



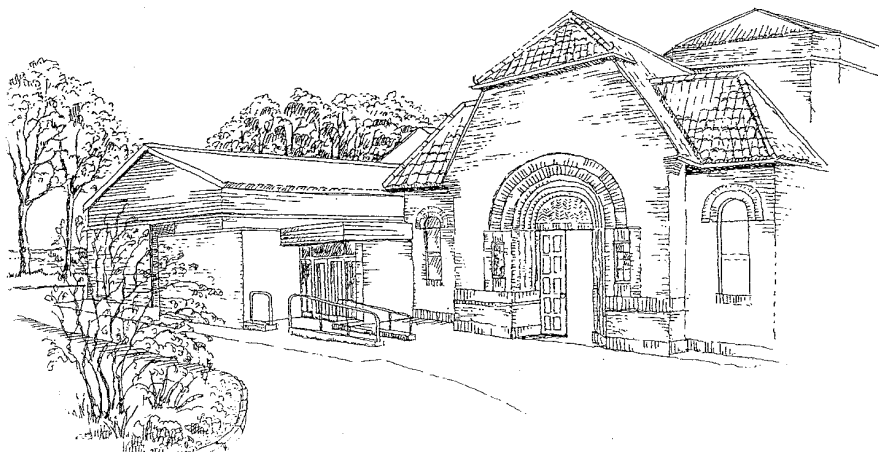
*The*  
**United  
Reformed  
Church**

# *Sherwood*

1 Edwards Lane,  
Nottingham,  
NG5 3AA

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

## **The Newsletter**



**June and July 2011**

**Pentecost & Early Summer**

*God's spirit is with us!*

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## The Minister's Letter

It is always good to get feedback on the church and it's magazine. Since moving to the new A5 size we have had several favourable comments. Recently I heard from a reader who said "Your church seems so busy, there is always a lot going on there"

There certainly has been a lot of thinking over the past few months. Looking back I think we perhaps did too much too quickly, starting "Everybody Welcome" before we really worked through the "Healthy Church" results! So I am fairly content in leaving the last Everybody Welcome session to the early autumn, when everyone has come back from their holidays and we can give it due care and attention. I will of course do a 'refresher' session to remind us what we have scored so far.

In the meantime we can concentrate on a couple of other areas highlighted in the Healthy Church results, which the elders are now working through.

It is very easy in church to do a programme of study and not let it work through into the life of the church.

It is just as easy to learn about Jesus, to have faith in him, but not let his spirit work through into our life. Imagine what would have happened if the disciples had not reacted to the risen Jesus, and what would have happened if, instead of meeting together to plan for the future on that day of Pentecost, they had done their own thing and gone their own way. Rather they let the Risen Christ and the Holy Spirit infuse their lives and affect what they said and did. And God blessed them richly, and the church grew.

May God bless you with the presence of the Holy Spirit this Pentecost. Pray that the same spirit will bless our thinking as a church and galvanise us into action flowing from that work!

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## Family news

Our love, good wishes, thoughts and prayers go to **Midge Podhorodecki** after her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 4th May.

It was good to have **Edna Parr** join us for worship recently.

## What's been going on

Review of a **Bible Society** meeting held at St. Andrews with Castlegate on March 18th

**Bible Society in China** speaker **Mr. Darryl Berrisford**

First of all Mr. Berrisford introduced himself as a Software Consultant with a special interest in maps. A married man with two children, a girl 18 at university studying medicine, and a boy of 14. Mr. Berrisford is an accredited Methodist Lay Preacher.

He then told us some facts about China – he showed us a map – the Chinese flag -Chinese scientific achievements – its culture art and design.

Details about Beijing the capital City, the largest City Shanghai, with a population 1,336,718,015 (estimated 2011)

Interesting details about its Government - 10% of Chinese live below the poverty line. It has the fastest growing economy in the world. China now has some degree of religious freedom, Christianity is now about 6% of religious faith in China, Buddhism 70%, Taoism and Chinese folk religions make up the total. Christianity in China first started in the 7<sup>th</sup> Century. Now has second largest evangelical Christian population in the world.

