

MRBC

CHURCH MAGAZINE—AUGUST 2025



Mansfield Road Baptist Church

Thought for the Month from Haroon Azam

“I exhort therefore, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercessions, and givings of thanks be made for all men: for kings and all who are in high places, that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and reverence.” 1-Timothy 2:1-2 (WEB)

On July 13th 2025, we as a Church, discovered a great quality of MRBC Unity. At last after many prayers and considerations we chose our future Church leader as servant of God, with one accord. Wow! Praise the Lord who guided us through different paths and people.

We have spent two days on what our expectations from him as a spiritual leader will be. Do you think that he also has expectations of us as his congregation given to him by our Father in heaven?

Church, remember he is also a human. He has family, physical and spiritual needs, emotions and feelings.

Therefore, I would like to leave this thought for all of us, in the month of August, that if our potential minister has duties and responsibilities to nurture and feed us spiritually, then we have a duty to pray for him continually and look after his needs too.

And rise together for the Glory of God in the name of Jesus. *Amen*

Rev Matt Jones

It is indeed a pleasure to report that MRBC has appointed a new minister. On Sunday, 6th July, Matt Jones “preached with a view”, part of the Baptist process of finding and choosing a minister. The following Sunday church members met and voted to invite Matt to be our next minister.

Matt accepted the invitation and will start his ministry with us in early October, following a service of induction. The date for this has not yet been finalised, but will be announced as soon as possible. Meanwhile, please pray for Matt and his wife Sarah, and for us as a church, as we begin a new chapter in the life of Mansfield Road.

CHURCH DIARY for AUGUST

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.

Sunday 24th August—Two of our BMS link missionaries will be visiting and will take part in the morning service.

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

Toddler Group—closed for the summer, re-opens Monday 8th September

Reflective Prayer Meeting—re-starts in September



PRAYER POINTS

1. Pray for all the children and young people, as they end their school year; may God's blessing of protection be in their lives as they venture through the summer holidays.
2. Pray for our church for God's enduring and steadfast love at this special time as we have waited for the gift of a new minister.
3. Pray for encouragement and strengthening for our brothers and sisters in our church family who have given their time and efforts for the future endeavours.
4. Pray for "Peter and Paul" and "Saul and Barnabas" in their work with BMS World Mission. (Meet one couple visiting MRBC on 24th August)

Requests for prayer can be written on the cards provided and put in the box in the Welcome Hall. They will be forwarded, with consent, to our Prayer Chain ministry.

“You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast because they trust in you”

Isaiah 26:3

The diagnosis of breast cancer hit hard. My friend shared how she lost sleep as she tossed and turned, fretting over what was happening in her body. Then one night she cried out in despair asking God to come and help her with this burden.

“I felt God’s peace immediately”, she confided. She felt it flow into her and cover her, as though she was suddenly wrapped in a warm blanket. And in the months that followed, going through the various stages of treatment, this gift of God’s peace never left her.

God promises peace to his people whatever the circumstances. Many centuries ago, the prophet Isaiah assured the Israelites of the gift of peace. They were to trust in the Lord for ever, for the Lord himself is the rock eternal. (*Isaiah 26:4*) After all, those who trust in Him, keeping their minds fixed on Him, will be kept in perfect peace (v3).

We too might face a shattering diagnosis, a heart-rending and disappointing result one day. But we trust that not only will God never leave us, he will keep us in His perfect peace.

Prayer *Loving God, thank you for the amazing gift of peace. Help me to put my trust in you when I experience heartache and fear as I pray for my son Patrick. Amen.*

Hazel O’Connor

NB please let us, as a church family, surround Hazel and her family with love and prayers as her son goes through such a difficult time.

A few thoughts about Christian Unity

In St. John's gospel, chapter 17, we read that Jesus prayed for His disciples, and, in verses 20-25, for all believers. Verse 21 says "that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me". Note the evangelistic aim of this! Verse 22 says "I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one".

The study notes in my NIV Bible state the matter with startling clarity, and I quote the lines relating to verse 21: *"The unity of believers should have an effect on outsiders, to convince them of the mission of Christ. Jesus' prayer is a rebuke of the groundless and often bitter divisions among believers"*. That's putting it very plainly, and rightly so.

Many Christians who are committed to working for unity are convinced that there is no battle in this land, say against abortion or assisted suicide, which God's people could not have won had they fought as one. In my opinion, there is no lie freely embraced in this land, (and it is my belief that secular humanism is basically a tissue of lies), which could not have been cancelled and denied if God's people had spoken with one voice.

It is my hope that we, as a church, continue to have a clear commitment to working with other churches whenever the opportunity arises towards the fulfilment of Jesus' purpose.

John Sheppard

Link-up Lunch

I just want to say **thank you** to all the people who were able to join us at the link-up for lunch on Friday 27th June. Invites were shared with church members and we met at the Stadium Steakhouse Nottingham. It was a great turnout.



A big thank you to Rex for blessing the meal before we all ate together. There was lots of opportunity to chat and share ideas about other things that we could do together. Here are some of the suggestions that were mentioned:

Norma suggested that we meet once a month on the last Friday of the month and have **lunch** and Miriam said that having meals out at other places in the community will be a good to experience, but not too often.

Rosemary suggested that we go on a **canal boat** trip .

Joan Sheppard said that **visiting the sick** from the church is still an important thing to carry on doing.

Rex Mundel and Jeniba discussed if there was a **group allotment** members could grow and share our food with the elderly and sick.

Linda would like to know if there are younger people in the community who could come and do our **nails**.

Jenny Hall wanted to share details of the **Renew Wellbeing Café** with the group. It is set up the Welcome Hall every Thursday afternoon 1.30 to 4.00pm. Open to all adults from church and from the wider community with activities, tea, coffee and snacks. All would be very welcome to attend, or indeed volunteer as a helper.

Norma said we could meet for **local walks** in the Forest Recreation Park and Gloria Mundel added that we could walk to the Arboretum.

Jennifer Maxwell suggested an expansion to the walking suggestion, in that there are **guided walks** like those at the Nottingham University. They provide learning about history and historical events. And, we could go to restaurants near the university.

Mavis Collins just wants us to meet up once a month and sometimes meet inside the church. She also said that we should recall that Ivy does the **flower arrangements** for church and we could help if she would like.

Audra suggested us having quarterly trip out and about, as well as us having gentle **exercise sessions**. Veralee said we could do the exercises at the church and later in the day have a **bring and share** meal.

Mavis Wynter said we should have a **reflection space** for quiet moments of gratitude and thankfulness.

Denise Wynter suggested while the weather is nice having a **picnic** in the park and later in the year going to Blackpool illuminations and the Liverpool Ancestry Museum.

What I have learnt from this experience and organising this link-up, is that there are so many things that we could do. We've just got to get up and do it. First thing is to have an idea, plan the venue, date and time - then send out the invites. Have faith and just know that people will come. I am looking forward to seeing you all again soon.

Jeniba Grant

NB—**Our next LINK-UP Lunch** will be on Friday 1st August at 12:30 at The Willow Tree Inn, 311 Nottingham Road. New Basford. NG7 7DA. Please let Jeniba Grant 07985 418848 or Gloria Mundel know if you would like to come **asap** so we can book guests a seat at the table. Menus and prices for meals can be found online.

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

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