

MRBC

CHURCH MAGAZINE—NOVEMBER 2022



Photo by Tony—see page 7

Mansfield Road Baptist Church

Message for NOVEMBER from Sharon Jodrell

“Well you don’t *look* like a Christian!” Devastating words from Ashley, age 12, who had rushed down a corridor in school in his usual exuberant fashion at the end of the afternoon. He was looking for me, and he pulled up short and eyed me up and down before making his pronouncement. Crestfallen, he turned and walked away before I could respond.

Ashley was in a small class of Year 7 pupils who struggled with school life. The class was taught by one teacher, primary style, and that afternoon had been learning about Christianity. Apparently he had been very interested, and asked his teacher if she knew any Christians. “Mrs Jodrell”, she had told him.

Ashley was no doubt expecting to see some kind of special symbol or clothing which would identify me as a Christian. But - just what should a Christian look like? What should mark us out?

A while ago our minister Andy mentioned a poster that was popular years ago. The poster read ***“If you were arrested for being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you?”*** I don’t know who came up with that. Possibly the evangelist Billy Graham - it was certainly back in the late 1960s that this poster was displayed in the room where the youth group met here at Mansfield Road!

As a member of that group I recall being asked to imagine a trial where people came forward to give evidence, and to consider honestly ***how*** they might know or suspect you were a Christian. Because in spite of Ashley’s expectations, it is of course our ***beliefs*** that make the difference and make us stand out, not our appearance. A true believer, one who has genuinely experienced the call of God and asked Jesus into their lives, should surely be identifiable as a Christian by their thoughts, words and actions. Isn’t that how a disciple should stand out?

The Bible challenges those who have faith to live a life of kindness, compassion, forgiveness and generosity. The gospels show a Saviour who cared for the very least, gave unconditionally, fed the hungry. Christians are called to do the same. Someone calling themselves a Christian and going to church isn’t a guarantee, but if that person is also a living representation of Jesus to those around them, living a life that strives to get ever closer to God, the resemblance to Jesus will shine out like a beacon. ***This*** is what people will see.

Ashley left the school before the end of Y7, having been sent into foster care away from the area. He will be in his mid-twenties now. I hope and pray that he continues to be curious about Christians, and maybe comes across someone whose living faith shows him what being a Christian is in a way that doesn't disappoint him!

"A new commandment I give you. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." (John 13:34)

CHURCH DIARY for NOVEMBER

Sunday Service each week at 10.30am with groups for the children and young people.

Shalom Fellowship—Sunday 6th November

Toddler Group - Monday 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th November from 10.00am-11.45am

Church Members' Meeting – Wednesday 16th November at 7.30pm

Thursday Fellowship—Thursday 3rd & 17th November 10.30am-Noon

Renew Wellbeing Café — each Thursday from 1.30pm-4.00pm

The Men's Group—Thursday 10th & 24th November 7.00pm-9.00pm.

Church office contact details: admin@mrbc.org.uk or Tel 0115 9604304

PRAYER POINTS

- 1) Pray for those with financial challenges and ask for God's provision.
- 2) Pray for our Minister, Andy, and others in the church fellowship with health concerns, that they will know God's comfort.
- 3) Pray for the start of our new venture—the Renew Wellbeing Café—that those who attend will feel welcome and blessed.

THANK YOU to everybody for their care, encouragement and prayers in this time of my absence from church.

With Greetings, Andy.

Some thoughts on Remembrance—by John Sheppard

Remembrance Sunday, the nearest Sunday to November 11th, is a day on which due regard is given to, and thanksgiving made for, the sacrifices made by servicemen and women in the defence of our country against the evil ambitions of its enemies. This extends of course to the recent and modern conflicts which have occurred right up to 2021.

There tends to be somewhat of an emphasis on the twentieth century wars, generally known as the First and Second World Wars. The first of these particularly involved truly shocking casualties in the land battles, principally in northern France and Belgium. A brief glance at the two brass wall-plaques on the right side of the front of the church will show this. A smaller memorial, from another local church, is on the left side at the front. The First World War memorial confidently and rightfully states that those who died gave their lives “contending for a righteous peace”, which is self-evidently a worthy objective.

Christian tradition and teaching is that there is the concept of a Just War. This was first developed by Saint Thomas Aquinas, one of the most influential theologians of the last 1,000 years. His conditions for a Just War are:

- The war must have a just cause, ie against invasion or for self-defence
- The war must be declared and controlled by a proper authority, the state or ruler
- The war must be fought to promote good or avoid evil, with the aim of restoring peace and justice after it is over.

Later Christian thinkers have added:

- The war should be fought with proportionality, (ie with just enough force to achieve victory) and only against legitimate targets (ie civilians should be protected)
- The war should be a last resort (ie when negotiations have been tried and have failed) and that the good achieved must be greater than the evil that led to the war.

Without question, the early-summer-1982 conflict between this country and Argentina, which liberated the Falkland islanders from occupation by that military dictatorship’s forces, met all the tests for a Just War, on Britain’s part. As well as liberating the islanders, it brought about the demise of the dictator’s regime, and its replacement by a democracy which has endured to this day.

The righteousness of Ukraine in its present situation needs no further comment from me.

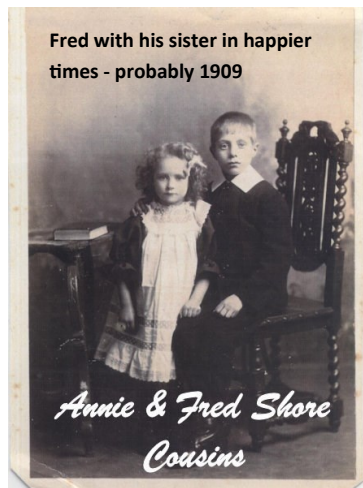
LEST WE FORGET—by Alan Joddrell

Fred Shore 1898-1917

As I begin to prepare to lead the church in the service of remembrance on 13 November, my thoughts turn to a family member who died in the First World War.

