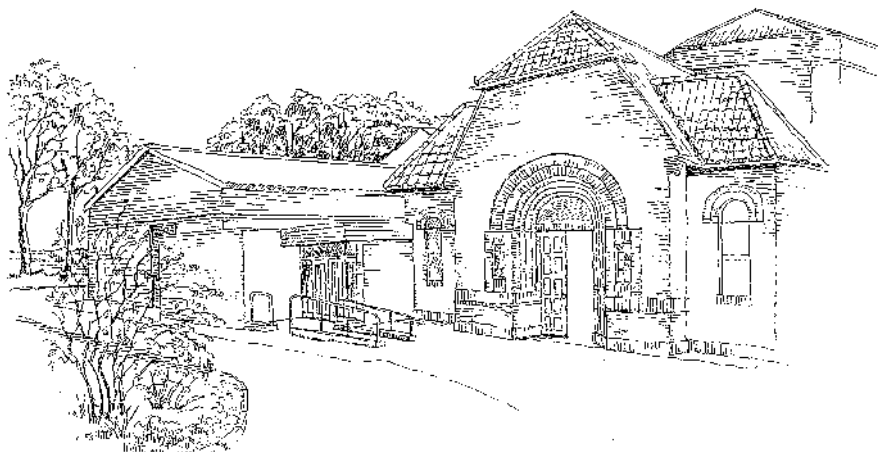




The **Sherwood**
**United
Reformed
Church**

1 Edwards Lane,
Nottingham,
NG5 3AA

www.sherwoodurc.co.uk



The Newsletter

August and September 2016

Summer and early Autumn

“Keep your face always towards the sunshine
and shadows will fall behind you.”

Walt Whitman

Ministers Letter

In our Vision 2020 survey results Identity was clearly at the top of our list, followed by evangelism, spirituality and growth, and with Diversity and Justice following close after.

When I reported this to you in the June - July magazine, I said that the visit of the Assembly Moderator in November would be the time to launch whatever we do to tackle the top four, and I asked if you had any ideas!

To start things off, here is my spin on it.

Well, it is all about **Growth**

(or is it – the answer to that depends on you!)

If we are followers of Jesus, then we have to acknowledge the last of all of his commands. To go and make disciples. Is that not the primary purpose of the church?

Evangelism (to some a frightening word) is about our willingness and ability to share with others the good news of Jesus Christ.

Growth is simply the fruits of this linked with our being able to make space in this place, in the fellowship for others, and welcoming, nurturing and encouraging them.

Growth as a church is built on . . .

Identity is about who we are

Christians

Christians in the reformed tradition

Christians with a Congregational,

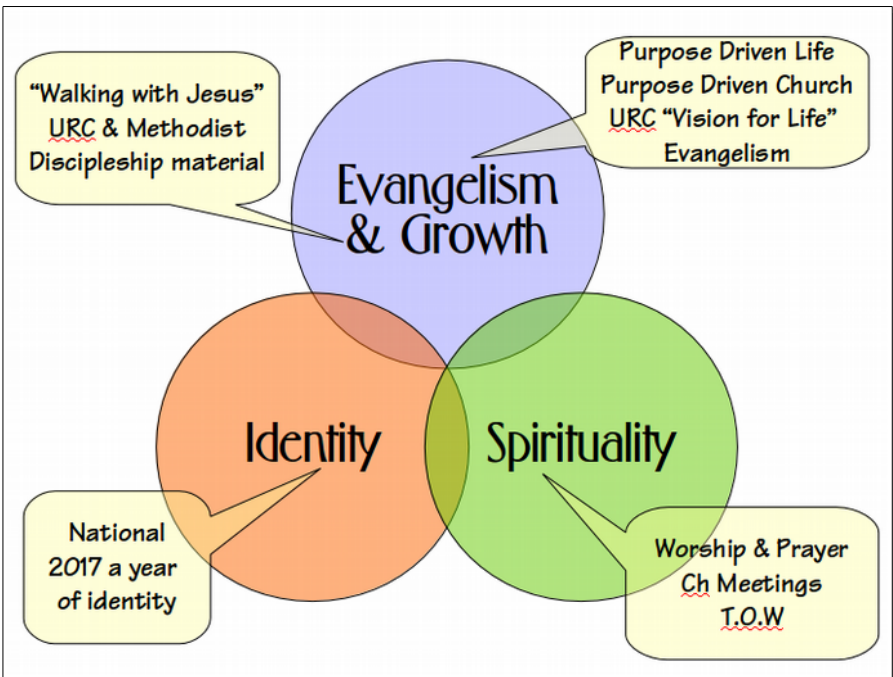
Presbyterian,

and Churches of Christ background.

