

M R B C

CHURCH MAGAZINE—APRIL 2024



Mansfield Road Baptist Church

Message for April from Revd Anne Davies

Resurrection Day

Some of you, reading this, may remember a couple who were members of this church for many years, Michael and Pasha. Michael was Ukrainian and Pasha was Russian. Pasha had grown up in a country where the existence of God was denied and where believers in God were given a very hard time. I remember Pasha telling me one Easter, that when she lived in Russia, the one thing that as a Christian believer gave her a lot of joy was the fact that the word Sunday in Russian was translated as Resurrection Day. The fact that everyone in the country, whether believer or non-believer, had to acknowledge the reality of the resurrection always made her smile. She would say "Even the KGB has to recognise the resurrection of Jesus". Sunday was so special to her because every Sunday was resurrection day.

I imagine that for most of us resurrection day is just one day - one day only. We only remember that God raised Jesus from the dead on Easter Sunday or maybe the following week as well. The most significant event in the history of the world is - unbelievably - celebrated on just one or two days. But why is this event so significant?

The reality that we celebrate at Easter, when the laws of nature were turned upside down, is that God's power in raising Jesus from the dead changed everything. Anything and everything is possible now. Not only that, but that same power that God used is now available to those who believe this reality.. We know this because Paul tells us that "*the power working in us is the same as the mighty strength which he used when he raised Jesus from death*".

Paul was talking about earth-shattering, life-transforming power that can change the world into the place God created it to be. The resurrection demonstrated it.

More than that- God raising his son Jesus from the dead not only proved that his power can change anything and everything but it also proved that his love can restore anything and everything.

Think of those left behind after the crucifixion. They were absolutely distraught. The one they had loved, the one who loved them, was gone for ever. What changed all that? What put them back on their feet again? What restored them to life again? – the resurrection. They saw with their own eyes that "*nothing, not even death could separate them from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus*".

I love this definition of God's love:- *God's love is a never stopping, never giving up, unbreaking, always and forever love.* The resurrection proves it.

In the light of this reality, surely we should be celebrating the resurrection of Jesus not just on one day and not even, like Pasha, every Sunday. We should be celebrating this reality every day of our lives. We should be celebrating God's mighty power at work in the world and in us and we should be celebrating the never stopping, never giving up, unbreaking, always and forever love of God restoring us daily and always putting us back on our feet again.

Every day is resurrection day.

*Christ is risen
Hallelujah
The Lord is risen
He is risen indeed*



CHURCH DIARY for APRIL

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

There is a **Prayer Meeting** at 10.15am in the Boulevard Room every week before the Sunday Service All welcome.

For those who would like to **receive prayer**, there will be two people after the Sunday Service at the front of the church offering prayer.

Shalom Fellowship—Sunday 7th April at 2.30 pm.

Toddler Group—Mondays term-time 10.00am to 11.45am—15th, 22nd, 29th

Renew Wellbeing Café—Thursdays 1.30pm to 4.00pm—11th, 18th, 25th

PRAYER POINTS

- 1) Keep our church members and families in prayer, especially those at home and feeling isolated.
- 2) Continued prayer for strength to continue our fellowship through these times of change and seeking a new Minister.
- 3) Pray for a united world where we see our neighbours needs and ask God to intervene in the places where we are feeling helpless.

Youth Service on 10th March

What a splendid service we had on Mother's Day led by the young people in our church and their leader Diana Fritz-Palmer. First the Young Disciples, who are led by Jenny Saunders, held up words and described how our mothers do so many tasks to care for us.

We had some lively hymns and were treated to a solo sung by Josiah Lucas. The young people and others in the congregation celebrated their diversity with colourful dress. Many of the youngsters gave heartwarming public "thank yous" to their Mums. The family atmosphere was wonderful and the service and talk given by Diana most uplifting.

