

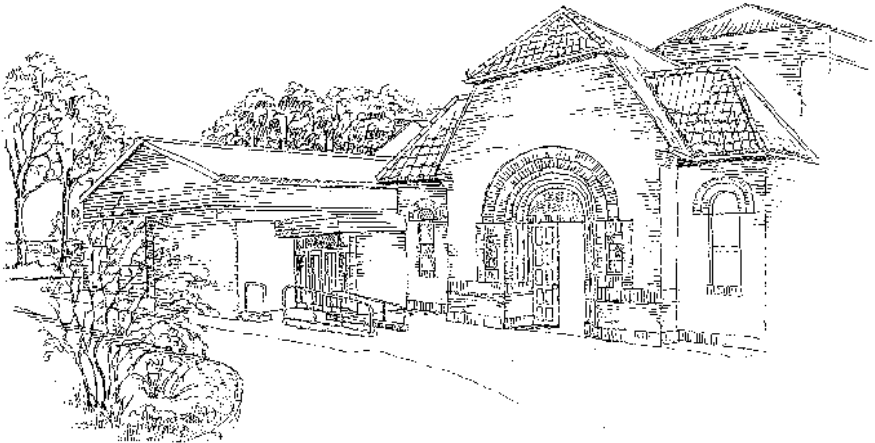


The
**United
Reformed
Church**

Sherwood

1 Edwards Lane,
Nottingham,
NG5 3AA

www.sherwoodurc.co.uk



The Newsletter

October and November 2018

**“It was you who set all the boundaries of the earth;
you made both summer and winter.”**

Psalm 74¹⁷

Minister's Letter

There is an awful lot of stuff available on the internet to read about 'the church', 'the United Reformed Church', 'theology', 'mission', 'discipleship', and so on, let alone the books that line the long shelves of theological bookshops.

As a slow reader, and someone who can easily get absorbed in reading (so long as it is interesting and not too heavy!) I tend to avoid them. However, I do occasionally dip into *Faith Inspiring Action* where URC minister Janet Sutton Webb reflects on her role as a Pioneer Minister. As such she has no 'church' but is building up a community of people following Jesus, working alongside people who would not normally be interested in going to church.

In her latest blog, Janet told the story of an art gallery she helped to set up in a shop that was being re-furbished (well, she has no church building to play with!) and how members of the community became involved. It was linked to the URCs *ArtTalk* initiative in which the art shown is meant to start people talking about Jesus or God or spiritual things. The blog was called '*Mission With*' – *more than just a theoretical concept*. When we think of Mission, we almost always think about 'Mission To' (traditional evangelism) or 'Mission For' (Christian service). Any activities like our Mums n Tots group or our Lunch Club, we do *to* or *for* the community.

In contrast "'Mission With' is a simple act of presence. It is a form of mission which demonstrates God's love and invites conversation without expectation, other than believing God is at work through encounter, and allowing the Holy Spirit to work through it." It is living and working alongside members of a community, listening to their stories, sharing their aspirations, and showing the difference being a Christian

can make. 'Mission With' is probably a lot more effective than 'Mission To/For'

Ruth Maxey, another URC pioneer minister, follows the same process. She and the 'church' help start up community activities, but as soon as they are up and running properly, the church "let's them go" and moves onto something else. It's about life!

In our church meeting discussions about the future of our church community that we have had so far we have begun to edge towards that sort of thinking – asking what can we do *with* other people.

We do 'Mission With' in a spectacularly big way with the annual **SAW** Craft Fair. They put it on – we 'host' it. We all win! Our work with **LFAM** is also 'Mission With'. At **Chill Out** we are hoping to do 'Mission With' by inviting people from the community to help in the Kitchen. Let us continue to think how to do more!

Incidentally do you remember the Craft Fair at which we had an art exhibition in the church where the artist (Revd Elizabeth Gray-King) wanted her painting to start people talking? Well, that was part of the launch of the URCs *ArtTalk* initiative.

It is a small world!

David

Planning for 2020

On Monday 30 July for of us had a **conversation with Robert Bushby**, the Synod Mission Development officer. First we set the context: Our minister is retiring in 2020. We as a church

are preparing for life without a ‘regular’ minister. We described the church’s profile, and said we would like to do something to build up the church.

