

Flat roof replacement

The flat roof over the long corridor leading to the main hall was leaking so severely that it caused flooding to parts of the building. The persistent leak resulted in water ingress to the walls of the main sanctuary which had to be dried out using dehumidifiers and, as a knock-on effect the paint work in the sanctuary was damaged and had to be re-painted. The flat roof has now been replaced.

Building inspection and report

Leaks from the roof and the appearance of a number of cracks in the structure of the building prompted us to engage the services of a structural engineer to undertake a full and comprehensive inspection and to provide us with a report. The report found that the cracks are superficial and can be remedied, however the roof has a number of defects that should be remedied in the short, medium and long term to make it watertight.

Emergency lighting

The emergency lighting was defective and could not be repaired so it had to be replaced. It is now in good working order and should be so for a number of years.

Lift

The lift was defective and needed substantial refurbishment or replacement. It was agreed to have it re-furbished and it is now in good working order.

Entrance Hall (lobby)

The entrance hall was in a very dilapidated condition and needed a facelift to make it more welcoming. It was agreed to revamp the space rendering it fit for purpose and to-date most of the works have been completed. We have removed old carpets and repainted the walls and ceilings to a very high standard. In order to complete the task, we have engaged the services of a professional interior designer who will assist us in choosing the right furnishings and install bespoke benches, welcoming signs and welcome desk. When completed the entrance hall will be multifunctional and can be utilised for meetings, as a relaxing area, as a waiting area or as a café where people can relax enjoying some refreshments.

I wish to pay special tributes to the team for their hard work during this very difficult time - Andrea the church coordinator, Andy our minister, Jean acting secretary and Patrick our handyman.

A big "thank you" to all contributors this month. 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 August** for the September edition.

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MRBC

CHURCH MAGAZINE—JULY/AUGUST 2021



Mansfield Road Baptist Church

Letter from our Minister for July / August

Dear friend

We enter the summer exploring how we need to be shaping both ourselves as God's people and our communities as we come into a new landscape created by the Coronavirus pandemic. We have been using the picture of a plumb line that we read in Amos chapter 7, to ensure that we are making real God's Kingdom in a true and lasting way. Characteristics include exercising love, kindness, righteousness and justice.

In Isaiah 58 we read about these characteristics being displayed in various measures. It is the call of God on how we are to live. Please read this passage a number of times through the summer. The Holy Spirit will challenge and guide in different ways at different times. Here we have instructions on how to live so that we may be known as "Repairers of Broken Walls, Restorers of Streets with Dwellings", the trueness and reality of God's Kingdom.

- With greetings, Andy

ISAIAH 58:

⁶ 'Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke?

⁷ Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter – when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?

⁸ Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the LORD will be your rear guard.

⁹ Then you will call, and the LORD will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: here am I. 'If you do away with the yoke of oppression, with the pointing finger and malicious talk,

¹⁰ and if you spend yourselves on behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday.

¹¹ The LORD will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail.

¹² Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins and will raise up the age-old foundations; you will be called Repairer of Broken Walls, Restorer of Streets with Dwellings.

Update on Fabric Matters by Ricky Bennett Work completed and ongoing over the past 12 to 18 months

As a Christian I feel privileged to be called by God to do his work and I am happy to serve him. God has called me to serve him and others and to lead by example as part of our church community. To that end, I have undertaken the task of helping to keep our building in good order for our members and the community at large.

However, the past year to eighteen months have been very trying with Covid 19 and all the restrictions. Notwithstanding that, by the grace of God the Almighty One, I along with others working as a team have managed to carry out a number of activities for the enhancement of our church buildings.

Church House

We carried out a complete refurbishment of church house, engaged a housing agent and obtained a landlord license from Nottingham City Council. The property is now rented out bringing in funds to support the ministries of the church. The property is well managed by Janet Jones Property Services who find and vet tenants, collect rent and subsequently pay it into the church bank account.

Heating System

The gas central heating system was so old and ineffective. The cost for repairs and replacements were becoming prohibitive and the whole thing was uneconomical. In line with the church environmental policy to dispense with fossil fuel, we set about obtaining professional advice and quotations to replace the old system. After consultations and quotes from five companies our preferred choice was Jigsaw for its reasonable price and their professionalism. The new infrared system was supplied and fitted in April. As Christians we are fulfilling our environmental policy of protecting the planet from harm and preserving it for future generations.

Main Hall

The main hall flooring have been sanded and re-varnished, the walls re-painted and the ceiling repaired making the space more welcoming for its users.

Toilets and baby changing room

These areas have been redecorated to reasonable standard rendering them more user friendly.

Closed Circuit Television (CCTV)

This system was installed as an effective measure to increase the security of the site, staff and members. It is an advanced system that also assists our minister in streaming Sunday and other services to our members and the community.

Continued.....

Giving and Receiving

Acts 2 v44: And all the believers lived in a wonderful harmony, holding everything in common.

I want to be part of a fellowship where we look to each others needs and also those needs in the wider community. There have been two incidents that have encouraged me tremendously recently and I'd like to share them with you.

As many people know, Andy and I are moving house so that Andy's Mum can come and live with us.

Our buyer's surveyor unexpectedly found rising damp in our kitchen which will be costly to rectify. Suspecting that this was an expense that we had not accounted for, a dear sister from our congregation offered to pay the amount in full so that we could continue with our sale. Andy and I have not got words to describe the feelings of love, care and provision that have come from this kind and generous act.

I truly believe that we need to be a people prepared to share and give but also prepared to receive. I have permission from Mags Isley to share her experience whereby she was gracious enough to accept a gift from a person who was rarely in a position to give.

