

## THANK YOU!

A huge thank you to everyone brought in wool so that my mother-in-law (Clive's mum) Lilly, can continue to knit hats and teddies for the Christmas shoeboxes. Here is a picture of Gloria with just some of the wool that was donated!

Lilly has asked me to thank everyone who gave some wool and says it will help her a lot.

Diane Trusson



Spring Photos  
from  
Dave Mangan



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](mailto:susan@msbye.co.uk), to arrive by **15th May** for the June edition.

© Mansfield Road Baptist Church, Sherwood Rise, Nottingham NG7 6JN  
Website: [www.mrbc.org.uk](http://www.mrbc.org.uk)

# MRBC

CHURCH MAGAZINE—MAY 2022



Mansfield Road Baptist Church

## Message for May from our Minister

### 1 Corinthians 12 v12 (The Message)

*You can easily enough see how this kind of thing works by looking no further than your own body. Your body has many parts—limbs, organs, cells—but no matter how many parts you can name, you're still one body. It's exactly the same with Christ. By means of his one Spirit, we all said good-bye to our partial and piecemeal lives. We each used to independently call our own shots, but then we entered into a large and integrated life in which he has the final say in everything.*

Dear friend,

Easter has passed and there is much afoot in our life at as church. We looked at this passage in 1 Corinthians 12 in my March letter, but this time we are looking singly at verse 12 from The Message. In this text we read, *"We each used to independently call our own shots, but then we entered into a large and integrated life in which he has the final say in everything."* This writing really brings out an understanding of responsibility, which is very evident in how we express ourselves in our own lives. However, we see that it is this "own shots" responsibility which needs to be exercised in our corporate life in living as local church together.

All of us need to be seeking God in how we can be part of the body and for many of us we will find that our serving in the life of the church will itself be something that resources our ministry in the 110 hours each week as we are living in the world at large.

**In the magazine there is a stewardship form to be filled in and brought back to church.** Please hand it to Jean, the Church Secretary, or place it in the offering basket at the front of the worship space on a Sunday. On the form are several boxes to tick if you can offer help. If you feel that God is putting something else in your mind which is not listed, please write this in the extra box.

Certain considerations have been bubbling up amongst us and the opportunity to be part of these are invited. The Renew initiative is looking at a café-like meeting place with a focus on mental and emotional wellbeing, which is currently very much in need. Also, in a response to the cost of living and environmental concerns there has been raised the possibility of a vegetarian café for a single session a week.

## A summary of the April prayer letter of Pippa and Toby Vokuhl



### APRIL FOOLISHNESS

Dorje and Amrita Sherpa (not their real names) live in a timber clad hut in beautiful mountain surroundings within the Everest region, slightly off the beaten tourist trekking route. There have hardly



been any tourists visiting during the last two years. It's been tough for them and the entire village, who over time have adapted their lifestyles to cater for the foreign tourist trade.

It's the first of April. A group of female trekkers arrive, Pippa included, wanting to stay at Dorje's house for the night. He is delighted. As they talk the

trekkers find out that some villagers consider Dorje a fool because he and his wife recently became Christians. They and the trekkers pray together. To be considered foolish for having faith in Christ is not new. (1 Corinthians 1:18-21).



### Please pray

- that the Nepali engineers at the hospital take responsibility and rise to any challenges which come their way in Toby's absence this summer
- for a successful construction phase of the new 30 bed Leprosy Ward which Toby designed
- for Pippa's future involvement

Returning to the topic of April Foolishness I would like to close with a quote associated with Jim Elliot. *"He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep, to gain that which he cannot lose."*

It is my prayer that you and I would increasingly align our lives with such principles, whether considered foolish or not.

With much love from us all, Toby, Pippa, Jakey, Ella, and Millie

Access the full letter here: <https://www.bmsworldmission.org/letters/april-2022-2/>



## Ephesians

Recently I have been studying Paul's letter to the Ephesians. I set myself the task of summarising the personal significance of each chapter in as few words as possible.

Praise and thankfulness.

Grace received.

Being chosen, redeemed, and forgiven.

Part of God's plan, sealed with his Spirit.

God's power within, throughout the universe and all time.

Humanity revealed in self-sacrifice.

Made alive by a radical rescue.

Saved by the gift of faith.

Christ Jesus our peace.

Togetherness built.

Gods plan unveiled.

The riches of God explored as one body.

Christ dwells within.

Touched by infinite love.

