

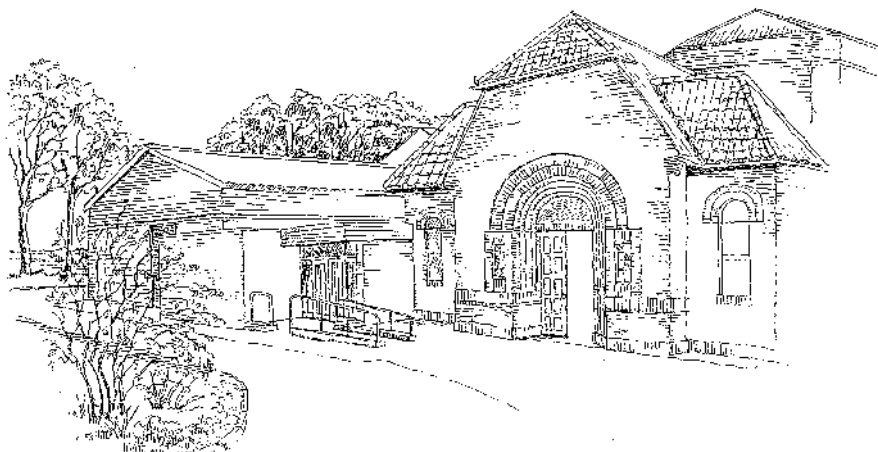


The
United
Reformed
Church

Sherwood

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Nottingham,
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The Newsletter

April to May 2016

Pentecost

“If you cannot do GREAT THINGS
do small things in a GREAT WAY “

Napoleon Hill

Minister's Letter

The deadline for producing this magazine came just before Easter and it was clear that we have no time to create the Magazine in amongst all the Holy Week Activity.

It has however given us the opportunity to present a summary of much of what went on together with some photographs. That has given us a very full magazine – albeit one produced in a shorter time than usual, so I ask your forbearance over any errors or omissions.

The Easter season is a celebration of God's gift of new life – from the cross and tomb in Jesus, and in our lives through Jesus. At the very beginning though Jesus' followers found it very difficult to live out this new life. They were fearful of what the Romans might do to them; they were doubtful of what the others said they had seen; they struggled to make sense of it.

Then the penny dropped. That moment we call Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit gave those disciples a new vision, and led them to build the church.

We are not much different from them. We do not fear the violence of our society, but we do fear the reactions of others when we reveal our Christianity and speak about our faith. We expect others to doubt our experience if we do share it, and sometimes are even doubtful of our own 'second hand' faith – which we still struggle to make sense of.

So let us pray for a new vision as we journey from Easter to Pentecost, and seek god's guidance at our church meetings. Do not forget to **keep your Jan-Feb Magazines**, and bring them to the church meetings, as we look at the U.R.C. Vision 2020 framework to see if it has any light to shine on our life and witness in Sherwood.

David

Family News

We are sad to report the sudden death in hospital of **David Hughes** on 12th March . David joined the Sherwood Church fellowship when Addison Street closed, and was an active member playing his part in many rolls – most recently chair of the Management Group, and Chair of Prime Time Committee. He will be greatly missed by us all and we send our love and prayers to his Wife Kath, children Philippa Gareth and Sara and their families.

It was with sadness that we said farewell to our friend **Maurleen Beryl Dakin** (who had died suddenly and unexpectedly earlier in the month) on 23rd February 2016 firstly with a Service at the Crematorium and then a Service of Thanksgiving in the Church. Maureen had been part of our Church fellowship for some time helping with coffees, and the Prime Time lunch-club. We send our condolences to all the family and also her many friends.

Many congratulations to **Michael and Chrystine Girvan** on their 60th Wedding Anniversary.

It was with great joy on Sunday 13th March that we were able to share in the **renewal of Marriage Vows** taken by Karen & Peter Smith-Eccles. They treated us to a light lunch of Sandwiches and Cakes (including a huge celebration cake) which meant that we had to postpone the Church Meeting.

