



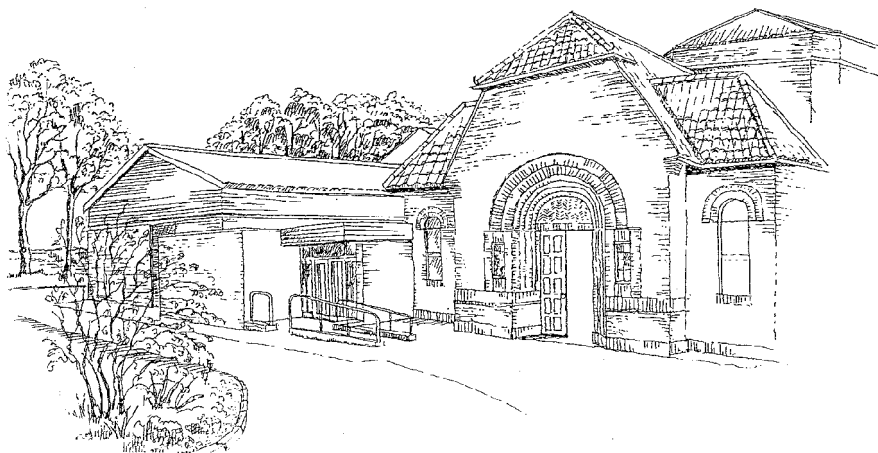
The
United
Reformed
Church

Sherwood

1 Edwards Lane,
Nottingham,
NG5 3AA

www.sherwoodurc.co.uk

The Newsletter



October/November 2014

Autumn to Winter

All God's gifts around us are sent from Heaven above

Minister's Letter

A restful summer?

I ended my last newsletter saying "I for one am looking forward to the lightness of the August Diary to catch up on things that have slipped over the past few weeks, and also to spend more time praying and 'being' in the presence of God." Well, August came and although the diary looked light with regards to meetings, there was still a lot to be done. All of this was heightened by our impending holiday – the first trip outside the British isles we had made for well over a decade. Looking back the process of booking tickets, checking in online, packing our cases and going was quite straightforward, but at the time it seemed to be a mountain we had to climb. A few days before we flew we wondered whether it was all worth it!

Of course July was not a restful month either. We began it with Tricia tripping and fracturing her elbow – on the way to a party. This put her off work for the rest of the term and unable to drive. Luckily it was "a perfect fracture" and did not require anything other than a lightweight sling and a lot of patience. The following week I was on my way to conduct the Friday morning communion service at Gregory Boulevard when I was run into from behind at the Hucknall Road traffic lights on Haydn Road. This made a mess of the back of our little Kia which we lost for the rest of the month to our Insurance companies repair shop (in Chesterfield). No physical damage to me as I saw it coming in the rear view mirror and was able to prepare myself.

July – August is a time when ministers try to complete those little administrative jobs that have piled up in the

'in tray'. I think I managed to complete one – that was with Norman Parr to complete the fire risk assessment. This requires two people to walk around the premises with a check list and look for things that might cause or exacerbate a fire and check all exits and exit routes are accessible and clear. We also checked at the same time the fire alarm and emergency lights. This was all written up into a report, which the elders have to approve, listing observations and any actions required.



The holiday – when we got there – was wonderful. Eleven long days around the Bay of Naples, based in Sorrento. We visited Museums, Cathedrals, Greek Temples, Capri, Pompeii, Herculaneum,

walked round the still smouldering crater of Vesuvius, and got lost in Naples (almost!) all in the summer heat of 32°C or more. By the end we were well and truly relaxed, and did not want to come back!

Big things in September

But come back we did, straight into September with its mountain of meetings, and three 'big' events. The first of these was about 12 hours after we had arrived home – the Birthday party of Margaret Sharman. Carol has written about this later in the magazine.