"Yesterday I went to the supermarket. There is always a homeless person sitting on the ground. I always speak to them and give them the pound from the trolley.

It was raining heavily when I went to the car and back with my trolley and I got quite wet. My shoe was leaking and my foot was swishing about. I must have looked pretty bad for when I went to the homeless chap, he asked if he could give me a sandwich!!! He didn't want money for it. It was a nice chicken and bacon club sandwich, but he was vegetarian, so I could have it. I accepted it and thanked him very much and gave the coin I planned to give and we had a chat. Anyway, I thought I would have it (today) for my birthday lunch with gratitude and thank God for all my blessings; particularly eating it in my own home and not having to sit on the ground begging."



I pray that we all learn how to be God's hands, giving and receiving in love because I believe so much joy comes from this.

Mary Wilson

DIARY FOR JULY / AUGUST

Each Sunday at 10.30am, Worship Service. There will be a pre-recorded service available as well. Currently there is no need to book in for the service, but we do need to keep a log of everybody attending.

The Youth Group will be meeting in the buildings on a Sunday morning and we look forward to their leading the service on Sunday 11th July.

Young Disciples continues currently as a ZOOM Session on a Sunday afternoon.

Sat 3 rd July @ 2.30 pm	Re-dedication of Woodborough Road Baptist Church War Memorials
Sun 4 th July @ 10.30 am	Service of Baptism
Sun 18 th July @ 10.30 am	Introduction to The Prayer Course (see below)
Wed 21 st July @ 7.30 pm	Church Meeting
Sat 28 th August @ 2.00 pm	Memorial Service for Nellie Dyce

THE PRAYER COURSE

This is going to run at various times through the summer and autumn. Initially there are three different groups starting. – Can you make one of the times? They will run for between an hour and ninety minutes.

Mondays @ 4pm in the Church Hall	26 th July, 9 th August & 23 rd August
Thursdays @ 10am in the Church Hall	29 th July, 12 th August & 26 th August
Thursday @ 7pm via ZOOM	29 th July, 12 th August & 26 th August
(Meeting ID 7032705653 and password mrbc)	



NEWS FROM THE TREASURER

Last month the church received a generous gift from former members, Celia and Peter Grattidge. Celia and Peter were celebrating their diamond wedding anniversary and marked the occasion by donating to each of the churches at which they had been members during their life together. Thanks and congratulations from MRBC.

Alan Jodrell

The Young Disciples

The Young Disciples have been meeting online on Sunday afternoons since September. Jenny Saunders and myself lead the group. This has been very successful. We get over an hour together and the children's faith has noticeably deepened during the year.

We have looked at the prophets from the Old Testament and this has enabled the children to see Jesus as the pivotal person in the bible, foretold for centuries as the one who would come to save.

Latterly we have looked at Luke's gospel. We considered the account of Mary and Martha and how Jesus wants us to spend time with him.

We have looked at accounts of Jesus healing people and how he heals today. But we've also talked about difficult times when people are not healed on earth and how we can understand that.

We enjoy doing crafts together. Andy delivers activity packs. We've decorated fridge magnets and bookmarks. We've encouraged our friends and families with cards.



Several children are now attending the children's club on Friday afternoons at church. Four of the children are now transitioning to the Youth Group with Diana as they are going to Secondary school in September.

Please pray for all the children.

We are looking forward to meeting in



person in the autumn.

Friday Children's Clubs at church

5-7 year olds 4.00-5.15pm

8-10 year olds 5.30-6.45pm

Young Disciples Zoom Sunday Club at 3pm

Meeting ID 7032705653

Passcode mrbc

ALL WELCOME

Mary Wilson

An extract from the June prayer letter of Pippa and Toby Vokuhl



For more than a month now we are back in housebound lockdown. Covid is again hitting Nepal and the health system a lot harder than before.

Hospitals are full and there are oxygen shortages. When so many people we know suffer from the illness, and some badly, it is easy to be frightened.

Today's newsletter is entitled '**Of Fright and Freedom**' for a reason. As Christians we may be frightened for precious people and for ourselves at times, but we also carry knowledge of a special freedom, as per John 8:36:

"So if the Son sets you free, you are truly free."

According to the BBC, Nepal currently has the highest rate of Covid transmission in the world. Accessing tests is limited and there are no more vaccines at present. Nepal has been back in lockdown for a month. Outdoor exercise is not allowed, and we can only leave the house for food shopping between 7 and 9 AM. These rules were tightened this week, and now grocery shops are shut for 6 days, although we can still buy vegetables and milk from small shops. There are no furlough schemes, no social security, and no NHS. People are, quite literally, starving.

Having recently received a full work visa for a year, Toby is assisting with plans for an oxygen plant at a local hospital. We are grateful that we, though confined to the house, can use our available freedoms and make a difference here and now.

Please join us in prayer:

- that God in his mercy will reveal himself to many through his word and through loving deeds
- with thanks for the (miraculous) receipt of a work visa for Toby
- for church and leaders who are the face of the Christian response
- with thanks that as a family, we are physically well and with gratitude that Pippa and Toby have received vaccinations
- for the gift of peace and endurance. We would love to have the freedom to exercise outside, as we enter the childrens' summer break
- that we all can start forming friendships and find our community here in Kathmandu
- for an improvement of the health situation in the country and the receipt of more vaccine doses; only 2.5% of the population are fully vaccinated.
- for political stability

Thank you. We are pleased to be here, and want to use any freedoms we have to make a difference. As we feel the **fright** and in parallel celebrate the **freedoms** we have, namely freedom in Christ, we are so grateful to be connected to you.

Much love from us all,

Toby, Pippa, Jakey, Ella, and Millie