



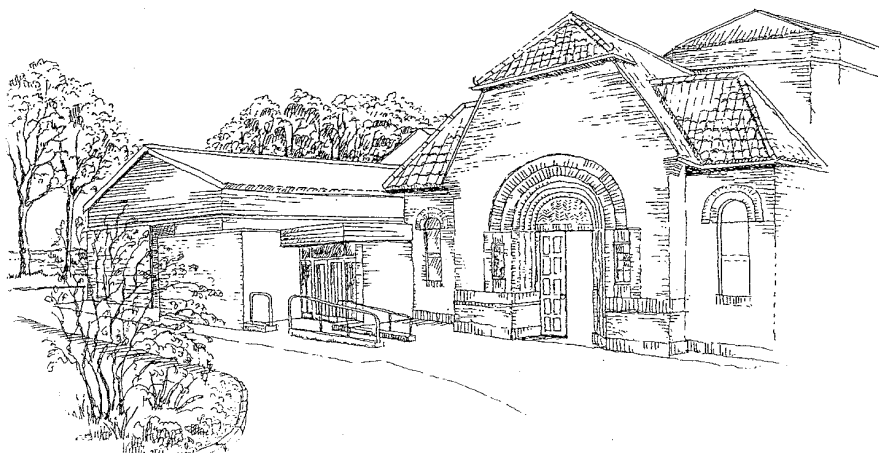
The
**United
Reformed
Church**

Sherwood

1 Edwards Lane,
Nottingham,
NG5 3AA

www.sherwoodurc.co.uk

The Newsletter



**February and March 2014
From Epiphany to Lent**

Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Minister's Letter

Christmas is over and the new year has well and truly begun. I must confess Christmas was exhausting for me and Tricia. We both had tenacious bugs which drained our energy, and I had Boulevard to think about in addition to Sherwood this year. It was an effort, and at one point I felt myself thinking "Is it all worth it?"

I always feel at Christmas as if I am fighting the rest of the world for this festival. Our society has taken a festival that is created around the gift of Jesus Christ – who is God offering himself unconditionally – and transformed it into a reason for children to be good or Father Christmas will not come. Capitalism has taken a festival based on relationships, and the desire of God to have a close relationship with the people of this world, and made it into a thing about giving material gifts, the cost of which often gets in the way of relationships. While the church in an amateurish way has to compete with the slick media presentation of all of this – and I find myself wondering, "Is it all worth it?"

And when I think like that I imagine God the three in one picturing the road which the son would have to walk from that manger, through misunderstanding, hatred, political manoeuvring, and a violent death on the cross – and I give thanks that God did not decide that it would 'not be worth it'!

I think the question facing us in 2014 is 'Is Sherwood United Reformed Church worth it' and 'What is it worth to you?'

David

Family News

The December Wedding



On 14th December the wedding of Gemma Leigh Jade Attride to Shane Patrick Argyle took place.

(Gemma is Mel Attride's daughter.)

Two weddings in one year – marvellous!

Once again, the service made use of our 'free church' status in that not only did the bride and groom choose the Bible readings and Hymns, but also had a



hand in choosing almost every word that was said by David. Also, in preparation for the day, they each wrote a statement about why they wanted to get married to each other in church. Beautifully written, they read these as part of their promise before taking the wedding vows.



The Register was signed on the Communion Table at the front of church as an integral part of the service, and Marita, who had taught Gemma in Sunday School, played the Organ. Several

church members were in the congregation.

As it was a winter wedding many of the Family Photographs were taken outside at the front of the church in the dark!



A wedding in the Church is always special. We wish Gemma and Shane all the very best for the future.

Please remember the following folk in your prayers:

Kath Hughes as she struggles to cope with a broken ankle and her son **Gareth** as he continues to recover; also **Sarah, Anthony and Hannah** as they move to America for a period.

Doreen Fillingham recovering from an operation to remove the metal work from her ankle.

Ted Sheppard as he sorts out his kitchen after a minor fire.

Pam and Jim Tring as Pam is struggling with multiple health issues and has had several stays in hospital. Jim sends his thanks for everyone's kind thoughts and prayers.

George Harvey who at the time of writing is once again in hospital

Sam, Jill's grandson , who is suffering with atypical pneumonia

If you have anyone you would like to be prayed for in church, then please fill in a prayer card in the Foyer, or ring Carol Foote (913 7323) – who will also feed their name into our Prayer Chain.

Past Events

Boots Orchestra Concert



The Boots Orchestra was on good form and soloist Megumi Rolfe was absolutely spectacular. The Bruch Violin Concerto exceeded all our expectations, and we were all mesmerised with Megumi's impromptu solo in the

second half. The money raised went to the Jericho Road project – a remarkable £545!

