



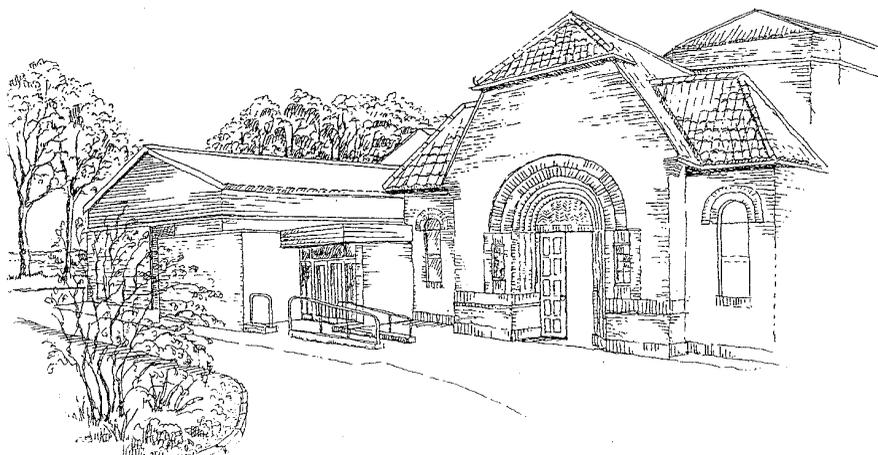
The
United
Reformed
Church

Sherwood

1 Edwards Lane,
Nottingham,
NG5 3AA

www.sherwoodurc.co.uk

The Newsletter



April and May 2010
Easter to Pentecost

Christ the Lord is Risen

Alleluia

The Minister's Letter

At the Manse we are thinking about where we might go this year for our holidays – probably Wales. Last year we went Eire. One of the more obvious things about going on holiday to an English speaking country (or even county) is that they speak differently. I don't just



mean the lilt of the language, which is quite obvious in Eire, but the phrases they use which differ from the ones we would use at home. They use the same words of course, the same phrase, but these words mean something different from

what they mean to us at home.

In Eire and in our part of England, people generally greet each other in the street (though not so much in the city as in the town). Here the general greeting used when passing someone by, the greeting which acknowledges them but does not invite a response would be 'morning', and 'afternoon', or 'Hi'. In Eire, the most popular greeting would be 'Hello' or 'How are You', and it was that last one that made Tricia and I stop and think.

To us, "How are you?", is an invitation to begin a conversation, even if it does not last much longer than "Oh, not so bad thank you; and yourself?" But in Eire it is different. The inflection they used as it was spoken was as a question: "How are you?", but it would be asked so late in the encounter, and the speaker would pass by so quickly leaving no opportunity for a response. It was clearly a polite way of saying 'hello' (like our 'how do you do') but even towards the end of

our two week stay, Tricia and I still found it mildly unsettling.

These experiences reminded us of how our greetings are used to acknowledge the presence of someone while keeping them at a distance and not drawing them closer in. Indeed, even here at home the question "Y' all-right?" is not really meant to be answered. Familiarity makes us comfortable about not responding.

Jesus is God's greeting to us. He uses some very familiar phrases, and asks some questions: 'Will you follow me?'. But his greeting is never a 'pass you by' greeting, his greeting always expects an answer, and he will always wait for that answer.

The question is how do you respond? Do you hear Jesus' call as an invitation to stop and talk and spend time with him?

Or do you 'hear' an invitation but have heard it so often that it sounds no more than "hi", a greeting offered as you pass each other by? Then stop and start again with your listening; listen carefully for Jesus is talking to you.

Or do you 'hear' an invitation to stop and talk, but are so convinced that Jesus is not really that interested in you that you are sure you must have misheard? Then once again stop and start again with your listening; listen carefully for Jesus wants to spend time talking to you.

Or do you 'hear' an invitation to stop and talk, but feel you do have neither the time nor the energy to do something as potentially life changing as speaking with God?

There are three phases in Jesus' life,
in God's Christian conversation with us.

- The first Phase was wrapped up in three years of ministry, when Jesus wandered around the Holy Land with his twelve disciples and a multitude of followers, telling stories, healing, and challenging the status quo.
- The second phase was wrapped up in those 50 days between Easter and Pentecost when Jesus, risen for the dead, appeared to the followers and convinced them that somehow he had defeated death.
- The third phase runs from that first Pentecost to the present day. Since Pentecost, God speaks our language. Since Pentecost, God gives us his energy so that we can speak with him and allow our lives to be transformed.

Since Pentecost, all God asks is that we stop and give him some time, that we listen to what he has to say to us, that we do not just say "Hi" and pass on by.

David

Family News

Congratulations to **Eileen Dunn** and her husband on the birth of their son **Ryan William**. We look forward to welcoming him to worship with us.

We send our best wishes to **Pippa Gallet** and her husband to be on the occasion of their marriage. They are to be married in mid April at Wooler URC.

It is good to know that both **Doreen Fillingham** and **Issy Francois** have had their plaster casts removed.

