

## A Powerful Prayer?

contributed by Alan Davies

Of late I have been using a daily devotional book by Bear Grylls, TV adventurer and committed Christian. In one of his meditations he talks about “one of the most powerful prayers I know”. I was all ears, I could do with a powerful prayer, I thought. But what a surprise! I knew it already and so do you:-

*The Lord bless you and keep you,  
The Lord make His face shine upon you,  
And be gracious to you;  
The Lord turn His face towards you,  
And give you His peace.*



Within a few hours of reading this I received news that my niece's 3yr old daughter was seriously ill in hospital with lung complications and not responding well to treatment. What could I do? 200 miles away and powerless. I prayed this prayer over her picture and when the tears started rolling down my cheeks, I knew that Bear Grylls was completely right. This really is a powerful prayer.

Try it yourself if you don't believe me. Don't be put off by the familiarity of the words, but listen carefully to yourself saying them.

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 Jodrell at church or post or send by email to [susan@msbye.co.uk](mailto:susan@msbye.co.uk), to arrive by **15th October** for the November edition.

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# MRBC

CHURCH MAGAZINE—OCTOBER 2021



Bright and welcoming for the first of our Monday coffee & cake mornings



## Mansfield Road Baptist Church

## A Message for October from our Minister

Dear friends

During the last week of September and the first week of October there is much happening in our buildings as the Welcome Hall is re-established as a place of welcome in different ways, together with the restarting of the funeral and toddler ministry in limited ways.

Please be encouraged to be at this part of our journey as we travel in the new landscape that greets us in our world. These are Jesus' words from John 15:

*"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. <sup>2</sup> He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes<sup>[a]</sup> so that it will be even more fruitful. <sup>3</sup> You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup> Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. <sup>5</sup> "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.*



We must remember not to be exercising ministry in our own strength but to remain within the vine of Jesus. As we do this then those that we encounter in our ministry will see the fruit of ourselves who are Mansfield Road Baptist Church.

Galatians 5 <sup>22</sup> *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.*

This is how we will be described if we faithfully live staying within the vine ensuring our relationship with Jesus. This is both our invitation and challenge.

With greetings

*Andy*

The poem was read out on Saturday 18 September when I was invited to attend a celebration at a new development in Top Valley where I cut the ribbon leading to a road named after Alan and saw a cherry tree planted by Nottingham City Homes in his memory. So therefore the poem epitomises Alan the man, a lay preacher, teacher and politician. I am truly blessed to have shared 21 years with him despite not getting a chance to grow old together.



*The photo and reflection below arrived from Eunice too late for the September magazine—but it's good to include now.*



### The beauty all around us:

When I see the flowers in the garden I do appreciate the beauty of creation. I have so much to be grateful for. Over the last month I have lived to see my second grandson come into this world—what blessings given the previous year we had. We need some joy and happiness even in these unprecedented times. So I am truly grateful for all the good things in life. My beautiful garden and now my lovely grandson. Such a privilege to be alive.



## A special day for Eunice Campbell-Clark

IMAGINE A MAN

*IMAGINE A MAN so humble and quiet his presence alone speaks volumes.*

*A Man whose reputation precedes him, always going beyond, transcending greatness.*

*Not the greatness that others seek superior in attitude to others.*

*But the greatness that shouts humility, with a desire to provide for the highest good of others.*

*IMAGINE A MAN that listens, thinks and observes more than he speaks.*

*A Man that all people from every walk of life is drawn to, a man with true kindness of heart.*

*Not a kindness that can be taken for weakness or taken advantage of.*

*But the kindness that is selfless, compassionate and concerned about the well being of others.*

*IMAGINE A MAN accomplished and distinguished, yet unassuming and ever so patient.*

*A Man with stature and substance, a learned man, set apart from others by his wisdom.*

*Not in a boastful or ego-centric bragging type of way, where others might be made to feel inferior.*

*But in the way described in the bible.... "Who is wise and understanding among you let him prove it by living an honourable life, doing good works with humility that comes from wisdom"*

*This man you have imagined is the wonderful late Alan Clark, an outstanding and dedicated Councillor of this ward, a loving husband and a wonderful brother.*

Eunice writes: I wanted to share this beautiful poem that was written by my niece, Sioban Campbell, for my late husband who served the people of Nottingham. Alan passed away in July 2017. I don't question God why He has taken my husband so early, but I know that He knows our destiny and therefore we cannot question His motives. As a child of God, we know that He put some of us here just for a season and as that season comes to an end we just have to let go. Alan and I share so many good times and happy memories together such our wonderful holidays, visiting the theatre and we both loved classical music and some Jazz and Motown and much more too. He was my friend, husband and political partner.

