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CHURCH MAGAZINE—DECEMBER 2024—JANUARY 2025



Mansfield Road Baptist Church

Message for December/January from Rev David Pile of Basford Baptist Church—our Moderator

Peace!

Peace comes in many forms. There is peace and quiet which refers to a lack of noise. A common place associated with such an experience for many is being in the countryside. This is not always the case especially if there are a number of animals close by. Some people are drawn to rivers and streams as they experience a sense of calmness and tranquillity. It is not always possible to be out and about particularly at this time of year when it gets dark early. For those who seek peace in indoor settings, you might consider meditation or simple moments of reflection or mindfulness. The aforementioned approaches are useful on an individual basis but not on a corporate basis.

When we look across the world at this time there are obvious areas which are not experiencing peace, but are war zones. Even if you are not living under such conditions, the environment we live in also might not be one of peace.

As we approach Christmas and look at the first coming of Jesus again, we cannot escape the announcement of the angels to the shepherds in Luke chapter 2 v14. It is a proclamation of Peace. It is God saying that the broken relationship between humans and God is about to be restored. That the conflict between God and mankind is over, for all will accept and embrace all this child brings. This peace is the source of all other types of peace and can enable us to have peace in our hearts, minds and spirits even in the most trying of circumstances.



So, as we approach Christmas and consider what the New Year may bring, may you experience the Peace of Jesus anew, no matter what you are going through.

CHURCH DIARY for DECEMBER/JANUARY

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. Also, **requests for prayer** can be written on the cards provided and put in the box in the Welcome Hall.

Shalom Fellowship—Sunday 1st December & 5th January — 2.30pm

Toddler Group—Mondays – 2nd, 9th, 16th December & 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th January—10am-11.45am

Renew Wellbeing Café—Thursdays—5th, 12th, 19th December & 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th January—1.30pm—4.00pm

Reflective Prayer Meeting—Thursdays—5th & 19th December & 2nd, 16th, 30th January 11am-12noon

Advent coin collection—December 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd

Nativity & Youth Service—Sunday 15th December

Christmas Social with Carols—Saturday 21st December
4pm—6pm

Christmas Day Service—25th December at 10.30am

Deacons Meeting— Wednesday 8th January at 7.00pm



PRAYER POINTS

- 1) Prayer for the Holy Spirit to open our hearts and minds to hear the voice of God in our daily lives.
- 2) Prayer for those who have lost their way in life and long to be rescued and loved back to wholeness.
- 3) Prayer for the spirit of love and forgiveness and justice to permeate the social and political fabric of our world.
- 4) Prayer for church leaders who are giving time and effort in service as they follow Christ Jesus, so that in all activity His will be done.

Items for info from the Church Members' Meeting on 17 November

Our moderator, Rev David Pile, chaired the meeting and updated us on our search for a new minister. He confirmed we have no applicants for the position at present. We have a new Regional Minister—Rev Pete Leveson—who has met the deacons/trustees and is active in seeking a candidate for us. Our church profile is with the Baptist Union so any ministers looking for a church role are able to view it. It was clarified that our church constitution states that our minister must be on the “Baptist Union’s register of persons accredited for ministry“. So, a suggestion to advertise externally would not be of help. We have to be patient, and prayers were said for whoever the Lord has in waiting for us.

David said that the deacons/trustees could be asked at any time for an update on the matter. A list of these officers is here:

Jean Taylor (Secretary); Alan Joddrell (Treasurer); Ricky Bennett (Chair PFA); Haroon Azam; Donald Lindo; Sarbjit Gill; Dave Mangan; Hazel O'Connor; Diana Palmer-Fritz; Neelam Sidhu; Diane Trusson

The budget for 2025 was presented by our Treasurer and approved by the meeting.

Ricky Bennett, as chair of PFA (Property, Finance, Administration), presented a proposal for complete replacement of the ladies and gents toilets. The PFA committee (consisting of Ricky, Jean Taylor, Alan Joddrell, Andrea Dowdie, Susan Bye and Clive Trusson) had considered 3 quotations and Ricky’s proposal was approved by the meeting for commencement in early 2025. As we learn on p6 in the Magazine, these toilets are 30 years old, so we all look forward to seeing and using the brand new facilities!