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We were then shown a DVD about China made by the Bible Society. Finally Darryl read the story of the feeding of the five thousand from the Bible, and encouraged us to bring what we have and are to Jesus, so that it can be multiplied.

The talk was followed by many questions very ably answered by Mr. Berrisford.

Stephen Jackson presented a display of Chinese pottery, fashion walking sticks, art and three beautiful Chinese bibles.

*Jean Bull*

**Mothering Sunday** – Sitting making the posies for Mothering Sunday Service, Doreen and I, as usual, were talking about, yes you're right, our Mothers. We did not realise until we were older how much they did and how much they meant to us. Mums were always there, they weren't demonstrative like nowadays but we knew that love was there, just a kiss at bedtime. Then we got thinking back to others that had made the posies. When I first came (was it really 54 years ago) they were Sweet Violets made by Mrs. Edith Franklin after a few years I helped her, the violets became scarce so we had Anemones, they also became unobtainable that is when we had Daffodils. Mrs. Dabill, Kath Hughes' Mother, took over and together we did them for many years. Kathleen Hughes was the flower secretary and got the flowers for us which she still does. Kath, Doreen and I have much pleasure and enjoyment from doing this, and we hope others enjoy receiving them.

*thanks to Mavis and Doreen for making the posies.*

*Mavis Kimbley*

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## Easter



Easter began on Monday with our craft afternoon where children of all ages created displays for the church. Our first **Service** was the **Maundy Thursday Table and Tenebrae**. This was something new and was held in the Garden Room at

Church. We arrived to find the tables attractively set out, and a cross of candles laid out ready to be lit. The Call to Worship, led into Illumination (as the candles were lit), and the Confession. We were then served soup followed by bread and cheese.

During the Communion, the bread and wine were passed from table to table, and we served our neighbour with the elements. The Tenebrae, (The Lengthening of the Shadows) consisted of ten readings by the members of the congregation. As each member completed their reading they extinguished a candle, leaving the main candle lit. It was simple yet dramatic. At the conclusion of the service there was only one candle remaining lit - in silence we followed this "Christ Light" out of the hall and assembled outside the main Church door, where prayers were said, ending with the Grace.

### **Carrying the Cross through Sherwood – Reflections of the Walk.**

I've walked through Sherwood many times over the years, perhaps not quite so far as St. John's Carrington, but the walk we took last Good Friday felt very different. Leaving St. Martin's after a reading and a hymn, we started our pilgrimage following the Cross. Did we feel a little

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apprehensive wondering how we would be received by the people in Sherwood? We stopped to sing and have a reading in the top Co-op car park. Not many people stopped to see what was going on, they might

have been too embarrassed or too busy!

Its not so many weeks ago that I was walking along the Via Dolorosa, in the old City of Jerusalem, where Jesus struggled to carry his cross, where people pushed and jeered at him on his final journey.

Sherwood is very different from the narrow winding streets of Jerusalem, with all its steps, but in a way its not so different. Both places are where people came to buy and sell goods. We don't know what thoughts we might have set off in peoples minds as we passed from one place to another. The Cross was carried by various people along the way. It was good to see and say "Hello" to familiar faces as we walked along.

The Cross finally arrived at St. John's, it had been a good walk in lovely sunshine. I'm sure some of our thoughts must have turned to all that Jesus had done and been through, that many years ago, and it was for "Us", and "People".

*Pam Richmond*

**Good Friday Service:** At 6.00pm as evening began to fall, several people gathered in the church to reflect on Holy-week and the Crucifixion. The opening prayer, written by Revd. David Jenkins, the minister at David's sending church in Manchester, began . . . *Darkness covers my life, Saviour Jesus as this unholy week unfolds....*

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We prayed that God would lighten our darkness and considered the darkness Jesus must have felt as he approached death on the cross shouting "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" (which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?")



We rejoiced that God in Jesus went through this in order that we never need to feel forsaken by God ever again.