The second was the baptism of Pippa Inman. It was a big event for me because it was the first Believers Baptism I had ever conducted, so Pippa was my Guinea Pig! I found it very moving, not least because of Pippa's

'statement' which told us a little about her faith journey. It is not often that we hear a 'testimony' in our church, and so I have sought Pippa's permission to reproduce it later in this magazine.

The third big event, a week later, was the occasion of the Thanksgiving, Blessing and Dedication of Kaleb Andrew Junior Thomas. I have conducted many of these so it was almost routine (almost, since they are all unique and tailored as far as possible to the family bringing the child), but it was 'big' in that we expected up to forty guests and actually had around eighty, many coming from as far away as Birmingham (in a coach!). It was wonderful to see the church so full (the screens were opened), it was good to see quite a number of folk not used to church. I hope we made a good impression and were able to share the love of God with them – I am sure we showed them that the URC (and Sherwood URC in particular) is quite different from what they might 'imagine' church to be like. Thank you everyone!

And so we begin a new 'year' in the church. Harvest, Remembrance and Christmas are all ahead of us (and I am already looking forward to the lightness of the January diary . . . !). All our regular activities are starting up – Prime Time, Chill Out, Light Refreshments, Talking on the Way (TOW). The prayer life of our congregation is growing: we already have a rota of members leading our intercessions on a Sunday Morning, and we are trying to establish the third Sunday as a time for Prayer for Healing and Wholeness after the morning service. So it is good that, in TOW we have arrived at the Emmaus Course Session of Prayer. Please, everyone, make this session a priority to attend.

Prayer

We started TOW in September, but as there were only a few of use we did not use the course material, but looked more generally at Prayer. We began by sharing what we thought Prayer is: it is - communication with God, - thanking, -an expression of our desire, - asking for things: for strength to cope, for understanding what God wants us to do, listening(or at least trying to), - not just sitting down and thinking words.

We admitted that prayer brought along some problems: why doesn't God do something about it? Is God Listening, is God even there? Has God got better things to do than sort out my questions? In reality, what can we ask? All of which led us on to thinking 'does Prayer work?' We decided that it does help the person who is praying, that is was more like a chat with a friend – but our minds do wander.

Our discussion meandered a little – especially into the idea of 'original sin' and what really is in 'Christianity' and in 'our tradition'. We were amazed that we agreed in our reasoning with Peter Baelz, an Oxford professor and Dean of Durham, in that prayer is more about being in the presence of God rather than invoking the power of God. We wondered if this would line up with the Emmaus Course. Come along on Wed 8th October, 2.30 to find out!

David

Family News

Thank you everyone at the U.R.C for Jack's birthday card, it meant so much that you all thought of him on his special day. We will be back to Church soon. Just had so much to do and lots of jobs around the house to do. But we look forward to seeing you all soon.

Jax and Peter

I would like to say a special thank you to those of you who have sent cards and letters, spoke to me on the phone and visited me at various places over the last few months. You have kept me in touch with life at Sherwood. I am always happy to receive visits or phone calls either on the home phone 01623 614715 or my mobile 07769 776453. Wonderful.

Jill

Congratulations to Victoria Taylor on obtaining Grade V violin examination with Merit. Victoria is now in the Nottingham Youth Intermediate Orchestra.

It was a joy and privilege to share in the Baptism and Enrolment into Membership of Pippa Inman on Sunday 14th September. The ceremony was very moving and was the first believers baptism our Minister had conducted.

Please pray for the members and friends of our fellowship. In particular for Barbara Adams, Joan France, George Harvey (now in Ernehale Lodge Care Home, Arnold), Margaret Sharman (now in Leen Valley Care Home, Hucknall) and Jill Turner.

Future events

Look out for the regular card stall run after church by Barbara Musgrove. She is raising funds to support work on Bowl Cancer. Barbara is grateful for all the support she has received so far.

