

We send very best wishes to all our Junior Church children—and teachers within our congregation—as they start back to school this September. Enjoy this partial return to normality! God bless!

A few typing errors to make you smile.

A reliable source tells us that these sentences actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced at church services:

1. The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.
2. The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water.' The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'
3. Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.
4. The sixth-form will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the Church basement on Friday at 7 pm. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.
5. For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.
6. Next Thursday there will be try-outs for the choir. They need all the help they can get.
7. Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.
8. The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.
9. This evening at 7 pm there will be a hymn-singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.
10. The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the Congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday.

A big "thank you" to all contributors this month. To continue monthly we need YOUR news, YOUR pictures, YOUR poem, YOUR story, any articles of interest to others. Please send by email to susan@msbye.co.uk, or phone Susan Bye and dictate, or by post, to arrive by **15th September** for the October edition.

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Website: www.mrbc.org.uk

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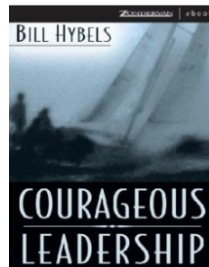
CHURCH MAGAZINE—SEPTEMBER 2020



Mansfield Road Baptist Church

Message for September from Rev Anne Davies

In Andy's message for our August magazine he helped us to think about the model of church we should be using as we come out of lockdown into a new situation, a new landscape. He encouraged us to think about the hallmarks of being church that we read about in Acts 2, when the church was launched following the day of Pentecost. In my ministry I have gone back and back to that passage, especially when seeking God for fresh vision for the church or when dealing with a situation I have never faced before. This passage has been the foundation of my ministry and I'm sure of the ministry of many people as we have seen there what the church can and should look like. Someone else I know who goes back and back to Luke's description of the early church is Bill Hybels, the founder of Willow Creek, a church that has influenced so many fellowships, and spawned so many church plants. He describes in his book *Courageous Leadership* watching one of the house groups in his church surrounding, supporting and loving a young couple who had just given birth to a child they were told would only live about six weeks. He was so moved by what he saw that he wrote these words.



"There is nothing like the local church when it's working right. Its beauty is indescribable. Its power is breathtaking. Its potential is unlimited. It comforts the grieving and heals the broken in the context of community. It builds bridges to seekers and offers truth to the confused. It provides resources for those in need and opens its arms to the forgotten, the downtrodden, the disillusioned. It breaks the chains of addictions, frees the oppressed and offers belonging to the marginalised of this world. Whatever the capacity for human suffering, the church has a greater capacity for healing and wholeness."

"I don't know about you but when I think of the world we live in... I can't help but commit myself with even greater fervour to the beautiful, powerful, vital church of Jesus Christ. Where else would I want to employ the gifts God has graciously given to me? The church is the hope of the world."

We are in a new place. We don't know what the church will look like next year, in ten years' time but we do know that the church is the hope of the world. We do know that the church is God's gift to a hurting, broken world. We do know that God's plan is to use the church to bring people into his kingdom and we do know that Jesus is continuing to build his church. So we don't need to be anxious or afraid, Jesus is in control, God knows what he is doing.

God bless, **Anne**

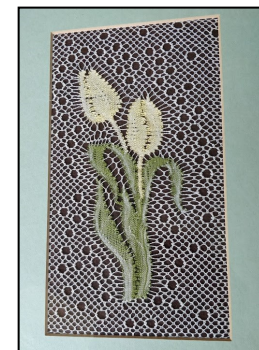
An Unusual Hobby

I've always been a keen knitter, inspired by my mother, and done dressmaking, inspired by a teacher, and cross stitch inspired by a friend, but lace-making? This all started when I was going into my son Paul's class in the Junior School as a parent helper. I was doing simple cross stitch with a group, and another mother was instructing a group on basic lace-making with a few pairs of bobbins to create



a picture of a mouse. I was fascinated with how the children picked this up and then I spotted a lace-making course on a Wednesday afternoon in the local scout hut. I went along and joined a group—of mostly elderly ladies—