**Saturday decorating the Church** because Easter was so late this year, and the weather had been so very hot, many of

the spring flowers were over, but as usual people brought beautiful flowers, mainly yellow and white chrysanthemums, tulips and daffodils. These flowers were arranged in baskets and vases by the helpers and our two Flower Secretaries, which then made a very pleasing display in the Church. Thanks to all those who helped in the arrangements and providing flowers.

**Easter Morning.** Our early morning Service was held in the Garden Room and was attended by more than a dozen people, sharing the Word with meditation, a call to reconciliation, Assurance of pardon, prayer of thanksgiving and ending with the Sanctus, Holy, Holy, Holy followed by Blessing/Grace.

After the early Service breakfast was served in the Hall. Cereals, fruit juices, boiled eggs and toast and jam/marmalade quite delicious and ably arranged by Jill, to whom we give our heartfelt thanks.

**Easter Sunday Service** The Sanctuary beautifully decorated welcomed our Easter worshippers. Included in this special service was the Ordination of Elders and we were delighted to welcome Sue Janiszewska a first time

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Elder, and Stefan Janiszewski and Peter Seed having been elected for a further term, we offer them our full support. This was followed by the distribution of mini eggs



to all the members of the congregation, these eggs had solid chocolate centres, and it was explained to us that Easter eggs should be hollow to represent the empty tomb. The Communion Service was held and the rousing singing of "Yours be the glory" concluded the Service.

*Our thanks to everybody who helped in any way to make our Easter days the success that they were.*

## WHATS COMING UP

**SHERWOOD**  
**ART** WEEK  
**PRESENTS**  
**2011**

are you coming  
 or what?  
**Saturday June 25th**  
**CRAFT**  
**FAIR**  
 made in  
 SHERWOOD

In our garden! If you are coming, please offer to be a 'steward' for a couple of hours!

## Articles

**The Evacuee:** Margaret Sharman recently made three appearances at the Theatre Royal in the centre of Nottingham, in a cast of six. No she was not performing in a play, rather she was speaking to school children and answering questions about her experience as an evacuee. This was connected to the play "Goodnight Mr Tom"



During the second world war many children were sent out of the city of Nottingham into the surrounding countryside, and Margaret, at the age five, was one of them. With her older brother Gilbert, she was sent to Costock, to stay with Mrs Hallam who had one daughter Sheila whose was aged between the two children.

The cottage in which the family lived would probably have been listed today! It had no 'mod cons' no electricity, no gas, no running water. Lighting was by candle, or oil lamp, heating was the coal fire (a big black range), and water was fetched in from the well in the garden. The toilet was in a shed at the bottom of the garden – a long plank of wood with three holes side by side!!! The children at the theatre were fascinated by this.

Margaret was so downhearted when she first arrived- not just because of being moved away from her family, but because she would miss going to church. She was delighted when one of the first things Mrs Hallam said was to be ready to go to church on the Sunday! This lifted Margaret's spirits, and she never looked back.

Being just five, Margaret's first experience of school was at Costock, in a class of about ten children. She can also remember that Mrs Hallam was keen on teaching her back at the house, and made sure she did her homework, and taught her spelling, knitting, crochet.

One of the children at the Theatre asked if Margaret was ever afraid of Mrs Hallam. She replied that she was not, and enjoyed the closeness that this brought. Margaret would sit cross legged under the kitchen table while Mrs Hallam was doing her house work, and talk to her. Mrs H took



this opportunity to add to M's teaching. Margaret was obviously very lucky in her placement, and practically became part of the Hallam family.

It wasn't all a bed of roses. Margaret can clearly remember being shot at by a passing aeroplane when walking home from school. She was roughly pushed into a hedge by one of the older lads (a street wise evacuee from London) and probably owes her life to him for doing that for when they climbed back onto the road there were crater marks from the bullets.

Margaret was in Costock for four and half years, and the only contact with her family was infrequent visits – remember there were no phones in those days. She came home just before the war ended because she caught chicken pox.

The children at the Theatre asked some really perceptive questions, and Margaret said that they had obviously thought a lot about it. Margaret's reward for doing this was a complimentary ticket to "Goodnight Mr Tom", but she so enjoyed the experience, she said she would have done it just for the pleasure. In fact she has got two similar talks lined up already.