Harvest Festival

We will be celebrating our Harvest Festival on Sunday 5th October . The Service will be centred around "Commitment for Life" which is the U.R.C's special programme with Christian Aid. The programme focusses on four specific projects around the World. We are to choose one to support and receive news about.

We will have a buffet lunch after the Service you are all invited but please sign the sheet in the Garden room if you hope to come, There is also a sheet requesting specific food items for the meal. If you require any additional information please contact Doreen, Jean or Marita.

The harvest offerings can be either the usual food items – vegetables, fruit and tinned items - for the harvest display, or gifts of money . The food will be sent to the Friary the money to the Bridge .

On Saturday 4th October at 10.00 a.m. we shall be decorating the Church for our Harvest Thanksgiving Service. Please come along and help with the display to make our Church look attractive. Donations of Autumn coloured flowers, and fruit will be gratefully received. If it is more convenient, flowers etc., may be left in the flower room on Friday, or if you would like Sheila to buy the flowers for you then speak to either Sheila or Marita. Thank you.

Christian Womens Fellowship

Would you like a short break in February with a few folk from your Church?

We would recommend you join us at the

Christian Women's Fellowship at Swanwick - Friday 27th February to Sunday 1st 2015. Lifts will be available. For more information see Joy Hammond or Pam Richmond



Pam Whitby

SAT 11 OCTOBER 7.00PM
£5.00 ON THE DOOR



**With a Voice
of Singing**



for *maggies* Hospice, City Hospital

A CRAFT FAIR WITH WORKSHOPS



Come along and buy
your special Christmas gifts
– or have a go
at making them yourself!

NOVEMBER 15TH 2014
FROM 10AM – 4PM

Past Events

Margaret's Party



Several months ago I received a phone call from our friend Margaret Sharman. She sounded very excited as she invited me to her very special, 80th birthday party! Wow!

It was on August 30th, at Sherwood Community Centre. "don't forget, will you?" she said and I was to put it in my diary! I

thanked her very much and did as I was told! She said she wanted me to come as we sat next to each other to sing and worship in church. How lovely of her to think of me.

Margaret's health had not been very good over the last few months and years, yet in spite of this she always tried to remain as cheerful as possible, and by the time her birthday came round, Margaret had moved into a Home in Hucknall for a rest. Her lovely daughters, Rosemary and Gillian arranged the Party for her.

As I drove to the party, I wondered how Margaret would react to seeing so many people there. I need not have worried! As I entered the hall, there she sat, dressed like a Queen on her throne, bless her, wearing a lovely new outfit from her daughters – and to top it off she wore a white sailor's hat!

We all joined the line to greet her. She was amazing – she knew the names of most of the people there, remarkable for someone suffering from memory problems!

Rosemary welcomed us all and recalled how her Mum had worked hard for the community, over the years, teaching craft work and singing in choirs. We all joined with her to sing "Happy Birthday" to Margaret, which lead to us all singing songs from years gone by. "The White Cliffs of Dover", "We'll Meet Again" and many more. Margaret loved it all and even sang us a song, too! We were then invited to a lovely Buffet, which ended with Margaret cutting a very special (and delicious) cake to the strains of us all singing once again, "Happy Birthday" to Margaret.

It was a lovely occasion, enjoyed by family and friends alike, and I think especially by the wonderful Margaret herself!. May the Lord Bless you and keep you Margaret in this your 80th year with love from all your friends at

Sherwood U.R.C., and may you settle well in Leen Valley Care Home.

Carol Foote

Pippa's 'statement' at her Baptism



I was born in Harrow and first started attending Harrow Baptist Church with my mum when I was about seven. When I was eight I made the decision that because I had never been christened as a baby I would like to be dedicated and so my dedication ceremony was conducted there.

As time went on my mum and dad made the

decision to take early retirement to a village in Northumberland called Wooler and so we moved there in extremely wintry conditions when I was about nine. Once we found our feet we decided to tank at the churches in our area and since the nearest Baptist church was fifteen miles away we decided to check out the United Reformed Church in the village. They made us extremely welcome and I was soon enlisted in helping with the little ones in the Junior church and mum quickly settled in to the church choir.

