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CHURCH MAGAZINE—SEPTEMBER 2022



## Message for SEPTEMBER from Alan Jodrell

September is the beginning of a new season, the autumn equinox marking the end of summer and the beginning of autumn. Traditionally this would have meant summer berries becoming unavailable and autumn fruits in abundance. The horse chestnut tree outside church on Gregory Boulevard would produce its fruit and mark the beginning of the conker season. Gradual changes in the weather might be expected, and swallows would begin their long journey south.

Two hundred years ago the poet John Keats called autumn the “season of mists and mellow fruitfulness”. But Keats didn’t have climate change to consider; and global transport has made fruit and vegetables available nearly all year round.

Throughout my life September has been an important month. In education it’s the beginning of the school year, so whether as a schoolboy, student or teacher (what a sheltered life I have led) the new school year was always a personal milestone. The long summer holiday was over and a new term was beginning. In sport it was the end of the cricket season. At school and college cricket and football seasons fitted neatly into term times but after that there was an overlap in the seasons and a choice to be made. I always chose cricket, so my football season started late and finished early- not always a popular choice with the football teams I played for, but it was my choice.

This is all about change and how we respond to it. We live in a rapidly changing world which presents us with opportunities and challenges in equal measure. The opportunities may excite us, the challenges may make us anxious, but in every case we need to respond as individuals, as churches and as nations. The heat and dryness of this summer and the recent acknowledgment of drought conditions have brought the effects of climate change so much closer. It is no longer just something that we must protect our children from, but something that needs to be faced NOW. So, reducing water consumption, saving energy and reducing carbon emissions have become more urgent considerations for us all.

The Bible has much to offer in helping us to deal with change:

***See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.*** (Isaiah 43:19)

***Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ.***  
(Philippians 4:6-7)

***As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease.*** (Genesis 8:22)

The hymn "Great is thy Faithfulness" says it all. Read the words now - or sing it out loud!

*Everlasting God, send us out into the days ahead, confident that, whatever they may bring, you will be with us, and that your loving purpose will not fail. Amen*

***Alan Joddrell - Church Treasurer***

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## **CHURCH DIARY for SEPTEMBER**

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

**Shalom Fellowship**—Sunday 4th September

**Praise & Worship Meeting** - after the service on **Sunday 11th September**

**HARVEST, BAPTISMAL SERVICE & COMMUNION** – **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> September**

**Thursday Fellowship**—Thursday 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th September at 10.30 am

**Deacons' Meeting** – Wednesday 7th September at 7.30pm

**Toddler Group** operates on Monday 5th, 12th, 19th & 26th September from 9.30am-11.45am

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

**The Gospel Lounge** operates on specific Saturday evenings.

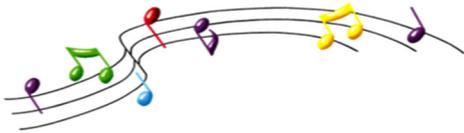
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***PLEASE NOTE:*** *Our minister, Andy, has been signed off on sick leave for three months because of a problem with instability of his legs. Our thoughts and prayers are with him at this time.*

*Any queries in the meantime, please contact the church office on  
admin@mrbc.org.uk or Tel 0115 9604304*

## PRAYER POINTS

- 1) Please pray for Thomas Helwys Baptist Church in Lenton and their new pastor, Natalie Hughes, as they begin their ministry together. Natalie's induction service is on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> September.
- 2) Pray for encouragement for the regular ministries as they start back after the summer break.
- 3) Pray for the ongoing plans for the beginning of the ReNew Café here in the church buildings.



Over the past few months, our minister Andy has been inviting us all to consider what gifts we can bring to serve the church as we move into the future. With this in mind, and despite

having no musical talents ourselves, Diana and I have offered to bring together a group of people who have **gifts in singing or playing a musical instrument**.

