

MRBC

CHURCH MAGAZINE—MARCH 2023



Mansfield Road Baptist Church

Message for March from Clive Trusson

Greetings in Christ!

I've got a question for you: what shape is our church?

Please take your time to think about how you would answer that question before reading on.

So, did your mind take you to a picture of the building... the shape of the physical church?

Or did it make you think of how the different activities of the church give it a certain shape and that as some activities stop and others start up so the shape of the church shifts.

Or did you think about a solid rock shape representing the steadfast love of God to be found here at Mansfield Road.

Or did you think about the shape of the cross reminding us that Jesus died for us, so that our sins might be forgiven and we might live our lives in that knowledge.

I ask this question because God gives us the choice of how we shape our church and He wants us to shape it to worship him using the various gifts and talents that he has blessed us with as individuals. What are your gifts and how can you use them to shape our church?

Thinking about what gifts we have can sometimes be difficult and it may be helpful to ask friends at church what they think those gifts are. We often take them for granted because using them comes quite easily to us. Too often we are more aware of what we are not gifted with. For example, I am quite a shy person and find it a struggle to be in roles that require me to start up conversations with people and then keep those conversations going. But while that is not my gift, I know that there are many people in the church who do enjoy this gift and it is important to use it in the church to bind us together (as the song goes). Trust me, if you have that gift of easy sociability then you may well be able to bless shy, lonely and curious people coming into our church simply by approaching them to have a chat. What about? That doesn't really matter. It might be about Jesus but it might be about the price of fish! What you will be doing is using that gift for shaping the church; making it a place of welcome.

We all have different gifts to use for God's glory. And in using them in the life of the church, we shape it for the here and now.

.../...

So, what shape should our church be? It should be the shape of all our gifts combined, working together in the service of God and each other. And if we can do that then we will be able to confidently tell people that our church is Jesus-shaped and we can then say to people: "Come to Mansfield Road Baptist Church at 10.30 any Sunday morning and meet Jesus because he wants to meet you."

CHURCH DIARY for MARCH

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

World Day of Prayer Service—Friday 3rd March—from 3.30pm see below.

Shalom Fellowship – Sunday 5th March from 2.30 to 4.30pm

Toddler Group - Every Monday in March from 10.00am to 11.45am

Renew Wellbeing Café – Every Thursday from 1.30pm to 4.00 pm

PRAYER POINTS

- 1) Toddler Group going forward with the provision of more volunteers.
 - 2) All the people in Turkey and Syria affected by the earthquakes.
 - 3) Love and peace to be the driving force in all our lives in this broken world.
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World Day of Prayer Service at MRBC on Friday 3rd March

This year it is our turn to host the annual World Day of Prayer service. I would really encourage you to come along. These services are always very moving and well worthwhile. This year the focus will be on Taiwan.

There will be tea, coffee, cake and biscuits served in the hall from 3.30pm, followed by the service at 4.00pm.

Please do come if you are able.

Jenny Hall



This symbol for World Day of Prayer was developed by the women of Ireland and adopted as the international logo in 1982. Its design is made up of arrows converging from the four points of the compass, persons kneeling in prayer, the Celtic cross, and the circle, representing the world and our unity through all our diversity.

Gift Aid and our Church

If you were at the morning service on Sunday February 5th you will know that our member Roger Rust was warmly thanked for his work as Gift Aid Secretary, a role he has undertaken for many years until recently. It's certainly worth thanking him again - ***thanks Roger for all your hard work enabling us to claim this vital financial aid!***

May I take this opportunity to just explain a little further for those who are unaware of Gift Aid.

It is a government scheme that allows us to reclaim the basic rate tax a UK taxpayer pays. ***It means that we can claim 25% of tax for every £1 you donate to the church - at no extra cost to you.***

Whichever way you have chosen to donate to the church, whether by cash, weekly envelopes, Direct Debit or Bank Transfer, we can claim this tax and add it to church funds.

However, you do need to fill in a simple form.

If you are a UK taxpayer and have not yet registered, PLEASE ask me for a form. I always have some with me on a Sunday!

Alan Joddrell—Church Treasurer

Distribution of the Magazine

When we started producing the Church Magazine in April 2020 we were at the beginning of the Covid pandemic and the church was closed to the congregation and the public. A sad time for us as a church, but our minister kept us going with recorded services and WhatsApp group communications. The magazine also became an important communication tool. It was produced monthly and put on the website, sent by email to those with email addresses, and sent by post to others.

Now that we are (mostly) all back to face-to-face worship on a Sunday, we can pick up a copy of the magazine for ourselves, or to pass one on to others. It is also available on the church website.

However, if you would like to be sent a copy by email at the beginning of a month, or by post, please let Andrea know and she will be happy to do this.

Her contact details are: admin@mrbc.org.uk or tel 0115 9604304

WE NEED YOU!

We at Mansfield Road Baptist Church know that there are many roles in the life of our church, but unfortunately the workers are few (and getting fewer!). If we have sufficient volunteers, then they only need to do an activity every few weeks.