New possibilities, new tasks, new energy.

Power and love combined in a prayerful life.

One body, one Spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one God and Father of all.

Wisdom bestowed.

Eyes that perceive a new light.

Heart and mind together as one.

A servant's authority.

Holiness reaching out with compassion and forgiveness.

Thankfulness for every moment.

A Spirit filled life.

The will of the Lord discerned.

Truth and righteousness discovered.

Abandoned in the love of others.

God imitated.

Being strong in the Lord.

Standing firm, being fearless.

In truth, well protected.

A prayer filled life.

Justice established.

Encouraged.



Whether both are possible we will identify from our collected responses.

From the different voices sharing amongst us, I believe that if it was just one initiative then it would be the Renew that would take priority.

Please tick any of the situations of interest and people holding a responsibility in the respective initiatives will be in touch. Together, we will look to keep in our *"integrated life"* to the purposes of God, *"he has the final say in everything."*

With greetings,

Andy

## CHURCH DIARY for MAY

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

**Shalom Fellowship**—Sunday 1st May at 2pm in the Church Hall

**Thursday Fellowship**—Thursday 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> May at 10.30am

**Wednesday Fellowship**—Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm

**Toddler Café**—Monday 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> May from 10am – 11.45am

**Deacons Meeting** – Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm

**Pastoral Care Group**—Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> May at 1pm (Please share any pastoral news of the congregation with Jean, Andrea or Neelam before this date)

**Gospel Lounge**—Saturdays 14<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> May from 6pm

**Funeral Service** for Vic Williams on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May @ 10am

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

**COMMUNION** There will be Communion on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May.

### PRAYER POINTS

- 1) Continue to pray for the refugees from the Ukraine.
- 2) For clarification in how to proceed with the Renew initiative.
- 3) For our young people at school with a focus on those preparing for exams .

## For I know the Plans I have for You

*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29: 11*

I am really grateful to Jenny Hall. For years she has supported and taken part in the preparations for the World Day of Prayer which is a movement led by women from all around the world.

It is excellent. Each year the prayers are focussed on a different theme and written by a different country. For example, last year the theme was *'Build on a strong foundation'* and was led by Vanautu (in S.W. Pacific Ocean). This year the theme was *'I know the Plans I have for You'* and was jointly written by England, Wales & N. Ireland... for the first time since 1945.

The service looked at the situation of the exiled people of Israel in Jeremiah's time and explored different forms of exile in our own countries: poverty, fear and isolation.

It took the verse from Jeremiah and brought its message of hope to these situations. How God's plans for people trapped and oppressed include freedom, justice and peace.

The service used two symbols for the hope God gives - light in the form of candles and seeds with all the locked up potential they contain.

There was time for personal reflection. For example, seeds need the right conditions to grow. Where do seeds of hope need planting in your life?

There is not enough space to examine the full breadth of the World Day of Prayer Service here. However, my main desire in writing this piece is that we all make a date in our diaries for

### FRIDAY 3RD MARCH 2023

This is for men and women. The World Day of Prayer next year will have the theme: *'I have heard about your faith'* and it will be written by our sisters in Taiwan.

There is a strong possibility that the local service will take place in our own church here at MRBC. We will have the privilege of welcoming people to this excellent devotion.

Mary Wilson

## Fit me in somewhere—by Gerard Kelly



Fit me in somewhere  
in this giant jigsaw, God  
somewhere in this work of art  
you're working,  
select a space my shape can fill  
and with a puzzle maker's skill  
let my contours find their fit without contortion.

Teach me which patch I am, God,  
in the cosmic quilt you're quilting.  
Show me where my square of selfhood is of use.  
Let the colourful complexities  
of the pattern that is me  
find their purpose in the placement that you choose.

Show me my position, God,  
in this group photograph.  
Stand me where you want me to stand.  
Put me next to whom you will.  
Make me stand, for good or ill,  
precisely in the place your plan demands.

Tell me what I am, God,  
in this body you are building;  
a tongue to taste,  
a nerve to serve,  
an ear to hear.

Give me grace  
to not be, gracefully,  
the parts I am not called to be  
and to play with elegance  
the roles I'm given.

Fit me in somewhere  
in this giant jigsaw, God,  
somewhere in this work of art you're working.  
Weave your wondrous tapestry  
until the twisted, tangled threads of me,  
surrendered to your artistry,  
form an image that is beautiful to see.

*(with thanks to Ivy Anderson for sharing)*

