

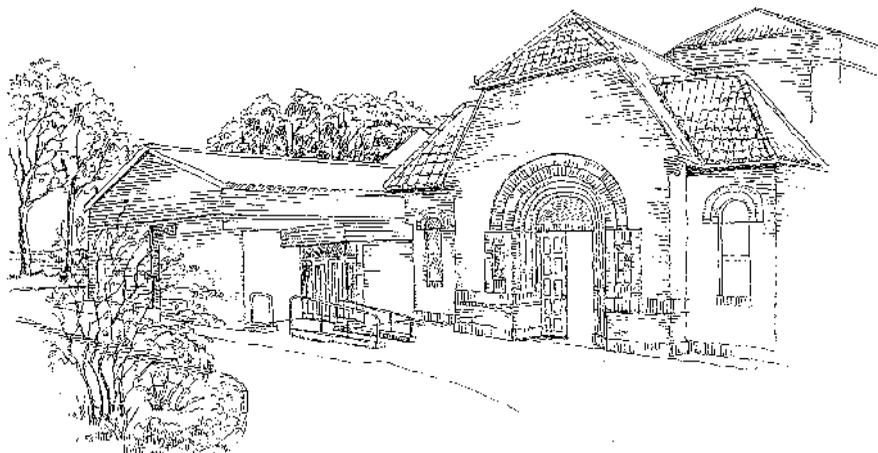


The
United
Reformed
Church

Sherwood

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The Newsletter

February and March 2016
From Epiphany to Easter

“Friendship is a living thing that lasts only as long as it is nourished
with kindness, empathy and understanding

Anonymous

Minister's Letter

Preparing for the first service at Sherwood in 2016 I realized that there is only just over four years to go before I retire. That made me stop and think and wonder where we will be in 2020, and that shaped the content of the service which looked back to Catch the Vision – the discussion we had nationally in the U.R.C. as we began to think about the future.



Those discussions produced Vision 2020, a framework of ten aims for the church local and national. Most, if not all of what we have done at Sherwood since I arrived at the end of 2009 has fitted in to Vision 2020, but we have not made that very clear. In 2016 I hope we will put that right, and see if Vision 2020 can help us work to strengthen the future of our fellowship.

Here then I print the ten aims of Vision 2020, together with some of the measures of achieving those aims.

I have grouped them together under four headings, in what I think is a more helpful order than the original publication.

Read through them.

How do we fare?

Which is the most important aim to tackle this year?

How should we do that?

Are there any other signs that we are on the right track?

Please hang on to this magazine as we will pick up this discussion at a church meeting early this year.

David



Vision 2020

A: Who we are

1. (Identity)

... every local church will be able to say who they are, what they do and why they do it.

We will know if we are on the right track by:

1. The number of local churches with a 'mission plan' or similar strategy document.
2. The number of churches having a welcome pack.
3. The number of churches having an Open Day.

2. (Spirituality and Prayer)

... we will have grown in our practice of prayer and spirituality, nurturing strength for our witness in complex times, and developing our discernment of where God is and what God is calling us to do.

We will know we are on the right track by:

1. The number of churches who have committed to taking part in initiatives to engage more deeply with prayer.
 2. The number of churches embarking on new ways of exploring mission and spirituality.
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3. (Christian Ecumenical Partnerships)

... we will be more confident in our identity, valuing the treasures of our tradition, discerning when to seek ecumenical partnerships, and when and how to seek the further unity of the church.

We will know if we are on the right track by:

1. The number of churches in Local Ecumenical Partnerships.
2. The number of churches involved in working with ecumenical partners.

B: What we do

6. (Evangelism)

... we will be more confident to engage in evangelism, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God with friends, families and strangers, through story and action.

We will know we are on the right track by:

1. The number of churches taking up the opportunity of the Vision4Life or God is Still Speaking projects for congregational development.
 2. The number of churches drawing on synod (staff) resources for evangelism for training and networking.
 3. The number of congregations planning and carrying out activities whose primary function is to share the gospel.
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7. (Church Growth)

... we will be a growing church with an increasing membership.

We will know we are on the right track by:

1. The number of new members in a congregation.
2. Growth in URC membership by 2020.
3. The number of churches exploring Fresh Expressions or new ways of being church.

C: What we care about**9. (Justice)**

... we will be a church that keeps faith with the poor and challenges injustice.

We will know we are on the right track by:

1. The number of churches that actively participate in at least one Joint Public Issues Team campaign each year.
 2. The number of churches engaged ecumenically in action against poverty and social exclusion in their local communities.
 3. The number of practitioners and campaigners in local churches involved in a network around these issues.
 4. The number of synods that have endorsed and are monitoring the implementation of the revised ethical investment policy of the URC.
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10. (The Integrity of Creation)

... we will be a denomination where each congregation has taken significant steps to safeguard the integrity of creation, to sustain and renew the life of the earth.

