

MRBC

CHURCH MAGAZINE—APRIL 2023



Mansfield Road Baptist Church

Message for April from Sarbjit Gill

Easter is a time of celebration, remembering the ultimate sacrifice that our Lord Jesus Christ made on the cross for each of us. His love for us is pure, holy and true. How can we ever forget the precious blood of Jesus, shed for us?

Truly, the love of Jesus for us is eternal. He wants us to be in good



health and victorious in every way. To meet every challenge in our lives, we must have Jesus on the forefront, leading us and guiding us through the word of God and praying to him.

Jesus defeated death and reigns as the eternal King. He is the supreme power, the light of this world. Jesus was crucified on the cross and rose on the third day. The Resurrection of Jesus Christ means nothing could

defeat him because he is eternal.

Easter eggs signify new life and rebirth—reminding us of Jesus' emergence from the tomb and his resurrection. It's about honouring the sacrifice of Jesus. Our hope of salvation, belief, trust and having faith in the promises of God.

Good Friday and the third day—Easter Sunday—are special days for believers with the hope and joy of our risen Saviour. Let us never forget, God sacrificed his one and only son so that we may have salvation, freely given in love.

Romans 10 verse 9:

"If you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

This makes it clear that Jesus is our Lord and Saviour who lives in our hearts.

CHURCH DIARY for APRIL

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

Shalom Fellowship – Sunday 2nd April from 2.30 to 4.30pm

GOOD FRIDAY—7th April—Service of Reflection at 11am

Shalom Fellowship—GOOD FRIDAY Service—7th April 2.30pm

EASTER SUNDAY—Service at 10.30am led by Revd Fitzroy Sterling

Toddler Group - Monday 17th & 24th April from 10am to 11.45am

Men's Group – Thursday 13th & 27th April from 7.00 to 9.00pm

Renew Wellbeing Café – Every Thursday in April — 1.30pm to 4.00 pm

PRAYER POINTS— please pray especially for our church this month –

- 1) Let us pray that we can be the salt and light in our Christian lives as we move towards this time of Easter.
 - 2) For our young people to find a leader in the church family.
 - 3) For our church fellowship to be united in moving forward in God's grace.
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Young Disciples

We continue to thank God for the number of children attending which is usually between 8 and 12 each week. We have welcomed some new children in recent weeks and hope they continue to enjoy coming. We have looked at many different things this term. One week we looked at how we can rely on Jesus to support us when we are going through difficult times. Each child made a 'joy jar' by decorating an ordinary glass jar with stickers and tissue paper. Inside the jar we put slips of paper on which we wrote things that we were thankful for or that brought us joy. We could then go to the jar if we were having a difficult time and pull out some reminders of things to be joyful about.



We have been thinking about how we respond to others and how God wants us to respond to others. We have talked about how we can welcome people into church but also how we can react to people we find difficult to get on with. This produced an interesting discussion a couple of weeks ago. I am always impressed with the Bible knowledge of our young people and their thoughts on the stories we study each week.

A reflection contributed by Sharon Joddrell:

Were You There When They Crucified My Lord?

Jesus was innocent. Pontius Pilate said so after examining Jesus personally (John 19:4). Jesus never even committed a single sin (Heb. 4:15). Yet, wearing a crown of thorns and a purple robe in mockery, he bore his cross to a place called Golgotha and was crucified (John 19:16-30)

The Bible tells us about some of the people who were there.

Soldiers oversaw the crucifixion. They were cruel (Mark 15:16-20), mocking him (Luke 23:36-37) and hard-hearted, casting lots for Jesus' clothing (John 19:23-24), an act foretold in Psalm 22:18.

Mary, the earthly mother of Jesus (John 19:25-27). Every mother can understand the pain she must have felt looking upon her son hanging on that cross.

Priests. Full of hatred toward Jesus (Matt. 27:41-43). They admitted Jesus had "saved others," referring to those he had healed, yet tortured him with their words, "If He is the King of Israel, let him now come down from the cross, and we will believe him."

Thieves. Two robbers crucified on either side of Jesus (Matt. 27:38). One full of blasphemy, the other humility, admitting his own guilt (Luke 23:39-43).

Centurion. Though he was with the soldiers, this man made a startling admission, accepting that Jesus was the Son of God (Mark 15:39).

You. Not personally, but representationally. Jesus bore your sins on the cross (1 Peter 2:24). He died surrounded by heartbroken supporters, vicious gawkers, grim soldiers and proud religious leaders as a perfect offering to God.

