



*The*  
**United  
Reformed  
Church**

# *Sherwood*

1 Edwards Lane,  
Nottingham,  
NG5 3AA

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



## **The Newsletter**

August and September 2017

*Harness the wind of change  
to sail to exciting new places*    unknown

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## Ministers Letter

### Looking Ahead

At what turned out to be a very full Church Meeting in July we continued our discussions about what we do as a church, with an eye to planning for the year 2020 when the number of ministers in our denomination is set to fall dramatically.

To some people it looks grim. To others it does not. Recently there was a vacancy visit for a group of churches who had just lost their minister who had moved across the country. The Moderator and the other synod representatives were expecting a difficult meeting, for they had to tell them that there was no prospect of them calling a minister. Moreover, the sort of ministry that would eventually be available would not look at all like the sort of ministry that churches are used to. It will require much more of that sort of leadership from the Elders and the church members. The meeting was a surprise: not only were the churches expecting the news, but several people in each church saw it as being quite exciting.

Here at Sherwood we know that we have to plan to organise our church's life in such a way that we can maintain what we do with the resources and people that we have but without 'a minister'. The form that ordained ministry will take in 2020 and beyond is still being worked out. That discussion will form a large part of the October Synod Meeting and will continue through to the March 2018 Synod.

So we began our planning at the May church meeting by attempting to list everything we do. This list was typed out and circulated to inform our discussion in July. We did not get on to talking about the list, apart from the question of Rotas. We have rotas for counting the collection, Elders vestry duty, Eld-

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ers communion serving, bible reading, leading intercessions, door stewarding, after worship refreshments, leading Junior Church, and leading worship.

The problem we face is the number of people being willing to go on a rota is reducing. It used to be that a name appeared on a rota every 8 weeks or so. That is no longer the case. Either more people are needed, or we have to agree that some of these 'jobs' may have to cease being done by people on a rota.

Normally names are removed from a rota on request, but sometimes they are dropped accidentally. If this happens to you, please help Bev, our current rota organiser, by speaking to her, or better slip her a note. If you feel called to go on a rota, again please see Bev. Remember, your minister, church secretaries and elders need all the help they can get!

Some of the jobs on our rotas we have just got to do and if possible share – for example, counting the offering securely is a legal requirement. Others could be done by the worship leader – reading the Bible and leading intercessions. It would look strange if there was no one on the doors to welcome you on a Sunday, or no one to make the worship leader at home when they arrive, or no one to serve communion – but there may be other ways of organising this than a rota.

However, there is also a shortage of lay preachers, so in the future it will not just be about the Bible reading and intercessions, but whole acts worship. Some churches locally are starting to organise worship groups to lead in this way. The service they do is perhaps simpler and shorter, but it is still a full act of worship. Some of the most moving acts of worship I have attended have been lead by local church members and not trained leaders. Is this somewhere we must go?

The continuation of this discussion was deferred to another meeting. It will have no other business, and will probably be

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held on August 20<sup>th</sup> There I hope we will come to a decision on Rotas, and begin to look at other priorities. All of this needs to be shaped with an answer to the question "what is the church for?". Is it to see us through? Is it simply to offer weekly worship? Is it to 'make a difference' in some other way as it says on our Mission Statement in the Foyer. Is that statement still valid for us?

This desire to 'make a difference' has led many churches to focus on community work where we (the church) offer a service to them (the community). This is not the only model. We can make a difference by facilitating and enabling other people to do the sort of work we would like to do ourselves if only we were a bit younger! This is how we manage to have such a spectacular craft fair each June – it is organised by the Sherwood Art Week Community Group but we host it. That is not a trivial job, but once a year we find we can rise to it. It may be that we seek continuation of Chill Out, or a replacement for Prime Time by seeking partners in this way.

*David*

## Family News

It was a privilege for me to be invited to lead the funeral service for **Arnold Gangasingh**. Arnold and his family were from Trinidad, and the Traditional 'Presbyterian' service was shot through with Trinidadian tradition. It was most noticeable at the grave side where, after the committal, the young(er) men took up the shovels and filled in the grave as we watched and sang Hymns (traditional and pentecostal).

Thanks to Stefan & Tricia for stewarding so early in the morning, and to Ruth for playing the organ.

*David*

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Please remember the members and friends of the church in your prayers, and especially this month Terry, Gordon and Christine, the Trings, Carol, and Karen.

