

# MRBC

CHURCH MAGAZINE—MAY 2023



Mansfield Road Baptist Church

# Message for May from our Treasurer

## Our journey as a church

Following my Palm Sunday talk and the subsequent church meeting, it seems fitting to consider the journey which MRBC finds itself on at this time. Andy's sick leave began in August 2022, and - before we consider anything else - let's remember to hold Andy and Mary in prayer at every stage of the journey. This must surely have been the most difficult year imaginable for them and they must be foremost in our thoughts at this time.

Since August 2022 church services have been led by visiting preachers or church members. No services have been missed or shortened because a leader wasn't available. Music has continued at the heart of worship, provided by our own musicians, our visiting organist Graham, or (when necessary) electronically. There are always beautiful displays of flowers. Junior Church continues to thrive, and the Shalom fellowship meets monthly on Sunday afternoons providing services in other languages.

Weekday activities, both long standing and new, are still taking place. The Toddler group meets every Monday during term time, the Thursday Renew Café is very popular, and the Men's Group continues to meet on alternate Thursday evenings. The funeral ministry has picked up strongly since lockdown and outside groups are once more meeting on our premises.

The road Jesus travelled on his journey into Jerusalem was familiar to him and his disciples, but this time it was a unique journey astride a borrowed donkey and accompanied by cheering crowds. Similarly with our church, much that is happening is familiar and yet there is a uniqueness about the journey. At the moment, there is no clear outcome.

We shall soon be meeting with a moderator, who will help us to plan the journey. This is completely new territory for the church, and we will need to support and encourage each other as we face the

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challenges ahead. Rev David Pile will be there to channel this support and provide guidance where necessary.

Jesus knew where and how his Easter journey would end. He is also in control of our journey even though it may seem hazy to us at this time. On Palm Sunday I spoke of Jesus' journey as one of humility, fulfilment, obedience and destiny. If we too put our trust in God at every step of the way, we will not go wrong.

May God bless us all on this journey.

*A passage to read- **Matthew 6: 25-34***

*A hymn to sing- **When we walk with the Lord (Trust and obey)***

*Alan Joddrell*

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## **CHURCH DIARY for MAY**

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

**Shalom Fellowship** – Sunday 7th May— 2.30pm

**Toddler Group** - Monday 15th & 22nd May from 10.00am to 11.45am

**Men's Group** – Thursday 11th & 25th May from 7.30 to 9.00pm

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

**Deacons' Meeting**—Wednesday 24th May 7.30pm

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## **PRAYER POINTS**

- 1) Pray for volunteers to come forward in all areas of the church, especially Young Disciples and the Youth Group on a Sunday and Toddler Group on a Monday.
- 2) Pray for the families greatly affected by the cost of living crisis and their struggles to cope with everyday challenges. Let's pray that Jesus will administer peace and calm into their current situation so they can believe in hope for their future.
- 3) Keep Andy and Mary in prayer as they are going through this period of uncertainty. Let the love of Jesus help them to deal with this situation and administer healing into their lives..

## A guide to prayer contributed by Paul Heppleston

Paul was our guest preacher on Sunday 23rd April. He guided us through various aspects of prayer and has suggested we may find the verses below helpful in our personal prayer journeys.

God will make a way,  
where there seems to be no way.  
He works in ways we cannot see;  
he will make a way for me.  
He will be my guide,  
walking closely by my side.  
With love and strength for each new day  
God will make a way – God will make a way.



*By a roadway in the wilderness he'll lead me;  
and rivers in the desert you will see.  
Heav'n and earth will fade,  
but his word will still remain  
He will speak a-new to me each day.*

God will make a way,  
where there seems to be no way.  
He works in ways we cannot see  
he will make a way for me.  
He will be my guide,  
walking closely by my side.  
With love and strength for each new day  
God will make a way – God will make a way.

*by Don Moen*

# Renew Wellbeing



A café style space  
where all are  
welcome



Do pop in—any Thursday between 1.30 and 4pm. We are now based in the Welcome Hall. Enjoy a cuppa and snack, a chat or share in an activity where we can learn from each other. Take advantage of a quiet space for prayer. This is a grand opportunity to network and support each other as we go through difficult times as a church family.







***A big THANK YOU to Ivy for so expertly arranging flowers in the church and welcome hall each week. We do all so enjoy them. This service to the church is so appreciated. Also, thanks to Jackie for organising the bunches of daffodils for the children to give out on Mother's Day.***



## A summary of the April prayer letter of Pippa and Toby Vokuhl

[www.bmsworldmission.org/ptvokuhl](http://www.bmsworldmission.org/ptvokuhl)



***The latest letter from the Vokuhl family was written just before Easter. It began with Toby's reflections on the sacrifice of Jesus.***

This was the biggest act of obedience that the Father could have asked of him. The final test. Jesus **held nothing back**, and was obedient to death, trusting in God. Today, you and I and millions of Christians across the globe are His people, who will celebrate Easter with him for times and times to come...

One of the people of Jesus is the poor widow who **held nothing back** when giving her last two small coins at the temple (Luke 21:1-14). And this reminds me that the current average daily wage in Nepal is just \$2, with rural dwellers much more likely to be in poverty than urban dwellers. The encouraging thing is that Nepali Christians gave generously even from the little they had to the recent earthquake appeal. **They held nothing back.**



***You may remember that the family encountered a great deal of difficulty getting the right visas to stay in Nepal this year, and had to live in Thailand for several weeks. The good news is that they are now all back in Kathmandu, with the children in school, and visas that will enable them to stay for the rest of the year. You can imagine their gratitude and relief. They are particularly grateful for the educational opportunities the children have once again.***

***Toby also reported that the BMS are now giving thought as to whether there will still be a role for the family in Nepal beyond summer 2014. If they are to leave, they will need to plan their return to the UK.***

***Prayers are requested for God's clear guidance to the BMS and to them.***

# Pentecost Word Search

R E W O P C S M P M T F E S S  
 B V S E L P I C S I D I C E Y  
 T O N G U E S I G N S F N G M  
 D N I W Z F I L L E D T E A B  
 P E N T E C O S T X B I S U O  
 F I R S T F R U I T S E E G L  
 G N I R E F F O B U S T R N I  
 H C R U H C N E V A E H P A Z  
 Y R A N I D R O A R T X E L E  
 D N U O S P I R I T F I R E D

CHURCH  
 DISCIPLES  
 EXTRAORDINARY  
 FIFTIETH  
 FILLED  
 FIRE  
 FIRSTFRUITS  
 HEAVEN  
 LANGUAGES



OFFERING  
 PENTECOST  
 POWER  
 PRESENCE  
 SIGNS  
 SOUND  
 SPIRIT  
 SYMBOLIZED  
 TONGUES  
 WIND

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](mailto:susan@msbye.co.uk), to arrive by **20th May** for the June edition.

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