



The
**United
Reformed
Church**

Sherwood

1 Edwards Lane,
Nottingham,
G5 3AA

www.sherwoodurc.co.uk



The Newsletter

December 2016 to January 2017

Advent to Epiphany

God in Jesus welcoming us all

Welcome Back

Our Minister **David Legge** returned to us at the beginning of November from his three month sabbatical. We have missed you David. and pleased to have you back, trust you are feeling rested and ready to take up the reins again.

Many thanks to everyone who helped out with Worship and other duties during David's sabbatical.

Minister's Letter

For me the sabbatical began with a good holiday. Usually ministers tack their sabbatical onto the end of two weeks holiday. My sabbatical was organised somewhat hastily (I had not realised it was due and had thought to postpone it a year, but had to take it this year and so it overlapped two weeks already booked – one week of which is deferred to next year.)



It began with a week in Dorset, where we visited a couple of NT properties, and revelled in the countryside – I could hardly believe it was nearly as beautiful as Derbyshire! Then we moved over to Cornwall

for a week – more National Trust, some beautiful walks, stunning views. Although we did not get to actual Poldark country, we did visit a pumping house and saw the engine in steam.

Then a long weekend in a B&B at the southern end of the Chiltern's, most memorable for the swarm (4) of hornets in our attic room when we arrived! This was the base for a visit to one of our godsons who we rarely see as he owns a café and struggles to get away, and a day trip to Oxford.

As we were walking through the narrow streets of Oxford we were held up by a crowd, gathered loosely round a street barrow of coloured balloons, and waiting in anticipation for something – a street entertainer we



wondered. Then came a shout "Right, you can pass by now if you want to". We did so, and realised that they were filming a scene from 'Endeavour' (the prequel to 'Morse'). We watched for a while as they discussed the intricacies of the piece, and Thursday and Strange waited on the corner until told to go into St Helen's Passage and do it again! We watched this for a couple of 'takes' until we got bored and continued our walk around the city, pausing to speak to some actors waiting patiently in an old Ford Cortina. We bought tickets for a guided tour of the Bodleian Library and then walked up past Keeble College and into one of the University Parks (the 'backs') where we had a snack and watched the students punting along the Cherwell. When we got back to the Bodleian, Thursday and Strange (still in character, looking at but totally ignoring the crowd) were in the same place filming the same clip!

After a few days at home to wash our clothes and relax, we moved onto a week at Holiday Forum in Swanwick.



I was impressed by their persistence, and thought that we could do with some of that in the church. We can get disillusioned and give up so easily when things move slowly.

This was led by Michael Jagessar (who had coincidentally been involved in leading our Ministers Summer School in the same venue in June). The theme was "At Home in a Strange Place", and the week was centred around the URC's 'Living Conversations' materials which are designed to help folk think about and discover what life is actually like from the perspective of other people. We may find some of that material feeding into our deliberations in Sherwood in the next year.

The day after Forum finished we were at Greenbelt, another conference, this one under canvas (but we stayed with friend and colleague Revd Martha McInnes in the manse in Wellingborough!) Here we were treated to some 'big names' like John Bell, on 'Missing Women' (key women in the Bible who we tend to ignore or forget); Sally Magnusson on 'Remember who I am?' - coping with a relative with dementia; The Archbishop of Canterbury on being an Archbishop. We spent some time in and around the URC tent. For us though, the highlight of the weekend was with *several thousand* campers and day visitors sharing in a



Communion Service *led entirely by the children;*

Then we were back to reality – Tricia started back at work so we were back in Nottingham at least for the first half of each week. I tried to think about how can we present the gospel

to people who are not familiar with church or church language, and who do not place the bible any higher than any other book. We can not start in any of the places we would start as Christians. I thought I had got some notions at the back of my mind, but discovered that it was a lot harder question than I had thought. Where can we start? What can we present that would catch the interest of non church folk and lead people to think about the life and teaching of Jesus?

This thinking was punctuated by a couple of shows in London, helping our younger son to move out and down to Birmingham where his new job is, helping our niece Zoe move back to her student digs in Nottingham, and then for me a stinking lingering cold.

Some of the books I had pulled off my shelf which I thought would help me actually didn't. Then I found a book in a bookshop next to a DK guide to mindfulness that seemed to be just what I was looking for. I read it from cover to cover (rare for me!). It was a good read, and it showed me where we can perhaps start from, but the book itself had a different purpose in mind, and it will have to be read again to mine the information I need.