### Car Park Thefts

At the time of writing, one person had her car broken into and some personal items taken. It was during the day, and the fire doors of the Hall were open, so the thief was quite brazen. During the Lace City Chorus Concert there were a couple of youths loitering in the Car Park **Please, when you park at the church, lock up securely and do not leave anything on display.**

### What's Coming up!

#### Harvest

This year, Harvest will be celebrated on the first Sunday in October. We ask that your offerings are in the form of non perishable goods, as it is nigh on impossible to find a home for fresh fruit and veg these days. The goods will be sent to The Friary Project.

#### Concert – Phoenix Singers

Our Autumn Concert on October 21<sup>st</sup> at around 7.30pm is a traditional SATB Choir that sings a range of popular songs, and songs from the shows and musicals. It is the third time they will have performed at Sherwood. "We will have to have them back again" was a comment made after their second show. Well, they beat us to it – they asked to come to us! Put the date in your diary now.

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## What Happened?

### SAW



Once again the Sherwood Art week was launched with the Secret Garden Craft Fair on our Car Park, Garden and Halls.

It is a wonderful opportunity to become part of the community in Sherwood.

There are not only 45

craft stalls, but also Hot Food, Cakes, Afternoon Teas and Real Ale - so you could sit outside on the grass, watch people milling round and listen to the live music being performed in the back garden.

Inside the church 'Bricks-4-Kidz' provided a place for youngsters to get creative with Lego. This is one event which definitely puts Sherwood United Reformed Church on the map!

### Reformation Study Day

Just over thirty people gathered at Sherwood United Reformed Church in Nottingham for a Synod Study Day led by Revd Dr David Cornick. David, a United Reformed Church minister and past General Secretary, who is now the General Secretary of Churches Together in England.

Our day included lectures on three aspects of the Reformation: What Happened in Europe; What Happened in Britain; and Liv-

ing with the (long reaching) consequences. General questions followed, and a discussion on how, with our local churches together groups, we could celebrate the 500th anniversary of what Luther unleashed by



pinning those famous 95 theses on the door of his church.

The day was wrapped in worship, led by Revd Geoffrey Clarke, our Deputy Synod Moderator, and assisted by Revd Martha. More details: [http://www.sherwoodurc.co.uk/ref\\_study\\_day](http://www.sherwoodurc.co.uk/ref_study_day)

## Lace City Chorus

Nottingham's 2017 UK & Netherlands Gold Medal Winning A - Cappella Chorus with their Musical Director Glen gave us a fascinating evening on Saturday 22nd July.



In the first half, we were treated to an overview of the development of the Music that led to modern day A Cappella. Starting with plainsong (Gregorian Chant) where everyone sings exactly the same thing running through to the development of Close Harmony A-Cappella (or 'Barbershop') music.

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A-Cappella indicates that they sing unaccompanied (with no musical instruments), and Close Harmony that the parts stay within two and a half octaves - about half of the range of a traditional SATB Choir.

After the interval the chorus sang through some of their repertoire, culminating in a performance of their medal winning pieces. It was magic! See more photos on the website.

With a raffle and a surprise donation to 'round up the amount', we were able to raise £300.00 for Christian Aid .

*David*

## Articles

### Billy's House

At Light Refreshments in June Anne Hicks brought staff member Norma to talk about Billy's House.

Billy Greenall had a pain in his tummy when he was three. His mother Laura took him to their doctor in Ashbourne, near to their home. Diagnosed with kidney cancer He was Referred to the QMC nearly 50 miles away – a round trip of 100 miles. So began two years of treatment. His mother or father at first took turns to stay with him on the ward leaving two sisters aged 5 and 2 at home with a Nanny.

On the ward of 16 beds, there was a Z bed for each parent to stay beside their child. One shower, one kettle and one microwave was shared with all the families on the ward'. Billy's mum said, ' We all yearned for some privacy but at the same time could not bear not to be near our children who needed us. The initial six week treatment was followed by frequent treatment as an out patient. The family moved into a rented flat in

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The Park to help Billy to see his sisters and for the family to be together. They realised that most families aren't able to do this and so in 2007 Billy's parents embarked on a huge project to build a Home from Home in Nottingham, setting a target of £2 million to buy and equip a house where families could stay.

Billy is now in remission, but 'his' House is in Nottingham opposite the QMC backing on to the ring road. Here parents can stay so that they are near their child during treatment. Here the child can take a break from the ward environment. Here the child can stay too if they do not need to occupy a bed, but does need to be near the hospital. The house is run by CLIC Sargent who aim to have one such house near every specialist cancer treating Hospital in the UK.

After hearing the story, we saw some photographs of the impressive inside of Billy's house – including the wallpaper designed just for the house by Laurence Llewelyn-Bowen!

Since the meeting we received a Card from Norma to thank us for our hospitality and generosity – we gave well over £30 which is just a drop in the ocean of £71,000 which it cost to run the house each year.