Before the end a surprise "thank you" was given to Ceinwen Harris. A bouquet was presented by our Secretary, Jean, who said she felt the "mother's day" theme was an appropriate time to present this on behalf of the church fellowship, recognizing the ongoing work and dedication Ceinwen continues to give freely to the church eg setting up the recent Lent study group, volunteering at Toddlers and the Renew Café on a weekly basis, playing the keyboard and always reading so beautifully in church on occasions. A "Mother's Day Recognition" well deserved.



Following the service the young people served us a special "Mother's Day Afternoon Tea". The church hall looked amazing and Diana had rallied support from others in the church for providing the special spread of food. It was a joy to be a part of our diverse church family.



Sharing a Birthday Meal

contributed by Louise Garvey

The phone rings, a church sister at the end of the phone says: "It's a dear sister's birthday. Would you like to join a small group of friends who want to be with her on her birthday?"

The answer was: "Yes, of course."

The good feeling factor of anticipation kicks in knowing there was something special and positive to look forward to, taking all the actions needed in meeting my friends. The joy of meeting and greeting each other was a medicine in itself.

Sitting relaxed and in tune with each other was joyous. People coming and going in the space, meals being served by smiling individuals to the echo of low sounding quiet voices. The privilege and blessings of being served with a meal that was enjoyed by all, followed by much reminiscing and laughter reawakened us to how blessed we are and to daily give thanks for God's grace and mercy.

We live in a world of man's inhumanity to each other and the horrors of wars, yet love and kindness abounds in millions of simple actions. Friendships, blessings, healing and unity comes in abundance in sometimes ordinary actions – like sharing a birthday meal.

Photo on front cover

We delight each week in viewing the wonderful flower arrangements in church and in the welcome hall.

A big "thank you" to Ivy Anderson for her time given and the care she takes to continually provide these for our enjoyment.



Our Stained Glass Windows (part 3)

As mentioned last month, three of the stained glass windows on the left hand side of the church bear the name Hopewell. When father Noah died he was remembered by the family with window 3. Mother Margaret is remembered in window 2 and the war memorial window, behind where the organist sits, is the first “Hopewell” window, the family’s individual tribute to their eldest son.

John Sheppard has provided us with an insight into the design of this window:

Captain Robert George Hopewell of the 17th battalion of the Sherwood Foresters was killed in action in the attack on Maillet Wood, near Beaumont Hamel in northern France, on 3rd September 1916. He was 33 years old. He had married in 1913 and was the manager of his father’s building company, G Hopewell and Sons of Lincoln Street Basford before enlisting in September 1914 as lance-corporal and later promoted captain in December 1915. He has no known grave and is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial in France. The Sherwood Foresters regiment was created in 1881 as part of wide-ranging reforms of the Army. In peace-time it had two battalions, but during World War I, it expanded to thirty-three battalions.

The “odd” thing about this window, and what I have had to explain to those who have questioned such things being allowed in a church, is that the Hopewell window features images of King Arthur and two of his equally mythical knights, Sir Galahad and Sir Percival.

These characters are known these days only through films and fantasy games, since I don’t suppose anyone bothers to read the medieval writings that originally made them famous. Their use in a war memorial serves to suggest that it is possible to envisage war in terms of knightly combat, carried out in a chivalric and hence civilised manner. As such, it is by no means inappropriate, if a little romantic. How that squares with the 1914-18 reality of barbed-wire, machine guns and even lapses into the use of poison gasses, I leave to you to decide.

To the Glory of God
Captain 17th Sherwood

KING ARTHUR

I pass but shall not die

If I lose myself
I save myself

St. GALAHAD

and in memory of Robert
Foresters Killed in action

George Hopewell of Basford
in France Sept. 5th 1916.

S^r PERCIVAL

I vow to follow
I swear

S^r PERCIVAL

St. PERCIVAL

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.

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 Joddrell at church or post or send by email to susan@msbye.co.uk, to arrive by 15th April for the May edition.

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