I ended the sabbatical refreshed but with more questions than answers. I hope that you will help me answer them over the next year or two, as we have living conversations about our faith and our future.

So, how has it been for you?

What have *you learned as a church*

during the time that you had 'no minister'?

As we are moving quickly toward a time of rapidly decreasing numbers of ordained Ministers these lessons may be vital, so please share your thoughts and experiences with me or one of the elders..

David

Family News

Mavis Kimbley visited **Ted Sheppard** who wishes to be remembered to everyone.

Anyone who remembers **Jenny Quick** (nee Masser) might be interested to know she has a new granddaughter Ruby Mae a daughter for Tom born on 6th September 8lbs 12oz.

Many thanks to everyone for their prayers and thoughts at the death of **Jean Birkinshaw**. She visited Sherwood on a number of occasions with her son Peter, when she was able to.

Please continue to pray for anyone connected with the Church, especially if they come unbidden into your mind – it might be God prompting you!

Past Events

Moderator of General Assembly, Mr Alan Yates, lead Morning Worship at Sherwood United Reformed Church on Sunday 6 Nov. We were joined by the congregation of Gregory Boulevard URC (The Bridge) and one or two people from other churches.



The United Reformed Church has two Moderators of General Assembly, one a Minister of the URC (currently Revd Kevin Watson) and one an Elder of the URC – Alan. Elected to serve for two years, they chair the biennial General Assembly and its Mission Council which meets in between. These meetings oversee the work of the church nationally. The Moderators are also the URC's figureheads, chairing major meetings and representing the denomination internally, at home and abroad.

Alan's theme was "People of the Way", which is the Moderators theme for the URC as a whole over their two years, and is one of the earliest names applied to Christians. We are People of the Way, people who try to take their lead from Jesus in the way they live their lives in today's world. The name appears in the famous passage in Acts 9:1-6 where Saul is seeking to arrest any Followers of the Way - instead he became a follower himself!

After the Service and our usual "cuppa", forty of us went into the Hall for a lunch of Roast Pork or Fish Pie followed by Eton Mess, Fruit Salad, or Jam Sponge. It was a delicious meal and most enjoyable fellowship.

Our thanks go to the Caterers, and the many other people who made the event so memorable. Special thanks to Bev who we understand lost a few nights sleep over the preparations in the weeks leading up to the event.

David, Pam and Stefan

Future Events

Christmas in Sherwood with the United Reformed Church

We will be arranging the "**Christmas Flowers**"
from **10.30.a.m.** on **Thursday 8th** .

Once again we have decided to use pots of red cyclamen (or other red plants) and holly/ivy and decorative greenery for the window sills.

We would be delighted if you could come and help decorate the Church for the Festive Season, so please come along to Church at 10 30a.m.

If you prefer gifts of money towards flowers can be given to Sheila.. Many thanks.

The Christmas Fair – Sat 10 Dec

*Christmassy Cakes**Craft Beers**Refreshments**Coffee**Tea**Hand Made Cards**Leather, Wood**Photography**Jewellery**. . . and more*

organised by Sue Janiszewski in support of the church
Starts at the same time as the Coffee Morning
and runs on into the afternoon 10am – 4pm.

Beeston Big Band

are **Swinging into Christmas once again**

Dec 15th 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 18th 4.30pm.

This is instead of the morning Service

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 - Saturday 24th

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

. . . and 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 - Sunday 25th

please join us **at 10am**
here at **Sherwood United Reformed Church**
for a celebration of the special day.
Bring a present you have received to show everyone..

Other Christmas Events

We would like to bring your attention to a Concert on which is raising money for **Haven Housing** – a provider of quick access supported accommodation for older homeless people in Nottingham.

The concert is being performed by Students of Music Teacher Dawn Parri-Sawdon. It starts at **5.00pm on Saturday 17th December**, and will run on, after an interval, to about 7.30.

Our Advent Appeal

This year **instead of Toy Sunday** we are supporting the Jericho Road Project who work around the Forest with some of the most vulnerable women in Nottingham. **There will be a special collection each Sunday over Advent for this cause.** This is what they write about their work:

Throughout 2016 The Jericho Project, based at St Andrew's on Mapperley Road, engaged with 161 different women, (68 of these were new!). We have continued to engage with women working in the sex industry on the streets of our city through two or three outreaches per week. Women are visited whilst in prison, and can access help and support through our Life Centre drop-in. We are now visiting women working in an off-street setting in five different venues.

