

MRBC

CHURCH MAGAZINE—MAY 2025



Mansfield Road Baptist Church

Message for May from Sadie Henry

LET US GIVE THANKS !

*"All things bright and beautiful; All creatures great and small
All things wise and wonderful; The Lord God made them all!"*

After the gloom of constant rain, frost and grey skies, suddenly in the first two weeks of April we were blessed with constant sunshine, which brought warmth and a burst of energy to get jobs done especially in the garden.

For me, I've begun to revamp my bottom garden, digging and tugging—moving a huge Yuka and replacing it with a photinia red robin with its vibrant red leaves that gives joy and colour throughout the summer until the onset of autumn.

Looking around me, I spotted the most beautiful butterfly on the picnic table—its brown/orange wings glowing in the sunlight, the squirrels



scuttling along the fence, a robin perched on the hedge, the pigeons cooing in the distance and my neighbour's cat slowly wandering aimlessly around the garden. The short-lived magnolia suddenly appears with its magnificent pink flowers. The apple tree full of newly formed

buds to deliver apples in the summer. From the tallest leylandii to the humble buttercup.

Take the time to look around us, to see and enjoy the beauty of God's creation. To thank Him for the seasons (though we sometimes moan about it being too hot or too cold—never satisfied!)

What a wonderful God He is—giving us so many things which we often take for granted, e.g. to live in a country not ravaged by war and conflict, hurricanes and volcanoes.

I thank Him for the beauty of nature, the gentle stream that flows towards the river, for the beautiful landscape of our countryside.

Thank Him for our families, our church family and treasured friends. For comforting us when we're in a dark place. Psalm 136 tells us *"to give thanks to the Lord for He is good, His love endures forever."*

Thessalonians 5:18 says *"to give thanks in all circumstances"*—to thank God no matter what happens.

Let's praise Him for giving us so much—for all things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small. God Bless, **Sadie**

CHURCH DIARY for MAY

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.

Shalom Fellowship—Sunday 4th May—2.30pm

Deacons' Meeting—7th May—7.00pm

PFA Meeting—12th May—1.30pm

Toddler Group—Mondays 12th & 19th May—10am-11.45am

Renew Wellbeing Café—Every Thursday in May —1.30pm—4.00pm

Reflective Prayer Meeting—Thursdays—1st, 15th, 29th May—11am-12noon

PRAYER POINTS

1. Pray for those in our church family who are coping with illness and who may be struggling to balance their daily lives.
2. Let us pray for God's help as we discern our need for a Minister to shepherd our church family.
3. Pray that during these turbulent and challenging times we place our trust and hope in our heavenly Father.
4. Pray for "Peter and Paul" and "Saul and Barnabas" in their work with BMS World Mission

Requests for prayer can be written on the cards provided and put in the box in the Welcome Hall.

Centuries of Prayer

We have had, in this magazine recently, some excellent guidance and advice on the matter of prayer. Bearing in mind that the Christian community spans the centuries as well as the continents, I thought it would be of interest to set out what a few Christians of the past had to say. Here are three examples:

“Come, O Lord, and receive my entire liberty, my memory, my understanding and my whole will. All that I am, all that I have, You have given me and I will give it back again to You to be disposed of according to your good pleasure.” *St Ignatius of Loyola, (1491 to 1556) Founder of the Society of Jesus*

“Take the full possession of my heart, raise there your throne, and command there as you do in heaven. Created by You, let me live to You.” *John Wesley (1703-1791), founder of the Methodist tradition*

“Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid; cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit that we may perfectly love You, and worthily magnify Your holy name, through Christ our Lord, Amen.” *Leofric, first Bishop of Exeter (1016-1072)*

John Sheppard

Easter Monday Church Walk — a good four hours from



Silver Sphere

(A Dreamscape after Genesis 1)

Clinging to the edge of reason
Dropping through a starlit abyss
Towards a spinning silver sphere
Held in space by grace
Swelling up as I tumble down.
Cotton wool clouds float into view
As griffin wings unfurl
To glide on the Gulf stream.
Silver separates to sapphire and emerald
Studded with ruby and gold
Crowned with Akoya pearls.
This garden of fragrant verdure
This breeze of symphonies of the sphere
Of whispers from canyons
Of whistles from canopies
They sing of Your great love.

Clive Trusson - June 2024

m Farnsfield to Halam — thanks Beverley and Clive for the photos



On a Hill Far Away

When I read Genesis Chapter 22 I often find myself thinking back to the years my children were young.

One particularly fond memory is our morning wake-up time routine. Every morning I'd go into their bedrooms, gently call them by name and tell them that it was time to get up and get ready for the day, either school, or church.

When I read that Abraham got up early in the morning to obey God's command, I think of those times when I woke up my children and wonder if part of Abraham's daily routine was going to Isaac's bed to wake him – and how different it would have been on that particular morning. How heart-rending to wake his son that morning, when Abraham knew what was going to happen. Isaac carried the wood for the sacrifice, but did not see the lamb. Abraham bound his son and laid him on the alter. Isaac asked the question; "Where is the lamb?", but Abraham said: "The Lord will provide." My mother used to say that, when we ask for something, that we needed. She always said: "The Lord will provide."

Hundreds of years later God would provide the final sacrifice – His own son. Just think how hard it must have been for God to sacrifice His Son, His only Son whom He loved, and He went through all of that because He loved you and me. If you ever wonder whether you are loved by God, wonder no more.

Lord I am amazed that you love me so much that you would sacrifice your Son for me. Teach me to live gratefully in the embrace of your unfailing love.

Hazel O'Connor

What a Sunday !

“WELL DONE” all for the inspiring Mothers’ Day service and the afternoon tea. It was great to see the confidence and talent among the groups of young people and children who took part in the service, all dressed in colourful costumes for their International theme. ***“Well done”*** Diana for masterminding the whole event. We all enjoyed the wonderful tea afterwards. ***Thank you*** to Ivy, Andrea, Edward and Beverley and **all** others who took part in preparing the tables and food. Such a lot of time and effort in preparation; it was appreciated by us all.



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. Join us for coffee/tea and biscuits in the Church Hall after the service.

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.

Reflective Prayer Group meets fortnightly on Thursdays from 11am to 12 noon. All welcome.

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.

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 15th May for the June/July edition.

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