

# MRBC

CHURCH MAGAZINE—OCTOBER 2024



Mansfield Road Baptist Church

# Message for October from Alan Joddrell

## Season of Change

Autumn officially starts on September 22nd, and signs of the change of season are all around. The days are shortening, the leaves are taking on their autumn colours and swallows are gathering for the long migration. As the season changes, here are some Bible verses to remind us to keep our eyes on God and the comfort His unchanging promises bring.

Genesis 8:22 *“As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease.”*

This was God’s promise to the people of the earth at the end of the flood. The consistency of the earth’s seasons is a reflection of its maker and the steadiness of His character. If humankind alters the balance of nature through greed and self-interest, that is our fault and no blame can be attached to God.

James 1:17-18 *Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of first fruits of all he created.*

Our father cares for every one of His creations, from the smallest insect to the mightiest creature and He calls us more precious than these. We can rest assured in any time of uncertainty that His love and provision for us will never fail.

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

Ecclesiastes gives us many examples of the challenges we face in life: times of birth, death, weeping and joy. The Bible shows us that experiencing good and bad times in our lives is normal and to be expected. Although it’s easy to hold onto our hope in happy situations, we shouldn’t let changing circumstances cause our faith to falter.

God is with us in every season of our life. When we face the unknown, we can trust that He is in control and working out every situation for our good.

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These passages speak to us not only as individuals but also as churches. Pastoral vacancies can be times of uncertainty and change. Let us come together as God's people seek his vision for us without fear. This month, as we say goodbye to summer and turn our attention to autumn, let us remember the good plans that He has for us, both as individuals and as a church. This will ensure a firm foundation that never sways in the face of change.

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## CHURCH DIARY for OCTOBER

**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 6<sup>th</sup> October at 2.30pm

**Toddler Group**— Mondays: 7<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>— 10.00am-11.45am

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

**Reflective Prayer Meetings**— Thursdays: 10<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> 11am to 12 noon in the Forest Room

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## PRAYER POINTS

- 1) Pray for our hearts to be open for Gods Truth and ask him to guide us.
- 2) Pray for unity and peace for all people, to keep their eyes fixed on our Saviour and break the chain of evil to dissolve barriers so we can reconcile through Christ's healing power.
- 3) Pray for all our families and all those with whom we live and work for God's love and peace to sustain and be prominent in their lives.
- 4) Pray for those caring for relatives and friends, pray God gives them the strength to remain positive in such testing times.

## CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

The first people to hear the Christian message on the day of Pentecost and be baptised went on to devote themselves to the local community of believers. *“Those who accepted his message were baptised, and about three thousand were added to their number that day. They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.”* (Acts 2:41-42).

It was a natural thing for them to do. It was in that community that they would continue to learn and to experience the Spirit and play a part in God’s plan for all people.

For us today being a Christian is not just a matter of developing a personal relationship with God. Being a Christian involves becoming a member of a church through which God works in the world.

Church membership shows that we have understood the importance of the church in the mission of God. We can use our gifts and talents to help build a strong church by making sure that the church is supported by a number of committed people who contribute to God’s mission. It also means that once we have accepted the Christian way of life, we have the support of other Christians in sustaining our discipleship. Being a member allows us to deepen, strengthen and broaden our faith in God.

You can become a member of Mansfield Road Baptist Church by being baptised, having previously been baptised or where you have made a meaningful declaration of faith in Jesus in another church.

In becoming a member there is a commitment to spend time in prayer and pray with others in the church, to share in worship, to use your gifts and talents in service to others, to take part in decision making in church meetings, to contribute financially to the running of the church and to share the good news about Jesus to others outside the church.

If you are interested in becoming a church member then speak to the church secretary or a deacon. They will listen to your journey of faith, the questions that you still have, and they will describe in more detail how you can become a member.

***Dave Mangan***

## **The Men's Group**

In September Roy Wilks gave a donation to the church from this group, which has now closed.

