

# MRBC

CHURCH MAGAZINE—SEPTEMBER 2023



Mansfield Road Baptist Church

## Message for September from Diane Trusson

**‘There is a time for everything,  
and a season for every activity  
under heaven’**

### **Ecclesiastes 3:1**

Although we usually associate New Year with January, for me September has always seemed like the beginning of new things.



It's probably because I'm thinking back to my own school days and those of my sons, but also I work at the university so September brings new students into the city, full of hope and excitement for their new stage in life. Activities resume after the summer break, sporting fixtures get into full swing, and green trees give way to a multitude of colours.

Of course we're sorry to say goodbye to the long, (sometimes) warm days of summer, but it's important to see new seasons not just as the end of things, but as opportunities for new growth.

In our church life we have had the difficult task of saying goodbye to our minister Andy and his lovely wife Mary (although they very much remain in our lives and hearts). But during Andy's absence on sick leave we pulled together to keep the church life thriving. And we need to build on that unity as we go forward to seek a new minister to lead us as his or her flock.

So let's see what this new season heralds, starting with our vision days in September (23rd) and October (14th) where we consider the future path of our church which has experienced a good many changes over the past 100+ years. Let's embrace this new season of possibilities for ourselves, and for our church.

## CHURCH DIARY for SEPTEMBER

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

**Shalom Fellowship**—Sunday 3rd at 2.30pm

**Toddler Group**—each Monday —10.00am to 11.45am

**Men's Group**—Thursday 14th & 28th from 7.30 to 9.00pm

**Renew Wellbeing Café**—Every Thursday in September—1.30pm to 4.00pm

**Deacons' Meeting**—Wednesday 6th September at 7.00pm

**Vision Days** Saturday 23rd September and Saturday 14th October 10.00am to 1.00pm. EVERYONE is invited to both days. Please try and attend as your opinion and contribution is valued.

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### PRAYER POINTS

- 1) Pray for the world during these challenging and turbulent times, especially Hawaii after the wild fires.
- 2) Pray for all our young people as they start the new academic year at school, college or university.
- 3) Pray for the Vision Days for us to begin to discern God's vision for our church.
- 4) Pray for peace and love among multicultural communities.
- 5) Pray for a revival in our church community.

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*We are pleased to have appointed Diane Blandamer as our new cleaner/handyperson. She usually works Mon, Wed, Fri and is very much enjoying her role. The cleaning cupboard has never looked so tidy!*

# ZSNC RE FOCUS

2 Saturday mornings to take stock, to re-focus, and prepare Mansfield Road Baptist Church for God's intended purpose!

Dates: **23<sup>rd</sup> September and 14<sup>th</sup> October**, both 10.00 till 1.00  
with Tea and Coffee provided.

These interactive sessions, led by our Regional Minister, Mike Fegredo, are essential preparation before calling a new Minister. We hope that everyone who calls MRBC their spiritual home will make these events a priority. We need your insights!



*On display in the Church Hall are a variety of books no longer required. Please have a look through and pick up for free or for a small donation.*



## About Me—Jenny Saunders

**Where were you born?** St George's Hospital Nuneaton. Mum and Dad lived in a remote farmhouse near Market Bosworth as my Dad was a farm hand.

**How long have you been worshipping at MRBC?** I came to the church in the summer of 1988 after I moved into a flat on Gregory Boulevard.

**When did your faith become important to you?** I've always had some connection to a church. I went to a small village C of E school where we had regular visits from the vicar and we took part in church services. When I left home I spent some time attending a Methodist church in Handsworth in Birmingham but didn't really give my heart to God. It was when I was at Trent Polytechnic that I was invited to a mission event and started to explore my relationship with God. I was baptised at MRBC in December 1988.

**Study?** I studied Chemistry and Biology at Trent Polytechnic (now Nottingham Trent University) gaining a B.Sc Hons in Combined Science. It was here I met my husband Tim who was studying Modern European Studies.

**Married?** I married Tim at MRBC in 1991 with Rev Brian Nicholls officiating. My Dad insisted we have the reception in Leicester, where we drove in torrential rain. The best man lost the wedding certificate so we had to have a copy made.

**Working life?** I've worked since I was 14 as my parents wanted to make sure we had a good work ethic and felt we ought to earn our money. I had a variety of part time jobs including babysitting, waiting on tables in a café, hospital cleaner and a bar person. I left school at 18 and started nurse training in Birmingham where I specialised in working with people with learning disabilities. Unfortunately six months before my finals I became ill and had to give up. I went back to college and gained a place at Trent. On leaving there I worked in a microbiology lab for a year before training to be a teacher.

**Family:** Three children, the eldest works for the NHS and has a little girl and 3 step children. The other two still live at home but are hoping to soon be moving into their own place.

**Holidays?** I hate flying so we only holiday in the UK. We have a motorhome which Tim and I enjoy travelling in. We spent a fabulous week in Scotland staying just outside Edinburgh. Our most memorable holiday was a trip to Disneyland Paris with the children travelling by Eurostar.

**Interests?** I enjoy bellydancing, walking with friends, crafting, puzzles and computer games. I like spending time in the garden but prefer it to be a bit wild.

**Favourite hymn?** Shine, Jesus, Shine- we sang it at our wedding and was my chosen hymn for my baptism.

**Favourite bible verse?** Isaiah 41:10

## Some words of wisdom

Perhaps the following words of Mother Teresa of Calcutta will help our lights to shine.

“People are often unreasonable and self-centred. *Forgive them anyway.*

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish motives. *Be kind anyway.*

If you are successful, you will win some false friends and some true enemies. *Succeed anyway.*

If you are honest and frank, people may cheat you. *Be honest and frank anyway.*

What you spend years building, someone could destroy overnight. *Build anyway.*

If you find serenity and happiness, they may be jealous. *Be happy anyway.*

The good you do today will often be forgotten tomorrow. *Do good anyway.*

Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough. *Give your best anyway.*

In the final analysis, it is between you and God.”

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## Photos from Ricky Bennett's garden

Flowers, pumpkin, corn, peas, tomatoes, cabbage .



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

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



***The Vokuhl family has recently returned to Nepal from England. The children are back at school and we pick up Toby's letter after returning to the hospital in Pokhara to continue his work there. He begins by reflecting on the visits paid to churches in England, and then looks ahead to the coming season.***

I am thinking back to our conversations with you in the summer, and am so encouraged by every encounter we had, every church service we attended, every joint worship time, every shared prayer, and every friend met in person.

The theme I covered in a number of talks this summer reflected on the fact that, while our ultimate destination is heaven, the journey itself already is to a large part our destination, our purpose for being.

What happens on the road matters. What we do with our time matters. How we respond to any opportunities along the way matters. The extent to which we open ourselves up to Biblical truth, and act on it, matters.

Thinking ahead to the next season here I am challenged to take note of what happens in the now, along the way, and to expect God to be at work in the present.

## **May I invite you to join me in prayer for:**

Wisdom for the Nepali INF leadership; sensitivity for myself; 'fit for purpose' buildings blessing staff and patients alike; partnerships and processes which result in better clinical facilities.

## **And for the family:**

Continued good schooling for the children; Pippa's ongoing language studies and opportunities to arise for her as she re-connects with the local Christian community; a growing and lasting friendship network for the whole family in Kathmandu.

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](mailto:admin@mrbc.org.uk)

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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 September** for the October edition.

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