

# MRBC

CHURCH MAGAZINE—FEBRUARY 2025



Mansfield Road Baptist Church

## Message for February from Jennifer Maxwell

### “Love Others”

What does it mean to Love Others? MRBC mission statement – Love Jesus, Love Others, Make Disciples.

I asked myself that question during Thursday morning Reflective Prayer meeting. I asked one of the Deacons, he said pray for others. But somehow I still felt that there was more that was needed to “Love Others”. The following incident has made me think even more about what it means to Love Others; how am I doing that? How is my church showing Love for Others?

On the Sunday morning after the prayer meeting, I saw a person wrapped in various clothes sleeping in the church garden adjacent to Gregory Boulevard. He wasn't moving. As I stood there wondering is the person alive? What should I do? A fellow church member joined me and we talked about the person lying there. What should we do? We went into church.

My mind was uneasy and I spoke to the greeters Clive and Diane. We asked ourselves what can we do? Who can help this person? Maybe the emergency services could give us advice? Diane had taken him a cup of tea, he had moved his head, so he was alive. We were both concerned and decided to go and check on him.

We stooped down and looked under the soiled quilts and blankets and saw a man's face. He wasn't moving. I said “hello” a few times and “My name is Jennifer, what's your name”. He looked up, smiled and said my name is “Lee”. We reassured him we weren't moving him on, just concerned that he was OK. He told us a little about himself and why he wasn't in a hostel – he had too many belongings in the shopping trolley next to him. We left and went into church. He was still there after church. Later Diane messaged that she contacted the Council's Outreach Team and they would send someone out to see Lee.

I'm left wondering if I could have done more for Lee. If we are called to Love Others, should we be looking at how we put this into action?

The above brought to mind an Andy Bruce sermon many years ago. He preached about Christians dressed for church walking past people in need on the street because they didn't want to be late for church or get involved, especially if the person looked unkempt or dirty. I wonder if the reason is that we don't know what to do when faced with some situations. Is Lee sleeping outside our church a signal that we need to consider how the church shows our Love for Others?

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## CHURCH DIARY for FEBRUARY

**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.

**Church Members' Meeting**— 2<sup>nd</sup> February after Sunday service

**Shalom Fellowship**—Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February at 2.30pm

**Toddler Group**—Mondays – 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> February —10am-11.45am

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

**Reflective Prayer Meeting**—Thursdays—6<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>— 11am-12noon

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## PRAYER POINTS

- 1) Prayer for those who are downcast and disturbed, living with uncertainties and sorrows.
- 2) Prayer for unity in our broken world especially in the Middle East, Ukraine, and all the people suffering from the wild fires in L.A.
- 3) Prayer for help to see Christ in the eyes of all whom we meet and the light in giving God the glory as we serve each other.

## WASHROOM REFURBISHMENT

Please note that the main ladies and gents toilets are being replaced. Work will start on **Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January** with an expected finish date of **Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February**. During this time other toilets in the building must be used.

There are the two sets of toilets along the downstairs corridor at the entrance to the Forest Room, one toilet in the corner of the Sherwood Room, the children's toilets in the baby changing room and the disabled one along the corridor near the Boulevard Room. This can also be reached and is signed direct from the Sanctuary.

**Christmas Cards**—Joan Sheppard writes: To all those who gave a donation by putting a card on the board, we raised £136 for BMS World Mission to use where it is needed. *Thank you all.*

**From our Treasurer**—Over the period of Advent and Christmas a number of members and friends donated coins, as had been the tradition at MRBC for many years. It is wonderful that there are still those who faithfully save up their small change to donate every year! The money was sent, along with the cash donations received at the Christmas Day service, to Cancer Research UK, a total of £200.

A short time of reflection and remembrance for the life of **Sylvia Laing-Machray** will be held at church at 12 noon on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February. Everyone who knew Sylvia—especially those who remember her love of the Renew Café—is warmly encouraged to join with Sylvia's son, Alex, to share their memories.



## Love in a Box

In November we filled shoeboxes in response to the charity Teams4U's appeal.

Teams4U is a small charity based in North Wales and operates through partners in Uganda, Sierra Leone and Eastern Europe.

They say: "With love from you, each shoebox will be given out in poor communities in Eastern Europe bringing much needed joy and excitement."

## Why you need Jesus

There are 3 reasons why Jesus loves you. He desires to have a relationship with you and give you a life full of joy and purpose. But why do you need Him in your life?

**1st You have a past.** You can't go back, but He can. The Bible says, "*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever.*" Hebrews 13:8. He can walk into those places of sin and failure, wipe the slate clean and give you a new beginning.

**2nd You need a friend.** Jesus knows the worst about you, yet He believes the best. Why? Because He sees you not as you are, but as you will be when He gets through with you. What a friend!

**3rd He holds the future.** Who else are you going to trust? In His hands you are safe and secure—today, tomorrow, and for eternity. His word says, "*For I know the plans I have for you... plans for good and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. In those days when you pray, I will listen.*" Jeremiah 29: 11-12 and Verse 13: "*You will seek me, and you will find me, because you seek me with all your heart.*"

May God bless us all in 2025 as we seek Him and follow Him.

**Hazel O'Connor**

## A few thoughts to take into the New Year

During last autumn I came across a small item in our weekly newspaper. It concerned some academic study that had been carried out on matters of social attitudes and world values. After this three-year study of Britain and five other countries, the research team concluded that religious beliefs in Britain had changed much between 2008 and 2018, with the later date showing that only 35% of the population believed in God. The research team also found that the previously widely held idea that atheists' and agnostics' lives lacked meaning and morality is no longer true. Apparently, many atheists and agnostics endorse objective moral values, human dignity and rights, and see family centred values as important for finding meaning in the world. These are hardly startling revelations, of course, but perhaps a deeper examination of this would be helpful.

We should of course ground **our** lives as Christians in deep foundations of scriptural truth. Accordingly, let us see what the apostle Paul has to say in his letters. In the first letter to the Corinthians, Ch 1, v 20, he says "Where is the wise man? Where is the scholar? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?" In the letter to the Colossians, Ch 2, v 8 he admonishes the readers: "See to it that no-one takes you captive through hollow & deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ."

A fairly recent convert to Christianity has written: "Our most important ideas—freedom of conscience, the presumption of innocence, and forgiveness—are Christian principles and innovations." It is also true to say that the greatest innovation of Christianity was to show that all of us, Jew or gentile, were made in the image of God and could aspire to salvation. Opposed to Christianity, and make no mistake it **is** opposed to Christianity, secular humanism is hollow and deceptive. It encourages people to dissolve the bonds of family and faith in favour of freedom, and to consume and seek pleasure without responsibilities. It all too quickly, and all too obviously, becomes hedonism, nihilism and misery.



It is hardly necessary for me to elaborate any further; a brief review of modern life, as it is conventionally lived by so many people, will convince you, if you are not already convinced, of the truth of this.

However, to conclude on a positive note, followers of Jesus Christ in every age have clung to a simple truth that, though often repeated, still carries a powerful message: **we may not know what the future holds, but we know who holds the future.**

*John Sheppard*

### Church Photo

The Whites have found an old postcard of the church sanctuary.  
Note the *choir stalls and pulpit and chandelier lighting.*



## 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](mailto: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 Joddrell at church or post or send by email to [susan@msbye.co.uk](mailto:susan@msbye.co.uk), to arrive by 15<sup>th</sup> February for the March edition.

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