

PRAYER POINTS

- 1) Pippa, Toby, Jakey, Ella & Millie Vokuhl and that God will use all five of them to shine His light in Nepal. Pray for God's blessing as they are in the UK.
- 2) Pray for our young people through the summer that they are encouraged and for peace for all the changes as they prepare for a new academic year.
- 3) Pray for the ongoing plans for the beginning of the ReNew Wellbeing Café here in the church buildings.

DATE TO NOTE—ALL INVITED Visit from our Link Missionaries

On **Sunday 24th July** the Vokuhl family, Toby, Pippa, Jakey, Ella and Millie, will be visiting our church as part of their time in England, on leave from their work in Nepal. Many of us have been following their work for some time now from the regular letter extracts in this magazine.

A "bring and share" lunch will be arranged so that all may join in and have the chance to hear and meet this visiting family.

Further announcements will be made nearer the time.



Joan Sheppard

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, to arrive by **15th August** for the September edition.

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CHURCH MAGAZINE—JULY/AUGUST 2022



Mansfield Road Baptist Church

Message for July / August from our Minister

Matthew 16:21-28 (NIV)

²¹From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

²²Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. 'Never, Lord!' he said. 'This shall never happen to you!'

²³Jesus turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling-block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.'

²⁴Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵For whoever wants to save their life^[a] will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. ²⁶What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? ²⁷For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what they have done.

²⁸'Truly I tell you, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.'

Dear friend,

We have just held our Annual Meeting as a Church Community, a time of marking, with giving thanks for what has been and with an expectation and anticipation for the future.

We gave thanks for Jean Taylor as Secretary, Alan Jodrell as Treasurer and Ricky Bennett as Property Officer and they were affirmed as they continue in these roles of service into the coming year.

For our deacons, I want to express both the Church's thanks and my personal thanks to Hazel O'Connor who has stepped down from the role. Hazel has served as a deacon for a number of terms through many years and has experience of several ministers. We thank her for how she has contributed to this point and look forward to her future shaping with us. We are thankful and excited for those continuing to serve as deacon. The church asking Diana Palmer-Fritz to continue in the role alongside Neelam Sidhu, Jenny Saunders and Diane Trusson and for Sarbjit Gill and Haroon Azam to begin terms in the role.

It was good to be able to meet in person for the AGM and it was the largest none-Sunday gathering that we have had as a Church Community in recent times. As we seek to be in God's purposes for the months and years ahead it is important that we keep taking single steps into the world before us. Everything is very different and all of us have to appraise our situation with God. This passage of Scripture is one that resonates for our time of exploring the new landscape living with the effects of COVID.

A summary of the June prayer letter of Pippa and Toby Vokuhl

'For everything there is a season, a time for every activity under heaven'. (Ecclesiastes 3:1)

As we acclimatise and adjust to being back in England, we start to process our last season serving in Nepal and consider the weeks ahead.

Election season. Our house in Kathmandu is set back from the main road, and ordinarily there is not much happening, other than a few sleepy goats and the occasional monkey strolling by. However last month differed as political processions filed past, waving banners and filling the air with sounds of drums and whistles. Elections are always a time of tension and localised unrest. The results are in now and things have settled down.



The **monsoon season** brings a time of high humidity and rain, rain, and more rain, which means rivers of plastic rubbish wash into a huge pile near our house, and muddy puddles are ankle-deep. The season is a mixed blessing. Crops grow at a phenomenal rate, but the volume of rainfall can cause a host of natural disasters. Floods and landslides destroy houses and livelihoods and cause loss of life.

Home-leave season. Landing back in the UK we were reminded just how beautiful the spring season is here. The trees are a gorgeous young green colour, and spring flowers are out, making us think about this **temporary season** back here as a family. It will be a time of reconnecting with old friends and meeting many new ones. We will be visiting many of our wonderful partner churches and sharing about the work that God has called us to in Nepal. It will also be a time of re-connecting with British culture, especially for the kids.

Please pray:

- 1) For the elected Government officials, that they would govern with integrity and honesty, focussing legislation on the needs of the most poor and marginalised.
- 2) For this year's monsoon season, that it may pass without major disaster.
- 3) For us as a family, that we would all thrive during this season in the UK, and that the kids would make special memories.
- 4) For our time with our supporters and partner churches, that it might be a wonderful time of fellowship.

THANK YOU

Much love, *Toby, Pippa, Jakey, Ella and Millie Vokuhl*





Rotary International



Often I am asked “What is Rotary?”, so thought it might be a good article for our church magazine! Maybe you have heard of Rotary – or maybe not, as, like the church, we are not very good at advertising what we do! Martyn and I belong to Carlton Rotary, a club of 20 members. Each club is different – a bit like each church is different – but with one goal to give “Service above Self”.

