
MRBC

CHURCH MAGAZINE—SEPTEMBER 2024



Mansfield Road Baptist Church

Message for September from Hazel O'Connor

No Looking Back

During World War 1, Oswald Chambers, a Baptist evangelist and teacher, came to a crossroads in his life. Should he continue to oversee the Bible Training College he had started, or go where God was leading him to serve and support the British troops in Egypt as a YMCA chaplain?

In his daily devotional book "My Utmost for His Highest", he wrote "*I give it up because I believe I do so in answer to God's call.*" He never looked back. He served God selflessly for two years in Egypt, his wooden hut filled with hundreds of soldiers attending his Bible classes, until a ruptured appendix led to his death at the age of forty three.

Jesus was in Galilee when he made the "no looking back" decision to make the three day journey to Jerusalem. He set out for the city resolutely (Luke 9:5) knowing that opposition from the Samaritans, who were hostile to Jews, would make it a difficult trek to the city where He would ultimately be crucified on a cross. His mission to provide salvation for all who would believe in Him had to be accomplished (Romans 3:25-26). As He made his way along the dusty road Jesus called out to a man "*come, follow me*" (Luke 9:59).

He says the same to you and me today, and the decision to follow Him is the most important we will make, for it leads to eternal life. Without it we're destined to eternal suffering (Matt.16:25). Jesus said we must leave everything behind to follow Him. "*Anyone who puts his hand to the plough and then looks back is not fit for the Kingdom of God.*" (Luke 9:62)

Let us follow Him today and not look back.

God bless us all.

Hazel

CHURCH DIARY for SEPTEMBER

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 1st September at 2.30pm

Deacons Meeting— Wednesday 11th September, 7.00pm

Memorial Service—Sunday 22nd September 3.00pm-4.00pm

Toddler Group— Mondays: 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th 10.00am-11.45am

Renew Wellbeing Café— Every Thursday — 1.30pm to 4.00pm

PRAYER POINTS

- 1) Prayer for the families in Southport with the drastic loss of 3 young lives. We commend their lives to God's grace and mercy.
- 2) Prayer for the children returning back to school, college and university; may they be guided to meet the correct influences.
- 3) Prayer for peace and calm in the Middle East, that the war does not escalate further. Prayer for peace talks and resolutions.
- 4) Prayer for MRBC moving forward in our search for a minister.

Memorial Service

We will be having a Memorial Service on Sunday 22nd September at 3.00pm. Anyone is welcome to come along to remember a loved one they have lost, whether that is recently or many years ago. Please join us for a service of remembrance and light refreshments afterwards in the hall.

If you would like any further details, please see Diane Trusson, Jennifer Maxwell or Dave Mangan.

CAR PARKING

On a **Sunday** church attendees have permission to park in the Page Kirk car park along Gregory Boulevard.

During **week days** the Sports car park opposite there is the suggested place to park.

We are asked not to park on the church forecourt unless you have a disabled parking badge and would find it very difficult to walk from these two car parks along Gregory Boulevard.

For fire safety reasons, you are reminded not to park in front of the three exit doors on the church forecourt.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Rev Dr Brian Haymes

Former Minister at MRBC

The Baptist Times has recorded the death at the age of 84 of Brian Haymes, who became minister here in 1977.

Brian came to us following his ministry at South Street Baptist Church, Exeter, and settled into the manse with his wife Jenni and two daughters. However, it was to be only a short ministry as in 1980 he accepted the position of Tutor at Northern Baptist College, Manchester. He later became Principal of the college, and then Principal of Bristol Baptist College. (Whilst there he was appointed Baptist Union President for 1993). There followed a return to church ministry, this time at Bloomsbury Baptist Church in London, where he remained until his retirement. He and Jenni returned to Manchester, and then to Crewe where he died suddenly in July.

The Baptist Times article included many warm tributes from a wide variety of people whose lives were touched by Brian Haymes. If anyone who remembers him would like to read them they can be found online, or I would be happy to print a copy for you.

