

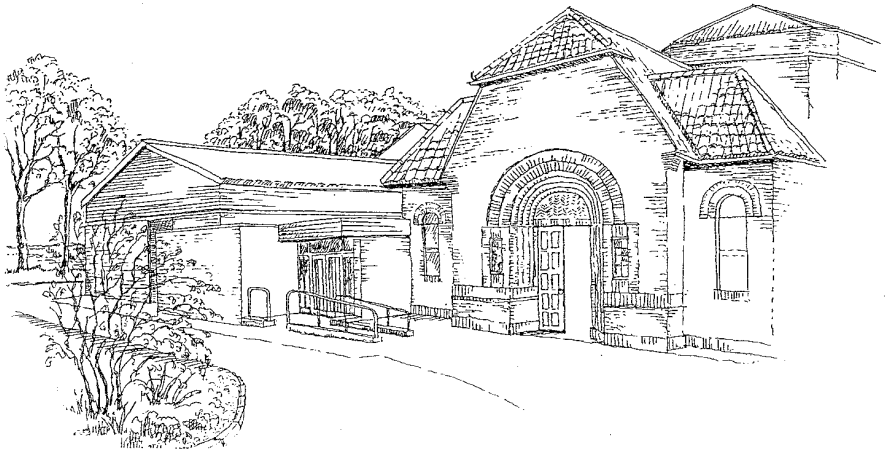


The
**United
Reformed
Church**

Sherwood

1 Edwards Lane,
Nottingham,
NG5 3AA

www.sherwoodurc.co.uk



The Newsletter

April – May 2018

Christ the Lord is risen – Alleluia

Minister's Letter

There is a fascinating new programme on the BBC called Pilgrimage, in which six celebrities walk part of the The Camino de Santiago, the pilgrim way that runs from in France 800km to the shrine of the apostle Saint James the Great in the cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in Galicia in north-western Spain.

The celebrities are Debbie McGee, Neil Morrissey, comedian Ed Byrne, singer Heather Small from M People, Reverend Kate Bottley, and investigative journalist Raphael Rowe. Ed Byrne, patron of the Humanist Society was the only one who seemed to be enjoying the walk. In contrast Kate Bottley was grumpy and almost swearing at the hills (those who met her at CWM last year will know that she is not a walker!) As they walked the celebrities talked – about God, faith, the church, themselves, and we the viewers had the privilege to listen in. You can watch it on BBC iPlayer.

Early on in the walk it began to rain, and so they elected to take refuge in a church they were passing, but three of them could not bring themselves to go in and stayed outside sheltering in the lee of the building. It was about the unease they had about even going into a Christian building that spoke, to them, about coercion and control. Even Heather Small, a committed Christian, was having problems - not so much with her faith but with the church and its slavery supporting past which had frequently been made alive again in the racial prejudice she had herself encountered in churches! Even the icons and images, so frequently white, alienated her. (Jesus was not white, and neither was Mary).

Here we are in episode one and we are faced with a huge problem for the church – it is understood by many people to be an instrument and control, a thing that denies freedom, and something that is based on a lie.

This Newsletter is due to come out just before Easter. Easter is the time when we celebrate the greatest gift in Christianity – that God offers new life to all.

Central to Easter is the idea the Jesus was raised to new life after his execution on the cross – this is seen as part of the lie by those people who see life in a strictly scientific way, and need factual evidence. (In the program there was a conversation about the 'lie' of the virgin birth)

One of the reasons for not doing the walk of witness on Good Friday this year was 'what does carrying an instrument of torture and execution say to onlookers about our Christian faith'? Is not Christianity really about setting people free (Luke 4:18), and enabling them to live life in all its fullness (John 10:10)?

What do you think about the church?

Does your faith mean freedom for you, or the opposite?

How can we as a church offer new life

– to ourselves, and to others?

Happy Easter!

Lay Preacher in Training

David Litchfield is an Elder from the Dales doing his third year TLS – the URC's Lay Preachers Course. As part of this year he has to lead several acts of worship in a church other than his own, and so he will be leading four acts of worship here at Sherwood, one of which will be assessed by a college tutor. The other three will be assessed by me – so don't be surprised to see me sitting in the congregation!

