

M R B C

CHURCH MAGAZINE—JUNE 2023



Mansfield Road Baptist Church

Message for June from Revd Anne Davies

One of my favourite post Pentecost stories is the story of Philip being sent by God into the desert to meet up with an Ethiopian official; to lead him into a relationship with Jesus and to be baptised. I love this story for two reasons. The first reason is that this is how I was baptised. – I just responded to the invitation of the minister, my dad, who said “Here is some water. What is to keep you from being baptised?” and I decided that nothing was keeping me from being baptised. So I tied some string round my dress and in I went- and I have never regretted that decision. But there’s another reason why I love this story. Up until now, in Luke’s account of the growth of the early church, we read about numbers of people being saved, large numbers. We read that three thousand were baptised in one day and that “every day God added to their number those who were being saved”. We read of Philip in Samaria preaching to crowds who, Luke says, “paid close attention to what he was saying”. This was a great evangelistic mission time in the life of the church and then we get this story, God telling Philip to get ready and go out on a remote road in the desert. He doesn’t tell him why but Philip goes anyway and there he meets one man; introduces that one man to Jesus and then baptises him. Can you imagine when he gets back to Jerusalem and people say “How many did you bring to faith yesterday Philip; how many did you baptise?” and Philip says “One”. “What! Just one”. “Yes - one.”

The life and ministry of Jesus were full of stories like this- Jesus going out of his way to speak to and bring healing to the lives of ‘ones’. He went, ignoring all the rules, to meet up with one Samaritan woman at a well. He called one man, Bartimeus, out of the crowd in order to heal him. He poured his compassion on one woman who was about to be stoned for adultery. Yes he sometimes fed five thousand at a time and taught crowds, but over and over again he gave his full attention to the ‘ones’.

I am learning so much about the importance of the ‘ones’ every Thursday at Renew café. I am learning that the Question “How many?” – “How many were there?” is the wrong question. The right question is

“Which ones – which ones were there? Which ones did God bring? Which ones did God bless? Which ones taught us something new?”

When we ask those questions instead of the “how many? questions, we are following the example of Jesus, just as Philip did.

Ruth Rice in her book A-Z of Wellbeing asks “Would you be prepared to keep showing up in a Renew space if only one person ever came?” We could ask that question about any church activity. If we are followers of Jesus the answer has to be “Yes”, doesn’t it? Which is great- because that ‘one’, those ‘ones’, include you and they include me. We are among the “ones” that God goes out of his way to love.

CHURCH DIARY for JUNE

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

Shalom Fellowship – Sunday 4th June & 18th June (Father’s Day)— 2.30pm

Toddler Group - Monday 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th June—10.00am to 11.45am

Men’s Group – Thursday 8th & 22nd June from 7.30 to 9.00pm

Renew Wellbeing Café – Every Thursday in June—1.30pm to 4.00pm

Windrush Awards Service—Saturday 17th June—1.00-5.00pm

Funerals Thursday 1st June, 10.00am Philip Whyte
Friday 9th June, 10.30am Valbert Hayden
Friday 23rd June, 10.00am Karl Lawson

Wedding Saturday 10th June 1.45pm—Georgina & Dullston

PRAYER POINTS

- 1) Pray for the young people as they proceed with exams at school and college.
- 2) Pray for young people in church to be confident in engaging and leading ministries.
- 3) Pray for volunteers to come forward in all areas of the church, especially Sunday school, Youth group and Toddler group.
- 4) Pray for the families struggling financially in the cost of living crisis.
- 5) Pray for those churches under attack and being persecuted in Nepal, India and Pakistan.

A Prayer on the Journey

Lord, I believe; help me to believe from the bottom of my heart.

As we travel on our Christian journey, like you we stumble, feel abandoned, feel grief, sorrow, confusion, and anger.

At times we feel completely lost.

I cannot always see the path never mind the journey.

In times like these help me to call out to you as the writers of the Psalms did with a certainty of faith knowing that you are there, and I am your child.