Now that the hour has gone forward and the nights are drawing out we hope that will bring you all a new lightness of spirit.

Meanwhile please join with us and pray for the Minister, the Elders, and all the members and adherents of the congregation that they may be given the vision and energy needed to be Christ's body today.

Then turn to the back of the magazine and prayer for the health and happiness of all the Hall users.

Future Events**Pilots 'Big Day Out' May 14th**

Pilots will be having a Big Day Out to Belton House near Grantham. It is for folks of any age. So, come and enjoy the fellowship and swell the numbers of U.R.C. Friends.

Christian Aid Week 2016

Jesus calls us to love our neighbour as ourselves. Our Church along with many others can be part of an outpouring of love for our neighbours around the world.

This year Christian Aid Week runs from 15-21 May. Collection envelopes for donations will be handed out on Sunday 15th May and can be placed in the offertory bags until 29th May. Please remember to Gift Aid your donation if you are a tax-payer.

Bev Lockyer

The Reformed Players present

ONE THING AFTER ANOTHER

Thursday Friday Saturday
14, 15, 16 April 7.30pm

Tickets On The Door £4
[includes programme, tea/coffee]

When Bert finds an old box buried on his allotment
he thinks it will change his life.

It certainly does
- but not quite in the way he imagined!

Sherwood Art Week

Once again Sherwood U.R.C. will be hosting the Craft Fair on June 15th. There will be some new stalls and some charity stalls too, and the usual Food and Beverage and Music. Look out for art in the shops, poetry and Art Exhibitions and perhaps some 'yarn bombing'.

Past Events

Boots orchestra



This was a very pleasant evening. The orchestra humorously interspersed pieces from Elgar, Coates, Sullivan and Quilter into the story of the life of Jesse Boot – the founder of “Boots the Chemist” – highlighted with pictures.

The evening made the spectacular sum of £535 for CLIC Sargent. Thank you to everyone who helped!

Tricia

Easter

Maundy Thursday

A rather odd Maundy Thursday as we came to church to find that the boiler was completely dead, so we moved from the upper room of the church stage to the more public gallery, which we could heat quickly with the electric convector heaters. And so we proceeded with the service, interrupted only by a couple of folk coming to do some scenery on the stage, a cat mewing at the Gallery Door (how did that get in?) and the cleaner sneaking quietly into the store cupboard for her vacuum!

I am sure Jesus didn't have *these* problems!

David

Good Friday



Forty five people of all ages, from all the churches, met at our church to begin the walk round Sherwood.

We walked to St. Martins, the Coop car-

park, outside Wilco's, outside the Library, into the new Garden at Sherwood Methodist and finished at St John's. At each stop we read through the story of the last days of Jesus' life, we prayed, and sang a couple of verses from a Hymn. The event was very moving as you felt you were one of the crowd following Jesus as he carried 'his' cross.

Easter Sunday

Thanks to everyone who brightened up the church with the flowers and plants on Easter Sunday. Following David's Easter meditation 12 church friends enjoyed the fellowship of our Easter Breakfast of Cereals, eggs and toast.



The Easter Communion Service followed at the usual time and we worked together to bring the cross to life - everyone was invited to place a couple of daffodil onto the Cross as an acted symbol of our response to God's invitation for us to be bringers of new life as Jesus was.

Tricia

God grant me
serenity to accept the things I cannot change,
courage to change the things I can,
and wisdom to know the difference.

William James (1842-1910)
(Submitted by Doreen)

Articles

Christian Women's Fellowship

89th Annual Convention: Friday 26 Feb – Sun 28 Feb



Pam W, Tricia, Joy and myself made the short journey to Swanwick for the convention. The theme this year was Carrying the Flame and the guest speaker on Saturday was Kelly Wellman, a Baptist minister who has been involved in children's and women's ministry.