If you might be willing to contribute to the music worship every so often on a Sunday morning, or if it's something that you already do, then please come along to a meeting after the service on **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> September**. It would be great to see as many of you as possible so we can work together to praise God and **'make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise!' (Psalm 95:2)**

Thank you! - *Diane Trusson and Diana Palmer-Fritz*



## Fragile Vs Unshakeable Which one do you reflect?

*by Dr Tina Eftekhar*

In Genesis, God has given the authority to man to rule over every living creature. God's plan of authority is by delegation. We see God asking Adam and Eve to tend the garden and giving



them authority over animals. God reigned over everything, but He gave Adam and Eve authority over everything on earth.

**Genesis 1: 26** - *Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."*

Cont'd...

Because of the Fall, we lost our position of Sonship and our God-delegated authority over the earth was taken by the devil. When Christ died and rose from the dead, thereby defeating the devil and death, He took back the authority and gave it to everyone who believes in Him. (See **Luke 10:19**)

In my recent teaching on Believer's Authority, I asked my students, when I say the word "Jesus", what do you see? I received many answers like the cross, the actor in the film, and so many others except the one I expected: **"I see myself."**

This is one of the most painful realities of most believers who call themselves Christians but do not reflect His image. For me, Christianity is all about character building and growing daily in Jesus's likeness in love and authority. Therefore, here I share a story for your contemplation and encourage you to learn the authority which Jesus died to return to you and exercise it to become and live like Him.

"Back in the days when people travelled across the Atlantic by ship, a man scraped together everything he had to buy a ticket to the USA. All he had left was just a little money, with which he bought some crackers and cheese. For the entire month-long voyage across the Atlantic, that was all he had to eat. He watched as all the other passengers feasted sumptuously on the daily bounty of food and drink in the dining room.

Toward the end of the voyage, one of the porters asked this man, "Sir, I notice that you have never joined us in the dining room. Was there something we've done that offended you?"

The man answered, "Oh, no. I'm not offended. I would have loved to have eaten with you. The food looked so good, but I just didn't have any money left. All I had was enough to buy some crackers and cheese."

Dumbfounded, the porter looked at this man and said, "But didn't you realize that the meals came with the ticket? They were included in the price that you paid."

This man was ignorant of what was rightfully his, and because of it he died without. All that time the truth was that he could have daily dined sumptuously on anything he wanted."

So many Christians are the same way. They are ignorant of the abundant life God has given us. Consequently, they live without enjoying many of the salvation benefits Jesus died on the cross to provide." (from "Believer's Authority" by Andrew Wommack - Chapter 18, Pages 144-145)

In short, every believer has authority that is delegated by God and is called to do greater works through exercising that authority. So now I want you to ask this question of yourself: "Am I reflecting His image in the way I am living?"



Thanks to Mary Wilson for the lovely photo

## The visit to Mansfield Road by the Vokuhl family on 24th July

Those who read this magazine regularly will know that every other month we publish extracts from the newsletter which the Vokuhls send. For those who don't, here's a summary of who they are, what they do and who they are with.

Toby is a construction project manager, his wife Pippa a physiotherapist, and their children are Jakey, 14, Ella, 12 and Millie, 8. Toby and Pippa met at the All Nations Bible College in Hertfordshire. Following their marriage they became members of a Baptist church in Oxford, and joined the BMS (Baptist Missionary Society), now more commonly known as BMS Baptist World Mission. The BMS was founded in 1792, and their website tells us that it *“works among some of the most marginalised and least evangelised people in some of the most fragile places on earth.”*

Mansfield Road has long supported the BMS, both financially and with workers who were church members. For more than 60 years individuals, couples and families who felt called into such service have been sent out from our church to many parts of the world, including Nepal where the Vokuhls are based. Nepal is one of the world's poorest countries. People live frugally. Flooding, landslides and earthquakes are common, with global warming leading to glacial melting. Life is particularly difficult in remote areas.