Christmas at Sherwood URC

The church and garden room were **decorated beautifully** for Christmas with a fine Christmas Tree, and with Red Cyclamens placed among the greenery around the church complementing the flowers on the chancel steps donated to the church from the wedding, and with white flowers placed on the communion table. Thank you to everyone who contributed in any way.

Our Annual **Toy Service was** slightly different this year for instead of toys we gave gifts of money towards "Angel Tree" – a charity providing pastoral support for prisoners and their children . The £202.00 we raised will have gone towards Christmas presents for the children.

Assemblies Galore!



One activity – well four actually – which most church members did not attend was **Seely Primary School's Christmas (Christingle) Assembly.**

Attending in their four different key-stages, the children from our local school filled the church, and were commendably well behaved for their first visit to us for quite a while.

David led each assembly, focussing on the meaning and symbolism of the Christingle – which many children

already knew about. Each class sang one of their Christmas songs. The older children thought about Jesus as the light of the world, with the help of William Holman Hunt's famous painting. The younger children looked for symbols of light in the "Silent Night" video from 'Sixpence None The Richer'.



One child from each class brought a Christingle, and they were lit, as at our regular Christingle, by the children passing the light to each other along the line.

Ecumenical Carols



A good number of folk from all the Sherwood and Carrington Churches congregated on the balcony at "The Samuel Hall". We sang carols for about an hour assisted by our trumpeter. The

manager joined us for a few verses, and was very pleased as he thought it added to the Christmas atmosphere. David thought that this was much more civilised than the singing he did with Hyson Green Churches Together in the cold rain at the Tram stop!

The Beeston Big Band and Reformed Players



It was with great pleasure we welcomed The Beeston Big Band once again on 12th December who performed a wide variety of music. During the interval we were treated to

seasonal sketches performed by (and one written specially for the occasion by) The Reformed Players. This was a new concept for us all and was very much appreciated.



No entry charge was made but donations for the work of the Church came to well over a hundred pounds. Thank you to all who took part or helped in any way.

The Christmas Craft Fair

After a flurry of folk in the morning, the number coming through the doors slowed a little, but visitors and crafters alike commented on the friendly atmosphere. One crafter had a very successful 'hands on' session for the children. The whole fair looks set to grow for next

year. The fair made over a hundred pounds for church funds – thanks to Sue and Stefan.

Prime Time Christmas Lunch

The Lunch started with a glass of Shloer (or Sherry for the more adventurous) in the Garden Room where Crackers were pulled and jokes were shared. We then moved into the gallery (not the Main



Hall) for the meal as it is a cosier place to eat. After having a lovely Christmas dinner, the afternoon finished with carols led by Marita on the piano, and reflections and prayers led by David.

In the **Nativity Service with a difference** several people shared with the congregation which part of the Christmas story they liked the best, and what it meant to them. We also compared the Christmas Festival – which is our Festival of Light – with Divali, which had been celebrated a few weeks earlier by many people living in our neighbourhood. We discovered that, unlike other faiths, where the emphasis is on making yourself and your home clean enough to receive God, the Christian faith teaches that God himself, acting out of love for humanity, has made us clean in Christ – all we have to do is accept Christ into our lives.

We sang our favourite carols at the **Candlelight Service** and reflected on the meaning of Christmas with the help of a variety of readings both serious and funny.

Christmas Eve – Christmas Day



On Christmas Eve many people gathered to make **Christingles** – enough for everyone attending the service to have one . The **Crib Service** followed and the traditional nativity

scene was depicted – the congregation setting the scene with our lovely models representing Mary and Joseph and the other participants (these were knitted some years ago by Pam Tring and have been used continually since). During the service the first Christingle was lit and the light was passed from person to person throughout the congregation, reminding us that it is our responsibility to pass the Light of Christ on to the people who we meet.

Later on Christmas Eve we met for coffee and mince-pies before the **Midnight Communion Service** at 11.30. This is a quieter and more reflective service than the others of this season and, having prepared, we sat in silence for a few minutes waiting for Christmas Day to begin. We then celebrated Jesus' official Birthday by sharing the bread and wine.

Just a few hours later, on **Christmas Day** in the morning (at 10 o'clock) we sang, prayed and pulled a Christmas Cracker to compare its contents (representing the secular Christmas) with the real meaning of Christmas: Jesus wears not a party hat, but

the Crown of Divinity; he is not a trinket, but a gift beyond price; his word is not a joke, but a real resource to people, an antidote to the commercialism of the world, and a pointer to where the real value of life, the universe and everything lies.

