Mansfield Road Baptist Church

NOTTINGHAM

MRBC news



NOVEMBER 2026

DIARY DATES

Sunday Service each week at 10.30am with groups for the children and young people

Shalom Fellowship—Sunday 1st November—3pm

Evening Communion Service—Wednesday 4th November—7.00pm



Remembrance Sunday—8th November

Toddler Group—each Monday in November—10.00am-11.45am

Drop in Prayer– each Monday in November—12.00 noon–1.00pm

Renew Wellbeing Café—Each Thursday in November—1.30pm-4.00pm

Small Group Network @ MRBC:



Tuesday 3rd & 17th November Home Group *(NB meeting this month only at church at 7pm with Donald)*

Wednesday 4th & 18th November at 10.30am Ladies' Fellowship at church with Neelam

Thursday Fellowship 5th & 19th November at 11am at church with Ceinwen

Deacons' Meeting—Wednesday 11th November – 7.00 pm

Church Members' Meeting—Sunday 15th November following the morning service

Link-up Cinema—Thursday 5th November at Savoy Cinema, Derby Road

Jews for Jesus

On Sunday 8th November Julia Pascoe from 'Jews for Jesus' will be dropping by to meet any who can join us. Due to morning commitments, she'll arrive around 1pm, for a drink and quick introductory chat about the work they do.

Harvest Thanks

A really big **thank you** from **Operation Agri** and **Hope Nottingham** for your generosity this Harvest. We provided 35 bags of food and groceries (amounting to 210kg) to support the work of Hope Nottingham, and over £430.00 in financial offering towards the work of Operation Agri.



Operation AGRI
Christian love in action

Minister's letter for November

In recent weeks, our services have focused around the theme of Community and different aspects of what might be considered important for us as a Christian community. I have a feeling that this theme of community is going to become even more significant in our life together during 2027, as we seek to build up our commitment to one another and grow the work we do together. But for now, I want to reflect for a moment on that word, community.

Very often, the words we use in English, and especially our 'churchy' language, originate from words spoken originally in Hebrew, Greek or Aramaic. And when you explore the root word, it can often have a broader meaning than the way we might now use it. Community is no exception. Community comes from the New Testament Greek word, koinónia, but understanding the meaning of this word gives us a greater understanding of what it means to be part of the community of the church – it's far more than simply existing together.

Koinónia appears 19 times in the New Testament, with each occurrence expanding our thinking into what it means to be community. Bible Hub* summarises it thus: *Koinōnia gathers the whole spectrum of Christian experience—relationship with God, unity of believers, sacramental participation, shared mission, mutual suffering, and material generosity—into a single word. Wherever the Spirit unites believers to Christ and to one another, authentic fellowship flourishes, displaying the life of the triune God to the world*

As we belong together in community, let us enjoy, and commit more deeply to that unique relationship of living, worshipping, sharing together in unity with God.

God bless.

Matt Jones

*Bible Hub is an online Bible study resource

Prayer Points

1) Pray for wisdom and discernment to make choices so our lives can be a shining light to all.
2) Pray as we walk with Jesus that our hearts be filled with contentment and our lives with fresh ideas as we serve Christ.
3) Pray for the world so that positivity and love flows in the lives of all.
4) Pray for our link missionaries, "Arthur and Reeta" and "Andrea and Ian" in their work with BMS World Mission.

Shoeboxes for Christmas

Could you fill a shoebox to give a child in Eastern Europe some joy this Christmas? We are again partnering with Teams4U who say that the power of a simple gift like this is huge and can be life-changing.

If you would like to participate, please take a box and information leaflet from church, fill it with small gifts and return it to church by **Sunday 22nd November**. For more info see www.Teams4U.com



We need you!

For the **24 days of Advent**, beginning on December 1st and continuing up to Christmas Eve, we will be sharing (via Facebook, Instagram and Whatsapp) a **daily thought** on the theme of what advent means to you, preparing for Christmas, memories from your past or what you look forward to about Christmas.

Could you help with this, by either:

- Recording a 60-90 second video clip
- Writing a short thought down that someone else could record on your behalf
- Reading and recording a thought prepared by someone else

It would be great to get as many people involved in this as possible so **please have a word with Matt** if you can offer a few minutes of your time.

EMBA Events

Check the East Midlands' Baptist Association website for upcoming events – here is one to whet your appetite:



Room Hire

A portion of the church's income comes from the letting of our buildings. This is often for funerals and weddings, but the other rooms can also be hired for a regular booking or a one-off event.

In addition to the church sanctuary itself, our rooms for rent vary, for example, from a capacity of 120 in the Church Hall, 60 in the Carrington Room, 15 in the Boulevard Room, etc. The Crypt's capacity is 30 which could now be a useful space for parties or youth activities.

Rate per hour varies depending on size of room and Andrea in the church office can advise on cost and conditions of hire.

Please advertise our room hire resources to friends and family and other local community groups.

As well as being good to use our available spaces, this stream of income is important for the on-going costs associated with our church finances.









That Special

My mother is one of the most quotable people I know. Her quips usually made us laugh while poking us with a bit of truth. For example, when one of us spouted off about a minor achievement or took on a "me first" attitude, my mum was sure to say (with a smile) ***"you're not that special!"***

Jesus had a similar message for a group of listeners who had great confidence in their own righteousness. He told them about a Pharisee and a tax collector who went up to the temple to pray. The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: ***"I thank you, God, that I am not like other people...even this tax collector."(Luke 18:10).***

Picking on the tax collector and bragging about his own goodness backfired on the religious leader, because Jesus said: ***"Those who exalt themselves will be humbled."(v14).*** I don't know about you, but I don't want God to look at me and think *"Hmm, she needs to be humbled today!"* and I'm so thankful that Jesus went on to say ***"Those who humble themselves will be exalted."***

The tax collector in Jesus' story knew how to humble himself. Beating his chest in sorrow, his prayer went like this: ***"God, have mercy on me, a sinner." (V 13).*** This man was the one who returned home forgiven by God.