This is quite a daunting experience for a trainee lay preacher, and so I hope that you make him welcome, and offer your support and encouragement.

General Data Protection Regulation and the Newsletter

The new General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) kick in during the life of this magazine, and this restricts slightly what we can publish without getting prior written consent. The elders are getting their heads around this and more details will be shared at a future Church Meeting, but it means that from this magazine we will not be 'naming' people as liberally as we once might have done.

It also means that if you want anything in the magazine, you will have to write it down and sign it, or send it typed by email – to show you have given your consent!

David

Family News

It is sad to record the deaths of Revd Barry Drake and our good friend Revd David Turner who both passed away since the last magazine was printed. We send our condolences to both families.

Carol Foote's Thanksgiving Service was held at Sherwood U.R.C on the 9th February. We were delighted to welcome so many of Carol's relatives and friends to the Service prior to the interment at Beeston.

There are many people in this fellowship who are ill, or have lost a loved one, or who are celebrating a special birthday. Your prayers for the members and friends of our fellowship are appreciated.

Thanks

I would like to thank the many kind people who phoned, sent messages, and cards following my recent operation.

Jean Bull

What's Happened?

Christian Women's Fellowship

23rd February was a date we had been looking forward to for several months - it was the Christian Women's Fellowship weekend at Swanwick. Five of us assembled at the Church, waiting for our taxi. With this method of transport we were all able to travel together which was great. Several of us had been to the C.W.F weekends before so on arrival we had such a warm welcome, friends seeing one another again. The whole weekend was most enjoyable. In addition to the religious aspect, you could join a variety of workshops or go walking around the area, or simply take some time out. We had a weekend of good companionship and good weather all the time dry, sunny but very cold.

The theme speaker was the Revd Kate Coleman – the first Black Baptist Minister. She was telling us that if we want our lives to be in balance we must attend to 'Inside Growth' and 'Outside Growth'. As she spoke to us in at the conference, it became clear that she was also speaking to our churches – speaking to us, to you!

'Inside Growth' is personal growth for each person and deals with the inner world of our heart and mind - both important to God. It is important to look after them as we are God's vessel.

Kate presented this to us as a bible study using the biblical example of Moses (Exodus 2). You will remember that Moses was born a Hebrew and hidden because Pharaoh wanted Hebrew boys to be killed - but Pharaoh's Daughter found him and adopted him so he was brought up an Egyptian.

This contributed to Moses' growing pains. He was confused by being brought up as a Royal Egyptian but he had sympathy for the Hebrews - he was after all a friend of God (the God of the Hebrews). He was the meekest man on earth until he saw and killed an Egyptian slave master who was cruelly whipping a Hebrew slave. This showed that Moses was having a struggle as to where he belonged and would be loved: On the Egyptian side - killed the slave master rejected by Pharaoh, on the Hebrew side he was rejected by his own people. So Moses fled. But God knew what he wanted Moses to do for him, and did not desert him. Moses remained a friend of God.

Moses' story is our story too and Revd Kate used his story to help us better understand things about ourselves that shape our lives.

- a) people did not know that Moses was a friend of God.
There are things you know about yourself that no one else knows.
- b) Moses' nurse, Miriam - his sister - knew he was Hebrew and should have been killed.
There are things others know about you that you may not know.
- c) God had a job for Moses though Moses did not want to do it.
There are things that you and others may not know about you which God alone knows.

God wanted Moses to deliver the Israelites to the promised land. It had taken God 400 years to try and release the people out of bondage. It seems strange to us that he did not do it before, but God does things in his own time.

In Ex 3 God said I've come to rescue my people but then said to Moses "you go" *because God works through his people (us).*

Moses' first response was 'Here I am Lord' but that soon changed to 'send someone else'. *This is the challenge to us – will we answer the call and follow God, or lead ourselves?*

God asked again and Moses thought 'am I really up to it?' and asked God 'to send someone else who is better'.