*Margaret* (interviewed by Revd. David)

## **To Be a Pilgrim**

In March Pam Richmond and I joined a group led by the Revd. Sylvia Griffiths from St Martin's, to visit the Holy Land. We were a group of sixteen which is a small enough number to get to know each other well. We spent four nights in Jerusalem and four nights in Tiberius by the Sea of Galilee. Our trip included visits to Bethlehem, Nazareth, Masada, Capernaum, the Dead Sea, Caesarea Philippi and Caesarea Maritima. I have returned with so many memories and impressions.

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After a late arrival in Tel Aviv we were met by Issa, our guide, and Abed, our driver. After a quick snack it was off to bed. It was certainly well past my bed time and it had been a very early start. The next day we woke up to blue skies

and warm weather. What bliss after our arctic winter. I felt my spirit soar.

Our days were very full and our guide was informative and constantly checking ahead to make sure all the arrangements for the day were in place. We visited many beautiful churches designed by the Italian architect Antonio Barluzzi. Most of the churches were built in the late nineteenth or twentieth century. Many of the churches were on the site of previous churches, some with remains from a Crusader church. Some of the churches we visited were crowded with fellow pilgrims and sometimes it was difficult to feel close to God. This was certainly the case in Jerusalem at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre where the final Stations of the Cross are to be found.

At other times there was peace and quiet and the atmosphere was right for reflection. I especially remember the church at Abu Gosh which is the possible site of Emmaus. There was a beautiful garden there with palm trees and a Benedictine nun was gardening. I also felt at peace in the very modern church at Capernaum which is built on pillars to avoid damaging excavations below which are purported to be the home of Peter. In appropriate places there was time for bible readings, hymns and prayers.

There were many humorous moments too. When we visited the site of the tomb of Lazarus and listened to the

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story again in situ we had to smile as we tried to imagine how Lazarus would have managed to climb out of his tomb when he was wrapped in grave clothes and with a cloth around his face. Entry to the tomb was by way of 26 steps down a steep shaft, then there is an inner chamber and still you need to crouch very low under a stone slab to enter the tomb.



There were so many highlights during our trip it is difficult to choose. The walk along the Via Dolorosa, the Way of the Cross, where each site along the route is marked, some with small chapels. The visit to the Western Wall previously called the Wailing Wall where there are separate areas for men and women. On the Mount of Olives is the small Chapel of Dominus Flevit which means "the Lord wept" shaped like a tear drop. We spoke with a monk in the Garden of Gethsemane.



I loved The Church of St Peter in Gallicantu which is built on the site of the house of the high priest Caiaphas. This is where Jesus spent the night in the dungeon after his arrest and where Peter denied Christ three times

In Cana two people from our party renewed their marriage vows. At the Church of Pater Noster where Jesus taught his disciples the Lord's Prayer, the prayer is written in over fifty languages on the walls of the cloister. We had

communion at the Garden Tomb. Although it is probably not where Jesus was buried the garden has been beautifully planted and there were cyclamen plants in abundance. I enjoyed the visit to Masada, the fortress built by Herod the Great, high above the Dead Sea. We were crammed like sardines into the cable car.

There is no doubt that the political situation in Israel is very complex and it is impossible to travel there without being aware of the conflict and divisions. Our visit to a medical and cultural centre on the Golan Heights gave us a lot to think about. This area was part of Syria but is now under Israeli occupation. When we were in Jerusalem we listened to a first hand account about the life experiences of the Palestinian people. The places in the news are no longer just conflict zones. I can now picture the faces of people who have shared their experiences of everyday life with us. Since my return people have asked me if I had felt safe in the Holy Land and the answer is "yes I did". There was certainly a military presence but not nearly as much as I had expected. I found people to be welcoming and friendly.

I have read that unlike a holiday, where you go to rest and relax, a pilgrimage is seen as a "sacred journey in which God is encountered through the places, people and situations a pilgrim meets". Of course you can meet God in the most unlikely places but there is no doubt that reading some of the Bible stories in the area where the event happened makes the Bible come alive and have new meaning. However, like any true traveller will tell you, a journey like this also enriches the mind, the body and spirit.

