



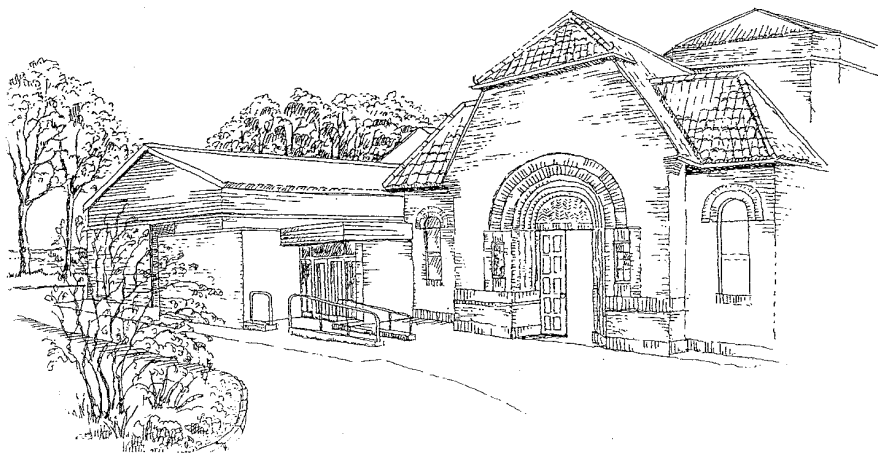
*The*  
United  
Reformed  
Church

# Sherwood

1 Edwards Lane,  
Nottingham,  
NG5 3AA

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

## The Newsletter



**December and January 2011 / 2012**

Advent to Epiphany

*God in Jesus welcoming us all*

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**Ministers letter**

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If November is a time for Remembering  
– then so is December!

First of all we remember the Birth of Jesus - although I think we ought to do a little more checking up on the story that we think we remember! The Christmas story is so appealing that it has got itself elaborated and conflated in our minds. Only Matthew and Luke record anything about Jesus birth, and their stories are different. We overlook the differences, roll the two into one, invent an Inn with a stable and add some Christmas trimmings to get the familiar "Nativity".

But it is what lies behind the Nativity story that we really should be remembering – and Mark, in the introduction to his Gospel, puts it bluntly and with no elaboration

"The beginning of the gospel about Jesus Christ,  
the Son of God."

We remember the birth of Jesus because it is the entering of God into the world as a human being. It is all about God becoming intimate with us.

Christmas is also a time of remembering our friends near and far. The ritual we use to embody this is that huge chore of writing all those Cards! If your list is anything like our list it includes a good number of family members and old friends who you would have lost touch with if it weren't for Christmas, together with some old friends who have played some significant part in your life.

Christmas is also a time of remembering your own story – you are who you are because of your family and your friends. You are who you are because of the God who came to earth in Jesus the Christ.

He created you, he loves you, and he died for you.

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Being in December Christmas is also a time for looking back at the year. 2011 may have been a good one for some, a bad one for others (on the whole it hasn't been that great for us) and now is the time to review all of that, and to try to make sense of it.

And it is a good time, for Christmas is about the birth of New Life into the world, not the birth of a baby in a manger, but the birth of the Holy Spirit in your life, and your birth into the Kingdom of God.

Christianity is not just about remembering an attractive story, it is about redemption and transformation – your redemption and transformation and the world's.

Christmas was purposely put at the end of the year so that all of the remembering can be channelled into the rebuilding and renewing of the New Year.

My prayer for you this year is that your memories may be rich and rewarding, that you hear anew the Christmas Gospel Story, and that Christ may be born again in your life and in the lives of those you love and deliver to you a blessed 2012.

*David*

## Family news

Congratulations to **Freya Hughes** (who lives in America - Granddaughter of Kath and David) on becoming one of the highly commended students from her school in the 2012 National Merit Scholarship programme. Freya was placed amongst the top five percent or more than 1.5million students who were entered into the competition by taking the 2010 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test in their junior year. This is a significant academic achievement. Well done.

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**Kath Hughes** has been our Hall Booking Steward for many years, not an easy task, but one she has carried out with great efficiency. Kath now feels it is time for her to retire, and we thank her very much for all she has done. If you wish to book one of our rooms in the Church please call our Hall bookings phone number – 0795 232 4912.