Spirituality is about what we are - people shaped by our relationship with God. through Jesus and the Holy Spirit. It is about our prayer life and our worship life.

Growth is should be the fruits of our Spirituality and Identity linked with our being able to make space in this fellowship for others, and welcoming, nurturing and encouraging them.

So, if we know who we are and what we are then we can do what we are supposed to do.
(and that will include issues of Justice and Diversity)



All of this can be drawn under one heading – **Discipleship**.

It turns out the every successful church – local and denominational – runs on a discipleship model. Mainstream churches have almost forgotten it.

The United Reformed Church and the Methodist Church are working together on putting an emphasis on discipleship over the next few years.

Our journey could run like this:

2017 – is the national year of **Identity** for the URC. We should join in - starting with the visit of the Moderator of General Assembly in November – and remind ourselves of what the Reformed Church offered (and offers) to society.

Our **Spirituality** – our faith – is strengthened locally in our worship & prayer, and in discussion in church meetings and Talking on the Way. This too should be a focus of our life in 2017, and it should link in with the theme of our identity.

Then, focussing on **Discipleship** (which will embrace Justice and Diversity) using the new Methodist/ United Reformed “Walking with Jesus” material, we will work for, expect and encourage **growth** remembering that . . .

**we are a church, a Christian church,
so we always need to be focussed
on the life and work of Jesus.**

And now for your ideas!

*During my Sabbatical
which runs through August, September and October
I will spend some time praying, thinking and planning
for this work.
I hope you will too.*

David

PS. Have a look at “A blast from the past” on page 10.

Family News

Thank you message from Joyce Marson

What a lovely surprise to open a card on my 100th Birthday from all my friends at Sherwood, and then to read the article in the Sherwood Newsletter. I had no idea George and I were so well remembered by you all.

I had a lovely Birthday Party on Saturday at Wendy's house with four generations of my family present and the Minister and some friends from Bunyan Meeting Church here in Bedford. I attended Church on the Sunday and was serenaded by the Congregation, and later in the day opened my Royal Greeting card and many more. A truly memorable weekend. Thank you

Summer is coming, and as I sit and type this, the temperature inside our cool house is a balmy 28°C. Some people love those sort of temperatures, for others it makes life difficult. Over the summer some people will be away on a holiday while others will not have that luxury. Whatever you do and however you enjoy the weather we will be given, please in your prayers remember every member and friend of the church.

Past Events

Craft Fair and Quilting Display

June 18th saw The Sherwood Art Week 'Secret Garden Craft Fair' once more at the URC. As usual the grounds and the Sherwood Hall were bursting with stalls.



In the Main Hall alongside the Sherwood Sunrisers' Strawberry teas, was a huge display of Sherwood Children's Art, and the church itself was literally covered over with the most exquisite quilts made by members of the Stitches and Plains Quilting Group who are based in Arnold.

You can see more photographs on sherwoodartweek.co.uk .

**Seely School
sings with the Daytime Singers**



On Thursday 23rd a small choir from Seely School joined Music for Everyone's Daytime Singers for a Master Class. This began with warming up and vocal chord exercises which conductor Phil Smith made really fun. It then moved

onto a practice and performance of a song which both choirs sang together.

The children sang 'One in a Million' and the Daytime Singers then sang for the children. They continued with a short concert for the audience as the children walked back to school. The concert was free, but donations raised £60.00 towards the music department of the school.

We thank Mavis K, Ruth and Terry for helping out at short notice.

Our Celebration



The Church held a celebratory lunch on 5th June for our own members and friends together with representatives from our Sister Church at the Boulevard who we were delighted to welcome. Several of our members have Birthdays or Anniversaries ending with an 0 – 50, 60, 70, 80, and 90 during the year and it was also the 80th birthday of the Pilots, a good excuse for a "get together" for everyone to celebrate just being part of the church community.

We all sat down to a delicious Sunday lunch with a choice of beef or salmon followed by apple crumble or pavlova, a good time was had by all. Our thanks go to the Caterers

"Creative Flavours" and to the members who helped with the preparation and clearing up of the hall.

