

A prayer for Ukraine—taken from the Baptist Union website

God of all, with alarm and concern we bring before you the military intervention in Ukraine.

In a world you made for peace and flourishing, we lament the use of armed force.

We mourn every casualty of this conflict, every precious life extinguished by war.

We pray comfort for those who grieve and those who are fearful.

Hear our longing that leaders and nations will honour the worth of all people by having the courage to resolve conflict through dialogue.

May all our human failings be transformed by your wonderful grace and goodness.

We ask this in the name of Christ, the author of peace and sustainer of Creation.

AMEN

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.

© Mansfield Road Baptist Church, Sherwood Rise, Nottingham NG7 6JN

Website: www.mrbc.org.uk

CHURCH DIRECTORY

At the last Church Meeting the importance of the membership directory was highlighted. Looking at our data protection policy we see it as being something that we need to opt into individually.

We are in the process of getting this permission from the membership. It would be helpful if you could sign this slip below and hand it to one of the leaders or into the Church Office – thank you.

I give permission for my name, address and contact number to be circulated to all the membership of Mansfield Road Baptist Church.

Name: Signature:

MRBC

CHURCH MAGAZINE—APRIL 2022



Mansfield Road Baptist Church

Message for April from Neelam Sidhu

Jeremiah 5: 22

Do you not fear me? This is the LORD's declaration. Do you not tremble before me, the one who set the sand as the boundary of the sea, an enduring barrier that it cannot cross? The waves surge, but they cannot prevail. They roar but cannot pass over it.

There is so much in this verse and you may all have different understandings of it, but I would just like to share how God spoke to me through this verse. I think what God is asking us here is do we not have fear for Him in our lives?

Even the sea which is so vast listens and is controlled by Him and is under His authority.

This verse is a declaration of God's boundaries and barriers. No "waves surge" can "prevail" God's boundary and barrier that He has created. No man can build a barrier against the sea, showing God's power.

This made me think that we are actually the people on the side of the sand and Jesus is the barrier from all the waves of challenges and obstacles in our life. Things like stubbornness and brokenness, emotional and spiritual weaknesses, things that Jesus' enemy brings into our life. What the enemy tries to do in our life is delay us from meeting our target. Jesus wants us to share all of our burdens with Him so He can be a barrier for all the "waves" that try to enter our life. When sand is hit by water, it becomes wet for a little while, but when the water goes back the sand dries up. The same way we restore



ourselves everyday and countless times for whatever situations we're in, but only when we have Christ as our barrier. By keeping the Lord as our barrier, let's show people that He is in us and we are in Him.

God bless.



Easter Word Search

N	L	P	T	K	V	C	L	H	C	K	J	F	R	B	C	V
M	K	J	E	S	U	S	G	P	R	D	W	K	N	M	R	K
Z	E	J	D	W	T	K	M	G	O	W	P	I	M	L	J	R
T	B	S	L	R	L	R	Q	J	S	B	L	N	L	X	C	I
G	H	N	S	L	E	L	N	E	S	E	R	G	V	R	H	S
V	M	I	Q	I	C	S	C	T	G	L	T	L	O	O	K	E
H	T	L	R	M	A	I	U	N	Y	M	C	W	L	P	T	N
C	Y	X	H	D	F	H	A	R	R	R	N	Y	F	N	Y	T
W	M	L	B	I	D	G	D	Q	R	O	A	N	H	B	N	P
H	J	B	R	P	L	A	R	Y	F	E	O	M	P	X	S	M
T	W	C	E	F	M	E	Y	T	A	I	C	B	L	A	C	Y
P	A	P	L	V	T	K	H	T	T	D	G	T	V	Q	H	T
S	N	Q	R	S	O	O	M	A	Z	X	N	I	I	P	G	V
H	N	N	A	K	R	L	V	R	W	R	O	U	W	O	W	C
Z	N	E	L	N	N	L	N	J	W	R	T	N	S	L	N	K
N	V	J	S	V	A	E	M	P	T	Y	T	O	M	B	W	K
H	O	P	E	S	K	G	O	O	D	F	R	I	D	A	Y	W

Angel

Holy

Messiah

Savior

Cross

Hope

Resurrection

Third Day

Crown of Thorns

Jesus

Risen

Easter

King

Sacrifice

Empty Tomb

Love

Salvation

Good Friday

Mary

Sunday



“There is nothing new under the sun”

Ecclesiastes 1 v9

At the end of March 2020, by government order, all places of worship were closed for normal purposes. Only activities deemed useful by government, such as food banks and blood donor sessions, were allowed to continue within churches. One London vicar railed against this in a letter to a magazine—“Blood donor sessions, but not the Blood of Christ!” “Food bank open but no Bread of Heaven!” Christians in Eastern Europe were similarly outraged when their governments had similar policies—“Not even the communists banned Easter!”

