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# MRBC

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CHURCH MAGAZINE—JULY / AUGUST 2023



**Mansfield Road Baptist Church**

# Message for July / August from Hazel O'Connor

## Growing in Christ

Once we've trusted Christ as our Saviour, how do we grow in our relationship with him? Jesus is called the Good Shepherd because he leads and watches over those who follow him. He said "My sheep listen to my voice; I know them and they follow me."



*John 10:27.* But how do we hear the Shepherd? Our sensitivity to his voice depends on communications in four areas:

- A. God talks to us as we read the Bible. He speaks to us through His own words and revelation.  
*2 Timothy 3: 16*
- B. We talk to God as we receive understanding from Him. We respond to Him with the affection and needs of our hearts.  
*John 15: 7*
- C. We talk to new family as we connect with others who share our faith in Christ. We experience encouragement to love others, as we ourselves have been loved.  
*Hebrews 10: 24-25*
- D. We talk to others about Christ. His desires for us to be his representatives to those who haven't yet believed.  
*Matthew 4: 19*

One of the best ways to do this is to show honest concern for them. No two believers have an identical relationship with the Saviour, but a genuine believer will have the desire to listen to God, to respond to Him, to follow with other believers, and to witness to those who don't yet know Jesus, as we journey as a believer in Christ.

Let God guide our path to a growing relationship with Him, and believe and trust.

***For the Good Shepherd lays down his life for his sheep. John 10: 11***

## CHURCH DIARY for JULY / AUGUST

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

**Shalom Fellowship**—Sundays, 2nd July & 6th August—2.30pm

**Toddler Group**—Mondays, 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th July—10.00am to 11.45am

**Men's Group**—Thursdays, 6th & 20th July and 3rd, 17th, 31st August—7.30 to 9.00pm

**Renew Wellbeing Café**—Every Thursday in July & August—1.30pm to 4.00pm

**Valedictory Service** for Andy & Mary—Sunday 16th July

**AGM**—Sunday 23rd July after the Sunday Service

**Spring Clean Day for church**—Monday 3rd July 10.30am

**Gardening Day**—Monday 10th July 10.30am

**Funerals**

Tuesday 4th July, 11am,	Rachel James
Wednesday 5th July, 11am,	Emma Dillon
Friday 7th July, 10am,	Karl Lawson
Friday 14th July, 10am,	Novlet Moore
Friday 21st July, 9.30am,	Doris Tulloch

**Weddings** Sunday 6th August & Friday 25th August

**Dedications** 30th July & 20th August

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### PRAYER POINTS

- 1) Pray for the family and friends of Ian, Grace and Barnaby that God's grace and mercy sustains and supports them in this time of grief and loss.
- 2) Pray for the city of Nottingham to be united in love and peace and for God's healing in the city.
- 3) Pray for our church family and congregation as we transition to find a new Minister. Let us pray for guidance and courage to be open to new ideas and change in the coming year.
- 4) Pray for the lonely and the disenfranchised in our society and our neighbourhood, that they find love and grace in the sacrifice Jesus has made for them, that they know his love is for all.

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**Change of Address**—Audley Jones is now residing in West Lodge Care Home, Hucknall Road.

## Rev Andy Wilson

In the past week or so Church Members should have received a letter from our Secretary Jean Taylor and Treasurer Alan Joddrell informing them that Andy was stepping down as Minister because of his long illness.

Those members who were present on the morning of June 11th were given this information at the meeting which followed the morning service.

In his letter of resignation Andy expressed his gratitude to the church and wrote of the special relationships forged both before and during his ten year ministry.

### **Andy wrote:**

*"We first came to MRBC as newly-weds in 1983. I was baptised in 1984 and we celebrated the births of our children with the church in 1986 and 1988, and in 1992 MRBC sent me out to train for the Baptist ministry. With this completed, I returned for my ordination in 1996. Then in 2013, after concluding a ministry in London, God led both me and MRBC to an invitation to serve as Minister.*

*None of us anticipated that the service I led on Sunday, 7th August would be the last! Mary joins me as we ask God's blessing on the church family as you move on from this time and in your search for a new Minister. At this time of parting Mary and I give gratitude to God for all that has been shared."*

Please continue to hold Andy and Mary in your prayers as they come to terms with such different and difficult circumstances.

The church will now begin the process of seeking a new minister. This is a time to support and encourage each other as we seek the mind of Christ.

## The Men's Group

The Men's Group is part of the MRBC fellowship and the local community, who we exchange visits with from time to time. The Men's Group is not only for men, but for women as well!

The Men's Group was originally founded in April 2000 by a small group of four senior men. This increased in number to 35, who recognised that there was a need for a place where men could get together socially and discuss issues relating to men. This led to the formation of the group which meets together fortnightly at MRBC, where we have prayers, bible readings and discussion followed by tea and biscuits. This is rounded off with a good game of dominoes which attendees love very much.

We often have speakers who come to give talks on various subjects such as the importance of making a will, healthy diet and medical issues by NHS nurses. We invite Ministers to come and share some time with us and give us some encouragement.

We also host special events throughout the year - an outing to the seaside in Summer and a Christmas Dinner in December. At such times we will invite the women, others from the church fellowship and members of the local community.

The Men's Group increased in number year on year. However, since the pandemic and lockdown restrictions, there has been a reduced number, partly due to health issues and for some due to age related reasons. I think that there was a broad agreement over the fact that age and all that goes with it should not be ignored by those who are part of the leadership team. We are looking forward to what the future holds.