- food for the mind – history, geography, archaeology , architecture, politics

- food for the body – falafel, pitta bread, humous, freshly squeezed pomegranate juice, mint tea
- food for the spirit – hymns, bible readings, communion, fellowship, prayer

I had an amazing experience and this is only a snapshot of my personal recollections. I am sure that all of my fellow pilgrims will have their own unique set of memories.

*Bev Lockyer*

**Church Garden** - Last Autumn some time was spent removing sections of the garden, digging over and thinning and repositioning some of the plants. Before the Women's Day of Prayer, new multi coloured primroses were purchased and placed along the edging stones. However, some person thought these, together with others which had been replanted would be better in their own garden. A few days later, most of the pansies planted the previous Autumn were also pulled out. This action is indeed very demoralising, and apologies are made for the unfortunate "less attractive" garden. It is apparent, however, from Police reports that we are not the only ones to have experienced this type of crime.

*John and Pam*

*Do you have an exciting experience you are willing to share? Then please write it down for the next issue, or ask for an interview!*

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## Finance

		2011	2010
March	Offertories	£868.40	£924.20
	Lettings	£854.50	
April	Offertories	£724.50	£1,081.80
	Lettings	£917.00	

**The Smartie Club** Donations to May are £70.65p - last year we were at £65.25.

Thanks to all, keep up the good work!

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## Diary

### June

- Wed 1 12.00pm Prime Time
  - Thur 2 11.00am Chill Out Meeting
  - Thur 2 6.45pm Junior Church Meeting
  - Sun 5 10.30am Morning Worship / Junior Church
  - Sun 5 6.00pm Epilogue - a 'reflective' communion
  - Tue 7 2.00pm Talking on the Way
  - Thur 9 11.00am Chill Out
  - Thur 9 7.30pm Elders' Meeting
  - Sun 12 9.15am Early-Birds Morning Worship
  - Sun 12 10.30am Morning Worship / Junior Church /  
Communion followed by Praise Party
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Wed 15	12.00pm	Prime Time Outing
Thur 16	11.00am	Chill Out
Thur 16	6.30pm	Oasis - Meditation & Healing
Sat 18	12.00am	Woodthorpe Park Festival
Sun 19	10.30am	Morning Worship / Junior Church
Tue 21	2.00pm	Talking on the Way
Thur 23	11.00am	Chill Out
Sat 25	11.00am	Craft Fair
Sun 26	10.30am	Morning Worship / Junior Church
Thur 30	11.00am	Chill Out

## July

Sun 3	10.30am	Morning Worship / Junior Church
Sun 3	6.00pm	Epilogue - a 'reflective' communion
Wed 6	12.00pm	Prime Time
Thur 7	11.00am	Chill Out
Thur 7	7.30pm	Management Meeting
Sat 9	2.30pm	Farewell Service for Rev Terry Oakley at Sherwood
Sun 10	9.15am	Early-Birds Morning Worship
Sun 10	10.30am	Morning Worship / Junior Church
	12.00pm	Church Meeting
Tue 12	2.00pm	Talking on the Way
Tue 12		Communications Meeting

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- Thur 14 11.00am Chill Out  
Thur 14 7.30pm Elders' Meeting  
Sun 17 10.30am Morning Worship / Junior Church,  
Communion  
Wed 20 12.00pm Prime Time followed by meeting  
Thur 21 11.00am Chill Out  
Thur 21 6.30pm Oasis - Meditation & Healing  
Sat 23 2.00pm Bible Society Garden Party  
Sun 24 10.30am Morning Worship / Junior Church  
Tue 26 2.00pm Talking on the Way

## **August**

- Wed 3 12.00pm Prime Time  
Sun 7 10:30 Morning Worship / Junior Church  
Sun 7 6:00pm Epilogue - a 'reflective' communion

### **Magazine Deadline**

We really would like more contributions  
to our splendid Magazine!  
Please submit your contribution  
for the next issue of Church News  
by Sunday, July 10th  
email to Jill ([jill.turner2@ntlworld.com](mailto:jill.turner2@ntlworld.com))  
or written to Pam (926 8044)