## CHURCH DIARY FOR OCTOBER

**Sunday Service** — each week at 10.30am

— including creche and groups for Young Disciples and Young People  
A pre-recorded service will also be available on the website.

**Prayer in the Welcome Hall** — Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> September @ 11am  
Celebrating the refurbishment and offering to God together with the restarting of Toddlers and funeral ministry

**Coffee & Cake Mornings**

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> Welcome Hall :10am – 11.45am

**Toddlers**

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> Church Hall :10am – 11.45am

**The Prayer Course in the Church Hall**

Session 7 - Mon 4<sup>th</sup> @ 4pm & Thu 7<sup>th</sup> @ 10am

Session 8 - Mon 18<sup>th</sup> @ 4pm & Thu 21<sup>st</sup> @ 10am

**Corporate Prayer in Church** — Wed 20<sup>th</sup> and Wed 27<sup>th</sup> @ 11am

**Church Meeting in the Church Hall** — Wed 20<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm

**Prayer & Bible Study** — Wed 6<sup>th</sup> & Wed 27<sup>th</sup> @ 7.30pm



### October Prayer Pointers

1) Continue to pray for the Vokhul family in Nepal and specifically for the children that they have a resilience for the online schooling that has been ongoing for so long now.

2) Pray for the work of Operation Agri and specifically the two initiatives in Uganda (SAFI & WALP) which are in a state of change following the death of Paul Kyalimpa during the summer.

3) Pray for the beginnings of ministry afresh such as Toddlers in our buildings. May we as a church be able to involve ourselves with others through the words of Mother Teresa:

*"It's not how much we do but how much love we put into the actions that we do".*

## Intercessory Prayer by Dave Mangan

Paul writes in his letter to the Romans (8:26-7)

*“for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.”*

One of the greatest struggles in the Christian life is prayer. So much of our interest and life is consumed by this world but we know that we must keep praying and drawing nearer to God. In the passage above, Paul says that the Spirit itself makes intercessions for us. We have all experienced times when we do not really know what to ask God for. The Holy Spirit not only knows our problems but knows perfectly the will of God. This means that sometimes God will surprise us in the answers that he gives to our prayers. He will give us something different; He gives us things when we are not expecting them; He gives us things that we would never have thought to ask for; He gives us things that the Holy Spirit sees as meeting our needs. This should give us confidence and hope that even if we cannot put into words our needs, the Holy Spirit will intercede for us. The Holy Spirit also prompts and guides us to pray for others.

### Your Kingdom Come

Many people in the church will have followed the prayer course devised by Pete Greig who is the Senior Pastor of a church in Guildford and a bestselling author. His book *“how to pray”* is described as a “simple guide for normal people” and the prayer course is based on this book. In this, the first of a series of articles, we will consider the section of the course on intercessory prayer.

Intercessory prayer is described simply as presenting the needs of people to God. In 2 Chronicles 7:14 we read:

*“if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.”*

Two words in this passage stand out. **If** and **then**. **If** my people will pray, **then** I will heal their land. This is a promise from God to respond to the prayers of his people by transforming their land and forgiving their sins. When we bend our knee in prayer, God will intercede.

We do not have to intercede, it is our choice to do so, but the knowledge of Jesus’ heart means that we care about people and situations and bring them to God. This will release God’s blessing bringing healing, reconciliation, and hope wherever we are.

The course suggests four practical steps to help us grow in our prayers for others:

- 1) Get Informed – find out the facts of the problem you are wanting to address. This may be as simple as asking someone how you can pray for them or finding out some details of an international crisis. We are encouraged to pray specifically.
- 2) Get Inspired – can we see relevant promises in God’s word and focus them on the person or situation. This is about praying God’s prayers based on his plans and not on our own inclinations.
- 3) Get Indignant – When we see the promises of God for a particular person or situation, we get annoyed by the way they are being frustrated. Robert Pierce, an American Baptist minister and the founder of the international charity organizations World Vision International and Samaritan’s Purse, wrote: *“Let your heart be broken with the things that break God’s heart”*

We are to pray holding on to the promises of God and asking that they be fulfilled.

- 4) Get in sync – We read in Matthews Gospel, Ch 18: 19-20

*“Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.”*

We should pray with others and say Amen because there is a unique power in the united prayers of intercession of God’s people.