doing amazing intricate work. In order to start I had to make my own pillow – a wooden board for which I made a cover and stuffed the inside with straw. I still use it 32 years later! I then had to create a set of bobbins by using



wire and beads to weight the ends. Then a pattern – called a pricking – was chosen, bobbins wound with cotton and I was away, making a simple bookmark. The two-hour classes flew by each week and I gained enough knowledge to work on pieces at home. For years my family and friends have been recipients of mats, paper weights, pictures, bookmarks, wedding garters etc as presents. I especially liked making pictures, but needed a lot of tuition for these, and as I

no longer attend regular classes confine myself to easy pieces nowadays.

Have you an unusual hobby or pastime? **Do tell us about it.**



Susan Bye

My Journey in Christ by Sarbjit Gill

Since my childhood I have always believed in God. As a young child I would go to the Sikh temple and inside me I would yearn to be close to God. I would feel that I have a best friend, some one who I can talk to.



As I thought I was getting close to God by praying, however, I felt nothing but emptiness. It was like talking to a brick wall. Throughout my life I would pray to God, talk to him and expected a two way conversation. I would talk and pray and in return wait for an answer in some way or another, but this never happened. I did not give up I even started to praying to Gods of other religions thinking to my self that I have to get close to God. But still I did not feel anything, no response from the so called gods.

Then eight years ago I was going through many problems in my life; I lost my job and everything around me was crumbling. I tried so hard to hold on to everything, but it was no good. I tried to grasp everything I had but all I could do was watch my life crumbling to bits. I called out to the gods I prayed to, but they also just watched me go down.

In October 2012, just when there was absolutely No Hope in my life some one found me and rescued me and gave me hope in every situation in my life. That some one was the Lord Jesus Christ. My wife's relative had told her about Jesus and she said "Why don't we phone this Pastor in Nottingham?" I was reluctant but thought I have nothing to lose. So I phoned him and explained what was happening and he prayed for me. First time in my life I felt a warm hug from God. It was so real. I had never experienced this before in my entire life. So my journey began with Jesus Christ and he restored everything in my life.

(Editor: Have you a personal journey to share? Do put pen to paper!)

DIARY FOR SEPTEMBER

We ask that if you are hoping to attend any of these meetings that you leave a message with the Church Office by telephone on 0115 9604304 or email admin@mrbc.org.uk

Please remember that masks need to be worn and that you will be signed into the buildings. Sunday services will continue to be available through the website or by CD if requested.

Sunday 6th and 20th	10.30am to 11.30am	Morning Service
Sunday 13th and 27th	10.30am to 11.30am	Morning Service with Shalom Fellowship
Wednesday 2nd, 16th and 30th	10.30am	Looking at the Bible Together
Wednesday 9th and 23rd	10.30am	Prayer Meeting
Thursday 3rd and 17th	10.30am	Prayer Meeting
Thursday 10th and 24th	10.30am	Eagles Wings group
Wednesday 2nd	7.00pm	Deacons Meeting
Wednesday 16th	7.00pm	Prayer Meeting

CHURCH OFFICE

Please note there will be new times for the Church Office from the start of September. It will be open from Tuesday to Friday from 10am to 1pm and closed on Mondays. We ask people wherever possible to ring ahead and arrange visits – thank you.

RETREAT DAY, THURSDAY 1st OCTOBER, 10am – 4pm

All of us need to be growing in our discipleship and the idea of this first Retreat Day is to give opportunity for this. It is hoped that in this time there will be an encountering with God for all those attending. It is anticipated that the day will be oversubscribed but it will be repeated as needed. Please remember to book in through the Church Office and bring a packed lunch.

CHURCH MEETING

The planned September Church Meeting is taking the form of an open prayer meeting. It is envisaged that a Church Meeting will be taking place as the format that best suits our situation is identified. A letter detailing this will be sent out to all Church Members.

