Christine Hyndman	840 2521	Alan Waldron	965 3283
Stefan Janiszewski	01623 75 0374		

**Church Officers:**

<b>Church Secretary:</b>	Stefan Janiszewski	07812 975625
<b>Praayer Chain:</b>	Carol Foote	913 7323
<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
<b>Hall Booking</b>	Send a text to	0795 232 4912
	<i>or use the website:</i> <a href="http://www.sherwoodurc.co.uk">www.sherwoodurc.co.uk</a>	