It first started around 20 years ago, Roy thinks, though he couldn't be sure. I think it may have been earlier, but I can't be sure either! At its height there were 32 members.

Meetings were held regularly on Thursday evenings, and the session's programme would typically include dominoes, fellowship and worship. Often an outside speaker was welcomed, covering a variety of topics which were frequently health and well-being related.

Every year there were two particular occasions which were much looked forward to - the summer bus trip and the Christmas meal. I was fortunate to have been invited to several of the Christmas meals, and will always look back on them with fondness.

Roy led the group from the outset, along with David Dennis. Our former member Alan Wilson also played an important role in leadership.

As a church we send our sincere thanks to Roy and David, and give God thanks for all the fun, fellowship and learning which has taken place. When something as popular as this group ends there is bound to be a measure of sadness, but it will and should be remembered with pride for all that it achieved.

(By the way, if you're a fan of dominoes and would like the opportunity to play, a group plays regularly on Thursday afternoons as part of Renew Wellbeing Café!)

***Sharon Joddrell***

### **ADVANCE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

15/12/24 - Children and Young People's Nativity Service and Christmas Lunch.

30/03/25 - Mother's Day Service and Afternoon Tea.

***Diana Palmer-Fritz***

## Give your worries to God

I used to work in a hospital, and as a nurse you can go from ward to ward. I was fascinated by the X-ray and CT images. It's amazing that you can see what's inside a person's body. The trauma caused by an accident, the effects of a disease, a beating heart.

Wouldn't it be useful if there were some sort of a spiritual X-ray machine we could use to see how we're doing on the inside? Sometimes we just want to know, "Am I walking in the light of Christ?" In Luke 11v33 Jesus' words are all about what we are like on the inside. But rather than just highlighting our problems like an X-ray machine, Jesus' words do something better. His words help us to actually change what we are like on the inside, so that we're ready for the ups and downs of being a disciple.

Jesus said when your eyes are sound, your whole body is full of light. But when your eyes are no good, your whole body will be in darkness. What goes into us really makes a difference to how strongly we hold onto Christ. Jesus is powerful enough to change us from the inside out.

Pursue Him today, by walking in His light. And as the song says, "*Walk, walk, in the light*" May we all continue to walk in "God's light".

May God bless us all as we all walk in God's light.

God bless.

***Hazel O'Connor***

### A time of Reflection and Prayer

In September we started a fortnightly time of reflection and prayer on Thursdays, 11am to 12 noon. On 10<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> October we will be following on from the passage in Paul's letters to the Corinthians where he talks about the church being one body with many members. We will be praying for the church community collectively and individually. Please come and join us on any or all of the dates if you are able. Everyone is welcome.

***Dave Mangan***

# THE LABURNUM TREE

Contributed by Louise Garvey

I was visiting a friend and she walked slowly with me towards my car. We paused for a while, talking outside her gate. We looked up suddenly in unison. Both of us started to say: “the laburnum tree”. We both laughed as we acknowledged that we were both about to comment on the beauty of the laburnum tree at her gate.

We had watched the tree grow from a seed that seeded itself from an older tree further inside the gate. The young tree grew in the shadow of the older tree, shielded from the harshness of the wind and sun, nourished and fed by the falling leaves of the older plant.

On that summer’s day, the young tree was waving in the gentle breeze, a beautiful sight to behold. Its green leaves were jutting out from bright yellow, grape-shaped branches of flowers hanging gracefully and abundantly, adorning the tree and providing a feast of beauty for all who passed by and had time to see.



I looked at the young tree and the older tree behind, still in blossom with weather torn branches and leaves that were sparse but still had a certain beauty and quality of solidness, elegance and dignity; a quality that was likened to an elderly person who protects, nurtures and imparts all the good things to their offspring and, in doing so, makes way for youth and continuity.

My heart was lifted as a verse came to mind:

*“He who dwells in the shelter of the most high will rest in the shadow of the almighty.”* Psalm 91:1

## 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](mailto:susan@msbye.co.uk), to arrive by 15th October for the November edition.

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