Ivy shares a poem she likes from her “Ideal Scrap Book” presented to her in her final year at school

“The Art of Life”

“Life, beautifully lived, is an art.” Yes, whether we will or not, we are artists. To each has been given, by a benevolent Creator, the raw materials out of which life is made.

When we begin our task of living, these raw materials are in the rough, as a stone just taken from the quarry, a shapeless mass, often unattractive, and seemingly with very limited possibilities, awaiting the skill of the master artist.

Michaelangelo, the great artist of the Renaissance, once said he could see an angel in the rugged stone on which he was working; and that his task was to liberate it.

This is the business of life, namely, to make out of the rough materials of daily opportunity, the shapeless mass of crude experience, the unpromising failures of the past, a life that is attractive, and beautiful, and of enduring value.

Many are merely dabbling around making some strange monstrosity, some childish caricature, some ludicrously grotesque figure which excites only a sense of humor, or of pathos, because of its incongruity.

Others are content to copy life after a common pattern with no skill of artistry, and no sense of life’s true values.

A few, inharmony with the Father’s perfect plan, are creating masterpieces of exquisite beauty, of lasting enjoyment, and of rare accomplishment, which will be classic in the future annals of the history of man.

Whether our lives are beautiful and sublime, or commonplace and unattractive, depends to a large extent upon our skill as artists, our concept of the beautiful, and our appreciation of the true values of life.

Creative art demands the price of discipline, of hard work, and of eternal persistence.

True art is the product of skill in creative expression which is innate; and to which has been added long years of study, of practice, and of painstaking evaluations.



But such also is life. Life is the science of fellowship, with God and with our fellow man; and the art of life is the creative expression of that fellowship in all human relationships.

Creative living demands the price of self-discipline, hard work, and eternal persistence, just as surely as does the mastery of music, of sculpture, or of painting.

Our of this creative effort, under the guidance of the Master Artist, comes life’s masterpiece, - the image and glory of God, - a finer work of art than can ever be wrought out of stone, or canvas, or musical note.

An extract from the latest prayer letter of our link BMS World Mission Workers—Pippa and Toby Vokuhl



Nepal is suffering the effects of one of the strictest lockdowns in the world, with many daily wage labourers finding themselves with no means to feed their families. Others have died through lack of access to routine medical care. This has been compounded by the monsoon season with deaths from floods and landslides. This year farmers have also had to deal with incursions into Nepal by locust swarms.

How do we respond as a family in the face of so much suffering around us? Yes, we can pray, contribute to the food distribution work of our local church, and continue to support the work of INF (International Nepal Fellowship) from home as much as possible. Limited in our reach, we feel that we can sometimes only play a small part, but pray that it ‘makes a difference’. Two examples:

Grishma is the same age (6) as our youngest daughter, Millie, and lives in a shed behind our house with her parents, Christians who came from their village a year ago to seek daily wage jobs in Pokhara. Grishma has no table to work on, no internet access and illiterate parents. So she has joined in with our 3 kids at the kitchen table as they work through their daily home-school tasks.

One day Pippa spotted a young lady collapsed on the road nearby our house. She took her out some food and drink and her brother explained that they had lost their jobs and had no money to pay for food, let alone her breast cancer treatment. Pippa was able to show them the way to the INF hospital, Green Pastures, and pointed her towards our church which offers a food distribution service. Please **pray** for her in her pain and that interactions with Christians who care would point her to the One who can save her.

Please **pray** that as lockdown slowly lifts a huge spike in virus numbers can be prevented. Please **pray** for Toby’s work—the design development for a new residential building at Green Pastures Hospital is progressing well. **Pray** for our children who have had an unsettled year, and will continue to do so. We are currently experiencing visa issues and we are also due to move from Pokhara to the capital Kathmandu for Jakey’s ongoing high school education. Please **pray** for resilience and peace for all the family as we face uncertainties and a move, and for evolving roles for both of us. THANK YOU.