Fred Shore was mum's cousin. He was born on 16 March 1898 in Rochdale, Lancashire.

A year after war broke out, Fred enlisted with the 2nd/5th battalion Lancashire Fusiliers at the age of 17 in nearby Bury. Fred's father, my great-uncle Charles Robert Shore, died in Rochdale on 16 March 1917 (Fred's 19th birthday). Fred was with his regiment in Belgium at the time and was unable to attend his father's funeral. Just over 4 months later, on 31 July 1917, Fred himself died on the first day of the Battle of 3rd Ypres (Passchendaele). He was just one of the 275,000 British and Commonwealth soldiers who died in that battle along with 230,000 German soldiers.



There is no known grave. Fred's name is inscribed on panel 33 of the Menin Gate Memorial, Ypres, Belgium. The memorial was erected after the war at the town's gate through which allied soldiers passed to engage in battle. Since then, except for the war years, EVERY NIGHT the traffic through the gate has been stopped and at 8pm local people and visitors gather there in silent witness as the last post is sounded by local buglers.

In 2014 Sharon and I were privileged to attend the event, whilst on holiday in the area.

SHORE, Pte. Fred, 203874. 2nd/5th Bn.
Lancashire Fusiliers. 31st July, 1917. Age 19.
Son of Eliza Shore, of 107, Peel St., Rochdale.

The entry in the memorial register at the Menin Gate



Extract from the October Prayer Letter of Pippa & Toby Vokuhl

www.bmsworldmission.org/ptvokuhl

The first week of October is the Hindu
Dashain festival here in Nepal, the



biggest festival of many at this time of the year. We always seek to understand more about Nepali culture, and want to prayerfully consider how we best live within such environments as Christians. Watching the festivals taking place we are reminded of Romans 10:14.

News and prayer points

1) There is a massive outbreak of the mosquito-borne Dengue fever. It leads to very unpleasant symptoms requiring hospitalisation. Medicines are in short supply, even paracetamol. **Please pray** that this outbreak subsides quickly, and for the supply of essential medicines, and for protection over our family and team at this time.

2) Visa update: Toby now has a 3 month temporary work visa. Unfortunately, the government didn't allow Pippa and the kids to be on a dependent's visa linked to this, so they remain on tourist visas, which expire on 9th December. **Please pray** that a one year work visa is granted for Toby without delay, and that Pippa and the kids don't need to leave the country - they have already had so much transition and disruption to their education over the last two years.

3) One wonderful memory from our home assignment this year was meeting people from Hindu backgrounds in the UK who had come to know the freedom and peace that Jesus brings. They shared about leaving behind the fear of retribution from the gods and striving for the approval of the deities that had been their experience in Hinduism. **Please pray** that many in Nepal would discover this freedom and peace for themselves this Dashain season.

With much love from us all,

Pippa and Toby, with Jakey, Ella, and Millie

Photography and me by Tony Peace

I have been taking photographs over many years, and would only see myself as very much an amateur. Photographs have been a very good way of recording times such as holidays and creating memories. Other times it might be to create interesting images or to experiment with close up subjects such as insects. So photographs can range from spectacular views to buildings, animals (such as deer at Wollaton Park), flowers, and many more.

Occasionally there will be one photo which might be good enough for a competition. Over the last few years or so, I had sent in a few photos to various competitions without any success. That is until this month when a photo of mine was published in a magazine called Outdoor Photography and in a section called Viewpoints where readers are invited to submit entries. This was a total surprise as it was many months ago that I sent the photo in to the magazine. The winning image is shown here and is a view over the Hope Valley above Hathersage, and appropriately called "Surprise View"! Why did it win? I am not sure.



By contrast I have included a few more recent photographs to illustrate the diversity of nature. One of the benefits of going out to photograph places and nature is that it enables a close association with the world around us, and not least the wonder of creation.



My Spiritual CV—by Neelam Sidhu

Curriculum Vitae (CV) is latin for “cause of life”. It presents you as the best qualified candidate. A CV is a short description of your education, qualifications, previous jobs or past experience and at times, even your personal interests. In easy words, it describes your past and present which will help you in the future.

Proverbs 5:21 *“The Lord sees everything you do, wherever you go, He is watching”*

God knows everything we do. Our physical and mental actions and thoughts are recorded every moment of every day. It is all recorded by our Lord. This verse made me realise however we have acted in the past and how we act in the present, all affects how our future will go.

Although our work CVs may come across as attractive and eye catching, how do you think you can establish a good spiritual CV? As long as you are on this earth, it is your time to create a righteous and spiritual CV. Your soul would be eternal and your home would be right where our Heavenly Father’s is.

Do you think you are biblically educated enough? Do you believe you have had enough experience to serve the Lord with your gifts? Do you share God’s love to people who are in need of it? All these questions are for you to reflect on. I personally am working on my spiritual CV in this daily life I live. One day, my spiritual CV will allow me to walk with my Lord. In conclusion, time is running out!



Umbrellas, umbrellas... beautiful umbrellas!

Do you recognise a long lost umbrella?

If so...do pick it up from the church office.

It could come in useful soon!

A big “thank you” to all contributors this month. Please continue to furnish us with YOUR news, YOUR pictures, YOUR poem, YOUR story, any articles of interest to others. Please give to Susan Bye or Sharon Joddrell at church or post or send by email to susan@msbye.co.uk, to arrive by **15th November** for the December/January edition.

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Website: www.mrbc.org.uk