We remember all our members and friends who have been unwell but especially **Jean Briggs, Edna Parr and Alan Sharman** as they have been admitted to Care Homes recently.

What's Happening!

All being well you should be receiving this magazine on the last Sunday of March – **Palm Sunday** – when it can keep your lap warm as you enjoy the All Age celebration of this exciting day!

There are several extra services and activities during Easter. Check the Diary Pages for times.

On **Maundy Thursday** we will be having a light meal incorporating the liturgy of the communion service between the courses!



On **Good Friday** we join our ecumenical partners in a walk of witnesses. This starts at St Martin's proceeds to us and then to the Methodist Church and finishes at St John's. Please join us for all or part of it.

In the *evening* we are holding a **prayer service** as part of the week of prayer that the URC are organising, where they hope that from mid-day on Palm Sunday until mid-day on Easter Day there will be continuous prayers being said in URC Churches.

Please come along on **Saturday morning** and help to decorate our Church and help the children decorate their cross.

Easter Day will start with a ½hr early morning meditation which will be followed by a good breakfast.

The morning service will include Holy Communion and the induction of the newly appointed Elders.

What's been going on?

The **Pancake Party** on **Shrove Tuesday** was brilliant! - with over 25 folk of all ages present. We ate pancakes, played games and quizzes, all about the season of Lent.



Mothering Sunday Service on 14th March was a lively happy affair with the children playing a very active roll, reading the lessons, and playing a game with letters forming words relating to Mothering Sunday. During the Service the children distributed daffodils to firstly the ladies of the congregation, and then to everybody. These daffodils were lovingly prepared by Mavis Kimberley and Kath Hugnes – thank you!

Christian Women's Fellowship Convention The Hayes, Swanwick: Feb 26th – 28th 2010

The theme this year was "All Are Welcome: making our churches user-friendly".



The key leader was Janet Lees, a URC minister and Vision4Life Co-ordinator. She introduced us to the idea of using a remembered bible. Using the bible that is inside us and telling the stories from what we remember and in our own words. This was a bible study session

without a printed bible in front of us. Her second session involved a very large piece of string and a number of clothes pegs. These were used to create a Jesus Lifeline. The string represented the life of Jesus and individuals placed pegs along the string in the position where they thought the events and stories from Jesus life occurred.

Another session was led by representatives from the Manchester Community Chaplaincy Team who introduced us to the work they do supporting offenders on their release from prison.

The morning meditations in the Chapel and the Saturday evening epilogue provide opportunities for friends from individual churches to lead a period of worship. The meditation by the Halifax group of URC churches included the following very thoughtful words. "Sometimes we hear the words that others speak, but fail to grasp their meaning. Help us to hear the worry hidden in a throw-away remark, the fear wrapped in a joke, the insecurity behind unbending dogmatism. Let us identify the cry for help so casually expressed. Help us to listen more and think, and think again, before we speak."

Sherwood URC led the Saturday evening epilogue which included a humorous sketch, prayers and bible passages.

As on previous years there was a mixture of fellowship and fun. We renew acquaintances and meet new people. We are introduced to new ways of thinking and doing. There is time to relax and reflect. This year the Sherwood contingent included Janet Beeby, Jean Bull, Marita Chambers, Dorothy Gerrie, Joy Hammond, Pam Richmond, Margaret Sharman, Tilly (Marita's friend) and

myself. We would welcome new ladies to join us next year. Would you like to come? Don't be put off by thinking that the week-end will be too religious or too serious.

Bev Lockyer

Articles

THE FRIARY DROP -IN

has produced an "Alternative Gifts Brochure", the Charity gift of hope, dignity, health and support, copies of which can be found on the table outside the main hall. Please take one and consider choosing a present for a relative or friend. Friary is an excellent charity, serving the less fortunate members of our community, and deserves our full support. Especially as this is one of our United Reformed Church initiatives.

BIBLE SOCIETY

COFFEE MORNING

at

St. Andrew's with Castlegate Church

on

Friday April 23rd from 10.30 am- 12. noon

There will be stalls

Cakes Fancy Goods

Groceries Bric a brac

Admission 50p to include coffee and biscuits

Tickets will be available from **Jean Bull**

Treasurer's News

Sunday Offertories

Jan 2010	£1,066.60	Jan 2009	£1,050.40
Feb 2010	£847.40	Feb 2009	£1,047.62

Lettings

Jan	£873.00
Feb	£884.50

Gifts

A gift of £68.25 has been received from the Jerusalem Joy Choir. The choir no longer meets and they send thanks to us for giving them a home for so many years.

Haiti Appeal

The total collected was £331.20

Gift Day

Our Gift Day weekend on the 1st and 2nd of May is for donations towards our day-to-day running expenses. Please use the special Gift Day envelopes if you wish to make a gift. Envelopes can be placed in the Sunday offertory bags throughout May. If you would like the church to regard your gift as a Gift Aid donation please complete the details on the back of the envelope.