*We say 'I know myself better than God does,
I know myself inside and out'*

but God says to us 'then why am I knocking at your door?'

Eventually Moses returned to Egypt to do God's bidding, meeting up with Aaron who would do the talking. There were many challenges on the way which they over came with the help of God.

But, having struggled against God, Moses began to possess the work for himself, thinking only he alone could do it . In Ex 18 his Father in Law Jethro noticed how hard Moses was working and how tired he had become and advised him to have help.

Some times we have a blind spot – we all do.

Other people can see what we cannot.

For example, when we are struggling, when we are not doing the best for ourselves. That is why we live in a community.

That is what the church is for – to bear one another up.

The Journey took nearly 40 years and is recounted in the book of Numbers. Moses was with the people through thick and thin.

In Numbers 20.2-12 we are told that the people complained to Moses and Aaron that there was no water. God came to them and told Moses what to say to the people but he did not follow his instructions. So God told him that he would not go to the Promised Land.

*Even when we have good a relationship with God
we are sometimes called to do something*

but we do not believe it can be done – God alone knows.

*Usually to find the truth about ourselves
we have to give time to God, we have to be alone with God.*

The Israelites, who were slaves in Egypt, complained to Moses continually whilst on the journey, wanting to return, forgetting how much they suffered whilst in Egypt. They had to be reminded of the past so as to continue.

The one direction with God is forward. We continue to journey forward with the promise of hope. Sometimes we have to look where we have come from to see which way to go. We should look at the journey we have had with God so we can travel ahead with trust in God.

Generally, we know that God is in what we are doing when we see the fruits of it. *In Sherwood's case I think of the fruits of the knitting project: We heard about the plight of the African Mothers and started the knitting. We asked other people we met and they helped. One person simply overheard a conversation in a shop and asked to join – how wonderful.*

Now more people are wanting to continue knitting, and raising funds. When I shared this story at CWF we were chosen as one of their two charities for the year, and we had a generous response from the offering and an anonymous cheque. So be heartened, God is working through us (and you) right now!

Tricia

Knitting because we care

We held an afternoon tea party on 15th February to thank the many people who were involved in knitting for the Liberian Mothers, not just our own congregation but others who had heard about the project. We were disappointed that Helen the Midwife was not well enough to be with us, but were very pleased to welcome Stella, her Mother, who gave us a talk. Our knitted Blankets, hats, and cardigans were on show, and

at the end of the afternoon presented to Stella for despatch to Liberia. We are continuing to support the Liberian Mothers with knitting squares for blankets, small hats and cardigans. I do have some knitting yarn, do you fancy joining the "knitting team" if so please contact Pam Whitby Thank you.

What's Coming up!

The Reformed Players

present

Out Of Focus

3, 4 , 5 May - 7.30pm

Tickets available on the door £5
[includes programme, tea/coffee]

There's chaos at the church hall as all the rooms have been double-booked. The vicar's wife is in a tizzy and has turned to the bottle. Somehow everything seems a bit... well... out of focus!

Sherwood Art Week 2018

S.A.W. is happening, and the 'Secret Garden' Craft Fair will be with us once again. Because we have 'lost' the Sherwood Hall, the stalls that were in there will be set up in the church – as we do for the Christmas Craft Fair. There will be no space for a 'display' and no need to 'man' it, but the SAW Fair is still a great opportunity for church people to meet the general public, and be on hand as general stewards. It shows we are a church worth turning to if the need arises.

If plans come to fruition, there is a possibility of us having a Mosaic Plaque on an outside wall. It will be funded via SAW along with others along Mansfield Road as part of their 10th year celebration. Listen out for more details and how to get involved in designing and making the plaque. If it happens, everyone's help will be needed!

Article

THE PUZZLE - Answers

How many hidden books of the Bible did you find last time?
The answers are here:

Someone once **remarked** upon the hidden books of the Bible (merely by a **fluke**). It kept some people **looking so** hard for the **facts** for others it was a **revelation**. Many were in a **jam**, **especially** since the names of the books were not capitalised. But the **truth** finally struck home to **numbers** of readers, though to others it was still a really hard **job** and those **chose a** different strategy.