I continued going to this church until I hit the age of eighteen and made the decision to move away to Derby to attend University and in this time I must admit I

drifted and didn't really attend church much at all. It was always in the back of my mind though and whenever I went home I would go along with my mum.

When I graduated I moved to Nottingham to be with my Fiancée (now husband) Nick and initially we lived in the City Centre. I went to a church there but did not feel welcome or happy and so didn't go again and it put me off trying anywhere else for the time being. Later on we made the decision to move to Sherwood and the change of area promoted me to try again, I searched on the internet to see if there was a United Reformed Church near to us and it brought up the website for Sherwood URC. I decided that the next Sunday I would go along and instantly felt very welcome and that the church was a very warm and friendly environment where everyone cared about each other and the kind of place I felt I belonged and wanted to be.

I have had some rough and difficult times in my life and various church members have really supported me and been there for me through these and for that I am truly grateful for the strong fellowship this church has. I have been coming here for about five years now and have finally made the decision to make my membership official and also to have my adult baptism conducted here.

I would like to thank everyone here for making me feel so welcome and I hope that I can be a valued member of this church for many years to come.

Pippa

Articles

In the Steps of the Saints (Part 2 - Rome)



We arrived in Rome just after a hail storm but the next morning it was dry and sunny. On our first day we visited the Catacombs of San Callisto, the first official cemetery of the Christian community in Rome. Early Christian symbols and biblical images could be seen on the walls.

Rome is full of impressive churches. The Basilica of St Paul Outside the Walls was built over

the burial place of St Paul. It has a towering marble statue of St Paul in the courtyard and the exterior is decorated with beautiful mosaics. When we entered the Church there was a mass being said and it ended with a bit of the Halleluiah Chorus. The ceiling was very decorative and around the edge there are mosaic portraits of all the Popes from St Peter onwards.

Another site associated with St Paul is the Mamertime Prison Museum. Tradition suggests that both Peter and Paul may have been held here. Legend says that Peter or Paul caused a well to spring up in the prison and the water was used to baptise the prison guards.

Visits were made to the Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore which is dedicated to the Virgin Mary and the Basilica of St John Lateran. Above the Basilica of St John Lateran there are 15 large white statues of Jesus, John

the Baptist and other saints. Inside there are twelve larger than life-size sculptures of the Apostles.

A highlight of our stay in Rome was a visit to the Vatican Museums.

After doing a very brief tour of some of the many, many rooms, we made our way to the Sistine Chapel which is accessed via the museums. The ideal way to view the ceiling would be to lie down and gaze up at it



but there are too many visitors for this to be possible. Visitors inside the chapel are not allowed to take photographs and are also requested to be silent but during our brief time in the chapel I found it quite noisy and it did not feel the spiritual place I had expected. However, the ceiling and walls are magnificent and did not disappoint.

After leaving the Vatican Museums, Doreen and I wandered along to St Peter's Square. We didn't go inside the Basilica as the queues were very long and we had both been inside on other holidays. During the time we were in the Museums there had been a Papal Audience outside in front of the Basilica, so everywhere was very busy.

One day of our visit was spent visiting the Colosseum, the Arch of Constantine and the Forum. Paul was probably familiar with the Forum area as this was the market place. On our last morning we did the usual

tourist “must see bits” and saw the Trevi Fountain and the Spanish Steps. : *Arrivederci Roma*