As far as England was concerned, something similar, but for very different reasons, had occurred before, in March 1208 to be precise. Due to a dispute between the Pope and England’s King John, the country was placed under an Interdict or papal ruling. This was not done lightly, but was intended to put pressure on the King so as to have the Church making church appointments. All celebration of the sacraments was suspended with the exception of baptizing infants. Churches were locked, their bells went quiet, and all manner of divine services were forbidden.

King John’s reaction to this was to exhibit a high degree of indifference. History records that he was not a monarch noted for his piety! Furthermore, he took the opportunity to enrich himself by diverting the revenues of church property to his own use, which resulted in him being personally excommunicated, but it didn’t abate his abuses.

Eventually, in July 1214, a settlement was reached and England’s spiritual life was restored to normality, no doubt to a great sigh of relief from priests and people alike.

We have not had a six year hiatus in church life, and it is, thank God, coming gradually to an end with the prospect of an unmasked normality almost in sight as I write this. Hopefully, by the time you read this, normality will be fully restored. However, as always, the Bible has it right: *“There is nothing new under the sun”*.

John Sheppard

CHURCH DIARY for APRIL

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

Shalom Fellowship—Sunday 3rd April at 2pm in the Church Hall

Toddler Café—Monday 25th April from 10am to 11.45am

Pastoral Care Group—Monday 25th April at 1pm
(Please share any pastoral news of the congregation with Jean, Andrea or Neelam before this date)

Prayer & Bible Meeting – Wednesdays 6th, 13th & 27th April at 7.30pm

Church Meeting - Wednesday 20th April at 7.30pm

Bible Study – Thursday 7th April 10.30am – 12 noon

Gospel Lounge—Saturdays 2nd, 16th and 30th April at 6pm

EVENING MEETINGS Lifts home will be arranged for everybody attending evening meetings in the church buildings.

EASTER SERVICES

Thursday 14 th April @ 10.30am	Maundy Thursday Communion
Friday 15 th April @ 10.30am	Good Friday Service
Sunday 17 th April @ 10.30am	Easter Sunday All Age Celebration

COMMUNION There will be Communion on both Maundy Thursday and Easter Sunday at 10.30am.

PRAYER POINTS

- 1) Continue to pray for the refugees from the Ukraine.
- 2) For the way the church buildings can be used more widely in the months ahead.
- 3) For the church to be a place where our gifts can be encouraged and used.

Andrea Dowdie, Church Co-ordinator



I applied for the Centre Co-ordinator role in February 2016. I was offered an interview but it fell exactly on my 40th birthday when I planned to be in Malaga. It had not been possible to rearrange the interview and so I ended up working in the office of a local school.

The following year, I applied for the Premises & Church User's Co-ordinator role at MRBC in August 2017 and I was successfully employed! I recall my interview wondering if I would be able to feel at ease in this huge, old building. It was an environment far

from what I was used to. It was as though I had walked into a different age/era. I'm please to report that the building is now like my second home and I feel comfortable wandering around in the dark!

I was baptised on the first day of Spring 2012. My journey began in 2011 when I started seeking a church to attend, initially somewhere to have our children blessed and my Mum suggested Queensberry Baptist Church. I was refreshed and greatly related to the style of teaching, however, my circumstances changed on my 3rd visit when my mother died suddenly.

Even though surrounded by a loving family, my world became broken and shattered. In the midst of the pain of such loss, I grew spiritually, blessed to be in the right place. I received emotional and spiritual healing, was comforted and given inner contentment of happiness and joy as my relationship with God grew. As a child I attended many different churches and although I always had faith I did not have an active personal relationship with God.

My own personal walk and experience of bereavement has best placed me here amongst the funeral ministry of MRBC to offer guidance, advice, to empathise, affiliate and understand the walk through grief as well as serving the heart of the community. It is a privilege to be in a position placed at the forefront of the church community, supporting and working with Pastor Andy and meeting many different people from a variety of settings.

I enjoy the pace and variety of MRBC— no two days are the same!

Renew Wellbeing

Quiet shared spaces where it's OK not to be OK

Renew Wellbeing helps churches open spaces of welcome and inclusion in partnership with mental health teams to improve mental and emotional wellbeing. *These spaces are designed for adults but we are also creating safe spaces for children, young people and their families (CYF).*

Renew spaces are simple cafe style spaces run by local churches where hobbies and activities are shared or co-produced. Each cafe space is attached to a quiet room or prayer space where inner habits of wellbeing are shared. Each church partners with a mental health professional from the local council or other suitable organisation to ensure good inclusive practices for safe spaces where it's OK not to be OK can be sustained.

Being present • Being prayerful • Being in partnership

Renew Wellbeing provides information, inspiration, training and ongoing support to **local** churches as well as developing a simple national strategy for many small safe spaces to be made available through churches and councils working together.

Is this something for us to be involved in?

Would you like to be part of such an initiative here at MRBC?

**You are invited to a meeting in the Church Hall on
Wednesday 20th April @ 7.30pm**

Our Bible verse for 2022

Be on your guard;
Stand firm in the faith;
Be courageous;
Be strong.
Do everything in love.

1 Corinthians 16: 13-14