

Former Minister of MRBC, Stanley Fitzsimmons, wrote the following poem which was published in the July 1989 edition of the church "Bulletin". Still so relevant today!

### The Church

The Church is not perfect, that is true,  
But neither am I, and neither are you.  
Christ is our standard and Christ is our head;  
By God's Holy Spirit the Church should be led.

The Church is the people in pulpit and pew,  
Seeking to live all the week through;  
To live in Christ and to do His will,  
With power from heaven their lives to fill.

The Church is the body of Christ on earth,  
And needs people to serve it for all they are worth;  
In love and devotion week after week,  
Only God's will and glory to seek.

The Church needs me to do my part,  
To serve the Lord with all my heart.  
I need to be loving and prayerful each day;  
And to honour the Lord in all that I say.

The Church has a mission and a glorious task,  
To help others to find Christ whenever they ask.  
They may be waiting for you to speak;  
What will you do for the Lord, this week?



A big "thank you" to all contributors this month. To continue monthly we need YOUR news, YOUR pictures, YOUR poem, YOUR story, any articles of interest to others. Please send by email to [susan@msbye.co.uk](mailto:susan@msbye.co.uk), or phone Sharon Joddrell or Susan Bye and dictate, or by post, to arrive by **15th June** for the July edition.

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Website: [www.mrbc.org.uk](http://www.mrbc.org.uk)

# MRBC

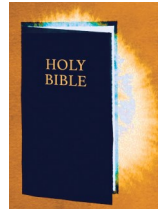
CHURCH MAGAZINE—JUNE 2021



Mansfield Road Baptist Church

## Message for June from Sharon Joddrell

***Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is just, whatever is honourable, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.***



One of my favourite Bible verses is **Philippians 4:8**. I became aware of it at the age of 11, sitting on the floor of the school hall for the breaking-up assembly at the end of my first term at 'big' school. Daily assemblies always contained a hymn, prayer and Bible reading, which, until then, had been read by girls in the sixth form. On this particular day our headmistress stepped up to read. You could have heard a pin drop. She read just that one verse, beginning "**Finally, brethren ...**" (the King James' version, always used in school).

So began the ritual of hearing the verse three times every year, for she read it on the last day of each term. It didn't take long for me to realise I was saying it along with her in my head, and - at the age of 18, on the day I left school (and having heard it twenty one times) - I will admit to having a lump in my throat. Some years later Alan and I chose it for a reading at our wedding.

The words make clear the understanding Paul had of the influence of a person's thoughts on their life. He was surely saying that the mind is where our thoughts begin and that these thoughts determine our behaviour, good or bad, so we should fill our minds with all that is good and positive, and then put it into practice. Such thoughts come from God, so if we think about things which are **true, just, honourable, pure, lovely, excellent or praiseworthy** then we are focusing on what pleases Him.

I'm a bit of a news junkie, in the habit of reading or listening to the news several times a day. It might keep me well informed, but a constant stream of upsetting, disturbing, worrying or angering news does little for peace of mind. To find a bit of truth or a commendable action to balance out the evil I have read, I search for a piece of good news, whether of a small child pulled out alive from a pile of rubble in Gaza, or a video of a cat leaping from the top floor of a tall apartment block to escape fire, bouncing once and running away unharmed.

I'd like to share with you a Bible reading technique which I picked up quite recently. Author Donald Whitney recommends using this verse from Philippians to guide meditation. Choose a passage of Scripture and test it out by checking it against the adjectives highlighted above. It's particularly useful when reading from the gospels, helping to work out how Jesus demonstrated these values.

In times such as these, let's pray that people the world over may learn to keep these words in mind before speaking or acting.

## Mansfield Road (Nottm) Baptist Housing Association Ltd

As shown on the previous page, throughout its history our church has always expressed its concern for the practical needs of members and the community. During the 1960's the "Samaritan Society" was providing assistance, mostly in the form of gardening and decorating, to several of the elderly church congregation.

The Society became aware of the work of the Abbeyfield Society which had been formed some 10 years earlier to provide small households for elderly people assisted by a resident housekeeper. The possibility of setting up a similar home was shared with the church membership and received widespread support.