CHURCH SOCIAL—SATURDAY 21 DECEMBER

Come along and celebrate Christmas with the Young People and Shalom Group leading some entertainment and carol singing.

Enjoy light buffet food and fellowship. 4pm to 6pm

All welcome.

Thank You! We would like to thank you all for helping us raise £170.00 for Macmillan Cancer Support. We as a family who have been through the fight of cancer multiple times know how important this money is going to be. We are grateful for our church community and the support given, may God continue to bless us all. Love from Sandra and Veralee xx

Christmas Cards— As in previous years, Joan Sheppard has organised a board for us to attach a Christmas card with a message for friends in the church family. The money you save on buying separate cards can be given to Joan as a donation to BMS.

HOME LIFE

Here are a few helpful bits of timeless wisdom from the book of Proverbs, chapter and verse noted by each one.

- ◇ A wise son brings joy to his father, but a foolish son grief to his mother. (10:1)
- ◇ Better a meal of vegetables where there is love than a fattened calf with hatred. (15:17)
- ◇ Better to live on a corner of the roof than share a house with a quarrelsome wife. (21:9)
- ◇ By wisdom a house is built, and through understanding it is established. (24:3)
- ◇ Better a dry crust with peace and quiet than a house full of feasting, with strife. (17:1)
- ◇ Better to live in a desert than with a quarrelsome and ill-tempered wife. (21v19)

These are the words of Scripture, and I would not dream of altering them. Some would, I think, have substituted “spouse” for “wife” in two of the above lines.

Verses chosen by John Sheppard

The MRBC Welcome Project—30 Years On

What was the Welcome Project, and why was it needed? By the late 1980s it became very clear that the church building was no longer meeting the needs of the church. It was being used to capacity. The church itself was at that time separated from the main hall and other rooms by an outside pathway. Access to the rooms that were downstairs was down steps from the outside path leading to a door. All the rooms available were used both on Sundays with the Sunday School filling six rooms, and during the week by various groups. There was insufficient room at the front of the church for the growing Music Group to operate. There were few toilets.

So what happened? Rev. Brian Nicholls, the minister at the time, presented a paper entitled “Vision for the Future”, in which options open to the church regarding the building were presented. Changes were needed - what might be done? Carry out substantial repairs? Renovate? Enlarge? Completely rebuild? Even move elsewhere?

What was decided? After a lot of thinking over a substantial amount of time, the options for change were eliminated, mostly due to the cost, and reduced to one: redesigning the existing building to make it more user-friendly both for Sunday and weekday activities.

What changes were made? Briefly: the path between the church and the other rooms became a corridor with an arched transparent roof; the lovely Welcome Hall we have today was added to the front of the building; stairs were constructed so that the downstairs area could be reached from the Welcome Hall; a lift was installed and the Lower Hall



added. The kitchen was moved and the main hall enlarged by the removal of partitions. Toilets were fitted at both levels. The office was created; the front of the church altered to facilitate modern worship and a new baptistry replaced the original. A substantial proportion of the finance needed was raised by the generous giving of church members and friends.



The finished project “had been a dream for many at Mansfield Road, but the realisation was founded on the prayers, dedication and financial sacrifice of all who believed it possible”. These were the words of Alan Wilson in his book

“Building for the Future”. It was through my recent re-reading of it that I realised - with some shock - that all this happened thirty years ago and that in October 1994 the official opening Service of Welcome took place, followed by a week of celebratory events.



Sharon Joddrell



Garden Photo

Hello, this is Miriam Grant and I just want to share a beautiful autumn plant that I have been growing for years in our garden. I want to share this in our church magazine and hope it will give somebody some encouragement during the winter. We’ve had some good weather, but now it’s turning into winter. May God be with you and be with us.

Unfortunately, Miriam is not able to identify the plant. Do you know what this plant is called? She would be pleased to know.

Jenny Hall writes: As it is 50 years—I just wanted to give a little tribute to my Dad in my Church Magazine. He was James Hill and he died on 25th January 1975. I was just 18. He supported Mum and I in the church. I thank him for his love and guidance.

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 edition. 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 Jodrell at church or post or send by email to susan@msbye.co.uk, to arrive by 15th January for the February edition.

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Website: www.mrbc.org.uk