The good news is that humility opens God's ears to our prayers, those tearful, chest-beating encounters with God over our sin matters deeply to Him. But our brokenness is essential. As we bow low before Him, He can lift us up and assure us - "***you are that special!"***

Hazel O'Connor

You Too Can Pray

In the days of Prophet Elijah, he declared to King Ahab that there would be no rain for three and a half years. As a result, the land suffered a severe drought. Rivers dried up, crops failed, vegetation withered, and famine spread throughout the region.

A closed heaven can represent a life without the blessings of God, including joy, peace and mercy. It may be accompanied by fear, desperation and anxiety. Are you living under a closed heaven?

James 5:17–18 reminds us that Elijah was a human being just like us. He had weaknesses and imperfections, yet he prayed earnestly, and God answered. At his prayer, the rain stopped, and when he prayed again, the heavens gave rain and the earth produced its crops.

Elijah's example teaches us not to underestimate the power of earnest prayer. Like Elijah, we are human and have our struggles, but God hears the sincere cries of our hearts.

The Bible encourages us in 1 Thessalonians 5:17 to "pray without ceasing." This does not mean praying every moment of the day, but maintaining constant fellowship and communion with the Holy Spirit, who helps us in our weaknesses and guides us when we do not know how to pray.

As believers in Christ, we have the help of the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us in prayer.

Friends, never underestimate the power of your prayers. Just as Elijah prayed and the heavens responded, you too can pray with faith and earnestness. Do not give up or doubt that God hears you.

You too can open heavens. Pray now!

'Gbade Dawodu

Goose Fair Saturdays

Diane Trusson writes:

I would like to thank everyone who came along to help when we opened the Welcome Hall on the two Saturdays during Goose Fair. Also, thanks to those who contributed cakes and biscuits for us to share with the many people who dropped in on their way to or from the Fair. It was beautiful weather on both weekends, and we were able to spend the first one sitting outside chatting with each other and our visitors in the sunshine.



On the second Saturday hundreds of visitors came to see the model fair exhibition in the church hall which gave us the opportunity to welcome them into our church building. We are blessed to be located where lots of people pass by, so it was good to welcome some of them into our doors and share the love of God. We had many lovely comments from people grateful for a chance to sit down with a hot drink in a place of friendship and welcome. Thanks to everyone who made it happen and God bless you.



MRBC Link-Up

Thank you to those who attended the Link-Up Lunch which took place on 30th September at the Stadium, Nottingham Road.

Jessica graced the table before all 16 of us started our meal together.
Thank you, Jessica your words of grace were so beautiful.



During the meal we discussed possible places to have our Christmas Lunch. A variety of options were suggested, and the **Turquoise Kitchen Restaurant** was chosen, which is on Hucknall Road on the corner of Perry Road.

If you would like to go, please let me know, as a deposit has to be made.

Link-up Cinema: Thursday 5th November [Savoy, Derby Rd]. Looking forward to seeing you there.

Jeniba Grant

News from BMS World Mission

BMS World Mission are the international mission bit of our global Baptist family. This is a really important aspect of the work we do as Baptists around the world.

BMS World Mission have recently launched a series of new podcasts which provides updates about their work - you can view these here:

www.youtube.com/@bmsworldmission1954/podcasts

Sponsored Swimathon

Susan and Andrea are taking part in a **Community Swimathon** and invite 4 others to join us to make a team of 6. We will be raising funds for the **MRBC roof fund**.

The sponsored swimathon will take place at Harvey Haddon Sports Centre on the afternoon of **Saturday 20th March 2027.**

Would YOU like to join us? We will have 1 lane for 1 hour and how many lengths you swim is up to you - 10, 20, 30,.... the choice is yours.

Please let **Susan or Andrea** know if you are interested in joining us.

If not participating, then look out for our sponsorship forms in the new year!



ABOUT OUR CHURCH

If you are new to the church or just visiting .....

You can expect a warm welcome and a friendly group of people of all backgrounds and ages gathering to learn more about God. **Sunday Services are at 10.30**. During school term time two groups for children and young people from 4 - 18 are held downstairs, with a crèche available for under fours. Stewards in the Welcome Hall will be happy to show you where to take your children. Coffee/tea and biscuits are available after the service.

Offering – the church operates solely on the financial giving of its members and congregation. An offering is taken during the morning service, or non-cash donations can be made on-line or via the SumUp station in the Welcome Hall.

Evening Communion – On the first Wednesday of each month at 7.00pm

The Shalom Fellowship meets one Sunday each month in the afternoon for worship and teaching in Hindi, Punjabi and Urdu.

Drop-in Prayer – each Monday from 12.00noon to 1.00pm.

Toddler Group meets on Mondays during term time from 10.00am to 11.45am.

Small Group Network - Three groups meet fortnightly

Renew Wellbeing Café meets on Thursdays from 1.30pm to 4.00pm.

Room Hire: Different rooms are available for hire.

For specific dates of the above and other activities please see the Diary section.

Church contact details: ***Email:*** **admin@mrbc.org.uk**

***Phone*: 0115 9604304 office hours—Mon-Fri 9.00am-2.30pm**

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 November for the December / January edition.

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Website: www.mrbc.org.uk