Robert responded by saying that it is good to look at what you are capable of doing or have an interest in and offer that. Rather than stretching to something for children, he said it was better to do something for those 10 or so years younger. Quite often this age group is single or lonely.

1. Some churches have found that the folk who most easily come are those who have been to church before.
Do you remember *Back to Church Sunday*? It is now not on one Sunday but a “Season of Invitation”
- the idea is to invite people to our festival services throughout the year.

It will take more than one invitation, more like one years worth of invitations.

Therefore we will need to keep inviting the same people over and over - and not just to services, but to special events too eg our meals and “light Refreshment”.

2. It has been found that people like to meet over food.
We have found this too! Some churches have
 - a) Set up a Cafe in their premises. There are too many in Sherwood!”
 - b) Invite people to meals – which we do and invite people from groups using the building. Good!
 - c) meeting and going out for a meal – which we already do after coffee morning. However, those who come are from our own and other churches – Robert meant inviting people outside the church. It could bring up the problem of lifts!
 - d) Gone out for a meal after the service
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3. Robert pointed out that newcomers quite often feel uncomfortable, therefore they need a reason to entice them. Some churches have:
 - a) 'Breakfast Church' which has food – a simple breakfast – is low key and is not long.
 - b) get speakers or a project that others can get interested in. We have done this with the *knitting for LFAM* which is supported by several 'non church' folk, and we have *Light Refreshments* which we could develop.
 - c) A Bereavement group or Lonely Hearts group.
 - d) Senior Alpha

 4. Do people know how kind you are? Some churches have:
 - a) Taken cakes to community groups with a church leaflet or magazine – all in the name of the Church.
 - b) Held an outside service to let people know they are still there!
 - c) arranged community days out

He suggested we look at greatcommission.co.uk

With all these we have to advertise them! Use not just posters but Facebook too, and personal invitation.

If we do develop something, then we must meet regularly, and commit to at least 6 months, preferably a year even if there is no response

We asked specifically about ministry to the elderly e.g. afternoon tea for the lonely or dementia folks? He said that our CYDO Jane Henderson may have some ideas here.

We asked about grants to pay for a worker for say a year with contributions from us? The Synod Mission fund can grant up to £30,000 over a 3 year period, but would have to be

matched by the church. This would be for a well defined project and be overseen by a mission enabler.

The Synod 'Outreach fund' can grant less than £1000 mainly for one off events but could get a small project started

Robert would be able to talk to the Church Meeting or Sunday Congregation at sometime in the near future?

In August, Tricia had **a conversation with Age UK**, asking advice for working with older people. For this age group the main issue is friendship. When people get to a certain age their friends have gone or they cannot get out to see them so the people are lonely.

So a befriending group is good idea. It can be simple e.g. *inviting* people round for a cuppa and company.

Age UK no longer have the funds or people to help set up such groups. They suggested we talk to Paul Howard from Southwell Diocese who has experience here. This we will follow up.

Age UK do organise lists of volunteers who go out to visit and befriend people if we wanted to do that.

Tricia

Family News

Congratulations to Victoria who has gained 10 GCSEs with great grades including a GCSE equivalent in Religious Studies – which will be one of the subjects she will be studying at A-level.

Well the hot weather is behind us, some rain has come, and the wind is picking up as the remnants of those tropical storms approach the UK. Whatever the weather, we hope

that you will join with us in holding the members and friends of Sherwood U.R.C, together with all the people who use our premises or who just come in through the door in your prayers.

What's Happened

Church Celebration Meal

The Church Celebration meal was held on the 5th August. We invited the Boulevard Church and people who hired the halls so we were surrounded by many of our friends. All those who had a special birthday, or wedding anniversary, were especially mentioned, but we were delighted that we could congratulate David and Tricia on their 40th wedding anniversary on that very day. We enjoyed a delicious lunch and much fun and laughter was had by all.

Afternoon Tea Party

Our **Afternoon Teaparty** was held on 29th August when we welcomed Abdul (pictured right) and Stella, (She has been hosting Abdul during his University course) our links with Life for African Mothers (LFAM).

Abdul had completed his training at Nottingham Trent University and was returning home to Liberia the following day.