Bev Lockyer

Diary

October

Wed 1 11:30am Prime time

Thur 2 10:30am Chill Out

Fri 3 10:00am Open Church

Sat 4 10.30am Christian Aid Coffee Morning

Sun 5 10.30am Morning Worship - Harvest led by David

Wed 8 2.30pm Talking on the Way - Prayer

Thur 9 10:30am Chill Out

7:30pm Elders

Fri 10 10:00am Open Church

Sat 11 10.30am Christian Aid Coffee Morning

10-4 East Midland Synod at Loughborough

7.00pm Mansfield & District Male Voice Choir

Sun 12 10.30am Morning Worship - led by Lionel Anderson

Wed 15 11:30am Prime time

Thur 16 10:30am Chill Out

Fri 17 10:00am Open Church

Sat 18 10.30am Christian Aid Coffee Morning
Sun 19 10.30am Morning Worship - led by David
Wed 22 2:30pm Light Refreshment - Stefan: 'Refugee'
Thur 23 10:30am Chill Out
Fri 24 10:00am Open Church
Sat 25 10.30am Christian Aid Coffee Morning
Sun 26 10.30am Morning Worship - Sheila Ashmore
Thur 30 10:30am Chill Out
Fri 31 10:00am Open Church

November

Sat 1 10:30am Christian Aid Coffee Morning
Sun 2 10:30am Morning Worship - led by David
Wed 5 11:30am Prime time
Thur 6 10:30am Chill Out
Fri 7 10:00am Open Church
Sat 8 10:30am Christian Aid Coffee Morning
Sun 9 10:30am Morning Worship - led by Bev Lockyer
Wed 12 2:30pm Talking on the Way
Thur 13 10:30am Chill Out
7.30 Elders Meeting
Fri 14 10:00am Open Church
Sat 15 10:30am Christian Aid Coffee Morning

10:30am Christmas Craft Fair with Workshops
for Church Funds

Sun 16 10.30am Morning Worship - led by David

4:00pm World Church Service - Café Style
Malcolm Fife in Jamaica, Boulevard URC

Wed 19 11:30am Prime time

Thur 20 10:30am Chill Out

Fri 21 10:00am Open Church

Sat 22 10.30am Christian Aid Coffee Morning

Sun 23 10.30am Morning Worship - led by David
Church Meeting

Wed 22 2:30pm Light Refreshment - Christmas reflection

Thur 27 10:30am Chill Out

Fri 28 10:00am Open Church

Sat 29 10.30am Christian Aid Coffee Morning

10:00am Charity Craft Fair

Sun 30 10.30am First Sunday in Advent - led by David

December

Wed 3 10:00am Prime time

Thur 4 10:30am Chill Out

Fri 5 10:00am Open Church

Sat 6 10.30am Christian Aid Coffee Morning

Sun 7 10.30am Second Sunday in Advent- led by David

Magazine Deadline

Please submit your contribution for the next issue of Church News by **Sunday 16th November 2014** to Stefan (sherwood.urb@ntlworld.com), or David (revdjl@virginmedia.com) or written to Pam (926 8044)

Rotas

		Flowers	Coffee
October	5	Ted Sheppard HARVEST	Joy and Margaret
	12	Margaret McAdams	Pam and Doreen
	19	Barbara & Roy Musgrove	Jean and Maureen
	26		Christine and Barbara
November	2	Marita Chambers	Joy and Margaret
	9		Pam and Doreen
	16		Jean and Maureen
	23		Christine and Barbara
	30		Joy and Margaret

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 your offer to Marita Chambers or Sheila Waldron

Regular Weekly Events

at Sherwood U.R.C

- Mon 10.00 - 10.50 Zumba (Small Hall)
 10.00 - 12.00 Line Dancing
 5.45 - 6.45 Keep Fit
 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)
 7.00 - 9.00 Sherwood Women's Institute (4th Tue)
- 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
 7.30 pm Beeston Big Band practice night
- 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)
-

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

Prayers for Healing: *NEW*

A short time of prayer for healing and wholeness in the church following the communion service 11.45am approx.

'Early Birds' at 9.15' on the second Sunday
informal worship & breakfast in the Gallery.

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
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 enquiries	Send a text to	0795 232 4912
	<i>or use the website</i>	