*David Dennis*

## Job Vacancy—Cleaner Handyperson for MRBC

We are looking to employ a reliable, experienced, efficient, hard working and flexible **cleaner/handyperson** to undertake upkeep and repair tasks in order to keep the church facilities in perfect condition. 16 hours per week (flexible) to include evenings and weekends. You must be well organised with strong general repairs skills.

The closing deadline for applications is Monday July 10<sup>th</sup>. Please contact the church office or [admin@mrbc.org.uk](mailto:admin@mrbc.org.uk) for an application form. If you have any questions please do get in touch.

## I Remember

There are many ways in which different communities have remembered and reflected upon their experiences in the pandemic. Some communities installed sculptures, some memorials consist of flags or ribbons, and some are a direct record of people's experiences. As I write this the COVID Inquiry is due to start tomorrow, and many people will have composed "pen portraits" of their loved ones who died in the pandemic that will be included in some form in the Inquiry. At the start of the Inquiry a video consisting of interviews with several of the bereaved will be shown.



A volunteer draws another heart on the Covid memorial in London



The Covid memorial in Arnold

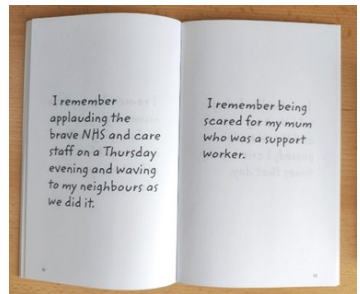
I gave our church community an opportunity to record their memories and reflections of the pandemic in the Sunday service on the 20<sup>th</sup> November 2022. I then spoke to the young people on a following Sunday and gave them a similar opportunity. The church community contributed over 100 sentences in total



which I compiled in a book entitled "I Remember". In the book people write about loss, about broken connections with loved ones and friends but they also write about when those connections were remade, how they appreciated time to think and become more aware of the natural environment and for many people how the experience brought them closer to God. Many people also

expressed hope for the future.

Its an important book, it helps us to remember, to learn from our experiences and to appreciate the world around us, the people who helped us through and the people who we lost. A small number of copies are still available from me.



"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted" (*Matthew 5:4*).

"He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds" (*Psalms 147:3*).

**Dave Mangan**

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



[www.bmsworldmission.org/ptvokuhl](http://www.bmsworldmission.org/ptvokuhl)

## MY NORMAL, YOUR NORMAL



Here in Kathmandu, very soon the monsoon rains will start in earnest. Already our landlord's family have bought plastic covers for the various items they store in the yard, to protect them from the impending daily downpours.

The family live downstairs in the building we share. Imagine this though - the youngest child, aged 8 months, has never met his dad! He is on a contract in Malta, earning an income for the family. In a country where reasonably paying jobs are extremely hard to find, thousands of families only survive by working abroad.

I recently spoke to a young mum who was about to leave Nepal for Israel on a five year contract, working in a nursing home there. She won't be able to return to visit her children, now toddlers, for two years! I cannot imagine making such decisions, but then I am not affected by the same financial dilemmas. There is 'my normal', and then there is 'another normal' for thousands of Nepalis without job opportunities nearby.

It is great to see that Christian organisations here offer attractive and fairly paid local jobs. To me, the growth of the local job market is one of the key answers to Nepal's current challenges.

When Pippa and I were training we were taught 'Our world is full of different worlds'. I am finding this to be very true. My world is so very different from my neighbours', my normal is so different from theirs, and sometimes I struggle to comprehend what goes on in their lives.

***I am just so grateful that Christ was prepared to leave behind his normal, in order to enter our world and to speak directly into all the different cultures and contexts which make up the globe.***

With much love from us all,

***Toby, Pippa, Jakey, Ella, and Millie***

## About our Church

***If you are new to the church or just visiting, you may find this page helpful.***

You can expect a warm welcome and a friendly group of people of all backgrounds and ages gathering to learn more about God.

We meet every Sunday at 10:30am for our Sunday Service. During school term time groups for children and young people from 3 - 18 are held downstairs, with a crèche available for under threes. Stewards in the Welcome Hall will be happy to show you where to take your children.

***The Shalom Fellowship*** meets on the first Sunday every month at 2.30pm for worship and teaching in Hindi, Punjabi and Urdu.

***Toddler Group*** meets Mondays during term time from 10.00am to 11.45am. Parents, grandparents and carers are warmly invited to bring along the children in their care to enjoy play and activities.

***The Men's Group*** meets alternate Thursdays from 7.30pm to 9.00pm for fellowship, discussion and dominoes.

***Renew Wellbeing Café*** meets Thursdays from 1.30pm to 4.00pm. Join us for activities, chat and refreshments.

*For specific dates of the above activities please see the Diary section of the magazine. If you would like to get in touch with someone at the church office please use the contact details below.*

***Room Hire*** Different rooms are available for hire. Please contact the church office for details.

***Phone:*** 0115 9604304 during office hours—Mon-Fri 9.00am-2.30pm

***Email:*** admin@mrbc.org.uk

***Church Address:***

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Corner of Sherwood Rise/Gregory Boulevard  
Nottingham NG7 6JN

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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**Website: [www.mrbc.org.uk](http://www.mrbc.org.uk)**