

M R B C

CHURCH MAGAZINE—OCTOBER 2022



Mansfield Road Baptist Church

Message for OCTOBER from Dave Mangan

In my teaching career I watched many lessons taught by many different teachers. I always paid particular attention to the number and type of questions that were asked. I was interested in how challenging the questions were, how patient the teacher was in waiting for an answer, whether the questions asked were the most important for the pupils to understand what was being taught and if they helped the teacher to find out how pupils were thinking.

Jesus asked many searching questions to his disciples and the people he met during his ministry. He asked questions which dealt with people's pain, confusion, or doubt. He asked questions which challenged people's view of the world and themselves.

The two questions asked by Jesus that I personally reflect on the most are

Who do you say that I am? *Matthew 16 vs 15* and

What do you want me to do for you? *Matthew 20 vs 32*

Jesus asked these questions because the answers must come from deep within us. Our answers reveal both the place of Jesus in our lives and what is in our own hearts. They reveal our understanding and our motives, which in turn determine the way we relate to both God and the people around us. Further on in Matthew's Gospel Jesus himself is asked a question,

"Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"

Jesus replied: **"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbour as yourself. 'All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."** *Matthew 22 vs 36-40*

Carrying out Jesus' answer requires a lifetime of work. It involves going on a pilgrimage, following a narrow path through a landscape that can change suddenly and unexpectedly. Sometimes we can stride ahead quickly, at other times we need to take our time and take each footstep carefully.

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As I write these words there are many documentaries on the television about the Queen. These documentaries reveal that throughout the many changes and challenges that took place on her own personal journey, she led a life characterised by faith and service.

We journey both individually, as a church and as a nation. Life asks us many questions but as we travel on this pilgrimage together, God is with us.

CHURCH DIARY for OCTOBER

Sunday Service each week at 10.30am with groups for the children and young people. **Early Bird Praise & Worship**, every Sunday morning from 10.15am, all are welcome.

Shalom Fellowship—Sunday 2nd October

Toddler Group - Monday 3rd & 10th October from 10.00am-11.45am

Thursday Fellowship—Thursday 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th October 10.30am-Noon

Deacons' Meeting – Wednesday 19th October at 7.30pm

Renew Café Launch—Thursday 27th October from 1.30pm-4.00pm

The Men's Group runs on Thursday evenings every other week. Please contact the Church Office for the next date.

PRAYER POINTS

- 1) Pray for all those grieving at this time, for the passing of loved ones including the Royal family.
- 2) Pray for our Minister, Andy, for improvement of his health and healing.
- 3) Pray for those recently baptised—Theresa and Jussara Estima as we welcome them into the church family.

Church office contact details: admin@mrbc.org.uk or Tel 0115 9604304

RenewWellbeing

Quiet shared spaces
where it's OK not to be OK

Renew Wellbeing Café—a new venture aimed at nurturing and caring for each other's wellbeing and that of the community around us. **How?** By meeting together once a week for a few hours to share conversation, hobbies and games and including an optional quiet space for a very short and simple prayer exercise. **Interested?** See Anne, Diane or Lin.

Launch date at MRBC: Thursday 27th October 2022 at 1.30 pm

Some weeks ago our member Hazel O'Connor had foot surgery and was unable to attend for quite a few Sundays. That didn't stop her from worshipping in her own way at home.

Hazel writes:

My dear sisters and brothers. Greetings in the name of Jesus. I could not attend church because I had an operation on my toe and was unable to put my foot into a shoe. But my heart was always there! Every Sunday at 10.30 I would sing, read my Bible and pray just as if I were in church. Of course it was not the same because I missed you all.

Can we all continue to pray for those who are sick, including our own minister Andy, that God will strengthen and guide them back to health. Let us also think of the world situation, that there may be peace. As a church, let us be faithful as we work and care for each other, in faith. The Bible tells us that without faith it is impossible to please God. Anyone who comes to him must believe he exists, and he will reward those who seek him. So be strong in the Lord, and hold on to your faith. For weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning.

God bless you all, Hazel

Why just 4 pages this month? We need more input from the church family! Please think of ideas you could share in future—personal stories 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 October** for the November edition.

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Website: www.mrbc.org.uk