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## Rotas

Sunday	Flowers	Coffee	Grounds (Sat prev)	Cleaning(week prev)
5		Mavis S & Shirley	Kath & David Hughes	Pam Richmond +
12		Jean B & Janet B	Norman & Edna Parr	Tricia Legge
19	Doreen Fillingham	Joy & Margaret Mca	Peter Seed	Marita Chambers +
26		Pam R & Doreen	George McAdams	Gwen Roe
3		Mavis S & Shirley	Kath & David Hughes	Pam Whitby +
10		Jean B & Janet B	Norman & Edna Parr	Kath Hickling
17		Joy & Margaret Mca	Peter Seed	Mavis Seed +
24	Joy Hammond	Pam R & Doreen	George McAdams	Janet Beeby
31		Jean B & Janet B	Kath & David Hughes	Pam Richmond +

**Flowers:** Each Sunday we enjoy seeing a beautiful bunch of flowers on the communion table, and sometimes in the Garden Room. As you can see for most Sundays no-one is down to do this simple yet very appreciated job. Can you take one of these vacant Sundays? Or another Sunday in the year perhaps to commemorate someone or some event? Please make you offer to Marita Chambers or Sheila Waldron

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**Regular Weekly Events****at Sherwood U.R.C**

- Mon 10.00 - 12.00 Line Dancing  
5.00-7.00 Shakinah Glory Cell  
7.30 pm Singing for fun choir
- Tue 11.30 am Osteoporosis group (Sherwood Hall)  
3.30 - 8.15 Children's Dance Class including  
various age classes
- Wed 10.00 - 11.00 Osteoporosis group (Sherwood Hall)  
12.00 noon Prime Time Lunch Club (1<sup>st</sup> & 3rd)  
5.00 - 7.00pm Diet and fitness Group
- Thu 11.00 - 1.00 'Chill Out' drop-in  
for under fives and their carers  
*afternoon* Book Club (once a month)  
7.30 pm Reformed Players
- Fri 10.00-12 noon Open Door  
(Church open for quiet time)  
11.00 am Stroke Club (fortnightly)
- Sat 10.30 am Christian Aid Coffee Morning  
(Traidcraft, cakes,  
greeting card stalls etc.)  
10.30 am Progressive Christian Network  
(discussion group)
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## 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

'**Second Sunday** at 9.15' informal worship & breakfast in the Foyer.

'**Epilogue**', a short Communion Service,  
on the first Sunday at 6.00 p.m. (Summer) or 3.30  
(Winter).

**Oasis** is a half hour meditative service wing  
held on the third Thursday of each month at 6.30 pm.

**Voluntary offerings** maintain the work of the Church and details of  
planned giving can be obtained from Alison Taylor, Gift Aid Secretary  
(07757311531) or John Whitby, Asst. Gift Aid Sec. (9268044)

### **Serving Elders** of the church:

Janet Beeby	8400254	Sue Janiszewski	01623 750374
Jean Bull	9260714	Pam Richmond	9263310
Joy Hammond	9624636	Gwen Roe	8475182
David Hughes	9604432	Peter Seed	9190069
Kath Hughes	9604432	Jill Turner	9532915
Stefan Janiszewski	01623 750374	Alan Waldron	9653283

### **Church Officers:**

<b>Church Secretary:</b>	Stefan Janiszewski	0771 071 8137
<b>Assistant Church Secretary:</b>	Jill Turner	953 2915
<b>Church Treasurer:</b>	Janet Beeby	840 0254
<b>Pulpit Supply Secretary:</b>	Jill Turner	953 2915
<b>Chair of Management Cttee.</b>	David Hughes	960 4432
<b>Organist:</b>	Marita Chambers	962 5700
<b>Magazine Secretary:</b>	Pam Whitby	926 8044
<b>Flower Secretaries:</b>	Marita Chambers	962 5700
	Sheila Waldron	965 3283
<b>Church Stewarding:</b>	Norman Parr & Pam Whitby	926 8044
<b>Hall Booking Steward:</b>	Kath Hughes	960 4432

*To whom all enquiries for room use should be made*