He gave a very interesting talk about his life in Liberia. He began life living with his family in a one room house, with very little food or clothing and no running water. However, he wanted us to know that he was not complaining – it was ‘just

how it was'. Abdul trained as a Pharmacist because he wanted to help improve life for everyone in his country. Then came Ebola which devastated families and the health service. He realised that although many things had improved his country was still behind in matters of public health and hygiene. Meeting the nurses from Nottingham who had gone to teach more effective midwifery practices, and with the support of individuals and churches like us who together paid for his University fees. Abdul is now one of a handful of people with the training in this area, and is eager to get back to Liberia and start working to improve peoples lives.



As you can see we had on display some of the 27 blankets, 10 coats and umpteen hats – all knitted by ourselves *and friends in the Community*. These were given to Abdul to take back to Liberia. This may be the last collection of clothes LFAM can take to Liberia, as the government wants its people to learn how to become more self sufficient, and not rely on handouts – even though these clothes are designed to be incentives to draw women from the villages to make the effort to go and see a midwife at the hospital. Abdul is in the pic-

ture with several of the ladies, and our minister David on the left. Abdul was very grateful for the support of the church and the work of the knitters.

Well done everyone!

Continuing to knit

We are still continuing knitting! It is good for us as it gives an excuse for a few enjoyable social events throughout the year, as well as a purpose for some productive activity – knitting. If you want to join the fun just ask!

So this year we will link with the National Police Convoy who take emergency supplies out to places like Syria and Malawi in the New Year. We have a contact who will come to speak to us at on of our Light Refreshment meetings

Talking on the Way

After the August break, we re-started our monthly discussions. Straying a little away from the “Walking the Way” material, we revisited a question we asked at a church meeting last year. What are your hopes and fears for the future?.

The beauty of Talking on the Way is that there is no agenda, unlike a church meeting. We do not have other business to deal with, we do not have decisions to be made, and so we can linger on a topic that grabs our attention. This time we spent a whole hour talking around our fears! In particular we spoke about Sunday worship, and how we might re-shape it (from time to time) so that when we can not find a preacher we can still enjoy a meaningful act of worship. During this discussion we realised that every service does not even have to have a sermon! This was quite a conclusion for a church in

a denomination which was born in the Reformation, and which has throughout its history almost exalted the sermon.

Another conclusion was that we who come to Talking on the Way really enjoy the time spent together and can not understand why more of you do not come to join us. It is not a closed group and we do not follow a rigid syllabus, so you can dip in at any time. So do come along on the second Wednesday of the month at 2.30pm with all your hopes and fears!

What's Coming up!

Harvest Festival

Our Harvest Festival Service is on 7th October.

Who will you invite to come with you?

Can you help with the decorating of the Church on Saturday 6th October at 10.30.a.m? Flowers or plants in Autumnal colours for jugs and vases are requested, or maybe donations to Sheila in lieu.



Gifts of non perishable foodstuffs may be brought to the service on Sunday. These will be donated to our local food bank.

“Commitment for Life” envelopes will also be handed out on Harvest Sunday, for Collection over the following couple of weeks.

Commitment for Life is the world development programme of the United Reformed Church through which participating churches are encouraged to take action, to pray and to give

for people across the world but especially in our four partner countries/region of Bangladesh, Central America (Honduras, Guatemala, Nicaragua and El Salvador – our current chosen



area), Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory and Zimbabwe. We work in partnership with Christian Aid and Global Justice Now (which used to be the World Development Movement – WDM) and have raised millions of pounds.

The emphasis is on ‘Commitment’ in Commitment for Life – our individual response as Christians to give ongoing support to improve life for the world’s poor. Through it we make a yearly monetary commitment, however large or small, for the long term. Through it we commit, as individuals and as a Church, to learning and praying about the partners and the issues that affect them.

Toy Sunday

Our 2018 Toy Service will be held on Sunday morning 2nd December, and we will be collecting **new, unwrapped** toys suitable for 0 – 16 years old (or gift cards for the older children).

These toys will be passed onto **The Great Notts Christmas Toy Appeal** who are continuing this part of the work of Family Care who we have supported in the past.

Our **Other Christmas Services** will include

Christmas Sunday	23 rd	16:00	Carols by Candlelight
Christmas Eve	24 th	16:00	Christingle
		11:30	Midnight Communion
Christmas Day	25 th	10:00	Celebrate the Day

Who can you invite to come with you?