Sharon Joddrell

Listening to Church Services

If for any reason you cannot attend a church service, you can listen to a recording of the service on the church website.

If you search for “Mansfield Road Baptist Church” on your phone, tablet or computer, you will arrive at the church website. If you then scroll to near the bottom of the page you will see a picture like this



If you click on this it will take you to a page which has the recorded services, each service will look something like this.

Sunday 11th August
Jeremy Stapleton

Service

[Listen](#) [Download](#) MP3 Audio 98.2MB (1:12:24)

Simply click on the word “Listen” to hear the recording of the service.

Recently we have acquired a new microphone which means that the whole service can now be listened to.

Finally, I would like to thank Mervyn and Edward for their technical expertise and their support in recording the services.

Dave Mangan

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

www.bmsworldmission.org/ptvokuhl



TIMES AND SEASONS

Ecclesiastes 3:1 *"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens"*

We used the above verse as a heading for our talk this summer, reflected back on 6½ years of service in Nepal, and also stated our willingness to return to the country to face new challenges.

We have been encouraged by the feedback from Nepali Christians about impact, the teamwork between our supporters in the UK, BMS as an organisation, and the overseas worker, but also by the message that every Christian has a place in God's history, and that He desires mine and your attention at times of decision making and change.

Coming to the end of our service with BMS, we want to share a few insights emerging from the time abroad:

* Given the extent to which Christianity has evolved over centuries for the Western world, it is amazing to see how far the Nepali church has come in just three generations (since the gospel was preached in Nepal). When the Holy Spirit is at work in a country and a population, amazing things happen.

* I see the need for local ownership, for participatory and emancipatory processes to grow in relation to Global South communities, and sense that Western Christians who are prepared to work with cultural sensitivity, have a role to play by being placed for a time within the Global South.

* Life is harsh for vast populations in South Asia, and the value of a human life and gender equality for example is not as embedded in other religions as it is in our faith. This faith based motivation can, and should, find expression in social action and deeds of love by the Christian community in the Global South.

I want to thank you for walking this particular journey from Oxford to Nepal with us as a family. We want to testify that we serve a faithful God, and he has not let us down. A new chapter is starting as we are joining Interserve GBI to assist Nepali Christians with efforts to bring hope and healing to young Nepalis who have been trafficked into prostitution at a young age, and who need to know the love which our Saviour has for them.

As I close, I would like to re-connect with the verse from Ecclesiastes: '*There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens*'. God, throughout history, commits to the human element. He uses feeble and failing humans, who are willing to learn obedience and let Him plug their gaps, to play their part in His plans within a generation. God's calling is not just for the experts, for the professionals, it is for me and for you. Are you prepared for new times and seasons and maybe surprising events which can unfold when you give the Almighty free reign with your life and your future?

As lifelong learners, and with all of our love,

Toby, Pippa, Jakey, Ella, and Millie

Diplomacy in Practice

Many of us have to, or have had to, deal with difficult people. Here are a few helpful bits of timeless wisdom from the book of Proverbs, chapter & verse noted by each one.

- ◇ A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. (15 v1)
- ◇ Do you see a man who speaks in haste? There is more hope for a fool than for him. (29 v20)
- ◇ A patient man has great understanding, but a quick-tempered man displays folly (14 v29)
- ◇ A fool gives full vent to his anger, but a wise man keeps himself under control (29 v11)
- ◇ A hot-tempered man stirs up dissension, but a patient man calms a quarrel (15 v18)
- ◇ A man's wisdom gives him patience; it is to his glory to overlook an offence. (19 v11)
- ◇ Better a patient man than a warrior, a man who controls his temper than one who takes a city. (16 v32)

High ideals, but vital wisdom.

Verses chosen by John Sheppard

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

Car Parking is allowed on a Sunday in the Page Kirk/ Jarodale House car park along Gregory Boulevard. On weekdays the Sports Car Park opposite should be used. Disabled parking only on the church forecourt.

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 September for the October edition.

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Website: www.mrbc.org.uk