Prime Time Trip

On Wednesday 6th July the Sharpes Coach pulled up outside the church car park, and its lift deployed to help get on board Gordon and Carol and one or two others who didn't fancy the steps.



Our journey took us up along Mansfield Road, then along the A614 through Ollerton and on to Clumber Park. We drove down 'Lime Tree Avenue', and turned in towards the cricket pitch, just behind which is the fairly new 'Garden Tea House' where we were booked for Lunch. We blocked the narrow road for 15 mins or so, preventing groundsmen from reaching their depot – they were all good natured about it.

Dinner was a full roast with dessert. I had Pork followed by Rhubarb Crumble. It was not as hot as it should have been, but was beautifully cooked – they clearly were not used to serving the entire restaurant all at the same time (we filled it!). After lunch there was a small garden stall to look at, while we sat in the lovely garden of the restaurant

enjoying the wonderful weather and our after dinner tea or coffee.

Future

Harvest Festival

Our Harvest Festival will be celebrated on Sun 2nd of October at 10.30am when the visiting worship leader will be the Synod Moderator Revd Peter Meek. Please book this in your diaries, and support our Moderator.

Look out for details closer to the time regarding decorating the church for this day.

Articles

Wanted – your used stamps



When I was a child I collected postage stamps, in fact I still have my Stanley Gibbons stamp album from that time. I am still collecting stamps but now I donate them to the Leprosy Mission. It might be difficult to believe that used stamps can help transform the life of someone affected by leprosy, but they can. Over the past 30 years, TLM stamps

& collectables has raised more than £1 million to help people affected by leprosy. It takes a few seconds to rescue a used stamp from an envelope destined for the recycling bin but, by doing so, healthcare and opportunities can be provided to people in desperate need. Learn more here: <http://www.leprosymission.org.uk/about-us-and-leprosy/how-we-help/>

The Leprosy Mission is an international Christian charity with 141 years of experience. The Leprosy Mission's global family serves a population of 305 million people in around 30 leprosy-affected countries. There is still quite a stigma attached to having leprosy and people living with leprosy are often marginalised in society, denied basic human rights, and targeted by discriminatory legislation.

We can do a little bit to support the marvellous work of the charity by donating our used stamps. The charity welcomes donations of all types of stamps, even the most common. It is better for stamps to be left on their backing and not be soaked off. Just leave about an inch border around each stamp.

Used stamps can be given to Marita or myself.

Bev Lockyer

A blast from the past

The old records of our churches (Sherwood and Addison Street) are kept in the County Archives. We knew that there were some church magazines missing, and Pam Whitby (and perhaps others) have been filling in the gaps. Well, we now think that final gap has been filled with the discovery of a magazine from May 1970.

Written forty five years ago – when your present minister was still at school – it is interesting that the church (and the minister) then was facing similar questions to those we face today. He, the Revd Cyril Lucraft speaking to the Notts Congregational Union, wanted to *concentrate attention on some of our good points believing that if we made more of these and developed along the line of our strengths the net result could only be the enrichment of Our Christian witness;*

One of my favourite stories is that of the farmer who decided to sell his farm and called in a local estate agent.

The agent went all over the farm and took careful note of everything he saw. A few weeks later the farmer received through the post an attractive brochure in which the agent had set out the good points of the farmer's property. The farmer was surprised and delighted by what he read and telephoned the agent. "Are you-sure you haven't made a mistake" he said "this really is my farm?" "Yes" said the agent "there is no mistake". "Well in that case" said the farmer, "I've decided not to sell the farm after all. You see it's just the kind of property I've been looking for all my life!".

Christians today are somewhat in the position of that farmer. Our assessment of the Church has become jaded and dull and we are too readily depressed by its faults and Shortcomings. We need someone to come along and open our eyes to some of the more attractive qualities possessed by the Church.

My thought on reading that story was that we need to be estate agents regarding the church, believing that there are many people in this corner of our world who have been looking for it all their life!

Revd Cyril then went on to open the readers eyes to three 'qualities' trying very hard to be positive.

Under 'our strength in fellowship' he tackled "Diversity" – which back in the '70s meant striving to be less middle class! It was a light weight approach to "Everybody's Welcome" which we did some years ago. There is still work to be done here today.