That is enough for me.

by Jo Elliott



Holy Island stained glass

Colouring Competition

Leave in the church office, with your name, by 18 June

This is the
DAY
that the **LORD**
has made.

Psalm 118:24





Baptist Assembly Telford 16-18 June

Lynn Green, General Secretary of the Baptist Union writes: “Everyone is invited to attend the annual Baptist Assembly. We will be exploring the breadth of mission through our theme ‘Mission is...’ We pray that our being together will shape, encourage and inform our mission and discipleship as we seek to follow Jesus in the places he has called us. So please consider joining us in Telford – it’s important we hear your stories, perspectives and reflections. Above all, we simply value your presence! You never know what impact you will have or how God will speak to you as we gather together.” Book your place at www.baptistassembly.org.uk.

Your Church Magazine

is now 3 years old! A big “thank you” to many from the church family who have contributed in that time. We’ve enjoyed a variety of articles, especially those giving encouragement during the Covid times, book reviews, poems, craft items and holiday reminiscences.

However, we have recently been struggling to fill the 8 pages and Sharon and I would like to **extend an invitation for more contributions from the fellowship**.

Sometimes we don’t know our church family well and it would be lovely to hear more personal stories. Would you be willing to write approx. 300 words which will nicely fit a page? OR contact Sharon or myself and we will prompt a few questions to write a page for you.

You could use these questions as a prompt - for example:

- Where were you born?
- How long have you been worshipping at MRBC?
- Tell us about your
 - * Home and family life
 - * Studying
 - * Working life
 - * Hobbies & Interests
 - * A special visit or holiday
 - * What you enjoy reading
 - * A favourite bible verse or hymn

Please get in touch with Susan Bye or Sharon Joddrell.

I'll start us off with a few facts you may not know about me—Susan Bye:

How long have you been attending MRBC? – since the 1960's. First as a child when I was too shy to attend Sunday School so often sat in the balcony with my family and a book to read!



When did your faith become personal to you? When Rev Bernard Green encouraged teenagers to attend a group called “Sunday Night at 8” which met in the manse after the evening service. I came to know God for myself and was baptised in 1973 before going off to college in Norwich for 2 years.

What did you study? I gained the RSA Diploma for Bi-lingual Secretaries – coming second in the country and earning a silver medal for my typewriting ability! While in Norwich I worshipped at St Mary's Baptist Church, where I met my husband.

Married? We were married at MRBC in 1976 by Rev Judy Reece; unusual at the time for a lady minister to officiate. She was a character! She came to our wedding reception and suggested Martyn's brother ask the kitchen for some fish which he duly did and put under the bonnet of our car so we later discovered a nasty smell en-route to our honeymoon in the Isle of Wight!

Working life? I first worked at Nottingham University for the Professor of Hispanic Studies. Then a break when I stayed at home with our 2 children, some voluntary work with a local Playgroup and Mansfield Road Baptist Housing Association, then 18 years in the Sales Dept of family firm Pacer Systems, manufacturers of CNC routing machines. Opportunities for travel included to exhibitions in Hong Kong, Cyprus, Edinburgh, Birmingham and latterly Toronto when the company was bought out by a Canadian firm. My last job was for ACAT (Assn Church Accountants and Treasurers).

Holidays? Some of the most memorable were ski holidays in Austria, caravanning in France and a cruise to the Norwegian fjords. Last year caravanning in Northumberland was a delight when we had the heatwave and we could cool off along the marvellous beaches.

Family? Our son and daughter were both married in 2007 and have blessed us with 4 grandchildren now aged between 13 and 8. As the saying goes: *“If I had known grandchildren were such fun, I'd have had them first!”*

Interests? I played league badminton for many years, but nowadays I enjoy keeping fit by walking, line dancing, swimming, Zumba and pilates classes.

Favourite hymn? Shine Jesus Shine

Favourite bible verse? Psalm 46:1

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.

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.

The Men's Group meets alternate Thursdays from 7.30pm to 9.00pm for fellowship, discussion and dominoes.

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. Please contact the church office for details.

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

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 June** for the July/August edition.

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Website: www.mrbc.org.uk