Please have a think and pray about what activities you think you might be able to help with. For example:

- Taking a turn in the Welcome Hall on a Sunday morning (talk to one of the Deacons or Andrea in the office)
- Helping out with the Junior Church (have a chat with Jenny Saunders about what it involves)
- Leading the youth section (see Diana Fritz)
- Making tea and coffee after the service (see Neelam)
- Singing (see Diane Trusson or Diana Fritz)
- Playing a musical instrument (see Diane Trusson)
- Operating the sound and vision equipment (talk to Edward)
- Doing a Bible reading (see one of the Deacons or contact Andrea)
- Contributing to the Church magazine (see Susan Bye)

If we want these activities to continue, we really need people to come forward - people like you!

Thank you!

Diane Trusson

My trip to Barcelona

Camp Nou - I went to the Stadium of Barcelona which is known as Camp Nou and when you go inside you will see all the trophies the team has won from 1899 till now. Barcelona is a team that has won five UCL trophies 1992, 2006, 2009, 2011, 2015—now that's how good Barca was when Messi, Neymar and Suarez played for the club.



Sagrada Familia - La Sagrada Familia made by Antoni Gaudi in 1897 but is still under construction today. You'd imagine how massive it would be but not in those days when people were making fun of Gaudi and they thought that he has gone crazy because no one had known that it would look that beautiful from both in and out. La Sagrada Familia is 572 feet—yeah I'd be shocked if I were you. Gaudi was born in 1852 and died in 1926 because a tram had hit him. Now the reason he had built this masterpiece of a cathedral is because he wanted something unique to fulfil his dream of making a cathedral for his family.



Sagrat Cor - was one of my favourites of Barcelona because it is at the highest point of Barcelona which meant I could see all the snow capped mountains and I saw La Sagrada Familia. Sagrat Cor is 550 meters and you can go at the highest point of the church. Around the church you will see the twelve disciples are around the church and the stain glass looks beautiful.



Park Guell - is a maze built by Gaudi, the man who built La Sagrada Familia. It has fountains and loads of different sculptures and 1926 was the year it got completed and soon after it got built it became a Unesco World Heritage Site. The man who built it, Gaudi, lived there.

It was an amazing trip to Barcelona and by the grace of God my family and I went and came back safely .

Josiah Lucas, age 9

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

www.bmsworldmission.org/ptvokuhl

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In the last newsletter from the Vokuhl family we learned that they were waiting in Thailand for a visa which would allow them back into Nepal. The current news is that they are now back in Kathmandu after spending a month in Thailand, but only on tourist visas, which will mean leaving Nepal again before long unless a work permit is issued soon. Prayer is requested for this uncertain and unsettling situation.

In January, by then back in Kathmandu, a tragic event occurred which made worldwide news - you may remember it. Toby writes:

It is the 15th January 2023, and we are attending an English language worship service with other expat families in Kathmandu. As the service draws to a close one of the attendees checks their mobile phone and announces that a domestic carrier aircraft has just crashed in the Seti river gorge, just behind Green Pastures Hospital, on approach to the new Pokhara Airport. First shocked silence, then the congregation joins in prayer for crew, passengers, first responders, and relatives. Most people present in the room, including Toby, would have flown the Kathmandu to Pokhara route.

Monday, the day after the crash, the newspapers elaborate on the sad news: "72 dead and no survivors, as Yeti Airline Flight 691 crashes in Pokhara for reasons yet unknown..."

Three Christians from Pokhara - an elder, a youth leader and a person who ran a Christian Radio Station were amongst the victims. Toby writes:

"WHY? WHY THEM? WHY UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES?" Aren't these brothers so key to their families, to their ministries, and God's mission? As for the many grieving families, this big "why" will remain. For what reason did God permit this? No easy answers. Each person's grief journey has got to be their own, no shortcuts.

It's never wrong to cry out to God, that God indeed hears us, and that He can handle our pain, anger, and doubt. Would this be true for our grieving brothers and sisters in Pokhara also, at this challenging time.

Maybe this newsletter is not brimming with good news. Still it is important to recognise that life is full of every season, and that trauma and grief are also part of the Christian walk. ***May our prayers be for all those affected by the tragic crash, and may they know God's comfort.***

Renew Wellbeing Café

It has been such a joy over the last few months to share my Thursday afternoons with people who have become companions. I've knitted alongside some; played dominoes with others; tried (not very successfully) to do some origami and best of all had some enjoyable conversations with a lot of laughter. I've watched people get a great deal of



satisfaction from learning new skills, or brushing up on old ones. Every week I've seen the jigsaw group focussing their whole attention on the task in hand. Every week I've enjoyed with others the opportunity to set aside a few minutes to reflect on the day and be grateful for all God's gifts to us.



I realise that what I have been seeing every week are the 5 ways to wellbeing played out in front of me as

people connect with others; give their time and talents to others; get involved in a variety of activities; learning new skills and take notice of what is going on in other's lives. What I have seen every week is the promotion and nurturing of good mental, emotional and spiritual health.

Every week I just turn up and see who God brings to the group that day. As I said at the beginning- it is such a joy. Maybe next week, you'll turn up and add to that joy.



Anne Davies

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 March** for the April edition.

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Website: www.mrbc.org.uk