



The
**United
Reformed
Church**

Sherwood

1 Edwards Lane,
Nottingham,
NG5 3AA

www.sherwoodurc.co.uk



The Newsletter

February – March 2018

Spirit of the Living God,
Fill our lives with love

Michael Baughen

Minister's Letter

Well, its a belated Happy New Year to you if I have not already greeted you by now! I hope both you and our church will be richly blessed in this coming year.

In 2017 we focussed on looking at our Heritage in the United Reformed Church under the Title "Feasts and Festivals", and followed humanities propensity to try to imprison God as we traced through the history of worship from Abram to the Reformation. I think there is one more episode in that story to complete.

This year with the whole URC we will turn to "Walking the Way", focussing on how we can respond to God's call to be effective disciples of Jesus in 2018 and beyond

We will also be starting to put into practice more of the decisions from the "Looking Ahead" Church Meetings. In particular we need to set up the Pastoral Care Team, and also start leading worship with a team of worship leaders drawn from the congregation.

We will continue working through "Looking Ahead" and steadily move our attention towards making friends for Christ, and growing the congregation.

Oh, and do you think Bev's article later in the Magazine has anything to offer us?

Is the space for anything new at Sherwood URC?

David

Family News

Carol Foote: It is with sadness that we announce the death of Carol Foote. She has been a strength to the church and a leader in prayer. At the time of writing her funeral is expected to be held at church on Friday 9th February probably at 12.15pm.

Janet Richards has fallen at home and cracked her pelvis. She is in Lings Bar Hospital while things mend.

Dorothy Magai from Malawi – sends her love and best wishes for 2018 to Sherwood United Reformed Church.

Please continue to pray for everyone connected to the church.

Thanks: I would like to thank all those very kind people who showed concern by phoning, cards, visiting and flowers etc during my recent illness before Christmas all so much appreciated. I am pleased to be back again helping with the magazine!

Pam W

What's Happened!

Christmas Concert

Once again the Beeston Big band with the help of the Reformed Players put on a seasonal performance for the benefit of the church for which was say *Thank you!*

(pictures over the page)



The Big Band Singers and Reformed Players

Christmas Craft Fair



With a couple of last minute cancellations, the Fair had just under the expected 20 stalls.

Never-the-less it was a good opportunity to make some last

minute gift purchases.

All the table fees for this years Fair were given to LFAM to help transport necessary drugs to Liberia.

Christmas Services

The church meeting decided not to hold our usual morning services on the 17th and 24th December – instead the 'Pop up Nativity' and 'Christingle' services were held in the afternoon.

With the Pop up Nativity those who wished to participate arrived half an hour early for the Service and chose what they would like to wear. The Service commenced at

4.30p.m. included a re-enactment of the Nativity interspersed with Carols, and was candlelit.



The following Sunday, Christmas Eve, we held our Christingle Service. Again prior to the Service a merry band of helpers made sufficient Christingles for every member of the congregation. During this Service a scene of the birth of Jesus was created by members of the congregation

placing knitted figures at the front of the Church to make up the stable scene.

At the end the Christingles were lit, everyone passing the light to one another, reminding us that we are called to pass the Light of Jesus on to other people we meet in the world. It was lovely to be joined by a couple of families who were with us for the first time.

Six hours later we gathered for Midnight communion. After sharing a cuppa and a mince pie, we gathered around the Communion Table and reflected on the reception that Joseph and Mary actually had on arriving in Bethlehem – trying to peel away many misconceptions we have picked up from a lifetime of watching Children's Nativity Services (like the one we performed a Sunday before!). Then, after a carol and a time of prayer we waited in silence for a few minutes until the clock struck midnight. It was Christmas Day! The fifth, central white candle was lit, we wished each other a happy Christmas, and turned to the table to celebrate communion. It was good to see Kevin and Mel there.

Christmas Morning and about a dozen of us worshipped together on this very special day. We explored the story of the Magi and discovered how the birth of Jesus shifts the focus away from Jerusalem and onto Jesus himself. This moves Yahweh from being a tribal god to being a God of all people, and makes Christianity into a faith with no primary culture, no special sacred place apart from the hearts and lives of the faithful. Then, for the second time that day, we shared communion – a moment of calm before the general excitement. As last year we have three visitors with us, two who were URC folk visiting their family who gave a donation to the LFAM appeal.

Talking on the Way

At the end of last year we had discussed some of the ways Christians in the past have improved things in society i.e. Prison reform, Abolition of slavery, Advances in health and education, and that led us to think about present day problems that need addressing. Thinking about our discussion, I came up with the following list. As we are thinking about the future, I wondered if our church could become involved in helping or campaigning about any of them:-

Modern day slavery

- Women forced into prostitution
- Men working hard in the fields, living in poor conditions.
- Landlords charging very high rents
- Money lenders allowing people to borrow money knowing repayments will cause long term hardship
- Lack of social care
- Care workers receive poor wages, and are not allowed enough time with clients to look after them properly.
- Problems with social media
- Grooming of young people
- Bullying

Addictions

- Drugs
- Alcohol
- Gambling
- Tobacco
- Pornography

Jean Bull

What's Coming up!

Light Refreshment

The program for Light refreshment has been arranged for the whole year, and you can find the posters in church for the first six months. On 28th February Bev will take us to Scandinavia, and on 28th March David will do "Something for Spring" See you there!

Knitting because we care

In our last magazine we showed a photograph of Abdul who we are helping through his MA receiving knitted coats, hats and blankets. These will be taken out to Liberia where they will help mothers in Hospital.

We also mentioned that we are helping to raise funds to transport vital drugs to that same Hospital.

