

# MRBC

CHURCH MAGAZINE—JUNE 2024



Mansfield Road Baptist Church

## Message for June from Clive Trusson

In the New Testament there are lots of letters that Paul wrote to groups of believers in different places. These letters offered encouragement but also spoke of difficulties and differences.

I wonder sometimes what Paul might write to the modern day Mansfield Road Baptist Church. I feel sure that he would comment on how it has offered up steadfast worship and Spirit-led community service over decades of change. Perhaps he would pass comment on its diversity, being a place of welcome to people from all over the world, a place that respects people's family heritages, a place that unifies across cultural divides.

But perhaps in that commentary, he might challenge us as much as encourage us. Paul wrote to the Thessalonians that they needed to "encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone".

Would we recognise those who are disheartened and encourage them? How about the gay man who has been judged and condemned by an unthinking preacher in their past and because of that experience have struggled on their journey of faith; struggled to grasp how much God loves them.

Would we recognise the person who steps through our doors in a state of weakness from the trials of life so that we might show them how much God loves them and will provide for them? How about the young woman struggling with their mental health who finds the courage to seek the sanctuary of the Sunday church service? Will they find the peace of mind they need?

Are we patient with everyone? Could we be more patient than we are? How about the person whose dress code is very different to ours: the middle aged man who would rather wear jeans and a T shirt than a suit and tie, or the young woman who would rather wear what their friends are wearing than what their parents expect them to wear? That is definitely a question that can be answered easily by reflecting on the Gospels. It is crystal clear that Jesus doesn't care about what is on the surface. Jesus cares about the person inside, for their eternal soul.

Jesus certainly didn't say: "Anyone who gives one of my most humble followers a reprimand for being attracted to someone of the same sex, or for having a mental health condition, or for the way they dress will be rewarded". No, we know that is not the Jesus we have learned about and follow. This is what Jesus did say: "Anyone who gives one of my most humble followers a cup of cool water, just because that person is my follower, will be rewarded". It's easy to love people we recognise as being like us. It's Jesus' challenge to us to love people who we recognise as being different from us.

Let's all be more Jesus this month! There is Kingdom work to be done by us all!

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## CHURCH DIARY for JUNE

**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 2nd June at 2.30pm

**Church AGM**—Sunday 30th June after the Sunday Service

**Toddler Group**—Mondays 10.00am to 11.45am—June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>

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

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## PRAYER POINTS

- 1) Prayer for our government and leaders, for their mistakes and tragedies caused. Prayer for forgiveness. Let the Holy Spirit guide us through this.
- 2) Prayer for all those whose lives are darkened by guilt and despair and are living violent cruel lives.
- 3) Prayer for those living on their own and struggling with loneliness. Those who are caring for loved ones in difficult circumstances.
- 4) Prayer for spiritual and membership growth.

## NEW—AND COMING YOUR WAY SOON

As promised in the last Newsletter, I will be doing a short church walk for all those of you who want to get out and about, trying out those expensive shoes you've bought and never properly tried out.

**Where?** – We will be walking from Nottingham Castle, along the canal to University of Nottingham and then on to Wollaton Park where we finish at around 1pm. It's about 3 miles.

**When?** – Saturday morning 29<sup>th</sup> June, meeting in front of our church at 9.30am. If you prefer, meet at the gates to Nottingham Castle at 10am.

**How?** – We will catch the bus or tram to the City Centre, do our walk and return on the bus back to the City Centre. So, bring your bus passes/payment cards etc.

**Will I be able to do it?** – Well, it's about 3 miles altogether all on the flat, no hills, so the answer is probably "Yes, you can". We will never be far from a bus route in any event.

**What do I need to bring?** – Bus/tram fare, shoes comfortable enough to cover the distance – trainers will do the job. A rain coat if the weather is bad, some water and a hat if it is hot and sunny. Maybe carry a snack if you get hungry.

**Do I need to tell anyone that I am coming?** – That would be useful, either tell me in church or drop me a message, but it will be okay to just turn up on the day.

Alan Davies      Mobile 079636 75951



*Tony Peace has sent us this lovely photo of bluebells taken on a trip out to Felley Priory in late April.*

*Have YOU taken photos of your garden, walks, holidays or days out?  
Do pass them on to us!*

## WHO AM I ?

Hello, my name is **Jenny Hall**. I have been at Mansfield Road Baptist Church for 62 years. I started in the Girls Brigade at the age of five. I benefitted greatly from being in the Girls Brigade. I was baptised in 1975. My mother was a nurse and my father was a journalist. I am an only child. I was born in the area on Wiverton Road and moved at the age of two to Foxhall Road, both in Forest Fields. Since 2002 I have lived in Radford.

My mother, Barbara Hall, was a Deacon and had a very bad stroke. She was an extremely brave lady. I cared for her for some time until she died.



