



## IT'S YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD 2022

Name of entry: **The Quiet Garden. Sherwood Methodist Church**

Assessed on: 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2022

Assessor: Judith Fox

Size of entry:

Main contact: Sue Cooper. (Rob and Kathy Thomas.

Mike Clifford attending on the day)

### Introduction

A small garden at the side of the Church. Well cared for space for the local community to enjoy. Surprisingly very open accessible space. No barriers.

### Section A Community Participation Marks awarded 38/40

There are approximately 6/7 regular volunteers. The garden is very close to the main road and is readily available for anyone to use, having open access. They are growing a small box hedge to denote the start of the garden, making the area more defined. The Church is heavily used by several groups and the garden is accessible to everyone. (Repair Café, Sharing Sherwood, Guides, AA meetings, Baby Ballet etc). They are heavily engaged with the local community having taken part in Sherwood open gardens, encourage art projects and have won the Green Flag award 21/22. They are part of the Quiet Garden movement. A mirror from Sherwood Art week is now in place in the garden adding a new dimension to the space. Fir cone mobiles were hanging in the trees, another remnant of this Art week. A lovely mosaic pathway is in place with the words Faith, Hope, Joy, Love, Justice and Peace. This encourages the feeling of welcoming people in, particularly if they need time out to think things through. An excellent idea is the provision of leaflets in wooden covered boxes for anyone using the garden. These leaflets can direct people to various organisations which can help them. They sometimes have rough sleepers use the garden and this information is invaluable. A plant stall has been run from the garden raising a large sum of money for Emmanuel House and the Refuge Forum. Perennials are brought in by the volunteers and some plants have also been purchased through Woodthorpe Park for the Jubilee. Children were using the garden on the day of my visit, and they obviously appreciated the space and the freedom to use it.

### Section B Environmentally responsibility Marks awarded max 26/30

With the garden being on a main road, litter can be a problem, but this is regularly cleared by the helpers. This year they have had three birds nesting in the garden (Robin, Blackbird, Dunnock) and there is a bird bath in situ with bird feeders. Several fruit bushes are growing for all to enjoy. There is an essential water butt and compost making facilities. Raised beds and boxes are made from recycled materials and a lovely willow bower is becoming established (planted 2017 as a memorial). Lots of places for bugs and wildlife to thrive. This is a great space to sit, be still and enjoy the space. There is a salvaged stone cross as part of the garden which adds to the peace and tranquillity. There is a lot of traffic noise but once you have accepted it, it becomes barely noticeable because you are so part of the garden experience.

### **Section C Gardening Achievement Marks awarded max 25/30**

The volunteers have great hopes and ideas for the future. The Guides are to help build bat and swift boxes in the Autumn and to the back of the garden they wish to take up some of the area to have a wild flower patch and hopefully a water feature/bog garden. There is a wraparound garden area which is not part of the community garden, but it is still being maintained by the volunteers. It acts as a sound barrier from the road/walk way for local school children. At the top of the steps is a small herb garden which they are wondering about incorporating as part of the Community Garden. The garden is full of plants which work well together, and everything is well maintained. Some border edging needs to be replaced due to the wood becoming rotten and ideas for this are being considered by the volunteers. The recent high temperatures have been challenging but people have been going down on a regular basis to water the plants and they have not had too much damage. They are obviously very enthusiastic and committed to their work.

#### **Areas of exceptional achievement**

Very inclusive space for all members of the community to enjoy. A true oasis in a very busy area of the City.

#### **Areas for development**

The area at the back is work in progress but there are great ideas in place (see section C).

**Total Marks Awarded 89 Award Level 5 Outstanding**

**IT'S YOUR  
NEIGHBOURHOOD**



**RHS**  
Inspiring everyone to grow

**EAST MIDLANDS**

The Royal Horticultural Society  
and East Midlands in Bloom are proud to present  
**The Quiet Garden at Sherwood Methodist Church**

With a 2022 It's Your Neighbourhood Award of  
**Level 5 - outstanding**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keith Weed".

**Keith Weed CBE**  
President, Royal Horticultural Society