Under 'our depth in worship' he said that worship was a resource which refreshes people, and gives them a balance to be able to make good decisions in life. He also said we the church needed to re-examine its forms of worship *to see that we are using the most effective and meaningful way of expressing our love for Christ in today's terms*, and that the church needed to recapture *that spirit of exuberant joy which marked the worship of the New Testament Church*. We are in exactly the same place today

Thirdly he praised the quality of our members. *I never cease to be heartened by the splendid witness of so many devoted and dedicated Christians . . . and the many who are prepared to go on [voluntarily] putting hundreds of man hours in the service of the church.*

Today's members are of that same quality, but they are getting even fewer and older. Nowadays we need to find ways of being the church – attractive ways, Gospel ways – that do not drive us to exhaustion.

David

Diary

August

- 3 Wed 11:45 Prime Time
7 Sun 10:30 Morning Worship - Sheila Ashmore
10 Wed 14:30 Talking on the Way
11 Thu 19:30 Elders' Meeting
13 Sat 10:00 Coffee Morning - Christian Aid
14 Sun 10:30 Morning Worship - Richard Turnbull
21 Sun 10:30 Morning Worship - Barry Drake
28 Sun 10:30 Morning Worship - Bev Lockyer

September

- 1 Thu 10:30 Chill-out
4 Sun 10:30 Morning Worship - Sheila Ashmore
7 Wed 11:45 Prime Time
8 Thu 10:30 Chill-out
8 Thu 19:30 Elders' Meeting
10 Sat 10:00 Coffee Morning - Christian Aid
11 Sun 10:30 Morning Worship- Jane Henderson
15 Thu 10:30 Chill-out
18 Sun 10:30 Morning Worship- Stefan Janiszewski
22 Thu 10:30 Chill-out
25 Sun 10:30 Morning Worship- Helen Lidgett
28 Wed 14:30 Light Refreshment
-

29 Thu 10:30 Chill-out

October

- 2 Sun 10:30 Harvest Festival
- The Synod Moderator Revd Peter Meek
- 5 Wed 11:45 Prime Time
- 6 Thu 10:30 Chill-out
- 8 Sat 10:00 Coffee Morning - Christian Aid
- 9 Sun 10:30 Morning Worship - Raymond Parker

Rotas

		Flowers	Coffee
August	7	Mavis Seed	Pam and Doreen
	14	Joy Hammond	Jean and Christine
	21		George and Margaret
	28		Pam and Doreen
September	4	Pam Richmond	Jean and Christine
	11		George and Margaret
	18		Pam and Doreen
	25	Jean Bull	Jean and Christine
Oct	2		George and Margaret

Can you adopt a Sundays for the Flowers, perhaps to commemorate someone or some event, or simply just to support the church?

Yes? Please make your offer to Sheila Waldron

Regular Weekly Events

at Sherwood U.R.C

Mon	10.00-12.00	Line Dance	M
	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	3.30 - 8.15	Emma Cain Dance Class	M
	09.30 - 2.30	Toddler Talk (sign language)	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
	10.30 - 13.30	Y.M.C.A Active for Life	M, S
	7.00 - 7.45	Zumba M	
	8.00 - 10.00	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	Church open for quiet time	C
	11.00 - 1.30	Stroke Club (fortnightly)	M
Sat	10.30 - 12.00	Christian Aid Coffee Morning	C

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

**Please note that some of the activities
may have a Summer break**

General Information

Minister: Revd David Legge
Please contact Elders via Bev or Stefan during the minister's Sabbatical

WORSHIP

Sunday Morning at 10.30 with activities for children.
with communion on the third Sunday of the month

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	Pam	Richmond	926 3310
Stefan Janiszewski	01623 750374	Karen	Smith-Eccles	07921 468818
Sue Janiszewska	01623 750374	Alan	Waldron	965 3283
Bev Lockyer	981 0960			

Church Officers:

Church Secretary:	Stefan Janiszewski	07812 975625
Assistant Church Secretary:	Bev Lockyer	981 0960
Church Treasurer:	Carolyn Belcher	960 3357
Pulpit Supply Secretary:	Bev Lockyer	981 0960
Organist:	Marita Chambers	962 5700
Magazine Secretary:	Pam Whitby	926 8044
Flower Secretaries:	Sheila Waldron	965 3283
Church Stewarding:	Norman Parr & Pam Whitby	926 8044

Hall Booking *Send a text to* 0795 232 4912
or use the website: www.sherwoodurc.co.uk

Magazine Deadline

Please submit **your contribution** for the next issue of Church News
by Sunday 11th September 2016 at the latest
written to Pam (926 8044)
or by email to Stefan (sherwood.urc@ntlworld.com),