There are continuing challenges and opportunities to develop what we do as we seek to bring God's light into dark places. Many of these vulnerable women that we work with, who are caught in a cycle of drugs, violence and fear, are unaccustomed to acts of kindness. Often weeks can go by before someone takes the time to ask them how they are and listen to them. We believe that God can bring hope and transform the most hopeless of situations for these women.

The project is funded from a number of sources. This includes churches, individuals, grants and trusts and comprises one-off gifts and regular giving. We have an ongoing programme of applying to grant and trust funds but this is becoming increasingly competitive and it can be particularly difficult to find funders who are willing to support faith-based charities.

Diary
**December**

- | | | | |
|----|-----|-------|--|
| 1 | Thu | 10:30 | Chill-out |
| 4 | Sun | 10:30 | Morning Worship |
| 7 | Wed | 11:45 | Prime Time |
| 8 | Thu | 10:30 | Chill-out |
| 10 | Sat | 10:00 | Coffee Morning – Christian Aid |
| 11 | Sun | 10:30 | Morning Worship - Visiting Preacher |
| 15 | Thu | 10:30 | Chill-out |
| 18 | Sun | 16:00 | Carols by Candle Light
(note: No Morning Worship) |
| 24 | Sat | 16:00 | Christmas Eve - Christingle |
| | | 11:30 | Christmas Eve - Communion |
| 25 | Sun | 10:30 | Morning Worship - Christmas day |

**January**

- | | | | |
|---|-----|-------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 | Sun | 10:30 | Morning Worship - Visiting Preacher |
| 4 | Wed | 11:45 | Prime Time |
-

5	Thu	10:30	Chill-out
7	Sat	10:00	Coffee Morning – Christian Aid
8	Sun	10:30	Morning Worship - D.J.L
11	Wed	14:30	Talking on the Way - Discussion
		19:30	Elders' Meeting
12	Thu	10:30	Chill-out
14	Sat	10:00	Coffee Morning – Christian Aid
15	Sun	10:30	Morning Worship - Visiting Preacher
19	Thu	10:30	Chill-out
21	Sat	10:00	Coffee Morning – Christian Aid
22	Sun	10:30	Morning Worship - D.J.L
25	Wed	10:00	Christmas Day
25	Wed	14:30	Light Refreshment
26	Thu	10:30	Chill-out
28	Sat	10:00	Coffee Morning – Christian Aid
29	Sun	10:30	Morning Worship - D.J.L
29	Sun	12:00	Church Meeting

February

1	Wed	11:45	Prime Time
2	Thu	10:30	Chill-out
4	Sat	10:00	Coffee Morning – Christian Aid
5	Sun	10:30	Morning Worship - Visiting Preacher
8	Wed	14:30	Talking on the Way - Discussion

Rotas

		Flowers	Coffee
December	4		Jean and Christine
	11	M.McAdams XMAS	George and Margaret
	18		Pam and Doreen
	25	Mavis Kimbley	Karen and Peter
January	1		Jean and Christine
	8		George and Margaret
	15	Joy Hammond	Pam and Doreen
	22	Jean Bull	Karen and Peter
	28		Jean and Christine
Feb	4		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

Magazine Deadline

Please submit **your contribution** for the next issue of Church News by **Sunday 15th January 2017** at the latest either to Pam (926 8044) to be typed, or by email to David (revdjl@virginmedia.com) or Stefan (sherwood.urc@ntlworld.com),

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	9.30 – 2.30	Toddler Talk (sign language)	M
	3.30 – 8.15	Emma Cain Dance Class	M
	7.30 – 9.00	Sherwood Women's Institute (<i>last Tue</i>)	C
Wed	10.30 – 1.30	Y.M.C.A Active for Life	M
	12.00 – 1.30	Prime Time Lunch Club (1 st Wed.)	G
	7.00 – 7.45	Zumba	M
	8.00 – 10.00	Revival Dance	M
Thu	11.00 – 1.00	'Chill Out' drop-in (<i>term time</i>) for under fives and their carers	M
	6.00 – 7.00	Taekwan-Do	S
	7.30 – 9.30	Reformed Players	M
	7.30 – 9.30	Beeston Big Band practice night	S
Fri	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

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
Check inside the magazine for special services
which may be at other times

Voluntary offerings maintain the work of the Church and details of planned giving can be obtained from Alison Taylor, Gift Aid Secretary (07757 311531)

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 Ch. Secretary:	Bev Lockyer	981 0960
Church Treasurer:		
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