Rotary started with the vision of Paul Harris, an attorney who formed the Rotary Club of Chicago in 1905, so professionals with diverse backgrounds could exchange ideas and form meaningful, lifelong friendships. Rotary's reach and vision gradually extended to humanitarian service and to advance goodwill and peace around the world. It is a non-political and non-religious organization now open to all. In 1987 women were admitted to Rotary and our first lady Rotary International President, Jennifer Jones from Canada, takes office on 1st July. There are currently 1.4m Rotarians world-wide with clubs in 200 countries.

Rotary was a pioneer in the fight against polio and started efforts in 1978 with a very ambitious goal to reach a polio-free world. We are nearly there now.

Our mission statement: “Together we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change – across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves.”

We are having a busy year as I am President of our club and Martyn has the honour of being District Governor and supporting the 67 clubs in our local area.

Our club activities include fundraising, mainly by way of the Santa Sleigh in December; doing some community activities such as supporting foodbanks, litter picking, working with local schools; answering calls for grants & donations to local and international causes; and having fun along the way. This year we've enjoyed a visit to the Museum of Timekeeping at Upton, the Holocaust Centre in Laxton and a Fundraising Quiz and fish & chip supper which raised money for Maggie's. We have just celebrated the club's 45th anniversary with a meal and entertainment by a country & western singer.

During lockdown we moved our weekly meetings onto Zoom which had the benefit of enabling us to bring in speakers from far and wide (NZ being the furthest). Covid has had the good effect of moving the organisation forwards. Some meetings will still happen on Zoom, saving time and money without travel costs, room hire etc.

A great organisation to be a part of.

Susan Bye

The passage encourages us not to get ahead of ourselves in our thinking. Peter thought he knew what should be happening, but he was going to discover afresh through his travelling and Jesus called him to this. Can I encourage us not to stay in a fixed place saying this is what needs to be done, but that we encourage each other to keep travelling in single steps and to hear Jesus' words alongside Peter “*Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.*”²⁵ *For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it*”

Let us each be faithful in this and look forward to both our individual journey and the one as Mansfield Road Baptist Church together.

With greetings,

Andy

CHURCH DIARY for JULY & AUGUST

Sunday Service each week at 10.30am with groups for the children and young people. (Young Disciples will have their last session on 17th July before the summer break. During the summer there will be a series of All Age Services)

Shalom Fellowship—Sunday 3rd July & Sunday 7th August

Thursday Fellowship—Thursday 7th, 14th, & 21st July at 10.30am (Starting back on 8th September)

Wednesday Fellowship—Wednesday 6th & 13th July at 7.30pm

Deacons' Meeting – Wednesday 20th July at 7.30pm

Toddler Group operates on Monday mornings in term time from 10am to 11.45am (Finishing on 18th July and starting back on 5th September)

The Men's Group runs on Thursday evenings every other week. For summer details, please contact the Church Office.

The Gospel Lounge operates on specific Saturday evenings. For summer details, please contact the Church Office.

CHURCH LUNCH

SUNDAY 24th JULY we will be holding a shared lunch after the Morning Service. More details will be announced and all are invited. The Vokuhl Family, our Link missionaries with the BMS, will be joining us.

COMMUNION There will be Communion on Sunday 17th July & Sunday 21st August

Renew Wellbeing Café

I'm sure we would all agree that as a church we very much want to nurture and care for each other's wellbeing and the wellbeing of the community around us. We know that the pandemic has taken a huge toll on our mental health as a society. Most, if not all of us, will have experienced stress and a level of anxiety. So this autumn we are hoping to embark on a new initiative called Renew Wellbeing—new to us but well established in other places around this city and our country.

It involves anyone who wants to, from the church and community, meeting together once a week for a few hours to share conversation, hobbies and games.

So in one corner some people will be knitting as they natter; in another corner people will be playing Uno or dominos (the quiet version!); elsewhere people will be building model airplanes or doing jigsaws – any activity that will allow for relationships to be nurtured.

Towards the end of each session, everyone who would like to, will be invited into a quiet space for a very short and simple prayer exercise.

The aim of the afternoon will be to make everyone who comes feel welcome, safe, valued and loved.

In order to do this, we'll need hosts who can facilitate the time together just by being available and hospitable. We'll need people who can set up the room; people who can listen; a few people who can lead the simple prayer time.

No-one is expected to be there every week. We hope to have enough people to create a rota. There's no preparation needed in between sessions apart from prayer, lots of prayer. We are not serving food but will provide drinks and biscuits so that people can help themselves.

There will be a training afternoon which will spell out the principles of Renew Wellbeing and go through the practicalities of setting up a new café.

If you think you might want to be involved in this Renew Wellbeing café, please contact me, Lin Bruce or Diane Trusson so that we can tell you more and include you in the training afternoon.

We believe that God is prompting us, at this time, to start this new venture so we trust him to lead us.

Anne Davies

Summer photos from Tony Peace



A boat in Norfolk



Roadside wildflowers