Will you live for him?

Matt Clifton, Bulletin Digest, abridged

Journey to the Heart of Easter

During the weeks leading to Easter, as we think about the cross, we may be struck by our Lord's purposeful approach to the city, where He knew crucifixion and resurrection awaited.

As the time approached for Him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem (Luke 9:51). From that moment on Jesus' eyes were on the cross. Every obstacle to accomplishing His Father's will became part of his peripheral vision, a journey from the Garden of Eden to the Garden of Gethsemane.

It is a journey that reveals that Easter is not just a key story, but the key story of the Bible, our world and each of our lives. All too often the true, life-changing and awesome message of Easter gets lost among trivialities. The reflective journey to Easter allows us to consider just what this world defining story means to us. So let's wonder with the disciples as they witnessed His agonising death. Neither cries of hosanna nor cries of hatred could deter Jesus from His goal to give His life as a ransom for many and to pay the price to see us free (Matthew 20:28).

Where is our focus today?

Thank you, Jesus, for setting yourself to do whatever it would take to save us.

Hazel O'Connor



Tina Eftekhari shares:

It just came to my heart to share this list of healing scriptures by Andrew Wommack's ministry. I found these confessions very powerful as they are exact words of God and can be used to transform minds and hearts in any sort of healing not just physical.

A HEALTH CONFESSION by Andrew Wommack

I am already healed by the stripes of Jesus. (1 Peter 2:24)

I already have the same power inside of me that raised Jesus from the dead.
(Eph. 1:19)

I have the authority to use that power. Death and life are in the power of my tongue. (Prov. 18:21)

So I dwell under the shadow of the Almighty and say He is my refuge and my fortress; in him will I trust. (Ps. 91:1–2)

The Lord delivers me from the snare of the devil and the deadly pestilence
(Ps. 91:3).

No plague will come nigh my dwelling, which means no germ can touch me and live. (Ps. 91:10) I am a germ's or virus's worst nightmare.

I can have what I say if I don't doubt in my heart (Mark 11:23). Therefore, I say sickness has no power over me. The Lord blesses my bread and water and turns sickness off in my body. (Ex. 23:25)

I was, am, and shall be the healed of the Lord through faith in what Jesus has done for me. Amen!

Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.
(1 Peter 2:24)

And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power. (Eph 1:19)

Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof. (Proverbs 18:21)

For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. (Mark 11:23)



A reflection contributed by John Sheppard



Why do we have music in Church?

The answer to that question is, at one level, rather obvious; communal music serves to shape and build up the people of God. However, it might be useful to unpack that briskly simple statement, and explore it a little deeper.

Plato, a Greek philosopher of the pre-Christian era (but whose thoughts and writings have had some significant influence on Christianity over the centuries) wrote: “Training in music is most important, because rhythm and harmony permeate the innermost element of the soul, and affect it more powerfully than anything else.” Hence, according to Plato, virtuous music is vital for building a virtuous community.

Jewish and Christian traditions take the same insight even further. The Hebrew scriptures call dozens of times on the congregation of Israel to “sing to the Lord”. St Paul’s letters to the early churches repeat the same command: “With gratitude in your hearts, sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.” (Colossians 3: 16)

Martin Luther, the man most easily identified with the Reformation, was a prolific writer of hymns. He aimed to connect high art and folk music, and the whole people, clergy, laity, men, women and children. It was the communal singing of hymns that he felt to be most helpful to this aim. Ultimately, this led to a participatory culture of music-making that although it evolved and secularised, has endured for many centuries.

It should be noted that the collected hymns familiar to our church tradition have a number of useful characteristics. They are regular in rhythm, employ simple tunes, and are written within a vocal range comfortable for untrained voices. Regrettably, over recent years, much Christian music fails to meet those eminently sensible principles.

In conclusion, music does have a power that points to eternal things, and it can draw us into a community in which the living share in the same song as those who have gone before and those yet to be born. That’s reason enough to make music together in church.

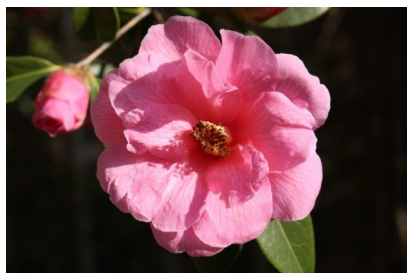
Tony Peace shares signs of Spring from his camera:



taken at Dimmingsdale Nature Reserve ,
near Calke Abbey



and at Holme Pierrepont Hall



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 April** for the May edition.

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