## Thank You

I would like to say a big thank you to the Church for the lovely gifts that were given to me on Sunday November 13th to mark my retirement as booking secretary. I have put the bowl of flowers just outside my window where I can keep seeing it and will enjoy the wine.

*Kath Hughes*

**Dorothy Gerrie** has moved into Sycamore House, her phone number is the same. We wish her well at her new address.

## Please pray for

*Anay Flegg* who is recovering at the age of 94 from bronchial pneumonia following a fractured hip. She is currently in convalescent care;

*Peter Seed* who has returned home from hospital, but is still quite poorly;

and also for *Edna Parr, Margaret and Alan Sharman*, and anyone else who you know who is ill at this time.

## Past Events

## Tools For Self Reliance

*Dear URC Friends*

On behalf of 'the Rotary Club of Sherwood Sunrisers' I write to say a very warm "thank you" to everyone who

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has contributed in any way to the magnificent response to the Tools For Self Reliance project

During the last few months many old joinery, bricklaying, engineering, plumbing etc tools have been left at your church collecting point. These are now being refurbished by students at the University of Nottingham and will eventually be gratefully received, along with training in their use, by very needy people in various African countries.

In addition we have been amazed at the number of sewing machines and accessories which have been given. They too have made a most valuable contribution to the project . So well done URC.

But keep it up, by telling family and friends. And don't forget there are helpful take away leaflets on the tool "post" box in the church entrance foyer.

*Yours thankfully, Eddie Woolrich*

## **Moderator's Induction**

Sherwood United Reformed Church was full to overflowing on Saturday 17th September for the Induction of Revd Peter Meek as our New Moderator - there were around 230 people and several had to sit in the church entrance where they could hear but not see what was happening.



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The address was given by Revd Howard Sharpe, Moderator of Mersey Synod and a long time friend of Peter.

A further challenge to us all was given by the drama written and presented by Laura and Beccy, young members of one of Peter's previous churches invited us all to open our churches to people who are not 'church shaped'.

General Assembly Moderator Revd. Dr Kirsty Thorpe presided over this uplifting ceremony. The usual 'Promises' were made as Peter was inducted to the post followed by the traditional round of ecumenical welcomes.

### **Back to church Sunday**

We celebrated Back to Church Sunday in October, and most members of the congregation handed someone an Invitation Card. And we had three guests – which I understand is not bad for the first time! December is back to church month in that it is the easiest time to invite people to Church. Please do invite your friends to church this Christmas.

### **Everybody welcome**

We completed the last of the four sections of this programme on the Last Sunday in October. The results are being collated and will be presented in a booklet hopefully by the end of November. Having looked at what it means to be an actively welcoming church, in 2012 we must work at becoming one!

### **Harvest**

It was a real treat to have a display of fresh fruit and vegetables once again, this really made it feel like a harvest festival! Most of these were given to Church members or houses for Adults with learning difficulties. The non perishable items were donated to Framework.

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After the service the church fellowship continued to celebrate over lunch, and the afternoon concluded with an informal communion service at the meal tables. Thank you to all those involved in any way to make our harvest so special.

## Future Events

Our December Christmas events begin this year with a '**Toy Service**' on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 in support of "Family Care" ([www.familycare-nottingham.org.uk](http://www.familycare-nottingham.org.uk)), a local charity providing pastoral support for children in need. If you would like to donate a **new** gift for a child or a teenager please bring it unwrapped along to the service.

On Monday 12<sup>th</sup> from 4 o'clock you can help us **decorate the Christmas tree** – adults and children alike! Bring something for tea.

Do you like **singing Carols**? Then please join us with our Ecumenical friends for Carols around the tree in Mansfield Road on the 17<sup>th</sup> December at 11 o'clock.

On the 18<sup>th</sup> at 10.30 come and enjoy a special **Nativity Service** written and performed by our Junior Church! And at 4 o'clock we will be delighted to see you at "Carols by Candlelight."

On the 21<sup>st</sup> at 8.00pm is another chance to **sing ecumenically**, this time indoors at the "Samuel Hall" (the Wetherspoons in the old bus depot).