Kelly began her talk by reminding us that the theme of the 2012 Olympics was Carrying the Flame. At the beginning of her talk she posed three questions - what are we running for, who are we running with and how can we keep the flame burning?

If we are women in Christ, carrying the flame of God within us, then we have been chosen. "You have not chosen me but I have chosen you." John 15:16

We have been appointed, placed and purposely planted. We have to carry the flame and that requires action. We need to be going somewhere with it and that can be tiring and can feel like a burden. Kelly reminded us that the journey with Christ was never meant to be an easy one but we don't have

to carry the flame alone. The flame is showing the love of God. We are the flame bearers. The flame cannot stand still, it must go into the darkness.

We are running with those who have been appointed, placed and planted and those he wants us to love. It can sometimes be difficult to share love but we love because Christ first loved us. Love – “it always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.” 1 Corinthians 13:7. When we pass on love we pass on the light of Christ. Everyone who doesn’t know the love of Christ lives in the darkness. We need to be the light of love so others can see the truth. By building friendships and relationships, by building our communities we are carrying the flame – so let your light shine.

Christian Women’s Fellowship is a self-organised group of women, mostly from the United Reformed Church. Originally set up to give women the chance to organise and lead worship, the CWF still values the pioneers of the past whilst giving opportunities for modern day women, from all denominations, to shine! Be it in leading a workshop session, leading the morning meditation or evening epilogue, taking part in group work or networking in the coffee areas or bar! It is a weekend of Faith, Fellowship, Friendship, Fun and Food!

Next year is the 90th convention.

It would be lovely if more ladies decided to come along.

Bev Lockyer

My Interest In Synod

Usually when asked to go to Synod we immediately think 'it is a boring meeting and feels like hard work' – but not his time! It was made much more interesting as we had 2 visiting Speakers at the Synod in March.

The first was John Ellis, Moderator of General Assembly, who spoke on "Celebrating our Ministers".

John's talk was clear and entertaining with a serious message about Ministers and deployment. As ministers numbers were dwindling we have to use our ministers well and look after them – they are a gift to the church.

He told us that, as we seek to place fewer ministers in our local churches, quite often several churches in an area are simply collected into a pastorate, and the one with the largest membership would have the largest percent of the minister.



But Mr Ellis pointed out it has been found that it is not good to spread ministers too thinly – given more than three churches, ministers are rarely effective.

Another approach is 'Groups', often with more than one minister looking after a larger number of churches. These can only work if the ministers work with a team of 'lead elders' who each look after their own particular church. But this needs further work as it is a radically different way of understanding Ministry: it would require development of training for the 'lead' Elders and the ministers, and decisions about who can be accepted as 'lead' elders, who the line manager is and so on.

Perhaps instead of thinking of membership numbers as the only criteria we should prioritise according to the work that needs to be done (as we already do in a few 'special category' ministry posts)

So a minister could be placed:

- ◆ where there is a well defined Project to be done; projects being led by the Holy Spirit/mission.
- ◆ Where a congregation has grown in the last 2 years
- ◆ Where the need is (e.g. there is no other church serving that village or suburb)
- ◆ to serve a United Church – i.e. involving the U.R.C. and other denomination(s).

John's talk ended with telling us all that we should pray for the church and work towards supporting new patterns of ministry in the years ahead. He reminded us that 'The Minister' is a gift of the whole church and not the property of one church therefore we should celebrate and pray for all our ministers.

The second guest speaker was Stephen Tomkins, Editor of Reform. He gave us a fascinating talk about the evolution of our denominational Magazine, and explained how they are moving towards making it more of a resource for its readers – church members, worship leaders, and elders.



Reform is available as a paper magazine on subscription, or online. New members can receive a number of copies free. The Synod Office (which is on our premises) gets complimentary copies to distribute, which they often place in our Foyer. If you want to see one, just ask me, David or one of the secretaries – it is actually a good read!