As a result, the Mansfield Road (Nottm) Baptist Housing Association Ltd (MRBHA) was formed. It registered under the Industrial and Provident Societies Act 1965 on 25th November 1968. The minister at the time, Bernard Green, was the first Chairman of the Association with a committee of church members. Much fundraising within the church was carried out and a house on 2nd Avenue was purchased, Munden House, which was the former home of a church member, Mrs Stebbings. Conversion of this to house nine residents was completed by October 1970 and re-named Mansfield House.

The Association continued to develop and in 1977 a property on Nottingham Road, Basford was purchased. It was an 18th century house which had latterly been used by a charity as a refuge for the homeless. The charity were looking to dispose of the site and its attraction to the Association was that it stood in large grounds and it was only a mile away from Mansfield House and the church. The house was demolished and a complex of 28 self-contained flats for the elderly was designed and built. Named Fox Grove Court it opened in 1981. The complex has since been extended twice with provision for the Association Office on site too.

Our church had a long association with Bilborough Baptist Church and when their minister, John Farrington, knew that a plot of land behind St Hugh's Catholic Church was being sold in 1989 the Association bought this and started its third project—named Lincoln Court which comprises 22 flats for the elderly.



In 1999 the Association took over William Olds Court in Wollaton and converted the bed-sits there to modern flats. A further development was started in 2000 with the purchase of Forest Lodge, the house next door to the church which had fallen into disrepair. Plans to renovate the house were proposed but shelved due to costs and Spencer Court built in its place—20 apartments (yes the word 'flat' was superseded by 'apartment' to move with the times) and 'resident wardens' at each scheme do the same job but are now called 'scheme managers'!

MRBHA is a stand-alone charity but still maintains links with the church of its roots. See: [www.mrbha.org](http://www.mrbha.org).



## Reflections from 100 years ago

Extracts from the "Handbook" of our church dated 1921 which included the Annual Report. How our church life and our society has changed! There were 28 teachers listed for the Sunday School with 265 children on the books, the Choir had 34 members and there were 334 church members. Members were asked to "regard it as a privilege and duty to be present at the Lord's Supper on the 1st Sunday evening and 3rd Sunday morning in the month. Only sheer necessity should cause absence."

The 14th Nottingham Company of the Boys Brigade didn't submit a report, other than listing the officers and committee, but the Girls Club as below was very active with just six "helpers" listed!

### The M.R.G.S. (Senior Girls' Club).

The Club meets on Saturdays for singing, games and recreation.

On Wednesday the drilling class is held, the syllabus comprising dumbbells, staves, Swedish country dances etc.

The subscription is 1d. a week for girls of 16 and over, and ½d. for girls of 14 and up to 16 years of age.

A large number of girls have joined this year and the average attendance on Saturdays is about 95 and quite often over 100 are present.

A Concert is given by the Singing Class at the end of the session and with the money obtained the Club is able to pay its own expenses.

Last year 43 girls were at the Club Holiday and spent a very happy week by the sea in August.

All girls of 14 and over are eligible to join the Club and will be made heartily welcome.

There are several Societies listed in addition to the one below. A very active Benevolent

### BLANKET LENDING SOCIETY.

Secretary and Treasurer—Mrs. J. C. Taylor.

Committee—Mrs. W. E. Goodliffe, Mrs. L. Ludlow and Miss S. A. Cullen.

#### Cash Account for 1920.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Jan. 1/20. Cash in hand	7	0	0	June, Paid Mrs. Kerry,	5	0	
Bank Interest		4	8				
Feb. 1. Donation from Belgian Committee	10	0	0	Dec. 31st, Cash in hand	16	19	8
	£17	4	8		£17	4	8

This winter 55 blankets were distributed to 36 recipients, to whom they are a great boon.

Many of the blankets are worn thin and will need replacing before another winter, but fortunately the Belgian Committee were able to make a donation out of the proceeds of the sale of furniture, etc., left on the hands of the Committee at the close of War, to replace a number of blankets lent to the Belgian refugees and worn out.