We want it to be **a most** fascinating moment for you. **Yes**, **there** will be some difficult ones to spot. Others will require the brains of **judges** to help to identify them. One lady says **she brews** a cup of tea so that she can concentrate better. We will admit that **it usually** takes a minister to find the last of them. There will be loud **lamentations** when it is found. See how well you can **compete**. **Relax now**, for there really are eighteen books of the Bible hidden in this paragraph. One vicar found seventeen books in minutes but it took him three weeks to find the eighteenth, in his Biblical CD **ROM answer** file!

Found by Pam in another church magazine.

**Marian
Adnams
Exhibition**

In February I visited the museum and art gallery in Derby. There were two art exhibitions to see. One was by an artist who based his art on walking and the natural landscape. His photographs were thought provoking.

The second exhibition was about the work of Marion Adnams.

Marion was born in Derby in 1898 and despite wanting to study art she was encouraged to go and study at University College in Nottingham, where she obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Modern Languages in 1919. She went on to become painter, print-maker and draughtswoman. In 1948 she was appointed senior lecturer at Derby Diocesan Training College where she rose to become Head of Art. From the 1930s she began to exhibit her work and in 1966 she painted a series of murals for Immanuel Church in Stapenhill, near Burton upon Trent. Sadly she became partially blind in 1970 and eventually was unable to continue painting. Marion died in 1995.

Some of her work was influenced by the Surrealist movement and many of her paintings show apparently random objects appearing together in unfamiliar, often outdoor, scenes. I cannot say that I would like to have any of her paintings hanging on my walls at home. However, some of her art work is based on Bible verses and the captions for these helped me to make some sense of the pictures. One picture was based on the following verse. "Come hither and I shall light a candle of understanding in thine heart." The caption noted that it was from 2 Esdras 14:25. I admit that my knowledge about the books in the bible can be a bit patchy but I was sure that the Book of Esdras did not appear in any versions of the bible I had at home.

With the help of the internet I was able to discover why I didn't recognise Esdras. It comes from the Apocrypha. According to the Oxford Dictionary these are the books that were not accepted by Jews as part of the Hebrew Scriptures and were ex-

cluded from the Protestant Bible after the Reformation. Many question the authority and authenticity of the texts. The early church allowed them to be read in private but not at public worship.

The apocryphal books were published in the original 1611 King James Bible, positioned between the Old and New Testament. Martin Luther stated that they “are not held equal to the Sacred Scriptures and yet are useful and good for reading.”

We often find that the words from a variety of sources including poems and songs can sometimes help encourage, comfort or motivate us in our faith journey and these are certainly not sacred texts. Perhaps we should consider the books of the Apocrypha in the same way.

Bev Lockyer

Diary

April

1	Sun	08:00	Easter Sunday
		10:30	Morning Worship - David
7	Sat	10:00	Coffee Morning – Christian Aid
8	Sun	10:30	Morning Worship - Bev Kean
11	Wed	14:30	Talking on the Way
		19:30	Elders' Meeting
14	Sat	10:00	Coffee Morning – Christian Aid
15	Sun	10:30	Morning Worship - Stefan Janiszewski
18	Wed	11:30	Prime Time
19	Thu	11:30	Chill-out
21	Sat	10:00	Coffee Morning – Christian Aid
22	Sun	10:30	Morning Worship - David

25	Wed	14:30	Light Refreshment
26	Thu	11:30	Chill-out
28	Sat	10:00	Coffee Morning – Christian Aid
29	Sun	10:30	Morning Worship - David