On Christmas eve (Sat 24<sup>th</sup>) it would be great to see you at 4 o'clock to make a **Christingle** to be used during the **Crib service** which will start at 4.30.p.m. Approx. . . . and later at 11 o'clock our doors open once again for a hot drink and perhaps a mince pie to warm you up for the **midnight communion** service which starts at 11.30.

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On **Christmas Day** please join us and our friends at St. Martin's at 10. o'clock.

## **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**

There will be a joint service on Sunday 22 January – 4.00pm at Sherwood Methodist Church

## **Articles**

### **MEMORIES**

As I grow older I often find myself thinking back to the halcyon days of my childhood when my Parents developed in me the lasting joy of walking in the countryside. As the year unfolded we just set off to find the first snowdrops in early Spring, followed by the shy, elusive wild violets then cowslips and wild orchids and finally big plump juicy blackberries in Fishpool woods.

Two particular outings which I often enjoyed are especially clear in my memories. The first is going by trolley 'bus to take a walk over the suspension bridge and through Clifton Grove which was full of the loveliest old trees which cast welcome shade on a very warm day. According to my old book of well known Nottingham places these trees were planted about 1740.

How pleasant it was then to be rowed over the river to Barton for 2d before walking along the tow-path to Beeston Rylands where a visit to friends for a welcome drink and sit-down completed the pleasure of the afternoon.

An annual Easter outing (whatever the weather) which is very clear in my mind involved going by train to Lowdham then walking by the river and over the fields to Hoveringham where once again we visited friends. They kept chickens. On one occasion I remember being told to find any eggs that had been laid that day and I could have

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one for my tea. The very best egg ever!

It was usually dusk as we returned by an alternative route, walking over fields to catch the returning train at Gonalston. This was quite magical on a moonlit night when grass shone in a silvery light, owls hooted in the distance and the odd one flew nearby.

Never, by the way, believe anyone who says it won't snow as late as Easter. I remember sitting on top of a gate eating ham sandwiches in a snowstorm en route to Hoveringham!

*Margaret Lees*

## **CHURCH FLOWERS**

I would like to thank everyone who donated flowers or their time in order to decorate the Church for Harvest. I'm sure everyone will agree it looked great.

**CHRISTMAS FLOWERS** - Christmas seems to be coming at a great pace. We have decided to use pots of red cyclamen again, or red/white potted plants. If you would like to help please try to be at Church at 10a.m on the 10<sup>th</sup> December. Plants can be left in the flower room on 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup>, or if you prefer donations to Sheila or Marita. Many thanks.

*Sheila*

Here is **a plea** – the church needs flowers every week and several people adopt a Sunday on which to give the flowers. If you look at the rota page near the end of the magazine you will see that there are quite a few weeks that are un-adopted. Do you think you could adopt one of these Sundays? Please see Marita Chambers or Sheila Waldron

*David*

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**BEETHOVEN BY BIKE** (the latest extracts taken from Jenny's notes – she is the daughter of a previous church secretary, and is cycling through Europe)

At the time of writing Jenny was staying with a friend on the island of Adelsö, lake Mälaren on the west side of Stockholm. “Throughout my journey in Sweden, weaves the thread of Viking history, wonderful nature, “trolls” (I did actually see one) and just yesterday I rowed with friends across the 800m stretch of water separating Adelsö from Birka to see a fantastic reconstruction of a viking village, complete with small homes with their hearths and sheepskin-clad sleeping benches and a small fleet of ships, lying in the nearby shallows. The museum was also perfect, so finally, my imagination has made the long-awaited leap and my story for Ollie” (Jenny is writing and illustrating a book for her Grandson to encompass these wonderful few weeks.)

**Golub Dobryzn to Wtrockawek** “This was one of those magical, fascinating uplifting and humbling rides. From warm-hearted handshakes and laughing, impossible-to-fathom directions to awkward embarrassment (I was woefully intrusive because I was so curious) ..spacious open farmland with regular, ribboned crucifixes or great stretches of forest, villages and small towns with impeccable paving suddenly disappearing into potholes or dirt.....shopping places that look more like containers with elaborate grills (do they hope to keep the contents a secret?) Well heeled areas with secure gates and fences. Then such an uplifting sight – bridge over the Wista in late afternoon sun, with Wtrockawek lit up and lovely. The Communists have left their mark easily recognised in its uniformity, - Cuba, Kyrgyzstan- Poland, but they can't change nature or people's temperaments. I feel so grateful and honoured to be able to see all this.”