The Reformed Players
present



Key for Two

A farcical comedy by
John Chapman & Dave Freeman

*Take a divorcée with two married gentlemen "friends",
a long lost school pal from New Zealand, her tipsy veterinary husband,
a piece of halibut and two suspicious wives
- light the blue touch paper and retire for a raucous romp!*

Thursday, Friday & Saturday
11th, 12th & 13th October 2018
7.30pm

Tickets available on the door £5
(includes programme & refreshments)

Reformed Players Open Day
on a Sunday quite soon 14:00-16:00

drop in to see how it works, and see if
you might enjoy being an amateur actor or a stage hand.

Diary

October

4	Thu	11:30	Chill-out
6	Sat	10:00	Coffee Morning – Christian Aid

7	Sun	10:30	Morning Worship - David
10	Wed	14:30	Talking on the Way
10	Wed	19:30	Elders' Meeting
11	Thu	11:30	Chill-out
13	Sat	10:00	Coffee Morning – Christian Aid
14	Sun	10:30	Morning Worship - Bev
18	Thu	11:30	Chill-out
20	Sat	10:00	Coffee Morning – Christian Aid
21	Sun	10:30	Morning Worship - Stefan
24	Wed	14:30	Light Refreshment - Bev's - Scandinavia holiday
27	Sat	10:00	Coffee Morning – Christian Aid
28	Sun	10:30	Morning Worship - Jane Henderson

November

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 - David
14	Wed	14:30	Talking on the Way
14	Wed	19:30	Elders' Meeting
15	Thu	11:30	Chill-out
17	Sat	10:00	Coffee Morning – Christian Aid
18	Sun	10:30	Morning Worship – David, Communion
18	Sun	12:00	Church Meeting
22	Thu	11:30	Chill-out
24	Sat	10:00	Coffee Morning – Christian Aid
25	Sun	10:30	Morning Worship - Sheila Ashmore
28	Wed	14:30	Light Refreshment: Mavis K - Advent
29	Thu	11:30	Chill-out

December

1	Sat	10:00	Coffee Morning – Christian Aid
2	Sun	10:30	Morning Worship - David

Rotas

		Flowers	Refreshments	Vestry
October	7	HARVEST	Pam R and Doreen	Alan
	14	Margaret McAdams	Norman	Stefan
	21	Barbara Musgrove	Communion	Christine
	28	Doreen Fillingham	Jean and Christine	Joy
November	4		Sheila and Ann	Alison
	11		George and Margaret	Sue J
	18		Communion	Bev
	25		Pam R and Doreen	Stefan
Dec	2		Norman	Pam R
	9		Jean and Christine	Alan

		Door Steward	Reader	Prayers
October	7	Pam W	Christine	David
	14	Howard	Barbara	Joy
	21	Norman	Mavis K	Bev
	28	Margaret	Doreen	WL
November	4	Jean	Alan	Stefan
	11	Joy	Howard	David
	18	Howard	Joy	Tricia
	25	Pam W	Jean	WL
Dec	2	Howard	Sheila	Stefan
	9	Norman	Mavis S	David

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	Gr
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)	Gr
Wed	10.00 – 11.00	Weight Watchers	H
	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	Gr
	7.30 – 8.30	Zumba with Charm	H
Thur		'Chill Out' drop-in (term time) for under fives and their carers	H
	11.00 – 1.00	Notts Community Transport monthly	H
	2.15 – 3.15	FitSteps Health and Fitness	H
	6.00 – 6.45	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	Gr

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

see www.sherwoodurc.co.uk/reservations

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
The Gift Aid Secretary (07757 311531)

Church Secretary: Stefan Janiszewski 07812 975625
secretary@sherwoodurc.co.uk

Assistant Ch. Secretary: Bev Lockyer 981 0960
secretary@sherwoodurc.co.uk

Hall Booking *Send a text to* 07952 324912
or use the website: www.sherwoodurc.co.uk
and click on "I want to book a room"
(on the left)

For the next Magazine

Please submit your contribution for the next issue of the News-
letter by Sunday 11th November 2018 at the latest to Pam (926
8044) or by email to David (revdjl@virginmedia.com).