We will know we are on the right track by:

1. The number of local churches who have undertaken an environmental audit and are implementing some form of resulting action plan.
2. The churches that in worship, bible study and prayer give voice to the God whose life and love is expressed in all creation.
3. The number of congregations that are engaged with people in their local communities and globally over issues of environmental care, sharing concerns, contributing the insights of the Christian faith, co-operating with others in finding more sustainable patterns of life together.

D: Who we work with**4. (Community Partnerships)**

... we will be a church that is more active in the life of local neighbourhoods.

We will know if we are on the right track by:

1. The number of churches running some form of community-project.
 2. The number of churches that work in partnership with local agencies, including people of other faiths.
-

3. The number of church members volunteering in other community-based activities.

5. (Diversity)

... we will be a diverse church that does more to welcome and include all people equally.

We will know if we are on the right track by:

1. The number of churches that have regular training to consider inclusiveness in the congregation and act on it.
2. The number of churches that regularly monitor their membership and eldership to ensure inclusiveness.
3. Representation of black and minority ethnic groups on all key councils, committees and task groups, at local, synod and general assembly levels.
4. Appropriate numbers of black and minority ethnic ministers, church-related community workers, staff and candidates.

8. (Global Partnerships)

... we will be a church that is an active partner in God's global mission with other churches around the world.

We will know we are on the right track by:

1. The number of churches with direct links with a church overseas.
 2. The number of synods linked to a Council for World Mission (CWM) member church or other global partner.
 3. The number of churches sharing in Commitment for Life.
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Family News

Just before Christmas **Kath Hughes** had a fall at home and was admitted to the Q.M.C with a fracture in her leg. At the time of writing she is in Lings Bar as it has been decided to let the bone heal in its own time.

In the New Year it was good to see **Dennis Hartley** with **Betty** back at Church. Dennis is recovering from a bout of shingles

Marita enjoyed a lovely Christmas away with her family.

Our congratulations go to **Roy Musgrove** who will be celebrating his 90th birthday in February.

I would like to say a very big Thank You to everyone who helped cover the Treasurer's duties from September to December, and so allow me to take a break for a few months. This has left me feeling refreshed and ready to return to the role. I am looking forward to supporting the work of our Church during 2016.

Carolyn

Many folk at Church have suffered from the various and long lasting winter bugs that always seem to go round at this time of year. We hope that the lengthening days will bring you all a strengthening of body, mind and spirit.

PAST EVENTS

Our "Toy" Service on 29th November supported "Angel Tree". The receipt – a photograph of the small mountain of presents we bought and delivered to children of Nottingham prisoners – was on display in church over the Christmas period.

The Christmas Fair held on Saturday 12th December was held in support of the Church and was organised by Sue and Tricia.

Lots of people bought some presents from the stall holders. Stall holders and buyers alike commented on the good atmosphere. Thank you and well done.



“Swinging into Christmas” at which **Beeston Big Band** was supported by members of the **Reformed Players** who performed some (slightly) seasonal passages before a good sized audience

(larger than last year – word has got out!).

We did not charge for this event but donations were collected for church funds



Carols by Candlelight on 20th December – once again we had a good congregation and a lovely atmosphere.

We hosted four **Christingle Assemblies** led by David for **Seely Primary School** on Monday 21st, where the children explored the meaning of advent, and were encouraged to be message carriers of the 'Good News for all people'. In the photo on the next page they are lighting their christingles



Christmas Eve. The excitement of the night before Christmas was obvious when young and old came together before the **Crib Service** to make a **Christingle**. Everybody attending the service was able to have a christingle. These were lit during the Service, the light being passed from one person to another symbolising the need for sharing the Light of Christ with people we meet in this world.

The Crib Service involved the children – numbered parcels were placed under the tree and opened



in turn, each containing characters from the nativity scene and a relevant Gospel passage. The child who opened the parcel placed the figure in the 'stable' and their parent or carer read out the lesson. It was good to see new families this year at our service.

Christmas Eve Midnight Service. As we gathered we were treated to our last Advent mince pie provided by Norman and Jackie, and had the chance to catch up with some old yet not

often seen friends. When we moved into the Church we sat 'in the round' around the Communion table. It is always magical when we pause and become silent after singing "Silent Night" in the darkened Church. It is a rare moment of peace where we truly stop and wait, a moment in which we can finally find a space to allow Jesus in. It is the moment Christmas begins.

Christmas Day about 20 attended on Christmas morning for just over half an hour service, a period of reflection, readings and Carols, preparing ourselves for the excitement of the rest of the day, and we met some new friends.

Article



Fairtrade Fortnight 29 February – 12 March 2016

When we buy products with the FAIRTRADE Mark, we support farmers and workers as they work to improve their lives and their communities. The Mark means that the Fairtrade ingredients in the product have been produced by small-scale farmer organisations or plantations that meet Fairtrade social, economic and environmental standards. This means that workers' rights and the environment are protected, the Fairtrade Minimum Price is paid and an additional Fairtrade Premium is invested in business or community projects.