This summer the family were back in England for nine weeks. It was a time for some rest and reflection, a chance to visit family and friends, and spend some holiday time together. But that's not all - an important part of their time in England was spent visiting churches to talk about their work. We were lucky enough to have such a visit.

On July 24th, with just one more week to go before returning to Nepal, the Vokuhls came to our morning service. They introduced themselves individually, including the children, who spoke very confidently throughout the talk. Toby described the start of a normal day in Kathmandu, where they are now based.

The children cycle to school on poor but very busy roads, alongside huge lorries and animals. Shopping is done daily because of limited refrigeration, milk has to

be boiled and iodine added to make it safe. Toby works to support the construction and remodelling of buildings for medical purposes, to improve very poor facilities. He works in partnership with the INF, (International Nepal Fellowship), which has strong links with the BMS, and which helps people affected by leprosy, spinal cord injuries and other disabilities. In fact, missionary work in Nepal began in 1952 under the Leprosy Mission.

On Saturdays the family goes to church. Unlike here in the UK, there is no Christian heritage and attending Christian worship is very difficult. Nepali people are traditionally Hindu and this is the faith of 81% of the people. 9% are Buddhist, approximately 4% Muslim and probably 1% - 2% Christian, though this number is fast growing. To be a Christian in Nepal is very difficult. Many face hostility and give up everything to become Christians. As a family the Vokuhls have learned not to take the privilege they have always known for granted, and asked for our prayers that those amongst whom they work will see Jesus through them. They are not allowed to evangelise.

Looking to the future, there is much work to be done. The need is huge, Toby said, but funds are not. He would like university placements to take place to help with the work, and funding made available for new services preventing disability. He knows they won't be there forever, and he feels keenly the need to support and train others.

I personally felt privileged to have heard this lovely family talk about their work. I was affected by their obvious love for the place and people to which God has sent them. I was impressed by Toby's patience - he described how the construction work was frequently very stop/start and beset by problems with money and lack of workers, not to mention a worldwide pandemic. He is constantly having to review and re-evaluate, and trying to move things on.

The visit ended with the sharing of a lovely bring and share lunch, in the true tradition of Mansfield Road. Thanks so much to Joan Sheppard and Neelam Siddhu for facilitating this, and all those who helped and contributed food. The Vokuhl family seemed to really enjoy it, as well as the many conversations which took place. I was able to have a chat with Pippa, who told me that ours was the TWELFTH church they had spoken at - and had really liked doing it!

PLEASE NOTE. If you want to read the regular letters the Vokuhls send in full, they are always online, or if it's more convenient, a paper copy is available to read at church. Ask Joan Sheppard to show you where it can be found. Joan has been our BMS representative for many years, and we thank her for her work in enabling the whole event to take place.

***Sharon Joddrell***

## **BMS BIRTHDAY SCHEME—YOU CAN BE PART OF IT!**

Our Church operates a scheme whereby each year on your birthday you receive a card together with an envelope to make a monetary gift for medical work carried out through the BMS and their partners around the world. Would you like to do this as part of your birthday celebration? We are thankful to our member, Jenny Hall, for administering the scheme. Please see Jenny or contact the Church Office if you would like to join the Scheme.

## **A Prayer contributed by Lin Bruce**

During lockdown I felt very isolated and struggled with life generally. My sister sent me this prayer which I found very powerful and comforting. I hope it may help others.

### **Let Your God Love You**

Be silent. Be still.

Alone. Empty.

Before your God.

Say nothing. Ask nothing.

Be silent. Be still.

Let your God look upon you.

That is all.

He knows.

He understands.

He loves you with an enormous love.

He only wants to look upon you with that love.

Quiet. Still. Be.

Let your God love you.

Edwina Gateley

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 Jodrell at church or post or send by email to [susan@msbye.co.uk](mailto:susan@msbye.co.uk), to arrive by **15th September** for the October edition.

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