

# Mansfield Road Baptist Church

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Minister: Andy Wilson

Dear All,

I was reminded recently of the image of the church as a tree. Each one of us initially in isolation is like a freshly planted seed. When the seed springs to life it does two things: it starts to put down roots, which over time spread, going deeper into the soil which provides the plant with life giving water ; the roots become stronger and anchor the plant firmly in place. The seed also sprouts shoots, which move slowly towards the surface, seeking out the light which will provide energy for new growth. The tree grows strong and its many branches reach further towards the light. The trees in a forest are linked below the surface as their roots touch so that they form a deeply connected community. Above the surface the trees form a glorious canopy that provides shelter for weary travellers.

The challenge for us all is to stay connected to each other and to our Lord Jesus Christ. Prayer and daily devotions become even more important to anchor us in the word of God and illuminate our path in these troubled times. Remember to stay in touch you can use the website [www.mrbc.org.uk](http://www.mrbc.org.uk), you can join the WhatsApp group (contact Andy on 07858008309) and you can read the church magazine. I also know that many people are working hard to keep everyone connected and supported.

I wanted to take this opportunity to update you on some key aspects of the running of the church in the present unusual times.

- 1) It seems clear that we will not be holding our AGM in May. The annual return has to be submitted to the Charity Commission by 31<sup>st</sup> October, and so we have time to see how the current situation develops.
- 2) The independent examiner, Alan Wilson, met with Alan Joddrell at the end of February and has agreed that last year's accounts are ready for presentation to the trustees and AGM.
- 3) Alan Joddrell has analysed our financial situation in the short and long term. The Charity Commission allows us to use our financial reserves to be used to cope with unexpected events. Our reserves are enough to prevent significant problems.

Finally, can I thank Andy, Andrea, Neelam, Patrick, Alan and Sue Bye for the work they have done to keep our church community connected in these difficult times.

Dave