The next Synod is on 8th October in Hinkley.
Do you want to come?

Tricia

Diary

April

- 1 Fri 10:00 Open Church
3 Sun 10:30 Morning Worship - Sheila Ashmore
6 Wed 11:45 Prime Time
8 Fri 10:00 Open Church
9 Sat 10:00 Coffee Morning - Christian Aid
10 Sun 10:30 Morning Worship - Barry Drake
13 Wed 14:30 Talking on the Way
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
27 Wed 14:30 Light Refreshment
28 Thu 10:30 Chill-out
29 Fri 10:00 Open Church

May

- 1 Sun 10:30 Morning Worship
4 Wed 11:45 Prime Time
5 Thu 10:30 Chill-out
6 Fri 10:00 Open Church
8 Sun 10:30 Morning Worship - Sheila Ashmore
11 Wed 14:30 Talking on the Way
-

12	Thu	10:30	Chill-out
12	Thu	19:30	Elders' Meeting
13	Fri	10:00	Open Church
14	Sat	10:00	Coffee Morning - Christian Aid
15	Sun	10:30	PENTECOST Morning Worship - Pentecost
19	Thu	10:30	Chill-out
20	Fri	10:00	Open Church
22	Sun	10:30	Morning Worship
22	Sun	12:00	Church Meeting
25	Wed	14:30	Light Refreshment
26	Thu	10:30	Chill-out
27	Fri	10:00	Open Church
29	Sun	10:30	Morning Worship

June

1	Wed	11:45	Prime Time
3	Fri	10:00	Open Church
5	Sun	10:30	Morning Worship - Deborah Baird
8	Wed	14:30	Talking on the Way
9	Thu	10:30	Chill-out
9	Thu	19:30	Elders' Meeting
10	Fri	10:00	Open Church
11	Sat	10:00	Coffee Morning - Christian Aid

Rotas

		Flowers	Coffee
April	3		Jean and Christine
	10		George and Margaret
	17	Pam Whitby	Pam and Doreen
	24		Karen and Peter
May	1	Margaret McAdams	Jean and Christine
	8	Pam Richmond	George and Margaret
	15		Pam and Doreen
	22		Karen and Peter
	29		Jean and Christine
Jun	7		George and Margaret

Coffee Rota: Barbara is at the moment without a partner . If you would like to help her on the coffee rota then please speak to her. In the meantime she may be available to fill in.

Flower Rota: Please volunteer to Sheila Waldron if you can 'cover' the flowers one Sunday

Regular Weekly Events

Mon	6.00 - 7.00	Taekwan-Do	S
	5.45 - 6.45	FitSteps Health and Fitness	M
	7.30 - 9.00	Singing for fun choir (term time)	M
	7.30 - 9.00	Yoga Class	S
Tue	9.30 - 1.30	Tiny Talk - sign language for babies	M
	3.30 - 8.15	Children's Dance Class including various age classes	M
	7.30 - 9.00	Sherwood Women's Institute (4 th Tue)	C
Wed	12.00 noon	Prime Time Lunch Club (1 st Wed.)	G
	11.30 - 13.30	Y.M.C.A Active for Life	M, S
	18.45 - 19.45	Samba	M
	20.00 - 22.00	Revival Dance	M
Thu	11.00 - 1.00pm	'Chill Out' drop-in for under fives and their carers	M
	6.00 - 7.00pm	Taekwan-Do	S
	7.30 pm	Reformed Players	M
	7.30 pm	Beeston Big Band practice night	S
Fri	10.00-12 noon	Open Door (Church open for quiet time)	C
	11.00 am	Stroke Club (fortnightly)	M
Sat	10.30 am	Christian Aid Coffee Morning	C
	1.30 - 4pm	Elderly Reminisce Friendship Club (4 th Sat.) in aid of Age U.K	G

M: Main Hall; S: Sherwood Hall; G: Gallery; C: Church Garden Room
Please check the Website for up to date information