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**A prayer used by Stefan in a recent service....**

Count your blessings instead of your crosses  
 Count your gains instead of your losses  
 Count your joys instead of your woes  
 Count your friends instead of your foes  
 Count your smiles instead of your tears  
 Count your courage instead of your fears  
 Count your full times instead of your lean  
 Count your kind deeds instead of your mean  
 Count your health instead of your wealth  
 So go out now and love your neighbour  
 as much as yourself.

*Anonymous*

<b>Finance</b>	
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		2011	2010
October	Offeratories	987.54	951.90
	Lettings	2256.00	1623.00
September	Offeratories	716.70	748.20
	Lettings	1001.00	1567.00

<b>Diary</b>	
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**December**

Thu	1	11.00am	Chill Out
Sun	4	10.30am	Morning Worship / Junior Church
		3.30pm	Epilogue - a 'reflective' communion
Wed	7	12.00pm	Prime Time

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Thu	8	11.00am	Chill Out
		7.30pm	Elders' Training
Sun	11	9.15am	Early-Birds Morning Worship
		10.30am	Morning Worship / Junior Church, Communion
Mon	12	4.00pm	Decorating the Christmas Tree
Wed	14	2.00pm	Talking on the Way
Thu	15	11.00am	Chill Out
Sat	17	11.00am	Ecumenical Carols in the Street
Sun	18	10.30am	Junior Church Nativity Presentation
		4.00pm	Carols by Candlelight
Wed	21		Ecumenical Carols in Wetherspoons
Sat	24	4.00pm	Making Christingles
		4.30pm	Crib Service
		11.00pm	Coffee/Tea followed by Midnight Communion
Sun	25	10.00am	Morning Worship at St Martin's

## January

Sun	1	10.30am	Morning Worship / Junior Church <b>No</b> Epilogue Service
Wed	4	12.00pm	Prime Time
Thu	5	11.00am	Chill Out
Sun	8	9.15am	Early-Birds Morning Worship

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Sun	8	10.30am	Morning Worship / Junior Church, followed by Church Meeting
Thu	12	11.00am	Chill Out
Thu	12	7.30pm	Elders' Meeting
Sun	15	10.30am	Morning Worship / Junior Church, Communion
Wed	18	12.00pm	Prime Time
Thu	19	11.00am	Chill Out
Sun	22	10.30am	Morning Worship / Junior Church
Thu	26	11.00am	Chill Out
		7.30pm	Management Meeting
Sun	29	10.30am	Morning Worship / Junior Church

## February

Wed	1	12.00pm	Prime Time
Thu	2	11.00am	Chill Out
Sun	5	10.30am	Morning Worship / Junior Church
		3.30pm	Epilogue - a 'reflective' communion

### Magazine Deadline

Please submit your contribution  
for the next issue of the Newsletter  
by **Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup> 2012**  
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 commencing)
<b>December</b>				
4	Marita	Joy & Margaret McA	Paul Bowler*	Gwen Roe
11	XMAS FLOWERS	Pam R & Doreen	George McAdams	Pam Whitby *
18	Ted Sheppard	Mavis S & Shirley	Kath & David Hughes	Kath Hickling
23		Jean B & Janet B	Norman & Edna Parr	Mavis Seed *
<b>January</b>				
1		Joy & Margaret McA	Paul Bowler	Janet Beeby
8		Pam R & Doreen	George McAdams	Pam Richmond *
15		Mavis S Shirley	Kath & David Hughes	Tricia Legge
22		Jean B & Janet B	Norman & Edna Parr	Marita Chambers *
29		Joy & Margaret McA	Paul Bowler	Gwen Roe

*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 \*Paul is standing in for Peter Seed.*

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

- Mon 10.00 - 12.00 Line Dancing  
1.00 - 2.30 Tai Chi Class  
5.00-7.00 Shakinah Glory Cell  
7.30 pm Singing for fun choir
- Tue 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)  
1.00 - 3.00 Y.M..C.A Active for Life  
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 Bookings Team</b>	call Alison, Jill or Tricia on	0795 232 4912