*David*

## Walsingham

In May, Howard and I had a few days in Norfolk and spent one day visiting Walsingham. Walsingham consists of two villages joined together - Little Walsingham and Great Walsingham. The village is famed for its religious shrines in honour of the Virgin Mary and is a major pilgrimage centre.

We had a late breakfast in the café within the grounds of the Anglican Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham. (I had a very fine

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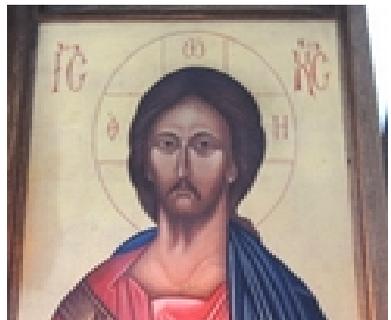


toasted teacake). The shrine was built in 1931 and established by Father Alfred Hope Patten who was part of the Anglo-Catholic tradition and there is a very definite Catholic feel to the interior of the Church.

The Church also houses an Orthodox Chapel. After the Russian Revolution many exiled Orthodox Christians visited Walsingham and space was made available for them to worship. The Chapel was blessed in 1945. The gardens were very peaceful and very colourful and we felt like we could sit in them all day but there were more churches to see.

After a visit to the ruins of Walsingham Abbey the next church we visited was the Roman Catholic Church of the Annunciation which has a traditional round Norfolk tower. It was built in 2006 on the site of an old 'temporary' church from the 1950s. The stained glass window of a fish was very impressive.

On the site of a former railway station booking hall and ticket office stands St Seraphim's. The chapel was founded in 1967 for the local Orthodox community. It is now a Pilgrim Chapel without a congregation but open to all visitors. A service is held there on 19<sup>th</sup> July to celebrate St

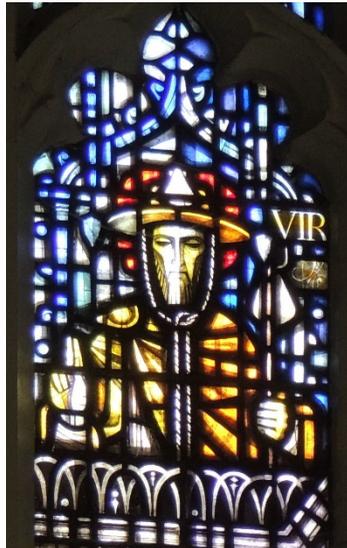


Seraphim's day. There are a number of icons on display in the Chapel and information available in the entrance area about icon painting. The very large garden at the side of the Chapel is

a work in progress and we congratulated the lady who was tiding for her efforts as she appears to be the sole gardener for the project.

According to a tourist leaflet there is a scenic walk to the Slipper Chapel at the Roman Catholic National Shrine. Medieval pilgrims removed their shoes to walk the last mile to Walsingham. Some modern pilgrims still continue this tradition. We drove there. As there was a service on in the Slipper Chapel during the time we were there we were unable to see inside the Chapel. There is a large outdoor seating area where services are conducted when weather permits. However, the modern main Church is also of a good size. We sat in the garden and enjoyed an ice cream. It is hard work being on a pilgrimage!

We next visited the parish church of St Mary and All Saints in Little Walsingham which has been restored after a fire in 1961. There is a wall plaque to George Ratcliffe Woodward who introduced the Anglo-Catholic tradition to St Mary's. He also composed the carol "Ding Dong Merrily on High."



The stained glass in the east window is very modern. Two panels include images of the two main pilgrimage locations in the Middle Ages – St Thomas of Canterbury and St James of Compostella (Spain).

There is certainly a lot to see in Walsingham and we were lucky that we had picked a day when the village was not too busy with visitors. If you ever get to that part of Norfolk do try and visit. As well as the religious sites the village has some interesting buildings too.



PS

- Howard and I had a brief stop in Hunstanton and we were very impressed to see that David and Tricia had apparently branched out into a new business called Café Legge!

