
MRBC

CHURCH MAGAZINE—JULY-AUGUST 2024



Mansfield Road Baptist Church

Message for July-August from Sarbjit Gill

It is a blessing to know God—that he is our strength. In times of need he lifts us up and motivates us through the word of God. In life we know that we go through good and bad times and it is easy to get discouraged.

In the book of Ecclesiastes 3 it is written: *there is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heaven: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot.*

These verses show us that how we go through seasons in our lives and how things change, may be not the way we planned, but change takes place.

But one thing is certain in our lives if we can confidently stand with God because he never leaves us, he is always there for us. In times of joy and times of unhappiness we can turn to Jesus, who strengthens us and comforts us, so we are not alone.

It is wonderful to know Jesus is with us and as we are going through certain challenges in our lives he is there with us.

I always appreciate the beautiful natural things God has made for us; when I go for walks I see the wonderful flowers, trees and scenery all beautifully created by God * This again shows his love for us, as in the book of Psalms it says God's love endures for ever.

As today's thought was on how we live in good times and challenging times. We know our Lord Jesus is with us through all times.



* Sarbjit's words prompted me to share a photo taken in June while walking in the Lake District— *Susan Bye*

YOUNG PEOPLE - please take some interesting photos of your trip to Mablethorpe—the best ones will be featured in the September magazine

CHURCH DIARY for JULY-AUGUST

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 July and 4th August at 2.30pm

Toddler Group—Mondays term-time 10.00am to 11.45am—July 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd

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

Youth Trip to Mablethorpe—Saturday 20th July— Coach leaves 8 am

PRAYER POINTS

- 1) Let us pray for guidance in our church family in these coming months as we discern our progress in finding a minister to move us forward.
- 2) Let us pray for peace and harmony and mutual respect for all.
- 3) Let us pray for leaders in every community and our government to reflect the values and responsibilities in a caring society.

Diane Trusson writes: I'm looking for Black or Asian women who have experienced stroke and/or their carers to take part in an informal discussion group. I'm interested in hearing about the support they received following stroke and what help they would have liked to have had. This will help me to apply for money from the Stroke Association so that I can do some research with female Black or Asian stroke survivors and their carers. This is important because most stroke research focuses on white men.

The meeting will be in the room behind the church hall on the **21st July** after the Sunday morning service. Refreshments will be provided.

Please do come along if you can.

VOLUNTEERING

As a church family we are called to serve each other as well as others outside the church. I first started volunteering when our church ran a contact centre and had pretty much stayed on the sidelines until then. I took the plunge and didn't regret it, getting to know many of the church members as I did it. There are many ways you can volunteer and I have some thoughts I'd like to share with you on this topic.

If everyone, who was able to, volunteered to do the **meet and greet** before church begins you would most likely only have to do it once a year. Most people who are on the rota now do it no more than 15 times during the year.

Help with the **children and youth group** is desperately needed as there are not many people on the rota; more people volunteering would mean people doing it less often. Currently volunteers do it 3-4 times a term. We are blessed with more young people coming to church and it's important to nurture their faith and provide encouragement. I will soon be leaving Nottingham and will no longer be able to lead the children's group so if anyone feels that this is something they could do please speak to me about it. There is ready prepared material you just need to lead the sessions.

As well as these ministries there is a need for volunteers to help with **toddlers** on a Monday morning, **Renew cafe** on a Thursday afternoon, **sound and vision** for Sunday services and our **funeral ministry**. There are also opportunities to help with maintaining the inside and outside of the church building which is often a one off commitment but **regular gardening** would help keep our church looking its best. People who live on their own or are carers value a **visit from someone from church** especially if they can no longer get to church. If you feel you can help with any of these activities please speak to Jean, Ricky or one of the deacons who can put you in touch with the person who can tell you more about how to help. I hope you will consider volunteering even if you can do it once or twice a year as it can help us to meet each other's needs and more importantly serve our living God.

Jenny Saunders

GOLDEN WEDDING CONGRATULATIONS

Alan Davies writes: A lifetime ago (27th July 1974), Anne and I were married at Seion Baptist Chapel in Llanelli, South Wales. Anne's Dad was the minister there and officiated at the service. Hence the bride was given away by her brother who had himself married a few weeks before us and has just celebrated his Golden Wedding with his wife in Canada. The reception was in the church hall and the meal prepared by the ladies of the church. If I remember correctly, the menu relied heavily on salad produce from my father's allotment supplemented by many tins of corned beef and ham.



We spent our first night in the family caravan romantically situated near Avonmouth docks (yes really). But the following day we were off to Canada staying with Anne's brother at their country retreat.