May

3	Thu	11:30	Chill-out
5	Sat	10:00	Coffee Morning – Christian Aid
6	Sun	10:30	Morning Worship - Graham Houldsworth (Lay Preacher's Sunday)
9	Wed	14:30	Talking on the Way
		19:30	Elders' Meeting
10	Thu	11:30	Chill-out
12	Sat	10:00	Coffee Morning – Christian Aid
13	Sun	10:30	Morning Worship - Geoff Ware
16	Wed	11:30	Prime Time
17	Thu	11:30	Chill-out
19	Sat	10:00	Coffee Morning – Christian Aid
20	Sun	10:30	Morning Worship - David
23	Wed	14:30	Light Refreshment
24	Thu	11:30	Chill-out
26	Sat	10:00	Coffee Morning – Christian Aid
27	Sun	10:30	Morning Worship – David Litchfield
		19:30	Church Meeting

June

2	Sat	10:00	Coffee Morning – Christian Aid
3	Sun	10:30	Morning Worship - Paul Burton
7	Thu	11:30	Chill-out
9	Sat	10:00	Coffee Morning – Christian Aid

Rotas

		Flowers	Refreshments	Vestry
April	1		(communion)	Bev
	8		Pam R and Doreen	Joy
	15	Pam Whitby	Vacant	Alan
	22		George & Margaret	Stefan
	29		Jean & Christine	Alison
May	6	Pam Richmond	Pam R and Doreen	Christine
	13	Margaret McAdams	George and Margaret	Bev
	20		(Communion)	Sue J
	27		Jean and Christine	Bev
June	3		Pam & Doreen	Stefan
	10		George & Margaret	Pam R

		Door Steward	Reader	Prayers
April	1	Howard	Howard	Roy
	8	Norman	Christine	Stefan
	15	Margaret	Pam W	Bev
	22	–Jean	Barbara	Joy
	29	Joy	Mavis K	Tricia
May	6	Gill	Doreen	Roy
	13	Pam	Alan	Stefan
	20	Howard	Howard	Joy
	27	Norman	Joy	Tricia
June	3	Margaret	Jean	Roy
	10	Jean	Sheila	Stefan

Please adopt a Sunday to put fresh flowers into, perhaps to commemorate someone or some event, or simply just to support the church. Tell Sheila Waldron

Regular Weekly Events

at Sherwood U.R.C

Mon	10.00 – 12.00 Line Dance	H
	6.00 – 6.45 FitSteps Health and Fitness	H
	7.30 – 9.00 Singing for fun choir (term time)	H
	7.30 – 9.00 Yoga Class	G
Tue	9.30 – 2.30 Toddler Talk (sign language)	H
	3.30 – 8.15 Emma Cain Dance Class	H
	7.30 – 9.00 Sherwood Women's Institute (last Tue)	G
Wed	12.00 – 1.30 Prime Time Lunch Club (as arranged)	G
	2.30 – 4.00 Talking on the Way discussion 2 nd Wed	G
	2.30 – 4.00 Light Refreshment – friendship 4 th Wed	G
Thu	11.00 – 1.00 'Chill Out' drop-in (term time) for under fives and their carers	H
	2:15pm to 3:15 Notts Community Transport <i>monthly</i>	H
	6.00 – 6.45 FitSteps Health and Fitness	H
	7.30 – 9.30 Reformed Players	H
	7.30 – 9.30 Beeston Big Band practice night	Ch
Fri	11.00 – 1.30 Stroke Club (fortnightly)	H
Sat	10.30 – 12.00 Christian Aid Coffee Morning	G

H: The Hall; G: Gallery; Ch: Church; G: Garden Room

Please note that the Sherwood Hall at the rear is no longer available

see www.sherwoodurc.co.uk/

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

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	Bev	Lockyer	981 0960
Stefan Janiszewski	01623 750374	Pam	Richmond	926 3310
Sue Janiszewska	01623 750374	Alan	Waldron	965 3283

Church Officers

Church Secretary:	Stefan Janiszewski	07812 975625
Assistant Ch. Secretary:	Bev Lockyer	981 0960
Book Keeper:	Maria Butt	
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

Magazine Deadline

Please submit your contribution for the next issue of the Newsletter by Sunday 13th May 2018 at the latest handwritten to Pam (926 8044) or by email to David (revdjl@virginmedia.com) or Stefan (sherwood.urc@ntlworld.com)