## DIARY FOR JUNE

### Each Sunday at 10.30am, Worship Service.

There will be a pre-recorded service available as well

There is no need to book in for the service as we had to do during May. There is a need to keep a log of everybody attending, however, the buildings currently have the capacity for everybody who is able to attend.

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> June** will be a Communion Service in the buildings returning to the practice of Communion on the third Sunday morning in a month.

The **Youth Group** will be meeting in the buildings on a Sunday morning, but the **Young Disciples** is remaining as a ZOOM Session on a Sunday afternoon.

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> June** **Deacons Meeting** in the buildings at 7.30pm

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> July @ 2.30pm** **Service of dedication** for the restored memorials from the former Woodborough Road Baptist Church

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> July @ 10.30am** **Service of Baptism** If you are being challenged by God to be baptised, please speak to one of the Church Leaders.

## CHURCH NEWS

The Deacons confirmed at their May meeting that the use of the church buildings for the wider community will remain limited currently, anticipating a wider opening will begin from Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2021.

From the start of June, the Toddler Leader, Neelam Sidhu, will begin working half her hours and remaining on furlough for the other half. This is so there is opportunity to explore the opportunities and possibilities ahead for Toddlers.

Following the appeal from the Baptist Missionary Society within the worship service on the 16<sup>th</sup> May for funds to help the urgent situation with the Coronavirus pandemic in Nepal & India, the decision was taken to forward £1,000 from a gift received in 2020.

The painting presented to the Church after the Second World War from the returning German prisoners of war has been restored as a gift to the church and will be reinstated shortly.

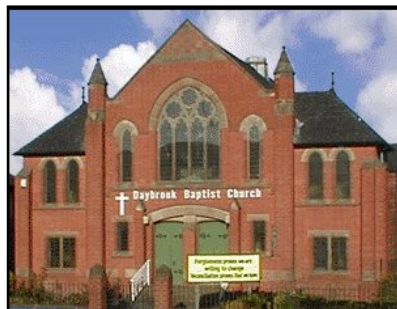
The **AGM** for the church is to be held on **Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> July at 7.30pm**. This will be held in the Church buildings with paperwork being sent out at the beginning of July. There will be lists put up in the church for nominations for Church Officers and Deacons from Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> June through to and including Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> June. These nominations will be shared within the mailing to be sent out.

## A further look at the History of our Church

### Broad Street Baptist Church (1817 – 1901)

The Church and congregation were founded in 1817 when scandal caused a split in the congregation of the Stoney Street Church, causing a section of the worshippers to leave along with ousted Minister Robert Smith. Worship on this site continued uneventfully until interestingly, in 1859, the prospering Broad Street congregation became engaged in a 'church plant' through their contribution to the building and establishment of our Baptist neighbours, the Daybrook Baptist Church.

Worship continued on the Broad Street site until 1901 when the buildings were closed and the congregation merged with the Milton Street General Baptist Chapel which had become very well established by this time.



The buildings were first sold in 1901 and converted to a lace warehouse, but were later sold again to take on their present guise as the 'Revolution' Bar towards the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

I hope you will find this brief history of the birth of MRBC to be interesting, and perhaps in a future edition we may look at the history of some of the other Baptist congregations which

surround us and many of which are now closed and forgotten.

**Gordon Jeffrey**

*Thank you, Lord, for the faithful witness of our ancestors and those who laid the foundations of our present church setting as we seek your guidance in determining the future for MRBC in a changing world.*

## Some Scripture for these times

We, the community that is MRBC, are a people of the Book, a Christian tradition very much focussed on the Word. Having been asked to contribute to this magazine, I venture to put forward some brief extracts from Scripture that will perhaps shed some useful light on recent times.

### **Psalm 91: verse 5**

*"You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day, nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at midday."*

### **Romans 13: verses 1-2**

*"Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves."*

### **Jeremiah 29: verse 11**

*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."*

### **Joel 2: verse 25**

*"I will repay you for the years the locusts have eaten...."*

And to sum it all up, an extract from **Psalm 89** in which the psalmist sings of the Lord's great love for ever, and in **verse 11** says:

*"the heavens are yours, and yours also the earth; you founded the world and all that is in it."*

I trust that all this will be of some help. The above quotes are all from the New International Version of the Bible.



**John Sheppard**