How are we celebrating this year? Well, we will be flying to the island of Reunion in the Indian Ocean where we will meet up with our daughter-in-law's family. Her mother comes from the island and is celebrating her 80th birthday out there. I do hope there will be some corned beef sandwiches at the party!

Sharon Jodrell writes: We met in January 1973 in a school staff room, were engaged in August that year, and married at Mansfield Road by Rev. Bernard Green on August 3rd 1974. We honeymooned in London and Porthleven, Cornwall.

Our three sons were born in 1979, 1981 and 1986. We have seven grandchildren with an average age of 7.

Our anniversary will be spent in France with all fifteen members of the family at a farmhouse with lots of outdoor space. Then we drive to a small cottage for a week on our own! France is very special to us, having spent several holidays camping there with the boys and on our own since. Other places have become special over the years - particularly the Northumberland coast, London, Edinburgh, Bologna in Italy and of course Cornwall. We hope to revisit as many as possible over the next few months.



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

www.bmsworldmission.org/ptvokuhl



After around six years, the work of the Vokuhl family with the BMS in Nepal has come to an end.

In his final letter Toby writes about the end of this period in their lives of service, and looks ahead to continuing work in Nepal under a different organisation.

Sweet breezeI feel the gentle summer breeze waft in through the open window. The air quality here, which had been record-breakingly bad for several months, has finally improved. I make the most of the pleasant morning temperatures, in the knowledge that soon it will be hot and sticky here with the arrival of the monsoon season.

Winds of changeIn late April we had a wonderful farewell ceremony at Green Pastures Hospital in Pokhara, with plenty of opportunities to reflect back on shared projects and objectives with Nepali colleagues.

Toby continued by expressing the joy of hearing his line manager speaking so positively about the impact of the work in which he and his team have been involved, and the benefits it would bring for many years to come.

Fast as the windAt a recent sporting event Nepali wheelchair users raced across the pitch at quite staggering speeds, displaying incredible ball and wheelchair control. The event was run by an organisation wonderfully active in disability work and rehabilitation with which Pippa is strengthening her links.

Thermal convectionToby explained that, after the COVID lull, tourism has returned to Pokhara, with hot air ballooning popular. Not too far away, however, the hot air is causing problems in a post-earthquake setting.

Thousands of families still live in very hot and uncomfortable corrugated sheet metal shelters, following the November 2023 earthquake there. Awaiting reconstruction assistance from the state, many families continue to live in very unfavourable conditions, affecting health and wellbeing. **Toby asked for prayers for the speedy provision of financial and practical assistance.**

The family is now back in England for several weeks and prayers are asked for their time visiting churches over the summer.

(They will be at Basford Road Baptist Church on Sunday 14 July. If you wish to attend please let Joan Sheppard know.)

After the summer

We are delighted that our Nepal journey is not coming to an end yet, and that there are further opportunities ahead for us in Nepal from August/September 2024. This is in partnership with Interserve GBI, and in support of a Nepali Anti-Human-Trafficking organisation which urgently requires new facilities to be constructed. We invite your prayer into the commencement of new Kathmandu-based work after the summer.

Much love from Toby, Pippa, Jakey, Ella, and Millie.

Why should I vote?

A few things for Christians to think about

The Bible tells us that humanity has been created *“to rule the earth and subdue it.”* (Genesis 1:28) Government is a means by which we steward God’s creation.

When Jesus was asked what the most important commandment was, He replied to love God and to love your neighbour, so exercising our civic responsibilities is one way we can work on behalf of those around us. Even though we may feel like exiles, at odds with the world of today, God wants His people to seek the peace and prosperity of our nation.

Christians have a special calling to speak up on behalf of the voiceless and the most vulnerable. We believe that God has revealed to us His good law, which helps men and women to flourish, and we want to see it reflected in the laws of our Parliament. God calls us to submit to the governing authorities, who we elect through our votes.

The Bible tells us about many, many occasions where leaders have led their people astray: those we elect will shape our nation, and can lead people closer to or away from God. Jesus tells us that we should use as wise stewards the gifts which God gives us. Many people in history have not had the gift of a voice in a fair democratic election like we have.

God will hold us accountable for the actions we do not take, just as He will for those we do take. Not bothering to vote is not a neutral act: we are still influencing the outcome, just as if we do vote.

The Bible shows us that we are to care for our political leaders, and to pray for them, so that we might live a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is to be our aspiration for the politicians we elect.

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 12th August for the September edition.

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Website: www.mrbc.org.uk