I became a Deacon at a later stage, a great privilege to take very seriously. I was involved in church mission work, helped with BB Anchors and the Sunday creche and currently run the BMS Birthday Scheme and since retiring I'm now on the rota for Renew Café.

I started my working life in 1972 at W H Smith on Wheeler Gate and towards the end I was a "Daily Mail Shop Assistant of the Year" finalist. I had worked there almost 19 years and I left to care for my mother with her stroke.

After my mother died, I started work in the NHS where I worked for 18 years. I retired from a job I greatly enjoyed in the Outpatients Reception at Highbury Hospital where I had been for about 12 years.

I went on a church holiday in approx. 2003 to Zante – about 20 of us – a great experience.

I am very fond of the hymn "May the mind of Christ my Saviour". I think the words are so meaningful. I love the verse "May I run the face before me, strong and brave to face the foe."

There was someone in my life I truly loved before he died. I am blessed also with lovely friends and a family where I have my cousin's children in my life to keep me young.

The Lord is my Shepherd and my Guide.

*Would YOU be prepared to write a bio for the magazine? It would be lovely to have more to include in future editions. Do let the editors know.*

## Pictures of God

***If you were asked to draw a picture of God, what might you come up with?***

This is what a Jewish leader, Rabbi Jonathan Romain, once asked the members of a study group. It took them very much by surprise. Unlike Christians, Jews traditionally don't make images depicting God. However, the members of the group agreed, and each member of the group tried to capture an aspect of God that was personal to them.

For one, it was an **eye**. God is all-seeing, there is no hiding from Him. Another drew a **tree**. God is nature, and the genius behind our ecosystem. Similarly, a picture showing **sunset and dawn**. Day follows night, autumn arrives after summer.

Very different was God as a **hand**, the power who intervenes in the affairs of humans. God as creator was depicted as a **globe**; as a lawgiver by **tablets of stone**; someone we can relate to on a one-to-one basis by a **mobile phone**.

One picture seemed to contradict another - a picture of a **puppet master** who preordains our lives does not sit well with a **parent** who brings us up but then lets us go our own way.

A picture the Rabbi found "intriguing" was of a **checkout till operator**, who waits as we wend our path through the aisles of life, choosing or rejecting this or that, but who ultimately assesses our choices and asks for payment.

Finally: **bubbles above a person's head**, depicting God as the still, small voice of conscience, and a **giant question mark** - how is it possible to comprehend a force so far beyond human understanding?

The Rabbi wrote "*taken together, the images are all true - even those that contradict each other - and testify to the uniqueness of God, as well as how differently God can seem to each individual. They also, perhaps, indicate our uncertainties, depending on what each artist was going through*". He finished by hoping that, if God were to see the pictures, he would laugh. "*Of course they cannot sum me up*", God might say. "*Rather than compete with all their claims about me, it might be better if they concentrated on some of my requests, and **getting on with each other is top of my list.***"

***Thanks to our member Michael Blissett who contributed the newspaper cutting from which this was taken - The Times, 2/11/2019.***



## **Diane Trusson writes:**

Some of you may know that I work at the University of Nottingham as a researcher. Over the past few years I have been involved in a study with stroke survivors and I noticed that most stroke research is based on the experiences of white males. To try to rectify this, I want to do some research focussing on Black and Asian women who have experienced stroke. As a first step I am going to organise some discussion group meetings to learn more about Black and Asian women's experiences of rehabilitation support following their stroke and discuss what issues they think my next research project should focus on. This will help me to develop an application for funding from the Stroke Association who encourage stroke survivors to get involved in all stages of research, including the planning.

Two of the discussion group meetings will be held at Mansfield Road Baptist Church. The first will be after the morning service on **Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2024**, and there will be another one after the Shalom service on **Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> August**. Both meetings will be held in the room behind the church hall. Stroke survivors can bring someone along for support if they want to, and refreshments will be provided.

If you know any Black or Asian women who have experienced stroke in the last few years, please encourage them to come along to one of those meetings. Their views are very important for shaping future research to improve the care offered to Black and Asian women following stroke.

I can be contacted on 0115 8771183 or by email at [diane.trusson@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:diane.trusson@nottingham.ac.uk)

Thank you. 😊

### **ADVANCE NOTICE**

- *The Sunday school family trip to Mablethorpe is on July 20th.*
- *The coach will leave MRBC at 8am and for the return leg will leave Mablethorpe at 5pm.*
- *Cost: £5 per adult—Sunday school children are free.*
- *Payment can be made to Diana when booking your place.*
- *All children MUST be accompanied by an adult.*

*Diana Palmer-Fritz*

## 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:**

Mansfield Road Baptist Church,  
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 June for the July/August edition.

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