

# MRBC

CHURCH MAGAZINE—MARCH 2025



Mansfield Road Baptist Church

## Message for March from Diane Trusson

***'There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven'*** (Ecclesiastes 3:1)

We don't particularly plan our garden, so it's always a surprise when plants start to emerge from the soil at this time of year. The ground has looked barren and desolate over the winter months and yet suddenly new life is clearly visible!

It reminds me that although sometimes we might feel like God isn't listening to our worries and that nothing is happening, God is always there. He's always at work in our lives in ways that aren't always visible to us. And God's timing is always perfect.

The spring bulbs wouldn't survive if they came up in November, but they're growing underneath the protection of a blanket of soil. And we might not always realise what's going on, but God prepares us for what's to come in ways that are known to Him. And if we let Him, then God can bring beauty and meaning into our lives which is far beyond anything we could ever imagine in our limited understanding.

In this season of new growth, let's trust God to lead us in His ways.

***'He has made everything beautiful in its time'*** (Ecclesiastes 3:11)



## CHURCH DIARY for MARCH

**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 2<sup>nd</sup> March at 2.30pm

**Toddler Group**—Every Monday in March—10am-11.45am

**Renew Wellbeing Café**—Every Thursday in March —1.30pm-4.00pm

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

**Church Social**—“**Make a Joyful Noise**”—Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> —5.00pm-8.30pm

## PRAYER POINTS

1. Pray for a breaking down of any complacency or blindness in us.
2. Pray for every opportunity we are given to witness to God’s unfailing love.
3. Pray for our church, for God’s covering and guide, in this time of discerning for a Minister to shepherd our church family.
4. Pray for clear light and guidance as our world faces problems and crises.

Jenny Hall writes: Everyone is welcome to the

### **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE**

on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March at St Stephen’s Church, Bobbers Mill Road

2.30pm Tea & Coffee then 3 pm Service

This year, The Cook Islands bring the theme of “*I Made You Wonderful*” based on Psalm 139 1-18.

# PRAYER

contributed by Dave Mangan

I am always conscious that it is easy write about the many aspects of prayer, but that prayer itself involves discipline, persistence and a willingness to listen carefully to what God is saying.

*Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. Colossians 4:2*

We all pray in many different ways; we can use the Lord's prayer; we may use many words or just a few. Sometimes we are not sure what to say, and prayer becomes a real challenge. It is good to remember that God cares more about what is in our hearts than our eloquence. A humble attitude in prayer may mean that we may just sit in silence and listen with faith and trust in God's timing. Whatever the situation God needs us to pray authentically, expressing our real feelings.

*Likewise, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. Romans 8-26*

The answers we get to our prayers can be clear. We may see something that we expected to happen because of our prayers but often something new, different or unusual happens. Sometimes it's difficult to see an answer at all, but we are taught to be persistent, to persevere, to hope.

*Therefore, I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. Mark 11:24*

The Bible encourages us to pray for our own needs, for the needs of others, and for God's will to be done.

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. Philippians 4:6*

In our church community there are ways that we provide opportunities for prayer.

- Prayer before and after the Sunday morning service.

- The prayer chain where requests can be distributed by email.
- Recently, we decided to make it easier for people to make prayer requests in church. Prayer cards have been placed in the pews and next to a box in the Welcome Hall, where people can place their requests. The congregation and visitors can fill out one of these cards and know that someone will pray for them.
- We are running a prayer course on a Thursday morning based on the book “How to Pray “by Pete Greig.



The Prayer Course is an eight-week journey through the Lord’s Prayer, with 24-7 Prayer founder Pete Greig and co-host Poppy Williams. Each session of the course is made up of:

**A video      Discussion questions      Practical prayer activities**

The Sessions

1. Why Pray? “Lord, teach us to pray”
2. Adoration “Our Father in Heaven. Hallowed be your name”
3. Petition “Give us this day our daily bread”
4. Intercession “Your kingdom come”
5. Unanswered Prayer “Your will be done”
6. Contemplation “On earth as it is in heaven”
7. Listening “Give us this day our daily bread”
8. Spiritual Warfare “Deliver us from evil”

The course will begin on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> February at 11am in church and then every 2 weeks with a break over Easter. Each session will be about an hour.

See Ceinwen Harris for details.

## MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE

*"Be joyful and sing as you come in to worship the Lord"* Psalm 100:2

You are invited to **Make a Joyful Noise**, a worship song sing-a-long evening in the church hall on **Saturday 22 March 2025** starting 5.00pm to 8.30pm. The evening will provide opportunity for prayer and testimony. Chosen worship songs that have supported the lives of individuals will be played, and stories of how they have spiritually uplifted that person shared. The event will include a hot meal and opportunity to talk and get to know others. For further information please message Jennifer Maxwell on the Mansfield Road Baptist Church WhatsApp group. To join the WhatsApp group please contact the church office 0115 960 4304.

**Jennifer Maxwell**

## Politics and Government

**Some verses from the book of Proverbs, chosen by John Sheppard**

(17:7) Arrogant lips are unsuited to a fool - how much worse lying lips to a ruler!

(28:2) When a country is rebellious, it has many rulers, but a man of understanding and knowledge maintains order.

(28:15) Like a roaring lion or a charging bear is a wicked man ruling over a helpless people.

(29:14) If a king judges the poor with fairness, his throne will always be secure.

(28:5) Evil men do not understand justice, but those who seek the Lord understand it fully.

(16:13) Kings take pleasure in honest lips; they value a man who speaks the truth.

(11:14) For lack of guidance a nation falls, but many advisers make victory sure.



## History in the Making

In our beautiful city of Nottingham, a bronze statue of two women depicting an enslaved woman from the Americas and Caribbean and a local cotton mill worker was unveiled at the Broad Marsh Open Space on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2025.



The unveiling of the statue emerged from a journey of over 10 years work through 3 voluntary community-led projects, namely *Bright Ideas*, *Legacy Makers* and *Standing In This Place*. The aims of these projects were to enable sharing of information, raising awareness about ancestry legacy and the contributions of

enslaved people to the world.

The statue under the heading of **Standing In This Place** looks to highlight contributions and connections between white mill workers and black enslaved women uprooted to the Americas, showing how their stories and history are connected by cotton, sorrow, strength and resilience. The project has brought together people from varying nationalities and cultures reinforcing *there is more that unites than divides*.



Looking closely at the two women clasp hands through the journey and history of cotton and time—the power of God’s love unites.

***Louise Garvey and Sadie Henry***

**Read more about the story of the statue here: [www.standinginthisplace.co.uk](http://www.standinginthisplace.co.uk)**

## 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 Joddrell at church or post or send by email to susan@msbye.co.uk, to arrive by 15<sup>th</sup> March for the April edition.

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