On 15th of February at 2:30pm we are holding an afternoon tea to present more items to one of the Midwives. We would love you to come, especially if you have been involved in any way, providing wool, crocheting, or knitting garments, or are simply just interested in the project please do join us.

Christian Women's Fellowship

"Your Life in God's Balance"

Fri 23rd to Sun 25th Feb 2018

join friends from Sherwood on a weekend

of inspiration and fun and worship
at The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick.

Sherwood Art Week 2018

- has launched and is open to applications for exhibitors and crafters. This year there will be no 'Yarn Bombing', but there will be a need for lots of pompoms if you want to **do some knitting**. Please ask Tricia for details.

Articles

Midwifery for Pensioners

I have been dipping into book by John Bell - "Hard Words for Interesting Times". In one section John Bell talks about Advent and Christmas. It starts so early, with 3 months of seasonal consumerism. This commercialisation of the season doesn't seem to have much to do with a baby and even when the baby is mentioned he has a relatively small part. Other people do things for him and visit him. But you might expect that with a baby.

He goes on to talk about a conference he was involved with about preparing for advent and he asked the people there to name all the characters in the Advent and Christmas story. Then he asks them what the people have in common. The answers come - all Jews, all religious?

No, he says. What they have in common is that they were all old. Zechariah, Elizabeth, Caesar, Herod, the wise men, Simeon, Anna, even Joseph was not a young man.

Only Mary and Jesus can claim any youth. So, although many people say that Christmas is a time for children, really the stories of Advent and Christmas *are about old people* whom God expects to prepare for and be changed by something very new.

Some churches and organisations claim that no new initiatives can happen because there is an ageing congregation. But the author is suggesting that those in later years can be the midwives of the new thing God wishes us to do. There is no retirement in the kingdom of God.

We are all aware of the political unrest around the world, environmental problems, and poverty. We might despair of humanity surviving but he sees all this as labour pains. Birth pangs of a new age.

For people of faith, pessimism is never an option, nor is apathy. For people of faith the word of Jesus is the antidote to the despair in the world. The people of God are recruited to be the midwives of a better future for our communities and our world.

The church is an odd assortment of midwives who in the midst of confusion, continue to pray, believe and prepare for the new things God intends to happen. In what way can do you think we at Sherwood United Reformed Church could be Midwives to something New?

Bev

A PUZZLE

Within this paragraph are 18 hidden books of the Bible. How many can you find?

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.

Diary

February

1	Thu	11:30	Chill-out	
3	Sat	10:00	Coffee Morning – Christian Aid	
4	Sun	10:30	Morning Worship	David
8	Thu	11:30	Chill-out	
10	Sat	10:00	Coffee Morning – Christian Aid	
11	Sun	10:30	Morning Worship	Bev Lockyer

14	Wed		Ash Wednesday – Start of Lent
		14:30	Talking on the Way
		19:30	Elders' Meeting
15	Thu	11:30	Chill-out
		14:30	Afternoon Tea - LFAM
17	Sat	10:00	Coffee Morning – Christian Aid
18	Sun	10:30	Morning Worship David
21	Wed	11:30	Prime Time
24	Sat	10:00	Coffee Morning – Christian Aid
25	Sun	10:30	Morning Worship - Sheila Ashmore
28	Wed	14:30	Light Refreshment

March

1	Thu	11:30	Chill-out
3	Sat	10:00	Coffee Morning – Christian Aid
4	Sun	10:30	Morning Worship Ian Pickering
8	Thu	11:30	Chill-out
10	Sat	10:00	Coffee Morning – Christian Aid
11	Sun	10:30	Morning Worship - David
11	Sun	19:30	Church Meeting
14	Wed	14:30	Talking on the Way
		19:30	Elders' Meeting
15	Thu	11:30	Chill-out
17	Sat	10:00	Coffee Morning – Christian Aid
18	Sun	10:30	Morning Worship Paul Burton
21	Wed	11:30	Prime Time
22	Thu	11:30	Chill-out
24	Sat	10:00	Coffee Morning – Christian Aid

25	Sun		Palm Sunday	
		09:30	Morning Worship	David
28	Wed	14:30	Light Refreshment	
29	Thu		Maundy Thursday	
		11:30	Chill-out	
30	Fri		Good Friday	
			Ecumenical Walk of Witness through Sherwood	
31	Sat	10:00	Coffee Morning – Christian Aid	

April

1	Sun		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

Proposed Meeting Dates for 2018

Elders Meetings				Church Meetings	
Jan	10	July	11	<i>Feb tbc</i>	<i>04 ??</i>
February	14	<i>August</i>		March	04
March	14	September	12	May	27
April	11	October	10	July	22
May	09	November	14	September	23
June	13	<i>December</i>		November	18

Rotas

		Flowers	Refreshments	Vestry
February	4		Jean and Christine	Stefan
	11	Margaret McAdams	Pam R and Doreen	Joy
	18		(Communion)	Alan
	25	Roy Musgrove	Jean and Christine	Sue J
March	4		Pam R and Doreen	Alison
	11		George and Margaret	Pam R
	18		(Communion)	Christine
	25		Jean and Christine	Sue J
April	1		Communion	Bev
	8		Pam R & Doreen	Joy

		Door Steward	Reader	Prayers
February	4	–Pam W	Alan	Roy
	11	Howard	Howard	Stefan
	18	–Norman	Barbara M	Tricia
	25	–Margaret	Sheila	Roy
March	4	Jean	Mavis S	Joy
	11	Joy	Jean	Minister
	18	Gill	Roy	Stefan
	25	Pam	Norman	Minister
April	1	Howard	Howard	Roy
	8	Norman	Christine	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 11th March 2018 at the latest to Pam (926 8044) or by email to David (revdjl@virginmedia.com) or Stefan (sherwood.urc@ntlworld.com)