Bev Lockyer

CHURCH CLEANING

We all arrive at Church on a Sunday morning, are greeted by the door Stewards and take our seat in the Sanctuary.

After a quiet moment of prayer, looking around we can see everywhere is clean and tidy, but do you realise what effort is made by a few to maintain the situation. A faithful band come into the church on a regular basis to dust, clean and vacuum the Sanctuary, garden room, flower room and porch, but we do require a few more volunteers.

COULD YOU please help?

do have a word with one of our Secretaries.



**LAUGHTER
LINES**

And the theme of this morning's service is...
'Preaching a Gospel of Simplicity'...

Have a look at our website
www.sherwoodurc.co.uk

Rotas

Flower Rota Marita Chambers and Sheila Waldron	April	4	EASTER
		11	
		18	
		25	
	May	2	Margaret McAdams
		9	Pam Richmond
		16	
		23	
		30	Pam & John Whitby

Ground Rota	April	3	George McAdams
		10	Kath & David Hughes
		17	Norman & Edna Parr
		24	Peter Seed
	May	1	George McAdams
		8	Kath & David Hughes
		15	Norman & Edna Parr
		22	Peter Seed
		29	George McAdams



Sunday Rota
organised by Jill 9532915

		Door Stewards	Coffee
April	4	Team C Mavis Seed (eve)	Pam Richmond Doreen Fillingham
	11	Team D	Jean Bull Janet Beeby
	18	Team A	Mavis Seed Shirley Ringrose
	25	Team B	Joy Hammond Margaret McAdam
May	2	Team C Norman Parr (eve)	Pam Richmond Doreen Fillingham
	9	Team D	Jean Bull Janet Beeby
	16	Team A	Mavis Seed Shirley Ringrose
	23	Team B	Joy Hammond & Margaret Mcadams
	30	Team C	Pam Richmond Doreen Fillingham

Do you like the new look magazine?
What else would you like to see in it?
Let Pam, Jill, Sefan or David (or all four) know!

Diary



Regular Weekly Events at Sherwood URC

- | | |
|-----|--|
| Mon | 10.00 - 12.00 Line Dancing
7.30 pm Singing for fun choir |
| Tue | 11.30 am Osteoporosis group (Sherwood Hall)
3.30 - 6.00 Children's Dance Class |
| Wed | 10.00 - 11.00 Osteoporosis group (Sherwood Hall)
12.00 am Prime Time Lunch Club (1 st & 3 rd)
5.00 - Diet and fitness Group
7.00pm |
| Thu | 11.00 - 1.00 'Chill Out' drop-in
for under fives and their carers
7.30 pm Reformed Players |
| Fri | 10-12 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.) |

Dates for your diary

April

- 1 Thu 7.00 pm Light meal with Communion Service
- 2 Fri 10.00 am Walk of Witnesses from St Martin's
6.00 pm Service of Prayer as part of the URC
week of Prayer
- 3 Sat 10.00 am Decorating the Church with spring
flowers
-
- 4 Sun 8.30 am Short service followed by breakfast
10.30 am Communion and induction of Elders with
Junior Church
6.30 pm NO evening Epilogue
- 10 Sat 5.00 pm Farewell for Dorothy Magai
-
- 11 Sun 9.15 am Early Morning Worship
10.30 am Morning Worship with Junior Church
- 15 Thu 7.30 pm Elders' Meeting
-
- 18 Sun 10.30 am Communion with Junior Church
followed by Church Meeting
- 22 Thu- The Reformed Players latest production
24 Sat *look out for the posters !*
-
- 25 Sun 10.30 am Morning Worship with Junior Church
- 29 Thu 6.30 pm Midweek Service
-

May

2 Sun 10.30 am Morning Worship with Junior Church
6.30 am Evening Epilogue with Communion

9 Sun 9.15 am Early Morning Worship
10.30 am All Age Worship

16 Sun 10.30 am Communion with Junior Church

19 Wed 11.00 am Prime Time outing to Willersley Castle

23 Sun 10.30 am Morning Worship with Junior Church

27 Thu 6.30 am Midweek Service
7.30 am Management Meeting

30 Sun 10.30 am Morning Worship with Junior Church

June

3 Thu 11.00 am Chill - Out Meeting

6 Sun 10.30 am Morning Worship with Junior Church
6.30 am Evening Epilogue with 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, May 16** email to Jill (jill.turner2@ntlworld.com) or written to Pam (926 8044)

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 in the Foyer with breakfast.

'**Epilogue**', a short Communion Service,
on the first Sunday at 6.30 (Summer) or 3.30 (Winter).

Oasis is a half hour meditative service
held on the last 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	Bev Lockyer	9810960
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:

Church Secretary:	Stefan Janiszewski	0771 071 8137
Assistant Church Secretary:	Jill Turner	953 2915
Church Treasurer:	Bev Lockyer-Clarke	981 0960
Pulpit Supply Secretary:	Jill Turner	953 2915
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 and Pam Whitby	926 8044
Hall Booking Steward:	Kath Hughes	960 4432

To whom all enquiries for room use should be made