*Bev Lockyer*

## Diary

### August

5	Sat	10:00 Coffee Morning – Christian Aid
6	Sun	10:30 Morning Worship - Sheila Ashmore
9	Wed	14:30 Talking on the Way - Discussion
12	Sat	10:00 Coffee Morning – Christian Aid
13	Sun	10:30 Morning Worship - Helen Lidgett
19	Sat	10:00 Coffee Morning – Christian Aid
20	Sun	10:30 Morning Worship - D.J.L
23	Wed	14:30 Light Refreshment
26	Sat	10:00 Coffee Morning – Christian Aid
27	Sun	10:30 Morning Worship - Geoff Ware

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**September**

- 2 Sat 10:00 Coffee Morning – Christian Aid  
3 Sun 10:30 Morning Worship - Deborah Baird  
6 Wed 11:45 Prime Time  
7 Thu 10:30 Chill-out  
9 Sat 10:00 Coffee Morning – Christian Aid  
10 Sun 10:30 Morning Worship - D.J.L  
13 Wed 14:30 Talking on the Way - Discussion  
13 Wed 19:30 Elders' Meeting  
14 Thu 10:30 Chill-out  
16 Sat 10:00 Coffee Morning – Christian Aid  
17 Sun 10:30 Morning Worship - D.J.L  
17 Sun 12:00 Church Meeting  
21 Thu 10:30 Chill-out  
23 Sat 10:00 Coffee Morning – Christian Aid  
24 Sun 10:30 Morning Worship - Sheila Ashmore  
27 Wed 14:30 Light Refreshment  
28 Thu 10:30 Chill-out  
30 Sat 10:00 Coffee Morning – Christian Aid

**October**

- 1 Sun 10:30 Morning Worship – D.J.L Harvest  
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 - Sheila Ashmore  
11 Wed 14:30 Talking on the Way - Discussion  
11 Wed 19:30 Elders' Meeting  
12 Thu 10:30 Chill-out  
14 Sat 10:00 Coffee Morning – Christian Aid  
15 Sun 10:30 Morning Worship - Stefan
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**Rotas**

		<b>Flowers</b>	<b>Coffee</b>	<b>Vestry</b>
<b>August</b>	6		Pam & Doreen	Bev Lockyer
	13	Joy Hammond	Jean & Christine	Doreen Fillingham
	20		<b>Volunteers required</b>	Stefan Janiszewski
	27		George & Margaret	Alan Waldron
<b>September</b>	3	Pam Richmond	Pam & Doreen	Pam Richmond
	10		Jean & Christine	Stefan Janiszewski
	17		<b>Volunteers Required</b>	Bev Lockyer
	24	Jean Bull	George & Margaret	Alison Taylor
<b>Oct</b>	1		Pam & Doreen	Sue Janiszewski
	8		Jean & Christine	Pam Richmond

		<b>Reader 1</b>	<b>Reader 2</b>	<b>Prayers</b>
<b>August</b>	6	Howard Clarke	Joy Hammond	Stefan
	13	Doreen Fillingham	Mavis Seed	Joy
	20	Pam Whitby	Norman Parr	Tricia
	27	Roy Musgrove	Barbara Musgrove	Roy
<b>September</b>	3	Alan Waldron	Mavis Kimbley	Stefan
	10	Joy Hammond	Stefan Janiszewski	Joy
	17	Mavis Seed	Jean Bull	Tricia
	24		Bev Lockyer	Roy
<b>Oct</b>	1		Sheila Waldron	Stefan
	8		Doreen Fillingham	Joy

## Regular Weekly Events

### at Sherwood U.R.C

<b>Mon</b>	10.00 – 12.00	Line Dance	M
	6.00 – 7.00	Taekwan-Do	S
	6.00 – 6.45	FitSteps Health and Fitness	M
	7.30 – 9.00	Singing for fun choir (term time)	M
	7.30 – 9.00	Yoga Class	C
<b>Tue</b>	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 (last Tue)	C
<b>Wed</b>	12.00 – 1.30	Prime Time Lunch Club (1 <sup>st</sup> Wed.)	G
		Talking on the Way discussion 2 <sup>nd</sup> Wed	C
		Light Refreshment – friendship 4 <sup>th</sup> Wed	C
	7.00 – 7.45	Zumba	M
	8.00 – 10.00	Revival Dance	M
<b>Thu</b>	11.00 – 1.00	‘Chill Out’ drop-in (term time) for under fives and their carers	M
	6.00 – 6.45	FitSteps Health and Fitness	M
	7.30 – 9.30	Reformed Players	M
	7.30 – 9.30	Beeston Big Band practice night	C
<b>Fri</b>	11.00 – 1.30	Stroke Club (fortnightly)	M
<b>Sat</b>	10.30 – 12.00	Christian Aid Coffee Morning	C

M: Main Hall; S: Sherwood Hall; G: Gallery; C: Church Garden Room  
From September the Sherwood Hall will not be available

## 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  
**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](http://www.sherwoodurc.co.uk)

### Magazine Deadline

Please submit your contribution for the next issue of Church News by Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at the latest to Pam (926 8044) or by email to David (revdjl@virginmedia.com) or Stefan (sherwood.urc@ntlworld.com),