Finance

	Money coming in		Money going out
	Offertory	Lettings	
November 2013	£1088	£1210	£3916
December 2013	£1217	£1101	£4208

Diary

February

Sat 1 10.30am Christian Aid Coffee Morning

Sun 2 10.30am Morning Worship / Junior Church led by
Lionel Anderson

Wed 5 12.00pm Prime Time

Thur 6 11.00am Chill Out

Sat 8 10.30am Christian Aid Coffee Morning

Sun 9 10.30am Morning Worship / Junior Church, led by
Geoffrey Clarke

9 3.00pm Notts area service at Worksop preacher
Lawrence Moore

Wed 12 2.30pm Talking on the Way

Thur 13 11.00am Chill Out

Thur 13 7.30pm Elders' Meeting

Sat 15 10.30am Christian Aid Coffee Morning

Sun 16 10.30am Morning Worship / Junior Church,
Communion led by David Legge

Wed 19 12.00pm Prime Time

Sat 22 10.30am Christian Aid Coffee Morning

Sun 23 10.30am Morning Worship / Junior Church, led by
Stefan Janiszewski

Wed 26 2.30pm Light Refreshments

March

Sat 1 10.30am Christian Aid Coffee Morning

Sun 2 10.30am Morning Worship / Junior Church led by
Bev Lockyer

Wed 5 12.00pm Prime Time

Thur 6 11.00am Chill Out

Sat 8 10.30am Christian Aid Coffee Morning

Sun 9 10.30am Morning Worship / Junior Church, led by
David Legge

Wed 12 2.30pm Talking on the Way

Thur 13 11.00am Chill Out

Thur 13 7.30pm Elders' Meeting

Sat 15 10.30am Christian Aid Coffee Morning

Sun 16 10.30am Morning Worship / Junior Church,
Communion led by David Legge

Wed 19 12.00pm Prime Time

Sat 22 10.30am Christian Aid Coffee Morning

Sun 23 10.30am Morning Worship / Junior Church,
followed by Church Meeting led by David
Legge

Wed 26 2.30pm Light Refreshments

Thur 27 11.00am Chill Out

Sat 29 10.30am Christian Aid Coffee Morning

Sun 30 10.30am Morning Worship / Junior Church, led by
Deborah Baird

April

Wed 2 12.00pm Prime Time

Thur 3 11.00am Chill Out

Sat 5 10.30am Christian Aid Coffee Morning

Sun 6 10.30am Morning Worship / Junior Church led
by Lionel Anderson

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

- Mon 10.00 - 10.50 Zumba (Small Hall)
 10.00 - 12.00 Line Dancing
 7.30 pm Singing for fun choir
- Tue 3.30 - 8.15 Children's Dance Class including
 various age classes
 7.00 - 9.00 Lishi (Taichi and Wushu)
- Wed 10.00 - 11.00 Osteoporosis group (Sherwood Hall)
 12.00 noon Prime Time Lunch Club (1st & 3rd)
 1.00 - 3.00 Y.M..C.A Active for Life
- Thu 11.00 - 1.00 'Chill Out' drop-in
 for under fives and their carers
 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)

Magazine Deadline

Please submit your contribution for the next issue of Church News by Sunday 16^h March 2014 to Jill

(jill.turner2@ntlworld.com) or written to Pam (926 8044)

Rotas

Sunday		Flowers	Coffee
February	2		Pam Richmond and Doreen
	9		Mavis Seed and Shirley
	16	Jean Bull	Jean B and Christine
	23		Joy and Margaret McAdams
March	2		Pam Richmond & Doreen
	9		Mavis Seed & Shirley R
	16		Jean Bull & Christine
	23		Joy and Margaret McAdams
	30	Mothering Sunday	Pam Richmond & Doreen

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 talk to Marita Chambers or Sheila Waldron

You will notice that there is no Cleaning Rota. We now *employ* a cleaner to clean the Church, Garden Room, Servery and occasionally the Vestry.

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.

Voluntary offerings maintain the work of the Church and details of planned giving can be obtained from Alison Taylor, Gift Aid Secretary (07757311531)

Serving Elders of the church:

Carolyn Belcher	960 3357	Sue Janiszewski	01623 75 0374
David Hughes	960 4432	Pam Richmond	926 3310
Kath Hughes	960 4432	Jill Turner	953 2915
Christine Hyndman	840 2521	Alan Waldron	965 3283
Stefan Janiszewski	01623 75 0374		

Church Officers:

Church Secretary:	Stefan Janiszewski	07812 975625
Assistant Church Secretary:	Jill Turner	953 2915
Church Treasurer:	Carolyn Belcher	960 3357
Pulpit Supply Secretary:	Bev Lockyer	981 0960
Prayer Chain organiser	Carol Foote	913 7323
Chair of Management Cttee.	David Hughes	960 4432
Organist:	Marita Chambers	962 5700
Magazine Secretary:	Pam Whitby	926 8044
Flower Secretaries:	Marita Chambers	962 5700
	Sheila Waldron	965 3283
Church Stewarding:	Norman Parr & Pam Whitby	926 8044
Hall Booking	Designated telephone number	0795 232 4912
	<i>For all enquiries for room use</i>	