There are approximately 2 billion people in the world who depend on smallholder farming, living on 500,000 smallholder farms. Half of the world's hungry people are estimated to live on small farms. 30 million smallholder farmers produce most of the world's coffee and cocoa. Over 90 percent of the world's cocoa and 80 percent of the world's coffee is grown by smallholders. Around the world about 795 million people are under nourished.

One in three bananas bought in the UK is Fairtrade and it makes a huge difference to thousands of farmers, workers and their families. We can choose products that change lives. If we only buy Fairtrade tea, coffee, chocolate or bananas we will be making a difference to someone’s life.

In our prayers let us remember producers as they grow their crops, people who transport Fairtrade goods to market and those who import and sell Fairtrade goods.

Dear Lord, we ask your blessing
 on all who are involved with Fairtrade
 and grant us an understanding of the impact of our choices.

Bev Lockyer



There is also the Rainforest Alliance which gives a similar social benefit to the growers as Fairtrade but with an additional emphasis on conservation and biodiversity. These products are also good to buy!

David

Rotas

		Flowers	Coffee
February	7		Barbara and Maureen
	14	Margaret McAdams	Jean and Christine and
	21	Mavis Seed	George and Margaret
	28		Pam and Doreen
March	6		Barbara and Maureen
	13		Jean and Christine

	20	Palm Sunday	George and Margaret
	27	Easter	Pam and Doreen
	31		Barbara and Maureen
Apr	3		Jean and Christine

Please volunteer to Sheila Waldron if you can 'cover' the flowers one Sunday

Diary

February

- 3 Wed 11:45 Prime Time
 - 4 Thu 10:30 Chill-out
 - 5 Fri 10:00 Open Church
 - 7 Sun 10:30 Morning Worship
 - 10 Wed 14:30 Talking on the Way
 - 11 Thu 10:30 Chill-out
 - 11 Thu 19:30 Elders' Meeting
 - 12 Fri 10:00 Open Church
 - 13 Sat 10:00 Coffee Morning - Christian Aid
 - 14 Sun 10:30 Morning Worship - Lent 1: Visiting Preacher
 - 19 Fri 10:00 Open Church
 - 21 Sun 10:30 Morning Worship - Visiting Preacher
 - 24 Wed 14:30 Light Refreshment
 - 25 Thu 10:30 Chill-out
 - 26 Fri 10:00 Open Church
-

28 Sun 10:30 Morning Worship

March

2 Wed 11:45 Prime Time

3 Thu 10:30 Chill-out

4 Fri 10:00 Open Church

6 Sun 10:30 Morning Worship - Visiting Preacher

9 Wed 14:30 Talking on the Way

10 Thu 10:30 Chill-out

10 Thu 19:30 Elders' Meeting

11 Fri 10:00 Open Church

12 Sat 10:00 Coffee Morning - Christian Aid

13 Sun 10:30 Morning Worship

13 Sun 12:00 Church Meeting

17 Thu 10:30 Chill-out

18 Fri 10:00 Open Church

20 Sun 10:30 Morning Worship - Palm Sunday

23 Wed 14:30 Light Refreshment

24 Thu 10:30 Chill-out

25 Fri 10:00 Open Church

27 Sun 10:30 Morning Worship - Easter Sunday

31 Thu 10:30 Chill-out

April

1 Fri 10:00 Open Church

3 Sun 10:30 Morning Worship - Visiting Preacher

Regular Weekly Events

Mon	10.00 - 12.00	Line Dance	M
	6.00 - 7.00	Taekwan-Do	S
	5.45 - 6.45	FitSteps Health and Fitness	M
	7.30 - 9.00	Singing for fun choir (term time)	M
	7.30 - 9.00	Yoga Class	S
Tue	3.30 - 8.15	Children's Dance Class including various age classes	M
	9.30 - 2.00	Tiny Talk - sign language for babies	M
	7.30 - 9.00	Sherwood Women's Institute	
		<i>(Last Tue)</i>	C
Wed	12.00 noon	Prime Time Lunch Club (1 st Wed.)	G
	11.30 - 13.30	Y.M.C.A Active for Life	M, S
	20.00 - 22.00	Revival Dance	M
Thu	11.00 - 1.00pm	'Chill Out' drop-in for under fives and their carers	M
	6.00 - 7.00pm	Taekwan-Do	S
	7.30 pm	Reformed Players	M
	7.30 pm	Beeston Big Band practice night	S
Fri	10.00-12 noon	Open Door (Church open for quiet time)	C
	11.00 am	Stroke Club (fortnightly)	M
Sat	10.30 am	Christian Aid Coffee Morning	C
	1.30 - 4.00	Coffee Afternoon (Liane)	G

